

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**

- Welcome Sarah Cattie (Program Manager – DE) to the 2025-2026 TCN Executive Committee as our newly elected Northeastern Region Co-Representative!
- ASTHO is working to maintain an up-to-date roster of current program manager contacts. If your contact information has changed, if you're serving in an interim capacity, or if you're aware of a vacancy in your state or territory, we'd appreciate your help in keeping us informed. Please feel free to reach out directly to TCN at [tcn@astho.org](mailto:tcn@astho.org) or connect

*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.*

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### **Upcoming Events**

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

with your respective Regional Co-Rep on the [TCN Officers page](#) to share updates. Your partnership helps ensure we're communicating with the right folks at the right time. Thank you for helping us keep the roster accurate and current.

- As cessation work becomes more challenging in the current funding and technical assistance environment, there are federal and national partner resources available to maximize the reach and impact of your state infrastructure, such as:
  - [Smoking Cessation: A Report of the Surgeon General](#) published by HHS in 2020.
  - The [Cancer Center Cessation Initiative](#) launched by NIH to help cancer centers build and implement sustainable tobacco cessation treatment programs with their patients.
  - [State-specific quitline fact sheets](#) developed by NAQC thanks to support from ACS-CAN that estimate the funding needed for each state

[State Tobacco Control Program Technical Assistance Meeting](#) — Truth Initiative/ASTHO Webinar  
Feb. 12, 3-4:15 p.m. ET  
| *Registration Required*

[TCN TA Office Hours: Communicating State Program ROI](#) — ASTHO and TCN National Partners Webinar  
Feb. 18, 2-3 p.m. ET | *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Virtual Training  
Feb. 23-27 | *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — Duke-UNC Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training Program Virtual Training  
Feb. 23 and Mar. 3  
| *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment](#)

to implement all [six priority best practices](#).

- The [ALA resource hub](#) on effective cessation coverage and health systems change.

### 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:

- **Miranda Spitznagle (IN)** – 16 years.
- **Emily Carlson (AZ)** – 7 years.
- **Jill Tamashiro (HI)** – 2 years.
- **Jackie Doane (MA)** – 2 years.
- **Gina O'Sullivan (NY)** – 2 years.
- **Christal Dent (UT)** – 2 years.

### Partner Announcements

[Specialist Training](#) —  
University of Kentucky  
BREATHE  
Online Training  
February 25, 2026 and  
March 25,  
2026| *Registration  
Required*

[The Power of Incentives:  
Contingency Management  
to Address Tobacco Use  
for Individuals with Mental  
Health and Substance Use  
Challenges](#) — The National  
Center of Excellence for  
Tobacco-Free Recovery  
Webinar  
Feb. 26 @1 p.m.  
ET| *Registration Required*

[Three Substances, One  
Conversation: Addressing  
Tobacco, Nicotine, and  
Marijuana Use in Youth](#) —  
American Academy of  
Pediatrics  
Webinar  
March 10, 1-2 p.m.  
ET| *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment  
Specialist Training](#) —  
Rutgers Tobacco  
Dependence Program

- The following announcements are from **Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids**:
  - [Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action](#) culminates on **April 1**. During the 100 days leading up to it, youth advocates are coming together at events across the U.S. to stand up to Big Tobacco, expose the tricks they use to lure kids, and call for change.
  - Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids [highlights how to compile information to show the importance of state tobacco prevention and cessation work](#) and how federal and state funds have been used effectively at the state and local level.
  
- **Monitoring Tobacco Product Use** announced that the [latest e-cigarette sales data briefs](#) are now available. The data briefs include new and expanded indicators for tracking e-cigarette sales trends in the United States: total nicotine

Virtual Training  
 March 23-24 | *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](mailto:tcn@astho.org).*

[Tobacco Program Manager](#)  
 Vermont Department of Health  
 Waterbury, VT

**Funding Opportunities**

*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](mailto:tcn@astho.org).*

**About the Tobacco Control Network**

The TCN's mission is to improve the public's health by

sold (in milligrams) and dollar sales.

