



a·H·Informer

A news update from Adirondack Health Institute

February 28, 2023

News Headlines

AHI's Clear the Air in the Southern Adirondacks program meets with Senators Daniel G. Stec, Jake Ashby and Assemblymember Matthew Simpson at the Capitol to discuss tobacco control successes and needs

Overall tobacco use in New York State is down, but high rates of smoking among certain communities and vaping among youth persist; funding for the NYS Tobacco Control program is just 1.6% of the state's annual tobacco revenue.

Glens Falls, NY -- [Clear the Air in the Southern Adirondacks](#) (CASA), a partner in the [New York State Tobacco Control Program \(NYS TCP\)](#), recently met with Senators Jake Ashby and Daniel G. Stec, and Assemblymember Mathew Simpson at the state Capitol in Albany to discuss efforts to reduce New Yorkers' tobacco use and smoking-related deaths and disease. CASA representatives shared details of tobacco control progress and areas of continued attention, as statistics show over 28,200 adult New Yorkers still die every year from smoking^[i]. They also stressed that funding for the state's Tobacco Control Program is just 1.6% of the state's annual tobacco revenue^[ii].

The NYS TCP continues to make immense progress in reducing smoking. The average adult smoking rate in New York State is now 12%^[iii], or 1.7 million New Yorkers who smoke, down from more than 23% in 2001^[iv], and the youth smoking rate is down to 2.4%^[v] from 27.1% in 2000^v. Despite the reduced cigarette smoking rate, 280,000 New York youth currently under the age of 18 will die prematurely from smoking^[vi]. And, vaping, or e-cigarette use, is still dangerously high. Nearly one in four high-school-age youth in New York State vape/use e-cigarettes, the most used tobacco product among youth^[vii].

When asked about her experiences related to tobacco marketing CASA's Reality Check Youth Leader, Angie Firneno stated "The way that tobacco marketing is influencing my peers to start using tobacco products is really concerning to me. I find it alarming to think that our generation is still using these products when we have seen how it has hurt our parents. Since vaping has become more popular, there has been a lot of peer pressure for people like me. It's time to take action to create awareness for my generation and generations to come".

The NYS TCP promotes an environment open to change

New York State passed several landmark tobacco control laws in 2020, ending the sale of flavored vape products – including menthol vapes– and the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies statewide; prohibiting tobacco coupons and other discounts; and restricting the exterior display of tobacco product ads near schools. Over the past five years, tobacco control partners have assisted public, affordable and market-rate multi-unit property owners transition over 44,000 multi-unit housing units to be free of tobacco smoke for the health and safety of their residents.

Smoking rates remain high among certain demographic groups; more work is needed to save New Yorkers' lives and improve their health

NYS TCP's policy-driven, cost-effective and evidence-based approaches contributed to a substantial decline in tobacco use. These approaches are now further focused on communities

and populations with high tobacco use rates. Throughout New York State, smoking rates remain high among:

- adults who report frequent mental distress at 19.7%ⁱⁱⁱ,
- adults with less than a high school education, at 19%ⁱⁱⁱ,
- adults with an annual household income of less than \$25,000, at 20%ⁱⁱⁱ,
- adults enrolled in Medicaid, at 22.9%ⁱⁱⁱ, and
- adults living with a disability, at 17.4%ⁱⁱⁱ.

Learn more about [The Human Cost of Tobacco in New York State](#)

New York State tobacco revenue vs. tobacco funding

To combat the deadly impact of smoking, the CDC recommends a \$203 million annual investment in New York State's Tobacco Control Program^[ii]. The state's investment is \$39 million, just 1.6% of the state's annual tobacco revenue of \$2.36 billion^[ii].

New York State's tobacco revenue is a combination of the annual Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) payment of \$737.7 million^[ii] and collection of tobacco excise taxes of \$1.63 billion^[ii]. Under the 1998 MSA, tobacco manufacturers are obligated to pay billions of dollars annually to 46 states, five U.S. territories and the District of Columbia in perpetuity as compensation for taxpayer money that had been spent on tobacco-related diseases and loss to local economies^[viii]. Learn more about [The Economic Reality of Tobacco in New York State](#).

Support is available for New Yorkers who want to quit

The New York State Smokers' Quitline is a confidential service for all New York State residents who wish to overcome tobacco use, including e-cigarettes. In addition, the Quitline encourages teens and young adults (ages 13-24) to text "DROPTHEVAPE" to 88709 to join "This Is Quitting," a free texting support program for help with quitting vaping. Visit nysmokefree.com anytime for more information or call 1-866-NY-QUITS (1-866-697-8487) seven days a week, beginning at 9 a.m.

[i] Research Triangle Institute, The Health and Economic Burden of Smoking in New York, Nov. 2020.

https://health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports/docs/health_and_economic_burden.pdf (Accessed 12/27/22)

[ii] Centers for Disease Control: Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs. Section C: Recommended Funding Level, by State: New York, Page 110.

