# SRNT HEALTH EQUITY NETWORK

Issue #2, 2026

SRNT Health Equity Network members,

Welcome to the second issue of the 2026 HEN Newsletter. This issue celebrates the successful 2026 annual meeting in Baltimore where the HEN celebrated our 20th anniversary!
As always, we invite you to share your feedback on the newsletter here, and encourage you to send your health equity-related announcements or information with us using this link.

We're excited for an impactful 2026!

## Highlights from HEN @20 in Baltimore #HEN20

**Brief HEN History**
At the members' meeting, attendees learned about the network's history. The network was founded in 2006 when the research network *Tobacco Research Network on Disparities (TReND)* merged with the SRNT Special Populations Subcommittee to form the Tobacco and Health Disparities (TRHD) Committee. First leaders/co-chairs: Drs. Donna Vallone, Pebbles Fagan (pictured below), and Dennis Trinidad. Subsequently, the network became the *Health Disparities Network in 2011* and the *Health Equity Network in 2023*. **HEN is the longest-standing of the 8 SRNT Networks.**

Largest Network with 599 registered members!





Past and current SRNT leadership at the members/anniversary meeting during the 2026 annual meeting in Baltimore.

### HEN Travel Scholars



Funded **154 travel scholars** since 2007, including scholars from **Low and Middle Income Countries** starting in 2023. Pictured, **2026 awardees at members meeting.**

## Congratulations to Our Network Awardees



Congratulations to Dr. Lisa Sanderson who received the 2026 **Pebbles Fagan Award** that honors SRNT members who have made outstanding contributions to public health and minoritized communities through health-equity research. Click to learn more about Dr. Sanderson Cox's scholarhip.



Hearty congratulations to Dr. Saber Feizy, Postdoctoral Scholar, Center for Health, Engagement, and Transformation, University of Kentucky School of Medicine (Co-Chair, HEN Evaluation Subcommittee), for **Best Abstract** - Health Equity Award.



We celebrate Dr. Andy Tan (past HEN Co-chair) and Dr. Erika Trapl (Co-Chair, Program Subcommittee), members of the **SRNT 2026 Fellows class!**
This is a distinction conferred by SRNT in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the field of nicotine and tobacco research, and of service to SRNT. Learn more about Dr. Tan's work here! Learn more about Dr. Trapl's work here!





Congratulations to Dr. Hinds (SGM Work Group Co-Chair) and Dr. Weinberger (Co-Chair, communication Subcommittee) for receiving the **NTR Best Paper of 2025 Award - Health Equity. Check out the paper below.**

Hinds JT, Wein PY, Stern E, Cioffi L, Cuddleston K, Gordon T, Delbourgo Patton C, Weinberger AH. Reporting of Tobacco Use and Health Outcomes Among Transgender and Gender-Expansive People in Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy Research: 1980-2024. Nicotine Tob Res. 2025 Oct 22;27(11):1891-1902. doi: 10.1093/ntr/ntaf158.

## Hot off the Press!

### Smoking cessation disparities are structured by the intersection of race, sex, and sexual orientation rather than by sexual minority status alone.

**BACKGROUND**

Smoking cessation disparities among sexual minority (SM) adults are well documented, but the mechanisms and intersectional patterning of those disparities are poorly understood.

Smoking cessation disparities: Are they driven by sexual minority status alone, or by intersecting social identities and structural factors?

**METHODS**

PATH Waves 6 & 7

4,449 Adults ≥18 years who smoke

Intersectional Effects
(*Race x Sex x Sexual identity)*

Demographic, Behavioral, and Socioeconomic Predictors

**RESULTS**

Cessation disparities were structured by the combined configuration of race, sex, and sexual orientation rather than by any single identity dimension alone.

White heterosexual men exhibited the most favorable cessation profile.

Other groups demonstrated reduced likelihood of quitting after accounting for nicotine dependence, smoking intensity, income, education, and psychological distress.