- **FDA Center for Tobacco Products** posted [new materials](#) related to the modified risk tobacco product (MRTP) applications submitted by Swedish Match USA, Inc. for 20 ZYN nicotine pouch products. Accordingly, FDA is establishing the closing date for the public comment period on these MRTP applications. Public comments must be submitted to [Docket Number FDA-2025-N-0835-0001](#) by 11:59 p.m. ET on March 4.
  
- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative**:
  - Truth Initiative shares [answers to frequently asked questions](#) about quitting nicotine while pregnant and resources to explore.
  - Viral videos on TikTok and engagement with unpaid “Zynfluencers” may play a role in the increased market growth of these products,

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

according to [new research](#) from Truth Initiative.

- Truth Initiative highlights that nicotine replacement therapy products such as nicotine gum, lozenges, or patches are [backed by science and can increase the chances](#) of successfully quitting.
- The **National Cancer Policy Forum** convened a public workshop in March 2025 to examine current evidence on the health outcomes of tobacco and alcohol use. [Addressing the Impact of Tobacco and Alcohol Use on Cancer-Related Health Outcomes: Proceedings of a Workshop 2025](#) summarizes presentations and discussions from this workshop.
- **Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth** recently developed a [resource document](#) on tobacco/nicotine prevention and cessation.
- **QuitlineNC** posted [promotional images](#) to use in newsletters, presentations, and email signatures. Don't forget to [link](#)

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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[the images to their homepage!](#)

- The **Disability Access in Tobacco Treatment Community of Practice** is an online group designed to support state and local partners in understanding, assessing, improving, and implementing tobacco treatment services and programs that intentionally include and effectively serve people with disabilities. To learn more and register, [complete this form](#).
- The **National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery** [developed a driver diagram to guide multi sector efforts](#) in transforming systems of care and support to advance tobacco-free recovery for individuals with behavioral health conditions. A driver diagram is a visual tool to help teams understand and communicate what “drives,” or contributes to the achievement of a specific goal.
- The **[Program Sustainability Assessment Tool](#)** (PSAT) is a quick, free, online resource for public health program administrators,

partners, and evaluators. The PSAT can help you rate and understand your capacity to sustain your comprehensive commercial tobacco prevention efforts.

### State News

- A group of vape store owners in **Denver, Colorado** have [filed a lawsuit against the city's flavored tobacco law](#) that went into effect this year.
- **New York** Governor Hochul's proposed FY 2027 budget [includes a proposal to add a 75% wholesale tax](#) to nicotine pouches, the same rate as cigarettes.
- In a budget plan for FY 2027, **Rhode Island** Governor McKee [proposes raising taxes on cigarettes](#) by 75 cents per pack to \$5.25.

### News

- A [blog](#) posted by *Psychology Today* gives a thorough, well-organized update on what we know

and don't know about vaping.

- FDA convened a public meeting to consider [whether Philip Morris International should be allowed to advertise Zyn pouches as a less-harmful alternative](#) for adults who smoke cigarettes. *AP News* reviews what we should know about Zyn's review before the FDA.

## Research

- *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* [intends to publish a themed issue](#) to highlight research that advances the understanding of tobacco-related health inequities and identifies ways to reduce them among people with disabilities. Manuscripts must be submitted through the Nicotine & Tobacco Research submission system by April 30.
- Findings from a [cohort study](#), published in *JAMA Psychiatry* and sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services, show that quitting cigarette smoking is associated with improved

recovery outcomes from other substance use disorders.

- A study published in *Preventive Medicine Reports* found a [significant increase in the use of multiple tobacco and nicotine products among young people](#) between 2021 and 2024, including dual use of e-cigarettes and oral nicotine pouches.
- A Truth Initiative study published in *Tobacco Control* that [analyzed leading U.S. combustible tobacco brand websites](#) revealed widespread use of promotional incentives that encourage continued combustible product use, despite stated commitments to harm reduction by some manufacturers.
- A new Truth Initiative study published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* [examined how transitioning cigarette sales to state-controlled outlets](#) could impact revenue, consumption, and smoking rates in Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Virginia. Results showed substantial revenue gains across all scenarios: maintaining

current prices with state markup retention, a 7% price increase, and price increases targeting a 5% consumption reduction.

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