

2021 U.S. Tobacco Industry Interference Index Launch

ASH
ACTION
ON SMOKING & HEALTH

Dedicated to ZERO Tobacco Deaths



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INDUSTRY
WATCHDOG

November 4, 2021

Speakers



Laura Salgado

Global Campaign Coordinator at The Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control (GGTC)



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Director of Health Policy and Advocacy at NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center in North Minneapolis



Nichelle Gray

Program Coordinator @Action on Smoking and Health

Moderator



Laurent Huber
ASH Executive Director



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Global action for *everyone's* health.



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Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2021

Mary Assunta, Head Global Research and Advocacy

Laura Salgado, Global Campaign Coordinator

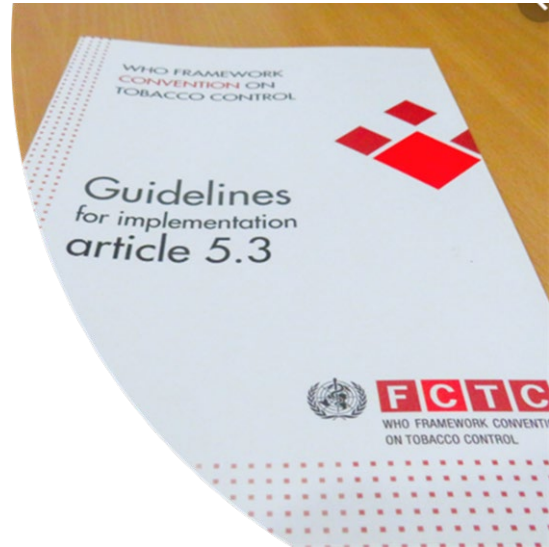
Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control

November 4, 2021

WHO FCTC Article 5.3 Obligation

“In setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control, Parties shall act to protect these policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry in accordance with national law.”

