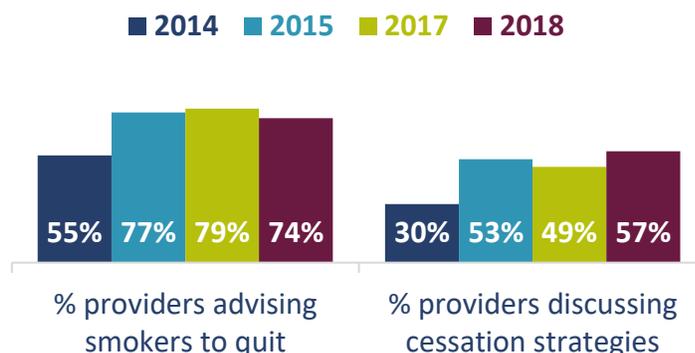


The Economic Benefit of Reducing Smoking Prevalence among Medicaid Insured Vermonters

Tobacco Medicaid Initiative is anticipated to decrease spending in 2019

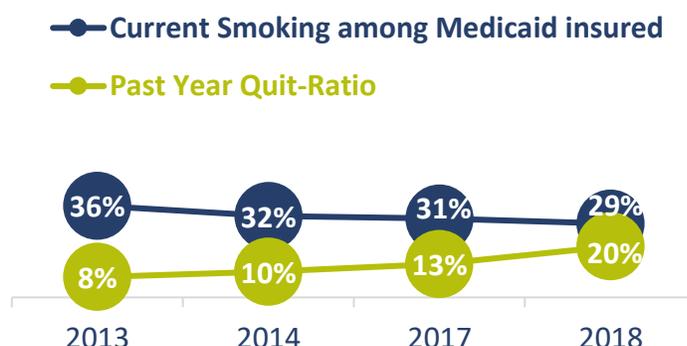
Strategic Collaboration

In 2012, the Vermont Tobacco Control Program (VTCP) began collaborating with the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) to implement best practices¹ by making Medicaid benefits for smoking cessation more comprehensive and accessible.



Effect on Quitting and Smoking among Medicaid Insured

From 2013 to 2018, the proportion of ever smokers who became former smokers in the past year (Quit Ratio) more than doubled, while smoking declined from 36% to 29% among Medicaid-insured adults. This includes a 2% decline in smoking between 2017 and 2018 alone².



Estimated Medicaid Cost Savings

In 2019, VT is expected to save \$12 million dollars in Medicaid spending as a result of the 2% absolute decline in smoking from 2017 to 2018.

Estimated cost savings are based on research performed by Glantz et al³ and total VT Medicaid spending of \$1.6 billion in 2018⁴.

Estimated Medicaid Cost Savings in 2019:

\$12.2 million

January 2020

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REFERENCES:

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

² 2013-2017 VT Behavioral Risk-Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

³ Glantz, S. JAMA Network Open.2019; 2(4):e192307. doi:10.10001/jamanetwroopen.2019.2307

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