

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

FDA Public Commenting Resources

The public may provide comments on proposed rules prohibiting [menthol cigarettes](#) and [flavored cigars](#) through **Aug. 2. Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids** has provided the following background materials and talking points to guide public commenting.

- [Template Comments in Support of Proposed Rule to Prohibit Flavored Cigars](#)
- [Support Removing Flavored Cigars from the Market to Protect Kids](#)
- [Template Comments in Support of Proposed Rule to Prohibit Menthol Cigarettes](#)
- [Support Removing Menthol Cigarettes from the Market: FDA Action Will Protect Kids, Save Lives, and Advance Health Equity](#)
- [Talking Points in Support of Proposed Rules to Prohibit Menthol Cigarettes and Flavored Cigars](#)

TCN Announcements

- Thank you to all the program managers and staff designees who were able to attend the TCN luncheon on June 28 in New Orleans as part of NCTOH! The Executive Committee is grateful to have had the opportunity to connect and share information with each of you.

*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

[Science-Based Solutions for Tobacco Cessation](#) – National Council for Mental Wellbeing
Webinar
July 18, 1-3 p.m. ET /
Registration Required

[QuitlineNC & Live Vape Free: Your Clients Can Quit, We Can Help](#) – North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Webinar
July 20, 12 p.m. ET /
Registration Required



Help Your Peers Requests

States Providing Expired NRT

Deadline: July 27

Are there states that have provided expired NRT to populations without liability to their entity?

External Evaluation

Deadline: July 28

Who does your state use for external evaluation? Please share contacts.

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

[The Essentials: How to Use Marketing to Change Health Behaviors](#) – Rescue Agency

Virtual

July 26, 2022,
1:30pm ET /

Registration Required

[Comment Period Open: FDA Proposed Rules Prohibiting Menthol Cigarettes](#) –

FDA

Deadline: Aug. 2

[Comment Period Open: Tobacco Product Standard for Characterizing Flavors in Cigars](#) –

FDA

Deadline: Aug. 2

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Livestream Training and Certification](#) – Mayo Clinic Nicotine Dependence Center

Virtual Event

Sept. 20-22 /

Registration Required

[3rd National Menthol Conference](#) – The African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council

Washington, D.C.

Sept. 28-30

| *Registration Required*

[3rd International Symposium to Advance Total Worker Health®](#) – NIOSH and the Center for Health, Work & Environment

Bethesda, MD

Oct. 11-14

- **Farrah Lesa (AS)** – 5 years.

Partner Announcements

- In a recent edition of *Public Health Review Morning Edition*, **ASTHO** [featured](#) TCN Executive Committee Chair Dawn Berkowitz and Policy Officer Liz Hendrix, who discuss how the 2022 TCN Policy Recommendations Guide can be utilized to seize opportunities to advance health equity and optimal health.
- A recent **ASTHO** [Brief reviews](#) the use of Medicaid datasets to quantify tobacco use in the Medicaid population so that S/THAs can inform prevention strategies, identify best practices, and make recommendations for scaling tailored Medicaid programs and policies.
- The following announcements are from **FDA**:
 - FDA [announced](#) plans to develop a proposed product standard that would establish a maximum nicotine level to reduce the addictiveness of cigarettes and certain other combusted tobacco products.
 - FDA [released](#) the availability of new data files from the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study, including the Wave 5 Biomarker Restricted-Use Files (BRUFs) collected from participants in the Wave 4 Biomarker Core, a cohort who were youth (12-to-17 years old) in Wave 4 and youth and young adults (14-to-19 years old) in Wave 5.
 - FDA [published](#) a free toolkit for professionals working with youth, including information they may need to help educate their communities about the dangers of vaping and e-cigarette use.
- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative**:
 - Cigarette sales continued to [decline](#) in 2021 by 7.6%, from 9.8 billion to 9.1 billion packs, according to research published in *JAMA Open Network* by the CDC Foundation and Truth Initiative researchers.

[Agents of Change Summit 2023](#) –
Rescue Agency
San Diego, CA
March 6-7, 2023

[30th Annual Nicotine Dependence Center Conference](#) – Mayo
Clinic
Phoenix, AZ
March 27-28,
2023 | [Registration Required](#)

Funding Opportunities

[Tobacco/Vape-Free College Grant](#) – Truth Initiative

This program is offering up to \$20,000 to colleges and universities to support the adoption and implementation of a 100% tobacco and vape-free campus policy. All colleges and universities that do not already have a 100% tobacco/vape-free policy are eligible to apply.

