

Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs: State and Community Interventions

Best practices for comprehensive Tobacco Control programs recommend that at least **one third** of program funds be used to support proven state and community interventions.

State and Community Work Helps Ensure Everyone Can Be Tobacco-Free

Tobacco control interventions make it easier for everyone, everywhere to be tobacco-free.^{1,2} These interventions work; decades of evidence show these are the best way to eliminate the burden of tobacco use.^{2,3,4} Proven interventions can prevent kids from starting to use tobacco, protect everyone from secondhand smoke and aerosol exposure, and help people quit for good.¹

Tobacco Control Interventions Work

The evidence is clear: tobacco control interventions work.^{1,2,3,4} There are proven options states and communities can choose from to reduce tobacco use, including:^{1,2,3,4,5}

1. Enabling local communities to adopt policies that work for them, rather than preempting local policies.
2. Raising the price of all tobacco products, through excise taxes, ensuring tax parity between different types of products, establishing minimum prices, and limiting discounts and coupons.
3. Using revenue from tobacco product sales to fund tobacco prevention and control efforts.
4. Implementing comprehensive smokefree policies that eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke and aerosol for all people in all places.
5. Implementing retail strategies such as tobacco retail licensure, as well as policies that limit the number, density, or location of tobacco retailers in communities.
6. Prohibiting the sale of tobacco products, including menthol and other flavors

States and Local Communities Both Play a Role

States and community interventions need to work together to support each other for the greatest impact and sustainability. Both play important roles.

Statewide tobacco control programs coordinate all the tobacco control work in the state and make sure it aligns to common goals. State programs also support statewide coalitions to work toward these goals, and coordinate with other public health efforts, such as chronic disease and substance use prevention.

Local communities — often funded by statewide programs — ensure the perspectives of local citizens and communities are reflected through coalition building. They also help implement the tobacco-free interventions in ways that work best for their community.

Tobacco Control has saved millions of lives. This success is driven largely by policies that protect everyone.

Programs and Coalitions Provide Expertise

State programs, including tobacco-free coalitions, play an important role in educating decision-makers.¹ Programs can educate about the impact of tobacco on communities, including the tobacco industry's influence. Programs and coalitions can also educate about the evidence base behind these interventions, and provide data on their impact on reducing youth use and helping people who use tobacco quit for good.

Sustaining Impact

Strong state tobacco control programs need strong internal capacity, including sustained funding to recruit and retain experienced staff.¹ Not only do these staff have expertise in the nuances of the scientific evidence, but program continuity helps make sure relationships within tobacco-free coalitions are strong and moving toward common goals.

Experienced programs and strong coalitions can also navigate new challenges in tobacco control: a rapidly changing marketplace of products, new scientific evidence on what works, and continued industry interference with public health efforts.

1 Adapted from: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs. Atlanta, GA: 2014. [Evidence-Based Guides for States | Smoking and Tobacco Use | CDC](#)

2 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress—A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2014.

3 U.S. Guide to Community Preventive Services. Reducing Tobacco Use. Atlanta, GA. [Reducing Tobacco Use | The Community Guide](#).

4 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Eliminating Tobacco-Related Disease and Death: Addressing Disparities: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2024.

5 National Cancer Institute. A Socioecological Approach to Addressing Tobacco-Related Health Disparities. <https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/tcrb/monographs/monograph-22>.

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Who Makes Up A Tobacco-Free Coalition?

State and local tobacco-free coalitions can include people and organizations from:

- Local health departments and boards of health.
- Public health organizations.
- Voluntary health agencies.
- Civic, social, and recreational organizations.
- Businesses and business associations.
- City and county governments.
- Health care professionals' societies.
- Public and private schools.
- Colleges, universities, and trade schools.
- Faith organizations.
- Organizations working to address health disparities.