

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 is saddened to share that Irene Centers, longtime tobacco control program manager in Kentucky, has passed away. Her obituary can be viewed [here](#). Our thoughts are with her family, friends, and colleagues.

## 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!

- **Carol Kramer (KS)** – 20 years.
- **Candace Koshiba (PW)** – 7 years.
- **Luci Longoria (OR)** – 7 years.
- **Braden Ainsworth (UT)** – 4 years.
- **Kerri Verden (KY)** – 4 years.
- **Laura Corbin (FL)** – 1 year.

## Partner Announcements

*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

[Research Into Action: Perception of Harm From E-cigarettes and Support for a Tobacco-Free Campus Policy](#) – Geographic Health Equity Alliance  
Webinar  
Jan. 15, 1-2 p.m. ET  
| *Registration required*

[State of Black Health Conference](#) – The Center for Black Health & Equity  
Virtual Conference  
March 2-3 | *Registration required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training Program](#) – Duke and University of North Carolina  
Virtual Training  
March 16-18 | *Registration required*

[National Conference on Tobacco or Health](#) – National Network of Public Health

- The following announcements come from **CDC**:
  - A CDC *MMWR* analysis of 2020 National Youth Tobacco Survey data [concluded](#) that 19.6% of high school students and 4.7% of middle school students reported past 30-day e-cigarette use, indicating that 1.8 million fewer youth were current e-cigarette users than in 2019. **FDA** [published](#) a summary of this research, complete with infographics.
  - CDC [published](#) a feature article that discusses how smokers interested in quitting as a New Year's resolution can use cessation medications to improve their chances of succeeding.
  - CDC [updated](#) the resources available on the PLACES Project website, which includes an interactive map feature with lots of integrated health data originally developed as part of the 500 Cities Project.
  - Host sites can [apply](#) to the CDC's Public Health Associate Program by Feb. 16.
  
- A letter from the **National Native Network** to the tobacco control program managers [outlines](#) opportunities for tobacco control programs to partner with the agency to reduce tobacco use burdens experienced by American Indian and Alaska Native populations.
  
- The following announcements come from **Truth Initiative**:
  - A new Truth Initiative report [overviews](#) how young people unfavorably view the tobacco industry and support greater regulation on tobacco products.
  - Truth Initiative [partnered](#) with Blue Shield of California to make its EX Program available to four million Californians at no cost to enrollees.

Institutes  
 New Orleans  
 June 28-30, 2022 | *Save the date*

**Funding Opportunities**  
[Improving Social Determinants of Health – Getting Further Faster](#)

ASTHO and NACCHO  
 Extended Deadline: Jan. 22

[Tobacco Prevention and Control-Related Public Health Law Technical Assistance](#)

CDC  
 Deadline: March 31

**Job Listings**

[Tobacco Use and Dependence Special Populations Treatment and Prevention Specialist](#)

Utah Department of Health  
 Salt Lake City, UT

[Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Epidemiologist](#)

Louisiana Department of Health  
 New Orleans or Baton Rouge, LA

**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,

- To [continue](#) its partnership with Scholastic to develop e-cigarette prevention materials for school-aged youth, **FDA** [launched](#) a “Vaping’s Not My Thing” student poster submission contest and [published](#) a blog post to help parents and teachers be aware of the latest disguisable e-cigarette products.
- A summary from **Americans for Nonsmokers Rights** [overviews](#) progress towards smokefree air for all, such as in states that closed casino loopholes, and challenges to smokefree air in 2021, which include legalized recreational cannabis and preemption.

## State News

- Julie Bisbee, executive director of the **Oklahoma** Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust, [wrote](#) a guest column discussing how preemption is an obstacle to passing local-level policies that protect Oklahomans from the harms of tobacco use.
- A *Tobacco Control* analysis of cigarette sales data [found](#) that after **Hawaii** implemented a tobacco 21 law in June 2016, average monthly cigarette unit sales dropped 4.4%.
- A simulation study published in *Tobacco Control* [concluded](#) that a restriction of tobacco retail outlet advertising within 1000 feet of schools in the four largest **Texas** metropolitan areas would result in a 19.4% reduction in students’ tobacco advertisement exposure.

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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## In the News

- A *Tobacco Control* editorial [awarded](#) a failing grade to the United States for the tobacco warning systems currently in place.

## Research

- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* commentary [overviews](#) the current state of the evidence on tobacco product use and COVID-19.
- An analysis of 2015 to 2019 cigarette sales data published in *Tobacco Control* [found](#) that the sales of brands more preferred by consumers under age 21 declined after the implementation of local tobacco 21 laws in a pattern 99% better explained than by placebo models.
- A longitudinal study published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* [concluded](#) that compared to tobacco product non-users, e-cigarette use is associated with increased exposure to tobacco-related toxicants that are themselves associated with increased risk of respiratory symptoms.
- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* commentary authored by CDC researchers [overviews](#) the evidence-based approach used to respond to the 2019 EVALI outbreak, and discusses future opportunities for research and public health practice.

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