

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

Help Your Peers Request

Connecting with Rutgers Researchers on Confiscated Tobacco Products from Schools Deadline: March 12

Researchers at the Rutgers Institute for Nicotine and Tobacco Studies have been collecting data on [confiscated tobacco products](#) from schools through the Center for Rapid Surveillance of Tobacco (CRST). The Rutgers team would like to connect with and establish partnerships with tobacco control staff who have relationships with school staff/administrators to learn more about the regional variability of brand availability and popularity of confiscated tobacco products. The Rutgers team can provide states with tailored information about tobacco products obtained from students in their respective states. If states would be willing to connect with the Rutgers

*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!

[Clear the Vapor Conversations: From Awareness to Action: How](#)

team, we invite you to reach out directly to jessie.jensen@rutgers.edu.

Partner Announcements

- In the face of rising sales of flavored e-cigarettes, [state policies are critical to protecting young people](#), according to a report from the **CDC Foundation** and **Truth Initiative**. Two states in particular—California and Massachusetts—demonstrate the effect that strong state policies can have on reducing sales and limiting youth access to flavored nicotine.
- On February 25, 1990, Congress made permanent the policy to eliminate smoking on U.S. domestic airline cabins for the health of flight attendants and passengers. Travelers and flight attendants could finally take a deep breath of clean smokefree air inside the aircraft. **American Nonsmokers Rights Foundation** shares that this decision [eventually led to smokefree air on all flights](#) to and from the United States and to smokefree policies for airlines worldwide.
- The following announcements are from **Public Health Law Center**:
 - To promote a commercial tobacco-free environment in primary and secondary schools,

[To Advocate Against Youth Vaping](#) – Parents Against Vaping
Webinar
Feb. 26, 1 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*

[The Future of Less Addictive Cigarettes](#) – Public Health Law Center
Webinar
Mar. 6, 2 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[10th Annual National Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit](#) – The University of

Public Health Law Center [developed a comprehensive model policy](#) which includes holistic enforcement strategies that prioritize alternatives to suspension and expulsion for student violations.

- Nicotine-free products that mimic commercial tobacco products are gaining popularity. Public Health Law Center [released a new fact sheet](#) which provides an overview of these products by describing the most popular brands and examining their safety and potential regulation by the FDA.

- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative**:
 - A recent Truth Initiative report [highlights that strong restrictions on advertising, discounting, promoting, and selling tobacco](#) in the retail environment are critical to prevent initiation, encourage quitting, protect young people, and mitigate the impact of tobacco marketing for groups who have been disproportionately targeted.
 - A recent Truth Initiative article shares [why the “cold turkey” metho of quitting vaping or smoking doesn’t work, and what does.](#)

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
March 31 – April 4
| *Registration Required*

State News

- The **Wisconsin** Department of Health Services, in partnership with the Wisconsin African American Tobacco Prevention Network and Wisconsin Tobacco Prevention & Poverty Network, launched a menthol media campaign across the state. Help increase the reach of the campaign by sharing the campaign's [menthol social media assets](#) and using the [menthol talking points](#) in your educational efforts.
- The House Health Committee in **Hawaii** approved a bill [prohibiting the sale of flavored nicotine products and the mislabeling of e-liquids](#) as being "nicotine free". The bill also would establish penalties for violations and authorize the state Department of Health to contract inspectors for enforcement.
- SB 150 in **Montana** would [exempt cigar bars](#) from the state's Clean Indoor Air Act.
- SB 100 in **Kentucky** would [require licenses for tobacco retailers](#), giving the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control inspection and enforcement powers over them. SB 100 also establishes a framework for fining sales staff and shop owners who violate the law by selling products to underage buyers.

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

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

Deadline: April 24th

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.

[Quit & Thrive Challenge: Community-Derived Solutions to Reduce](#)

- Governor Whitmer in **Michigan** has [proposed a new tax on vaping products that equals the state's taxes on cigarettes](#), cigars, and other smoking products. The new tax would raise about \$42.8 million, which would be spent on anti-smoking campaigns, cancer prevention, youth mental health and increased access to healthcare. The proposal also includes a request to spend about \$2.5 million on enforcement.
- Governor DeWine in **Ohio** included in his executive budget a [\\$1.50 per pack cigarette tax increase](#) and an increase of the tax on vape products to 42%.

News

- A [recent New York Times article](#) reports that FDA's Center for Tobacco Products lost about 85 staff members.

Research

- A [multivariate analysis](#) of 2010 – 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, found that being non-Hispanic Black race was a significant predictor of menthol cigarette use with non-Hispanic Black (vs non-Hispanic White) pregnant people who smoked, showing 13.88 times

[Menthol Cigarette](#)

[Smoking](#) – ODP and CDC

Deadline: Sept. 2

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.

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greater odds of menthol cigarette use.

- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* article highlights that, given findings and the exponential growth of the older adult population, there is [an urgent need for a paradigm shift that supports the prioritization of aging adults](#) in tobacco-related funding, research, advocacy, and legislation.
- A *Tobacco Control* [analysis of a population-based prospective cohort study data](#) found that currently smoking cigarettes, whether menthol or non-menthol brands, was associated with highest mortality risks (e.g., all causes: about two times higher risk vs. never smoking) but quitting substantially reduced risks for both types.
- An analysis of cross-sectional online survey, published in *Tobacco Control*, concluded that participants who were aware of both knowledge of e-cigarette use risks and cessation resources were [more likely to report intentions to quit e-cigarette use in the next six months](#), relative those with no messaging awareness.

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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