

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*

## Letter from the Chair

Thank you to all who attended the TCN Reception on August 19. It was really great to see so many of you at the event and we hope that the time was helpful in connecting with others. A special thank you to Legacy for supporting the event and providing us with refreshments and to the Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) for making the time to host the reception.

The reception allowed us to highlight the TCN website and resources. We were also joined by Dr. Graffunder, the new director of OSH, who shared her excitement for the upcoming year and Barry Sharp, our Chair-Elect, who reminded us about keeping our passion on fire. It is our hope that you will continue to utilize the tools of the TCN, such as the website and Help Your Peers, to continue to engage with each other. As I mentioned at the reception, we look forward to rolling out an online forum soon on our website, where we can communicate directly with each other in a private space. Until then, feel free to send along your questions and comments to us at [TCN@astho.org](mailto:TCN@astho.org). We would like to encourage you to also reach out and share your great work to be highlighted in the TCN News. This is your newsletter and we know that great work is happening in all your areas.

*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.*

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## Upcoming events

[Call for Abstracts: National Summit on Smokeless and Spit Tobacco](#) – Health Education Council  
Application Due: Aug. 31

[Training Webinar for the FY2015 Annual Survey](#) – North American Quitline Consortium  
Aug. 31, 3-4 p.m.

[Innovative Strategies to Increase the Reach and Utilization of Quitlines Among Priority Populations](#) – North American Quitline Consortium  
Sep. 2, 12:30 – 2 p.m.  
| *Registration Required*

Finally, we are actively recruiting individuals to serve on the TCN Executive Committee for 2015-2016. This leadership role is a great way to get more engaged with TCN and provide guidance for how we can best support members in the network. [HERE](#) is a description of the various roles. If you are interested or have any questions, please [contact us](#). Everyone will receive a ballot for consideration on Sept. 1 and the new Executive Committee will be announced on Oct. 1.

Thank you for all of your work in tobacco control. We wish you all a great year ahead!

Miranda Spitznagle  
TCN Chair



*Thanks to everyone for their participation at the TCN Reception*

## Help Your Peers

*This is the current circulating Help Your Peers request.*

### Examples of Surveillance Tool

*Deadline: Aug. 31*

New Hampshire's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program would like to know if any states have developed a "Vape Store" surveillance tool, and if it can be shared. New Hampshire would like to survey for childproof caps and license type.

[Flavor Craze: Restricting Flavored Tobacco Products at the Point of Sale](#) – TCLC, CounterTobacco.org  
Sep. 3, 1 p.m. | *Registration Required*

[Call for Abstracts: 2016 AMCHP Annual Conference](#) – Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Application Due: Sept. 4

[Webinar on E-cigarettes and Point of Sale Tobacco Control](#) – CounterTobacco.org, ChangeLab solutions  
Sep. 25, 1 p.m. | *Save the Date*

[Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) – Rutgers University, Center for Tobacco Studies and Division of Addiction Psychiatry  
Oct. 5-9 | *Registration Required*

[Counter Tools User Conference and Training Institute](#) – Counter Tools  
Oct. 19-20 | *Register by Sept. 1*

[Tobacco and Nicotine Harm Reduction Dialogue](#) – Institute for Environmental Negotiation  
Oct. 22-23 | *Save the Date*

[National Summit on Health Equity](#) – American Cancer Society Action Network  
Nov. 10 | *Registration Required*

[12th National Reduce Tobacco Use Conference](#) – Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth and Prevention Connections  
April 25-26, 2016 | *Save the Date*

If you have any information to share or can connect us with 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

### [FDA Extends Comment Period for Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Nicotine Exposure Warnings and Child-Resistant Packaging](#)

*FDA Center for Tobacco Products*

FDA is seeking comments, data, research, and/or other information related to nicotine exposure warnings and child-resistant packaging for liquid nicotine, nicotine-containing e-liquid(s), and potentially for other tobacco products including, but not limited to novel tobacco products such as dissolvables, lotions, gels, and drinks. Comment period has been extended until **Sep. 30**.

### [Medicaid Match for State Tobacco Cessation Quitlines Factsheet](#)

*ASTHO*

ASTHO has released a factsheet that discusses each state's current status, barriers to implementation, and recommendations, and details how states may claim tobacco cessation quitline expenditures as a Medicaid administrative cost and receive a 50 percent administrative match rate for services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries. More information on public health and Medicaid partnerships can be found on ASTHO's [website](#).

### [Report: State Action to Prevent Cancer Incident and Mortality](#)

*American Cancer Society*

This month, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network released its annual report "How Do You Measure Up?" The report summarizes and evaluates state policies designed to prevent cancer related mortality, highlighting state efforts in tobacco prevention and cessation, cancer screenings, tanning restrictions for minors, access to healthy foods, and Medicaid coverage expansion. It also provides guidance on how states can implement federal healthcare laws and discusses strategies to improve access to preventive care.

