



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Lincoln County
Health Promotion



33% of Lincoln County Adults report smoking regularly vs. 19% of Oregon Adults



22%, or double the State average, of Lincoln County Pregnant Women report smoking regularly



Lincoln County has 170 tobacco related deaths annually



Lincoln County lost \$27.1 million in productivity in 2013, the most recent annual calculation

Lincoln County Tobacco Free County Property Policy Brief

Problem

Tobacco-related illness is the leading cause of death and disease in Lincoln County. Tobacco use is connected to many types of cancer, diabetes, and other chronic conditions.

Public tobacco use can normalize tobacco use in the community. This has been found to be a factor in youth cigarette and other tobacco use. Despite our high adult cigarette use, in Lincoln County, nearly two times as many 11th graders are using non-cigarette tobacco products compared to ciga-

Policy Recommendation

Our policy recommendation is a tobacco-free county property policy. The policy would prohibit tobacco use on all county properties with an exception for ceremonial tobacco. This policy expands the current smoke-free policy to cover smokeless tobacco products of any kind and electronic nicotine delivery systems which include e-cigarettes, vape pens, e-hookah, etc. and any other nicotine product that is not an FDA approved cessation device.

Benefits to a Tobacco-Free Properties Policy

As a major employer and community resources, role modelling limited access to and changing norms surrounding tobacco use, tobacco-free policies can be impactful in the following ways:

- Increasing Tobacco Cessation Attempts Research shows that tobacco-free policies reduce the use of tobacco and increase the likelihood that individuals will quit.
- Reduction of Youth Initiation. Research shows that comprehensive tobacco policies reduce youth initiation of tobacco by reducing social and cultural norms.
- Positive Health Impacts. Reducing tobacco initiation, use, and exposure will positively impact long-term health, decreasing healthcare costs to the community.
- Creating a healthier environment for county visitors, clients, and staff.
- Clear process and procedure for handling tobacco use.

Tobacco-free policies have not been found to negatively impact businesses. Conversely, a community with fewer tobacco users and exposure will have a stronger, healthier workforce that can be positive for the local economy.