

Totally Healthy

Totally Tobacco-free



DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PROMOTING CARING COMMUNITIES FOR OUR ISLAND'S HEALTHY FUTURE

SELLING TOBACCO 2: Fact Sheet for Vendors and Sales Clerks

Stop the sale; prevent the addiction.

Every year, an estimated **947 million packs** of cigarettes are sold illegally to children under 18 in the US. **That's 2.6 million packs sold to children, illegally, every day.**

Teens make up 90% of all new smokers.

On average, young people succeed **over half the time** in **buying tobacco over the counter.**

Approximately **69% of middle school and 58% of high school students** under the age of 18 who cur-

rently smoke were not asked to show proof of age when they bought or tried to buy cigarettes.

According to **Guam Public Law 24-278 (Tobacco Control Act of 1998)**, it is against the law to sell tobacco products without a specific tobacco license.

Penalties are stiff:

1. **1st Violation - \$250.00**
2. **2nd Violation - \$500.00**
3. **3rd Violation –not less than \$1000 AND not more than \$2500; Vendor ineligible to apply for a license for 5 years.**

Teens and Nicotine Addiction

Nicotine addiction is powerful.

Even heroin addicts admit that quitting cigarettes is more difficult than quitting heroin.

New research indicates that **adolescents appear to become more quickly addicted to nicotine** than new smokers who start in their adult years.

About **60%** of teenagers who smoke tried to quit in the past year, and failed.

The younger people start smoking cigarettes, the more likely they are to become addicted to nicotine

**Tobacco:
ILLEGAL
under 18;
LETHAL
at any age.**

By following the law, and restricting access of young people to cigarettes, you may be helping to prevent smoking among these young people and protecting them from nicotine addiction.