- Article 5.3 Guidelines adopted in 2008



TI remains a problem and has stepped up its interference



2019- 33 countries



2020-57 countries



2021 – 80 countries



Africa

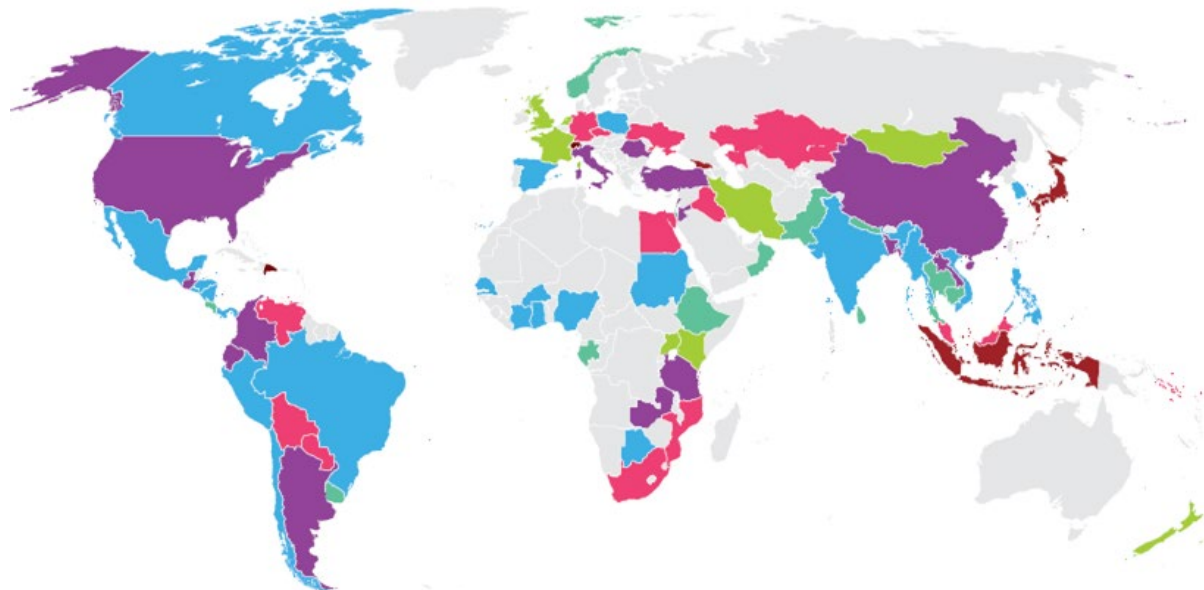


Europe



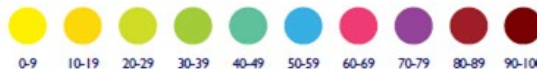
Latin America

2021: No country has been spared from Interference



#GlobalTobaccoIndex

The lower the score, the better the ranking



2021 Tobacco Industry Interference Index

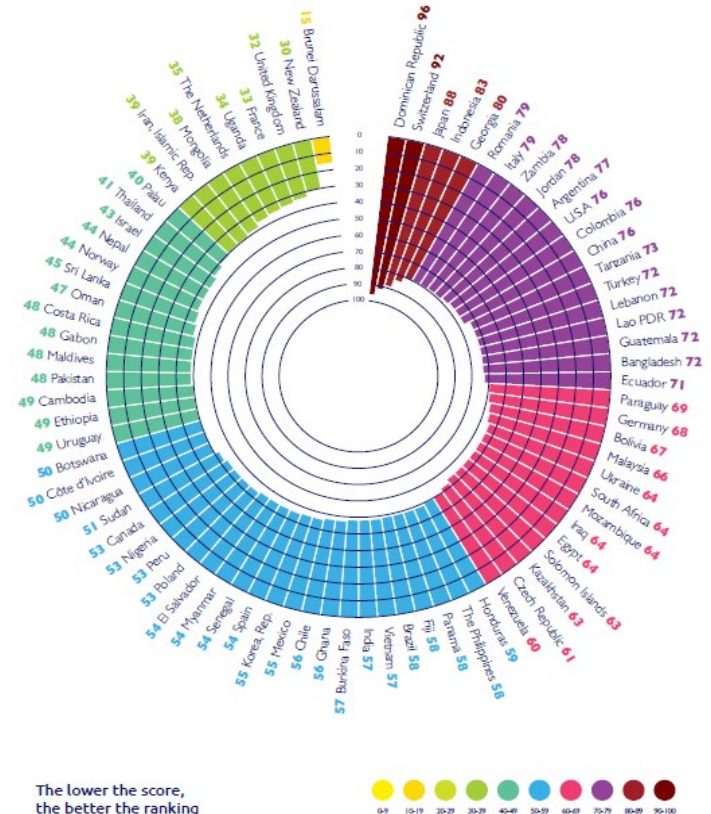
Civil Society report on governments' response to interference:

Governance

- The industry's participation in policy development
- Unnecessary government industry interaction
- Conflicts of interest
- Measures that prevent industry influence

Regulation

- Tobacco-related CSR activities
- Benefits given to the tobacco industry
- Transparency



While TI interfered with policy in many governments, a few made progress protecting their policies



- **Botswana** published tobacco control law limiting interaction with TI, prohibits partnerships and giving incentives.
- **Indian** Health Ministry adopted a code of conduct restricting the collaboration of officials with tobacco industries.
- **Cambodia** Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports banned all forms of partnership with the TI among educational facilities.

Legislation delayed in **Guatemala**, **South Africa**, **Tanzania** and **Zambia**

CSR: Tobacco industry stepped up its charities to health sector & law enforcement agencies during COVID-19 pandemic



- Chile, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, New Zealand, Netherlands and Norway reported not receiving tobacco-related CSR donations
- Myanmar and Philippines have restriction on CSR activities but accepted charity from the industry during the pandemic

At least 11 countries, including Czech Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Paraguay, Togo, that received donations also compromised on taxing tobacco products

Several governments deemed TI and cigarettes “essential” during pandemic



Photo: WHO facebook

- **Bangladesh, Jordan, Sudan, Malaysia and Kenya** deemed cigarettes as “essential” items to be sold during lockdowns.
- **South Africa** banned cigarette sales during the lockdown- sued by the industry.

