



Eliminate Tobacco Use Initiative

ELIMINATETOBACCOUSE.ORG

Despite significant declines in Texas over the last several decades, tobacco use continues to claim the lives of 28,000 Texans every year and cost the state \$8.85 billion annually in direct medical costs¹.

According to the latest statistics, **3.067 million (14.4%)** Texas adults continue to smoke or use other forms of tobacco². This is due in part to the fact that tobacco use is a relapsing-remitting condition that most often requires medical intervention to address.

OVERVIEW

The Eliminate Tobacco Use Initiative was founded in 2016 by The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and The University of Texas System to create tobacco-free campus cultures. A collaborative comprised of 14 University of Texas academic institutions and health science centers was formed to implement this initiative.

The initiative touches more than 236,000 students, 21,000 faculty, more than 83,000 health care professionals, researchers, student advisors and support staff and the 200,000 individuals covered under the UT System Select Plan. With the inclusion of 62 additional partnering institutions around Texas and the United States, the initiative has impacted approximately 1.6 million faculty, staff and students.

ELIMINATE TOBACCO USE TEXAS SUMMIT

The Eliminate Tobacco Use Initiative convenes an annual summit addressing the key areas of policy, prevention/education and cessation. All 14 University of Texas institutions, along with key state and national partners and stakeholders, participate in the summit.

Goals:

- Share resources and best practices to strengthen tobacco control efforts
- Explore opportunities to support implementation efforts
- Implement tobacco control actions across college and university campuses

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



UT System becomes tobacco-free

In May 2017, just 18 months after the start of the Eliminate Tobacco Use Initiative, 5 campuses adopted 100% tobacco-free and vape-free campus policies. They joined the other 9 University of Texas academic and health institutions, making UT System the first public university system and largest single employer in Texas to prohibit tobacco use.



T21 passes in San Antonio and the state of Texas

In January 2018, San Antonio became the first city in Texas to raise the minimum legal sales age of tobacco products to 21 years old. The state of Texas Tobacco 21 law went into effect on September 1, 2019. Faculty and staff from University of Texas academic and health institutions served as primary educational resources on both policy initiatives.



Impact reports

The Eliminate Tobacco Use Initiative has highlighted accomplishments each year through the creation of annual impact reports that describe the actions of the policy, prevention and cessation workgroups, key activities, campus success stories and best practices across other colleges, universities and organizations involved in the Eliminate Tobacco Use Initiative.

EXPANSION BEYOND TEXAS

The landscape of tobacco products is always changing; therefore, our work is never complete. Each campus tobacco control champions, task forces and/or committees, as a part of the Eliminate Tobacco Use Initiative, has a strategic action plan which provides guidance and direction to remain vigilant to prevent or assist with the addiction to tobacco and nicotine. The overall goal of the Eliminate Tobacco Use Initiative is expanding beyond the University of Texas System for broader reach across the nation.

The Mid-Atlantic Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit grew out of the Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center attending the 2018 Texas Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit. VCU approached the University of Virginia Cancer Center to join efforts to replicate an inaugural summit in spring 2019. Their annual conference covers a variety of topics, including education and awareness, policy and enforcement, cessation resources and action planning.

The Northeast Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit is hosted by partners involved in the Tobacco-Free For A Healthy New Jersey collaborative. New Jersey colleges and universities are also implementing tobacco and smoke-free initiatives, as well as working towards 100% tobacco free campuses. Their Summit also includes a focus on enhancing their prevention programs and cessation services in various settings.

¹ The Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Texas [online]. 2019. [accessed Apr 17, 2020]. URL: <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/texas>

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Population Health. BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data [online]. 2015. [accessed Apr 17, 2020]. URL: <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/brfssprevalence/>

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For more information on our efforts, assistance with going tobacco-free on your campus and/or to obtain a printed copy of our impact reports, visit eliminatetobaccouse.org or email Endtobacco@mdanderson.org.