

## **US Food & Drug Administration Center for Tobacco Products: Comprehensive Tobacco Control Training Assessment**

Background: There is currently no Tobacco Control Training Program in place at the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) Center For Tobacco Products (CTP). Having a tobacco control training program that could provide a general tobacco control curriculum for all CTP employees and specialized curriculum to employees within individual offices would be greatly beneficial. The aim of this study was to determine the need for training, as well as the appropriate material to include in the FDA CTP Comprehensive Tobacco Control Training Program.

Methods: A literature review was conducted to compile a list of general tobacco related topics. An internal survey was created to determine the need of a comprehensive training program. Key stakeholders were identified and interviewed to narrow down the list of general tobacco topics to the most important topics. A Center-wide survey was created and sent out electronically to new employees. This survey included items with a Likert scale to rate the importance to each participant, their office, and all new employees.

Results: The survey was sent to 113 new employees and 63 were completed (55.8%). Over sixty percent of the new employees surveyed had been at CTP for four months or more. Forty seven employees had no previous tobacco control experience and sixteen had previous tobacco control experience. Tobacco Products Overview, Tobacco Control Act, and Tobacco Product Regulation were identified as the topics that had the most positive responses. Effective Messaging for Youth and Young Adults, Illicit Trade and Jurisdictional Issues, and World Health Organization-Framework Convention on Tobacco Control were identified as the categories with the lowest positive responses. Respondents with previous tobacco experience were less likely to differ significantly in their responses. Those with experience are more likely to think training is important for everyone, but less likely to think they need training.

Discussion: This project ensures higher quality communication between and within offices. It is possible that trust issues are involved. If one office does not trust the competency and the training of another office that they are working with, projects might not be completed efficiently. Having a unified, comprehensive tobacco control curriculum will help establish good relations between offices. Having specialized modules for each office will instill confidence between coworkers in the same office.