

Improved Surveillance Leads to Inclusion of People with Disabilities in State Report on Adult Tobacco-Related Disparities

In March 2019, the New Hampshire (NH) Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program (TPCP) published [Understanding Adult Tobacco-Related Disparities in New Hampshire](#), a report that discusses health equity in tobacco prevention, control, and treatment for adults in the state. The report uses new surveillance data to share findings about people with disabilities as a distinct population experiencing tobacco-related disparities.

Since August 2017, the NH Disability & Public Health Project (NH DPH) has partnered with National Jewish Health, the state's tobacco quitline vendor, to include three disability identifiers on the intake form of QuitNow-NH. NH DPH analyzes quitline data and shares the results. Data from the first six months were summarized in an NH DPH data brief, [NH Adults are Motivated to Quit Smoking](#). After one year, many differences between adult callers with and without disabilities were evident, some of which were highlighted in the recent TPCP disparities report:

- Between August 2017 - June 2018, the quitline received 1,058 new callers, and almost half (47.2%) reported one or more disabilities (i.e., mobility limitation, developmental disability, or learning difficulty);
- Mobility limitation was the most frequently-reported type of disability;
- Callers with disabilities were more likely to report medical and/or mental health conditions and were less likely to have set a quit date than callers without disabilities.

"The Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program appreciates the partnership that has formed with [NH DPH]. The review of the data... tells us that people with disabilities are calling QuitNow-NH, and we want to make sure we are providing them the best services."

Jessica Morton, Health
Communication Specialist, TPCP

NH DPH is presently partnering with state disability and health programs in Vermont, Ohio, and Utah to work with National Jewish Health on the development of a disability-focused training for tobacco cessation quitline counselors. The goal is to make the training available to all quitline services via the North American Quitline Consortium, which works to exchange and disseminate the latest research, information and practices related to the promotion and delivery of quitline services.

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