

NCI TOBACCO CONTROL MONOGRAPH SERIES

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GREATER THAN THE SUM

Systems Thinking in Tobacco Control
MONOGRAPH EIGHTEEN

18

About this Monograph

Tobacco control remains a major public health challenge as tobacco use continues to be the leading preventable cause of death. During the past several decades the world of tobacco control has become increasingly complex. A systems perspective can be used to better understand and navigate the dynamic and evolving nature of tobacco prevention and control to achieve the next generation of improved health outcomes.

The National Cancer Institute presents the 18th monograph in the Tobacco Control Monograph Series, *Greater Than the Sum: Systems Thinking in Tobacco Control*. This monograph describes key lessons from the first two years of the Initiative on the Study and Implementation of Systems (ISIS). The ISIS project, funded by the National Cancer Institute, was one of the first major coordinated efforts to explore the application of systems thinking approaches and methodologies to public health.

Just as Monograph 1, *Strategies to Control Tobacco Use in the United States: A Blueprint for Public Health Action in the 1990's*, provided a groundbreaking approach to tobacco control, Monograph 18 gives those in tobacco control and in public health a new approach and a set of methodologies to achieve further change.

This monograph discusses core issues in systems thinking in tobacco control, including:

- An overview of the state of tobacco control and the potential for using systems thinking approaches to address future tobacco control issues;
- An examination of four systems thinking approaches, including systems organizing, system dynamics, system networks, and systems knowledge;
- A look at the potential areas of synthesis among these and other systems approaches and methods to improve the state of tobacco control and potentially improve public health outcomes.

About the NCI Tobacco Control Monograph Series

The National Cancer Institute established the Tobacco Control Monograph series in 1991 to provide ongoing and timely information about emerging public health issues in tobacco control. Monographs are available at no cost in print and online.

For More Information

For more information about this monograph, go to

<http://www.cancercontrol.cancer.gov/tcrb/monographs/18/index.html>.

To order a copy, call the NCI Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237) and ask for NIH Publication No. 06-6085.