An Ounce of Prevention

Policy Brief: Tobacco Tax Rates

The state of Indiana has made significant progress in increasing the tobacco tax rate. Currently, the tax on tobacco products is set at $1.75 per package of cigarettes and $1.30 per 901s. These tax rates have been in effect since 2014 and have been instrumental in reducing tobacco use among youth.

There is a large body of evidence that shows that higher tobacco taxes can lead to reduced smoking among youth. A study published in the journal *Addictive Behaviors* found that a 10% increase in the price of cigarettes was associated with a 1.5% decrease in youth smoking rates. This reduction in smoking rates can translate into significant health improvements and cost savings for the state.

One of the most beneficial aspects for the BGCWC has been its partnership with Drug Free Wayne County Partnership, a coalition of community organizations that work together to prevent substance abuse. The BGCWC has been instrumental in providing staff training and resources to the coalition, and its parent organization, the Community Foundation for Wayne County, has been a key funder of the coalition's efforts.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Wayne County (BGCWC) has surpassed its direct program numbers. The organization has added new programming and services to better meet the needs of its members. The organization has also increased its focus on evidence-based programs that have been shown to be effective in preventing substance abuse.

Exposing youth to the risks of tobacco use is critical. The BGCWC has been working with local schools and community organizations to provide educational programs on the dangers of tobacco use. The organization has also been working with local businesses to create smoke-free environments.

Although there are many different ways to promote Mental Health Awareness Month, the BGCWC has focused on providing resources and support for youth. The organization has been working with local schools and community organizations to provide educational programs on the importance of mental health. The organization has also been working with local businesses to create a more supportive environment for youth.