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BACKGROUND

- Despite the passage of the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid does not guarantee dental insurance coverage.¹
- For example, Tennessee's TennCare and Alabama's form of Medicaid do not cover any dental care.¹
- Preventive approaches to protect oral health are essential, particularly for those with limited access to dentists.
- One evidence-based strategy to support oral health is smoking and vaping cessation.²
- Tobacco product use and vape flavor inhalation are risk factors for oral health concerns, such as periodontitis and oral cancer.^{2, 3}
- While use of traditional cigarettes is decreasing in the US, vaping is increasingly popular.⁴
- Education on the oral health risks associated with smoking and vaping is essential to motivate current users to quit.
- Identification of evidence-based information and cessation resources for dental, medical and self-referral is needed.

RESEARCH QUESTION

Do US Smokers' Quitline's "Quitsites" provide sufficient resources and information to support smoking/vaping cessation from an oral health standpoint?

METHODS

- North American Quitline Consortium (NAQC) was used to locate state-level Quitline-associated "Quitsites".
- Each Quitsite was evaluated using an "audit checklist" to assess the presence, amount, and quality of information about the oral health risks of smoking and vaping, including vape flavors.
- Findings were re-examined to check for errors.

DISPLAY OF DATA

State	Smoking	Vaping	Flavors	More info	State	Smoking	Vaping	Flavors	More info
AL	No	No	Yes	Yes	MT	Yes	No	No	Yes
AK	No	No	No	Yes	NE	No	No	Yes	Yes
AZ	Yes	No	No	Yes	NV	No	No	Yes	No
AR	No	No	No	Yes	NH	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
CA	No	No	No	Yes	NJ	Yes	No	No	Yes
CO	Yes	No	No	Yes	NM	No	No	No	No
CT	No	No	Yes	Yes	NY	No	No	No	Yes
DE	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	NC	No	No	No	Yes
FL	Yes	No	No	Yes	ND	No	No	No	Yes
GA	No	No	No	Yes	OH	Yes	No	No	Yes
HI	Yes	No	No	No	OK	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
ID	Yes	No	No	Yes	OR	No	No	Yes	No
IL	No	No	No	No	PA	Yes	No	No	Yes
IN	No	No	No	Yes	RI	Yes	No	No	Yes
IA	Yes	No	No	No	SC	Yes	No	No	Yes
KS	Yes	No	No	Yes	SD	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
KY	Yes	No	No	No	TN	Yes	No	No	Yes
LA	Yes	Yes	No	No	TX	Yes	No	No	Yes
ME	No	No	No	Yes	UT	Yes	No	No	Yes
MD	No	No	Yes	Yes	VT	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
MA	No	No	Yes	Yes	VA	No	No	No	No
MI	No	No	No	Yes	WA	No	No	No	No
MN	No	No	No	Yes	WV	No	No	No	Yes
MS	No	No	No	No	WI	No	No	No	Yes
MO	No	No	No	No	WY	Yes	No	No	Yes

Table I. State Quitsite data is shown in the table above. The column with the heading "Smoking" displays whether or not a site mentioned the link between smoking and poor oral health, the "Vaping" column corresponds to the relationship between vaping and oral health, and "Flavors" is for vape flavors and oral health. "More info" indicates whether or not a site provided additional resources related to smoking, vaping, and/or oral health.

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RESULTS

- 22 of 47 (46.8%) State Quitsites conveyed that tobacco use is associated with oral health concerns.
- Only 1 of 47 (2.1%) associated such concerns with vaping.
- 12 of 47 (25.5%) noted that vaping flavors can be hazardous to users. However, none indicated specific oral health concerns.
- Most states (n=35, 74.5%) provided links to outside resources containing more detailed information about tobacco use, including oral health concerns.

DISCUSSION

- State Quitsites in NAQC currently offer little information on the oral health risks of smoking and vaping.
- Although 24 states did indicate that smoking can increase the chance of developing oral cancers or other diseases in the mouth, such descriptions were brief.
- As information on the hazards of vaping increasingly becomes available, states are encouraged to update their quitlines to provide more information on the risks to one's oral health associated with vaping, and to accordingly tailor their cessation materials and resources.

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