

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*

## 25th Anniversary Spotlight – State Successes

To celebrate TCN's 25th anniversary in 2019, ASTHO staff are collecting tobacco control success stories and examples of how TCN has provided assistance to state and territorial health department staff. These stories will inform a blog post to highlight TCN's 25th anniversary and its role in the tobacco control movement over the past quarter century. These entries can be previously written stories for events that happened within the 25-year period. Please submit any examples or stories of how TCN has provided information to support your health department staff and any tobacco control success stories to [tcn@astho.org](mailto:tcn@astho.org).

## Circulating Help Your Peers Requests

### Advancing Youth Tobacco Cessation

**Deadline:** Feb. 20

Beyond the quitline, what services or platforms are other tobacco control programs finding effective to advance youth tobacco cessation?

### E-Cigarette Education Curricula

**Deadline:** Feb. 21

What curricula are programs using to educate youth, parents, and/or school staff about vaping/e-cigarettes?

*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.*

## TCN Announcement

Be on the lookout for additional information on added features to the password-protected [TCN Forum](#) that will allow workgroups and other TCN members apart from program managers to have access to a password-protected discussion and file sharing space. More to come soon!

### Upcoming Events

[Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco Annual Meeting](#) – Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco San Francisco

### Medicaid Coverage of Group Cessation Counseling

**Deadline:** Feb. 21

The Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program is seeking information from states with Medicaid-covered tobacco cessation group counseling. If your state Medicaid program currently covers group counseling for tobacco cessation, did your state see an overall increase in the total number of tobacco cessation groups offered after Medicaid started coverage? In addition, did behavioral health facilities in your state increase the number of or start offering tobacco cessation groups once Medicaid covered these services? Any additional information or data you can provide on the utilization of the Medicaid code for tobacco cessation group counseling in your area would be greatly appreciated.

### Tobacco Communications Plans

**Deadline:** Feb. 25

Alabama is seeking sample Communication Plans for ideas on how they can update their plan. Please share any samples, ideas, or suggestions. Thanks

*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 forward your response to the person who submitted the request.*

## Happy Anniversary!

In the first newsletter of each month, TCN recognizes anniversaries of state and territorial tobacco program managers to thank them for their leadership in tobacco control and public health more broadly. Thank you and congratulations to the following program managers!

- **Miranda Spitznagle (IN)** – 7 years.
- **Patti Henley (MA)** – 6 years.
- **Clay Scallan (TX)** – 1 year.

## Partner Announcements

Feb. 20-23|*Save the Date*

[Abstract Submissions for the 2019 APHA Annual Meeting Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Section](#) – American Public Health Association  
Feb. 23|*Submission Deadline*

[Kicking Butts Online](#) – Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
March 13, 3-4 PM EDT|*Registration Required*

[NatCon19](#) – National Council for Behavioral Health  
Nashville  
March 25-27|*Registration Required*

[National Conference on Tobacco or Health](#) – National Network of Public Health Institutes  
Minneapolis  
Aug. 27-29|*Registration Required*

### Funding Opportunities

[PAR-17-218 – U.S. Tobacco Control Policies to Reduce Health Disparities \(R21\)](#)

**Deadline: June 15, 2020**

NIH published an open-funding opportunity announcement (FOA) to support observational or intervention research focused on reducing health disparities in tobacco use in the United States. The FOA is intended to stimulate scientific inquiry focused on innovative tobacco control policies.

### Job Listings

[Health Communication Manager](#)  
[Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust](#)  
[Oklahoma City, OK](#)

[Tobacco Regulatory Science](#)

- **ALA** [released](#) their annual *State of Tobacco Control* report, which assigns letter grades to each state, Washington, D.C., and the nation as a whole on evidence-based policies to reduce the use of tobacco products.
- **NNPHI** [published](#) *Advancing Tobacco Prevention and Control in Rural America*, a report that makes recommendations on addressing health disparities caused by disproportionately high tobacco use in rural areas. Erin Boles Welsh served on the review committee for this report while TCN Executive Committee Chair.
- **FDA** announced bathroom posters from “The Real Cost” campaign in every high school in America. New e-cigarette posters are [available](#) on their print materials exchange.
- The **National Behavioral Health Network** [published](#) a comprehensive infographic outlining ten steps that treatment facilities can take to successfully implement a tobacco-free policy.
- **FDA** [filed](#) two No-Tobacco-Sale Orders with a Walgreens and a Circle K retailer found to be in repeated violation of federal law by selling tobacco products to minors.
- **AHA** [published](#) an annual update on the prevalence of heart disease and stroke in the United States, which discusses the reduction of cigarette smoking in recent decades as a major cardiovascular disease risk factor improvement.

## State News

- A bill [introduced](#) in the **Hawaii** State House would phase-in a ban on the purchase of cigarettes year by year, culminating in raising the cigarette

[Fellowship](#)  
[FDA](#)  
[Silver Spring, MD](#)

[Nicotine Policy Specialist](#)  
[Minnesota Department of Health](#)  
[Minneapolis, MN](#)

[Health Education Specialist](#)  
[Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services](#)  
[Helena, MT](#)

### 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

purchase age to 100 by the year 2024.

- Monica Bharel, commissioner of the **Massachusetts** Department of Public Health, [published](#) a commentary encouraging parents to talk to their children about the health risks of vaping.
- Officials from the **Colorado** Department of Public Health and Environment [authored](#) a letter to the editor published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* discussing predictors of youth e-cigarette use in the state.
- **Minnesota** [published](#) a new case study on its [menthol tobacco webpage](#) overviewing examples and recommendations on community-led efforts to address menthol tobacco use in African American communities.
- The **Virginia** Foundation of Healthy Youth's The Dangers of Other Tobacco Products educational module is now [available](#) for download in Spanish.

health policy and to ensuring excellence in state-based public health practice.



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## In the News

- FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb [shared](#) via Twitter that e-cigarette manufacturers could see their products removed from the market pending regulatory review if they're unable to honor commitments to reduce youth e-cigarette use.
- A clinical trial funded by England's National Institute for Health Research [concluded](#) that 18 percent of cigarette smokers provided with e-cigarettes had quit cigarette smoking after one year, compared to 9.9 percent of smokers who used other smoking cessation products.
- A coalition of organizations advocating for reduced taxes and economic freedoms [sent](#) a letter to

President Trump advocating a rollback of FDA's announced intentions to potentially institute new rules regulating electronic cigarettes.

## Research

- A *Preventing Chronic Disease* analysis of 2016 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data [concluded](#) that state prevalence of current cigarette smoking ranged from 8.8 percent to 24.8 percent among adults, and prevalence of current e-cigarette use ranged from 2.4 percent to 6.7 percent in adults.
- The *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* [featured](#) a supplement dedicated to the five-year anniversary of FDA's "The Real Cost" youth smoking prevention campaign.
- A laboratory experiment published in *Nature* [concluded](#) that diacetyl and the related compound 2,3-pentanedione, common e-cigarette flavorings, can harm lungs by causing damage to epithelial cells.
- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis of survey data [found](#) that trusting health information from medical and public health sources was not correlated with lower rates of e-cigarette use, while trusting information from e-cigarette companies was correlated with lower perceived risks of those products.

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