

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

- On August 4-5, the TCN Executive Committee convened virtually for the TCN summer business meeting to strategize around the Network's priorities for the 2026-2027 term and receive updates from ASTHO staff and Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids on the national and state/territorial tobacco control landscape.

Help Your Peers Request

Policy Surveillance & Tracking Software

Deadline: August 26

Minnesota is interested in using policy surveillance software like MonQcle (<https://monqcle.com>) to track local policy or ordinance changes and their impact commercial tobacco use locally and statewide.

If other states have experience with this software or similar platforms, MN hopes to hear more about that work, any takeaways, or recommendations.

Congratulations New Program Managers!

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

- **Matthew Hayden (NE)**

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:

- **Megan Moran (TX)** – 4 years.
- **Sarah Cattie (DE)** – 3 years.
- **Mark Boldt (VA)** – 3 years.
- **Susan Morrison (NH)** – 2 years.
- **Brandi Greeno (WY)** – 2 years.

Partner Announcements

- The **National Network of Public Health Institutes** are now [accepting abstracts](#) for the [National Conference on Tobacco or Health \(NCTOH\) 2027](#). The new deadline is **Friday, Sept. 25 at 11:59pm ET**. NCTOH will take place from June 30-July 1, 2027, in San Diego, CA. If you are using federal funds, you will need to wait until the program year that includes the dates of the conference. You will need to confer with your state agency if you are using state funds. You will be able to use the early bird rate after the deadline if you work for a government agency.
 - **FDA** [authorized the marketing of four new nicotine pouch products](#) through the premarket tobacco product application (PMTA) pathway: Rich Berry 2 mg, Cappuccino 2 mg, Cappuccino 4 mg, and Autumn Spice 2 mg. The authorized products, made by Helix Innovations LLC, are sold under the “on!” brand name.
 - The National Youth Ambassadors with **Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids** are high school students who have demonstrated leadership in fighting tobacco in their communities. These advocates are chosen annually as representatives of their state through a competitive application process. [Applications are now open](#) for their 2026-2027 National Youth Ambassadors. Deadline to apply is **Aug.**
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- Research from **Truth Initiative** found that young people who go on to start vaping already [had elevated perceptions](#) that their friends viewed vaping as acceptable, highlighting the role that peer acceptance plays in vaping initiation.
 - **Public Health Law Center** [released a new legislative timeline](#) that highlights key events leading to the enactment of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act of 2009.
 - **The National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery** is looking for five states to join [Cohort 3 of the Tobacco-Free Recovery Learning Community](#), an 18-month peer learning initiative that aims to reduce commercial tobacco use among people with mental health and substance use challenges. The deadline to apply is **Aug. 25**.
 - The **Center for Public Health Systems Science at Washington University in St. Louis** developed a set of [Tobacco Control User Guides](#), which support state health department implementation of CDC's Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs—2014.
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- **CADCA** released an article on [why strong local data is essential to effective prevention work](#), and shared practical strategies for collecting consistent, reliable data despite common hurdles like school buy-in, consent policies, and low response rates.
- **Rutgers Center for Rapid Surveillance of Tobacco** released a [fact sheet](#) on Geek Bar.

State News

- The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit reversed the preliminary injunction against **Iowa's** e-cigarette registry law and [sent the case back to federal District Court for further proceedings](#). They found that while the plaintiffs have standing to challenge the law, it is unlikely that they prevail on their claim that the state law is preempted by federal law.
- **Minnesota** Attorney General Keith Ellison [filed a lawsuit against e-cigarette manufacturer Maduro Distributors, Inc.](#), doing business as Loon, for the alleged illegal manufacture, distribution, and sale of flavored e-cigarettes that appeal to youth.
- The **Oregon** Supreme Court [declined to review the Oregon Court of Appeals' decision](#) upholding Multnomah

County's flavored tobacco and nicotine product sales restriction.

- The Board of Supervisors in Sacramento County, **California** [authorized a lawsuit against major cigarette manufacturers and distributors](#), alleging that tobacco companies should be held responsible for environmental damage caused by cigarette filters and the public costs of cleaning them up.

News

- *Spectrum* News reports that with a new school year approaching, health experts are raising concerns about [how tobacco and nicotine imagery in movies and TV](#) are normalizing use among kids, while one teen ambassador in Rochester works to educate his peers on the risks.

Research

- A recent *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* article presents a collection of studies [examining the evolving regulatory landscape for nicotine and tobacco products](#), while noting that research on the effectiveness of policies targeting today's most popular products, like e-cigarettes and pouches, remains limited.
- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* systematic review of 30 U.S. studies on

state and local flavored tobacco sales restrictions found that policies with pre-post and comparison-group study designs showed [significant increases in compliance and reduced product availability](#), but few studies reported on enforcement agencies or penalties, revealing a gap in understanding how enforcement infrastructure affects whether these policies actually work as intended.

- A *Tobacco Control* analysis of Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health study data found that among participants who reported exclusive e-cigarette use, [individuals with previous smoking history had lower cessation rates](#), as did participants who reported daily e-cigarette use. Vaping cessation was also associated with a significant improvement in quality of life and mental health outcomes.