

Read on for announcements from the [Tobacco Control Network](#) (TCN) and our partners.

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TCN News

News and announcements from the Tobacco Control Network

New Podcast Available: 2016-2017 TCN Podcast Series

The podcast “Calculating and Leveraging ROIs in Tobacco Control” is now [available](#) on the TCN [website](#). This fourth podcast of the TCN Podcast Series features Jeffrey Fellows, executive director of the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research; Barry Sharp, program manager of the tobacco prevention and control branch at the Texas Department of State Health Services; and Meg Riordan, vice president of research at the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The participants discuss ROI resources available to state and territorial tobacco control programs, and discuss the role ROIs can have in conveying the cost effectiveness of tobacco programs and initiatives.

Circulating Help Your Peers Requests

These are the current circulating Help Your Peers requests.

Tobacco Control Program Staff Orientation

Deadline: April 12, 2017

In the last year, the Idaho Tobacco Prevention and Control Program has seen nearly every position turn over. Have any other state programs developed standardized materials or procedures for orientation into the tobacco control world? Any suggestions on how Idaho might begin to create their own procedures are welcome.

*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

[An Overlooked Addiction: Tobacco Use Among the Homeless Population](#) –

Tobacco Control Legal Consortium at the Public Health Law Center
April 12, 12:30-2 PM
ET|*Registration Required*

[Quitlines and Behavioral Health: The Hidden Resource](#)

– Smoking Cessation Leadership Center
April 12, 1-2:30 PM
ET|*Registration Required*

[Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit](#)

Austin, TX
April 17-18|*Registration Required*

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

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

Partner Announcements

[New Report on Smoking and Mental Illness in the U.S.](#)

SAMHSA

SAMHSA released a new report about smoking prevalence among adults who experienced a mental illness in the last year. While the authors found a 33.3 percent smoking rate among those who experienced mental illness, that rate was 20.7 percent among adults who did not experience mental illness. The report also identifies that those with mental illness smoked more cigarettes on average and were less likely to quit smoking compared to adults without mental illness. The findings point to a call to action for policymakers as well as the mental health and public health communities to address smoking and the unique needs of people experiencing mental illness as it relates to cessation.

[New State Specific National Tobacco Control Program \(NTCP\) Factsheets](#)

CDC

CDC's Office on Smoking and Health released NTCP factsheets for each of the 50 states and Washington, D.C. Each factsheet includes a problem statement, key state facts, public health responses to tobacco use, participation in CDC's *Tips From Smokers* Campaign, and the value of prevention and control programs in reducing healthcare costs. An interactive map provides a look at each state's factsheet. More information about the funding CDC provides to support comprehensive tobacco prevention and control in all 50 states, D.C., eight U.S. territories, and 12 tribal organizations, can be found [here](#).

[Three Archived Virtual Events Now Available on the ASTHO Tobacco Website](#)

ASTHO

Recordings and slides from a virtual event and two webinars are now available on ASTHO's tobacco webinars page. ASTHO's Ask the Experts virtual session, "Health at Home:

Silver Spring, MD
April 19-20|*Registration Required*

[Dr. Alma S. Adams Scholarship for Outreach and Health Communications to Reduce Tobacco Use Among Priority Populations](#) – Truth Initiative
April 30|*Application Deadline*

[LGBT HealthLink E-Summit](#) – LGBT HealthLink
May 15-17|*Registration Required*

[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*

[Truth Initiative Youth Activism Program](#) – Truth Initiative
May 31, 11:59 PM ET|*Application Deadline*

[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*

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.

[2017 Cultivating Healthy](#)

Adult Smoking and Adverse Childhood Experiences in Multi-Unit Housing,” featured an interdisciplinary panel discussing the intersection between adverse childhood experiences, secondhand smoke exposure, and smoke-free multi-unit housing policies. The first webinar, co-hosted by ASTHO and NACCHO, featured speakers from Oklahoma and Mississippi discussing rural and smokeless tobacco prevention and control. The second webinar featured expert speakers from Campaign Tobacco-Free Kids and discussed the synergy between Tobacco 21 and tobacco-free baseball stadium policies.

