Commercial Tobacco & Health Disparities: How Can We Advance Health Equity



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Disclosure

I have no personal or professional relevant conflicts of interest with this presentation.

Office of Coordinated Student Support Services





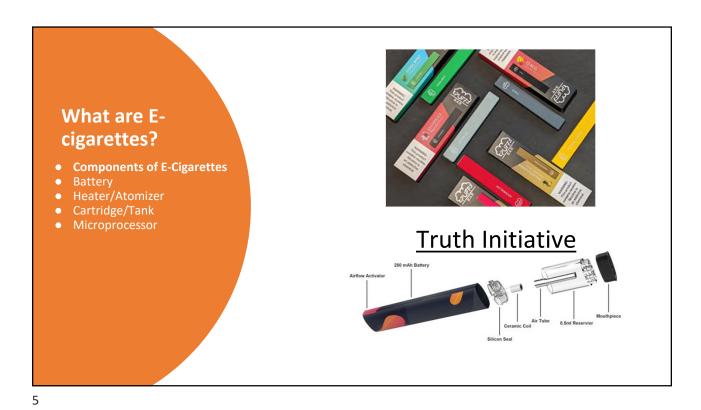


- In 2020, the CDC recognized that Vaping will be a huge emerging issue. Any agency receiving tobacco funding from the CDC was ordered to dedicate funds for a youth tobacco prevention position.
- Through a partnership with Tobacco Free Nebraska and the Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska now has a Statewide Youth Tobacco Specialist housed through NDE.

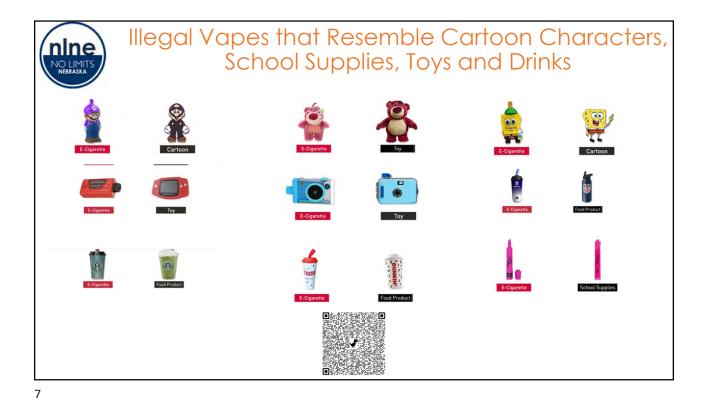


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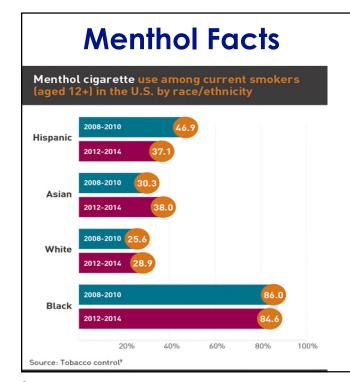
New Emerging Product: Devices Contain Both

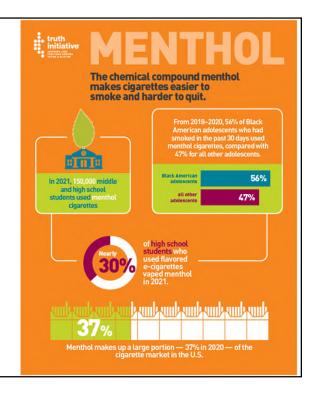




Nicotine and THC,& They are Rechargeable

At least two brands—ELF THC and fume (QRJOY)—have collaborated with Spliffboyz to create "E-spliff" devices that contain both nicotine and THC. Both are rechargeable disposable devices featuring a "switch" with three options: nicotine only, cannabis only, or "hybrid" (i.e., nicotine and cannabis combined). Both brands offer several flavor options that combine an e-liquid flavor and a cannabis strain (e.g., "Pineapple Ice" flavored e-liquid and the "Pineapple Express" cannabis strain in the same device). The ELF THC product is not featured on the brand's website but is precent vape distributor website.





