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Introduction

History of the Great American Smokeout

The Great American Smokeout (GAS) grew out of a small-town event in Massachusetts in 1971. A movement was sparked when high-school guidance counselor Arthur Mullaney asked people to give up cigarettes for one day and donate the money they would otherwise have spent on cigarettes to a college scholarship fund. In 1974, Lynn Smith, editor of Minnesota's Monticello Times, organized the state's first observance of "D-Day," or "Don't Smoke Day."

Starting in November, 1976, the California Division of the American Cancer Society (ACS) adopted the idea and ultimately designated the event the Great American Smokeout, successfully convincing nearly a million smokers to quit for one day in the event's first year. Soon the event went nationwide under the sponsorship of ACS.

During the next 34 years GAS was celebrated with rallies, parades, stunts, quitting information, and even "cold turkey" menu items in schools, workplaces, Main Streets, and legislative halls throughout the US.

GAS has been chaired by some of America's most popular celebrities, including Sammy Davis, Jr., Edward Asner, Natalie Cole, Larry Hagman, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, the first "spokespud" Mr. Potato Head, and many others.

With hard work, dedication, and commitment, California and the nation has come a long way towards a tobacco-free life for all.

We hope this information is both useful and motivating to you and those you work with.

- The CYAN College Project & COUGH Student Leaders







Tabling for GAS

Tabling, or hosting a table with free give aways, quit kits, food, etc. is a great way to engage and educate students on campus. Often times colleges and universities will allow tabling in high traffic areas on campus such as the student union, library, student housing, gym, food courts, and near larger lecture halls. Below are some tips on hosting a table for the Great American Smokeout.



5 Quick TIPS for Tabling

- **1. Signage** Create a large sign that can be visible to the campus community before they walk up to your table.
- **2. Interactive** Games, trivia questions, prizes, surveys, and other interactive activities can make a visit to your table worthwhile.
- **3. Engage** Remember to be physically and mentally present don't get distracted with your phone or personal conversations. If you look busy, people might be hesitant to talk to you.
- **4. Empathy** Be empathetic to individuals who use tobacco, most already know the behavior is unhealthy to them and others around them.
- **5. Quit Kits** Considering having a "build your own quit kit" station at your table.

Other GAS Ideas

Other events that can be done during GAS or year-round!

- **1. Tobacco product waste clean-up** around campus and surrounding areas.
- 2. Support Group Sessions: Establish regular support group sessions for students and faculty who are trying to quit smoking. These sessions can provide a safe and non-judgmental space for sharing experiences, challenges, and success stories.
- **3. Peer Mentorship Program:** Establish a peer mentorship program where individuals who have successfully quit smoking are paired with those who are currently trying to quit. Peer support can be very effective in the quitting process.
- **4. Pledge Wall:** Set up a "Tobacco-Free Pledge Wall" where attendees can publicly commit to quitting or supporting those who are trying to quit. This wall can serve as a visible reminder of their commitment.





5. Host a forum on campus to discuss the college smoke/tobacco-free policy or general tobacco-related issues.

6. Public Service Announcement:

Work with campus media production to create a Public Service Announcement around promoting tobacco treatment services that are available to the campus community.

Talking to Individuals Who Use Tobacco on Campus

It can be intimidating to approach a stranger let alone begin a conversation about their tobacco use, but research shows that advising individuals to quit using tobacco increases their chances of a future quit attempt. Remember that while they may not want to act right at that moment, a simple conversation with them will increase their likelihood of success in the future.

Things You Can Say

"Are you familiar with the Great American Smokeout?"

"Each year the American Cancer Society hosts an event called the Great American Smokeout. It's designed to support people who use tobacco in quitting, when they are ready. We walking around campus today to let people know that they can get free quit kits and resources to support quitting and vaping."

"Can I share some resources for you to support quitting tobacco for when you're ready to quit?"

"Have you ever considered or tried to quit using tobacco? It's okay if you haven't but we wanted to make sure you are aware of free resources for when you may be ready to try."