[Robert Wood Johnson Foundation \(RWJF\) Releases Annual County Health Rankings](#)

RWJF

RWJF released their 2017 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, a comprehensive and interactive tool that includes data on dozens of health factors for each county. This data is then used to construct a county health rankings list for each state. Adult smoking rates are one of the factors compiled and measured for each county to help calculate these rankings. Overall takeaways from these rankings are [summarized](#) in the 2017 Key Findings Report.

[New CDC Webpage Includes Information and Resources for Organizations Serving Public Housing Residents](#)

CDC

A new webpage on the [CDC Tips Partners page](#) lists resources and information aimed at organizations involved in public housing in conjunction with the HUD smoke-free rule. CDC invites states and other stakeholders involved in public housing to use and share these resources to help encourage the adoption of smoke-free policies in multi-unit public housing.

[New Colleges and Universities Tobacco Policies Listing Available](#)

American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation (ANRF)

ANRF released an updated listing on smoke-free and tobacco-free U.S. and tribal colleges and universities, organizing over 1,800 campus policies by state. The comprehensive listing makes note of which policies are 100 percent tobacco-free, e-cigarette-free, hookah-free, and explicitly marijuana-free. The list also provides links to a

[Communities Grant Program](#)

Deadline: Apr. 14, 3 PM ET

Aetna Foundation recognizes that individual health is rooted in the community: in the places where we live, learn, work, play, and pray. They are inviting projects that address issues in the domains of built environment, community safety, environmental exposures, healthy behaviors, and social or economic factors.

Job Listings

[Senior Evaluator Professional Data Analysis, 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

majority of cited policies.

[Physician Education Support Available from Twin Cities Medical Society](#)

Twin Cities Medical Society

Twin Cities Medical Society developed a model of educating physicians and other healthcare providers about emerging tobacco products and engaging them as advocates in local and statewide tobacco policy. This society, which has been very successful in Minnesota, has received a grant allowing them to replicate this model at medical and specialty societies across the country at no charge to partner organizations. Those interested in learning more should contact [Annie Krapek](#) or visit the [website](#).

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.

State News

The Tobacco Control Network uses this section to reflect the great work occurring across states and territories in tobacco control. We encourage you to share useful tobacco control tools, programs, and resources your state has developed, as well as recent legislative achievements. If you would like to share your work, or nominate someone else to be recognized, please contact tcn@astho.org.

[Case Studies on Health Systems Change for Tobacco Cessation \(MN\)](#) – *ClearWay Minnesota*. In 2014, ClearWay Minnesota funded three organizations for two years to help them improve their ability to assess and address tobacco use with their patients. An external evaluator conducted a process evaluation and worked with ClearWay Minnesota and the grantees to develop individual case studies on each of the projects. These case studies share the strategies, successes, challenges, and lessons learned from a nonprofit healthcare system, a county medical center, and an American Indian tribe.

[California Youth Stand up against Flavored Tobacco Products \(CA\)](#) – *The Sacramento Bee*. Approximately 250 youth advocates from Berkeley and Fremont, California held an anti-tobacco rally at the state Capitol as part of Kick Butts Day activities, co-sponsored by the California Youth Advocacy Network and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free



Kids. The rally focused on advocating for removal of flavored tobacco products given their appeal to youth and targeted marketing by the industry.

[Tobacco Price Increase Bill Hearing in Montana \(MT\)](#) – *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*. The Montana Senate Taxation Committee held a hearing for SB 354, a bill sponsored by Sen. Mary Caferro (D-Helena) that proposes a \$1.50 increase on cigarette pack tax. The bill also includes 74 percent tax on the wholesale price for spit tobacco (up from 50 percent, currently) and for liquid used in e-cigarettes. The revenue is projected to be allocated to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services to raise salaries of Medicaid direct-care workers, general fund, and long-range building account. Health advocates, including the state medical director, defended the bill, while vape shop and convenience store constituents and customers testified in opposition.