Current Flavor Policy Information

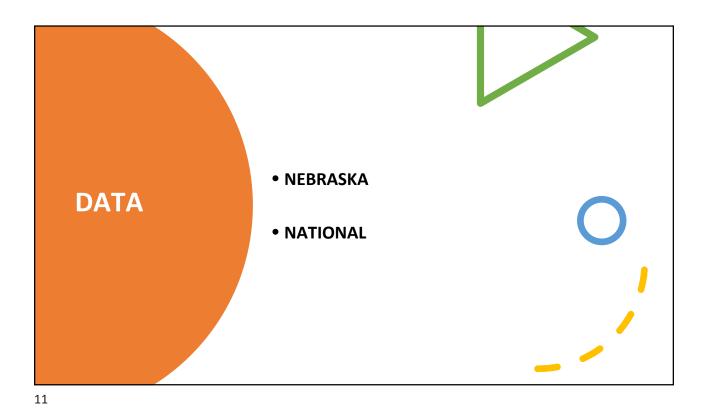
JUUL Settlement: Nebraska will receive between \$8.1 million and \$8.8 million in annual installments between 2022 and 2027, 2029 or 2031. The Nebraska Legislature appropriated the payments to youth tobacco prevention and cessation.

Menthol Ban: Timeline

- FDA proposed rules in April 2022, action was delayed from August to March.
- April 2024, public health groups sue FDA again over delayed menthol ban.

Every delay means more lives lost & more youth are initiating use of tobacco.

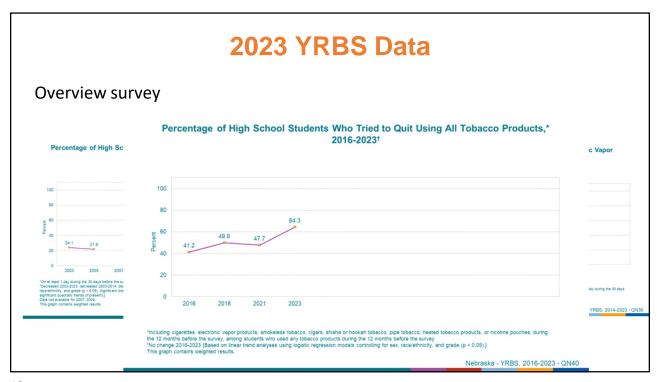


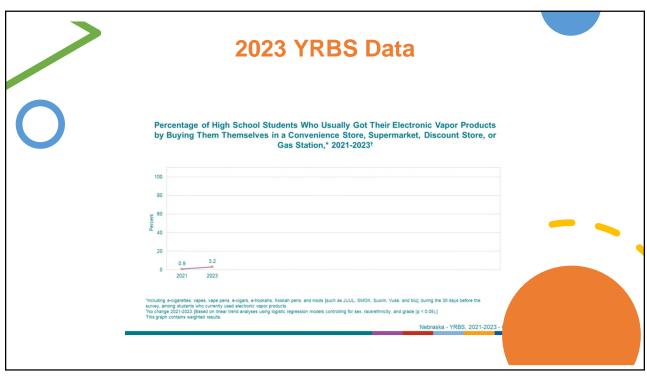


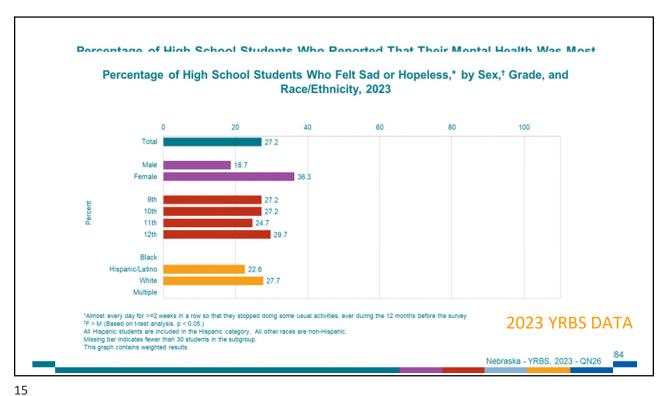
Nebraska Data • One in 25 Nebraska high school students One in 25 Nebraska high school students (4%) first tried cigarette smoking (even 1-2 puffs) before the age of 13, the lowest % since 2016 (4%) first tried cigarette smoking (even 1-2 High School Students in puffs) before the age of 13, the lowest Nebraska Cigarette use among Nebraska students continues to decline. (A) (A) since 2016. Nearly two-thirds of tobacco using students (64%) tried to quit using all tobacco in the past Nearly ¾ of tobacco using students (64%) tried to quit using all tobacco products this girls (76% vs. 57% of boys past year. None of the heavy smokers reported being bullied vs. 8% of peers who smoked less. Students who were teased for any reason Students who were teased for any reason were more likely than peers who were not teased to have ever tried vaping (34% vs. 16%). were more likely than their peers to have Students with bad considered suicide were more keep than peers who had not considered it to have ever tried valging (37% xx. 20%), use thought to the consideration of t ever tried vaping (37% vs. 16%) This data comes from the Nebraska YRBS - Youth Risk Behavior Survey. To

