

Local Health Department Tobacco Cessation Survey 2000
Highlights for Kentucky

STRENGTHS

- ❑ Most health departments (83%) report using a tobacco-user identification system for every patient at every clinic visit (e.g., flagging the chart, tobacco use as a vital sign).
- ❑ The majority of health department care providers routinely ask patients about home exposure to secondhand smoke, and advise patients to ban smoking in their homes and cars.

NEEDS	BEST PRACTICES IN TOBACCO CESSATION RECOMMENDS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Only about half (54%) of all Kentucky local health departments provide smoking cessation programs. ❑ Only 15% of health departments provide educational programs on smoking cessation for health care providers. ❑ Just over one-third of health departments have self-help materials for tobacco cessation and/or secondhand smoke available in every exam room. ❑ Only three (7%) health department employee health plans reimburse for tobacco use cessation treatment. Two of the three are CDC-funded health departments. ❑ Health department care providers rarely prescribe or recommend medications to treat nicotine addiction. The nicotine patch (22%) is the most often used, followed by Bupropion (16%). ❑ The most common obstacles to providing smoking cessation services are few requests (63%) and untrained staff (52%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Every health department needs to provide tobacco cessation programs. ▪ Healthy Kentuckians 2010 calls for EVERY health department to teach health care providers how to use research-based tobacco cessation methods with their patients. ▪ National Clinical Preventive Guidelines recommend that every exam room provide self-help materials on tobacco cessation and secondhand smoke. ▪ It is recommended that health insurance plans increase access to nicotine dependence treatment by covering treatment costs for smokers who want to quit. ▪ The most effective tobacco cessation treatment is a combination of behavioral counseling and pharmacotherapy. ▪ Tobacco cessation services must be culturally appropriate, available, and accessible. Given that the majority of Kentucky smokers are interested in quitting, marketing of tobacco cessation services is essential to recruiting and retaining smokers. ▪ Health department staff need training in research-based tobacco cessation services and clinical preventive guidelines.