"Kick it California is a free quitline where you can talk to a counselor on the phone or via an app about quitting tobacco."

Quit Kits



For many colleges and universities, Quit Kits have proven to be a very useful tool for supporting quit attempts. Quit Kits can be as elaborate or as simple as you see fit!

CYAN supports colleges and universities by providing Quit Kits that are free and available for use year-round. Although these kits would need to be assembled upon receiving, all materials will be delivered to you! We encourage colleges and universities to get creative and tailor the Quit Kits to their liking and the needs of the campus.

Quit Kit Checklist

This year, we preserved the eco-friendly items from last year to reduce plastic waste. We also continued to offer the sugar-free alternative to accommodate various preferences. Additionally, we ordered a new stress-relief tool, now available as a textured sticker, designed to help alleviate stress and anxiety.

Quit Kit materials are the following:

- 1. Plastic bags
- 2. Lemon/Orange Water Enhancers
- 3. Lollipops
- 4. Pens
- 5. Quit brochure (type varies by population)
- 6. Notepads
- 7. Texture Stickers
- 8. Mint toothpicks
- 9. Tea Bags



Whether you choose to mimic CYAN Quit Kits or become creative with your own, know that Quit Kits are a wonderful resource for college students trying to quit smoking, vaping, and tobacco and a great conversation starter!

Other items you can include in the Quit Kits include: water bottles, mints or other hard candy, information about local quit resources, sunflower seeds, silly putty, stress balls or sticks, and coupons for free Nicotine Replacement Therapies (NRTs) if available at the Health Center.

Engaging with Other Campus Organizations



Collaboration is key to really promote tobacco cessation on college and university campuses. Here are some strategies for connecting with your campus administration and student clubs or organizations.



Campus Administration and Student Government

- Collaborate with your administration and/or campus' strategic communications office to create GAS email and social media communication that can be posted to the campus community.
- Collaborate with Student Government to promote campus tobacco treatment services for the month of November or the date of the event.

Student Health Centers

- Reach out to the student health center to learn if they ask patients about their tobacco usage at intake. If they do, encourage the student health center staff provide them with cessation information, Kick It California (formerly CA Smokers' Helpline) and quit kits.
- Ask your student health center if they are willing to post quit messages on their website and social media pages on and around GAS. An assortment of social media messages are available at www. cyanonline.org/tools1/#digitalmedia.

Clubs and Organizations

- Work with Student Life director(s) to organize a quit contest between campus clubs and organizations.
- Collaborate with student organizations to promote GAS events during homecoming or other campus wide events in the month of November.
- Create a campus-wide design contest for GAS incentives such as t-shirts, stress balls, etc.







Residential Housing

- Collaborate with Housing to provide information and training to Residential Advisors (RAs) about available campus and/or community cessation services.
- Have RAs host a party on GAS where tobacco users can come by for support, help, Quit Kits, food and other activities.
- Provide residential halls with flyers on available campus and/or community cessations services.



International Centers

- Collaborate with International Center to provide information about campus and community cessation services to international students
- Create infographics on tobacco treatment services in different languages
- Collaborate with International Center to provide focus groups with your campus' international students to gain more information on views associated with smoking and tobaccouse, ways to quit, and how to support students feel comfortable with any smoke or tobaccofree policies your campus may have.



Addressing Tobacco-Related Disparities on Campus



When it comes to tobacco treatment, we understand that one size does not fit all. While tobacco product use affects us all, disparities among tobacco use are significantly prevalent in some California communities. In the next few pages, you will find useful information on addressing tobacco-related disparities on your campus. For more information on how tobacco companies market to California's diverse communities, visit

https://tobaccofreeca.com/story-of-inequity



African American and Black

African Americans have been significantly targeted with menthol cigarette advertising in predominately black neighborhoods and in publications that are popular with black audiences. It is because of this that menthol cigarettes are a big reason why African American and Black communities have experienced the greatest burden of tobacco-related death and disease of any racial or ethnic group in the United States.