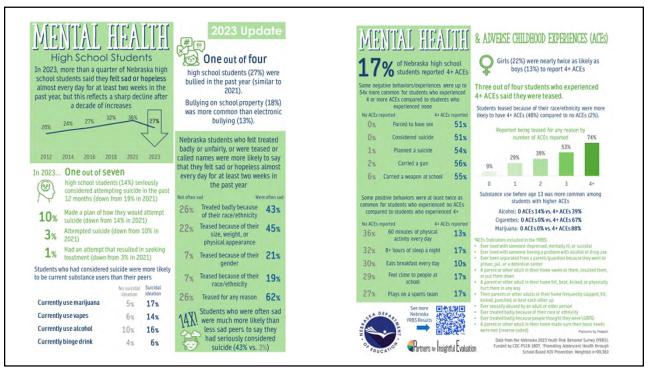
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scan the QR code.





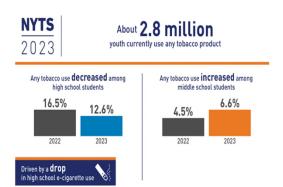






National Data

2023 Findings on Youth Tobacco Use



Electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) products, like e-cigarettes, are very popular with young people. ENDS remain an ongoing concern.

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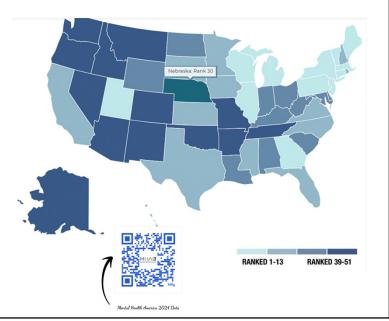
2024 State of Mental Health in America

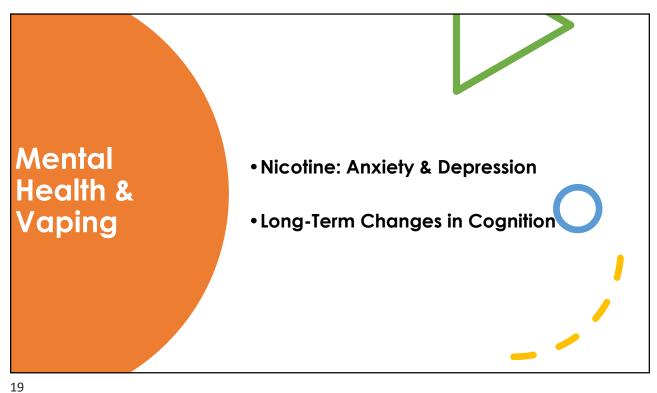
Youth Ranking

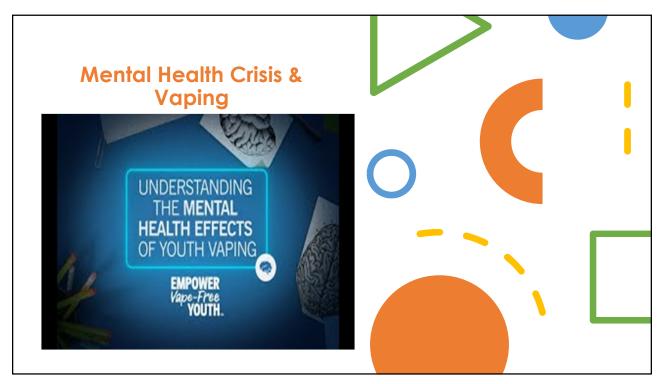
States with rankings 1-13 have a lower prevalence of mental illness and higher rates of access to care for youth. States with rankings 39-51 indicate that youth have a higher prevalence of mental illness and lower rates of access to care.

The seven measures that make up the Youth Ranking include:

- Youth with at Least One Major Depressive Episode (MDE) in the Past Year
- Youth with Substance Use Disorder in the Past Year
- 3. Youth with Serious Thoughts of Suicide
- 4. Youth (Ages 6-17) Flourishing
- Youth with MDE Who Did Not Receive Mental Health Services
- Youth with Private Insurance That Did Not Cover Mental or Emotional Problems
- Students (K+) Identified with Emotional Disturbance for an Individualized Education Program.







