

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM SURVEY- Environmental Health

Contact Information

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Short Title: Encouraging all food establishments in Jefferson County, AL to go smoke free.

Program Location: Jefferson County, Alabama

Objectives and Goals:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that secondhand smoke contains over 4,000 chemical compounds with more than 60 of these being known or suspected carcinogens. The EPA has classified secondhand smoke as a Class A carcinogen. The U.S. Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona concludes in his June 27, 2006 press release that secondhand smoke is a proven health risk to which there is no risk-free level of exposure. Nearly half of all nonsmoking Americans are regularly exposed to secondhand smoke. Exposure to secondhand smoke increases a nonsmoker's risk of developing heart disease by 25 to 30 percent and lung cancer by 20 to 30 percent.

Methods:

The objective of encouraging all food establishments to go smoke free was first attempted by the reward system. JCDH gave a plaque and door sticker for all establishments that voluntarily banned smoking through out the establishment. After a period of time had passed the Board of Health authorized our food inspectors to deduct 4 points from their food inspection score for allowing smoking in any part of the facility and each smoking facility had to post a public health warning sticker on the facility door that management allows smoking in the facility.

Program Length:

Began July 12, 2006 and is on going.

Number of target population reached by effort:

Jefferson County's population is 656,000.
48.5% of all food dollars are spent dining out.

Demographic Info:

Since this program affects all food establishments in Jefferson County, AL it has the potential to effect all demographics but particularly those that eat out the most.

Overall Cost:

Less than \$5000

Funding Sources:

100% Local

Outcomes:

When we began 65.4% of food establishments were smoke free. After the voluntary phase the number rose to 70% and after the penalty phase the number rose to 93.9%. Today the percentage of non smoking food establishments is approximately 97%.

Additional Information:

JCDH was faced with a county government that felt it did not have the authority to ban smoking in food establishments. In our county we have 41 municipalities and each would have to pass an ordinance in order to ban smoking, some did and some did not. The state legislature to this day still has not passed an effective smoking law. The JCDH began this program in order to push the issue of banning smoking in our food establishments.

Future Plans:

Continue to work with state legislature for a state wide ban on smoking in food establishments.