

## **Rapid Health Impact Assessment on the Effects of Tobacco Retail Licensing on Youth Tobacco Usage in a Rural Community**

**AUTHOR(S):** Klamath County Public Health, OPHI, Oregon Tech Population Health, Management Program

**PRESENTATION FORMAT:** 15 minute oral presentation

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Those interested in HIA; Tobacco control program coordinators (TPEP)

**ABSTRACT:** Klamath County has historically and consistently experienced high rates of youth tobacco usage, possibly due to perceptions of easy access and high exposure to tobacco. Synar inspections have shown that Klamath is one of the easiest counties for youth to purchase tobacco. We performed a rapid health impact assessment (HIA) to see how a tobacco retail license (TRL) in our community could impact the rates of youth tobacco usage. During the course of this evaluation, and with the help of an OPHI consultant and student researchers, we were able to connect with decision makers, stakeholders, and literature to determine the most effective models of TRL and how they might be applied in our community. We looked at the potential effects of TRL alone, and the inclusion of school buffer zones and/or retailer density caps. Our findings indicated that the health impacts of a comprehensive TRL would be positive for our youth and the general community, with lower initiation rates, less exposure, and fewer smoking cues for current smokers. Negative health and equity impacts were shown to be negligible. This data will be valuable to take back to stakeholders and decision makers to inform future policy.

**OBJECTIVE(S):**

1. Describe the process of a Rapid HIA
2. Discuss lessons learned from our HIA, and further steps
3. Evaluate and compare the effectiveness of tobacco control policy options on youth tobacco usage

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