



Tobacco News

Baltimore Files First-ever Cigarette Litter Lawsuit

The City of Baltimore filed a lawsuit that will hold cigarette companies accountable for cleanup costs associated with tobacco litter. This is the first ever litter lawsuit filed against cigarette manufacturers.



Each year, Baltimore spends \$32 million to collect more than 2,600 tons of litter which includes an estimated \$5.3 million spent on cigarette filter litter. Cigarette filters are non-biodegradable and can leach substances like heavy metals, ammonia, formaldehyde, and benzene into the water and soil. These chemicals can remain in the environment for decades.

Although biodegradable cigarette filters exist, cigarette manufacturers have opted to use non-biodegradable filters because

customers prefer the non-biodegradable filters. Additionally, companies have chosen not to place warnings on cigarette packages regarding proper disposal of these cigarette filters due to fears that these warnings would reduce sales.

- [Full Article](#) by Baltimore City website

FDA Issues Warnings on Youth-appealing E-cigs



The FDA has issued warning letters to firms selling unauthorized e-cigarette products.

These companies have been manufacturing e-cigarettes disguised as toys, food, or popular cartoon characters which target the youth. The unauthorized products include e-cigarettes that are designed to look like glow sticks, Nintendo Game Boys, and walkie-talkies, among others.

- [Full Article](#) by FDA

Announcements & Events

Upcoming Events

December 5-9

- [MD Anderson Certified Tobacco Treatment Training Program](#); **Virtual**; **Registration required.**

December 6

- [CATCH My Breath In-service](#) – **Webinar; 4:30-5:30 p.m. ET | Registration Required**

December 7

- [88th Texas Legislative Session-Federal and State Tobacco Updates](#); **Virtual**; **12pm-1pm CT**

December 13

- [Being in the Constant Seat of Learning: The Importance of Centering Equity in the Work You Do](#) ; **Webinar; 2:30 p.m. ET | Registration Required**

January 10

- [The Dangerous Combination of Menthol and Vaping](#); **Virtual; 1pm-2pm CT**

We want to hear from you!

Our tobacco coordinator provides support to community stakeholders regarding tobacco prevention and cessation efforts. This includes conducting presentations on tobacco and other products, connecting partners to resources and other opportunities to promote tobacco cessation, providing technical support on creating tobacco-free policies, and many more.

If you have any needs regarding tobacco/vaping prevention and control or would like to collaborate on a project, please feel free to contact him.

Additionally, if you have any events and announcements that you want included in our next issue, please reach out. The monthly newsletter is issued every first week of the month so please send your announcements/events accordingly.

Julian Laude III, MPH, CHES

Regional Tobacco Coordinator, PHR 6/5 South
Texas Department of State Health Services

Public Health Region 6/5 S

Phone: (713) 767-3271

Cell: (832) 474-5836

julian.laude@dshs.texas.gov

December Spotlight

What is Thirdhand Smoke?

We've all heard about the dangers of secondhand smoke, but did you know that there is such a thing as thirdhand smoke? While secondhand smoke is the smoke from a tobacco product or exhaled by a smoker, thirdhand smoke is the chemical residue that is left behind on clothes, furniture, walls, and other surfaces after someone smokes.

Many chemicals in thirdhand smoke are toxic and can harm you and your loved ones, especially children. People can be exposed to these toxic chemicals when you put fingers or objects polluted by thirdhand smoke into their mouths or if they breathe in the chemical particles when they are in the air. Thirdhand smoke can also be absorbed through the skin that has come into contact with contaminated surfaces.

Aside from the health effects, thirdhand smoke can also affect finances. Homes, cars, carpets, and other furniture lose their value when contaminated by thirdhand smoke and it is expensive to pay for cleaning or renovation. So, what can you do to reduce or prevent exposure?

Here are some tips for reducing exposure if you believe that an indoor environment is polluted with thirdhand smoke.

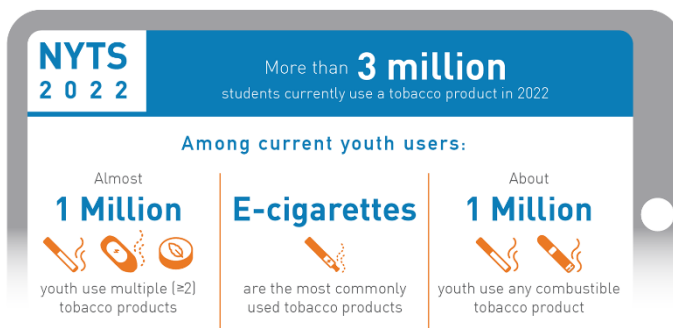
- People who smoke can carry tobacco residue into your home on their skin, hair, and clothes, even if they always smoke outside. Encourage them to shower and change into clean clothes when coming inside after smoking.
- If you have items that came from a smoker's home, especially clothes, toys, rugs, or blankets, thoroughly wash them or consider discarding them.
- You may be able to reduce thirdhand smoke in your home by (1) opening windows to air out rooms each week, (2) regularly wiping surfaces with a diluted white vinegar solution, (3) frequent dusting, and (4) weekly vacuuming with a HEPA filter.
- Regularly wash your child's blankets, bedding, and toys.

For more information on thirdhand smoke, its effects, and how to prevent exposure, please visit:

<https://thirdhandsmoke.org/about/what-is-ths/>

Latest in Research

Results of the 2022 National Youth Tobacco Survey



The FDA and CDC released federal data on youth tobacco use in a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) last November. In contrast with an earlier report on youth e-cigarette use, this release reports findings on All Tobacco Products being used by US youth.

According to the report, more than 3 million students currently use a tobacco product in 2022. Use of combustible tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, etc.) has been reported by about 1 million students. Almost 1 million (960,000) students use multiple tobacco products. E-cigarettes remain the most common products used by this age group.

-[Full report](#) from FDA

Vaping Prevention Ads Help Reduce Tobacco use among US Adolescents

A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association looked at how the “Real Cost” vaping prevention campaign affected US adolescents. The randomized clinical trial divided 1514 adolescents into a control group and two experimental groups that were each shown three 30-second online video ads from the Real Cost campaign each week for 3 weeks.

After the 3-week study, participants were asked to complete a survey which measured their susceptibility to vaping as well as susceptibility to smoking cigarettes. The study found that adolescents who were exposed to the anti-vaping ads were less susceptible to both vaping and smoking compared to the control group. They also had less positive attitudes towards vaping and smoking compared to control. For more information on the Real Cost Campaign, please visit their [website](#).

-[Full Article](#) from JAMA Network



TEXAS
Health and Human Services
Texas Department of State
Health Services

Tobacco UPDATE

An Update on Tobacco Control
and Prevention Activities
in Region 6/5S

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