

Name Organization

Agenda

- What is menthol?
- · What are the harms of menthol?
- Who is using menthol?
- What is the history of menthol?
- How has the tobacco industry marketed menthol?
- What has been done to regulate menthol?





WHAT IS MENTHOL?

Menthol...

- Is a chemical compound extracted from the peppermint or corn mint plant or created synthetically.
- Has anesthetic or numbing qualities.
- Is used to relieve throat irritation and produces a cooling feeling.

Menthol is used as an additive in nearly all cigarettes to make them more palatable, but only some are promoted as menthol-flavored cigarettes.

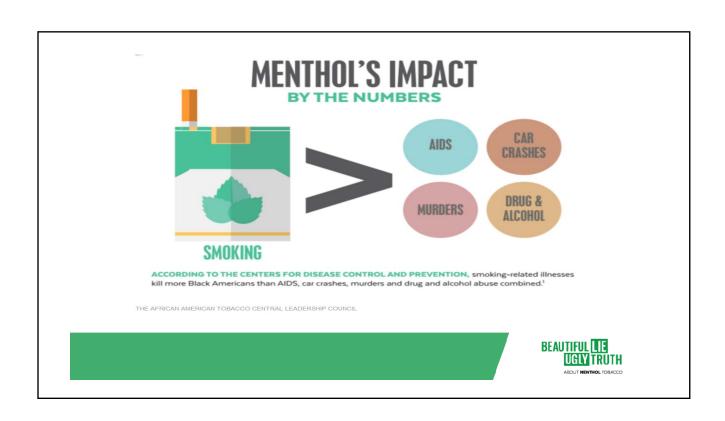








WHAT ARE THE HARMS OF MENTHOL?



Menthol = Easier to Start

"Menthol helps the poison go down easier."

-Phillip Gardiner, Dr. PH

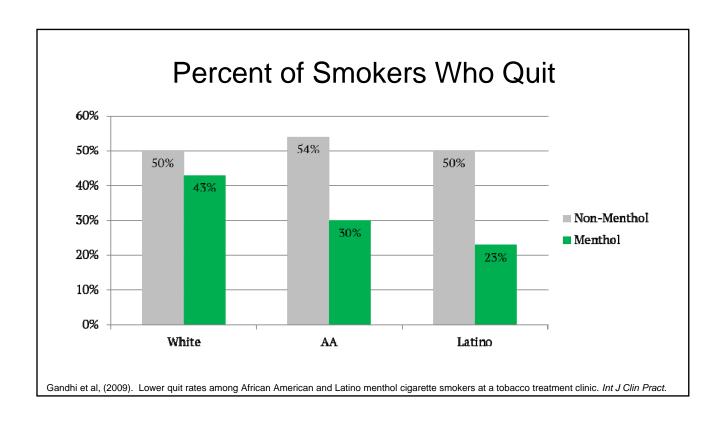


Menthol = Harder to Quit

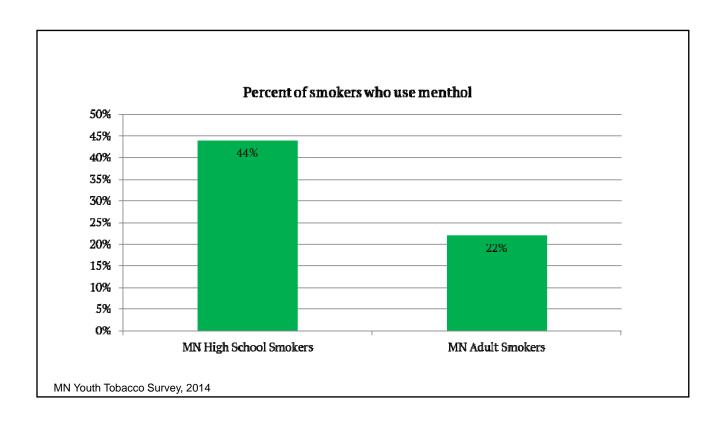
- Menthol increases nicotine absorption, leading to greater dependence.
- Among high school smokers, those who smoke menthols are more likely to smoke within one hour of waking and more likely to report cravings compared to high school smokers of non-menthols.

