

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

- The TCN Mentoring Program is looking for mentors! TCN program managers are encouraged to take part in this important peer-to-peer learning opportunity as a mentor. At least two years of program manager experience is required. Please email tcn@astho.org to request an intake form.

Help Your Peers Request

Collaboration with Local Businesses to Increase Workplace Quit Attempts
Deadline: March 18

VT is updating a Quit@Work resource for local businesses that is distributed through the Health Department's Worksite Wellness team during annual conferences and outreach. The resource informs businesses about smoke- and vape-free policy implementation and free quitline programs and materials, and educates on methods of supporting employees who are ready to quit. We'd like to hear what other states are doing to work with local businesses to increase quit attempts in the workplace. Do you encourage businesses to adopt wellness breaks, host on-site educational events, incorporate employee incentives or

*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

For more Tobacco Control Network events and deadlines, please visit the [TCN Events](#) page!

[2024 Webinar Series Part 3: Pathways to Health Equity: Expanding Community-Clinical Linkages to Improve Health Outcomes Among Low-Income Populations Nationwide](#) – SelfMade Health Network Webinar
March 13, 1 – 2:30 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[Comprehensive Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) – Duke-UNC Virtual Training Event
March 18 – 26 | *Registration Required*

[The Role of Advertising in Children's Health Outcomes](#) –

other practices to cut health care costs and address lost productivity? We'd like to hear from you!

Congratulations New Program Managers!

In the first newsletter of each month, TCN recognizes newly hired state and territorial tobacco program managers. Congratulations to the following program managers:

- **Jill Tamashiro (HI)**
- **Jacqueline Doane (MA)**

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:

- **Gail DeVito (IL)** – 14 years.

Partner Announcements

- The following announcements are from **CDC**:
 - CDC's Office on Smoking and Health updated the [Menthol Fact Sheets](#) for all 50 states and Washington, D.C. These updates include more recent data regarding (1) the number of local menthol and flavored sales restriction policies and (2) Medicaid coverage for cessation.
 - [A recent article](#) published in *Preventing Chronic Disease* identifies barriers and facilitators to increasing program

Virgina Foundation for Healthy Youth
Webinar
March 20, 2 – 3 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[Products on the Shelves: An Overview of the Tobacco and Nicotine Products Available Today](#) – MCHES of the MaineHealth Center for Tobacco Independence Webinar
March 27, 12 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[Eliminate Tobacco Use New Jersey Summit](#)
Lakewood, NJ
April 3 | *Registration Required*

[2024 Webinar Series Part 4: Pathways to Health Equity: Expanding Community-Clinical Linkages to Improve Health Outcomes Among Low-Income Populations Nationwide](#) – SelfMade Health Network Webinar
April 10, 1 – 2:30 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[Eliminate Tobacco Use National Summit](#)
Houston, TX or Virtual
April 10 – 11 | *Registration Required*

sustainability of Tobacco Control Programs.

- The **African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council** and **Smoking Cessation Leadership Center** partnered to promote [Spiral Up Lite](#), a free innovative mobile app anyone can use to access rapid-acting tools to assist with smoking cessation. Please click [here](#) to access the "flip-page" version of the Cancer Moonshot Cessation Issue.
 - The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** unveiled [a new Framework](#) to accelerate smoking cessation and reduce smoking- and cessation-related disparities. This action is part of a broader Department-wide effort to advance the Biden Cancer Moonshot goal of reducing the death rate from cancer by at least half over 25 years.
 - The **NIH Office of Disease Prevention** presents its Strategic Plan for FY24–28, [Prevention Research: Creating a Healthier Future for All](#), which includes seven strategic priorities and five cross-cutting themes that will guide the activities of the office over the next five years. The primary focus of the objectives supporting the [Advance Tobacco Regulatory and Prevention Science](#) strategic priority is the development, coordination, and implementation of NIH-wide tobacco regulatory science initiatives in partnership with FDA.
 - **CDC Foundation** released a [new commercial tobacco sales brief](#), which details the changes in national state commercial tobacco sales following state flavored commercial tobacco sales restrictions.
 - **SelfMade Health Network** released a new [Commerical Tobacco Cessation Messaging Toolkit](#). This user-friendly toolkit is designed to share evidence-based commercial tobacco cessation resources (including resources to address social determinants of health) and assist
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members of multi-disciplinary healthcare teams with supporting patients during their tobacco cessation journeys. You can [download the toolkit](#) on the SMHN website.

- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative**:
 - In a recent Truth Initiative article, [Millie Martinez of the Bronx, NY](#), who formerly smoked menthol cigarettes, shares four tips for quitting tobacco use.
 - Truth Initiative released its sixth annual *While You Were Streaming* report, "[Lights, Camera, Tobacco? How Rising Smoking and Vaping Imagery in Top Entertainment Influences E-Cigarette Use and Fuels Nicotine Addiction Among Young Audiences](#)," which draws attention to the prolific tobacco imagery in shows, social media, music videos, and movies that are popular with young people.
 - The following announcements are from **FDA**:
 - FDA announced the filing of complaints for [civil money penalties \(CMPs\) against 20 brick-and-mortar retailers](#) for the sale of unauthorized Elf Bar e-cigarettes, a popular youth-appealing brand.
 - FDA announced the [issuance of warning letters](#) to five online retailers for selling unauthorized e-cigarette products. These warning letters cite the sale of disposable e-cigarette products marketed under popular brand names such as Elf Bar/EB Design/EB Create, Funky Republic, Lost Mary, Hyde, Breeze, and Cali Bars.
 - **Counter Tools** released [a recent blog post about derived psychoactive cannabis products](#) in the retail environment and, particularly, how they are being sold in tobacco retail environments.
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State News

- In a [recent blog post](#), **Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth** discusses the rise of nicotine pouches like Zyn, a popular brand among young people due to its appealing flavors, discreet usage, and promotion by "Zynfluencers" on platforms like TikTok.
- The **California** Attorney General, Assembly Speaker pro Tempore, and Assembly Speaker [introduced AB 3218](#), a bill to help ensure the successful implementation of the flavored tobacco ban.
- The **Colorado** Senate [passed a bill to allow counties to regulate or prohibit the sale and distribution of flavored cigarettes](#), tobacco, and nicotine products. It now moves to the House for consideration.
- The **Kentucky** House [passed a bill prohibiting the use of tobacco and vapor products in schools](#) and requiring evidence-based age-appropriate vape and nicotine cessation materials be provided to public school students statewide. The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.
- The House Ways and Means Committee in **Vermont** approved [a bill that prohibits the sale of flavored tobacco products](#). It now moves to the House Appropriations Committee for consideration. The bill already passed in the Senate last year.

Research

- A [systematic review of studies](#) evaluating either the impact of real-world or hypothesized menthol cigarette bans, published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, found that cessation rates among menthol cigarette smokers were high after a

menthol ban. Specifically, 24% of those who smoke menthol cigarettes quit smoking after a menthol ban, 50% switched to non-menthol cigarettes, and 12% switched to other flavored tobacco products.

- A [*Journal of Environmental Exposure Assessment analysis*](#) that evaluated the performance of a cotton pillow used as a passive sampler in homes of children with caregivers who smoke and do not smoke tobacco, with and without home smoking bans, concluded that pillow component nicotine levels were significantly higher in homes of those who smoke without a ban as compared to those who had a ban.

