



# TCN News

*News and announcements from the Tobacco Control Network*

## Circulating Help Your Peers Requests

*These are the current circulating Help Your Peers requests.*

### Print Material Delivery for Teens

**Extended Deadline:** Mar. 22, 2017

Idaho is working on the development of youth tobacco prevention print materials for ages 13-18 and they would like to know which mode of delivery other states have used that resonates with that age group regarding tobacco prevention in a print form.

*If you have any information to share or know someone who does, please reply to [tcn@astho.org](mailto:tcn@astho.org) and we will connect you with the person who submitted the request.*

## Partner Announcements

### [New Report on Flavored Tobacco Products](#)

#### *Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids*

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, along with partners such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Heart Association, released a new report highlighting the recent growth of flavored tobacco products, despite FDA's ban on flavored cigarettes. The report, "The Flavor Trap: How Tobacco Companies Are Luring Kids with Candy-Flavored E-Cigarettes and Cigars," calls on FDA to ban all flavored tobacco products and urges Congress to reject legislation that weakens FDA's authority to regulate e-cigarettes and cigars.

### [500 Cities: A New, Interactive Web Application](#)

*The biweekly **TCN News** provides a concise digest of tobacco control announcements to the Tobacco Control Network's membership base of tobacco control program managers and additional staff from each state, territory, and D.C., as well as our valued partners.*

## Upcoming Events

### [The Society for Public Health Education \(SOPHE\) 68th Annual Conference](#)

Denver, CO

Mar. 30 – April 1|*Registration Required*

### [National Council for Behavioral Health National Conference 2017](#)

Seattle, WA

Apr. 3-5|*Registration Required*

### [Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit](#)

Austin, TX

Apr. 17-18|*Registration Required*

### [Public Workshop on Battery Safety Concerns in Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems \(ENDS\) – FDA](#)

Silver Spring, MD

Apr. 19-20|*Registration Required*

### [Dr. Alma S. Adams Scholarship for Outreach and Health Communications to](#)

## CDC

A collaboration between CDC and RWJF brings a new, interactive web application where users can explore city- and neighborhood-level health data for the largest 500 cities in the United States. The project provides city and census tract-level small area estimates for chronic disease risk factors, health outcomes, and clinical preventive service use, allowing cities and local health departments to better identify and target areas of need. Users can view data by measure, compare up to three cities, and download map books for all 28 measures.

## [New Campaign Highlights Tobacco as a Social Justice Issue](#) *Truth Initiative*

A new segment of the truth campaign, #STOPPROFILING, points out the efforts of the tobacco industry to aggressively market to communities that already face adversity and inequality. The latest videos are available online and highlight the relationship between tobacco and racial and ethnic minorities, low-income communities, and LGBT communities.

## [LGBT HealthLink Online Platform](#)

### *LGBT HealthLink*

LGBT HealthLink, a program of CenterLink, created a new online platform with exclusive content for members interested in LGBT health equity. Membership is about building a community of people to share expertise and resources. This exclusive membership also provides access to the weekly LGBT Health News Roundup; scholarships to help support and promote leadership in LGBT health; members-only online networking groups; exclusive webinars and resources available for download; and co-branding opportunities. To [join](#) the movement to achieve health equity, become a member.

## [2017 Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit](#)

The University of Texas is hosting the 2017 Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit. [Registration](#) is now open for the summit, scheduled for April 17-18 in Austin, TX, at the AT&T Conference Center. The [agenda](#) includes discussion on tobacco-free campus policies, learning labs, and a policy, cessation, and prevention panel.

[Reduce Tobacco Use Among Priority Populations](#) – Truth Initiative  
Apr. 30|*Application Deadline*

[2017 NNPHI Annual Conference: Navigating Uncertainty, Spanning Boundaries, Improving Health](#) – National Network of Public Health Institutes  
New Orleans, LA  
May 17-19|*Registration Required*

[No Menthol Sunday](#) – NAATPN  
May 28|*Save the Date*

[NACCHO Annual 2017 – Public Health Revolution: Bridging Clinical Medicine and Population Health](#) – National Association of City and County Health Officials  
Pittsburg, PA  
July 11-13|*Save the Date*

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## **Funding Opportunities**

*If you know of any tobacco-related funding opportunities that may appeal to a state and territorial tobacco control audience, please reach out to [tcn@astho.org](mailto:tcn@astho.org).*

## **Job Listings**

[Tobacco Health Disparities & Treating Tobacco Dependence Coordinator](#)  
[Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)  
Madison, WI

[Tobacco Free Nebraska Program Coordinator](#)  
[Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services](#)  
Lincoln, NE

[Senior Evaluator](#)  
[Professional Data Analysis](#)

### [Smoking Cessation Tools in the Digital Health Space](#)

*Smoking Cessation Leadership Center*

Companies are developing new digital tools to complement common smoking cessation methods to help smokers quit more effectively. These technologies can include smartphone apps, messaging platforms, and social networking mediums. Some collect behavioral health data like craving patterns, stressors, and smoking routines. Smart lighters and cigarette cases can track smoking and provide feedback, while digital patches can release nicotine for when cravings are strongest. System-wide technological advances are also underway. In California, electronic health record systems prompt providers to refer their patients to the California Smokers' Helpline.

## State News

[Cigarette Price Increase in New Mexico Proposed to Aid Education \(NM\)](#) – *Albuquerque Journal*. State Sen. Morales (NM) proposed SB231, legislation that would increase the tax price on cigarettes by \$1.50 per pack, with an equivalent increase in other tobacco products including e-cigarettes and chewing tobacco. The increase is projected to produce \$89 million in state revenue annually. Sen. Morales has encouraged utilizing the revenue to backfill budget cuts on public schools and in anticipation of potential funding challenges later this year.

