

## World No Tobacco Day 2011

Allegan, MI, World No Tobacco Day was created by the member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1987 and is celebrated annually on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The goal of World No Tobacco Day is to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic and its lethal effects.

In celebration of World No Tobacco Day, Allegan County Health Department would like to call attention to the toll that tobacco takes on our community, and highlight the steps that we can take as a state to have an impact.

### FACTS

- Tobacco use remains the number one cause of preventable death in Michigan.
- Each year, tobacco claims the lives of Allegan County residents and has a major financial toll.

Specific Tobacco Factsheets for Michigan Districts 80, 88 and 24 are available on the Smoke Free Air section of <http://www.allegancounty.org>

According to WHO, there are several measures that can be taken to counter the tobacco epidemic. These include monitoring tobacco use and prevention policies, protecting people from tobacco smoke, offering help to quit tobacco use, warning about the dangers of tobacco, enforcing bans on tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship, and raising taxes on tobacco. In addition to cigarettes and spit tobacco, there are numerous other forms of new and emerging tobacco and non-tobacco nicotine products available on the market today. The tobacco industry markets these products as an alternative to smoking cigarettes, and portrays the products as less harmful than smoking cigarettes. However, there is no evidence indicating these new products are any safer. Quitting tobacco use or addiction to nicotine is one of the best steps that people can take to improve their health.

For more information, please contact Kathy Yonkers-Wright, RDH, MS at [kwright@allegancounty.org](mailto:kwright@allegancounty.org).

For help in quitting tobacco use, talk with your healthcare provider or contact the **Michigan Tobacco Quit-line at 1-800-784-8669**.

For more information about World No Tobacco Day visit <http://www.who.int/tobacco/wntd/2011/en/index.html> .

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