

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

TCN Announcements

- TCN [published](#) a 2019 policy scan trio that provides in-depth state information on policies relating to restricting flavored tobacco products, displaying tobacco products at the point of sale, and state Medicaid coverage of tobacco cessation treatments.
- TCN [made](#) updates to its interactive TCN Policy Map.
- On Dec. 10-11, the TCN Executive Committee convened with ASTHO staff for the first of two in-person business meetings planned for the current 2019-2020 TCN term. Priorities for this meeting included action planning to implement the new [2019-2022 Strategic Map](#) and updating the [2016 Policy Recommendations Guide](#).

*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

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

[The 14th Reduce Tobacco Use Conference](#) – Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth
Alexandria, VA
April 19-21, 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

[Chief of the Evaluation Unit](#)
California Department of



2019-2020 TCN Executive Committee members and ASTHO staff took a holiday themed group photo on Dec. 10 during the in-person meeting in Denver.

Help Your Peers Requests

Youth Vaping Quitline Promotion

Deadline: Jan. 6, 2020

Hawaii is planning to develop a campaign to promote its quitline services to youth who vape. Has anyone else conducted a similar campaign? If so, would you be willing to share your materials and best practices?

If you have any information to share or know someone who does, please reply to tcn@astho.org and we will pass your insights along to the person who submitted the request and to other TCN members interested in learning more.

Partner Announcements

- **ASTHO published** a brief discussing efforts in New York, Connecticut, and Washington, D.C. as case studies to better understand effective strategies for and barriers to implementing high state tobacco

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 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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taxes.

- **ASTHO** continues to update its [E-Cigarettes and Vaping](#) web page with ASTHO resources and information on the status of state executive actions relating to e-cigarette restrictions.
- **CDC's Office on Smoking and Health** [released](#) the application for its 2020 Leadership and Sustainability School, which is open to state health agency and Funders Alliance organization staff. The application is due by Jan. 22, 2020.
- A **CDC *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*** analysis of representative data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey [found](#) that 31.2 percent of high school students and 12.5 percent of middle school students reported using a tobacco product in the last 30 days, with the majority of both age groups reporting e-cigarette use.
- **CDC [reports](#)** that, as of Dec. 12, it has identified 2,409 cases of e-cigarette, or vaping, product use-associated lung injuries (EVALI) in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and two U.S. territories, including 52 associated deaths across 26 states and Washington, D.C. CDC notes that vitamin E acetate appears to be associated with EVALI, but that there may be more than one cause of the outbreak.
 - *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* published a study of case-connected THC products obtained by the Minnesota Department of Health and [found](#) that 11 of 12 samples contained vitamin E acetate, while none of the ten products obtained before the outbreak contained the additive.
 - A *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* data analysis [provides](#) more information about the 97 confirmed and probable EVALI cases reported in Indiana, including a finding that 69 percent reported using THC-containing products.

- An updated *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* analysis [confirms](#) that Dank Vapes was the most commonly reported THC-containing product used by EVALI patients nationwide, and finds that the peak of the outbreak was likely in mid-September.
 - **FDA's Center for Tobacco Products** recently made the following announcements:
 - FDA is [expanding](#) its efforts in partnership with Scholastic to provide new youth e-cigarette prevention and educational resources in middle schools and high schools nationwide.
 - FDA [published](#) a new compliance policy for limited modifications to certain marketed tobacco products.
 - FDA [released](#) an informational video on tobacco product user fees.
 - The **American Lung Association** released trainings for its [Not On Tobacco](#) peer-to-peer teen cessation program and its [Intervention for Nicotine Dependence: Education, Prevention, Tobacco and Health](#) program, which discourages punitive measures such as suspension in educational and community-based settings.
 - **Public Health Law Center** [updated](#) its comprehensive listing of state, tribal, federal, and corporate actions relating to protecting youth from the harms of e-cigarette use.
 - A **Truth Initiative** report [describes](#) how frequently tobacco industry marketing for flavored products appears in retailers located close to schools, and explores the role this has in the ongoing youth e-cigarette epidemic.
 - Citing the ongoing EVALI outbreak, the **American Medical Association** [released](#) a statement calling for a total ban on e-cigarette products that do not receive FDA approval as tobacco cessation
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therapies.

- **Smokefree Movies**, an initiative of the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, [published](#) a new print media advertisement recommending that films and TV shows with tobacco imagery be rated R or TV-MA as an evidence-based strategy to combat youth initiation of tobacco products.

State News

- **Massachusetts** [passed](#) a law prohibiting the sale of all flavored tobacco products, becoming the first state to do so, and establishing a 75 percent excise tax on e-cigarettes.
- Attorneys general in [California](#), [Illinois](#), [Minnesota](#), and [New York](#) sued JUUL Labs for marketing its products in a deceptive manner and/or in a manner attractive to youth.
- **Pennsylvania** [passed](#) a policy raising the tobacco purchase age to 21, exempting the military and veterans, and the Philadelphia City Council [passed](#) legislation that will prohibit the sales of flavored e-cigarettes and high-nicotine e-cigarettes in any location that is not restricted to adult consumers.
- The **New York** City Council [passed](#) legislation that would prohibit the sale of flavored e-cigarettes except from tobacco flavor.
- A **Colorado** study [found](#) that pregnant women participating in a tailored smoking cessation program reduced their risk of preterm birth by 24-28 percent, and reduced their infants' risk of neonatal intensive care unit admission by 24-55 percent.

In the News

- A federal court [ruled](#) that FDA has the legal authority to regulate e-cigarettes in the same manner as conventional cigarettes, finding that e-cigarette products are “indisputably highly addictive and pose health risks, especially to youth, that are not well understood.”
- Bipartisan House and Senate leaders have [agreed](#) upon federal legislation that would raise the federal tobacco sales age to 21, among other provisions intended to reduce healthcare costs.
- A *New York Times* exposé [details](#) the formation of JUUL Labs and the company’s inaction upon discovering early evidence that its products were appealing to underage consumers.

Research

- A randomized controlled trial published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* [concluded](#) that heavy smokers who had smoked 15 or more cigarettes per day experienced significant improvement in endothelial function and vascular stiffness after switching to e-cigarettes with or without nicotine.
- An *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* analysis [concluded](#) that CVS’ ban on tobacco product sales was associated with a 2.21 percent increase in quit attempt rates in areas with high CVS store density.
- A *Pediatrics* analysis of 2002-2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health data [found](#) that exclusive marijuana use increased among college and non-college young adults ages 18 to 22 over the study period, while exclusive tobacco use decreased in

both young adult groups.

- A laboratory experiment published in *Tobacco Control* [found](#) that the carbon monoxide content of e-cigarette aerosol was related to the power of resistant heating in the e-cigarette and the flavoring compounds included in the e-liquid.

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