

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

Help Your Peers Requests

Removing Tobacco Surcharge from Employee Health Plans

Deadline: March 9

Have others worked with their state or organization to remove a tobacco surcharge from their employee health plans? If so, what steps did you take and was it successful?

Partner Announcements

- The latest health policy blog post from [ASTHO provides](#) an overview of state legislative activity during the 2021 legislative sessions thus far in four key tobacco control policy areas: age of sale, flavor restrictions, price increases, and point of sale regulations.
- A [CDC QuickStats](#) visual publication in an *MMWR* [demonstrates](#) that while the proportion of non-smoking adults exposed to secondhand smoke has declined over the past 10 years, enormous racial and ethnic disparities still exist.
- The following announcements come from [FDA](#):
 - A perspective piece authored by FDA Center for Tobacco Products Director Mitch Zeller [details](#) the agency's progress

*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

[Campaign for the Culture: Intergenerational Tobacco Use and Its Cultural Impact on Black Communities](#) –

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

Webinar

Feb. 24, 7-8 p.m. ET

| *Registration required*

[Framing Health Equity: Communication Strategies that Work](#) – NACCHO

Webinar

Feb. 25, 2-3 p.m. ET

| *Registration required*

[Why Menthol? Why Now? A Community Discussion](#) –

AATCLC

Webinar

Feb. 25, 2-3 p.m. ET

| *Registration required*

[State of Black Health](#)

[Conference](#) – The Center for Black Health & Equity

in receiving and processing premarket tobacco product applications and other tobacco industry applications.

- FDA [announced](#) that it issued 12 additional warning letters to e-cigarette companies illicitly marketing their products without submitting a premarket tobacco product application.
- **CATCH My Breath** [updated](#) its e-cigarette educational materials geared towards youth in grades 5-12.
- **Truth Initiative** CEO Robin Koval [published](#) a statement calling on public health organizations to reject funding, collaboration, and advertising from tobacco companies to remain free from industry influence.
- On March 31, **ASTHO** is hosting the COVID-19 TechXpo! Join public health leaders and global technology experts as they explore unprecedented opportunities to collaborate in the COVID-19 response and beyond. [Register here.](#)



State News

- The **Maryland** legislature [overrode](#) a veto by governor Larry Hogan to pass a tax plan that includes a \$1.75 per pack increase on cigarettes and establishes a new tax on e-cigarettes.
- The Mecklenburg County, **North Carolina** public health agency [launched](#) a campaign called Change for Life to promote the adoption of tobacco control best practices by behavioral health organizations.

Virtual Conference
March 2-3 | *Registration required*

[Uprooting the Structural Drivers of Health Inequity: Growing Policy Solutions for Improved Community Health](#) – ChangeLab Solutions
Webinar
March 5, 1-2 p.m. ET
| *Registration required*

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

[Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit 2021](#) – MD Anderson Cancer Center and The University of Texas System
Virtual Conference
April 14-15 | *Registration required*

[ToPCon: A Commercial Tobacco Prevention Conference](#) – Rede Group
Virtual Conference
May 11-12 | *Registration required*

[National Conference on Tobacco or Health](#) – National Network of Public Health Institutes
New Orleans
June 28-30, 2022 | *Save the date*

Funding Opportunities
[Tobacco Countermarketing](#)
Vermont Department of Health
Deadline: March 5

[Tobacco Prevention and Control-Related Public Health Law Technical Assistance](#)
CDC
Deadline: March 31

- A new taxation plan proposed by **Minnesota** governor Tim Walz [includes](#) a 35% e-cigarette liquid sales tax, a 95% e-cigarette device sales tax, and a \$1 cigarette pack tax increase, which would bring the state tax to \$4.04 per pack.

In the News

- A white paper published by the American College Health Association [argues](#) that college campuses have a unique opportunity to enact policies and interventions to discourage e-cigarette use in college communities.

Research

- A survey analysis published in *Tobacco Control* [found](#) that 8.1% of U.S. adult respondents had heard of heated tobacco products, with rates of experimentation and current use that resemble those of e-cigarettes.
- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* systematic review of 23 studies of e-cigarette use among pregnant women [concluded](#) that there is currently insufficient data to draw conclusions on the prevalence, patterns, and effects of vaping among pregnant women as they pertain to smoking cessation.
- A county-level modeling study of self-reported workplace policy and home rule data published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* [concluded](#) that across the United State, about 80% of workers are covered by a smoke-free workplace policy and 85% are covered by smoke-free home rules.

Job Listings

[Tobacco Disparities & Health Equity Coordinator](#)

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Madison, WI

[Director of Tobacco Control & Prevention and Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco Free Living](#)

Louisiana Public Health Institute
New Orleans

[Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Epidemiologist](#)

Louisiana Department of Health
New Orleans or Baton Rouge

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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Our address:

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

