

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 for our **TCN Office Hour Event: Federal Policy and Funding Updates** on **Monday, May 19, from 2-3 p.m. ET**. TCN members will have the opportunity to hear from ASTHO's federal government affairs team and the American Lung Association to discuss federal updates related to policy and funding for tobacco control programs. This event is open to any TCN member or partner. Registration is required. [Please register here.](#)

*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 states with Medicaid Managed Care, requirements exist for developing state quality plans. As of 2024, the state Medicaid program must include a mandatory core set of measures that health plans report on for both children and adults. ASTHO developed a [memo that highlights the Core Set of health care quality measures](#) for adults enrolled in Medicaid which are mandatory (as of 2025).
- While TCN stays apprised of the developments happening at the federal level, we acknowledge the challenges this presents to jurisdictions and remain committed to supporting tobacco control programs with information, resources, and by staying connected. If you have new updates to share, please consider communicating those impacts through the following channels:
 - [Anonymous survey](#) via Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids:
Link: <https://forms.gle/toZifzV6vGYYLv1Z8>
 - Send tcn@astho.org an email with any impacts, especially relating to staffing and

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

[Nicotine-Free Products: An Overview](#) – Public Health Law Center Webinar
May 29, 2 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[Key Considerations for Optimizing EMRs to Support Tobacco Use Treatment in Behavioral Health](#) – The National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery Webinar
June 3, 1 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[Unpacking the Influence of E-Cigarette Marketing Features: Insights into Appeal, Engagement, and Behavior](#) – National Institutes of Health, Office of

programming changes. Please reference the TCN Help Your Peers request, "Tobacco Control Program Staffing and Capacity Impacts," disseminated via email on May 1 for additional details.

- The [TCN State Policy Map](#) is updated to reflect the policy landscape relating to tobacco and e-cigarette tax, smoke-free environments, T21, preemption, JUUL settlements, Medicaid coverage, and more.

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:

- **Ellen Cartmell (KY)** – 4 years.

Help Your Peers Requests

Chronic Disease
Prevention
Webinar
June 5, 10 a.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[Certified Tobacco
Treatment Training
Program](#) – The
University of Texas MD
Anderson Center
Virtual Training
June 9 – 13
| *Registration Required*

[NTCP TA Webinar
Relaunch](#) – Truth
Initiative in partnership
with ASTHO
Webinar
June 12, 3 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment
Specialist Training](#) –
University of Kentucky
Virtual Training
June 25 | *Registration
Required*

[National Conference
on Tobacco or Health](#) –
NNPHI
Chicago, IL
Aug. 26 – 28

RFP for Adult Tobacco Survey (ATS)

Contracts

Deadline: May 22

DC Health Tobacco Control Program's contract with their current ATS vendor will end, and as such we are beginning to work on the next RFP. They would like to hear states' responses to the following questions: 1. Do you have any copy of requests for proposals or ATS contracts that you are willing to share? 2. What are some resources and best practices you used when drafting your ATS RFP and contract?

Local Tobacco Retail Licensing Programs

Deadline: May 23

Several of our community partners are interested in pursuing local tobacco retail licensing programs. Have any other local jurisdictions implemented tobacco retail licensing at the local level, either in partnership with cities or other local entities?

Using STATE Systems for Program Planning

Deadline: May 23

How have other states used the State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation (STATE) system? We were recently asked about this by several partners, and our team

| *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*

Job Opportunities

[Tobacco Policy
Manager](#)

CivCom

Brooksville, FL

[Virtual Health Coach -
Preventative Services](#)

RVO Health

Remote

*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

*If you know of any
funding opportunities*

has not used this data before. Looking for insights into how other programs have used this data for program planning or other strategies.

that would appeal to state and territorial tobacco control programs, please send those to us at tcn@astho.org.