Non-Parties face high levels of interference

Argentina

Dominican
Republic

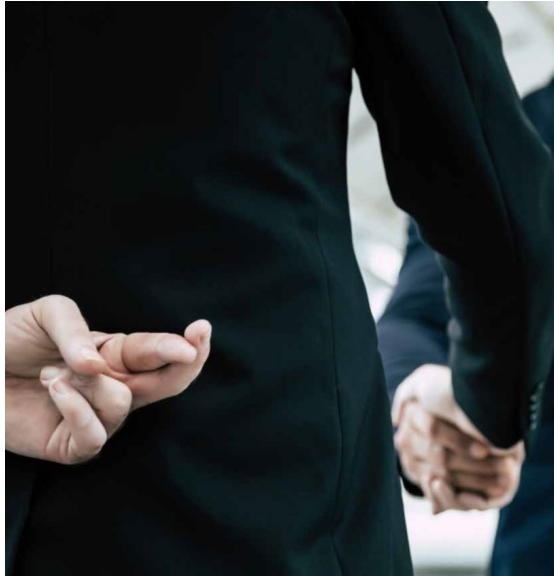
Indonesia

Switzerland

U.S.A.

- Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Switzerland and U.S.A. have remained non-Parties to the WHO FCTC, faced high levels of TI interference that has undermined tobacco control.
- These governments encouraged tobacco businesses by providing incentives, sustaining industry-friendly legislation and promoting the TI internationally.

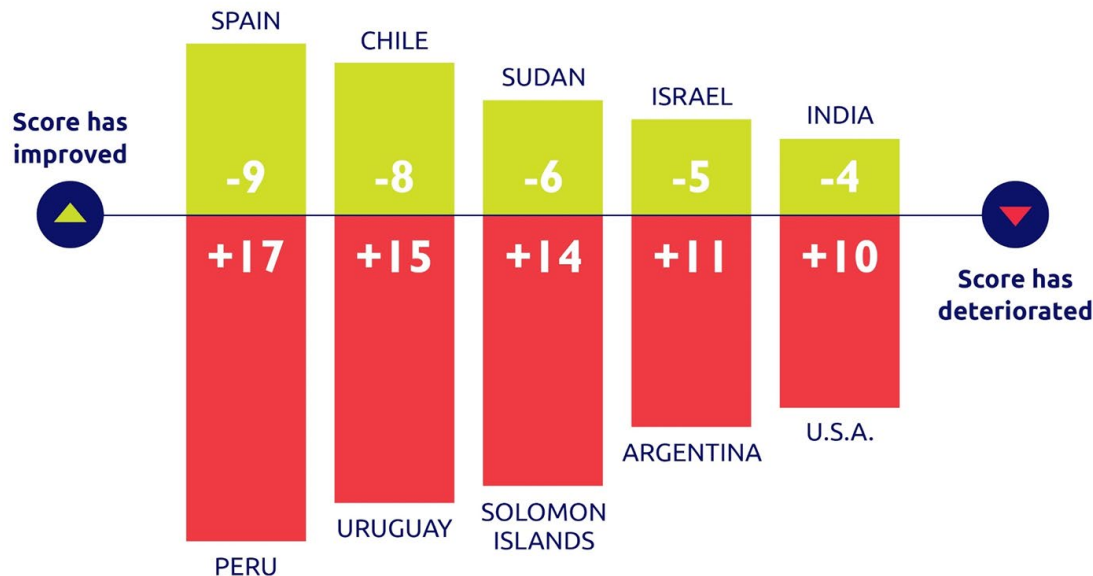
Governments forged agreements instead of regulations



The TI in **Colombia**, the **Dominican Republic**, **Ethiopia**, **Italy** and the **Netherlands** secured collaboration with governments to do training programs and enforcement activities, especially on illicit trade;

- This contrasts with Article 5.3 which requires to limit interactions with the TI to only when strictly necessary for regulation.

