

Center of Excellence Overview

Launched in July 2014 by CAI, the Center of Excellence for Health Systems Improvement for a Tobacco-Free New York is setting an aggressive course of action to work with 10 regional contractors across New York State to support health systems change to ensure that every tobacco user is screened, offered, and receives timely tobacco dependence treatment, if desired. The project prioritizes health systems and organizations that serve populations for which smoking prevalence rates have not decreased in recent years:

- ▲ New Yorkers with low incomes
- ▲ New Yorkers with less than a high school education
- ▲ New Yorkers who report having serious mental illness

Systems-Level Improvements Target Vulnerable Populations

While New York State has made significant progress in reducing tobacco use, nearly 2.1 million adult New Yorkers still smoke, and every year thousands of kids under 18 become new daily smokers.

There has been almost no reduction in smoking rates among populations with low income, less than a high school diploma, and/or poor mental health. These vulnerable populations require systems-level medical interventions to ensure adequate full access to evidence-based tobacco dependence counseling and pharmacology.

Tobacco contributes to many chronic illnesses and serious medical conditions. For this reason, every encounter at which a patient is not screened for tobacco use and assisted in accessing treatment, if desired, represents a missed opportunity to help the patient live a healthier life and reduce health care spending.

The Center of Excellence for Health Systems Improvement

In addition to developing tools and resources and delivering training and technical assistance to regional contractors, the COE for HSI convenes a Statewide Stakeholder Committee and an Advisory Committee to bring leaders committed to the vision of a tobacco-free New York together to inform systems change efforts on the state-wide and regional levels. These efforts assist the COE for HSI in promoting a policy environment that will favor the increased availability and coverage of evidenced-based treatments for all New Yorkers.

AT A GLANCE

- ▲ Outcomes-focused capacity building services to 10 regional contractors across New York
- ▲ Supporting health systems improvement to ensure every tobacco user is offered and receives tobacco dependence treatment
- ▲ Funded by the New York State Department of Health and established in July 2014

TOBACCO FACTS

- ▲ 28,000 New Yorkers die every year as a result of tobacco use
- ▲ 600,000 residents are afflicted with a serious disease as a result of smoking in New York
- ▲ Tobacco remains the leading cause of preventable disease and death nationwide
- ▲ According to The American Cancer Society smoking contributes to 80% and 90% of lung cancer deaths in women and men, respectively.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Center of Excellence for Health Systems Improvement, visit the website: www.tobaccofree.org or contact Project Director, Michael Graziano at mgraziano@caiglobal.org