Tobacco Use and Quit Behavior

- About 85% of African Americans who smoke cigarettes use a mentholated product.
- African American youth and young adults are seen to have greater odds of current use of little cigars and cigarillos.
- In California, 10.2% of African American high school students currently using a tobacco product.
- African American menthol smokers have a lower rate of quitting than non-menthol smoking African Americans.

Partnering with African American/Black Student Organizations

- Educate students on industry tactics and history of targeting African American/Black communities.
- Provide resources to quit, reassure students that quitting is a marathon, not a race.
- Invite students to support efforts to end the burden of tobacco on the African American/Black community by advocating for comprehensive tobacco-free initiatives, such as smoke/tobacco-free campus policies and policies that prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco, including menthol.

Resources

- African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council www.savingblacklives.org
- AMPLIFY amplify.love

American Indian

American Indians and Alaska Natives use tobacco products more than any other racial or ethnic group in the US. However, it's important to mention that use of tobacco products, or commercial tobacco, is different than the use of sacred or traditional tobacco. For some Native American communities, traditional tobacco is a symbol for peace and healing. It is also considered a sacred gift of the earth and is used for medicinal and spiritual purposes. Commercial tobacco use should be the focus for this community as the tobacco industry has exploited their traditions for their benefit.

Tobacco Use and Quit Behavior

- Approximately 1 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native adults currently smoke cigarettes.
- Close to 14% of American Indian and Alaska Native youth report current tobacco product use.
- Difficulty to quit smoking is also seen in the community with an estimated 31% of adults reporting the desire to quit. This is significantly lower than our other ethnic communities.

Partnering with American Indian Student Organizations

- Meet with American Indian groups and share information on how the tobacco industry has targeted their community. It's also important to acknowledge the difference between commercial tobacco and traditional tobacco.
- Share resources on how commercial tobacco negative impacts Native American community members.
- Share free resources to promote quit attempts. When discussing ways to quit, be sure acknowledge the importance of traditional tobacco and develop a quitting plan that focuses on commercial tobacco.

Resources

- National Native Network keepitsacred.itcmi.org
- Tribal Community Coordinating Center ca-tccc.org

Asian American, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders

In general, Asian Americans have the lowest cigarette smoking rates in comparison to our other priority groups; however, these rates vary within subgroups. When we say Asian American and Pacific Islanders, we are really talking about Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) which is a diverse group representing over 100 different languages and 50 countries. Similar to other priority populations, the tobacco industry has a history of target marketing Asian/Pacific Islander communities. Internal tobacco industry documents reveal a tobacco executive calling Asian/Pacific Islander communities "a potential gold mine" for their profits.

Tobacco Use and Quit Behavior

- In 2020, 5.7% of Asian American high schoolers and 14.6% of Pacific Islander youth reported current cigarette tobacco use. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander youth have the highest rate of current tobacco use among any racial and ethnic group.
- Although e-cigarette use in the Asian American young adult community is lower than the general average in California, 10.5% of Asian American young adults report e-cigarette use.
- Asian American and Pacific Islander college students tend to be light, non-daily tobacco users compared to other populations.
- In a 2017 study, approximately 70% of Asian Americans who reported current daily smoking expressed interest in quitting tobacco.

Partnering with AANHPI Student Organizations

- Educate student organizations on industry strategies to market tobacco products to AANHPI communities.
- Share disaggregated data on tobacco use among AANHPI community members.
- Promote free tobacco treatment services, including Asian-language tobacco treatment resources provided by Kick It California (www.asiansmokersquitline.org).

Resources

 Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy, and Leadership (APPEAL) appealforhealth.org

International Students

For many colleges and universities, international students' makeup a portion of the student body and the concept of smoking or tobacco use may be different between different cultures and countries. It's not uncommon for international students to have higher tobacco use rates than domestic students due to higher rates of tobacco use in their country of origin. Additionally, tobacco use may be interpreted in different ways for those coming for countries outside of the US.