Partner Announcements

- On May 1, **Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids** named [Brian King](#) as Executive Vice President for U.S. Programs to lead the organization's work at the federal, state, and local levels to protect kids from harmful and addictive tobacco products and save lives.
- In recognition of World No Tobacco Day (May 31) and in partnership with **NAQC**, Project ENGAGE invites all Tobacco Treatment Specialists to participate in a [FREE, one-hour online accredited course](#) on how to effectively educate clients about life-saving lung cancer screening. This course offers one continuing education contact hour upon completion. Registration is required.
- In the April 24 issue of **CDC's MMWR**, investigators revealed significant gaps in tobacco-free policies and

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

availability of tobacco cessation treatments, including counseling and medications, at behavioral health treatment facilities.

- [A recent study](#) led by **American Cancer Society** researchers reveals adults using both combustible cigarettes and e-cigarettes experienced the same tobacco-related nicotine and toxicant exposure compared to using cigarettes alone at the same intensity.
- The **Center for Rapid Surveillance of Tobacco (CRST)** released a [tobacco industry marketing alert](#) that Geek Bar is advertising two new disposable e-cigarette lines on their website, including one name likened to LifeSavers® candies, and are available in many kid-friendly flavors. Geek Bar recently advertised a new line of nicotine pouches on social media.
- Results from a 2024 **Truth Initiative** study highlights the large [environmental concerns of disposable e-cigarettes](#), with nearly 53% of young people aged 15-24 who use disposable e-cigarettes reportedly discarding them in the regular trash,

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

throwing away around three disposable e-cigarettes each month.

State News

- **Indiana's** legislature included a [\\$2 increase in cigarette pack taxes](#) and increased taxes on other tobacco products in its recently passed two-year state budget.
- A bill awaiting senate approval in **Alabama** would raise the legal age to purchase tobacco products in the state from 18 to 21, [establish a state retail licensing program](#), outlaw vending machines selling tobacco products outside of adult venues, and create an e-cigarette awareness program for public schools.
- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* [article examined trends in past 30-day use of e-cigarettes and cigarettes](#) among **Texas** college students from 2015-2024. Findings show that while cigarette use has declined over time, there's been inconsistent changes in e-cigarette use, noting that these changes align with the timing of tobacco legislation

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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and FDA regulations.

- **Alaska** now has [more people who have quit smoking](#) than people who currently smoke, according to Alaska's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program FY2024 report.
- Attorney General Raoul of **Illinois** announced that \$24 million from the [2023 JUUL settlement](#) will be used to expand Truth Initiative's Ex Program, the Vaping: Know the Truth curriculum, and a targeted media campaign to reduce nicotine addiction and support quitting among Illinois youth.

News

- An *Associated Press* article [details](#) the CDC programs and initiatives lost due to cuts, including the staff working on the National Youth Tobacco Survey which provided key data on the different products used by young people.
- Thanks to decades of strong public health policies and initiatives, [adult](#)

cigarette smoking prevalence has fallen to 11.5%, with some predicting that it will reach a goal of 5% by 2035.

Research

- A longitudinal data analysis published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* concluded that compared to non-use, exclusive e-cigarette use was associated with [increased risk of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and hypertension](#) among adults aged 30 to 70.
- A *Tobacco Control* systematic review of heated tobacco products concluded that [existing studies do not provide clear evidence of harm or benefit](#) compared to cigarette use, and that longer studies conducted without tobacco industry funding are needed to better determine the health impacts of those products.
- A *JAMA* randomized clinical trial of 261 participants aged 16 to 25 concluded that adding varenicline to remotely delivered behavioral support [increased e-cigarette abstinence](#) compared to just

behavioral support both in the final month of treatment (51% compared to 14%) and at six-month follow-up (28% compared to 7%).

- An analysis of United States sales data published in *Tobacco Control* found that between 2022 and 2024, Geek Bar emerged as a top three e-cigarette brand, and that the [proportion of e-cigarette sales from FDA authorized products increased](#) only to 13.8% during the study period.
- A *Nature* analysis of American adult cigarette smoking data from 1971-2020 found that tobacco control efforts focused on young adulthood that address generation-specific challenges [present the strongest opportunities](#) to reduce the long-term prevalence of cigarette use.

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