



*NOTE TO MEDIA:* Our press releases are available in downloadable PDF format at our Online News Room: <https://nysmokefree.com/newsroom>. The webpage also includes an Experts Database with healthcare professionals and researchers from every region of New York State. Please contact us anytime to arrange an interview with any of our experts.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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- *New York State residents with disabilities exhibit a higher prevalence of smoking*
- *This population also is more than twice as likely to develop chronic conditions often attributed to smoking, such as cardiovascular disease, COPD and diabetes*
- *An upcoming free webinar will help healthcare professionals better understand barriers to quitting smoking and tools to support cessation among people with disabilities*

## **SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO QUIT SMOKING**

*New York State Smokers' Quitline hosts free webinar  
with continuing education credits on Wednesday, May 10*

**April 20, 2023** – When healthcare professionals administer smoking cessation assistance, they can encounter added challenges for patients with disabilities. According to the latest data of [current adult smokers](#) in New York State reported by the Department of Health, 17.4 percent of people with disabilities smoke, compared to 10.5 percent for those who do not have a disability. New York State adults who have a disability also are more than twice as likely to develop [chronic conditions](#) closely attributed to smoking, such as cardiovascular disease, COPD and diabetes.

To help healthcare professionals better understand specific barriers to quitting smoking and learn better techniques to assist people with disabilities, the **New York State Smokers' Quitline** will host an hour-long webinar on Wednesday, May 10 at noon, titled, **"Supporting Patients with Disabilities in Becoming Tobacco-Free."** Registration is free at [nysmokefree.com/newsroom](https://nysmokefree.com/newsroom) and healthcare professionals can receive 1.0 hour of continuing education credit for a variety of disciplines.

Scott McIntosh, director of the Center for a Tobacco-Free Finger Lakes and professor in the department of public health sciences at University of Rochester Medical Center, is the webinar's featured presenter. Attendees will learn strategies to enhance patient interactions about tobacco cessation and identify tobacco dependence treatment resources to improve patient education.

Representatives from the New York State Smokers' Quitline will also briefly discuss services, explain how to use the organization's secure [Patient Referral Program](#) and highlight accessibility for participants with disabilities. People with disabilities represent one of five "priority populations" identified by the New York State Smokers' Quitline for additional free services, including expanded sessions with the Quitline's Tobacco Treatment Specialists and increased shipments of nicotine replacement therapy medications per year.

The team at the New York State Smokers' Quitline remains ready to support anyone seeking assistance to achieve freedom from nicotine addiction and overcome use of commercial tobacco and/or vape products. To connect to the Quitline, New York State residents can call 1-866-NY-QUITS (1-866-697-8487), text QUITNOW to 333888 and visit [nysmokefree.com](http://nysmokefree.com).

### **About the New York State Smokers' Quitline**

The New York State Smokers' Quitline is a service of the New York State Department of Health and based at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo, N.Y. It is one of the first and busiest state quitlines in the nation and has responded to nearly 3 million calls since it began operating in 2000. The Quitline encourages commercial tobacco and vape product users to talk with their healthcare professionals and access available Medicaid or health insurance benefits for medication support. All New York State residents can call 1-866-NY-QUITS (1-866-697-8487) or text QUITNOW to 333888 for coaching and resources, free of charge, seven days a week beginning at 9 a.m. Visit [www.nysmokefree.com](http://www.nysmokefree.com) for more information.

### **About Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is a community united by the drive to eliminate cancer's grip on humanity by unlocking its secrets through personalized approaches and unleashing the healing power of hope. Founded by Dr. Roswell Park in 1898, it is the only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center in Upstate New York. Learn more at [www.roswellpark.org](http://www.roswellpark.org), or contact us at 1-800-ROSWELL (1-800-767-9355) or [ASKRoswell@roswellpark.org](mailto:ASKRoswell@roswellpark.org).