Deadline: October 12

If you know of any funding opportunities that would appeal to state and territorial tobacco control programs, please send those to us at tcn@astho.org.

Job Listings

[Cessation Coordinator](#)

Texas Department of Health and Human Services

- Truth Initiative [reports](#) a worsening trend of rising vaping rates among lesbian, gay, and bisexual young people, outpacing heterosexual peers.
- New Truth Initiative data [reveals](#) that nearly 800,000 teens aged 15-18 vaped for the first time in the past year, as the FDA announces plans to remove the popular e-cigarette brand JUUL.
- National Consumers League sat down with members of the **African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council (AATCLC)** to [discuss](#) FDA's proposed move to ban menthol cigarettes, how Big Tobacco has aggressively targeted African American communities, and strategies for eliminating the top culprit of preventable deaths for Black people in America.
- **Parents Against Vaping e-cigarettes (PAVe)** [released](#) the webinar recording of an event gathering congressional champions, Honorable Dick Durbin, Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, and Jessica McNeice, to provide an update on FDA's decision to order JUUL off the market.
- **American Lung Association** [released](#) its newest PSA "A Hope Story," which presents a moving portrait of a mother who does the hard part and quits smoking and then does the easier part by getting a low-dose CT scan, which could save her life.

State News

- Mayor Garcetti of Los Angeles, **California** [signed](#) a ban on flavored tobacco products, which will take effect citywide starting Jan. 1, 2023.
- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis of 2020 Country Health Rankings and Counter Tools data [provides](#) evidence that in **Virginia**, every increase of one tobacco retail outlet per 1000 persons was associated with 1.16 percentage points (95%CI:0.80- 1.52) higher smoking prevalence at the county level.
- A *Tobacco Control* analysis of 2011-2017 biennial **Massachusetts** Youth Health Surveys data [found](#) that

Austin, TX

[Health Communications Manager](#)

Maryland Department of Health
Baltimore, MD

[Policy, Systems, and Environmental](#)

[Changes Coordinator](#)
Washington State Department of Health
Tumwater, Washington (remote option)

[Tobacco/Cannabis Researcher \(Assistant or Associate Professor in the University Tenure Line\)](#)

Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford, California

[Research Project Coordinator](#)

Washington University in St. Louis
St. Louis, MO

[Senior Tobacco Control Evaluator](#)

Professional Data Analysts
Minneapolis, MN (remote)

About the Tobacco Control Network

The TCN's mission is to improve the public's health by providing education and state-based

counties with greater implementation of flavored tobacco product restrictions were associated with a decrease in the level of cigarette use among users, with the largest reductions among 14- and 18-year-olds.

- The **Colorado** Department of Public Health and Environment [released](#) the latest statewide and regional results from the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, which conclude that youth find accessing substances harder and report increases in the perceived risk of harm by the daily use of substances.

In the News

- *NPR* [reports](#) that FDA issued an administrative stay on the order it issued last month for JUUL to pull its electronic cigarettes from the market, which temporarily suspends the marketing denial order while it conducts further review, but does not rescind it.
- *New Atlas* [shares](#) research which found that users of nicotine-salt-containing pod and disposable e-cigarettes display unique markers of immune suppression not seen in users of other kinds of e-cigarettes.

Research

- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis of audited advertisement data from 106 convenience stores and gas stations around 42 middle and high schools located in the four major metropolitan areas of Texas and school enrollment data [concluded](#) that schools with a higher enrollment of Hispanic/Latino and economically disadvantaged students were surrounded with significantly greater advertising at TROs than schools with lower enrollment of these groups.
- A *Tobacco Control* analysis of a national convenience sample of 1628 U.S. adults who used e-cigarettes, cigarettes or both (dual users) [found](#) that tobacco users most commonly provided the terms 'vapor' (31%) and 'smoke' (23%) but rarely 'aerosol' (<1%)

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

when asked to describe what 'people inhale and exhale when they vape' in an open-ended response.

- A randomized control trial published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* of adult cigarette smokers instructed to reduce their cigarette smoking by 75% at one month [concluded](#) that those assigned to the 36mg/ml e-cig condition reported greater nicotine dependence index scores at six months, compared with baseline and the 0mg/ml and 8mg/ml conditions.
- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis of data from three populations of vulnerable adult smokers assigned to use very low nicotine content cigarettes (VLNC) cigarettes (0.4 mg/g nicotine) during 12-week randomized controlled trials [found](#) that dependence severity was negatively associated with adherence measures, whereas increased satisfaction with study cigarettes and age were positively associated with adherence measures.

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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