

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 to the new 2026-2027 TCN Executive Committee! Please see the [TCN Officers](#) page for a listing of the full Executive Committee for this term.

Congratulations New Program Manager!

In the first newsletter of each month, TCN recognizes, TCN recognizes newly hired state and territorial tobacco program managers. Congratulations to the following program managers:

- **Kimberly Martone (CT)**
- **Andrea Smith (LA)**

*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!

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

Help Your Peers Requests

Cancer Center Connections to Quitlines Deadline: Oct. 16

Alaska TPC is seeking peer experiences in engaging cancer centers in referral to quitlines. We are interested in networking with state programs who have been successful in navigating barriers to eReferrals or web referrals for clinics, such as not having a traditional physician onsite or an EMR/EHR that does not come with a build for direct referrals from the portal.

Tobacco-Free Environment in Shelters Deadline: Oct. 16

Counties in Oregon are working with housing shelters, behavioral health and day-use centers for individuals experiencing homelessness to provide technical assistance on developing and enforcing tobacco-free and smokefree policies. We have a model Tobacco and Nicotine-Free School policy, however, not all parts are applicable and will require adaptation for these populations. Does anyone have policy resources, including training and technical assistance materials?

Happy Anniversary!

In the first newsletter of each month, TCN recognizes anniversaries of state and territorial tobacco program managers to

Oct. 19-20 | *Registration Required*

[The Road Ahead for Tobacco Cessation: Commission on Cancer Standard 5.9 and Key Medicaid Changes in 2027](#)
— NACDD

Webinar

Oct. 21, 2-3 p.m. ET |
Registration Required

[Project TEACH ECHO](#) – The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Nov. 3 & 17 | *Registration Required, Bimonthly sessions*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — Mayo Clinic
Virtual Training
Nov. 3-5 | *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Virtual Training
Nov. 9-13 | *Registration Required*

Job Opportunities

If you know of any job opportunities that would appeal to state and

thank them for their leadership in tobacco control and public health more broadly. Thank you and congratulations to the following program managers:

- **Jerilyn Oshel (IA)** – 12 years.
- **Neil Charvat (ND)** – 12 years.
- **Paul Alee (RMI)** – 9 years.
- **Liz Johnson (TN)** – 8 years.
- **Grace Bordallo (GU)** – 5 years.
- **Graciela Marrero Gerena (PR)** – 5 years.
- **Christina Thill (MN)** – 3 years.

Partner Announcements

- The **National Network of Public Health Institutes** (NNPHI) is [accepting abstract submissions](#) and award nominations for the 2027 NNPHI Annual Conference, taking place April 27-29, 2027, in New Orleans.
- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative**:
 - As students return to the classroom this fall, Truth Initiative highlights how students who use nicotine should be [approached with support](#) and provided with free, confidential resources for quitting.

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 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

- Truth Initiative reports that a [growing number of teens and young adults](#) are using oral nicotine pouches like Zyn as their first nicotine product. This rise in pouch-driven initiation should act as a warning sign, especially given how quickly the market is growing.
- Truth Initiative shares how Nevada State University [enacted its tobacco- and nicotine-free campus policy](#) in 2025 through its policy adoption and implementation process.
- **Action on Smoking & Health** launched its [sixth year of data tracking](#) tobacco industry lobbyists and lobbying firms in the United States and added a [visual data analysis](#) to highlight trends. Key findings are available [here](#).
- The **National Partnership on Behavioral Health and Tobacco Use** updated its [educational PowerPoint slide deck](#) for 2026. The deck helps presenters inform audiences about the harms of tobacco, share treatment resources for individuals with behavioral health conditions, and provide key references with credible citations. The 2026 edition features updated data on tobacco use along with new

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.



information about other tobacco products. Presenters can easily tailor the content to their needs.

- The following announcements are from **FDA's Center for Tobacco Products**:
 - FDA [launched a redesigned form that streamlines industry submissions](#) for tobacco product establishment registration and product listing. As part of the agency's ongoing efforts to increase efficiency and improve regulatory processes, the FDA consolidated two previously separate forms for different categories of tobacco products into a single form.
 - FDA's Center for Tobacco Products launched a [three-part webinar series](#) on the Substantial Equivalence predicate review process. The series provides an overview of predicate tobacco product reviews, in alignment with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the final rule, [Content and Format of Substantial Equivalence Reports; Food and Drug Administration Actions on Substantial Equivalence](#)
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Reports.

- A recent **CADCA** article [covers the latest data](#) on youth use, dual use, high-nicotine products, and misleading marketing, and outlines steps states and communities can take, from updating tobacco definitions to restricting flavors and capping nicotine strength.
 - **WashU Center for Public Health Systems Science** released the [Tobacco in Your Community: Advancing LGBTQ+ Health](#) which focuses on evidence-based strategies to reduce tobacco-related disparities and promote health equity in sexual and gender minority communities.
 - **The Rutgers Center for Rapid Surveillance of Tobacco** updated its [Image Library](#) featuring images of confiscated tobacco products from the Youth Tobacco Monitoring Project. New images will be added quarterly, and you can filter them by state, product type, and year. If you are affiliated with a school and would like to submit photos, please email CRST_images@ints.rutgers.edu. Anyone wishing to use the Image Library for research purposes (presentations, publications, study stimuli) is asked to please credit
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CRST.

- The public comment period for the proposed rule entitled, "[Decennial Census of the Population of Americans; Proposed Residence Criteria and Proposed Regulations for Demographic Questions](#)," is extended to **November 2, 2026**.

State News

- Governor Gavin Newsom of **California** signed AB 762, which will [ban the sale of disposable nicotine vapes](#) in the Golden State in January 1, 2028, unless the device is both rechargeable and refillable.
- The Board of Health in Easthampton, **Massachusetts** [adopted a Nicotine Free Generation policy](#), prohibiting the sale of tobacco and nicotine products to anyone born on or after January 1, 2006.
- The town council in Corte Madera, **California** [passed a complete end-of-sales policy](#) for all tobacco and nicotine products. The ordinance would not prohibit personal possession, purchase, or use of tobacco or nicotine products by individuals and would preserve the ability to sell FDA-approved tobacco and nicotine cessation products

when marketed and sold solely for that approved purpose.

- The county council in Richland County, **South Carolina** [approved an ordinance](#) that expands the county's existing smoke-free workplace protections to include e-cigarettes.

News

- A *Politico* [article](#) highlights CDC's published results from its [nationally representative, biennial survey](#) of high schoolers. The survey found that teen mental health has improved to pre-pandemic levels while contraception use and STI testing declined, among other findings.
- Pulmonary physician-scientist and Professor of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Hasmeena Kathuria, shares her [concerns about claims that nicotine can enhance wellness](#), productivity and cognitive performance.

Research

- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis of semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders, including adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who

currently smoked cigarettes, found that [smoking to cope with stress and manage withdrawal were commonly reported by participants with IDD](#), while concerns over difficulties with comprehension of treatment components were reported by providers.

- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis using data from the Helping HAND 3 RCT of a smoking cessation intervention among psychiatric inpatients concluded that continuous abstinence was associated with [significant reductions in depressive and anxiety symptoms](#) across follow-up.
- A recent article, published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, found that [prenatal tobacco and cannabis exposure accounted for unique variance](#) in higher baseline arrhythmia (RSA) and skin conductance level (SCL). Prenatal tobacco exposure was also indirectly associated with lower baseline SCL and blunted SCL reactivity via increased early childhood adversity.