

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

- TCN is seeking new members for the Membership Engagement Workgroup to help strengthen how we connect, support, and build capacity across tobacco control programs. Led by the Membership Engagement Officer, this workgroup plays a key role in enhancing the overall TCN member experience. Responsibilities include planning member events, developing and disseminating member surveys, coordinating the Peer Mentor Program, and elevating member-identified challenges to the Executive Committee. The group also collaborates with the Healthy Communities Workgroup to support diverse recruitment and long-

*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!

term member retention. Please reach out to tcn@astho.org if interested.

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:

- **Chelsey Meyer (NM)** – 1 year.

Partner Announcements

- **CDC Foundation's Monitoring Tobacco Project** released a new [TEEN+ Data Snapshot](#) focused on the use of flavored e-cigarettes among youth and young adults. It found that nearly all (92.5%) youth and young adults who ever used e-cigarettes started with a flavored product that was not tobacco flavored.
- **CDC** has pending requests with the Office of Management and Budget for necessary permission to (1) continue collecting [National Quitline Data Warehouse information](#) from the states

[State Tobacco Control Program Technical Assistance Meeting](#) – Truth Initiative

Webinar

May 14, 3-4:15 p.m. ET

| *Registration Required*

[Developing and Testing Novel Tobacco Treatments for Adults with Opioid Use Disorder](#) — NAQC

Webinar

May 20, 1-2 p.m. ET

| *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Training Program](#) —The

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Virtual Training

June 8-12 | *Registration Required*

[Beyond the Vape: Overlooked Tobacco and Nicotine Products and Their Impact on Youth](#) –

AAP Richmond Center Webinar

June 17, 12-1 p.m. ET

| *Registration Required*

[National Tribal Tobacco Conference](#) — University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

and others to better support cessation services, and (2) continue collecting data to evaluate the reach of the [Tips from Former Smokers®](#) campaign. Public comments can be submitted on these requests until **June 22, 2026**. Comments about how these data are helpful to inform the work of tobacco control programs and partner organizations could be helpful to reinforce the historical importance of CDC's cessation-related activities.

- The following announcements are from **FDA**:
 - New Wave 8 [Restricted-Use Files](#) from the [Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health \(PATH\) Study](#) are available from FDA's Center for Tobacco Products and NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse.
 - Following FDA's rigorous scientific review, FDA [issued a renewal](#) of modified risk granted orders to [Philip Morris Products S.A.](#) for two IQOS system holders and chargers and three flavors of HeatSticks products.
 - FDA published a [Federal Register notice](#) finalizing the addition of 18 constituents to the [established list of Harmful](#)

June 23-24

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — Mayo Clinic
Virtual Training
Jun. 23-25 | *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

The TCN's mission is to improve the public's health by providing education and state-based

[and Potentially Harmful Constituents](#) in tobacco products.

- FDA [authorized the marketing of four Glas electronic nicotine delivery systems](#) through the premarket tobacco product application pathway in the following flavors: Classic Menthol, Fresh Menthol, Gold (Mango), and Sapphire (Blueberry). Each product is an e-liquid pod containing 50mg/ml (or 5%) of tobacco-derived nicotine.
- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative**:
 - Please see the agenda for the May 14 State Tobacco Control Program Technical Assistance Webinar, hosted by Truth Initiative. Registration information can be found under the Events section:
 - 3 p.m. ET: Welcome
 - 3:05 p.m. ET: Federal Updates, *Maliha Ashraf, FDA Center for Tobacco, Yvonne Prutzman, NIH National Cancer Institute, Tobacco Control Research Branch, Brian Hickey,*

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 public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and

Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, Maggie Mahoney, Public Health Policy Consultant

- 3:20 p.m. ET: Sharing Updates on New Products and Industry Moves
 - 3:25 p.m. ET: Nicotine Analog Products, *Andrew Seidenberg & Maham Akbar, Truth Initiative*
 - 3:50 p.m. ET: Updated CDC Foundation Materials: TEEN+ Survey and Sales, *Nina Hoffmeyer, CDC Foundation, Nick Garza, CDC Foundation*
 - 4:10 p.m. ET: TCN Updates, *ASTHO*
 - 4:15 p.m. ET: Wrap up and close out
- Many people turn to YouTube for health information, including about tobacco products. However, research finds that some viewers seeking tobacco-related information on YouTube were [recommended pro-tobacco videos](#), even though they started with anti-tobacco content.

