

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 245 of 2008
Section 901(2)
Impact of Tobacco-Free Implementation Plan

The Department of Corrections implemented their "Tobacco-Free" initiative for all Correctional Facilities Administration sites and for the Field Operations Administration Tuscola Residential ReEntry Program on February 1, 2009, and continues to remain tobacco-free without major incidents. Although attempts to smuggle tobacco into the secure facilities occur, staff are diligent at confiscating the contraband and imposing appropriate sanctions.

According to the Office of Legal Affairs, there has not been a significant increase in prisoner misconducts since the implementation of the tobacco ban other than the new violation code created for possession of tobacco products. The new violation code averages 100 violations per month amongst the prisoner population of approximately 48,644. There have been no significant trends in the total counts for individual misconduct charges; for example, totals for Threatening Behavior and Assault & Battery charges have generally remained consistent.

The Department continues to take a proactive approach to assist staff and offenders with this significant lifestyle change. Smoking cessation classes is offered to the prison population and they are allowed to purchase nicotine replacement therapy products through approved vendors. Department staff continues to have smoking cessation materials available to them through the Human Resource Department. In addition, the MDOC website continues to display tobacco cessation information for MDOC staff and for prisoner family and friends.

Both staff and prisoners have resolved themselves to this new way of life within the correctional facilities and it appears they are adjusting accordingly. The success achieved would not have been possible without the commitment of staff and prisoners to adhere to a tobacco-free status. The Department, along with the Tobacco Free Initiative Committee, is proud to report these findings and gives credit to all involved in ensuring institutional safety and security while maintaining the facilities as tobacco-free.