

# Tobacco Free Times

## Special Edition

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Please contact the Tobacco Education Staff at Denver Public Health for more information.

Or visit;

<http://www.dath.org>

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The purpose of the Denver Alliance on Tobacco and Health is to rally communities disparately affected by tobacco to reduce tobacco use and related illness in the city and county of Denver.



**Cathy Busha (shown standing), Community Programs Director Of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center of Colorado Speaks to partners from across the state about high tobacco rates among GLBT people**

### SmokeFree GLBT State Wide Meeting 1

The *SmokeFree Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender State Wide Partnership of Colorado* held its quarterly meeting at *Denver Health Medical Center* on July 24, 2009. *SmokeFree* is a three-year old program of the *Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Community Center of Colorado*. The *Center* has partnered with the *State Tobacco Education and Prevention Program (STEPP)* to address the disparately high rates of tobacco use in Colorado's GLBT community.

### Education 2 Smokefest Denver

The *Center* works with partners across the state: including *Boulder Pride, Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Center (Colorado Springs), Lambda Center (Ft. Collins), El Futuro* (a Denver program for GLBT Latinos), and *Western Equality (Grand Junction)*.

### Outreach 2 Taste of the Garden

### Tobacco use Survey 3 Brothas 4 Ever

There is also a *SmokeFree GLBT Youth* program, led by *Rainbow Alley* a program of *The GLBT Center*. *Rainbow Alley* partners with GLBT youth-serving organizations across Colorado. For more information on *SmokeFree GLBT Colorado* or the *GLBT Center* and its programs call 303.733.7743 or visit: <http://www.glbtcOLORADO.org>

### Tobacco Retail 4 Surveillance

## Smokefest Denver-Education in the community



In an attempt to bring sexy back a local tobacco retailer held several events at Gay bars and restaurants in the Denver area called *Smokefest Denver2009*.

*Smokefest Denver 2009* was advertised as an event for “all Cigar Men, Smoking Men, Pipe Men, Bears, Leather Men, Muscle Guys, Cowboys and all of their Admirers for a fun filled weekend!!!”

Several of the events focused on dip, cigars, and pipes and encouraged participants to “Be Bold!” Because some members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community use bars as a means to socialize and meet people, *eroticizing smoking can be a way of targeting that community*.

According to the *SmokeFree Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender State Wide Partnership’s* web site, “Colorado’s GLBT community smokes at 50 to 70% greater rates than the non-GLBT community.” The SmokeFree GLBT Statewide Partnership responded to *Smokefest* by writing an article for immediate release to the Gay media educating the community on the health risks of tobacco. “We didn’t want to condemn or condone *Smokefest* and the people who attended; rather, we simply wanted to get some accurate information out to folks who may have attended *Smokefest*,” said Cathy Busha of the GLBT Center. To see the entire article, visit *SmokeFree GLBT* at [www.glbtcolorado.org](http://www.glbtcolorado.org). Please let us know your thoughts on this or any subject related to tobacco by contacting us or visit the *Denver Alliance on Tobacco and Health* web site; <http://www.dath.org>

### Taste of the Garden-Community Outreach

Come and get fresh air and fresh food at the final day of *Taste of the Garden*, (a health and produce fair) in Denver; August 21, 2009 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am at Iglesia Cristo Rey located at 501 Raleigh St, Denver (at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave and Raleigh St.).

Participants will receive information on the Quitline and other tobacco cessation resources as well as fresh fruits and vegetables at no cost!

Outreach will be conducted in English and Spanish. Contact **Beverly Tafoya Dominguez** at 303.602.3695 for additional information.

COLO RADO  
**QuitLine**<sup>TM</sup>  
*Be tobacco free*



## Results of Tobacco Use Survey of Same Gender Loving Men collected by Brothas 4 Ever

On June 29, 2009 the *Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Center of Colorado* shared the results of its state wide tobacco survey with the members of *Brothas 4 Ever* at their annual meeting. *Brothas 4 Ever* focuses on same gender loving men of African descent and is a program of *It Takes a Village*.