## Funding Opportunities

### [Tobacco Control and Prevention Mini-Grants](#)

**Deadline: Sept. 1.** The American Academy of Family Physicians is providing 10 chapter members a mini-grant to implement evidence-based tobacco interventions.

## Job listings

[Tobacco Prevention and Control Policy Coordinator](#)  
[University of Wisconsin – Madison](#)  
[Madison, WI](#)

[Director-Center for Consumer and Community Engagement](#)  
[Community Catalyst](#)  
[Washington, DC](#)

[Health Scientist Administrator \(Media Evaluation Specialist\)](#)  
[Carter Consulting, INC](#)  
[Atlanta, GA](#)

[Health Communications Specialist](#)  
(Requisition ID: 15011778)  
[Northrup Grumman](#)  
[Atlanta, GA](#)

[Industry Documents Digital Library Manager](#)  
[University of California, San Francisco](#)  
[San Francisco, CA](#)

**About the Tobacco Control Network**

[Quitters Circle: Social Community and Mobile Application to Help Smokers Quit](#)

*American Lung Association and Pfizer*

Pfizer and American Lung Association partnered to create Quiter's Circle, a multi-platform website and mobile application to help smokers quit. The Quiter's Circle website features resources for smokers, as well as their supporters, to address smoking cessation challenges. Quiter's Circle also has a downloadable mobile application which allows people to create a quit plan and join a support team.

[Recruiting Smokers for Quit Smoking Research Studies](#)

*Legacy*

Legacy's Schroeder Institute launched the website Tobacco Control Research, which is designed to attract smokers that are searching online for help to quit smoking. Smokers can enroll in various smoking cessation studies like "daily tracking of e-cigarette use among smokers" and the "Tumblr quit smoking blog study." The website also offers an archive of past research on smoking cessation conducted at the Schroeder Institute.

[Tobacco Product Marketing Applications Decisions](#)

*FDA*

FDA is reviewing substantial equivalence applications that would allow new tobacco products to be marketed in the United States if they exhibit the same characteristics as a valid predicate product. In June, FDA approved 125 substantial equivalence applications and 8 not substantially equivalent orders. In addition, there was one Refuse-to-Accept letter and 190 substantial equivalence applications were withdrawn by companies.

**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*

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.

Staff support is provided to the TCN by 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.



*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](mailto:tcn@astho.org).*

[Minneapolis City Council Passes Flavored Tobacco and Minimum Price Restrictions](#) (MN). The Minneapolis City Council voted to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco shops and set a minimum price of \$2.60 for cigars. Since flavored tobacco products and low prices often attract younger smokers, the council indicated that these restrictions could discourage youth from using tobacco products.

## In the News

[Phillip Morris and Altria Expand E-cigarette Partnership](#) – Reuters.

In 2013, Phillip Morris International and Altria Group made an agreement that Phillip Morris would exclusively sell Altria cigarettes outside the United States, while Altria would have the exclusive rights to sell two Phillip Morris e-cigarette products in the United States. The companies have expanded this agreement to include joint research, development, and technology strategies. A Philip Morris representative suggested this cooperative agreement would facilitate the development of the next generation of e-cigarettes.

[Inflammatory Bowel Disease \(IBD\) Patients Unaware that Smoking Increases Adverse Symptoms](#) – Reuters.

A study examined the knowledge among IBD patients about the risk of smoking for patients with the two most common types of IBD: crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Previous research associated the risk of developing crohn's disease and complications related to the disease from smoking. This new study found that 20 percent of patients with crohn's disease were current smokers and 40 percent were former smokers. However, less than half of the patients interviewed were aware of the IBD complications related to smoking tobacco.

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## Research

[Identifying E-cigarette Vape Stores: Description of an Online Search Methodology](#) – *Tobacco Control*. **Key Findings:** Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) vape stores in Florida were identified through online searches and verified through a crowdsourcing platform. The online searches identified 403 ENDS vape stores in Florida, with Yelp having the highest accuracy in correctly identifying vape stores (77.6%). Only 32.5 percent of the ENDS vape stores identified through this method were also reported on the state tobacco licensure list. The researchers suggest that this methodology could be a way for states to identify and track ENDS vape stores.

[Distress, Race/Ethnicity, and Smoking Cessation in Treatment-Seekers: Implications for Disparity Elimination](#) – *Addiction*. **Key Findings:** In this study, perceived levels of stress and depressive symptoms were assessed across racial /ethnic differences before and after participating in cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT). African Americans reported higher perceived stress and depressive symptoms before the CBT. The researchers indicated that high levels of stress were associated with reduced odds of smoking abstinence. Racial/ethnic differences in perceived stress before CBT therapy were eliminated after the therapy was completed.

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