

TCN Newsletter for January 29, 2025

TCN Announcements

- Join us, in collaboration with ASTHO's Medicaid and Health Systems Partnership Team on **Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 1-2pm ET** for **Using Medicaid Data to Reach Priority Populations: A Tobacco Control Case Study**. This virtual event will be divided into two parts – first, a case study presentation from King County health agency staff that will include a detailed overview of the data analysis methodology, and findings from their analysis of Medicaid claims and eligibility data to identify Medicaid members who use tobacco in King County. Second, the ASTHO team will host a listening session to better understand the challenges that staff in other state and local tobacco control programs might be facing in leveraging Medicaid data, with the intention of tailoring future resources and technical assistance. [Register here.](#)

Partner Announcements

- According to tracking from **Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids** and **Public Health Law Center**, industry supported [e-cigarette registry bills](#) are [being proposed at a far higher rate](#) in the current legislative sessions than in 2024. States should be aware of this trend and should share with partners and advocates why these bills benefit large manufacturers more than public health interests.
- **The Center for Black Health and Equity** is [accepting abstracts](#) for the State of Black Health 2025: A Call for Health Justice. Abstracts are due Feb. 7.
- A recent article by the **American Heart Association** [highlights the hidden dangers of e-cigarettes](#), oral nicotine pouches, and heat-not-burn products.
- The following announcements are from **FDA**:
 - With a new year upon us, FDA's Center for Tobacco Products [continues to work diligently to protect the public health of the U.S. population](#) from tobacco-related disease and death.
 - FDA, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection [announced the seizure of more than 628,000 unauthorized e-cigarette products](#) from a warehouse in Miami. The seized products—mostly flavored, disposable e-cigarettes as well as some packs, kits, and batteries—were valued at more than \$7 million and included some brands that may appeal to youth, such as Geek Bar.
 - FDA issued a proposed rule that, if finalized, [would make cigarettes and certain other combusted tobacco products minimally or nonaddictive](#) by limiting the level of nicotine in those products. If finalized, the United States would be the first country globally to take such a bold, life-saving action to prevent and reduce smoking-related disease and death.
 - FDA [authorized the marketing of 20 ZYN nicotine pouch products](#) through the premarket tobacco product application pathway following an extensive scientific review.
- The following announcements are from the **North American Quitline Consortium (NAQC)**:
 - On January 22, NAQC hosted a [webinar](#) to learn about the key findings of the 35th Surgeon General's report. You can find a link to the webinar recording and slides, as well as

- an [infographic \(PNG copy\)](#) and an [executive summary](#) with key findings and highlights for the quitline community from the report on our website.
- NAQC invites its members and partners to recommend qualified candidates for this year's Board of Directors' election. All nominations must be [submitted](#) by February 28. A list of current board members is [here](#). Detailed information on the election process as well as Board member qualifications is [here](#).
 - NAQC would like to acknowledge what we have accomplished together in 2024. At this [link](#) please find a curated list of essential resources, website pages and features from the past year. These valuable assets are designed to aid you in your endeavors, keep you abreast of the latest developments in our field, and maximize your engagement with NAQC.
- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative**:
 - Truth Initiative released its [Tobacco Research & Policy Newsletter](#) for state officials, policymakers, and staff working on tobacco and consumer protection issues. This newsletter focuses on the latest research on tobacco products and their use, sale, and marketing, as well as developments in the state and federal policy landscape.
 - Coping with symptoms of nicotine withdrawal is one of the biggest challenges for people quitting vaping, smoking, or any tobacco product. Fortunately, there are [strategies to help people handle nicotine withdrawal](#) and make progress toward quitting, one day at a time.
 - Quitting smoking or vaping nicotine has [countless short- and long-term health benefits](#), some of which start to impact the body almost immediately after putting down a cigarette.
 - Eight young leaders from across the country are [committed to national and local action to empower lives free from nicotine addiction](#) as the new class of truth Ambassadors and Trainers, part of a year-long youth leadership program by Truth Initiative.

State News

- **Vermont** released results from a [state-specific analysis of vaping-related injury claim codes](#). While the rise of vaping associated lung injury received widespread attention in 2019, vaping-related lung injuries have continued to be prevalent.
- Mayor Johnston of Denver, **Colorado** signed into law [the ordinance prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products](#), except flavored hookah sold at hookah retailers. Denver's Department of Public Health and Environment said it doesn't plan to enforce the law until January 2026.
- A federal judge granted a temporary restraining order against the State of **Utah**, [delaying restrictions on flavored e-cigarettes](#) until the court decides on a complaint filed against the state and other entities by the Utah Vapor Business Association.
- The governor of **Maine** has included in her proposed state budget [a tax increase on cigarettes and other tobacco products by at least \\$1](#). The budget still needs to pass through the state legislature.
- Introduced House Bill 1203 in **Washington** would [prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products and entertainment vapor products](#) that include video games or music.

- Introduced House Bill 1410 in **Indiana** would [prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products](#).

News

- *North Carolina Public Radio* [reports on FDA's proposed rule to limit nicotine in cigarettes](#) and other combustible tobacco products.

