

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

- **On Wednesday, July 16, from 3-4 p.m. ET**, TCN members will have the opportunity to hear from ASTHO's Chronic Disease Risk Factors team, led by Director Josh Berry and Senior Analysts Amy Ciarlo and Ann Abraham, who provide administrative and coordinating support to TCN. The discussion will focus on what the future of TCN may look like as a result of HHS restructuring and changes to CDC funding, strategic planning for the next three years, and sharing of resources and opportunities for continued

*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

connection. This event is open to all TCN members and partners. Registration is required. [Please register here](#). Questions for the ASTHO team can be provided at registration.

- Many of you attended the monthly National and State Tobacco Control Program Technical Assistance webinar, hosted by CDC's Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) that recurred on the second Thursday of each month. In their absence, Truth Initiative reconvened regular meetings with ASTHO and TCN to focus on the needs of the state tobacco control programs and help fill the gaps left with the elimination of CDC/OSH. Register [here](#) for the State Tobacco Control Program TA Webinars.
- "I'm really sad and angry and worried that some of this will get rolled back," [says former TCN chair Sally Herndon on the termination of North Carolina's federal funds](#) designated for tobacco prevention.
- While TCN stays apprised of the developments happening at the

and deadlines, please visit the [TCN Events](#) page!

[Act for Public Health 2025 Briefings: Navigating the Impact of Federal Actions on Public Health Practice](#) – ChangeLab Solutions
Virtual Briefing
July 9, 2 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[Commercial Tobacco Product Taxation: Lessons Learned from the Navajo Nation](#) – Public Health Law Center
Webinar
July 9, 2 p.m. ET

[State Tobacco Control Program Technical Assistance Meeting](#) – Truth Initiative and ASTHO/TCN
Webinar
July 10, 3 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[Project TEACH ECHO](#) – The University of Texas MD Anderson Center

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 TFK
- Send tcn@astho.org an email with any impacts, especially relating to staffing and programming changes.

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:

- **Katie Treend (WA)**
- **Chelsey Meyer (NM)**
- **Linnie Mosley (AL)**
- **Michaela Wolfinger (MT)**

Webinar

July 15, 1 p.m. ET

| *Registration Required,
Bimonthly sessions*

[Neurobiology and
Recovery: Addressing
Nicotine Use Among
Individuals with Serious
Mental Illness](#) – UCSF

Smoking Cessation
Leadership Center
Webinar

July 15, 3 p.m. ET

| *Registration Required*

[TCN Office Hour: The
Future of TCN](#) –

ASTHO/TCN

Webinar

July 16, 3 p.m. ET

| *Registration Required*

[Strategies for Sustaining
and Expanding Tobacco
Cessation Coverage and
Services](#) – NACDD

Webinar

July 30, 1 p.m. ET

| *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment
Specialist Training](#) –
University of Kentucky
Virtual Training

Help Your Peers Request

Vapor and Other Commercial Tobacco Product Waste Workgroup

Deadline: July 22

During the relaunched "NTCP" webinar in June, there was interest in convening a workgroup to address Vapor and Other Commercial Tobacco Product Waste (VOTPW). Washington State is looking to convene a VOTPW Workgroup. If you are interested in joining, please complete this Microsoft

Form: <https://forms.office.com/g/zQWMkwQS7L>.

Partner Announcements

- **TCN** [released answers to the most common questions](#) expressed during the most recent TCN Office Hour on Federal Policy and Funding Updates, featuring representatives from ASTHO's Government Affairs team and the American Lung Association.
- **ICF** [released a paper summarizing findings from a virtual focus group](#) which examined what

August 6, September 17,
October 29

Registration Required

[Mini-Learning Series:
Foundations for Health
Systems Change and
Insurance Coverage
Implementation \(Health
Systems Change\)](#)

[Session 1](#) – NACDD

Webinar

Aug. 20, 2 p.m. ET

| *Registration Required*

[2nd U.S. Tobacco](#)

