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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **OCHN Receives Compliant Rate for Youth Tobacco Prevention Efforts**

**OAKLAND COUNTY, MI (July 16, 2024)** – Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) has received its compliance rate for the annual Synar study and is pleased to announce that the region has passed with a 91%.

The Synar Amendment requires states to have laws that prohibits the sale and distribution of tobacco products to underage youth. According to the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services \(MDHHS\)](#), annual Synar checks show the great strides made in reducing the number of retailers who have violated the law and those who give youth access to tobacco, vapor, and other alternative nicotine products in Michigan.

OCHN's prevention provider, the Alliance of Coalition for Healthy Communities (The Alliance), worked diligently to visit multiple retailers across Oakland County that sell tobacco, vapors, and other nicotine products and provided educational materials about the importance of not selling these products to minors. Underage and undercover youth then entered the stores and attempted to purchase these products.

This program has been successful in reducing tobacco access to youth in retail stores. OCHN is committed to preventing tobacco use among youth and the Synar study is just one of its efforts to accomplish this goal.

For non-emergency Access services, call (248) 464-6363. If you or someone you know needs immediate assistance, call or text the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988. For more information on OCHN, visit [www.oaklandchn.org](http://www.oaklandchn.org).

## **About OCHN**

OCHN is contracted by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to lead a provider service network and manage care for approximately 29,000 Oakland County residents at more than 400 service sites across the county. People who receive public behavioral health services through OCHN's provider network include those who have an intellectual or developmental disability, mental health concerns, or substance use disorder. Most of these individuals have Medicaid insurance coverage.

OCHN's goal is to ensure these individuals are aware of and have access to services and supports that will improve their health and quality of life, as well as ensure their engagement in full community participation. Its mission to "inspire hope, empower people, and strengthen communities" reflects an unyielding belief in a "Valuable System for Valued People." Programs and supports provided by OCHN's service network are available at [www.oaklandchn.org](http://www.oaklandchn.org).

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