

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

Celebrating TCN's 25th Anniversary

"TCN has been my support system for my role in tobacco control. This network of professionals understands the role we have in our states and shares our passion for creating healthy, tobacco free communities." – Miranda Spitznagle (IN), TCN Chair 2014-15

Join us in celebrating 25 amazing years of the TCN by reading more excerpts from TCN leaders and accessing other 25th anniversary resources on the [TCN website](#).



TCN Announcements

- **Resource of the Month:** TCN regularly updates its [member directory](#) to encourage collaboration between state and territorial tobacco control programs, and with national partners. Any updates to your state's listing can be sent along to tcn@astho.org.

*The twice monthly **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

[Health Equity in Tobacco Control](#) – Counter Tools
June 27, 10-11 AM ET

[Using Campaigns and Social Media to Address Commercial Tobacco Use](#) – National Native Network and Indian Health Service
July 10, 3-4 PM
ET|Registration Required

[Medicaid Expansion and Tobacco Cessation Coverage](#) – ALA
July 11, 2:30-3:30 PM
ET|Registration Required

Juuls in Schools Ask the Experts Virtual Panel – ASTHO
July 29, 2:30-4 PM ET|Save the Date

[Medicaid Tobacco Cessation Coverage in Oregon: A Case Study](#) – ALA
July 31, 1-2 PM

Partner Announcements

- **ASTHO** [published](#) a blog post highlighting TCN's role in state and territorial tobacco control successes over the last 25 years, featuring remarks from ASTHO Chief Medical Officer Marcus Plescia and TCN Chair Luci Longoria.
- **Truth Initiative** [updated](#) their Tobacco Nation report on geographic disparities in tobacco use and published a corresponding [GIS story map](#) that allows users to explore a host of relevant data at the state and county level.
- **ALA** published several new resources, including an overview of tobacco cessation [quality measures](#), a report on tobacco cessation coverage in [non-compliant health plans](#), and a one-pager on [1332 Waivers](#) and tobacco cessation coverage.
- **Nuestras Voces** and **NAATPN** [collaborated](#) on an infographic that describes how asthma, a condition commonly triggered by tobacco use, disproportionately impacts different racial and ethnic minority groups in the United States.
- **Emory Centers for Training and Technical Assistance** [updated](#) their archive of tobacco control surveillance and evaluation webinars with slides and recordings on topics including GIS mapping and tobacco 21 policy evaluation.
- There are multiple announcements from the **FDA Center for Tobacco Products**:
 - FDA [announced](#) that they joined FTC in issuing warning letters to four e-cigarette liquid manufacturers for failing to include required nicotine warning statements as part of social media posts.
 - FDA [published](#) a guidance on premarket tobacco product applications for e-cigarette products.
 - FDA [released](#) a free digital calendar to assist retailers in their compliance to

ET|*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

[Deputy Director of Tobacco Control – Policy Research Vital Strategies](#)
[New York City, NY](#)

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](#)

federal laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to minors.

- A **ChangeLab Solutions** case study of Sonoma County, CA, [looks](#) at how a tobacco retailer licensing ordinance can help promote health equity.

State News

- **Illinois** [passed](#) a \$1 per pack cigarette tax and a 15% e-cigarette tax as part of a larger infrastructure plan that raises taxes and fees in the state.
- **Texas** [became](#) the 15th state to pass a tobacco 21 policy when Gov. Greg Abbott signed a policy that exempts members of the military.
- Beverly Hills, **California** [passed](#) a bill that outlaws the sale of most tobacco products within the town, exempting cigar lounges and hotels, in a policy believed to be the first of its kind in the United States.

[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.



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In the News

- Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL) [introduced](#) the Protect Act, which would provide \$500 million to CDC over five years to address the youth e-cigarette epidemic. Sens. Mitt Romney (UT) and Tom Udall (NM) [proposed](#) the Smoke-Free Schools Act of 2019, which would restrict the use of e-cigarette products in schools and childcare facilities nationwide.
- The House Oversight Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy [sent](#) a letter to JUUL Labs CEO Kevin Burns requesting documents related to

the company's marketing and social media practices.

- FDA [submitted](#) a proposal outlining a 10-month deadline for e-cigarette product review applications after a federal judge ruled the agency was acting improperly in pushing this deadline back to 2022.
- An article in *Time Magazine* [overviews](#) how tobacco companies are using federal and state tobacco 21 bills as opportunities to advance their own interests.
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs [announced](#) that starting in October it will prohibit the use of tobacco products across all of its healthcare facilities.

Research

- An *MMWR* analysis of BRFSS data from 2017 [concluded](#) that 6.2% of Americans have been diagnosed by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, including 15.2% of current cigarette smokers, 7.6% of former smokers, and 2.8% of never smokers.
 - An analysis of online survey data published in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* [found](#) an association between e-liquid package images with cartoons and increased susceptibility to use e-cigarettes, a finding consistent with prior research on combustible cigarettes.
 - A *Preventing Chronic Disease* analysis of national survey data [concluded](#) that when controlling for sociodemographic characteristics such as age, sex, and race/ethnicity, lower educational attainment and poverty status remain powerful risk factors for cigarette smoking in the United States.
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- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis of national survey data [found](#) that 41% of current tobacco product users used a flavored product between 2014-2015, and that flavored product use was positively associated with increased odds of daily tobacco product use and using tobacco within 30 minutes of waking up.
- According to an analysis of data from BRFSS and other sources in *Preventing Chronic Disease*, 63.3% of the variability in county-level cigarette smoking prevalence can be [attributed](#) to the proportion of non-Hispanic white adults, lower educational attainment, and high violent crime rates.

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