



Tobacco News

FDA Files Civil Money Penalty Complaints Against E-cigarette Makers

The FDA has filed civil money penalty (CMP) complaints against four tobacco product manufacturers for producing and selling e-liquids without marketing authorization. It is illegal to manufacture, sell or distribute e-liquids that have not been authorized by the FDA. FDA had previously sent warnings to these companies but those warning fell on deaf ears as they continue to distribute their unauthorized tobacco products. The four manufacturers are:

- BAM Group LLC doing business as VapEscape
- Great American Vapes LLC doing business as Great American Vapes

- The Vapor Corner Inc. doing business as Vapor Corner Inc., The Vapor Corner, and Vapor Corner
- 13 Vapor Co. LLC doing business as 13 Vapor

The maximum CMP amount for a single violation relating to tobacco products is \$19,192 which the FDA will be seeking from these four companies.



“These latest enforcement activities are part of a comprehensive approach to actively identify violations and to deter illegal conduct,” said Dr. King. “These actions should be a wakeup call that all tobacco product manufacturers—big or small—are required to obey the law.”

In recent year, the FDA has ramped up efforts to hold tobacco companies accountable for their products. The agency has issued more than 550 warning letters to companies between January 2021 through February 2023.

Full Articles: [FDA](#)

Announcements & Events

Upcoming Events

March 14

- [Impact of Vaping Prevention Advertisements on US Adolescents](#); **Virtual**; **12:30pm-1:30pm ET**

March 22

- [TX Say What!- Youth Advocacy Training: Sharing your Story to Create Change](#); **Virtual**; **6-7pm CT**

March 31

- [Tobacco-Free Kids Day](#)

April 6

- [Building Strong Partnerships: Utilizing Collaboration Between Schools and Clinicians to Address Tobacco Use and Secondhand Smoke](#); **Webinar**; **11am-12pm CT**

April 22

- [TX Say What Action Summit](#); **Kemah, TX**; **FREE to join**. **Register by April 10, 2023**. **See next page for more information**

April 27-28

- [Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit](#); **UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX**/**Virtual options**;

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.

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ELIMINATE TOBACCO USE | TEXAS SUMMIT

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

APRIL 27 & 28 | VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON | DALLAS, TX

2023 Texas Tobacco-Free Action Summits

You need a free vision

WHO IS SAY WHAT!

Created by Texas youth for youth, the Say What! movement is a youth tobacco prevention coalition made up of passionate youth and adults who are dedicated to creating a tobacco-free environment in their schools and communities. Say What! Action Summits include fun-filled activities with engaging discussions that address tobacco issues, popular and emerging tobacco products, teen leadership development, team building, and connecting to a larger cause.

Summits are led by Say What! Teen Ambassadors who are select high school students from across Texas and have been trained to be statewide advocates for youth tobacco prevention.

What is an Action Summit?

- » Free, 1-day training to empower youth groups in 6th – 12th grade to #LiveTheLife tobacco, nicotine, and vape-free!
- » Youth-led e-cigarette and vaping prevention education, team building, and networking.
- » Service learning opportunities that create & reinforce advocacy skills.
- » Vape-Free school or community project planning.
- » Free resources, free food, free t-shirt, and more!
- » Hosted by the Texas School Safety Center.

Agenda Overview

8:30-9:30am	Check-In & Breakfast
9:30-10:00am	Action Summit Begins
10:00-11:15am	E-Cigarette & Vaping Education
11:15am-12:00pm	Team Building Activity
12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
	Group Photo
1:00-2:15pm	Group Project Planning
2:15-3:45pm	Afternoon Community Education & Awareness Activities
3:45-4:00pm	Plan Next Steps
4:00pm	Action Summit Ends

Locations

Saturday, March 4th
Lufkin, TX – Pitser Garrison Convention Center
Register Deadline: February 20th

Saturday, April 1st
San Marcos, TX – San Marcos Activity Center
Registration Deadline: March 20th

Saturday, April 22nd
Kemah, TX – Kemah Boardwalk
Registration Deadline: April 10th

/TKSAYWHAT

Say What! is a program of the Texas School Safety Center at Texas State University and is funded through a contract from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Tobacco Prevention Initiative.

March Spotlight

March is Women's History Month- How does Smoking Affect Women's Health?

Smoking affects virtually every organ in the body. Let's look at just some effects of smoking that are unique to women.

Reproductive Issues

Women who smoke are more likely than women who don't smoke to:

- Have more irregular or painful periods.
- Have low estrogen levels, which can lead to mood swings, fatigue, and vaginal dryness.
- Go through menopause at a younger age and have worse symptoms.
- Have trouble getting pregnant.

Cardiovascular

- Women who smoke while using oral contraceptives greatly increase their risk of heart disease. This is particularly true for women who are over the age of 35.
- Compared to men who smoke, women who smoke have a greater risk of dying from an abdominal aortic aneurysm, which is a weakening of the main blood

vessel that carries blood from the heart to the body.

Cancer

- Smoking is associated with an increased risk of cervical cancer.
- More women die from lung cancer than any other cancer, including breast cancer. There are now more new cases of lung cancer in young women (ages 30–49) than young men.

These are just a few of the ways smoking can hinder women from being the best they can be. For the full article visit: [SmokeFreeWomen](#).

Women who quit smoking empower themselves by taking control of their health and improving their overall quality of life. When you quit smoking, your mind and body start to heal immediately. It is never too late to take control of your life.

If you or anyone you know needs resources on how to quit smoking, please visit: <https://yesquit.org/>

Or call: **877-YES-QUIT**

This will connect you to the **Texas Tobacco Quitline** with free counselling and other resources available to all Texans to help them on their smoke-free journey.

Latest in Research

Youth Still Able to Obtain Vapes from Retail Sources Despite Tobacco 21 Law

A recent study by the Truth initiative revealed that a significant number of youth get vapes/e-cigarettes



from retail sources. This is despite of the Tobacco 21 law which prohibits retailers from selling tobacco products to person under the age of 21. According to the study, while 56.9% of e-cigarettes users ages 15-20 years old obtain e-cigarettes from social sources (i.e. friends, older adults, etc.), **43.1% of them are still able to purchase vapes from retailers.**

Most common retail sources include vape shops (22%) and gas station/convenience stores (15.9%). This survey highlights the need for more comprehensive tobacco retailer regulations. Community members should also be vigilant of stores that are in violation of the Tobacco 21 Law. Texans may

report violations anonymously to the Texas Comptroller's Office by calling: **1-800-345-8647**

[Full Article.](#)

Most People Support Bans on Tobacco Product Sales

Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently published the results of a web survey done in 2021. The survey aimed to assess the support for commercial tobacco retail policies among adults. Overall, they surveyed over 6,000 Americans ages 18 and older. The study found that **57.3% supported policies prohibiting the sale of all tobacco products.** There was also **62.3% who are in support of policies that ban menthol cigarettes.** Results also varied depending on certain factors such as smoking status or race/ethnicity. For example, current smokers were less likely to support policies to ban tobacco products. There were 54.4% of Non-Hispanic white adults who support tobacco product bans. For Hispanics adults, support was at 60.5% while 63.4% of non-Hispanic Blacks and 67.3% of non-Hispanic adults from other races supported the ban.

[Abstract.](#)



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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