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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- According to a study from Truth Initiative, published in [BMC Public Health](#), most (88%) [online e-cigarette stores appeared to violate policies](#) designed to prevent underage access to e-cigarettes online.
 - While some researchers have argued that increasing e-cigarette prices could stop adults from switching from smoking to vaping, new research shows that [e-cigarettes are already overwhelmingly affordable for adults](#), such that price increases would impact young teens while keeping e-cigarettes accessible for adults.
 - **The Center for Black Health & Equity** launched the [No Menthol Sunday](#) (NMS) campaign for all to prepare for the observance day on **May 17**. The [2026 No Menthol Sunday toolkit](#) provides communities with templates, sermon topics, resources, and inspiration to advocate for policy change and protect themselves from the predatory tactics of the tobacco industry. Please also [complete this brief survey](#) to gather insight on how to strengthen NMS.
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- **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. [Register here.](#)

 - The following announcements are from **Partnership to End Addiction**:
 - In its new [Teacher's Guide](#), Partnership to End Addiction offers strategies for the best possible outcomes, including approaching with empathy, involving other professionals, and keeping communication open.
 - [Teen Substance Use Today](#) is a six-module course that provides the basics of student substance use prevention for educators, school counselors, and other staff.
 - [Promoting Health and Reducing Risk for Teens](#) is a six-module course that equips educators, counselors, and other staff with practical strategies to strengthen student resilience and well-being.
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State News

- AB 1884 in **California** would [expand drug testing to include nicotine for students in grades 7 through 12](#) who participate in extracurricular activities, including sports.
- A pair of bills in **Massachusetts** would [preempt and limit the authority of local boards of health to create and adopt local tobacco policies](#), including repealing Nicotine Free Generation policies enacted in 22 municipalities across the state.
- Casino workers in **New Jersey** call upon legislators and industry leaders to [close loophole in its 20-year-old smokefree workplace](#) law.
- Governor Ivey in **Alabama** signed into law a bill that [modernizes the state's indoor smoking laws](#) by prohibiting the use of e-cigarettes indoors.
- Governor Beshear in **Kentucky** signed into law a bill which [revises the state's standardized tobacco licensing system](#) to require uniform application forms, published licensing requirements, and annual license

renewal rules.

- A **Delaware** bill to [increase the cigarette tax from \\$2.10 to \\$3.60 per pack](#), set definitions for premium cigars and nicotine pouches, and recommend taxing vape products at 10 cents per fluid milliliter now moves to the full House for consideration.
- A bill in **Iowa** to [create a 5-cent tax on alternative nicotine products](#), including nicotine pouches and e-cigarettes passed the Senate and now moves to the House for consideration.

News

- A [STAT article](#) reports on the divisiveness over the first ever FDA approved fruit flavored e-cigarettes from Glas, including mounting pressure from the White House that may have influenced the decision.
- A video released by *The New York Times* shares how [health influencers are promoting nicotine](#) as a “wonder drug,” while tobacco companies are pushing new nicotine products.

- Raising taxes on e-cigarettes can reduce vaping among some teens but is not effective among LGBTQ youth and those who use nicotine to cope with stress or social challenges, as explained in a [Wake Forest University article](#).
- In a [new episode](#) from the *North Carolinians for a Tobacco-Free Generation* podcast, youth ambassadors from the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids discuss what motivated their advocacy, the challenges they observe in their communities, and how they're working to drive meaningful change.

Research

- The journal *Tobacco Control* recently [published an editorial](#) by Tim McAfee, MD, MPH, former Director of the CDC Office on Smoking and Health (OSH).
- An article published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* calls for nicotine and tobacco monitoring surveys to include questions to [track the emerging trend of AI usage](#), as more people use AI platforms for health advice and support in quitting.

- A study published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* found that higher levels of inflammation partly explain [why smoking is linked to increased depressive symptoms](#), suggesting that both biological and behavioral factors play an important role in the connection between tobacco use and mental health.
- Complex social and health factors, such as discrimination, past trauma, physical health, and living conditions, are associated with [tobacco and drug use during pregnancy](#), as detailed in a *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* article.

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