

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

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!

- **Jayne Flowers (VA)** – 10 years.
- **Valerie Howard (MO)** – 3 years.

Partner Announcements

- **ASTHO [launched](#)** a new web page to track litigation news and documents as vaping industry stakeholders sue states over executive orders restricting vaping product sales.
- **CDC [reports](#)** that, as of Oct. 31, it has identified 1,888 cases of e-cigarette or vaping product use-associated lung injuries (EVALI) across 49 states, Washington, D.C., and one U.S. territory, including 37 associated deaths across 24 states. CDC and FDA have still not identified a specific vaping product or chemical compound that is causing the outbreak but note that a majority of patients reported using vaping products containing the cannabis derivative THC.

*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

[Quitlines: Reducing Disparities and the Impact of Tobacco on American Indian, Alaska Native, and Asian Populations](#)

Smoking Cessation Leadership Center
Nov. 12, 2-3 p.m. ET
| *Registration required*

[Tools to Assist Schools Navigate the Vaping Epidemic](#)

Public Health Law Center
Nov. 13, 1-2 p.m. ET
| *Registration required*

[Exploring the Health and Economic Impacts of Tobacco Pricing Strategies](#)

Trust for America's Health
Nov. 13, 1:30-3 p.m. ET
| *Registration required*

[Tobacco Cessation Counseling and Medications: An Overview of Medicare, Medicaid, and Private Insurance Coverage](#)

LuCa National Training

- An Oct. 28 publication in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* [provides](#) additional details on confirmed EVALI cases to date.
 - An Oct. 22 publication in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* [provides](#) new information about Utah Department of Health's response to EVALI cases in its state.
- **FDA** made the following tobacco product regulation announcements:
 - For the first time ever, **FDA** [approved](#) a series of modified risk tobacco product applications from Swedish Match North America, which will allow the company to market its snus products as having lower disease risk than combustible cigarettes.
 - **FDA** [issued](#) a warning letter to Eonsmoke LLC for illegally selling 100 flavored e-cigarette products without the required warnings.
 - **FDA** [released](#) a report detailing its compliance and enforcement activities over the last five years.
 - **Trust for America's Health** [published](#) the report "Addressing a Crisis: Cross-Sector Strategies to Prevent Adolescent Substance Use and Suicide," which includes information on rising teen use of e-cigarettes.
 - A Schoen Consulting survey commissioned by **Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids** [found](#) that almost 75 percent of all likely voters, and over 70 percent of likely voters across different party lines and geographic areas, support policies prohibiting the sale of flavored e-cigarettes.
 - **NIH** [released](#) new data from the 2018-2019 wave of the Tobacco Use Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

Network
Nov. 19, 2-3 p.m. ET
| *Registration required*

[11th Annual National Tribal Public Health Summit](#)
Omaha, NE
March 17-19, 2020
| *Registration required*

Funding Opportunities

If you are aware of any funding opportunities that would appeal to state and territorial tobacco control programs, please reach out to tcn@astho.org.

Job Listings

[Research and Planning Administrator](#)
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Columbia, SC

[Chief of the Evaluation Unit](#)
California Department of Public Health
Sacramento, CA

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](#)

State News

- The following news items relate to litigation challenging state executive orders that restrict vaping product sales:
 - A **Massachusetts** state judge [ruled](#) that the state's ban of all vaping products can stand, but the state needs to reissue the regulation and must give members of the public an opportunity to comment.
 - A federal district court judge [issued](#) a temporary restraining order against a **Utah** rule that would have prohibited non-specialty retailers from selling flavored vaping products.
- The following articles published in *Preventing Chronic Disease* evaluate state and local tobacco control initiatives:
 - An analysis of the Providence, **Rhode Island** point of sale policies restricting flavored tobacco product sales and price discounts [concluded](#) that the availability of flavored tobacco products decreased and high school student tobacco product use declined after the policy's enforcement.
 - An analysis of **Massachusetts'** local minimum cigar pricing laws [found](#) that the average price of a single cigar statewide increased from \$1.35 in 2014 to \$1.64 in 2018, and that cigars were less available statewide over this time.
 - An analysis of healthcare providers in **New York State** [found](#) a correlation between awareness of provider-targeted smoking cessation advertisement and the odds of offering evidence-based cessation assistance to patients.

[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

- A former JUUL Labs executive [sued](#) the company, alleging that that he was fired in retaliation for whistle-blowing in relation to a shipment of one million contaminated mint JUUL pods.
- According to reporting by *Bloomberg*, Trump Administration officials are [considering](#) exempting mint and menthol from forthcoming regulations that would clear the market of flavored vaping products, contradicting HHS's initial announcement that mint and menthol would be [included](#) in the administration's regulatory response.
- The Preventing Online Sales of E-Cigarettes to Children Act, which would require stringent online and in-person age verification for the purchase of e-cigarette products, [passed](#) the House of Representatives by voice vote.

Research

- A *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* analysis of tobacco imagery in top-grossing movies [found](#) that there was a 120 percent increase in tobacco images in PG-13 movies in 2018 compared to 2010.
 - A *JAMA Network Open* data analysis [found](#) that 71.9 percent of youth and 57.6 percent of young adults who initiated tobacco use during the study period used flavored tobacco products, and that flavored tobacco product use was positively associated with current cigarette use at follow-up.
 - A randomized control trial involving participants ages 14 to 21 [concluded](#) that cannabis use adversely impacted the efficacy of varenicline in helping people quit smoking, but that alcohol users did not produce worse outcomes.
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- A *Tobacco Control* analysis of Boston tobacco retailers [found](#) that 14.4 percent of retailers sold flavored tobacco products eight months after the city prohibited the sale of those products.
- A *Tobacco Control* analysis of 16 state tobacco 21 laws adopted before July 2019 [classified](#) several elements of the policies, including how the policies defined tobacco products, how they verified age, their signage requirements, and their penalties.

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Our address:

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, 2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 450, Arlington, VA 22202
TCN@astho.org

