

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!

- **April Roeseler (CA)** – 20 years.
- **Harlan Juster (NY)** – 7 years.
- **Ari Skilling (FSM)** – 3 years.

## Help Your Peers Request

### Reaching Populations Experiencing Homelessness During COVID-19

**Deadline:** May 18

How are other programs handling NRT distribution to populations experiencing homelessness? DC refers to the Quitline but there are challenges in delivery. With COVID-19 isolation and quarantine measures for those diagnosed who are homeless, there are challenges keeping them in quarantine when they are experiencing nicotine withdrawal.

DC is wondering if any other states with isolation/quarantine facilities for people experiencing homeless are having the same issues and, if so, how they are addressing them. Are

*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

[The Impact of COVID-19 on the African American Community](#) – Action on Smoking and Health  
May 14, 12-1 p.m. ET  
| *Registration Required*

[No Menthol Sunday](#) – National African American Tobacco Prevention Network  
May 17 | *Save the date*

[Advancing Health Equity through the Power of Data](#) – Evaluator's Network  
May 20, 3-4 p.m. ET  
| *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Cessation and Lung Cancer Screening](#) – American Cancer Society  
Webinar  
June 3, 1-2 p.m. ET  
| *Registration required*

[Nicotine Dependence](#)

there any innovative efforts to get NRT to these people? Is this being included in COVID-19 response plans?

*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 pass your insights along to the person who submitted the request and to other TCN members interested in learning more.*

## Partner Announcements

- The **U.S. Preventive Services Task Force** [recommended](#) that primary care clinicians provide brief education or counseling to school-aged children and adolescents to prevent tobacco product initiation, but indicated insufficient evidence to recommend clinician education or counseling to encourage tobacco cessation in this age group.
- **Action on Smoking and Health** [published](#) a toolkit on COVID-19 and tobacco policy, as well as communications providing a summary of current research, policy options, and communications resources.
- **ALA** published [slides](#) for its April 17 webinar in partnership with **CDC**, which discusses the connection between tobacco use and COVID-19.
- **FDA Center for Tobacco Products** announced the following:
  - FDA [updated](#) resources to assist tobacco product manufacturers submit premarket review applications by the extended Sept. 9 deadline.
  - FDA [shared](#) updated materials submitted by 22<sup>nd</sup> Century Group for their Modified Risk Tobacco Product applications for their low nicotine cigarette products.
- **Truth Initiative** [published](#) a tip sheet to help employers utilize the organization's digital tobacco

[Conference & National Summit on Smokeless Tobacco Prevention 2020](#) – Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, MN  
Oct. 18-20 | *Registration required*

## Funding Opportunities

[Tobacco/Vape-Free College Program](#)

Truth Initiative

June 30 | *Application deadline*

## Job Listings

*If you have any job openings that would interest tobacco control professionals, please send them to us at [tcn@astho.org](mailto:tcn@astho.org).*

### 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

cessation resources while continuing to practice physical distancing.

- The **UCSF Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education** [published](#) a comprehensive report outlining how the entertainment industry downplays dangers of exposing kids to tobacco imagery on-screen, and offers policy solutions to reduce tobacco content in films and TV programs accessible to young viewers.

## State News

- The Los Angeles County, **California** policy prohibiting the sale of all flavored tobacco products, which impacts approximately 10 million people, [went](#) into effect on May 1.

## In the News

- JUUL Labs is [relocating](#) its headquarters from San Francisco to Washington, DC, in part to repair its relationship with regulators. JUUL will maintain an office in San Francisco, but has closed other offices internationally and is cutting its global workforce by one-third.
- An editorial [published](#) in *Tobacco Control* argues for phasing out cigarette sales as a response to the generations-long pandemic of tobacco-related illness, similar to how COVID-19 has been met with significant government and business intervention.

## Research

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.



Forward to Friend

- A *New England Journal of Medicine* study of all 2,558 EVALI cases and 60 fatalities reported to CDC [found](#) that history of asthma, cardiac disease, and mental health conditions were all associated with increased odds of dying from the disease.
- A *Tobacco Control* survey of high school students [concluded](#) that the risk perception for JUUL products and e-cigarettes in general is lower for fruit, candy, menthol/mint, and alcohol flavors compared to tobacco flavors, with fruit flavors perceived a least harmful.
- A longitudinal study published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* [identified](#) four trajectory groups among a sample of young adult Indigenous people in United States and Canada—low/non-smokers, occasional smokers, mid-adolescent onset smokers, and early-adolescent onset smokers—indicating multiple periods of smoking risk among these communities.
- A metaanalysis of studies investigating the association between smoking and COVID-19 [found](#) that tobacco smoking is associated with 2.25 times greater odds of COVID-19 progression among those already diagnosed with the disease.

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