

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

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UCSF Smoking Cessation Leadership Center

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Recent News

Wrapping up Recovery Month: Raising Awareness & 3 Best Practices for Smoking and Behavioral Health

A Priority

In the United States, there are 42.5 million people with behavioral health conditions (including those with a mental illness and/or substance use disorder). The yearly health care expenditures for these conditions are estimated to be **\$201 billion**- making them the most costly medical category.


Smoking and Behavioral Health

Smoking and behavioral health are intertwined. Compared with the general population smoking prevalence of 15%, 34 % of persons with behavioral health conditions smoke cigarettes, and as a result, they will die 5 -10 years earlier, mainly from smoking-induced diseases.

[Read the full article here](#)

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New Jersey Launches State Strategy Session for Tobacco and Behavioral Health

The purpose of the state strategy session  was to convene a carefully selected group of public health leaders and stakeholders in New Jersey to work together to find applicable solutions to reduce tobacco use among individuals with behavioral health conditions. The day and a half format began with attendees viewing a comprehensive gallery walk that showed national and state represented data on tobacco-related use, policy, and quality of care for this vulnerable population. This led to the group establishing baseline data points that will be tracked over time to measure progress towards reducing the smoking prevalence. The participants then discussed specific strategies to overcome existing barriers to smoking cessation and prevention as well as ways to engage this vulnerable population.

[Learn more and access the full action plan here](#)

Announcements and Resources

- [Upcoming SCLC Webinar on Wednesday, October 18th: How to Think- Not Feel- About Tobacco Harm Reduction](#)
- [Why Substance Use & Mental Health Treatments Can't Ignore Tobacco](#)
- [FDA's Innovative Plan to Address the Enormous Toll of Smoking](#)
- [State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation \(STATE\) System](#)
- [Mobile App to Quit Smoking](#)
- [Interactive Maps from the National Center for Health in Public Housing](#)
- [Billing Tools: Paying for Primary Care and Behavioral Health Services Provided in Integrated Care Settings](#)
- [Checklist for Reviewing Quitline Services and Activities](#)

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