

200 Youth Descend on Philadelphia to Claim Independence From Tobacco

Members of Statewide Anti-Tobacco Program PA BUSTED! Celebrate Clean Indoor Air Act

Philadelphia, PA July 2, 2008 – About 200 members of PA BUSTED!, Pennsylvania’s youth-lead, anti-tobacco program, traveled to Philadelphia on July 2nd to celebrate the Clean Indoor Air Act, which Governor Rendell signed into law on June 13, 2008. Youth, from across Southeastern Pennsylvania and Philadelphia gathered at People’s Plaza, Independence Mall to claim their “independence from tobacco.”

Izzy Colon, Director of Multicultural Affairs for Mayor Michael Nutter welcomed the youth and congratulated them on their dedication and commitment to a smoke-free Pennsylvania. A plaque was presented to Mr. Colon recognizing Mayor Nutter and the City of Philadelphia for their continued support.

Along with traditional “Philly” food, No Puff Daddy, a local health educator and motivational rap artist performed. The celebration also included a walking tour of Philadelphia’s Historic District and a “freeze demonstration,” in which attendees “froze” for 5 minutes and 4 seconds across People’s Plaza to represent the estimated 54 Pennsylvanians who die each day from a smoking-related disease.

The celebration was sponsored by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Tobacco Control Project and the Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations of Philadelphia.



Highlight: **Calling All Smokers!**

You could hear the music and cheers for more than two blocks. Donning red and blue shirts with the motto “UCAN Beat Tobacco”, our youth filled the sidewalks immediately surrounding Independence Hall.

Our energy drew the masses from across the city – and across the street.

Youth report that a park employee was so inspired by our festivities, that she left her desk across the street at the Visitor Center to join our celebration and claim her independence from tobacco.

A long time smoker, this was as good a time as any for her to decide to quit!