Study findings highlight the multidimensional and compounding nature of smoking cessation inequities. Behavioral dependence, mental health burden, and socioeconomic disadvantage operate within broader social contexts shaped by intersecting identities. Efforts to reduce tobacco-related disparities must therefore extend beyond nicotine dependence and incorporate strategies that address mental health and structural barriers, particularly for racially and sexually minoritized subgroups, in order to promote more equitable cessation outcomes.

Branstetter SA, Matlack MP. Sexual Minority Adults and Smoking Cessation Outcomes: A Longitudinal Population-Based Study. Healthcare. 2026; 14(6):705.

## Hot off the Press!

### Anxiety disorder status among black adults who smoke: relations to cessation processes and smoking characteristics.

**BACKGROUND**

Black/African American (hereafter Black) adults in the United States (US) who smoke cigarettes experience tobacco disparities and there is limited empirical study of mental health among Black adults who smoke cigarettes in the US. The present study examined the associations between screening positive for an anxiety disorder and processes, beliefs, and cessation expectancies, impacting smoking among Black adults living in the US.

**METHODS**

👥 517 Black individuals who reported daily cigarette smoking

Barriers for Cessation Scale (BCS)
Overall Anxiety Severity and Impairment Scale (OASIS)
Smoking Abstinence Expectancies Questionnaire (SAEQ)

Demographic, Behavioral, and Socioeconomic Covariates

**RESULTS**

Prevalence of current (past week) clinical anxiety was high in the current sample at approximately 43.5%.

Screening positive for an anxiety disorder (versus not) was associated with higher levels of perceived barriers for smoking cessation, severity of symptoms when quitting, and all the negative abstinence expectancies for smoking

Overall, the present investigation found that screening positive for an anxiety disorder may be associated with a variety of cigarette smoking processes and beliefs among US Black adults who smoke. Future work is needed to explore if clinically addressing an anxiety disorder(s) could improve cessation success among this tobacco disparities population.

Zvolensky MJ, Clausen BK, Bizier A, Wein PY, Pathak N, Redmond BY, Garey L, Weinberger AH, Santiago-Torres M, Bricker JB. Anxiety disorder status among black adults who smoke: relations to cessation processes and smoking characteristics. J Behav Med. 2026 Feb;49(1):66-78

## Other Resources / Grants / Call for papers

**Call for Papers: Special Issue on Novel Methodologies in Nicotine, Tobacco, and Substance Use Epidemiology**

*Nicotine & Tobacco Research* invites submissions for a special issue focused on novel methodologies in nicotine, tobacco, and substance use epidemiology. Topics of interest include causal inference and counterfactual methods, simulation and systems approaches, social network analysis, spatial and temporal epidemiology, longitudinal cohort methods, machine learning and high-dimensional data analysis, integration of large epidemiologic datasets and electronic health records, and methodological approaches to dual use, co-use, and polysubstance use. Follow the link for full call for papers: https://academic.oup.com/ntr/pages/call-for-papers-nicotine-tobacco-research-oxford-academic. For questions, please contact Dr. Maria Parker at map2@iu.edu.

## Recent Publications

Functional disability and the risk of subsequent smoking initiation: A prospective cohort analysis. *Addict Behav*. *Apr. 2026*, doi: 10.1016/j.addbeh.2025.108588.

Associations between county-level e-cigarette-inclusive Tobacco 21 law population coverage and e-cigarette use behaviors among United States adolescents in Monitoring the Future. *Addiction*. *Apr. 2026*, doi: 10.1111/add.70266.

Community Perceptions of Flavor Restriction Policies: A Scoping Review of Disaggregated Outcomes. *Nicotine Tob Res*. Mar. 2026. doi: 10.1093/ntr/ntaf157.

Disparities in Substance Use and Psychological Distress During Pregnancy Among Pregnant Bisexual and Heterosexual Females in the United States, 2021-2023. *LGBT Health*. Mar. 2026. doi:10.1177/23258292251399826.