Most improved and deteriorated countries



#GlobalTobaccoIndex
2021

The lower the score,
the better the ranking

How can governments protect themselves?

FCTC Guidelines for Implementation of Article 5.3

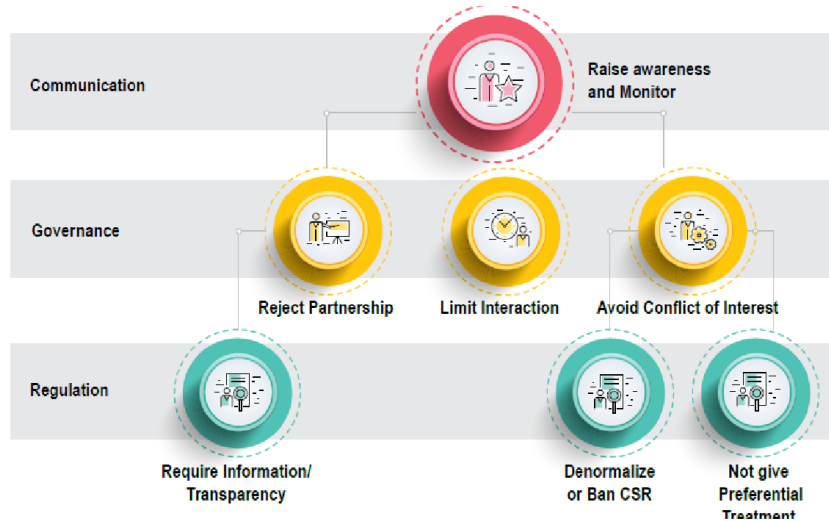


Image reference. Sy, K. D. (2019). Policies, Practices, and Tools for Article 5.3 Implementation.

WHO FCTC Article 5.3: From Policy to Practice [Webinar].

Figure 2. Areas of Article 5.3 Guidelines Implementation

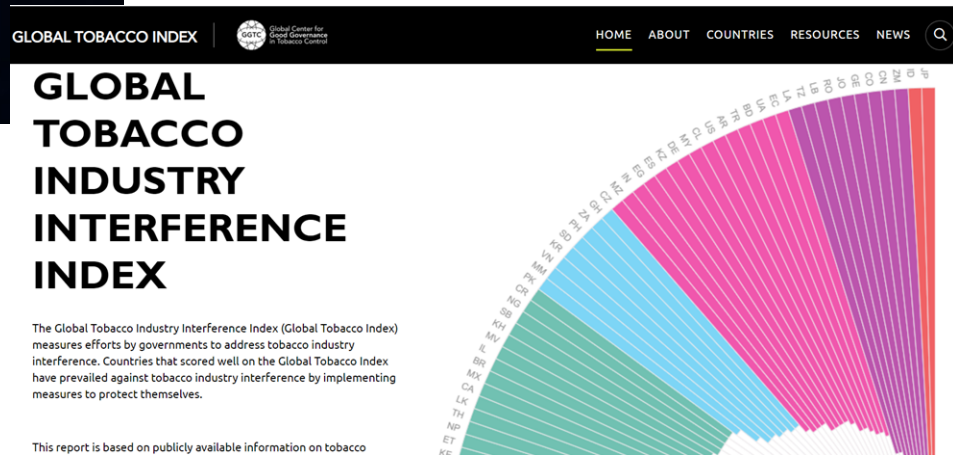
- Be transparent when interacting with the tobacco industry,
- Firewall government officials through rules of engagement with the industry or a code of conduct;
- Require information on production, marketing and revenue from tobacco industry;
- Increase awareness across government depts about tobacco industry tactics.

Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2021



www.globaltobaccoindex.org

For more information:
www.exposetobacco.org





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It's Time to Shine the Light on the Tobacco Industry

STOP is a partnership between the Tobacco Control Research Group at the University of Bath, the Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control, The Union's Department of Tobacco Control, and Vital Strategies with funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies.