Mental Health Crisis & Vaping

Studies show connections between Nicotine & Mental Health

- Nicotine can worsen anxiety symptoms & amplify feelings of depression.
- Current e-cigarette users have double the odds of having a diagnosis of depression compared to those who have never vaped. (Journal of the American Medical Association, 2019)

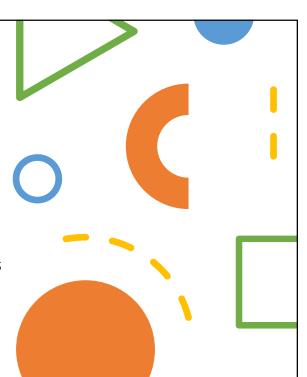


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Mental Health Crisis & Vaping

Studies show connections between Nicotine & Mental Health

 Long-term changes in cognition & behaviors: memory, attention, auditory processing, impulse control, anxiety & depressive symptoms & sleep changes. (Circulation Research, 2022)



Mental Health Crisis & Vaping

Nicotine Exposure During Adolescents Negatively affects Memory, Attention, and Emotional Regulation:

- 1. The brain undergoes major structural remodeling in adolescence.
- 1. Nicotine acetylcholine receptors regulate neural maturation.
- Early exposure to nicotine disrupts this process.
- This leads to poor executive functioning, difficulty learning, decreased memory and issues with reward processing.

Dinardo, P and Rome, E. (2024) E. Vaping: The new wave of nicotine addiction. Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine, 86: 12 7890798.



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"My Vaping Mistake: How it Affected My Mental Health"

- Watch the video on YouTube:
 "My Vaping Mistake: How it Affected My Mental Health".
- Answer the question: What are the different ways in which using e-cigarettes affected the lives of teens in the video?



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"Health Equity is achieved when every person has the opportunity to attain his or her full health potential and no one is disadvantaged from achieving their potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances."

Why Is Health Equity Important?

"Health inequities are reflected in differences in length of life.; quality of life; rates of disease, disability, and death; severity of disease; and access to treatment."

(Centers for Disease Control and

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020)

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What are Social Determinants of Health?

What are Social Determinants?

- Nonmedical factors that influence health outcomes.
- Conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live & age.
- They include a wide set of forces and systems that shape daily life such as economic policies and systems.

(World Health Organization Definition)





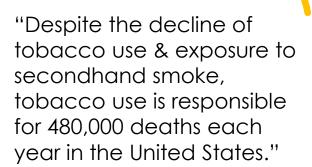
What is The Relationship Between Social Determinants & Health Behaviors?

What is the Relationship Between Social Determinants and Health Behaviors?

- Safe housing, transportation and neighborhoods.
- Racism, discrimination, and violence.
- Education, job opportunities, and income.
- Access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities.
- Polluted air and water.
- Language and literacy skills.
- Can contribute to wide health disparities and inequities: people who do not have access to grocery stores with healthy foods are less likely to have good nutrition which in turn raises their health risk for chronic disease. (Healthy People 203 OASH)

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Tobacco
Prevention
Policies to Assist
in the Goal of
Health Equity



(American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network)

Practices of Policies to Prevent Tobacco Related Disparities

- Tobacco Prevention & Cessation Programs in accordance with CDC Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs.
- Enact comprehensive smoke-free laws that Include restaurants, bars and gambling Facilities. This must include specific message for vaping as well.
- Regularly and significantly increasing tobacco excise taxes on all tobacco products.
- Increase access to state Medicaid coverage of tobacco cessation programs.
- Ending the sale of flavored tobacco products.
- Supporting federal regulation of tobacco products by the FDA.
- Preserving local control of public health policies

(American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network)



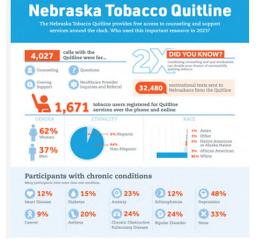


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Nebraska Report Card on Tobacco Policy

Nebraska Tobacco Quitline

- Established in 2003
- # of Enrollees Ages 18 & Over=1600 per





Nebraska Report Card on Tobacco Policy

Nebraska Clean Indoor Act: 2008





With the implementation of the 2008 Nebraska Clean Indoor Act, tremendous progress has been made in reducing exposure to secondhand smoke within the state. Continuing to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke and aerosol is vital in improving public health. The expansion of the Nebraska Clean Indoor Act was expanded in 2020 to include protections for secondhand aerosol.



