

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

Partner Announcements

- The **National Network of Public Health Institutes** is now [accepting abstracts](#) for the [National Conference on Tobacco or Health \(NCTOH\) 2027](#). The 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 released its updated [Vaping: Know the truth](#) youth prevention curriculum, equipped with new lessons and videos to combat today's addiction landscape and give students the resources they need to make informed choices.

*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!

[From Need to Value - How to Persuade Decision Makers](#) — Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

- E-cigarette-themed games like “Vape Master” and “Vape Boss Shop Simulator 3D” remain available on the Google Play Store despite prohibitive policies. According to research from Truth Initiative, published in [Tobacco Control](#), these apps contain [youth-appealing imagery and themes](#) likely to encourage nicotine use.
- Truth Initiative overviews [nicotine analogs](#), chemical compounds that are structurally similar, but not identical, to nicotine. These chemical differences allow them to fall outside of federal, state, and local regulations, creating loopholes in policies designed to protect young people and prevent addiction.
- **FDA’s Center for Tobacco Products** launched a [three-part webinar series](#) on the Substantial Equivalence predicate review process. The series provides an overview of predicate tobacco product reviews, in alignment with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the final rule, [Content and Format of Substantial Equivalence Reports: Food and Drug Administration Actions on Substantial Equivalence Reports](#).

Webinar

Sept. 29, 12-2 p.m.

ET | *Registration Required*

[Project TEACH ECHO](#) – The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Oct. 13 & 20 | *Registration Required, Bimonthly sessions*

[The Tobacco Dependence Program \(TDP\) - The Tobacco Dependence Program \(TDP\)](#)
Virtual Training
Oct. 19-20 | *Registration Required*

[Project TEACH ECHO](#) – The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Nov. 3 & 17 | *Registration Required, Bimonthly sessions*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — Mayo Clinic
Virtual Training
Nov. 3-5 | *Registration Required*

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#) — University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Virtual Training
Nov. 9-13 | *Registration Required*

- Inspired by CDC's *Tips From Former Smokers* campaign, **NACDD's "Tips Adjacent Campaign"** highlights the personal quit journeys of five campaign ambassadors: [Heidi](#), [Chris](#), [Tonya](#), [Terra](#), and [Brad](#). To request this free campaign, please visit the CDC's Media Campaign Resource Center [website](#).
- **WashU Center for Public Health Systems Science** released the [Closing the Gap: A Tobacco Control User Guide](#) which focuses on designing, adopting, and implementing commercial tobacco prevention and control strategies with equity in mind.
- **Public Health Law Center** released its [latest resource](#) which offers strategies to counter the Big Tobacco's recent harm reduction narrative to advance commercial tobacco control efforts.

State News

- The Baltimore, **Maryland** county council [passed a bill](#) that prohibits tobacco-related businesses from operating within 1,000 feet of schools, medical facilities, parks, and other smoke shops.

Job Opportunities

[Public Health Program Nurse](#)

New York State
Department of Health
Bureau of Tobacco Control
Albany, NY

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.

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

- The Clarksville city council in **Tennessee** [passed on first reading](#) an ordinance mandating that no smoke shop may be closer than 1,000 feet to a school, park, or religious institution and may not be within 1,500 feet of another smoke shop.
- Atlantic City, **New Jersey** casinos are [losing business to online gaming and new smokefree casinos](#) in New York, and advocates say ending indoor smoking is the fix which casino executives lobby against.
- American Nonsmokers Rights Foundation highlights the [21st year of a strong smokefree ordinance](#) in Austin, **Texas** which cleared the air for bars and music venues.

News

- [The Cigarette Surfboard](#) documentary tells the story of impassioned surfer Taylor Lane who built a functional surfboard with 10,000 cigarette butts collected from California beaches. This project wants Big Tobacco to be held accountable for their ubiquitous toxic plastic waste covering the world's beaches. A portion of ticket purchases will be donated to American Nonsmokers Rights

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 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-

Foundation if you purchase with this [link](#).

Research

- A recent *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* scoping review of tobacco prevention and cessation studies involving people with depression concluded that despite progress in [integrating mental health into tobacco messaging](#), targeted interventions for people with depression remain limited with few studies testing long-term outcomes or used biochemical verification.
- A *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* analysis of pooled data from annual tobacco-related surveys of adults between 2021–2024 in New York found that adults who [experienced frequent mental distress](#) had higher adjusted odds of several nicotine use outcomes and a past-year quit attempt.

based public health practice.



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