

## THE AGE RESTRICTION ARGUMENT

80% of lifetime nicotine addiction occurs by 18y and 90% by 21y.

90% of Underage smokers obtain their tobacco products from 18-20 yo's.

Big Tobacco uses convenience stores as the conduit to reach kids as 1/3 of American children go to a convenience store at least once a week and the advertising tobacco product is 4 fold greater than i retail stores.

### A) WHAT CAN'T YOU DO UNTIL YOU ARE 21Y OR OLDER.

- 1) Get a license to carry gun permit.
- 2) Rent a car ( actually age 25y)- crash rates don't drop significantly until then
- 3) Drink alcohol.
- 4) Rent a hotel room in Cambridge at the Hampton or Holiday Inn Express.

### B) WHAT HAPPENED IN 29 STATES DURING THE VIETNAM WAR WHEN THEY LOWERED THE ALCOHOL PURCHASE AGE TO 18.

- 1) It was disastrous as underage auto crash deaths skyrocketed. **The Federal Government stated it would take away 10% of states highway money if they didn't return the age back to 21y. They all complied and auto mortalities plummeted**

### C) TOBACCO AGE RESTRICTION IS DIFFERENT THAN ALCOHOL- ALCOHOL CAUSES DEATH/INJURY TO INNOCENT CITIZENS AND TOBACCO DOESNOT

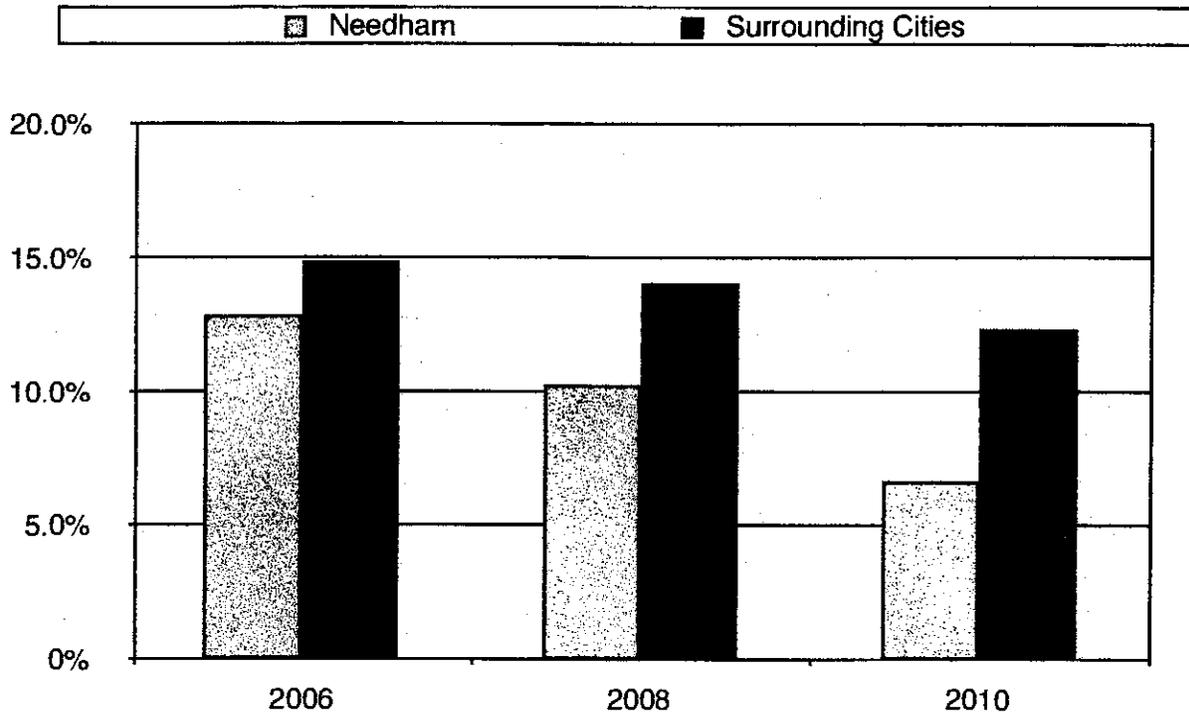
- 1) 420 infants who die of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome can be attributed to exposure to second-hand smoke.
- 2) 48,000 people per year die due to **InvoluntarySmoke Exposure** ( 2nd hand smoke) according to the CDC.

### D) IF YOU CAN GO TO WAR AND BEAR ARMS AT 18 YOU SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO SMOKE.

- 1) What are the rights of the 67% of the military who don't smoke.
- 2) What about the fact the US Army Surgeon General says soldiers who smoke are less combat ready and take longer to heal. **What are the rights of the non-smoking soldier in combat?**
- 3) What are the rights of tax payers who foot the bill of the Veterans who contracted emphysema (from discounted cigarettes in military PX's) at the cost of \$5 billion a year? This dose not include the treatment of lung cancer in Veterans as well which is twice the rate of civilian population.

# TOBACCO21 MASSACHUSETTS EXPERIENCE

## 1) Needham Experience



MetroWest Survey Year	Needham	Surrounding Cities
2005 regulation installed in Needham—no data		
2006	N=1281 12.9%	N=15,399 14.9%
2008	N=1285 10.3%	N=19,121 14.1%
2010	N=1326 6.7%	N=21,861 12.4%

Table and Graph 1. 30-day point prevalence smoking rate grades 9-12 in the years immediately following tobacco 21 regulations in Needham vs surrounding cities.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Obtained data from Public Health nurse Janice Berns, Needham, MA and <http://www.mwhealth.org/>