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Nebraska Report Card on Tobacco Policy

According to the CDC report on STATE System Medicaid Coverage of Tobacco Cessation Treatments, Nebraska has less than comprehensive coverage for cessation treatment.(2024)

- Nebraska does not include group counseling as an option for cessation treatment.
- Nebraska also does not include fee-forservice plans or managed care plans.
- The Quitline has been very successful for those who connect with this service!



Nebraska Report Card on Tobacco Policy

American Lung Association Report: Nebraska Earns Failing Grade for Cessation & Prevention

Nebraska's Grades

The "State of Tobacco Control" report grades states and the District of Columbia in five areas that have been proven to prevent and reduce tobacco use and save lives. In the 2024 report, Nebraska received the following grades:

- 1. Funding for State Tobacco Prevention Programs Grade F
- 2. Strength of Smoke Free Workplace Laws Grade A
- 3. Level of State Tobacco Taxes Grade F
- 4. Coverage and Access to Services to Quit Tobacco Grade D
- 5. Ending the Sale of All Flavored Tobacco Products Grade F

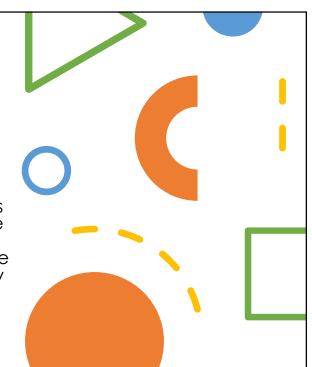


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Let's Discuss!

- Divide into 4 groups and each group will take a category for improving our Nebraska grade.
 Go through each Grade's
- Go through each Grade[†]s suggestions. Group similar ideas together and come up with the top 5.
- Report out as a large group. Are these ideas realistic? If not, how can we make it happen?



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CATCH° MY BREATH

"Nicotine Addiction Isn't Pretty"



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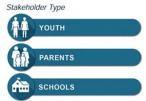
Typical Settings/Demographic Groups for Intervention:

- CATCH My Breath is a school-based intervention for students ages 10-18.
 Course options for 5th through 12th grade (There are resources for K-4th grade).
- Implementation can be in classrooms or youth based organizations.



Outcomes Associated with CATCH My Breath Research s

- Reductions in nicotine vaping use (both lifetime and within the past 30 days)
- •Increases in nicotine vaping knowledge
- •Increases in positive perceptions of a vape-free lifestyle
- Reductions in overall tobacco use All outcomes were measured by self-report. The time between intervention completion and follow up varied from immediately postintervention to 16 months after.





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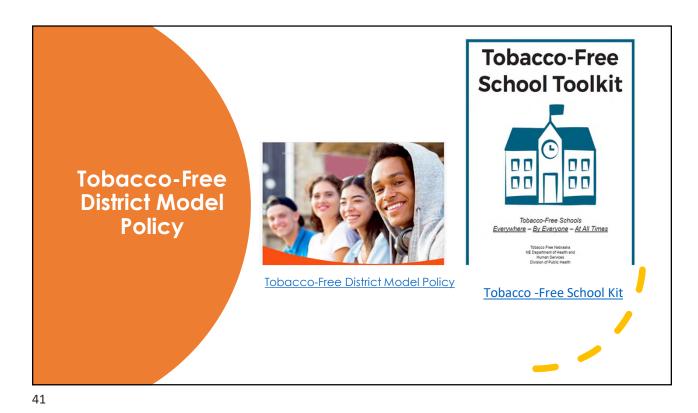






Tobacco Free Nebraska: E-Cigarettes & Vaping

Nebraska Tobacco-Free School Kit



No Limits
Nebraska:

Nebraska
Department
of Education

Mini Grants: Youth led tobacco
prevention/cessation events and
public service announcements.

No Limits Nebraska Youth
Leadership Team: 10-15 youth
members grades 9th through 12th
grade to promote tobacco
prevention/cessation and help to
organize a statewide Take Down
Tobacco Day. A long-term goal
is to have regional groups of
youth statewide!





Create Tobacco Free **Schools**

How Can We promote Tobacco Free Schools?

- Adopt a tobacco prevention/education curriculum.
- Review and revise your current school tobacco policy.
- Get students involved in a school wide effort to create a tobacco free school through tobacco prevention events (2024-2025 No Limits Nebraska Mini Grants & Encourage a student chapter in your
- Order free yard signs from No Limits Nebraska. Let your community know how important it is to create a tobacco free Nebraska!

