

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 our 2025-2026 TCN Chair-Elect, Christy Knight! Christy is the Program Manager of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program within the Alaska Department of Health.
- TCN is seeking members for our workgroups! Please reach out to 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 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.

Partner Announcements

- The following announcements are from **CDC**:
 - CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control released the latest [United States Cancer Statistics](#), with new cancers diagnosed through 2023 and cancer deaths through 2024.
 - CDC's Media Campaign Resource Center 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.

- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative**:
 - Truth Initiative highlights that by approaching conversations with empathy and [providing the facts about nicotine addiction and resources to quit](#), parents can help young people understand risks and make healthy decisions.
 - This month, Truth Initiative celebrates LGBTQ+ health by [supporting those who are quitting](#) and sharing quitting resources at Pride events across the country.
 - **The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors** announced the release of two new tobacco cessation competency resources and accompanying assessment matrix tools: [Health Systems Change for Tobacco Cessation Competencies](#) and [Increasing Insurance Coverage for Tobacco Cessation Competencies](#). These resources are designed to help tobacco control programs assess current capacity, identify areas for growth, and guide efforts to expand access to and utilization of evidence-based tobacco cessation services.
 - **North American Quitline Consortium** is collecting success stories to be featured on their 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.
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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.

- The following announcements are from **FDA**:
 - FDA shared findings from the [2025 National Youth Tobacco Survey \(NYTS\)](#) and announcing publication of a [peer-reviewed article](#) in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*. FDA's analysis of NYTS data shows that among U.S. students in middle school and high school, current use declined during 2022–2025 for tobacco products overall, combusted tobacco products, and e-cigarettes
 - FDA's Center for Tobacco Products and 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**.
 - 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 United States. 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.
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Please email CRST_images@ints.rutgers.edu to submit photos.

State News

- The Board of Health in Northampton, **Massachusetts** [adopted regulations to prohibit tobacco and nicotine products](#) from being sold to individuals born on or after July 1, 2005.
- The city council in Knoxville, **Tennessee** passed an ordinance [prohibiting smoking in bars or music venues in the city](#). Businesses like cigar lounges, retail tobacco stores, and vape shops are exempt.
- **New York** Governor Kathy Hochul [signed the FY 2027 budget into law](#), which includes a 75% wholesale tax on nicotine pouches.
- **Hawaii** Attorney General Anne Lopez and **Vermont** Attorney General Charity Clark led a coalition of attorneys general from 17 other states and jurisdictions in [calling on the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile \(FIA\) and Formula 1 to prohibit sponsorships](#) involving tobacco and nicotine products and to terminate all existing sponsorship agreements involving those products.
- **Arizona** Governor Hobbs [signed into law a bill](#) that creates a new statewide regulatory framework for alternative nicotine products. However, the bill does not establish a comprehensive tobacco retail licensing system,

does not provide additional resources for compliance checks, and penalties on retailers would only apply after five violations within a two-year period.

News

- A recent *Reuters* article shares that six U.S. senators [wrote public letters to tobacco giants Reynolds American and Altria](#) to ask questions about donations and lobbying of the Trump administration.
- A recent study, published in *BMJ Public Health*, from researchers at the University of California San Diego developed and [validated a new way to measure changing social norms](#) around cigarette smoking and secondhand smoke exposure in the United States over the last three decades.
- *The Associated Press* reports on [how parents can speak to their children about vaping](#) as FDA authorizes some flavored e-cigarettes.

Research

- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis where adults who smoke were randomized to a future possible self or control condition, found that those in the [future self intervention had stronger nonsmoker identity](#) compared to the control condition, suggesting that future identity conflict tasks can help people shift

from unhealthy to healthy identities.

- According to one of the most comprehensive reviews of the drivers and impact of ultra-processed food (UPF), published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, [tobacco companies have helped to engineer UPF and scale up the industry](#), developing and distributing addictive products that are driving obesity, cancer, dementia and chronic diseases like diabetes.
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