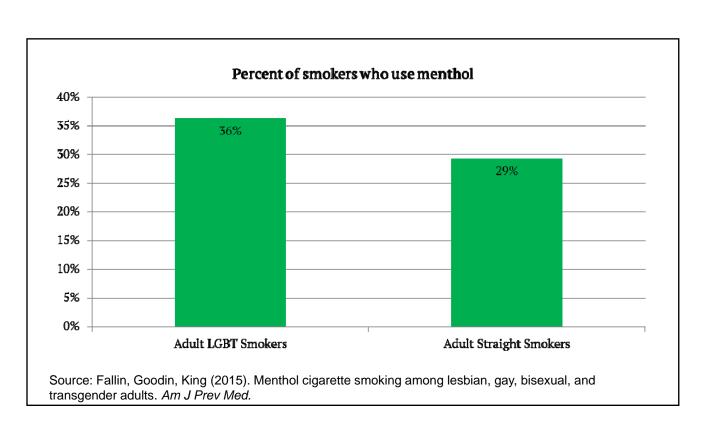
Wackowski & Delnevo, 2007. Menthol cigarettes and indicators of tobacco dependence among adolescents. *Addictive Behaviors*, 32(9), 1964-1969.

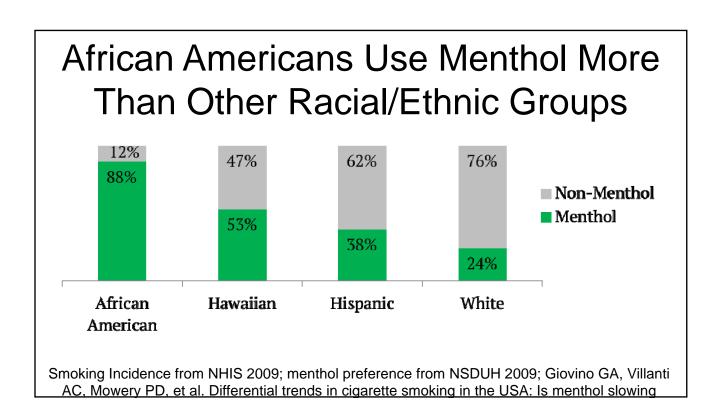


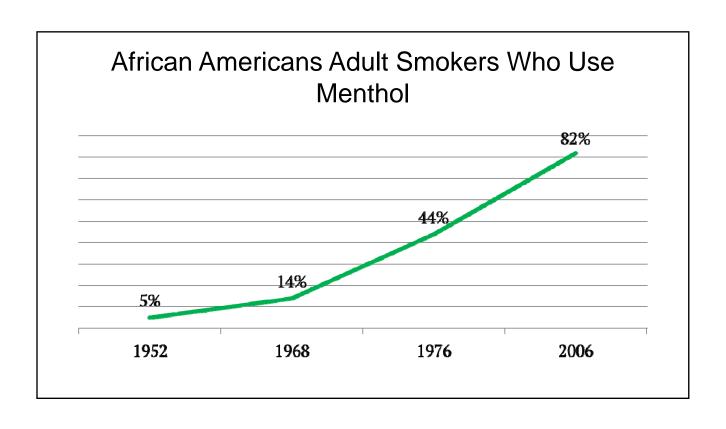














WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF MENTHOL?

1920s: Invention of Menthol Cigarettes

- Lloyd "Spud" Hughes, an Ohio smoker
- Spud brand cigarettes, first menthol cigarettes
 - Many others would follow
 - By 1932, Spuds were the 5th bestselling cigarette in the country



TPSAC Report



1933-1955: Kool Dominates

- Brown & Williamson
- Originally introduced for use to calm throats irritated by smoking regular cigarettes or winter weather
- Seen as a specialty product, not for regular use
 - "For occasional use-Kool for a change"
 - "In between the others, rest your throat with Kools"

