



# B I S M A R C K TOBACCO FREE C O A L I T I O N

Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health  
PO Box 5503  
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Summer 2013

## Higher Tobacco Taxes Needed to Reduce Tobacco use in North Dakota

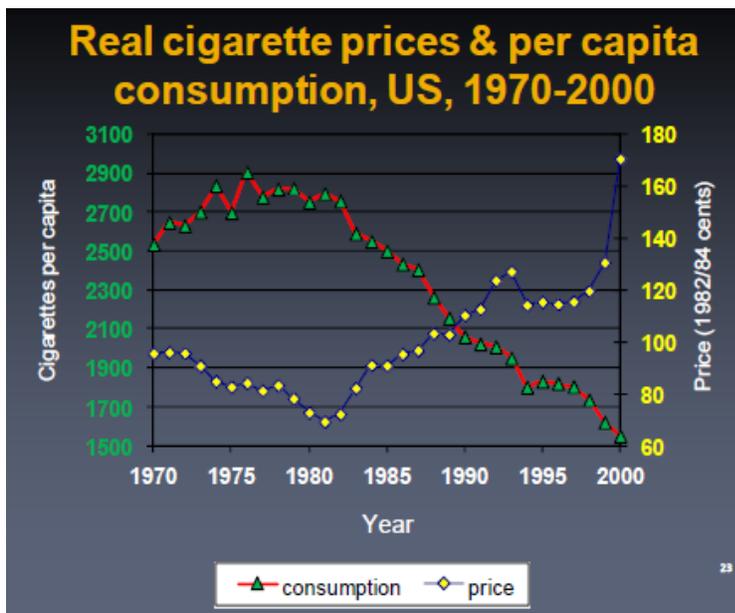
Tobacco tax increases are one of the most effective ways to reduce smoking and other tobacco use, especially among kids. In recent years, almost every state and the federal government have increased tobacco taxes. North Dakota last increased the tobacco tax in 1993. North Dakota's present tax rate is 44 cents and is ranked 46th lowest in state cigarette tax.

The chart below shows how raising the price has reduced the consumption of cigarettes through the years. The cigarette price on the chart is adjusted for inflation. According to Dr. Kenneth Warner, PhD, Professor of Health Management and Policy from the University of Michigan

School of Public Health, "A 10% price increase has a 3.5% demand decrease."

The impact on kids doubles the demand decrease to nearly 7 percent. For example, a \$1.56 per pack increase would decrease youth smoking in North Dakota by 24%. Thus, moving the present youth smoking rate of 19% to less than 15%.

According to the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, national and state polls have found overwhelming public support for tobacco tax increases. Polls also show that, when it comes to balancing budgets, voters prefer raising tobacco taxes to other tax increases or cutting crucial programs such as education and public safety.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Statewide Training for Tobacco Coordinators**  
Devils Lake, ND  
July 24, 2013

**Bismarck Tobacco Free Coalition**  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, August 6, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

**Bismarck Tobacco Free Coalition**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.



**Renae Moch, MBA, CMPE**, has joined the City of Bismarck as the Director of Bismarck Burleigh Public Health. Renae brings with her several years of experience in public health and medical practice management. Prior to this position, Renae worked as a Practice Management Strategist for the American Academy of Family Physicians in Leawood, Kansas and as a clinic manager for family medicine clinics in the Bismarck area.



## CLEARING THE AIR: An Institute for Policy Advocacy, VIII

The new smoke free multi-unit housing project at Bismarck Burleigh Public Health required out of state training at a Stanford University Convention Facility called the Stanford Sierra Camp. Pat McGeary and Sue Kahler attended the Institute for Policy Advocacy May 5 through May 8. In addition to gaining knowledge on skills for working with property management and smoke free multi-unit housing, there were opportunities to network with tobacco prevention coordinators from other states.

Pat McGeary was chosen to share her expertise with smoke free policy advocacy by participating in a panel presentation. The panel shared experience with passing smoke free policy by both, the city commission or city council levels and through statewide ballot initiatives.

Members of the panel from left to right: Leah Martin, ALA, Missouri; Joelle Lester, Public Health Law Ctr., MN; Pat McGeary, Bismarck Burleigh Public Health, ND; Shelly Kiser, ALA, Ohio.

## BreatheND

Saving lives, saving money. The voice of the people.

### Bismarck Burleigh Tobacco Prevention Staff

**Pat McGeary**

Program Coordinator and Cessation Services

**Sue Kahler**

Community Outreach Coordinator

**Diane Weixel**

Office Assistant