[New Jersey Bill to Ban Flavored E-Cigarettes \(NJ\)](#) – *NJ.com*. The New Jersey State Assembly's health committee voted in late February to approve a bill that bans the sale and distribution of flavored electronic smoking products. If signed into law, the bill would expand a 2008 law barring the sale or distribution of flavored cigarettes. Opponents of the bill argue that banning any product with "a characterizing flavor" could be interpreted to include any flavoring at all, including clove, menthol, and tobacco flavors. They also argue that e-cigarettes are not a gateway to smoking and that the devices effectively help smokers quit.

[Tobacco 21 Bill Still under Consideration by Guam Senate \(GU\)](#) – *Pacific News Center*. Legislation proposed in Guam by Sen. B.J. Cruz that would increase the tobacco and e-

[Inc.](#)  
[Minneapolis, MN](#)

### **About the Tobacco Control Network**

The TCN's mission is to improve the public's health by providing education and state-based expertise to tobacco prevention and control at the state and national levels.

The TCN is a network of tobacco program managers and staff from state and territorial health departments as well as Funder's Alliance organizations, and a peer group of the [Association of State and Territorial Health Officials](#) (ASTHO) on behalf of the CDC's Office on Smoking and Health.

### **About ASTHO**

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials is the national nonprofit association representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy and to ensuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

cigarette purchase age to 21 is still under consideration. Different senators offered amendments to this bill that would increase penalties for retailers caught selling to underage consumers, as well as underage consumers themselves. The latter amendment was withdrawn by Sen. Joe San Agustin, who will instead propose this measure as part of a separate bill.



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## In the News

[CVS Health Continues Commitment to Tobacco-Free Generation](#) – *PR Newswire*. CVS Health will invest \$10 million to launch the second year of “Be The First,” a five year, \$50 million commitment to the United States’ first tobacco-free generation. Through new and expanded partnerships, funded initiatives will focus on youth and young adults who smoke or at risk of becoming tobacco users, elementary school children, and tobacco-free campus policies. One of the projects funded through “Be The First’s” inaugural year includes a new online tobacco prevention training program created by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

[Tobacco-Related Illnesses Prompt Switch to E-Cigarettes](#) – *HealthDay*. A recent study found that people who smoke and have a medical comorbidity such as asthma, COPD, or cardiovascular disease use e-cigarettes more than people without such an illness. The analysis, which evaluated responses to the 2014 and 2015 National Health Interview Survey, suggested that these individuals are likely to switch to e-cigarettes for reasons such as quitting cigarettes, reducing cigarette consumption, or reducing harms from smoking. Adults with cancer, however, had low prevalence of e-cigarette use, possibly due to a perception that it is too late for a reduced harm product to help them. The lead investigator suggests that healthcare providers ask patients about e-cigarette use and discuss risks.

## Research

[Cigarette Smoking and Adverse Health Outcomes Among Adults Receiving Federal Housing Assistance](#) – *Preventive*

*Medicine*. **Key Findings:** Data on over 5,200 HUD-assisted adults to better understand smoking prevalence and associated health outcomes among this high risk population. Researchers found that 33.6 percent of surveyed HUD-assisted adults were smokers, including 37.5 percent of households with children. Compared to non-smokers included in the study sample, smokers were significantly more likely to report fair or poor health, serious psychological distress, and greater than ten workdays lost in the past year, among other adverse health outcomes. Authors conclude that housing assistance programs are a valuable opportunity to implement evidence-based tobacco control measures, including smoke-free policies.

[Prevalence and Harm Perceptions of Hookah Smoking Among U.S. Adults, 2014–2015](#) – *Addictive Behaviors*. **Key Findings:** Researchers analyzed data from the 2014-15 Tobacco Products and Risk Perceptions Surveys to assess prevalence of hookah use and harm perceptions among U.S. adults. Ever and past 30-day hookah use prevalence were found to be 15.8 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively. Risk factors for lower harm perceptions of hookah use include being a young adult, being college educated, and having ever smoked hookah. Study authors conclude that public health interventions should target these subpopulations to provide them with accurate information on hookah smoking.

[National and State Trends in Sales of Cigarettes and E-Cigarettes, U.S., 2011–2015](#) – *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. **Key Findings:** Retail scanner data from 2011 through 2015 was analyzed to assess longitudinal trends in cigarette and e-cigarette sales. Data indicates that nationwide cigarette sales declined for this five-year period, but increased slightly in 2015 for the first time in over a decade. E-cigarette sales significantly increased over this period, but the rate of growth slowed in recent years. There is some variability in these trends based on state and retailer type (e.g., convenience stores, supermarkets, and military commissaries). Researchers note that e-cigarette data does not include online orders.

[The Impact of a Federal Cigarette Minimum Pack Price Policy on Cigarette Use in the USA](#) – *Tobacco Control*. **Key Findings:** Researchers fitted models based on state-level

tobacco tax and sales data to estimate the hypothetical impact of minimum cigarette prices between \$0 and \$12. These models indicated that a \$4 cigarette price would have a minimal impact on cigarette sales, while a \$10 minimum price would result in approximately 5.7 billion fewer packs sold per year, and 10 million fewer smokers. The study's authors conclude that such a policy would potentially benefit public health greatly, while eliminating price-reducing strategies currently available to the tobacco industry.

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The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, 2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 450, Arlington, VA 22202  
[TCN@astho.org](mailto:TCN@astho.org)

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