Global Center for
Good Governance
in Tobacco Control

The Union



2021 U.S. TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE INDEX

Nichelle Gray

U.S. INDEX LIMITATIONS

1 The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted in-person tobacco control advocacy

2 The scope of U.S. domestic policy making.

3 The U.S. has signed but not ratified the WHO FCTC and many some FCTC Article 5.3 prohibited activities are constitutionally protected in the U.S.

Regardless of these limitations there is much that can and should be done to expose and neutralize tobacco industry interference.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**TOBACCO
INDUSTRY
INTERFERENCE
INDEX
2021**

U.S. Total Score

76

Out of 100

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How the U.S. Compares

U.S. Global Rank 68/80

U.S. INDEX INDICATORS & KEY FINDINGS

Indicator 1: Level of Industry Participation in Policy-Development

Indicator 2: Industry CSR Activities





Altria committed \$1 million in COVID relief in Richmond Virginia and in regions where they manufacture of their products occurs

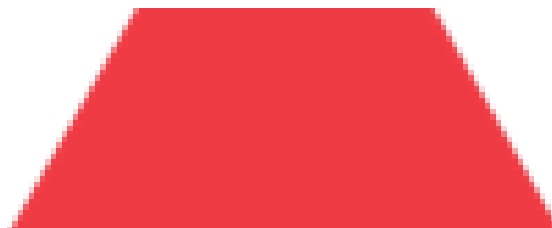


U.S. INDEX RESULTS & KEY FINDINGS