The following are the highlights of the 121 surveys collected by Brothas 4 Ever. For more information or to read all the survey results contact Cathy Busha at the *GLBT Center of Colorado*, 303.733.7743 ext. 102 or John Young at *Denver Public Health*, 303.602.3713.

### Do you smoke cigarettes every day or some days?

	<b>BROTHAS</b>	<b>General GLBT Survey</b>
Every day	91 people / 72%	1,453 people / 77%
Some days	28 people / 23%	368 people / 23%

### What best describes your intentions regarding quitting? Would you say you...

	<b>BROTHAS</b>	<b>General GLBT</b>
Never expect to quit	19 people / 16%	246 people / 14%
Might quit in future but not in next 6 months	77 people / 66%	944 people / 54%
Will quit in next six months	18 people / 15%	379 people / 22%
Will quit next month	3 people / 3%	181 people / 10%

### What is the number one reason why you would want to quit smoking?

	<b>BROTHAS</b>	<b>General GLBT</b>
To improve my health	57 people / 50%	849 people / 48%
To look/feel more attractive	11 people / 10%	58 people / 3%
To reduce my risk of disease	14 people / 12%	211 people / 12%
To stop spending money	9 people / 8%	239 people / 13.5%
I do not want to quit	10 people / 9%	200 people / 11%

### Next time you decide to quit smoking, what method do you think you'll use?

	<b>BROTHAS</b>	<b>General GLBT</b>
Cold turkey	62 people / 54%	943 people / 53%
Patch	23 people / 20%	368 people / 21%
Call Colorado QuitLine	22 people / 19%	23 people / 13%
Attend a class/program	17 people / 15%	112 people / 6%

### Where would you be most likely go to for assistance to quit smoking?

	<b>BROTHAS</b>	<b>General GLBT</b>
Doctor	49 people / 44%	404 people / 23%
Friends	18 people / 16%	449 people / 26%
Family	17 people / 15%	235 people / 14%
GLBT organization	16 people / 14%	197 people / 11%

Information provide by the *Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of Colorado*.

**“Tobacco Companies Target Black Community for Disease and Death.” Denver Weekly News July**



**La Tanisha Wright**

On June 27, 2009, La Tanisha Wright, National States Director of the National African American Tobacco Prevention Network, facilitated a training to raise awareness on how Big tobacco targets Black Communities, afterward she conducted retail tobacco surveillance in the historic Five Point district of Denver, Colorado.

Below is a brief summary of that assessment.

Ms. Wright conducted surveillance in six stores: Two independent liquor stores, two grocery stores and two convenience stores (both part of national chains).

What she found was that the community was heavily burdened with tobacco marketing consisting of signs, cigarette displays and multiple counter displays.

She also reported hearing a resident complain of stores selling individuals cigarettes to youth in the area. Mentholated products were heavily discounted with alternative tobacco products (Snus, Skoal, flavored blunt wraps and little cigars) being placed at the primary point of sale (next to the cash register). Store prices at these locations were higher (with the exception of mentholated products), compared to stores in other areas of the city. “We Card” signs were either placed in hard-to-see locations or were not visible at all.

Some of Ms. Wright’s recommendations are

- advertising at retail locations be eliminated or restricted
- sales of single cigarettes or “loosies” be monitored
- the sale of tobacco products to minors be monitored

Lastly Ms. Wright suggested that tobacco control advocates read, understand and monitor laws before the U.S. House of Representative, specifically house bill 1256 the Family Smoking Prevention Control Act, this law regulates the tobacco industry.

The Colorado Black Tobacco Prevention Network will meet in early August to create an action plan that addresses all of Ms Wright's recommendations and that involves the Five Points Community in putting an end to tobacco disparities and unfair tobacco practices.



**Retail Surveillance in 5 Points  
Store # 6-Entrance/Exit (signs below handle are at the eye level of children)**