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# TCN News

*News and announcements from the Tobacco Control Network*

## Circulating Help Your Peers Requests

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

### Taxing Electronic Smoking Devices

**Deadline:** May 25, 2016

What states are taxing electronic smoking devices, and how are states taxing them?

### Discrepancy on ENDS Use Data among High School Students

**Deadline:** May 25, 2016

There is a large discrepancy between the North Carolina Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) data on use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) among high school students. YRBS was conducted in the spring of 2015 and YTS was conducted in the fall of 2015. The North Carolina YTS data aligns closely with the National YTS data:

	YTS	YRBS
Ever Use	35.8% (33.2- 38.5)	49.4% (45.1-53.7)
Current (30 day) Use	16.8% (15.0-18.5)	29.6% (25.8-33.7)

*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

[Examining Education Disparities in Tobacco Use](#)  
– TCN

May 25, 3-4 p.m.  
EDT|*Registration Required*

[The Triangulum: Tobacco, Marijuana, and E-Cigarettes](#)  
(Event and Live Webcast) – Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program  
May 26, 12-3 p.m.  
EDT|*Registration Required*

[Adapting Tips from Former Smokers to Local Settings](#) –

There do not appear to be large difference between sampling frames. The wording of the questions do differ:

**YTS:** The next questions are about electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes. You may also know them as vape-pens, hookah pens, electronic hookahs (e-hookahs), electronic cigars (e-cigars), electronic pipes (e-pipes), or e-vaporizers.

**YRBS:** The next 2 questions ask about electronic vapor products, such as blu, NJOY, or Starbuzz. Electronic vapor products include e-cigarettes, ecigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, ehookahs, and hookah pens.

North Carolina has been advised to say that the main message is that e-cigarettes are the most popular tobacco product among high school students, and use is growing rapidly.

Is the YTS data underreporting because the YRBS question uses a more commonly understood term – “vapor products”? If that is true, is National YTS also underreporting? Is the use of “vapor products” in the YRBS question inflating the answer for ENDS/tobacco product use because many are using vapor products as a device for other or multiple substances, or are there other explanations? How should North Carolina word the question to get the most accurate results?

North Carolina can share more information with those who are interested.

**Medicaid Prior Authorization for NRTs**

**Deadline:** May 31, 2016

The Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Education program would appreciate learning about other states' experiences

George Washington  
University Cancer Institute  
May 31, 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
EDT|*Registration Required*

[Call for Nominations:  
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other  
Drugs Section Award](#) –  
American Public Health  
Association Alcohol,  
Tobacco and Other Drugs  
Section  
June 3|*Application Deadline*

[Billing Effectively \(and  
Accurately\) for Integrated  
Behavioral Health Services](#)  
– SAMHS-HRSA Center for  
Integrated Health Solutions  
June 6, 2-3:30 p.m. EDT

[Parish Nurses: Partners in  
Tobacco Prevention &  
Control](#)  
Texas Department of State  
Health Services  
June 14, 3-4 p.m.  
EDT|*Registration Required*

[Tobacco Policy,  
Pharmacotherapy, and  
Dentistry](#) – American Dental  
Association  
June 16, 6-7 p.m.  
EDT|*Registration Required*

[8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Cancer  
Survivorship Research  
Conference: Innovation in a  
Rapidly Changing  
Landscape](#) – American  
Cancer Society  
Washington, D.C.  
June 16-18|*Save the Date*

[2016 National Association](#)

with Medicaid prior authorization. Providers serving the Medicaid population in Hawaii face lengthy delays in gaining nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) approval. Some facilities buy the NRTs out of pocket to dispense immediately to clients.

In rereading the [Dept of Labor FAQ](#), the narrative states a health insurance plan is considered in compliance if they offer a 90-day NRT/medications "without prior authorization..." However that has not been the case in Hawaii.

