Hot Topics

Federal Ban on Certain Flavored E-Cigarettes is Not Enough to Protect Youth

The Trump Administration's nationwide ban on certain types of flavored e-cigarettes went into effect this month, however, youth will still be able to access flavored e-cigarettes. According to NBC News, menthol e-cigarettes will remain legal in all forms. In addition, the flavor ban will only apply to pre-filled rechargeable e-cigarettes, like JUUL. Disposable e-cigarette devices in child-friendly flavors will still be openly accessible in gas stations, convenience stores, and online. As such, the ban is unlikely to impact rates of youth e-cigarette usage. Public health experts state that many youth have already moved on to disposable flavored e-cigarettes, such as Puff Bars, which are inexpensive and come in child-friendly flavors like fruit and candy. Read more here.

From the AAP Richmond Center

AAP Section on Tobacco Control Now Accepting Abstract Submissions – Due April 15th

AAP Section on Tobacco Control is seeking abstracts to be considered for presentation at the 2020 AAP National Conference and Exhibition (NCE) in San Diego. We invite you to submit abstracts for poster presentations describing ongoing or completed tobacco-control projects and/or presenting original research findings; abstracts will be presented during the NCE Section on Tobacco Control Program. Abstracts describing...
In the News

Teens Using Loophole in FDA's Flavored E-Cigarette Ban
Due to a policy loophole in the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA's) new flavored e-cigarette ban, adolescents are switching from cartridge-based e-cigarettes like JUUL, to disposable e-cigarettes, such as Puff Bars and Stigs. These disposable devices are sold in youth-appealing flavors, such as Cherry Crush and Unicorn, because the new policy only restricts flavors for closed-system e-liquid cartridges. Disposable e-cigarette devices mimic cartridge-based e-cigarettes but are designed to be used over a few days, and then discarded. They cost less than JUUL yet have similar or even higher nicotine concentrations. Each pod device is pre-charged and pre-filled, and easily accessible to young users. Read more about the flavored e-cigarette ban loophole in this New York Times piece.

New Studies Link E-Cigarette Use to Asthma, COPD
Two new studies link the use of e-cigarettes to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma. In one study, health data that was analyzed from more than 705,000 adults found that e-cigarette use was associated with 75% higher odds of COPD, compared to never using combustible cigarettes. A second study involving 400,000 adults found that the risk of asthma was nearly 40% higher for current e-cigarette users, compared to those who never used combustible cigarettes. For more information about e-cigarettes, please visit the AAP Richmond Center website.

Adults Who Started Smoking Before 21 Less Likely to Quit, Higher Odds of Nicotine Addiction
Adults who started smoking cigarettes fairly regularly before age 21 years had higher odds of nicotine dependence and lower odds of attempting to quit, intending to quit, and quitting successfully than those who started at age 21 or older, according to a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The researchers used data from the 2014-15 Tobacco Use Supplement of the Current Population and found prevalence of onset of regular smoking before age 18, at age 18-20, and at age 21 or older were 50.1%, 33.1%, and 16.8%, respectively. The higher odds of negative health consequences were observed with regular smoking initiation at age 18 to 20 as well as before age 18. The authors state that efforts to prevent regular smoking initiation before age 21 could help prevent lifetime addiction to nicotine and promote smoking cessation later in life. They suggest that Tobacco 21 policy be part of a comprehensive tobacco control approach. Read more.

Smoking, Drinking During Pregnancy Increase Risk of SIDS
A study in The Lancet’s E Clinical Medicine journal provides new data on the relationship between prenatal tobacco and alcohol exposure and future risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Using observational data from over 10,000 women in South Africa and the United States, investigators found that the relative risk for SIDS was 12% higher for infants whose mothers reported both prenatal drinking and smoking beyond the first trimester of pregnancy, when compared with infants who were not exposed to tobacco or alcohol prenatally. The data show that infants prenatally exposed to both alcohol and tobacco were at significantly higher risk of SIDS compared to infants who were unexposed, or those who were exposed to alcohol alone or tobacco alone. Read more here.

Prenatal Smoke Exposure Ups Odds of Bone Fractures in Children
Children whose mothers smoked during pregnancy were more likely to have bone fractures during their first year of life than those without prenatal smoke exposure, according to a study that followed 1.68 million people born in Sweden from 1983-2000. The findings suggest an intrauterine effect of maternal smoking during pregnancy on fractures in offspring during the first year of life. The researchers did not find an association of maternal smoking and risk of fracture in offspring between the ages of 1 and 5 years. While they did find an association of maternal smoking and risk of fracture of offspring later in childhood and up to early adulthood (between the ages of 5 and 32 years), the results were confounded by familial factors shared by siblings. Read more.
Resources and Events

Kick Butts Day is now Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action!
March 18, 2020
This year marks the 25th Kick Butts Day — the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids’ national day of activism that empowers youth to stand out, speak up, and seize control against Big Tobacco. And with this major milestone, effective immediately, this program is now Take Down Tobacco – a 365-day effort with Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action as its premier annual event. This year’s event will be held on March 18th. View the new Take Down Tobacco website, which is filled with resources to help get people involved. Local event registration is open, and activity kits are available while supplies last.

American Lung Association 2020 State of Tobacco Control Report
On January 29th, the American Lung Association (ALA) released its 2020 “State of Tobacco Control”, the ALA’s 18th annual report grading all 50 states, and Washington DC and the federal government, on: Smokefree Air Laws, Tobacco 21 Laws, High Tobacco Taxes, Tobacco Prevention Funding, and Access to Quit Smoking Treatments. Focusing on the continuing vaping epidemic, the report asks the question “Will 2020 be the year lawmakers prioritize public health over the tobacco industry,” and calls for the FDA to more meaningfully exert its authority over the manufacture, marketing and sale of tobacco products. Visit the ALA website for more information on the 2020 State of Tobacco Control and the ALA’s 12-point plan to end the tobacco epidemic.

Register for Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) Meeting
April 29 – May 6, 2020
Philadelphia, PA
Registration is now open for the Pediatric Academic Societies’ (PAS) annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA. The conference will be held April 29 – May 6, 2020. The PAS annual meeting brings together thousands of pediatricians and other health care providers united by a common mission: improve the health and well-being of children worldwide. This international gathering includes researchers, academics, as well as clinical care providers and community practitioners. Presentations cover issues of interest to generalists as well as topics critical to a wide array of specialty and sub-specialty areas. View the PAS website for registration information.

Nicotine Dependence Conference & National Summit on Smokeless Tobacco Prevention 2020
May 18-20, 2020
Mayo Clinic – Rochester, MN
Registration is open for the Nicotine Dependence Conference & National Summit on Smokeless Tobacco Prevention 2020, presented by The Health Education Council and Mayo Clinic. The Summit will give participants the ability to identify up-to-date research on prevalence and relative risks of tobacco, e-cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and other non-combustible tobacco products; discuss clinical strategies for treating tobacco use disorder within the context of rapidly evolving nicotine delivery products; and describe effective models for community and public health interventions to provide accurate education and address the evolving tobacco epidemic. Register and find more information here.

Please feel free to pass this message along to interested parties. To subscribe, unsubscribe, or submit a news item for consideration in this monthly digest, please send an email request to RichmondCenter@aap.org.

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