

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!

- **Kathleen Arnold-Lewis (USVI)** – 6 years.
- **Frances Limtiaco (WA)** – 5 years.
- **Farrah Lesa (AS)** – 3 years.
- **Valentina Adamova (RI)** – 1 year.

Help Your Peers Requests

Messaging on Nicotine and COVID-19

Deadline: July 13

Minnesota has received comments and questions on social media about media reports saying that smoking and nicotine may be protective against COVID-19. Has anyone developed messaging about this topic, including information about the limitations of current studies?

E-Cigarette Taxation Fact Sheets

Deadline: July 20

Do any states have any pre-developed fact sheets about the

*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

[Tobacco 21 Evaluation Guidance](#) – Evaluators' Network Webinar
July 14, 3-3:30 p.m. ET
| *Registration required*

[Teen Vaping and COVID-19: What's Different? What's the Same?](#) – Rescue Agency Webinar
July 15, 1-2 p.m. ET
| *Registration required*

[Eliminate Tobacco Use 2020 Summit](#) – The University of Texas System and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Virtual Conference
July 16-17 | *Registration required*

[Operation Impact: How to Set Goals, Measure Change and Leave a Legacy](#) – ClearWay

benefits of taxing e-cigarettes? Analysis from the taxation or licensing of e-cigarettes would also be helpful.

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

- **SAMHSA** [revised](#) its [Synar](#) guidance to ensure that states are enforcing the federal tobacco purchase age of 21.
- **FDA** [published](#) a web page with up-to-date information on the submission of tobacco product applications for deemed tobacco products. The deadline for all submissions is Sept. 9.
- The **North American Quitline Consortium** [updated](#) its resources on supporting smoke-free public housing.
- **Geographic Health Equity Alliance** [published](#) an article drafted by **CounterTools**, which approaches the subject of secondhand smoke exposure as a social justice issue.
- **WHO** [updated](#) its Q&A web page on the connections between tobacco use and COVID-19.
- The **National Association of Chronic Disease Directors** [published](#) a factsheet detailing the importance of state chronic disease programs in the COVID-19 response, highlighting the role preexisting chronic conditions have in determining disease outcomes.

Minnesota
Webinar
July 16, 1-2 p.m. ET
| *Registration required*

[Nineteen Years of Helping Minnesotans Quit](#) – ClearWay Minnesota
Webinar
July 29, 1-2 p.m. ET
| *Registration required*

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

Funding Opportunities
[Tobacco Data Analyst](#)
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Lincoln, NE

[Director, Office on Smoking and Health](#)
CDC
Atlanta, GA

[Health Equity Fellowship](#)
CDC
Atlanta, GA

Job Listings

If you have any job openings that would interest tobacco control professionals, please send them to us at 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

State News

- The **Georgia** House [voted](#) 123-33 to pass a bill regulating and taxing vaping products the same way combustible tobacco products are regulated, but has not yet considered a proposal that would increase the cigarette tax from \$0.37 per pack to \$1.35.

In the News

- The Quit Because of COVID-19 Act, which will ensure coverage of approved tobacco cessation treatments for all Medicaid beneficiaries, was [introduced](#) in the U.S. House of Representatives and earned the support of several national public health groups.
- Tobacco tax increases are one of many policy options that cities and states around the country are [considering](#) to increase public revenues in response to budget shortfalls brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The U.S. Federal Reserve [bought](#) \$428 million in company bonds this year through mid-June, including from Philip Morris International Inc.
- The top three tobacco product manufacturers recently [raised](#) the price of their cigarettes, while R.J. Reynolds introduced two new varieties of Newport cigarettes to improve sales figures amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

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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Research

- A CDC *MMWR* study of eight cases of EVALI reported to the California Department of Public Health in April [concluded](#) that seven of the patients tested positive for THC use, and that healthcare providers should continue to maintain clinical suspicion for EVALI after ruling out COVID-19.
- A population model published in *Tobacco Control* [predicted](#) that under the status quo, 305 million life-years will be lost relating to smoking in the United States between 2018 and 2100, compared to 191.8 million life-years lost if all smoking ceased at the end of 2017.
- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* smoking cessation study [found](#) that smokers reporting co-occurring pain were less likely to initiate a quit attempt or achieve seven-day abstinence compared to smokers who didn't report pain during the study period.
- A study of adult smokers published in *Health Psychology* [concluded](#) that adult smokers with greater numeracy demonstrated a greater memory of risk probabilities associated with smoking, a factor understood to be associated with greater risk perception, quit intentions, and successful cessation.

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