



National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NACCHO Podcast

West Virginia Local Health Department Partners with Grindr to Address the Spike in the Syphilis Rate Among Men Who Have Sex With Men

**Discussion with Lee B. Smith, MD, JD
Executive Director and County Health Officer, Monongalia County Health
Department, Morgantown, WV**

Washington, DC, November 20, 2019 — The [National Association of County and City Health Officials](#) (NACCHO) is the voice of the nation's nearly 3,000 local health departments. In this week's [Podcast from Washington](#), Government Affairs team member Ian Goldstein discusses tobacco legislation advanced by the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee that would raise the federal tobacco purchasing age to 21, ban flavored tobacco products, and require face-to-face sales. He also discusses the Senate HELP Committee hearings on vaping, and the continuing resolution to fund the government, which runs out on November 21.

Later in the program, Emily Yox, NACCHO's program analyst for global health, sits down with Dr. Lee Smith, the Executive Director and County Health Officer of [Monongalia County Health Department](#) in West Virginia. The interview begins 6 minutes and 21 seconds into the podcast. In their discussion, Dr. Lee describes how his county is using the popular dating app Grindr to share information and encourage testing for syphilis, after an outbreak that started primarily among MSM in early 2019. Smith drew inspiration for this

program from a South African presentation he attended a decade earlier on the value of cell phone data, and was able to adapt those ideas into an initiative that addressed a specific community need.

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About NACCHO

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's nearly 3,000 local health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities. For more information about NACCHO, please visit www.naccho.org.