



**Boone County
Health Department**



**Belvidere Police
Department**



**Boone County
Sheriff's Office**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 21, 2016**

Boone County Health Department
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Belvidere, IL 61008

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The Boone County Health Department, the Belvidere Police Department and the Boone County Sheriff's Office Announce Tobacco Compliance Check Results

BELVIDERE - Tobacco retailers were inspected for the first of three rounds of compliance checks to be conducted on all tobacco retailers within Boone County. A total of 35 tobacco retailers were inspected in November and none were found to be in violation of the law by selling tobacco to a minor resulting in an 100% compliance rate.

The tobacco compliance checks are coordinated by the Boone County Health Department in conjunction with the Belvidere Police Department and the Boone County Sheriff's Office. Trained youths, 15-17 years old, accompanied by undercover police officers, ask to buy cigarettes at local businesses and, if requested, show their legal ID, which indicates that they are underage. If a clerk sells to the youth, the clerk is then cited and will be required to pay a fine of approximately \$200 for "selling or furnishing tobacco products to a minor."

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Tobacco Compliance Checks

The compliance checks are performed to determine if local tobacco retailers are complying with state minimum-age tobacco laws which prohibit the sale of tobacco to persons under the age of 18. With the help from a grant awarded by the Illinois Liquor Control Commission's "Kids Can't Buy 'Em Here" Tobacco Enforcement Program, the Health Department educates local tobacco retailers on minimum-age tobacco laws and the importance of verifying the age of customers before selling age-restrictive products such as tobacco.

For additional information, call the Health Department at (815) 544-2951 or you may contact the Illinois Liquor Control Commission directly at (312) 814-3083, write to them at 100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 7-801, Chicago, IL 60601, or visit their website at www.state.il.us/lcc.

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