

Iowa Tobacco Retailer Permits Drop by a Third

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced a reduction of Iowa businesses that sell cigarettes, cigars, and other tobacco products. Since 2004, the number of tobacco retailer permits has dropped by about a third from 5,500 to 3,300.

The IDPH credits legislation passed by the Iowa Legislature as the reason for this reduction. In 2007, the Legislature passed a \$1.00 increase on tobacco products. In 2008, the Iowa Smokefree Air Act was enacted. Since then, smoking has been prohibited in nearly all public places.

The IDPH also notes that Iowa has one of the lowest smoking rates in the country at 14%. Further, since 2006, there has been a 56% drop in per capita tobacco consumption. This indicates in addition to fewer smokers, people are smoking less.