

# Tobacco-Free Campus Initiative



## Policy Adoption Toolkit

The Rhode Island Tobacco-Free College Campus Initiative calls for the elimination of tobacco use on all college and university campuses across Rhode Island. Tobacco use is the leading cause of premature and preventable death, each year responsible for 480,000 deaths in the United States and 1,800 deaths in Rhode Island. According to the 2009 U.S. Surgeon General Report, there is no safe level of secondhand smoke exposure. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has estimated that cigarette smoking and secondhand smoke cost \$92 billion in employer productivity losses annually. Additionally, the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids estimates the yearly federal and state tax burden from smoking-caused government spending is \$70.7 billion.

Approximately one-third of college students use some form of tobacco and transition from occasional smokers as youth into regular smokers as adults during their college years. One-third will eventually die of smoking-related disease. In an effort to protect young adults against the tobacco epidemic, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) created the Tobacco-Free College Campus Initiative (TFCCI) in 2012. The goal of the initiative is to promote and support the implementation of tobacco-free policies at institutions of higher learning through state and regional collaborations with the American College Health Association, academic leaders, students, and public health organizations.

As of October 1, 2016, 1,713 or more campuses are 100% smoke-free. Of these, 1,427 are 100% tobacco-free, and 1,288 also prohibit the use of e-cigarettes anywhere on campus. In May 2016, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) deemed electronic cigarettes as a tobacco product and regulation began in August.

For more information about the Rhode Island Tobacco Free Campus Initiative, visit the Rhode Island Department of Health's Live Smoke Free Program at [www.livesmokefree.ri.gov](http://www.livesmokefree.ri.gov) or contact Benvinda Santos at [Benvinda.santos@health.ri.gov](mailto:Benvinda.santos@health.ri.gov).