Partnering with International Student Centers

- Work with your campus' International Center (if applicable) to provide workshops or infographics that will familiarize international students on the smoke/tobacco-free policies on your campus.
- Provide tobacco prevention and treatment resources in languages other than English.
- For students who may want to limit their tobacco use or quit entirely, be sure not to exclude any cultural associations with tobacco use as you assist in their quit plan.
- Scroll back up to page 11 for additional ideas on working with International Centers.



Latinx

Although the Latinx community has one of the lowest smoking rates with 13.7%, studies have found that smoking prevalence varies greatly among subgroups from specific regions or countries. For instance, the Puerto Rican community has among one of the highest smoking rates in comparison to those of Dominican descent having the lowest.

Tobacco Use and Quit Behavior

- In 2020, 8% of California Latinx youth reported current tobacco use.
- E- Cigarette is also becoming one of the most commonly use tobacco product among Hispanic/Latinx high school students.
- For our Latinx community, the odds of receiving resources and advise on quitting were lower than their
 white counterparts. Therefore, GAS events at your campus/community are a great first step to getting our
 Latinx students who want to quit, information on how to quit, and staff members that can help them on
 their quitting journey.

Partnering with Latinx Student Organization

- Educate student groups on how the tobacco industry has targeted Latinx communities through partnerships with Latinx organizations, sponsorship of community events, and targeted marketing.
- Share tobacco treatment resources and motivate quit attempts.

Resources

Latino Coordinating Center for a Tobacco-Free California - healthcollaborative.org/hlcc/

LGBTQ

The LGBTQ community has historically experienced disparities that range from societal influences, as well as discrimination. Tobacco companies have capitalized on this mistreatment and have promoted allyship through targeted advertisements. This has contributed to tobacco-use disparities among this community.

Tobacco Use and Quit Behavior

- There are significantly higher rates of tobacco use in the LGBTQ community than in comparison to those that identify as heterosexual. Transgender youth currently used tobacco products 4 times higher than cisgender youth.
- E-cigarette use is also trending significantly higher in the LGBTQ community. Transgender youth are currently using e-cigarettes 3 times higher than cisgender youth.
- When offering quitting resources to LGBTQ students, remember the intersectionality that students are experiencing daily. Quit plans maybe need to be more comprehensive than other priority populations and include additional resources for students to thrive in guitting.

Partnering with LGBTQ Student Organizations

- Invite student organizations to participate in educating individuals on the burden of commercial tobacco on LGBTQ community members by sharing social media messages. An assortment of messages and videos can be found on the We Breathe website at californialgbtqhealth.org/about-us/we-breathe/.
- Educate student organizations on how tobacco impacts the LGBTQ community.
- Share free tobacco treatment resources with student organizations.

Resources

We Breathe - californialgbtqhealth.org/about-us/we-breathe/



The tobacco industry aggressively targets individuals living in rural communities with cigarette and smokeless tobacco marketing. As a result, rural Californians have higher rates of tobacco use, are more likely to start smoking at an earlier age, and are more likely to suffer from higher rates of lung cancer than individuals living in urban communities. Additionally, rural areas commonly have fewer laws preventing youth access to tobacco, less protection from breathing secondhand smoke, and decreased access to local tobacco treatment services.

Tobacco Use Behavior

- Adults that live in rural areas smoke at a rate of 16.6% compared to 11.6% of adults that live in urban areas.
- Similar to adults, rural youth have higher rates of cigarette and smokeless tobacco use than their peers in urban counties.

Engaging Rural Young Adults on Campus

- Promote quitting of all tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco products. Be careful not to limit cessation messages and services to "smoking cessation" or "quit vaping".
- Distribute educational materials on all forms of tobacco use, including smoking, vaping, and smokeless.
- Educate students on new nicotine pouch products and their health consequences.
- If your campus isn't smoke/tobacco-free, invite students to share their support for a stronger policy by signing a petition, letter of support, etc.

Resources

Rural Initiatives Strengthening Equity (RISE) - ca-rise.org

Student Veterans

Military community members have significantly higher rates of tobacco use than civilian populations. This is due to the tobacco industry influencing use by ensuring products can be sold at discounted rates on military installations as well as integrating tobacco use into military culture. Further, service members and Veterans are more likely to suffer from a mental health condition associated with their service and tobacco products are commonly used to self-medicate. As individuals leave the military and transition to colleges and universities, campuses have an opportunity to support Student Veterans in quitting tobacco.