[Oregon Tobacco 21 Bill Moves Forward \(OR\)](#) – *Associated Press*. The Oregon Senate approved SB 754, which proposes raising the minimum legal age of sale for tobacco and nicotine products to 21. The proposal is estimated to drop tax revenues by less than two percent of total tobacco revenues in the 2017-2019 budget. Critics commented that the bill discriminates against young adults who are of legal age to participate in activities such as voting and military service. Supporters highlighted the bill's parity with other minimum age laws such as alcohol or recreational marijuana use. The bill would not impose criminal penalties for youth in violation and instead focuses on fines for retail owners, managers, and clerks selling to those underage. The bill will next go to the House.

In the News

[R.J. Reynolds and Philip Morris Apply for FDA Recognition of Modified Risk Tobacco Products](#) – *Winston-Salem Journal*. R.J. Reynolds became the most recent tobacco company to petition FDA for recognition of a product as a [modified risk tobacco product](#) (MRTP), after filing an application for six styles of its Camel Snus products. Philip Morris recently submitted an MRTP application for its iQOS

electronically heated cigarette, which heats leaf tobacco without combustion. FDA recognition of a product as a MRTP, based on scientific evidence presented by tobacco companies and investigated by FDA, would allow manufacturers to market such products as less harmful than other tobacco products, such as combustible cigarettes.

[New Study Estimates Impact of WHO Global Tobacco](#)

[Treaty](#) – *Reuters Health*. Researchers from the University of Waterloo and WHO investigated the effects to date of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), which compels 180 countries to implement evidence-based tobacco policies such as high tobacco taxes, warning labels on tobacco products, and public advertising restrictions. Data from 126 countries, including 116 signees of the FCTC, found a 2.5 percentage point reduction in smoking rates from 2005 to 2015. Data also found that countries that more fully implemented FCTC measures saw greater decreases in smoking rates.

Research

[Use of Electronic Cigarettes in Smoke-Free Environments](#) –

Tobacco Control. **Key Findings:** Researchers surveyed a nationally representative subset of e-cigarette users to better understand e-cigarette use in indoor places where cigarette smoking is prohibited. Survey data indicates that 59.5 percent of e-cigarette users vaped where cigarette smoking is restricted, including 74.2 percent of young adults aged 18-29. Services venues such as bars and restaurants were listed most frequently, followed by worksites. Study authors recommend adoption of policies that explicitly restrict indoor e-cigarette use.

[Can Smokefree Policies Reduce Tobacco Use Disparities of Sexual and Gender Minorities in Missouri?](#) – *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*. **Key Findings:** Survey data from the

Out, Proud, and Healthy project was analyzed to determine differences between sexual and gender minorities in Missouri. Researchers found that sexual and gender minorities smokers were more likely than non-minority smokers to live in places where a smoke-free policy is not implemented, and that living in a smoke-free community for

two or more years was associated with a significantly greater intention to quit compared to smokers living in areas without a smoke-free policy in place. Authors conclude that sexual and gender minorities might benefit from the adoption of smoke-free policies more than non-minorities.

[Nicotine Sales to Minors: Store-Level Comparison of E-Cigarette Versus Cigarette Violation Rates](#) – *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*. **Key Findings:** Researchers tested retailers' compliance to e-cigarette and cigarette sales restrictions by sending minors to 238 different urban Colorado businesses to purchase e-cigarettes and cigarettes in two separate trips. Contrary to researchers' hypothesis, which stated that business would be more likely to sell e-cigarettes to minors, violation rates were similar for e-cigarettes and cigarettes (17.6% and 14.7%, respectively). Study data indicates that enforcement of e-cigarette and cigarette sales restrictions should both be emphasized.

[Public Reactions to E-cigarette Regulations on Twitter: A Text Mining Analysis](#) – *Tobacco Control*. **Key Findings:** Researchers used a text mining approach to analyze Twitter comments in relation to the FDA final deeming rule announced in May 2016. This analysis found that Twitter reactions could be categorized into nine different topics and concluded that most Twitter posts with regards to the deeming rule were mixed or negative. Study authors conclude that public health advocates should consider communicating the outcomes and intentions of the FDA policy on social media.

