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News and announcements from the Tobacco Control Network

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.

Partner Announcements

- The following announcements are from **CDC Foundation:**
 - CDC Foundation's Monitoring Tobacco Project [released a new](#)

[Nicotine Pouch Sales Data Brief \(Issue 5\)](#) that highlights trends in nicotine pouch sales from January 2020 – May 2026. The brief includes data for the United States overall and for California, Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island.

- CDC Foundation published a [new study](#) using sales data from convenience stores and grocery stores to match products to attributes in the FDA’s Marketing Granted Orders (MGO) database to determine the dollar share of FDA-authorized products. This study uses a novel approach to identify “probable match” products that likely have an MGO but have been relabeled.
- A [new study](#) from the CDC Foundation found that dual use of cigarettes and e-cigarettes declined substantially from 2014-2015 to 2022-2023. However, more adults and young adults who currently use e-cigarettes reported never using cigarettes in 2022-2023 compared to 2014-2015.
- 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 11:59 p.m. ET**. NCTOH will take place

from June 30-July 1, 2027, in San Diego, CA.

- The following announcements are from **Truth Initiative:**
 - Truth Initiative [highlights that exposure to tobacco smoke](#), nicotine vape aerosol, and cannabis products can pose serious health risks to animals.
 - According to Truth Initiative, [young people with high exposure to promotional tobacco content](#) also had more than twice the odds of intending to smoke cigarettes.
 - According to a study from Truth Initiative, the majority of past 30-day young adults [who use e-cigarettes reported vaping in vehicles \(60.6%\)](#), as well as being exposed to secondhand e-cigarette aerosol in vehicles (69.3%).
- **WashU Center for Public Health Systems Science** released the [Tobacco in Your Community: Advancing LGBTQ+ Health](#) brief which can help you work with LGBTQ+ communities to tailor commercial tobacco strategies to reflect their needs and priorities, develop effective partnerships with its community leaders and members, and communicate commercial tobacco harms and cessation resources to

LGBTQ+ communities.

- 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. 31**.
- **FDA** [authorized the marketing of 11 new nicotine pouch products](#) through the premarket tobacco product application pathway. The authorized products, made by Swedish Match USA, Inc., are sold under the “ZYN ULTRA” brand name.
- The following announcements are from **Americans For Nonsmokers' Rights**:
 - Twenty years after a federal court found tobacco companies liable for a decades-long fraud under RICO, Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights marks the anniversary with [a warning that the industry's core playbook](#), now applied to e-cigarettes and nicotine pouches, remains unchanged.
 - Americans For Nonsmokers' Rights presents [the story](#)

[of Savannah, Georgia](#), the first municipality in Georgia to enact a comprehensive smokefree ordinance following the passage of the exemption-riddled Georgia Smokefree Air Act of 2005.

- The **American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers** (ASHRAE) reaffirmed their [Position Document](#) on secondhand smoke, which has been referenced by CDC and the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and more. ASHRAE shares that the [ventilation myth pervades legislative discussions](#) to distract from the real solution of 100% smokefree air.

State News

- Denver, **Colorado** [filed a lawsuit against several tobacco companies](#) seeking to recover the costs of cleaning up litter from discarded cigarette filters.
- San Francisco, **California** [passed an ordinance to permit indoor cannabis hospitality venues](#) in the city, allowing retail spaces to transform into cafes and entertainment lounges where indoor smoking and vaping are completely legalized.

News

- A new op-ed, published in *Fast Company* [explores how dating apps could be leveraged](#) to promote healthier lifestyle choices, including tobacco cessation, especially at a time when smoking imagery is resurging in pop culture.

Research

- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis of a placebo-controlled smoking reduction trial among adults who smoked ≥ 10 cigarettes per day (CPD) and were interested in reducing found that [participants who achieved a \$\geq 50\%\$ reduction in CPD or at two weeks](#) had significantly higher odds of smoking abstinence at 24 weeks compared with those who did not reduce.
- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis by the CDC Foundation and Georgia Tech Research Institute used a [novel automated artificial intelligence method to detect and classify e-cigarette devices](#) containing screens sold online. This work serves as a scalable and efficient framework for monitoring emerging products in the online e-cigarette market, including “smart” vapes that appeal to youth.
- In an observational analysis, published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, Chinese-speaking adults who smoke daily were allocated to the [Nicotine](#)

[Replacement Therapy Sampling \(NRT-S\)](#)
[intervention arm of a cluster](#)
[randomized controlled trial](#) conducted
at outdoor smoking hotspots. At six
months, using all one-week NRT-S was
associated with higher self-reported
seven-day abstinence and 30-day
abstinence.

- Research from Truth Initiative finds that [young people exposed to high levels of tobacco-related imagery on YouTube, Twitch, and TikTok](#) have nearly triple the odds of intending to use e-cigarettes, and more than twice the odds of intending to smoke, compared to those who are not exposed to tobacco content on these platforms.