

Improved State Surveillance to Inform and Educate New Hampshire and other State Tobacco Cessation Programs

In New Hampshire, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS, 2015) reveals that adults with cognitive limitations are significantly more likely to smoke (52%) than adults without cognitive limitations (32%). However, survey items on the BRFSS, like the American Community Survey and other national surveys, fail to distinguish between behavioral health and intellectual disability. This makes it difficult to understand disparities and target trainings and technical assistance for appropriate populations.

To address the issue, the New Hampshire Disability & Public Health Project (NH DPH) partnered with the Tobacco Prevention & Cessation Program (TPCP) and the state's tobacco quitline vendor, National Jewish Health (NJH), to include disability screening questions on their quitline intake form. Three questions were added on August 1, 2017, and will be part of intake for the next three years:

1. Do you think you have a condition that makes it difficult in general for you to learn? (This includes attention problems [ADD], hyperactivity [ADHD], dyslexia, and others.)
2. Do you have a developmental disability or disorder? (This may include Down syndrome, autism, or Asperger syndrome, intellectual disabilities, Cerebral Palsy, as well as other conditions.)
3. Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs? (Included to determine quitline use among NH residents with mobility limitations.)

This is the first time disability information will be available for NH tobacco prevention efforts. NH DPH will analyze data gained from the intake questionnaire use the results to target training and technical assistance in several ways. For example:

- Educate TPCP about patterns of quitline use among people with intellectual disabilities and mobility limitations, an important indicator of the inclusiveness and accessibility of the program;
- Help TPCP develop and disseminate inclusive messaging wherever disparities are discovered; and
- Partner with TPCP to present findings at the North American Quitline Consortium conference, an annual event to exchange and disseminate the latest research, information and practices related to the promotion and delivery of quitline services.

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Institute on Disability/UCED