[Endgame Summit](#) –

Action on Smoking &
Health

Chicago, IL

Aug. 25, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

CT | *Registration*

Required

[National Conference on
Tobacco or Health](#) –

NNPHI

Chicago, IL

Aug. 26-28 | *Registration*

Required

[Tobacco Cessation
Program](#)

[Implementation](#) – Duke
UNC TTS Training

strategies have succeeded—and what hasn't—in advancing tobacco prevention. Participants included Ellen Cartmell (KY) and Neil Charvat (ND), Jim Kerrigan (WV), Karla Sneegas (Former Branch Chief, Program Services, CDC OSH), and Josh Berry (Director, Chronic Disease Risk Factors, ASTHO).

- **NACDD's Cancer Council** is a professional network for staff from State, Territorial, and Tribal Health Departments and other organizations funded by one or more of CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control's four national programs. To learn more or sign up for future communications or webinars, [click here](#). The Cancer Council provides:
 - Leadership and professional development
 - National webinars on emerging topics
 - Mentoring
 - Opportunities to participate in workgroup discussions

Program

Virtual Training

Sept. 11, 12-5 p.m. ET

| *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*

[Mini-Learning Series: Foundations for Health Systems Change and Insurance Coverage Implementation \(Insurance Coverage\) Session 2](#) – NACDD

Webinar

Sept. 18, 1:30 p.m. ET

| *Registration Required*

Job Opportunities

[Program Manager](#)

Kentucky Tobacco

Prevention & Cessation

Frankfort, KY

[Program Specialist](#)

Kentucky Tobacco

Prevention & Cessation

Frankfort, KY

- Nationwide network of cancer program staff
- **Fired But Fighting** has launched the [CDC Data Project](#), a new online tool that makes it easier to understand what the proposed FY26 federal budget could mean for public health and how cuts would affect the communities, organizations, and businesses throughout their state.
- The **National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery (CoE-TFR)** presents a [5-module e-course designed to equip behavioral health professionals](#) with the knowledge and tools to tackle one of the deadliest, and often neglected health challenges: commercial tobacco use among individuals with mental health and substance use conditions.
- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative**:
 - Truth Initiative's [seventh annual analysis of tobacco imagery in popular entertainment](#) reveals a troubling picture as smoking

[Media Specialist](#)

Utah Tobacco Prevention and Control Program
Salt Lake County, UT

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](#) – The National Institutes of Health Office of Disease Prevention
Deadline: September 2, 2025

ODP's Quit & Thrive Challenge will showcase successful and innovative community-derived solutions that have reduced menthol cigarette smoking among populations with

continues to permeate top shows, movies, and music videos — despite research that exposure to on-screen smoking imagery can triple a young person’s odds of starting to vape nicotine.

- View Truth Initiative’s web [resource](#) to read about how changes in the federal agency landscape have impacted tobacco control measures.

- **Monitoring Tobacco Product Use** released a [Nicotine Pouch Data Brief](#), which provides estimates of nicotine pouch sales, a smokeless and spitless type of tobacco product intended for oral use, in the U.S. market overall and select states.
- The [Community Approaches Training & Technical Hub](#) offers free support to states, multi-sector organizations, and communities, centering around upstream social drivers of health to improve both cancer and commercial tobacco related health outcomes among low-income populations where they live, work, play, learn, worship, and

disproportionately high rates of menthol cigarette use. These solutions may help inform future federally funded research initiatives or demonstration projects intended to enhance the evidence base of interventions that help individuals quit smoking. By publicly highlighting effective solutions, the Challenge also may encourage broader adoption of best practices to reduce menthol cigarette smoking. Up to nine prizes of **\$100,000 each** will be awarded to organizations with the most successful and innovative community-led strategies.