Research

- A *Tobacco Control* analysis of a Southern California school-based cohort of youth merged with spatial data on tobacco retailers found that the count of retailers within 800 m home buffers was [positively associated with vaping initiation for youth who lived in the most walkable neighborhoods](#), with no association for youth in less walkable neighborhoods.
- A *Tobacco Control* analysis of NielsenIQ Retail Scanner data found that when controlling for fixed effects and cigarette taxes, [a 10% increase in e-cigarette taxes is estimated to reduce e-cigarette sales by 0.5% and increase cigarette sales by 0.1%](#), though both results are attenuated and statistically insignificant in a model with full controls.
- A *Tobacco Control* analysis in which participants provided their interpretations of now-restricted additive-free claims and newer 'tobacco & water' claims highlighted that interpreting the claim as meaning ['fewer chemicals/harmful ingredients' was significantly more frequent in the NAS additive-free](#) (47.7%) condition but remained common among those in the NAS T&W (27.2%) and L&M T&W (20.3%) conditions.

Upcoming Events

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

[2024 Cessation Updates: Year in Review](#) – Smoking Cessation Leadership Center at UCSF

Webinar

Jan. 29, 1-2:15 p.m. ET | *Registration Required*

[Tools to Guide Coalition Development Videoconference \(VC#3 of the Coalitions in Commercial Tobacco Control: Building Blocks for Success Series\)](#) – Tobacco Control Training Collaborative

Virtual Training

Jan. 30, 1-5 p.m. ET | *Registration Required*

[Hybrid Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) – Mayo Clinic Nicotine Dependence Education Program

Jacksonville, FL

Feb. 4 – 6 | *Registration Required*

[Motivational Interviewing Workshop](#) – Mayo Clinic Nicotine Dependence Education Program

Jacksonville, FL

Feb. 7 – 8 | *Registration Required*

[2025 Agents of Change Summit](#) – Rescue Agency

San Diego

Feb. 24 – 25 | *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training Program](#) – Duke-UNC

Online Training

Feb. 24 – March 4 | *Registration Required*

[Using Medicaid Data to Reach Priority Populations: A Tobacco Control Case Study](#) – ASTHO

Webinar

Feb. 25, 1-2 p.m. ET | *Registration Required*

[10th Annual National Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit](#) – The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Austin, TX

March 6 | *Registration Required*

[31st Nicotine Dependence Center Conference 2025: The Evolving Tobacco Landscape and Implications for Policy and Practice](#) – Mayo Clinic Nicotine Dependence Education Program

Phoenix, AZ

March 27 – 29 | *Registration Required*

[Save the Date: It's About a Billion Lives](#) – UCSF Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education
San Francisco, CA

April 11 | *Registration Required*

[State of Black Health 2025: A Call for Health Justice](#) – The Center for Black Health & Equity

Charlotte, NC

Sept. 15 – 18 | *Registration Required*

Funding Opportunities

[Tobacco, Alcohol, and Cannabis Policy Research for Health Equity](#) – The National Cancer Institute

Deadline: Feb. 5

The National Cancer Institute seeks to support policy research projects that examine new or adapted policies pertaining to tobacco, alcohol, and/or cannabis in the United States, with a particular focus on how the policy or policies influence tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis use or secondhand exposure among populations experiencing disparities. The results of funded projects are expected to advance equitable tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis policies.

[Tobacco-Free Recovery Learning Community](#) – National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery (CoE-TFR)

Deadline: Feb. 14, at 11:59 p.m. ET

CoE-TFR invites state public health authorities and behavioral health divisions to apply to participate in a Tobacco-Free Recovery Learning Community. This initiative aims to reduce commercial tobacco use among people with mental health and substance use challenges. The initiative will support your team in mobilizing community partners, stakeholders, and people with lived experience to develop and implement a statewide tobacco-free recovery action plan to continue to reduce the rates of commercial tobacco use among people with behavioral health conditions.

[Quit & Thrive Challenge: Community-Derived Solutions to Reduce Menthol Cigarette Smoking](#) – ODP and CDC

Deadline: Feb. 28

ODP and CDC are sponsoring Quit & Thrive Challenge: Community-Derived Solutions to Reduce Menthol Cigarette Smoking to enhance the evidence base of interventions to help individuals from populations experiencing health disparities quit smoking, with a specific emphasis on menthol cigarettes. The Challenge encourages submissions from local and state organizations and agencies to highlight promising community-led solutions to address menthol cigarette smoking. Up to nine prizes of \$100,000 each will be awarded to organizations with the most successful or innovative community-led strategies.

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

Deadline: April 24

The Truth Initiative Tobacco/Vape-Free College Program is offering grants of up to \$20,000 to colleges and universities to support the adoption and implementation of a 100% tobacco/vape-free policy. Grantees of the Tobacco/Vape-Free College Program receive guidance through webinars, an in-person training and one-on-one consultations throughout the grant period. Since 2015, the Tobacco/Vape-Free College Program has provided funding to more than 220 colleges, universities and college systems to advocate for and adopt a 100% tobacco-free policy.

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

Job Postings

[Director of Tobacco Cessation](#)

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Wake County, NC

[Regional Technical Advisor](#)

CDC Foundation
Remote

[Program Manager/Senior Program Manager, Tobacco Control & Health Promotion](#)

National Network of Public Health Institutes
Remote