

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

- ASTHO, in partnership with Action on Smoking & Health, [is hosting an Ask the Experts virtual panel discussion](#), Building State Readiness for the Tobacco Endgame, on June 27 from 1-2:30 p.m. ET. This panel of experts will discuss how and why states and other jurisdictions should consider endgame policies in their short- or longer-term policy planning.
- Neil Charvat, TCN chair-elect and director of the North Dakota Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, joined the ASTHO Public Health Review Morning Edition podcast to [explain the challenges of reducing the use of nicotine and tobacco products](#) with so many options on the market.
- Emily Carlson (TCN chair) and Neil Charvat (TCN chair-elect) attended the White House Cancer Moonshot Smoking Cessation Forum event on equitably expanding access to effective smoking cessation support, convening leaders and experts from across the nation to address this key component of President Biden's Cancer Moonshot aimed at reducing the U.S. cancer death rate by at least 50% over the next 25

*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

[Combating Tobacco Industry Lobbyists in Public Health](#) –

Action on Smoking & Health Webinar

June 15, 12 p.m. ET

| *Registration Required*

[The Public Health Impact of Menthol Tobacco Products](#) –

Latino Connection Webinar

June 20, 12-1 p.m. ET

| *Registration Required*

[Access to Tobacco Treatment for the Justice-Involved: A Call to Action](#) –

UCSF Smoking Cessation Leadership Center Webinar

June 22, 1 p.m. ET

| *Registration Required*

[Ask the Experts: Building](#)

years.



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:

- **Lisa Moore (DE)** – 24 years
- **Vicki Huntington (WI)** – 16 years
- **Jahnesta Ritter (USVI)** – 1 year

Help Your Peers Requests

Implementation of Tobacco Retail Licensing Program - Structuring a Budget & Timeline

Deadline: June 14

Michigan will introduce a Tobacco Retail Licensing (TRL) bill this year. We are working with our partners to provide some framework and are looking to states who have TRL programs implemented for assistance.

[State Readiness for the Tobacco Endgame](#) – ASTHO and ASH

June 27, 1-2:30 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[State of Black Health National Conference](#) – The Center for Black Health & Equity
San Juan, Puerto Rico
Sept. 6-8 | *Registration Required*

[Clear the Vapor Conference](#) – Parents Against Vaping e-cigarettes
Virtual Conference
Oct. 24-25 | *Save the Date*

Funding Opportunities

[CDC-RFA-DP-23-0019: Outcomes Building Capacity to Reduce the Burden of Menthol and Other Flavored Commercial Tobacco Products in Communities that Experience Health Disparities](#) – CDC NCCDPHP

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) seeks to advance health equity through strategic partnerships and community engagement by addressing disparities caused by menthol and other flavored tobacco product marketing and use. This collaboration will 1) promote and support social, economic and community change; 2) educate the public, community leaders, partners, and decision makers on policy, systems, and environmental changes that can prevent and reduce menthol tobacco use; 3) implement culturally appropriate interventions

The proposed structure would run at the state level and include both licensing and enforcement components. We estimate that we have between 11,500-12,000 retailers (which includes standalone vape shops). We are looking for help on structuring a budget with a high retailer density (including estimates for disposal and legal fees) and timelines for implementation. If any state/jurisdiction can help us, it would be greatly appreciated!

Event Sponsorships by Tobacco Product (or new "non-tobacco nicotine product") Companies

Deadline: June 20

Do any states have experience with event sponsorships by tobacco product companies, particularly companies who manufacture/sell new "non-tobacco nicotine products" such as Zyn or LIX? We are interested in how other states permit or enforce these types of events, in addition to how to deal with limiting advertising and youth access for the product at the events. Any insight you could provide would be much appreciated.

Partner Announcements

- The following announcements are from **CDC**:
 - A *Preventing Chronic Disease* analysis of trends in current cigarette smoking prevalence, population estimates, and relative disparity among U.S. adults using National Health Interview Survey data, found that from 2011 to 2020, [linear decreases in prevalence and population estimates were observed](#) for non-Hispanic White (20.6% to 13.3%), non-Hispanic Black (19.4% to 14.4%), and Hispanic (12.9% to 8.0%) adults.
 - CDC released a new resource, [Schools Supporting Students to Quit Tobacco Use as an Alternative to Suspension: Lessons from the Field](#), which provides resources and lessons from the field showcasing school districts across the country that are implementing tobacco prevention programs as an alternative to out-of-school suspension for students who violate

tailored for community needs; and 4) use research, surveillance, and evaluation to measure progress made and inform public health action.

Deadline: July 6, 2023

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

[Health Education Specialist](#)

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
Helena, MT

[Surveillance Coordinator \(Epidemiologist II\)](#)

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Richland County, SC

[Postdoctoral Fellow in Health Communication and Tobacco Control](#)

UNC School of Medicine
Chapel Hill, NC

[Research Manager](#)

Truth Initiative
Washington, D.C.

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.

tobacco-free policies.

