

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

- **Truth Initiative**, along with **ASTHO/TCN**, will convene its next State Tobacco Control Program Technical Assistance Meeting on **Thursday, April 9th @3 p.m. ET**. Register [here](#).

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.

*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!

Thank you and congratulations to the following program managers:

- **Jennifer Ullman (MT)** – 17 years.
- **Allison Sullivan (CT)** – 4 years.
- **Rosemar River Hiraldo (PR)** – 3 years.
- **Kara Waples (CA)** – 2 years.
- **Jalyn Eanochs (MS)** – 2 years.
- **Siobhan Pappas (NJ)** – 2 years.
- **Sarah Wylie (OR)** – 2 years.
- **Amy Gorenflo (OH)** – 1 year.
- **Katie Treend (WA)** – 1 year.

Help Your Peers Request

Tobacco Cessation Programs/Behavior Change Models in Schools

Deadline: April 15th

We want to know if other states have tried to do any type of tobacco cessation program (similar to quit centers) within schools. If not a tobacco cessation program, do you have any behavior change model that has been implemented in schools to help students improve their health?

[State Tobacco Control Program Technical Assistance Meeting](#) —

ASTHO/Truth Initiative Webinar

April 9, 3 p.m.

| *Registration Required*

[2026 Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit](#) —

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Virtual Convening (add-on events available for [New Jersey](#), [Texas](#), and [Virginia](#);

Continuing Education Credits available)

April 9 | *Registration*

Required

[NAQC Annual Meeting](#) —

North American Quitline Consortium (NAQC)

Virtual Meeting

([preliminary agenda](#))

April 15-16 | *Registration*

Required

[From Classrooms to Communities: The Impact of Vape Waste with Dr. Jordan Grossman](#) —

Parents Against Vaping Webinar

Partner Announcements

- **CDC's National Center for Health Statistics** [released a publication on cigarette and e-cigarette use](#), concluding substantially higher rates of cigarette and e-cigarette use among adults in non-metropolitan areas versus more urbanized areas.
- **NNPHI** has postponed its State Program webinar until **Thursday, April 23 from 3-4:15 p.m. ET**. Please put a hold in your calendar for this new webinar date. NNPHI will resume holding the webinar on the third Thursday of the month.
- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative**:
 - Truth Initiative highlights [three important things to know about quitting nicotine](#) during times of stress.
 - Truth Initiative shares how tobacco companies still [use themes of independence, glamour, fun, and wellness](#) to market e-cigarettes to young women.

April 21, 6 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) —
Rutgers Tobacco
Dependence Program
Virtual Training
May 4-5 | *Registration
Required*

[Champions for Youth Summit](#) — Virginia
Foundation for Healthy
Youth
Reston, VA
May 4-6 | *Registration
Required*

[Project TEACH ECHO](#) – The
University of Texas MD
Anderson Center- Free
hour of CE
May 5 & 19 | *Registration
Required, Bimonthly
sessions*

[Behavioral Health and Tobacco Product Use: Addressing Disparities, Improving Outcomes](#) —
UCSF Smoking Cessation
Leadership Center
Webinar
May 5, 1-2 p.m. ET

- In a sample of TikTok videos about flavored tobacco restrictions, the content that generated the [most views was about how to circumvent newly implemented policies](#), according to a Truth Initiative study published in [Substance Use & Misuse](#).
- **The Center for Black Health & Equity** launched the [No Menthol Sunday](#) (NMS) campaign for all to prepare for the observance day on **May 17**. As you prepare for NMS, The Center wants to understand how faith and community-led efforts are building momentum toward health equity. Please [complete this brief survey](#) to gather insight on how to strengthen NMS.
- The following announcements are from **Public Health Law Center**:
 - The Center’s latest commentary [explores how new agency guidance signals potential openness to the authorization of more flavors](#) appealing to youth, along with the use of age-gating technologies, raising

| *Registration Required*

[2026 Tobacco Policy Responsible Retailing Conference](#) — National Association of Attorneys General
Virtual Conference
May 12-13, 12-4 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

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

concerns about youth protection and increased data collection by the vaping industry.

- The Center updated its two 50-state scans of laws that require 1) [tobacco-free grounds](#) and 2) [tobacco dependency treatment in state mental health and substance use facilities](#).
- **NACDD** invites State Tobacco Control Programs to participate in two multi-month Learning Collaboratives designed to strengthen tobacco cessation efforts within health systems and expand access to coverage. Participants will explore practical strategies, emerging trends, and real-world applications. Each collaborative also offers dedicated office hours for technical support, along with peer exchange opportunities to share lessons learned and highlight promising practices. [Register here.](#)
- Become a Credentialed Tobacco Treatment Specialist through **The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's [Tobacco](#)**

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

Treatment Training Program. The program is a five-day virtual course focused on the skills needed to effectively deliver tobacco cessation treatment in both a clinic and community setting. Registration is open for our next session which will be held on **June 8-12, 2026**. Please [register](#) by **May 18**. If you have any questions related to the program, please visit our website or email ctts@mdanderson.org. Participants are eligible to receive up to 32.25 CE hours.

State News

- The **Pitkin County, Colorado** Board of Commissioners [approved an ordinance that prohibits the sale of all flavored tobacco products](#).
- One of **New Jersey** Attorney General Davenport's first decisions will be to [decide whether to follow her predecessor's lead and defend the casino smoking loophole](#) in front of the state Supreme Court.
- The **Corte Madera, California** town council [passed an ordinance that](#)

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.



[prohibits tobacco retailers](#) from accepting coupons or providing discounts on tobacco products; requires retailers to prominently display the cost of tobacco products and keep tobacco products in the manufacturer's original packaging.

- **New York** Governor Hochul announced that police in Nassau and Orange counties have [seized more than 28,000 pounds of illicit vapor products linked to Ecto World](#), a major Buffalo-area distributor, following a three-month investigation into wholesale vape distribution across New York State.
- Governor Morrissey of **West Virginia** [signed into law a bill to allocate \\$2.9 million](#) of JUUL settlement dollars towards youth tobacco prevention and programs.

Research

- *A Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis of Health Information National Trends Survey data found that from 2012 to 2022, the proportion of survey

respondents [perceiving e-cigarettes as more harmful than combustible cigarettes](#) increased from 2.8% to 30.4%. Likewise, perceptions of e-cigarettes as less harmful decreased from 50.7% to 16.7%.

- An *International Journal of Drug Policy* analysis which linked NielsenIQ retail sales data with the National Center for Health Statistics county-level urban/rural classifications highlighted that in 2021, [88% of total oral nicotine pouch sales occurred in urban areas](#), compared with 12% in rural areas. Oral nicotine pouch sales per 1000 population were also 16% higher in rural than urban areas.
- A study published in the *Annual Review of Pharmacology and Toxicology* highlighted how [e-cigarette aerosols broadly cause increased cytokine release and oxidative stress](#), which are associated with a heightened risk of organ dysfunction.

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Our address:

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, 2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 450, Arlington, VA 22202

TCN@astho.org