Moreover, it appears to Hawaii that new [Medicaid rules \(CMS-2390-F\)](#) deny preauthorization. Based on their cursory reading of [pages 216 and 217 of CMS-2390-F](#), it seems that CMS denied lifting preauthorization specific to "agents used to promote smoking cessation." In the 1,425 pages of CMS-2390-F there might be other provisions that could affect current Medicaid cessation coverage. These rules take place 60 days after the May 6, 2016 posting in the Federal Register.

Hawaii is especially interested if any states have found any other changes or important modifications in the new rules affecting cessation coverage.

*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

[FDA Releases Compliance Webinars for Newly Deemed Tobacco Products](#)

FDA

[of County and City Health Officials Annual Conference](#)

Phoenix, AZ

July 19-21|*Registration Required*

[2017 National Conference on Tobacco or Health](#)

Austin, TX

March 22-24, 2017|*Save the Date*

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## Funding Opportunities

[Tobacco-Free Generation Campus Initiative Grant Applications to Share with Colleges and Universities](#)

**Deadline: May 30**

American Cancer Society, with support from CVS Health Foundation, has an open grant application for colleges and universities to help with the adoption and implementation of 100% smoke- and tobacco-free campus policies. In addition to funding, the grant offers technical assistance throughout the policy planning and implementation process.

[Truth Initiative Announces Grant Opportunity for Smoke-Free Community Colleges](#)

**Deadline: July 15**

Truth Initiative is now accepting grant applications from community colleges to help these public organizations work towards

Following its finalized rule extending authority to all tobacco products, FDA Center for Tobacco Products has released a series of webinars about the rule and specific information to help tobacco retailers, vape shops, manufacturers, and importers understand and comply with the new rule. FDA is also offering two live Q&A sessions to discuss these new rules: the first is for retailers on May 25 and another for manufacturers at a later date.

#### [New "Reference Cigarette" Available for Use in Tobacco Research and Regulation](#)

*University of Kentucky Center for Tobacco Reference Products*

University of Kentucky has developed and produced 50 million reference cigarettes, called 1R6F, under a cooperative agreement with FDA to provide a standard cigarette for nonclinical, investigational use. 1R6F includes a certificate of analysis, which makes it more comprehensive than other available reference cigarettes. The content of 1R6F resembles cigarettes commonly sold in the United States and can help manufacturers compare and acquire accurate data about products. The reference cigarette can also provide high-quality data to help FDA make public health decisions about regulation of products and to advance scientific understanding of the harms of tobacco use.

## 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*

comprehensive smoke-free policies. Community colleges that do not have a 100% smoke-free policy are eligible for a grant and technical assistance. Interested community colleges should apply by July 15 to receive a \$7,500 grant.

#### [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Calls for](#)

[Proposals for Research to Build Culture of Health](#)

**Deadline: Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Evidence for Action program has an ongoing call for proposals to address gaps in knowledge, and test innovative programs, policies, and partnerships, in addition to evaluating measurements of health determinants and outcomes.

#### **Job Listings**

[Chief, Office of Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Arizona Department of Health Services Phoenix, AZ](#)

[Foundations Relations Advisor American Heart Association Dallas, TX](#)

[Grassroots Advocacy Specialist American Heart Association Marietta, GA](#)

recognized, please contact [tcn@astho.org](mailto:tcn@astho.org).

[California Cigarette Tax Increase Qualifies for November Ballot \(CA\)](#) – *Los Angeles Times*. A coalition of health groups led a campaign to acquire enough voter signatures to place a \$2 per cigarette pack tax increase on California's ballot this November. This increase would bring California's cigarette tax to \$2.87 per pack. The additional tax revenue would be used for Medi-Cal coverage, treatment of tobacco-related disease, and tobacco control programs. California's current tobacco tax is the 36<sup>th</sup> lowest in the nation; the increase would make California's tobacco tax the ninth highest in the country, resulting in an average cost per pack of \$7.50. Find additional information [here](#).