Tobacco Use and Quit Behavior

- Tobacco use varies by branch of service. Of all branches of the military, members of the Marine Corps reported the highest percentage of smokers.
 STUDENT VETERAN TOBACCO USE
- Approximately 20% of military personnel reported using smokeless tobacco, with Marine Corps reporting the highest rate of smokeless tobacco use.
- And just like their civilian peers, quitting can be difficult and with smoke and tobacco-free policies on campuses, Student Veterans may need extra support on quitting. Be sure to be patient with them as they navigate civilian life, quitting, and academics.

Partnering with Student Veteran Centers

- Educate Center staff on the high rates of tobacco use among service members and Student Veterans.
- Encourage staff to display and distribute prevention and tobacco treatment resources in the Center.
- Support partnership between the Student Veteran Center and Student Health Center to ensure Student Veterans are encouraged to visit Student Health for free support quitting tobacco.

Resources

Smoke-Free Vet - veterans.smokefree.gov

Social Media Tips and Messages





Tips for Posting Social Media

#Hashtags!

Be sure to always include the same hashtag when posting about your campus' GAS event(s). Using #greatamericansmokeout #GAS #quittobacco #quitvaping #quitdate #youcanquit is a great way to reach young people, but you can get creative too! Feel free to incorporate campus-specific hashtags to make the posts feel more branded to your campus and student body.

Post Across Platforms!

You want to cast a wide net with you GAS social media, so don't limit yourself to one social media platform. Post content across platforms and unite them with your hashtags. You can share these posts on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and TikTok to increase reach.

Link to a Quit Resource!

Always be sure to include a quit resource with your post. This can be a campus website, health center, or CYAN's quit tobacco page and digital quit kit, which are available in both English and Spanish. It's also helpful to link this website in your bio so young people can just click on the link instead of copy/paste. We suggest adding (link in bio) in the text of your post(s) so young people know they can click the link in your profile.

Ready. Set. Post!

Below are instructions for posting the Great American Smokeout 2023 social media. Each post has a quit tip and directs young people to CYAN's digital quit kit.

Step One: Select a Great American Smokeout post.

Step Two: Copy and paste the text below, or feel free to create your own text.

Step Three: Add the #hashtags Step Four: Link to a quit resource.

Step Four: Post!



Pick a Date to Quit: Setting a quit date means you are serious. Circle it on your calendar, put it in your phone, tell your friends, and do something for yourself to mark the day. For free and anonymous support: cyanonline.org/quit-tobacco (link in bio). #greatamericansmokeout #GAS2023 #quitdate #quitvaping #quittobacco #youcanquit #smokefreecampus #vapefreelife #tobaccofreelife #myquitjourney #vapefree #tobaccoquittips



Know Your Why: Knowing why you are quitting will help you better manage the urge to vape or use tobacco. Make a list of why you want to quit: to improve your mental health, to save money, to set a good example for younger siblings, to breathe and exercise with ease, or to be able to focus better during classes. Write them all down and circle back to them when you are having a tough moment. For free and anonymous support: cyanonline. org/quit-tobacco (link in bio). #greatamericansmokeout #GAS2023 #quitdate #quitvaping #quittobacco #youcanquit #smokefreecampus #vapefreelife #tobaccofreelife #myquitjourney #vapefree #tobaccoguittips



Identify Your Triggers: Start to think about and write down what makes you more likely to vape or use tobacco. Is it being around friends who vape? Drinking alcohol or caffeine? When you feel stressed or anxious? Driving? Once you know the things you usually do when you vape or use tobacco or the things that make you want to, create a plan to do something different in that situation. For example, when I feel stressed and want to vape, I will take five deep breaths to calm down. For free and anonymous support: cyanonline.org/quit-tobacco (link in bio). #greatamericansmokeout #GAS2023 #quitdate #quitvaping #quittobacco #youcanquit #smokefreecampus #vapefreelife #tobaccofreelife #myquitjourney #vapefree #tobaccoquittips

