

# Press Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **A Year of Clean Air in Kanawha County Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health's Clean Indoor Air Regulation One Year Later**

The Kanawha-Charleston Health Department (KCHD) today released a detailed report of the Clean Indoor Air Regulation (CIAR) inspections conducted from July 1, 2008 thru June 30, 2009. On the one-year anniversary, a total of 3,174 inspections were conducted over the twelve month period and 177 violations were found. KCHD conducts routine inspections and responds to any complaints from citizens or establishments for alleged violations of the CIAR. The number of violations have significantly declined since the first quarter of the inception of a stricter regulation being adopted beginning July 1, 2008, which included bars as well as dog and horse tracks, their associated contiguous gambling facilities, and other gaming facilities licensed by the West Virginia Lottery Commission and/or the West Virginia Racing Commission. For the last quarter ending June 30, 2009, a total of 800 inspections were conducted, of which there were only 37 violations found, which is over a 95% compliance rate with CIAR in initial inspection. For those found to have been in violation, the great majority became in compliance upon a single follow-up inspection, resulting in a 100 % final compliance rate with the CIAR for the 11-month period ending May 2009. Follow-up inspection results for the month of June are still pending.

KCHD would like to express its appreciation and gratitude to all the businesses and individuals which have assisted in making this Regulation a success. It is well established that the inhalation of secondhand or environmental tobacco smoke can cause or contribute to numerous serious health problems and diseases, including heart disease, cancer and respiratory illnesses, such as asthma and bronchitis even in healthy nonsmokers. With leadership from the Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health, the KCHD staff along with local law enforcement have been working tirelessly over the past 12 months to ensure that cleaner air, as a result of the CIAR, will not only protect the health of the public but also protect those workers at places of employment that often have no choice but to continue to work in such surroundings. We would also like to acknowledge the unwavering support of this Regulation from the Kanawha County Commissioners, the Mayor of Charleston's office, as well as our elected State Legislators from Kanawha County.

There is clear scientific data to suggest that enacting such a comprehensive clean indoor air policy provides the greatest public health benefit and does not produce any significant economic effects in a community. We recognize that the overall economic downturn may not be resulting in profit margins of the past for many businesses. However, we expect to see a dramatic turnaround of the health status of our community as a result of this Regulation, in the near future. Research has demonstrated that there is reduction in heart diseases such as heart attacks, as well as other medical conditions, after enacting such a policy within the community. In addition, such policies reduce smoking prevalence among the youth.

Research studies have found that nonsmokers maintain a significantly stronger belief in the dangers associated with environmental tobacco smoke, as well as more favorable attitudes, subjective norms, and support for clean indoor air policies when compared with smokers. Therefore, KCHD is committed to improving the attitudes, knowledge and behavior towards a cleaner air environment through education and information distribution to all the citizens of Kanawha County, while continuing to implement CIAR.

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**CLEAN INDOOR AIR REGULATION INSPECTIONS**  
**July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009**

MONTH	TOTAL # OF INSPECTIONS	TYPE OF INSPECTION			VIOLATIONS
		Routine	Requested	Complaint	
Jul-08	244	182	0	62	20
Aug-08	271	210	0	61	22
Sep-08	254	207	0	47	14
Oct-08	337	294	0	43	14
Nov-08	233	214	0	19	14
Dec-08	269	246	0	23	10
Jan-09	240	213	0	27	14
Feb-09	299	251	0	48	16
Mar-09	227	174	1	52	16
Apr-09	287	241	1	45	16
May-09	236	224	1	11	10
Jun-09	277	268	1	8	11
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3,174</b>	<b>2,724</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>177</b>



**CLEAN INDOOR AIR REGULATION  
COMPLIANCE & VIOLATION RATES  
June 1, 2008 - July 30, 2009**

<b>Month</b>	<b># of Inspections</b>	<b># of Violations</b>	<b>% of Violations</b>	<b># of unresolved cases pending in Court*</b>	<b>Final % of businesses in compliance with CIAR**</b>
Jul-08	244	20	8.20%	0	100%
Aug-08	271	22	8.12%	0	100%
Sep-08	254	14	5.51%	0	100%
Oct-08	337	14	4.15%	0	100%
Nov-08	233	14	6.01%	1	100%
Dec-08	269	10	3.72%	0	100%
Jan-09	240	14	5.83%	0	100%
Feb-09	299	16	5.35%	3	100%
Mar-09	227	16	7.05%	0	100%
Apr-09	287	16	5.57%	0	100%
May-09	236	10	4.24%	0	100%
Jun-09	277	11	3.97%	***	***

**TOTALS                    3,174                    177**

\* Two cases pending in Magistrate court are awaiting hearing; One case pending in Circuit court is awaiting the Judge's decision

\*\***CIAR = Clean Indoor Air Regulation**

\*\*\* Follow-up pending



**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**Clean Indoor Air Inspections**

**July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009**

□ NO VIOLATIONS

■ VIOLATIONS