- The following announcements are from **FDA**:
 - FDA announced that it had [issued warning letters to 30 retailers](#), including one distributor, for illegally selling unauthorized tobacco products, specifically various types of Puff and Hyde disposable e-cigarettes, two of the most commonly reported brands used by youth e-cigarette users in 2022.
 - FDA [issued marketing denial orders to the firm Mothers Milk WTA](#) for more than 250 flavored and tobacco-flavored e-liquids.
 - FDA [issued marketing denial orders to 10 companies](#), which collectively manufacture and market approximately 6,500 flavored e-liquid and e-cigarette products. Flavors of some of the products denied include Citrus, Strawberry Cheesecake, Cool Mint, and Menthol.
 - FDA [issued warning letters to firms responsible for two popular flavored, disposable e-cigarette products](#): Shenzhen Innokin Technology Co. Ltd., who make Esco Bars products, and Breeze Smoke, LLC, who import and distribute Breeze products.
 - FDA [issued an import alert for the disposable e-cigarette brand Elf Bar](#) to prevent their illegal tobacco products from entering the U.S. marketplace.
 - FDA and NIH have [awarded funding for a new Center for Rapid Surveillance of Tobacco \(CRST\)](#). Through rapid surveillance and reporting of information, CRST will enhance CTP and the research community's ability to understand, document, and quantify changes in the tobacco product marketplace and tobacco use patterns.
- The following announcements come from **Truth Initiative**:
 - Experts who run [This is Quitting](#), a text message based quit-vaping program by Truth Initiative, [bust myths about mental health and quitting nicotine](#).

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.



Forward to
Friend

- Truth Initiative outlines the [public health concern of oral nicotine pouches like Zyn](#), including nicotine concentrations, regulations, and long-term health effects of nicotine pouches.
 - The following announcements are from **American Lung Association**:
 - ALA released "[National Landscape: State Policies for Coverage of Preventive Services and Tobacco Cessation Treatments](#)," which outlines what state laws exist that require insurance coverage of preventive services and then specifically tobacco cessation. The resource found that while most states require coverage of some preventive services, only 14 states and Washington, D.C. require state regulated plans cover all USPSTF recommended preventive services.
 - ALA released "[Coverage of Preventive Services without Cost-Sharing: Impact on Lung Cancer Screening & Opportunities for States](#)," an issue brief summarizing current laws around preventive services coverage, the health and other benefits of covering preventive services without cost-sharing, and opportunities for states to protect and expand access to lung cancer screening and other preventive services at no cost.
 - Researchers at **The University of Rochester Medical Center** are evaluating [a text messaging program to quit vaping for Hispanic/Latino young adults \(Español\)](#) and they are looking for participants. The intervention "Kick Vaping" was created with the help of Hispanic/Latino young adults to support assist their peers (18–25 years of age) on their quit journey with e-cigarettes. For more information please contact:
 - Dr. Francisco Cartujano
Email: Francisco_Cartujano@URMC.Rochester.edu
Phone: (585) 478-7740
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- A recording of the **UCSF Smoking Cessation Leadership Center** webinar, "[Adverse effects of marijuana smoke exposure on the heart](#)" is now available.

State News

- **Washington** State Governor Inslee [signed SB 5365 into law to repeal penalties for minors who use, purchase, or possess vapor or tobacco products](#), offer community-based interventions to help them quit tobacco use, and increase fines for retailers who sell tobacco products to minors.
- Governor Gianforte of **Montana** [signed SB 122 into law to cap the cigar tax at the lesser of 50% of the wholesale price](#) or 35 cents a cigar.
- The Board of Commissioners of Cook County, **Illinois** [passed an ordinance to prohibit the sale of flavored liquid nicotine products](#).
- The **Shreveport** City Council [voted to allow smoking once again in casinos](#), becoming the first municipality in **Louisiana** to withdraw smoke-free workplace protections.
- The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors in **California** unanimously [passed a tobacco retailer licensing ordinance](#) which requires a valid tobacco retailer's license to be obtained annually.

In the News

- Canada has announced that it will begin [putting individual warning labels on cigarettes and other tobacco products](#) in an effort to further reduce their appeal, becoming the world's first country to use such a measure.
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Research

- A *Tobacco Control* analysis of survey data assessing knowledge of nicotine source in e-cigarettes and awareness of e-cigarettes containing synthetic nicotine concluded that [most youth were either unsure \(48.1%\) or did not think \(20.2%\) that nicotine in e-cigarettes comes from tobacco plants](#); similarly, there was low-to-moderate awareness of e-cigarettes containing synthetic nicotine (28.7%), with higher awareness among youth who use e-cigarettes (48.0%).
- An analysis of 2020 National Youth Tobacco Survey data published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* found that among individuals who reported past 12-month visits to any healthcare professional, the [odds of tobacco use screening were lower among males, middle schoolers, non-Hispanic Black, Hispanic, and Asian youth](#), compared to females, high schoolers, and non-Hispanic White youth.
- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis which identified all biomarkers of exposure and potential harm measured in heated tobacco products (HTP) trials found that of 16/82 biomarkers (seven exposure and nine potential harm), [three of the exposure biomarkers significantly improved in smokers who switched to HTPs and the remaining 13 biomarkers did not improve](#) – and in some instances worsening upon switching to HTPs – or were inconsistently affected across studies.
- A *Tobacco Control* analysis of cigarette tax scores from the *Tobacconomics Cigarette Tax Scorecard* and tobacco excise tax revenue information from WHO found that a [one-point higher overall cigarette tax score is associated with higher tobacco excise tax revenue per capita of \\$11.98](#) (in constant 2018 purchasing power parity international dollars) and for low and middle-income countries and lower performing countries at baseline, a one-point higher overall cigarette tax score is associated with higher tobacco excise tax revenue per capita of \$11.32 and \$6.92, respectively.

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