

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

- Comprehensive tobacco control programs remain an essential, evidence-informed strategy to fight the tobacco epidemic. This fact sheet series summarizes the evidence base supporting the continued need for investments in comprehensive tobacco control programs and dives deeper into five essential components of those programs, citing by federal data sources and relevant journal literature. These ASTHO guides were supported by the [American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network](#).
 - [Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs Work](#)
 - [Cessation Interventions](#)

*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 Control Policy & Research Collaborative](#) –
Truth Initiative
Webinar
July 9, 3 p.m.

- [Infrastructure, Administration, and Management](#)
 - [Mass-Reach Health Communication Interventions](#)
 - [State and Community Interventions](#)
 - [Surveillance and Evaluation](#)
- 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 work on ways to integrate health equity across TCN initiatives and work to engage and retain diverse representation among

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*

[Nicotine Addiction Without the Smoke](#) – Public Health Law Center Webinar
July 30, 2 p.m.
ET | *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Use Disorder Integration Office Hours: The Evidence for Alternative and Complementary Treatments](#) — The National

members and the executive board.

- **Membership Engagement Workgroup:** Help strengthen how we connect, support, and build capacity across tobacco control programs. Responsibilities include planning member events, developing and disseminating member surveys, coordinating the Peer Mentor Program, and elevating member-identified challenges to the Executive Committee.

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:

- **Farrah Lesa (AS)** – 9 years.
- **Julia Hitchingham (MI)** – 1 year.

Partner Announcements

- The following announcements are from **CDC**:
 - CDC's Media Campaign Resource Center is now fully

Council on Mental Wellbeing
Aug. 11, 2-3 p.m. ET
| *Registration Required*

[Project TEACH ECHO: Mental Health, Substance Use and Tobacco Cessation](#)— The University of Texas MD Anderson Center - Free hour of CE
Aug. 18, 1-2 p.m.
ET | *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — Mayo Clinic
Rochester, MN (Hybrid)
Aug. 18-20 | *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.

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 [Shopify's removal of online vaping stores](#) from their platform marks a crucial step toward reducing youth access to illegal e-cigarettes. This decision follows established research, published in [BMC Public Health](#), showing that nearly 90% of online e-cigarette stores identified as using Shopify appeared to violate at least one requirement related to age verification, shipping, or adult signature upon delivery.
 - Truth Initiative invites you to [register](#) for the Tobacco Control Policy & Research

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 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

Collaborative on **July 9 @3 p.m. ET.**

- 3 p.m. ET Welcome
- 3:05 p.m. ET Federal Updates - *Megan Hicks, FDA Center for Tobacco Products; Yvonne Prutzman, NIH National Cancer Institute, Tobacco Control Research Branch; Brian Hickey, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids*
- 3:20 p.m. ET Sharing Updates on New Products and Industry Moves
- 3:30 p.m. ET Current Nicotine Marketing Claims: What Does that Science Say? - *Kristy Marynak, CDC Foundation*
- 4 p.m. ET CTFK Resource: Claims about Potential Cognitive Benefits of Nicotine are Exaggerated and Misleading - *Meg Riordan, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids*
- 4:10 p.m. ET TCN Updates - *ASTHO staff*

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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- 4:15 p.m. ET Wrap up and close out
 - The following announcements are from **Public Health Law Center**:
 - The Center's [recent commentary](#) examines the FDA's latest troubling decision, authorizing fruit-flavored e-cigarettes for the first time, departing from its previous policy of limiting authorizations to tobacco and menthol flavors.
 - The Center recently [updated its resource and interactive map](#) highlighting examples of U.S. jurisdictions that restrict the sale of flavored commercial tobacco products.
 - The **National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery** developed a [5-module e-Course](#), designed to equip behavioral health professionals with the knowledge and tools to tackle one of the deadliest, and often neglected health challenges: commercial tobacco use among individuals with mental health and substance use conditions.
 - The following announcements are from **FDA**:
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- FDA shared findings from the [2025 National Youth Tobacco Survey \(NYTS\)](#) in a recent [Nicotine & Tobacco Research](#) article, finding 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 [issued modified risk granted orders to Swedish Match USA, Inc.](#) for 20 ZYN nicotine pouch products following extensive scientific review. These products may now be marketed with the risk modification claim: “Using ZYN instead of cigarettes puts you at a lower risk of mouth cancer, heart disease, lung cancer, stroke, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis.”
 - FDA [announced the publication of a special issue](#) in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* with research demonstrating that “The Real Cost” campaigns have achieved significant, measurable public health results, including preventing more than \$42 million in sales of illegal e-cigarette products that would have been used by youth.
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- FDA [issued a proposed rule](#) that, if finalized, would strengthen the agency's ability to efficiently identify illegal foreign tobacco products, including youth-appealing e-cigarettes and conduct on-site inspections abroad.
- The **Rutgers Center for Rapid Surveillance of Tobacco** and the **University of Michigan's Center for the Assessment of Tobacco Regulations** collaborated on a [data brief](#) reporting newly released 2025 data on tobacco product use among middle and high school youth from the National Youth Tobacco Survey.
- Become a [Credentialed Tobacco Treatment Specialist](#) through **The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center**, which will be held on September 21-25, 2026. The Tobacco Treatment Training Program, held on September 21-25, 2026, is a virtual course focused on the skills needed to effectively deliver tobacco cessation treatment in both a clinic and community setting. [Register](#) by August 21.

State News

- A [new study](#) from the University of **Nebraska**–Lincoln sheds light on

how parental smoking shapes adolescents' attitudes and use of both traditional cigarettes and e-cigarettes, finding that fathers' behaviors may play a more influential role than those of mothers.

- **Massachusetts** Department of Public Health [released a report on the impact of An Act Modernizing Tobacco Control](#), concluding that restricting menthol cigarette sales reduced smoking prevalence by 1.37 percentage points between June 2020 and January 2023. As a result of this, economists projected 10-year cost savings close to \$200 million.
 - The city council in **Redwood City, California** adopted San Mateo County's tobacco retailer ordinance, [ending Redwood City's local exemption for hookah-serving businesses](#) and bringing the city under county rules that prohibit flavored tobacco products.
 - The city council in **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania** enacted an ordinance [prohibiting new vape shops within 1,000 feet](#) of elementary or secondary schools.
 - Governor Mike Dunleavy of **Alaska** [vetoed a bill](#) that would have raised the minimum age to 21 for
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purchasing, possessing, and selling tobacco, nicotine, and e-cigarette products.

- Mayor Brandon Scott of **Baltimore, Maryland** [signed into law a bill that prevents smoke shops from operating within 750 feet](#) of a school, park, or recreation center.

News

- Truth Initiative [published a piece](#) in *ESSENCE* magazine, sharing how Truth Initiative and the NAACP are working together to end nicotine addiction and highlighting the long history of targeting Black communities with tobacco products.

Research

- *A Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis of National Panel of Tobacco Consumer Studies data found that an estimated 41.7% of US adults who use cigarettes, cigars, and smokeless tobacco [received a coupon for a tobacco product in the past 12 months](#); of those, 78.7% redeemed them.
- An online survey data analysis of adults who used electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*,

concluded that approximately half the respondents [reported experiencing an overheating, fire and explosion \(OFE\) incident](#) related to the use of lithium-ion batteries in ENDS products.