Indicator 3: Benefits to the Tobacco Industry

Indicator 4: Forms of Unnecessary Interaction

Indicator 5: Transparency



<https://ash.org/tobacco-money/>

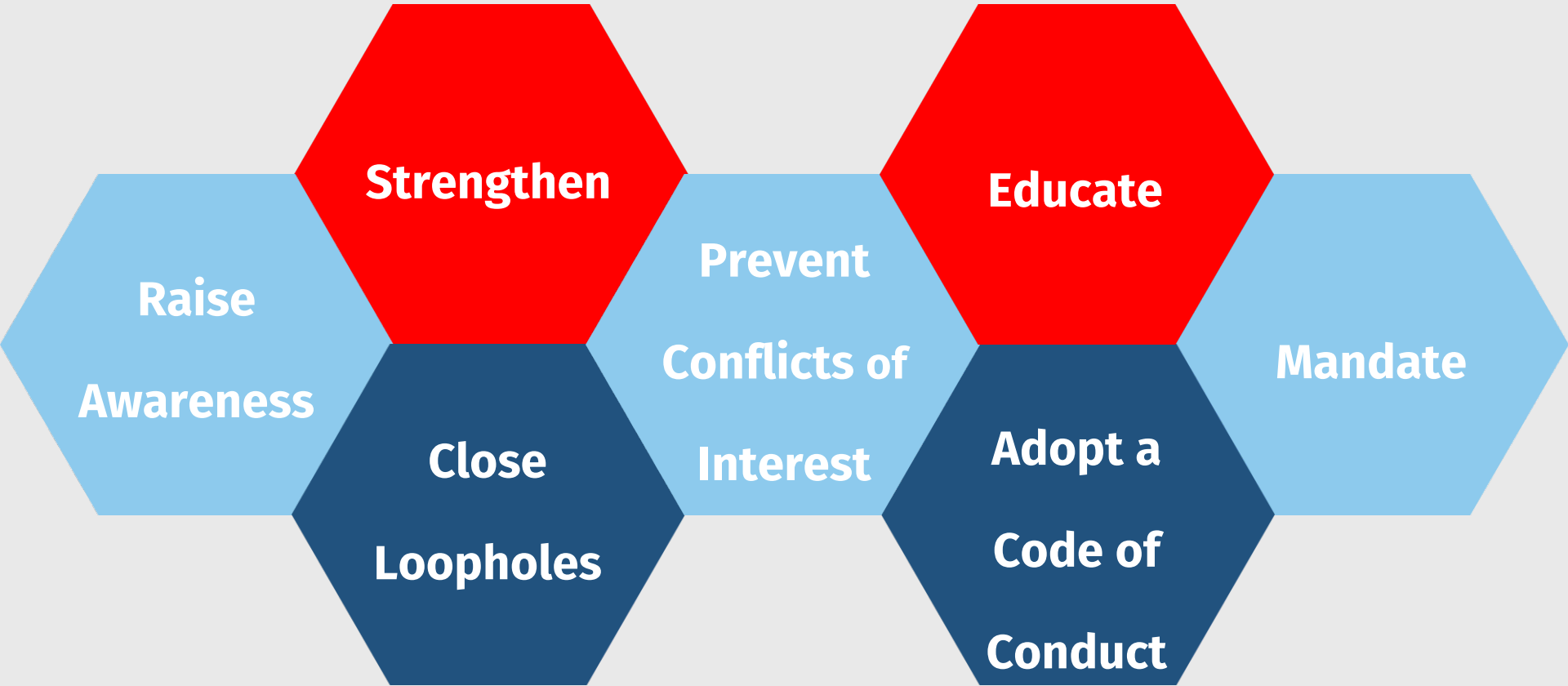
U.S. INDEX RESULTS & KEY FINDINGS

Indicator 6: Conflict of Interest

Indicator 7: Preventative Measures



RECOMMENDATIONS



TAKE ACTION!

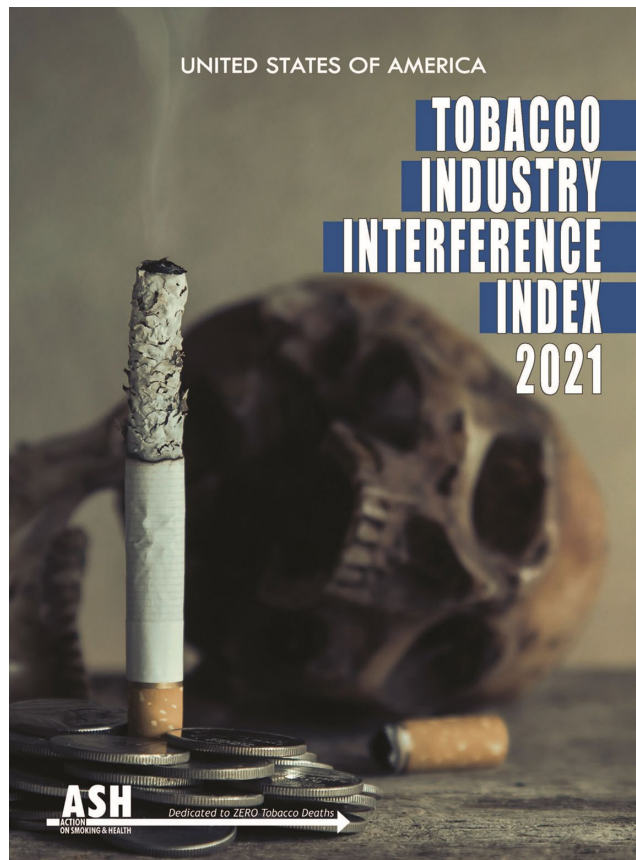
Read the
report and
share your
stories

Submit your information to:

info@ash.org

Or email

Grayn@ash.org



Q&A

Stay Involved



Recordings from **previous webinars** here:

ash.org/webinars



Email
Info@ash.org

Have you seen tobacco industry interference in public health policymaking? Email us the details at info@ash.org!

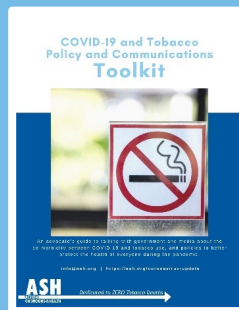
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Next Webinars:

November 22nd – **Interference of the Tobacco Industry: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow**

Registration links will be emailed soon.



Toolkit for Advocates

Talking with government and media about the COVID-19 and tobacco use co-morbidity and policies to protect the health of everyone during the pandemic.

ash.org/covid19