If you know of any funding opportunities that would appeal to state and territorial tobacco control programs, please send

receive health care. If you have an immediate need for training, or technical assistance, complete this [TA Request Form](#) and an Emory Centers team member will respond to your request as soon as possible. You can also sign up for their [email listserv](#).

- **You Quit, Two Quit** posted [new materials](#) on the harms of CBD and THC use during pregnancy to their helpful website, including many materials in English and Spanish on tobacco use and secondhand exposure during pregnancy.
- The following announcements are from **FDA**:
 - Twice every year — by June 30 and Dec. 31 — registered tobacco product manufacturers are [required to report to FDA their tobacco product listings](#) if they have made certain changes. If a manufacturer made any of the listed changes, they must be reported.
 - The [Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health \(PATH\)](#)

those to us
at tcn@astho.org.

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)

[Study](#) released two new data sets, including an innovative data type for researchers on locale that can provide a fresh resource for research questions. The Wave 7.5 [Special Collection Public-Use Files](#) are now available from FDA's Center for Tobacco Products and NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse. In addition, the Wave 7.5 Special Collection Restricted-Use Files were also made available in April 2025.

- The **Duke-UNC Tobacco Treatment Specialist Program** released a [blog on research that reports successful treatment of adolescents addicted to vaping nicotine](#) with varenicline, including details of the research and a link to new on-demand training on addressing youth tobacco use.

State News

- Teens from across the state of **Maryland** [gathered for the Take Back Your 10 \(TB10\) Youth Summit](#), a

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.

day dedicated to celebrating the high school students' efforts throughout the year and exploring how tobacco shows up in their everyday lives.



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Friend](#)

- The **Wisconsin** Department of Health Services [celebrates the 15th anniversary of the state's smoke-free indoor air law](#), which took effect on July 5, 2010.
- The Philadelphia city council in **Pennsylvania** passed a bill which will [raise the minimum purchase age for electronic smoking devices to 21](#), mandate ID checks and point-of-sale signage, prohibit out-of-package and self-service sales, implement a tiered penalty structure for violators of up to \$2,000, and allocate 50% of revenue from penalties to fund youth vaping prevention and education initiatives.
- The **Rhode Island** legislature [passed a bill which will limit smoking to one "smoking lounge"](#) in each casino. The bill heads to the governor's desk and if signed, will go into effect on January 1, 2027.

- **Illinois** Governor Pritzker [signed into law the state budget](#), which includes amending the definition of "tobacco products" to include nicotine pouches, lozenges, and gum. The tax rate on the wholesale price of tobacco products also increased from 36% to 45%. This goes into effect on July 1, 2025.
- **Maine** Governor Mills [signed into law the state budget](#), which includes a provision to raise the cigarette tax by \$1.50 to \$3.50 per pack.

News

- *Reuters* [released an investigative report](#) revealing how illegal Chinese vapes — those favored by U.S. teens — are smuggled into the United States.

Research

- According to a study published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, LGBT+ individuals living in states with policies that protect LGBT+ rights had [65% lower odds of](#)

[current cigarette use and 56% lower odds of current e-cigarette use](#) compared with LGBT+ individuals in states with more restrictive or discriminatory policies.

- A *Tobacco Control* analysis of 2019–2023 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) found that estimates for any disability were [significantly higher for adults who currently and formerly smoked](#) compared with those who never smoked.
- An analysis of Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health Study data published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* concluded that lower-SES adults (“low SES”: less than high school diploma/GED and annual household income <\$25 000) were [more likely to report that e-cigarettes were very/extremely harmful to health](#) and less likely to report that e-cigarettes were less harmful than cigarettes.
- In a recent *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis, it was found that young adults who smoke menthol [worked \(click targets on a computer screen to earn cigarette](#)

[puffs\) harder](#) for menthol versus nonmenthol cigarette puffs, with nonmenthol Hispanic young adults working harder for menthol cigarette puffs versus NH non-White and NH White nonmenthol young adults.

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