

Collaborative Efforts to Enhance Inclusive Tobacco Programs for People with Disabilities by the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability (NCHPAD) and Special Olympics (SO)

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Key Findings

No centralized source of information on inclusive tobacco cessation and avoidance programs for people with disabilities is available.

Background

- Adults 18 years and older with cognitive, hearing, mobility, and vision disabilities are twice as likely to use tobacco than those without disabilities (BRFSS, 2021).
- The prevalence of smoking in adults with mobility disabilities is 26% (BRFSS, 2021).
- Tobacco use and/or second-hand smoke exposure among adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) as self-reported by Special Olympics athletes.
 - ✓ Fewer than 6% of Special Olympics athletes report using tobacco.
 - ✓ 48% of Special Olympics athletes report being exposed to second-hand smoke from family and/or friends.
- Exposure to secondhand smoke may be of particular concern for people with IDD and other vulnerable populations.
- There is a need for inclusive programming to serve these vulnerable populations.

Purpose

To determine the availability of inclusive tobacco programming for people with disabilities, disseminate education, and provide technical assistance to public health professionals.

Methods

- The workgroup has done the following:
- Created a needs assessment survey of state and local health departments to determine availability of inclusive tobacco avoidance, prevention and cessation programs and resources.
 - Developed education materials for campaigns.
 - Partnered with CDC and public health professionals to disseminate resources and provide technical assistance.

Some states want to implement inclusive tobacco prevention and cessation programming if funding becomes available.

Results

1. State and local health departments interested in completing the tobacco programming needs assessment survey may access the document through the QR code shown.



2. Graphics from the Tobacco Avoidance and Cessation poster were used with the SOI Great American SmokeOut social media posts. [Tobacco Avoidance and Cessation Poster](#)



3. Identified groups of public health professionals involved in Inclusive Tobacco Programming
 - The Tobacco & Disability Work through the University of Kentucky lead collaborative of states.
 - The NACCHO Tobacco Community of Practice (CoP). A platform for public health departments and other tobacco control entities to connect and share resources, success stories, and challenges.
 - Several state health departments with tobacco control programs with intentionally inclusive aspects.

Data collection on Quit Line use and outcomes by people is needed.

Conclusions

State tobacco and disability support programs are interested in including people with disabilities in tobacco programming. SOI and NCHPAD will commit support through training, resource development, and evaluation of such programming when national funding permits.

Next Steps



Collaboration with NACCHO members to support health departments to make tobacco resources and services more intentionally inclusive.



Continue promoting public awareness by co-sponsoring messaging for events like the Great American SmokeOut.



Bring key partners together to establish a centralized source of information on inclusive tobacco programming for people with disabilities. Disseminate resources through NCHPAD and SOI networks.

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