

***Health Three60* “Clearing the Smoke” examines efforts to reduce statewide smoking rate, improve Kentuckians’ health**

Kentucky has the second-highest smoking rate in the country. The latest episode of KET’s health-and-wellness program ***Health Three60*** turns its attention to statewide policies, programs and community projects aimed at reducing citizens’ dependence on tobacco in order to create a healthier Kentucky.

***Health Three60* “Clearing the Smoke”** airs Monday, Oct. 19 at 9/8 pm on KET.

In the 50 years since former Surgeon General Luther Terry released the report that declared cigarettes to be a health hazard, smoking rates have dropped nationally – but smoking-related illnesses and diseases still claim the lives of 480,000 Americans every year.

Kentucky’s smoking rate still leads most of the nation, though many community-based programs and policies across the state are hoping to change that. In this episode, host Renee Shaw and her guests discuss successful tobacco reduction and cessation strategies that aim to help Kentuckians’ quit smoking – or never start in the first place.

Shaw’s scheduled guests include Stephanie Mayfield, commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Public Health; Chizimuzo Okoli, director of the tobacco treatment and prevention division of the UK College of Nursing Tobacco Policy Research Program; Ashli Watts, director of public affairs for the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; Bobbye Gray, tobacco cessation administrator with the Kentucky Department for Public Health; Audrey Darville, a certified tobacco treatment specialist with UK HealthCare; Elizabeth Hoagland, a youth tobacco policy specialist with the Kentucky Department for Public Health; and Cynthia Steele, a health coordinator with the Bourbon County Health Department.

Shaw’s panelists will share information about the role of smoking on Kentucky’s overall health, promising anti-smoking and cessation strategies across the state, the dangers of e-cigarettes, the need for smoke-free campus and workplace campaigns and

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the importance of better education directed at retailers about the dangers of selling tobacco products to youth.

Additionally, a Magoffin County initiative to paint an old tobacco barn with a sign promoting a smoking cessation program's 1-800 phone number is highlighted – symbolizing a new culture of greater health awareness for this former tobacco-growing community.

Also, work of the Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) group at Lexington's Tates Creek High School is showcased, including their efforts to present anti-tobacco presentations to Fayette County middle school classes.

Health Three60 is a KET production, produced by Laura Krueger. The program is funded in part by a grant from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

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