

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

- The TCN Executive Committee [adopted new updates](#) to the TCN bylaws, which expand eligibility to non-Program Managers for the Chair-Elect and Chair roles, language changes to classes of members and Healthy Communities Officer title, further clarification on the Program Manager Designee position, and other language changes to improve consistency, clarity, and grammar.
- TCN is seeking members for our workgroups! Please reach out to [tcn@astho.org](mailto:tcn@astho.org) if interested.
  - **Policy Workgroup:** Help draft and publish materials which provide in-depth information on evidence-based and promising practice tobacco control policies that

*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!

[A Nationwide Update on Flavored Tobacco Product Sales Restrictions](#) – Public Health Law Center

states, territories, and municipalities should consider adopting to reduce the death and disease burden of tobacco use in their jurisdictions.

- **Healthy Communities Engagement Workgroup:** Help build and strengthen partnerships between state tobacco control programs and our national partner organizations. This workgroup will also work on ways to integrate health equity across TCNs initiatives, as well as work to engage and retain diverse representation among both members and the executive board.
- **Membership Engagement Workgroup:** 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.

### **Congratulations New Program Managers!**

In the first newsletter of each month, TCN recognizes newly hired state and territorial tobacco

Webinar  
June 10, 2 p.m. ET |  
*Registration Required*

[Tobacco Control Policy & Research Collaborative](#) –  
Truth Initiative  
Webinar  
June 11, 3 p.m. ET |  
*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*

[Project TEACH ECHO: Nicotine Replacement in Surgical Patients](#) – The  
University of Texas MD  
Anderson Center- Free  
hour of CE  
June 23, 1-2 p.m.  
ET | *Registration Required*

[National Tribal Tobacco Conference](#) — University  
of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN  
June 23-24

[Project TEACH ECHO: Tobacco Cessation and Treatment for Pregnant Women](#) – The University of

program managers. Congratulations to the following program managers

- **Hellen F. Dekle** – SC
- **Kristina Kiarsis** – VT
- **Katherine Zavala** – WA

### 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:

- **Vicki Huntington (WI)** – 19 years.
- **Jahnesta Ritter (USVI)** – 4 years.
- **Betsy Cagle (AL)** – 1 year.
- **Michaela Wolfinger (MT)** – 1 year.

### Partner Announcements

- **CDC Foundation's Monitoring Tobacco Project** released updated e-cigarette sales data, data visualizations, and data briefs that feature national and state-level sales data highlighting trends in e-cigarette sales from February 2019 - March 2026. The [interactive map](#) on the homepage can also be used to find updated state-level data for a select

Texas MD Anderson Center  
- Free hour of CE  
July 7, 1-2 p.m.  
ET | *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Use Disorder  
Integration Office Hours:  
Partnerships With Faith-  
based Organizations to  
Reduce Nicotine Use](#) —

The National Council on  
Mental Wellbeing  
July 14, 2-3 p.m.  
ET | *Registration Required*

[Project TEACH ECHO:  
Behavioral Activation  
Therapy](#) – The University of  
Texas MD Anderson  
Center- Free hour of CE  
July 21, 1-2 p.m.  
ET | *Registration Required*

[2026 Camp Connect](#) –  
Youth Engagement  
Alliance for Tobacco  
Control  
Nashville, TN  
July 27 | *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).*

subset of states.

- The following announcements are from **CDC:**
  - 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 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**.
  - CDC's Media Campaign Resource Center (MCRC) is now fully operational, and contract staff are available to process orders for high-quality, evidence-based communication materials for campaigns, quitline promotion, and more. Please reference [this CDC resource](#) as needed for assistance in requesting access or logging in with an existing account. Any questions can be directed to CDC at [mcrc@cdc.gov](mailto:mcrc@cdc.gov).
- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative:**
  - Please see the agenda for the June 11 Tobacco Control Policy & Research Collaborative Webinar, hosted by

## 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 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

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 CTP*  
*Yvonne Prutzman, NIH*  
*National Cancer Institute,*  
*Tobacco Control Research*  
*Branch*  
*Brian Hickey, Campaign for*  
*Tobacco Free Kids*
  - 3:15 p.m. ET: Sharing Updates on New Products and Industry Moves
  - 3:25 p.m. ET: Indiana's 2025 Tobacco Tax Increase: Early Evidence from Retail Sales Data  
*Miranda Spitznagle, Indiana*  
*Department of Health*  
*Sam Sturm, Johns Hopkins*  
*Bloomberg School of Public*  
*Health,*  
*Deanna Henkle, American*  
*Cancer Society Cancer Action*  
*Network*
  - 4:10 p.m. ET: TCN Updates, *ASTHO staff*
  - 4:15 p.m. ET: Wrap up and close out
- Truth Initiative shares that while the cost of living continues to rise, [nicotine has become increasingly](#)

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.

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[affordable](#), especially for young people.

