

## CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Health Department Seeks Input on Black and Milds

October 9, 2007 – The Baltimore City Health Department will be co-hosting a roundtable discussion on the use of Black and Milds by young adults in Baltimore. The event is scheduled for Monday, October 15, 3 to 4 pm at the Westside YO! Community Center at 1510 West Lafayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21217. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Institute for Global Tobacco Control conducted the research that raised awareness of the issue and are assisting with the discussion.

Little cigars such as Black and Milds are associated with similar health risks as cigarettes, leading to increased risks of cancer, heart disease, and lung disease. However, many are unaware that little cigars can contain much larger amounts of tobacco and nicotine than cigarettes and can be just as damaging to health. Black and Milds face fewer restrictions on marketing and lower taxes than cigarettes.

The Health Department is releasing a background paper on Black and Milds today.

The event will feature a panel of discussants:

- Young adults from the Eastside and Westside YO! Centers will speak about the availability and use of little cigars;
- Public health researchers will speak about health effects of smoking Black and Milds;
- Legal experts will speak about legal issues surrounding Black and Milds and similar products;
- Leaders of local YO! Centers will speak about the prevalence of smoking of Black and Milds among their clients.



Attendance is open to all interested members of the Baltimore City community.

For more information, please visit [www.baltimorehealth.org](http://www.baltimorehealth.org).

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