What other trainings/technical help/ support can No Limits Nebraska provide for you in your efforts for tobacco prevention/cessation for your youth in your communities?



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Questions?

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No Limits Nebraska
Tobacco
Prevention/Cessation
Mini-Grant: Perfect for After
School Programming!



Round 1: Applications Due October 15, 2024

Round 2: Rolling Application! Apply anytime between October 16th and January 20, 2025

Empower Youth Leadership

as part of coursework:

- After Schol Programs
- Health/PE Class Projects
- Family Consumer Sciences
- Student Council Projects

Grants activities must be completed by:

April 1, 2024

Grant award: \$750

Grant Dollars to be spent on:
planning and hosting a tobacco
prevention event and creating
a public service
announcement

Create a Tobacco-Free
Environment with Tobacco
Prevention Activities that
Support Youth Leadership!

Technical Assistance & Resources from No Limits
Provided

Apply Here:







For more information: <u>nolimitsnebraska.com</u> or contact: Ranae Aspen, Youth Tobacco Specialist ranae.aspen@nebraska.gov

Ideas for Tobacco Prevention Events

Screen It!

- 1. Outline why tobacco use is an issue (See <u>Truth Initiative</u>).
- 2. Choose a movie, a series of music videos, or shows on streaming service that will draw youth! Remember, it can't be rated R (run your selections by your event sponsor first).
- 3. Choose a venue. This could be your school's gym, a lawn, or a classroom. Choose a space that will hold your expected attendance. Make sure you have all the equipment you will need: computer, projector, and necessary cords.
- 4. Choose a date. Pick a time of year that will fit with the movie and venue. Don't pick the same night as a sporting event or other school event.
- 5. Get the word out! Get it in your school paper or announcements. If it will be open to the community, contact your local media.
- 6. Movie Time! Have audience members record the number of times they see tobacco or tobacco imagery used in the film.

Popcorn Bags

- I. At any local event that has a concession stand (athletic events, music events, etc.) place No Limits labels on the outside of popcorn bags with facts or messages about Big Tobacco.
- 2. Can you offer a free bag of popcorn coupon for the next time if customers answer a tobacco question correctly? Get creative! Make this more than just a label on a popcorn bag.

What's in Your Vape?

- 1. Check out the lesson Be Vape Free: Cotton Candy Sewer Water.
- 2. Play the video and discuss with students what is in a vape? Is it just water vapor? Cotton Candy Sewer Water Video
- 3. What should be on a vape label to help consumers decide if they should begin to use this product?
- 4. Create labels and make them on a scale that you could share as a poster to educate students at your school. Think about other areas in your community where you could share your labels. Check out your public library or park, ask if these can be posted.

Reel It!

- I. Put together tobacco facts.
- 2. Create a script.
- 3. Create a public service announcement (podcast, video/reel, electronic billboard), Put yourself in the director's chair and be creative! Answer the What (Big Tobacco), Why (health issues) and the Now What (activism).
- 4. Share your final projects to your school, your community and throughout the state of Nebraska and beyond by sharing to social media, radio, TV, and even digital billboards.

Photovoice Project

- Take pictures around your community and your school and home where you are exposed to tobacco, e-cigarettes/vapes or
 any other tobacco products. It could even be a picture of a music video where there is a tobacco product visibly
 being used. Pictures can include advertisements, trash, and waste from tobacco products.
- 2. Have each student involved with this event select 10-25 of your photos and create a report. The report can be creative! Make it into a public service announcement.
- 3. Be creative and make sure the results can be shared to social media channels, No Limits Nebraska, local media outlets and endless amounts of people can be reached with this!
- 4. ***Remember, always have permission to take a photo of someone else, follow the rules!

Warning Labels

- 1. Are there labels on vapes? NOPE! Now it is your turn to create your own!
- 2. Use your knowledge of tobacco products and create your own warning labels.
- 3. Labels can be made creatively. You can use print, video, photos, graphics, let your imagination rule this event!
- 4. Once you have created your labels and have produced them into a shareable format, strategically place them in your schools, communities, and of course social media as well as local media outlets.

Remember, there truly are "No Limits!" What else can you think of for an event to drive home the point that we will not let Big Tobacco win? When in doubt, check with your adult sponsor and reach out to range aspen@nebraska.gov.