- As part of Truth Initiative's [Tobacco/Nicotine-Free College Program](#), student leaders are [developing peer-driven campaigns](#), expanding quit support, and changing the conversation about nicotine use on their campuses.
- As of May 2026, the FDA has authorized 45 e-cigarette products, including products from JUUL, NJOY, Vuse, and Glas Inc. Truth Initiative [shares that the remaining e-cigarettes on the market](#) are being sold illegally.
- Truth Initiative shares [three ways that nicotine addiction](#) can impact mental health.

- **North American Quitline Consortium**

(NAQC) is collecting success stories to be featured on the NAQC's website that quitlines and their supporters can use to put a human face on the services provided, the challenges and realities faced and the impact of success on those individuals. Information can be in the form of written materials/stories, as well as audio and video materials. Please submit your stories to [naqc@naquitline.org](mailto:naqc@naquitline.org).

- The following announcements are from **FDA**:
  - FDA [posted a programmatic environmental](#)

[assessment](#) related to the agency's review of premarket tobacco product applications for new tobacco products in the "other" category, which includes nicotine pouches, lozenges, discs, tablets, and gums, as well as dissolvable tobacco products and other nicotine infused products.

- The FDA's Center for Tobacco Products and the NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse are co-sponsoring a free online [Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health Study Data User Workshop](#) with two sessions from [Aug. 11-12](#) and [Sept. 17-18](#). To attend, please apply by **June 29, 2026**.
- **American Lung Association** highlights that with the help of paid influencers on social media, [Big Tobacco is promoting nicotine](#) as a way to improve cognition and performance, pushing millions of teens and young adults into a lifetime of addiction and dependency on their products.
- The **Rutgers Center for Rapid Surveillance of Tobacco** is working to find participants in a [study regarding tobacco products confiscated from high schools](#) and secondary schools around the U.S. Participating is as easy as taking pictures of tobacco products and loading the images onto a CRST-designed website. This is part of a federally funded grant that can inform understanding of youth use, the market, and

potential policy responses.

Please email [CRST\\_images@ints.rutgers.edu](mailto:CRST_images@ints.rutgers.edu) to submit photos.

### State News

- **The California** Assembly Appropriations Committee passed a bill that would [give schools and local governments the tools to safely manage and dispose of vape waste](#) and would prohibit the sale of e-cigarettes that are designed to appeal to minors. The bill now moves to the full Assembly for consideration.
- **New Jersey** Attorney General Jennifer Davenport [announced a \\$100,000 consumer fraud settlement](#) with a distributor (King Distribution) and 17 affiliated retailers over allegations they illegally sold flavored vaping products in violation of the state's flavored e-cigarette ban.
- Two proposals to restructure the **Oklahoma** Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust [failed to pass](#) before the legislature adjourned.
- Governor McMaster of **South Carolina** signed into law two bills that will [tax heated tobacco products at 28.5 cents per pack of 20](#), effectively cutting the tax rate in half.
- The **Texas** Supreme Court ruled in a case brought forth by RJ Reynolds that [nicotine](#)

[pouches qualify as taxable tobacco products](#) under state law, even if they do not contain tobacco leaf.

- The **Alaska** state legislature passed a bill that [raises the minimum age to 21](#) for purchasing, possessing, and selling tobacco, nicotine, and e-cigarette products. The bill now moves to the governor's desk for consideration.
- The **Vermont** state legislature passed a bill that [increases tobacco license fees for retailers](#) and wholesale dealers and would prohibit the sale of deceptive tobacco. The bill now moves to the governor's desk for consideration.

## News

- The same forces driving stress are also shaping substance use behaviors, and research from Truth Initiative shows that youth nicotine use is strongly intertwined with stress, anxiety, and broader mental health challenges. Read the [full article](#) from Truth Initiative CEO and President Kathy Crosby in *Fast Company*.

## Research

- In a *Tobacco Control* analysis, California young adults who were randomly shown 10 Instagram and TikTok videos, featuring

influencers promoting e-cigarettes alongside healthy lifestyle activities were [more likely to report lower harm perceptions](#) and higher susceptibility to e-cigarette use, than participants shown influencers promoting a healthy lifestyle alone.

- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis of Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health study data found the [top 10 variables from wave 5 that are highly predictive of 12-month smoking abstinence in wave 6](#), included past 30-day smoking frequency, minutes from waking up to smoking first cigarette, important people's views on tobacco use, prevalence of tobacco use among close associates, daily electronic nicotine product use, emotional dependence, and health harm concerns.
- A focus group analysis of adult African Americans residing in Minnesota who smoke cigarettes, published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, highlighted that [participants have complex perceptions and expectations regarding the use of large language models \(LLMs\)](#) to deliver health interventions. To build trust and acceptability, intervention developers should prioritize community engagement and ethical guidelines to ensure that LLM-driven solutions are inclusive and effective for multiple communities.

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