

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

Reducing Smoking Lowers Medicaid Health Care Costs

September 2023

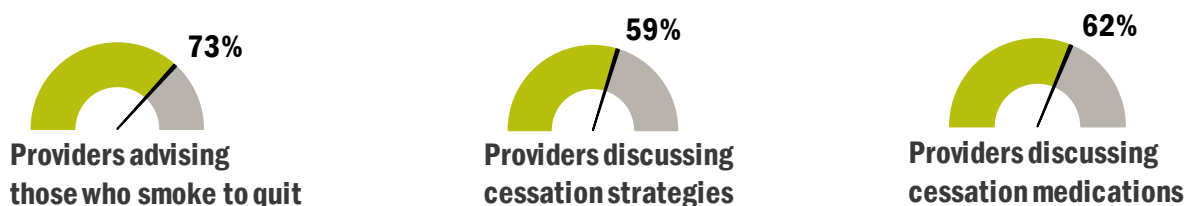
## Strategic Collaboration to Implement Best Practices

The Vermont Tobacco Control Program (VTCP) and the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) collaborate to make Medicaid smoking cessation benefits more comprehensive and accessible.<sup>1</sup>

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

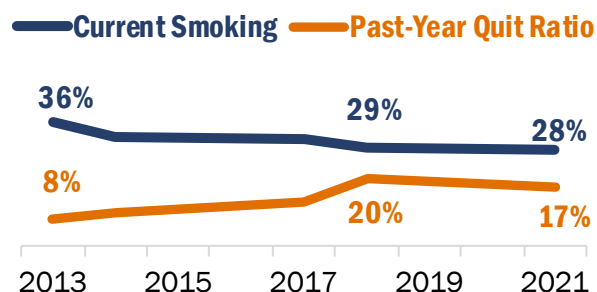
**2023:** VTCP and DVHA sent an advisory to providers highlighting available tobacco cessation benefits.

Provider engagement metrics are unchanged from pre-pandemic rates, CAHPS 2021<sup>2</sup>



## Smoking among Medicaid-Insured Vermonters Continues to Decline

Between 2018 to 2021, cigarette smoking among Medicaid-insured adults decreased from 29% to 28%. Meanwhile, the proportion of adults who smoked in the past year and recently stopped smoking (Past-Year Quit Ratio) decreased from 20% to 17%, indicating a decline in recent successful quitting.<sup>3</sup>



## Estimated Cost Savings to Vermont Medicaid

Based on total VT Medicaid spending of \$1.7 billion in 2021 and a 1% decrease in the smoking rate among Medicaid-insured Vermonters between 2018 to 2021, VT is estimated to have saved \$2.3 million in Medicaid spending in 2022.<sup>4, 5</sup>

**Estimated Medicaid Cost Savings in 2022:**  
**\$2.3 million**

### REFERENCES:

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

<sup>2</sup> Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers & Systems

<sup>3</sup> VT Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2013-2021

<sup>4</sup> Glantz, S. JAMA Network Open. 2019; 2(4):e192307. doi:10.1001/jamanetwroopen.2019.2307

<sup>5</sup> www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/total-medicaid-spending

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