

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

- 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.

*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!

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:

- **Tiffany Johnson (MS)** – 10 years.
- **Jennifer Trainer (CO)** – 2 years.
- **Tabetha Gerdner (IA)** – 2 years.

Help Your Peers Request

Working with Company Playbl

Deadline: September 18

Has anyone worked with the company Playbl to purchase/use/implement the youth prevention and alternative to suspension games, Smokescreen and/or Refresh? If yes, please email Liz.Johnson@tn.gov to connect.

Partner Announcements

[Tobacco Cessation Program Implementation](#) –

Duke UNC TTS Training 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

[Certified Tobacco](#)

[Treatment Training](#)

[Program](#) – MD Anderson

Cancer Center

Virtual Training

Sept. 15-19 | *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*

- **The National Council for Mental Wellbeing**, with support from the **Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids**, is [calling on young people nationwide to share personal stories, poems, or reflections](#) about how youth vaping is affecting mental health and how harmful, addictive products are marketed to their generation. The submission deadline is **Sept. 12**.
- **Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids** [hosted an important conversation featuring a panel of community leaders, public health practitioners and equity advocates](#) discussing the impact of the proposed elimination of the CDC's Office on Smoking and Health. Among the speakers was Sally Herndon, former head of the NC Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch, and Sarah Wylie, Manager of the Oregon Tobacco Retail License Program.
- The following announcements are from **FDA**:
 - FDA [calls on nicotine pouch manufacturers to use child-resistant packaging](#) to protect

[Listening to Students, Leading with Care: Restorative Practices & Policies in Action with Lee Anne Dodge](#) – Parents Against Vaping E-Cigarettes Webinar
Sept. 23, 7 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist \(TTS\) Training](#) – Rutgers Institute for Nicotine and Tobacco Studies
Virtual Training (self-paced also available)
Oct. 20-21, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. ET | *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

American children from accidental, harmful exposure. From April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2025, the number of reported nicotine pouch exposure cases reported to U.S. Poison Centers steadily increased.

- The [comment period for FDA's proposed rule](#) to reduce nicotine levels in cigarettes, roll-your-own tobacco, cigars, and pipe tobacco closes on **Sept. 15**. [CDC's web page on this topic](#) gives a high-level overview of the public health rationale for this policy and incorporates evidence from the [2024 U.S. Surgeon General's Report](#). The Public Health Law Center has an [archived webinar](#) on this commenting opportunity and a video on how to submit comments to FDA.
- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative**:
 - Truth Initiative [announced the recipients of 15 grants awarded to colleges and universities](#) across the nation,

[Tobacco Regulatory Science Small Grant Program for New Investigators \(R03 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) – NIH Office of Disease Prevention
Deadline: Nov. 18, 2025

This Notice of Funding Opportunity aims to support new biomedical, behavioral, and social science investigators who are in the early stages of establishing independent careers in tobacco regulatory research. The R03 grant mechanism supports different types of projects, including pilot and feasibility studies; secondary analysis of existing data; small, self-contained research projects; development of research methodology; and development of new research technology. Applicants are encouraged to conduct projects that ultimately have the potential to inform regulations on tobacco product manufacturing, distribution, and

each receiving up to \$20,000 to support the adoption or implementation of tobacco/nicotine-free policies and provide students, faculty, and staff with resources to quit.

- A recent Truth Initiative article highlights that when people quit nicotine, they are [helping to reduce the amount of electronic waste](#) that ends up in the environment while also breaking free from addiction.
- As students return to the classroom this fall, they'll be excited to show off new clothes, sneakers, and electronics — and possibly new nicotine products. Truth Initiative [shares the importance of parents and educators knowing what to look for](#) and how to talk to students who use these products.

State News

- Most cigarette packs littered on city streets in **New York City** [came from](#)

marketing.

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

[out-of-state sources or bore no tax stamps](#), according to a Rutgers Health study published in [Tobacco Control](#) that suggests widespread evasion of the city's steep tobacco taxes.

- Crystal Shen, MD, MPH, a pediatrician in Seattle shares that she is [deeply concerned about federal funding cuts that threaten child health](#) in **Washington** State.
- On Sept. 1, [Act 590](#) of **Arkansas** went into effect, which states that [a vapor product or e-liquid product shall not be offered for sale in this state](#) or sold to a person located in this state unless the manufacturer certifies it before that date.
- In a [recent video](#) by **North Carolina** Department of Health and Human Services, Demetrius talks about his journey with commercial tobacco addiction and pursuing tobacco-free recovery. What worked for him? Making connections and being honest with himself.

[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.

News

- According to a recent *Bloomberg Law* article, a federal judge [struck down the FDA's rules requiring new graphic warnings on cigarette packages and advertisements](#), the latest setback for a long-running government effort to force the tobacco industry to more clearly communicate the health risks of smoking.



[Forward to Friend](#)

Research

- In an in-person interview published in *JNCI Monographs*, M. Joycelyn Elders, MD, MS, 15th surgeon general of the United States, [shared her perspective on eliminating tobacco-related disparities](#) and highlighted that educational efforts must be made in a way that people understand and that all people must be involved in eliminating disparities, including the federal government, which can reduce the availability of menthol cigarettes.
- A *JAMA Psychiatry* analysis of Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health Study data that [adults](#)

[with a history of substance use disorder were significantly more likely to sustain recovery](#) if they also quit smoking.

- 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 *JNCI Monograph* analysis of Truth Longitudinal Cohort data found that respondents in areas with [flavor plus comprehensive smoke-free policy reduced tobacco use risk by 13%](#) and no flavor plus comprehensive smoke-free policy by 8%, compared to those in no flavor plus noncomprehensive smoke-free policies areas.
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