

SCLC Communiqué: The Latest on Tobacco Control, Behavioral Health, and Collaboration Efforts

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UCSF Smoking Cessation Leadership Center

Communiqué | December 2017



Recent News

Looking Back at 2017

Director's Corner

By Steven A. Schroeder, MD

The end of a year provides an opportunity to take stock as well as to look forward. Obviously, the most dramatic events in 2017 revolved around the change of administration in our federal government. Although tobacco was not a major feature in those stories, nevertheless, there was still much activity.

The numbers. According to a recent CDC MMWR article citing results from the [2015 National Health Interview Survey, adult cigarette smoking hit a modern low of 15.1%](#).

The elation we felt at learning this news was tempered by the slight increase, provisional 2016 figure of 15.6%, which would still count as the second lowest smoking prevalence rate in the modern era. The CDC data also reaffirmed that smoking is now concentrated among vulnerable populations, most notably those with behavioral health conditions, low educational status, the homeless, those who have been incarcerated, the LGBTQ community, and certain geographic areas (see below). Of note is the fact that similar declines in smoking prevalence and concentrations of smoking among the most vulnerable are occurring now in most developed nations.

[Read the full blog here.](#)

Pennsylvania's State Strategy Session for Tobacco-Free Recovery

A day and a half summit designed to leverage and create new opportunities for tobacco

control and behavioral health initiatives, policies, and interventions.

A selected group of industry leaders, influencers, and advocates were invited to collaborate and design an action plan for behavioral health and smoking cessation in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Tackling a high state smoking prevalence of 37.4% among the behavioral health population, the group discussed, debated and confirmed a target goal supplemented by strategies to decrease smoking rates and smoking-related morbidities.

With representation from the PA Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), pharmacy partners, and the VA to name a few, the amount of passion and dedication from the attendees was inspiring. From dialogue to execution, strategy committees were formed and objectives were established.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Announcements and Resources

- **American Cancer Society Tobacco-free Generation Campus Initiative**
TFGCI addresses a critical need and is being supported by the CVS Health Foundation, as part of their *#BeTheFirst* campaign, a five-year, \$50 million commitment to deliver the first tobacco-free generation-**Deadline: January 15, 2018 by 5 p.m. ET.** To learn more and for application materials, visit www.cancer.org/tfgci. For questions, contact Bidisha Sinha, MPH, at Bidisha.Sinha@cancer.org
- **SCLC Enduring Webinars** now available for credit. [Access the webinar library here.](#)
- **Want to be a leader in your state for behavioral health and smoking? [Apply to become a State Leadership Academy and host your own State State Strategy Session.](#)** Deadline January 15, 2018.

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