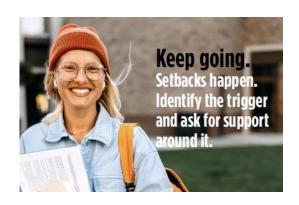


Build your Support Team: Quit attempts are more successful with a support team. Tell a friend or family member that you are quitting and text or call them whenever you have cravings. Download and use the free quit apps or text/call Kick It California. You don't have to do this alone - there is support! For free and anonymous support: cyanonline.org/quit-tobacco (link in bio). #greatamericansmokeout #GAS2O23 #quitdate #quitvaping #quittobacco #youcanquit

#smokefreecampus #vapefreelife #tobaccofreelife #myquitjourney #vapefree #tobaccoquittips



Be Prepared with Healthy Snacks: PPart of quitting means breaking your hand and mouth fixation. Healthy, crunchy snacks are one way to address this. Stock up on seeds, nuts, apples, carrots, beef jerky, and other healthy snacks that are easy to grab. For free and anonymous support: cyanonline.org/quit-tobacco (link in bio). #greatamericansmokeout #GAS2023 #quitdate #quitvaping #quittobacco #youcanquit #smokefreecampus #vapefreelife #tobaccofreelife #myquitjourney #vapefree #tobaccoquittips



Keep Going: Quitting is a process, not an event and it's normal to have setbacks during your quit attempt. Slip-ups happen and are an opportunity to learn from the challenge and make a stronger quit plan. Identify the trigger and as for support around it. For free and anonymous support: cyanonline.org/quit-tobacco (link in bio). #greatamericansmokeout #GAS2023 #quitdate #quitvaping #quittobacco #youcanquit

#smokefreecampus #vapefreelife #tobaccofreelife
#myquitjourney #vapefree #tobaccoquittips



Today is The Great American Smokeout (GAS)! Quitting vaping and tobacco products is the single BEST decision you can make for your health! Deciding to quit can feel overwhelming, but if quitting is something you've been thinking about START HERE: cyanonline.org/quit-tobacco (link in bio). Our free and anonymous Digital Quit Kit has all the resources, tips, and tools to help you be successful on your quit journey! #greatamericansmokeout #GAS #quitdate #quitvaping #quittobacco #youcanquit #smokefreecampus #vapefreelife #tobaccofreelife #myquitjourney #vapefree #tobaccoguittips

Tobacco Treatment Resources



CYAN's Quit Tobacco Page for Youth and Young Adults

www.cyanonline.org/quit-tobacco

This webpage includes quit tips and youth/young adult-friendly tobacco cessation resources including links to apps, website, and a downloadable digital quit kit. The site is available in English and Spanish.

Kick It California

www.kickitca.org

Kick It California, formerly the California Smokers' Helpline, offers free counseling and resources to individuals interested in quitting tobacco. The website includes information on quitting smoking, vaping, and all tobacco products. Resources are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

You Can Quit 2

www.ycq2.org

You Can Quit 2 is a program designed for military personnel, including Student Veterans, to gain access to free tobacco treatment resources. The site includes an assortment of tools and resources to support quitting, including a live chat feature.

This is Quitting

www.truthinitiative.org/thisisquitting

This is Quitting is the Truth Initiative's free cessation program to support youth and young adults in quitting vaping. Students can text DITCHVAPE to 88709 or enter their mobile phone numbers on the website for free support quitting.



The California Youth Advocacy Network (CYAN) is dedicated to supporting youth and young adults by advocating for a commercial tobacco-free California.

We provide public health professionals and young people with the tangible tools for action to mobilize a powerful statewide movement.

Our staff is committed to changing the commercial tobacco use culture in California's K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and all areas of the youth and young adult community.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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© 2023, California Youth Advocacy Network. This material was made possible by funds received from the California Department of Public Health, under contract #19-10235.