

Read on for announcements from the [Tobacco Control Network](#) (TCN) and our partners.

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News and announcements from the Tobacco Control Network

TCN Announcements

- *Join us, in collaboration with ASTHO's Medicaid and Health Systems Partnership Team on **Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 1-2 p.m. 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*

*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!

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

intention of tailoring future resources and technical assistance. [Register here.](#)

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:

- **Kymburle Gripper Sims (SC)**

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:

- **Carol Cramer (KS)** – 24 years.
- **Miranda Spitznagle (IN)** – 13 years.
- **Emily Carlson (AZ)** – 6 years.
- **Tanya Wells (VT)** – 5 years.
- **Christal Dent (UT)** – 1 year.
- **Jackie Doane (MA)** – 1 year.
- **Gina O'Sullivan (NY)** – 1 year.
- **Jill Tamashiro (HI)** – 1 year.

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

[From Service to Support: Addressing Tobacco Use in Veterans with Disabilities](#) – UCSF Smoking Cessation Leadership Center & National Behavioral Health Network for Tobacco & Cancer Control

Webinar
Feb. 26, 1 p.m. ET
| Registration Required

[Emerging Evidence to Inform Tobacco Use Treatment for Adults Who Dually Use Cigarettes and E-cigarettes](#) – National

Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery (CoE-TFR)
Webinar

Feb. 27, 1-2 p.m. ET
| Registration Required

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.
- **Public Health Law Center** unpacks FDA's [two major announcements](#): a proposed rule to reduce nicotine in combustible tobacco to non-addictive levels and the authorization of 20 flavored Zyn nicotine pouches
- **Duke UNC Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training Program** [released a course designed for both healthcare and non-healthcare professionals](#)—including school administrators and counselors—who would like an overview of the problem of tobacco use among young people and practical strategies to reduce use and prevent tobacco use initiation among these vulnerable populations.
- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative**:
 - Truth Initiative highlights that [helping adults who smoke and protecting youth are not competing priorities](#)—they are

[10th Annual National Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit](#) – The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Austin, TX
March 6 | Registration Required

[The Power of Incentives: Leveraging a Contingency Management Approach to Address Tobacco Use for Individuals with Mental Health and Substance Use Challenges](#) – National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery (CoE-TFR)
Webinar
Mar. 20, 2-3 p.m. ET
| 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

[Certified Tobacco Treatment Training](#) – University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Virtual Training

shared responsibilities essential to advancing public health.

- Truth Initiative shares [three important things](#) about quitting nicotine during stressful and challenging times.
- An [analysis of medical claims data](#) conducted by **NORC at the University of Chicago** showed that [EX^o Program](#) by Truth Initiative yielded a 4.75x return on investment (ROI) within the first year of program enrollment. Adding costs associated with absenteeism and presenteeism into the analysis roughly doubled the ROI.

State News

- A bill in **Hawaii** was introduced to [prohibit the sale of tobacco products](#) to individuals born on or after January 1, 2005.
- The City Council in Newton, **Massachusetts** passed an ordinance that [prohibits the sale of tobacco or e-cigarette products](#) to anyone born on or after March 1, 2004.

News

March 31 – April 4
| Registration Required

Job Opportunities

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

Funding Opportunities

[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

- A new study published in [JAMA Network Open](#) found that soldiers are 10 times more likely to use nicotine pouches like Zyn than an average American adult.

Research

- A Nicotine & Tobacco Research analysis of young adults ages 21, 23, or 26 in a longitudinal panel who reported any ENDS or combustible cigarette use concluded that when ENDS harm perceptions decreased and ENDS use increased, cigarette harm perceptions decreased and favorability of cigarettes increased.
- A Nicotine & Tobacco Research analysis of adult tobacco users referred to the California quitline by 211 information and referral agencies, referred by healthcare clinics, or self-referred found that participants referred by 211 were more than twice as likely as healthcare-referred participants to enroll in quitline services.
- An Tobacco Control analysis to explore the association of the implementation of tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship bans and health warning mandates with the proportion of adolescents exposed to tobacco advertisements and health warnings in 80 counties found that banning point-of-sale advertisements was associated with 7.8%

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

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territorial tobacco control

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at tcn@astho.org.

lower exposure to point-of-sale advertisements. Of the 80 countries assessed, 39 had implemented a ban on advertising at points of sale, 54 had a ban on free distribution, 44 prohibited the use of tobacco brand names on non-tobacco products, and 72 had laws mandating health warnings on cigarette packages.

- A Nicotine & Tobacco Research analysis of participants recruited to view either a text-only or text-plus-image description of oral nicotine pouches before being asked about awareness of the products concluded that *participants in the image condition were more likely than those in the text condition* to report awareness and ever use.

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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