[Oklahoma House Committee Approves Cigarette Tax Increase \(OK\)](#) – *The Oklahoman*. The Oklahoma House of Representative Joint Committee on Appropriations and Budget approved a bill to raise Oklahoma's cigarette tax \$1.50 per pack, resulting in a \$2.53 per pack tax. For the tax increase to move forward, the Senate Joint Committee on Appropriations and Budget must approve it along with a three-fourths majority in the House and Senate and the Governor, who has recognized the importance of this action to promote health. The \$180 million annual potential tax revenue from the increase would go into a Healthcare Revolving Fund that would be designated to agencies for activities to be matched with federal Medicaid dollars or mental health safety net services.

## In the News

[Supreme Court Upholds State Ruling on Philip Morris USA's Role in Oregon Woman's Death](#) - *The Associated Press*.  
The Supreme Court denied Philip Morris USA's appeal of

[State and Community Policy Analyst](#)  
[American Heart Association](#)  
[Dallas, TX](#)

[Senior Evaluator – Experience in Tobacco Control Preferred](#)  
[Professional Data Analysts, Inc.](#)  
[Minneapolis, MN](#)

[Research Public Health Analyst – PhD](#)  
[Center for Health Policy Science and Tobacco Research](#)  
[Washington, D.C.](#)

[Post-Doctoral Fellow](#)  
[ClearWay Minnesota](#)  
[Minneapolis, MN](#)

[Tobacco Prevention and Control Director and Portfolio Lead](#)  
[Louisiana Public Health Institute](#)  
[New Orleans, LA](#)

### 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.

\$25 million award in punitive damages for a case in Oregon. The case was filed by the family of Michelle Schwarz, a long-time smoker. The family sued Philip Morris for manslaughter, as Schwarz switched to cigarettes advertised as low-tar in 1976 and died in 1999 at age 53 from a brain tumor caused by metastasized lung cancer.

[Top Three Big Tobacco Companies Raise Cigarette Prices by Seven Cents Per Pack](#) - *Winston-Salem Journal*. R.J.

Reynolds, ITG Brands, and Philip Morris USA announced a seven cent per pack increase of cigarette list prices. This price increase for wholesalers is typically passed to consumers, following list price increases for the fourth time since May 2014. Bonnie Herzog, an analyst from Wells Fargo Securities, recognized that “pricing remains a critical driver of revenue and earnings growth” since cigarette consumption is likely to revert to long-term declines given the dropping smoking rate.

## Research

[Waterpipe Smoking and Cancer: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis](#) – *Tobacco Control*. **Key Findings:** To address limited understanding of the direct association between waterpipe smoking and chronic disease, researchers analyzed 13 case-control relevant studies. A meta-analysis of these studies found a positive association between waterpipe smoking and cancer, especially lung and oesophageal cancer. Though positive associations were found, the researchers call for high-quality studies to improve understanding of the relationship between waterpipe smoking and chronic disease to inform surveillance, intervention, and regulatory policy.

[Trends in Smoking Rates by Level of Psychological](#)

The TCN is 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.



[Distress—Time Series Analysis of U.S. National Health Interview Survey Data 1997–2014](#) – *Nicotine & Tobacco*

*Research*. **Key Findings:** Given high smoking rates among people with mental health problems, researchers evaluated how declines in smoking compare between this population and the general smoking population. Those with high psychological distress had a much lower and statistically nonsignificant reduction in smoking compared to the general population, especially among males. Study authors suggest that those with high levels of psychological distress may benefit less from existing tobacco control efforts and the disparity of this population's smoking rate may continue to rise.

[Tobacco Withdrawal Amongst African American, Hispanic, and White Smokers](#) – *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*. **Key**

**Findings:** Researchers studied racial/ethnic differences in tobacco withdrawal to better understand potential sources of disparities in tobacco use. Findings point to possible qualitative differences in tobacco withdrawal symptoms of African American, Hispanic, and non-Hispanic white smokers, with the former experiencing greater abstinence-induced declines in positive affect states compared to the other groups. These results can inform the application of smoking cessation interventions to be tailored to racial/ethnic groups in an effort to reduce disparate tobacco addiction rates in minority populations.

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