<https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/stateandcommunity/guides/index.htm> (Accessed 12/27/22)

[iii] BRFSS Number 2022-12 Cigarette Smoking New York State Adults 2020. https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/brfss/reports/docs/2022-12_brfss_cigarette_smoking.pdf (Accessed 12/27/22)

[iv] New York Tobacco Control Program, Cigarette Smoking in New York State reaches historic lows. StatShot Vol. 2, No.10/Oct. 2009

https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports/statshots/volume2/n10_adult_smoking_at_historic_lows.pdf (Accessed 12/27/22)

[v] Bureau of Tobacco Control StatShot Vol. 14, No. 3/Sept. 2021, Milestones in Tobacco

Use. https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports/statshots/volume14/n3_milestones_in_tobacco_control.pdf (Accessed 12/27/22)

[vi] Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, The Toll of Tobacco in New York, Oct. 2022. https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/new_york (Accessed 12/14/2022)

[vii] Centers for Disease Control, More than 2.5 Million Youth Reported E-Cigarette Use in 2022, Oct. 6, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/p1007-e-cigarette-use.html#:~:text=Addressing%20Youth%20Tobacco%20Product%20Use&text=Using%20nicotine%20during%20adolescence%20might,tobacco%20product%20among%20U.S.%20youth.> (Accessed 12/14/22)

[viii] Truth Initiative, Master Settlement Agreement. <https://truthinitiative.org/who-we-are/our-history/master-settlement-agreement> (Accessed 12/15/22)

A new edition of the **Moreau Community Center** newsletter is available.

Click [here](#) to read!

A new edition of the **Family Services Association of Glens Falls, Inc.** newsletter is available.

Click [here](#) to read!



VOLUNTEER
INCOME TAX
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A Tri-County United Way Collaborative

**FREE TAX RETURN
ASSISTANCE**

for families and individuals
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**Daytime, evening, and weekend appointments
are available in Warren, Washington, and
Northern Saratoga counties, January - April**

Events



March 2nd, 2023

**THE
WILD
CENTER**

45 Museum Drive
Tupper Lake, NY
12986



Panel and presentation topics include:

- Food as Medicine
- Innovative Approaches to Food Systems
- Environmental Health

THE
ADIRONDACK FOOD SYSTEM NETWORK
PRESENTS

2023 Food Justice Summit

Feed Back: Food Is Health

Featuring two keynote speakers:



Devon Mihesuah

Cora Lee Beers Price Professor in the
Hall Center for the Humanities at the
University of Kansas



Benita Law-Diao

Licensed Public Health Dietitian

Register now at :

[HTTPS://2023FJS.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://2023fjs.eventbrite.com)

To learn more about the Food Justice Summit, visit <https://ahihealth.org/2023fjs/> or email ahisummit@ahihealth.org

Substance Use Disorder & Narcan Training

General Information Session | Cambridge, NY

Join us!

Learn more about substance use disorder with the Cambridge Community.

Leave with a free Narcan kit after the training.

★ Free fentanyl test strips & deterra packs

Date: March 2, 2023

Time: 6PM - 7:30PM

Location: 57 North Park St
Cambridge, NY

Questions?

Sabrina Herlick

✉ sherlick@ahihealth.org

☎ 518-480-0111 ext. 336

◆ Sponsored by the Village of Cambridge ◆



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Community Resource Day and Job Fair May 11, 2023

Join the **Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce** and the **Saranac Lake Central School District** on May 11, 2023 for the second annual Community Resource Day and Job Fair. The fair will be held at Riverside Park in Saranac Lake from 2:00 - 6:00PM.

Share your job openings and information about your business or organization. This event will be open to the public and students who are looking for full-time, part-time, and seasonal employment and who are looking for general information about our area organizations and resources.

This fair is free to register for and free to attend. To register, click [here!](#)

Questions: Contact the Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce at 518-891-1990 or welcome@slareachamber.org.

SAVE THE DATE FOR
UNITED WAY ADK'S
OLYMPIC SPIRIT GOLF CLASSIC

TUESDAY, JUNE 13TH, 2023

LAKE PLACID GOLF CLUB MOUNTAIN COURSE



MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

Other Information and Resources

Struggling to afford internet service?

Visit AffordableConnectivity.gov to learn more about and apply for the Affordable Connectivity Program.

Addiction and Mental Healthcare Access Assistance

AHI's **CHAMP (Community Health Access to Addiction and Mental Healthcare Project)** program assists individuals and their families with accessing substance use disorder and mental health treatment services. We can help by breaking down barriers to care, including provider network and other health insurance related issues. We serve nine counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, St. Lawrence, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren, and Washington.

CHAMP is a **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** service available to everyone, regardless of insurance coverage, including the uninsured.

Call us at 1.866.872.3740 or visit our [website](#) to for more information.

Information sessions can be scheduled and materials made available upon request – contact us for more details!

Health Insurance Enrollment Assistance

AHI's **EASE (Enrollment Assistance Services and Education) program** assists individuals, families and small business owners enroll in health insurance coverage through the NY State of Health Marketplace. We serve eight counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren, and Washington.

We don't charge and we're not an insurance company. We help clients look at available insurance plans and find out if they're eligible for financial assistance.

[Request an appointment online](#) or call toll-free, **1.866.872.3740**, to make an appointment with a certified enrollment specialist. We'll help to review health insurance choices via phone, for free. To learn more, click [here](#).

*AHI also provides assistance with helping individuals and families resolve issues in [accessing substance use disorder and mental health services](#), **as well as** [care management services](#).*

COVID-19 Resources

For links to various COVID-19 resources for community partners, please visit [AHI's website](#).

Share Your Updates

AHI partners in Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington counties are encouraged to send news items to communications@ahihealth.org to be considered for inclusion in the AHInformer.

This edition and past issues of the newsletter are available at <https://ahihealth.org/ahi-news/ahinformer/>.

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