

# MAINE TOBACCO PREVENTION **SUCCESS STORY**

*Supporting Equitable Access To Healthy Environments & Commercial Tobacco Cessation Resources*



## SUMMARY

Bangor Health & Community Services supports SaVida Health in breaking down barriers to implementing tobacco use cessation in substance use disorder (SUD) treatment.



## NEED/ISSUE

Negative health effects of commercial tobacco disproportionately affect individuals with SUD due to higher rates of commercial tobacco use than the general population. However, access to tobacco services within SUD treatment remains low across the United States (1).

## INTERVENTION

Successful collaboration with Savida Health led to a new partnership supporting the implementation of a Behavioral Health model policy in five locations across the state of Maine-- within the counties of Penobscot, York, Washington, Aroostook, and Kennebec.

## RESULTS

SaVida Health's interprofessional care team consists of 17 employees and serves approximately 200 patients across the state of Maine. SaVida serves a population where the adverse health effects of commercial tobacco disproportionately impact health and well-being. Bangor Public Health & Community Services' partnership resulted in how tobacco use cessation is addressed with clients and within policies and clinical practices. Through providing cessation materials, commercial tobacco education/awareness, training for staff to increase confidence in addressing commercial tobacco dependence, and referrals-- equitable access to healthy environments and commercial tobacco cessation resources is growing.

**"Our care team overwhelmingly supports the changes to address tobacco use and is committed to raising awareness and increasing knowledge related to commercial tobacco use."**

***The Director of Behavioral Health***

# SaVida



**"I look forward to working together to protect the health of employees, clients, and the environment by implementing commercial tobacco-free policies and enhancing health equity among various populations."**

***SaVida Health Social Work Intern***

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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CITY OF BANGOR

**Resources:** (1) <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/health-equity/behavioral-health/health-burden.html>