

The Economic Benefit of Reducing Smoking Prevalence among Medicaid-Insured Vermonters

Reducing Smoking Lowers Medicaid Health Care Costs

February 2024

Strategic Collaboration to Improve Health

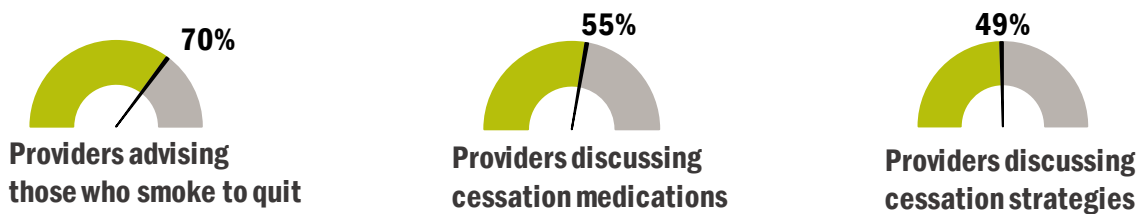
The Vermont Tobacco Control Program (VTCP) and the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) collaborate to make Medicaid tobacco treatment benefits more comprehensive and accessible.¹

2021: VTCP added financial incentives for Medicaid members enrolled in 802 Quits cessation services.

2022: Established pharmacists' authority to deliver tobacco counseling and medication treatment.

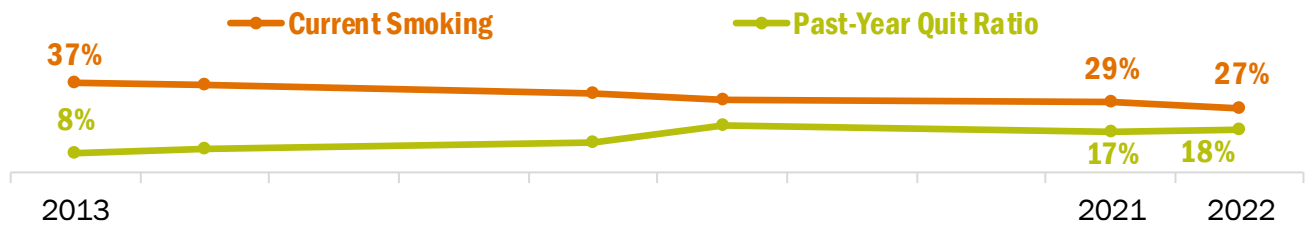
2023: VTCP and DVHA informed providers about available tobacco cessation benefits.

Provider engagement metrics have trended downward from pre-pandemic rates, CAHPS 2022²



Smoking among Medicaid-Insured Vermonters Continues to Decline

Between 2021 and 2022, cigarette smoking among Medicaid-insured adults decreased from 29% to 27%. Additionally, the proportion of adults who smoked in the past year and recently stopped smoking (Past-Year Quit Ratio) increased, indicating a rise in recent successful quitting.³



Estimated Cost Savings to Vermont Medicaid

Based on VT Medicaid spending of \$1.9 billion in 2022, for every 1% decrease in the smoking rate among Medicaid-insured adults from 2021 to 2022, VT is estimated to save \$8.3 million in 2023.^{4, 5} With the 2.4% decrease in smoking from 2021 to 2022, Vermont expects to save \$19.5 million in Medicaid spending.

**Estimated VT Medicaid
Cost Savings in 2023:
\$19.5 million**

REFERENCES:

¹ Williams et al. (2019). A Framework for Effective Promotion of a Medicaid Tobacco Cessation Benefit. Health Promotion Practice. doi.org/10.1177/1524839919829452

² Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers & Systems

³ VT Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2013-2022

⁴ www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/total-medicaid-spending

⁵ Glantz, S. JAMA Network Open. 2019; 2(4):e192307. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.2307

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