TPSAC Report



KOOL ad, 1937

Source: Stanford School of Medicine



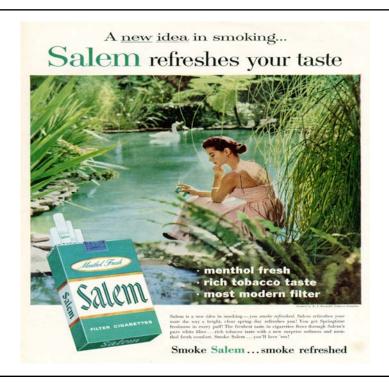
1956-1962: Rise of Salem

- R.J. Reynolds
- Introduced in 1956, first menthol with a filter
- Marketed as a light and refreshing smoke with slogan like "refreshing as all outdoors"
- By 1960, annual sales were \$35 billion, 7.5% of cigarette market
- Newport introduced



Salem ad, 1956

Source: Stanford School of Medicine



1963-1974: Kool Comeback

- Kool markets heavily to African Americans and younger people
 - Kool becomes market leader in menthol
- Newport growth begins
- Menthol brands grow from 9 to 23



In 1969 alone, Lorillard increased its "Negro market budget" by 87% over 1968 due to increased efforts marketing its menthol cigarette, Newport, to the African American market.



Source: Stanford School of Medicine

1970

1976-1988: Newport Takes Hold

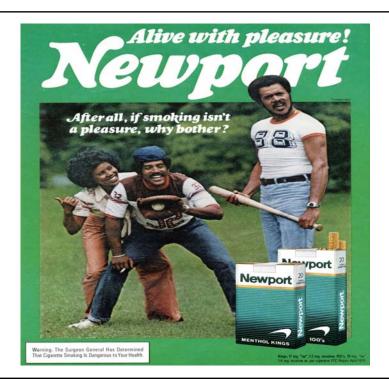
- Menthol accounted for 28% of cigarette market share
- Newport is leading menthol brand
 - "Alive with pleasure"
- Marlboro menthol was second most popular
 - "...menthol smokers are likely to be female, black, younger, and city dwellers."

TPSAC Report



Newport ad, 1976

Source: Stanford School of Medicine





HOW HAS THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY MARKETED MENTHOL?

Menthol: Tobacco Industry Targeting

- There is sufficient research to <u>confirm</u> that tobacco companies targeted youth, women, and African Americans with menthol marketing
- Research also <u>suggests</u> that tobacco companies targeted Latinos, Asians, and Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders

TPSAC Report



"We don't smoke that s___. We just sell it. We reserve the right to smoke for the young, the poor, the black and stupid."

RJ Reynolds Executive, 1971

R.J. Reynolds executive's reply when asked why he didn't smoke according to Dave Goerlitz, lead Winston model for seven years for R.J. Reynolds.] Giovanni, J, "Come to Cancer Country; USA; Focus," The Times of London, August 2, 1992.

"...the base of our business is the high school student."

Lorillard (Makers of Newport), 1978

Menthol & Women

- Women were the first group targeted for menthol.
- The tobacco industry used messages about cleanliness and freshness to appeal to female smokers.
- Women are 1.6 times more likely than men to smoke menthols.

TPSAC Report; Lawrence et al. (2010). National patterns and correlates of mentholated cigarette use in the United States. *Addiction*;105:13-31





1976

www.trinketsandtrash.org



"In 1915, Mrs. Cheryl Van Easton cleverly hid her cigarettes in a hollow duck decoy; The decoy fooled her husband and 750 southbound mallards." You've come a long way, baby." "Virginia Slims. With rich Virginia flavor women like."

Ad found in: Family Circle, January 1976

www.trinketsandtrash.org

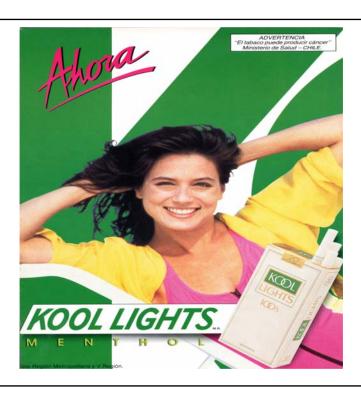
KOOL ad, 1991

Source: Stanford School of Medicine



Spanish KOOL ad, 1990s

Source: Stanford School of Medicine





Ad Found in:

Vogue: March 2004

Jane:February 2004

Latina: February 2004

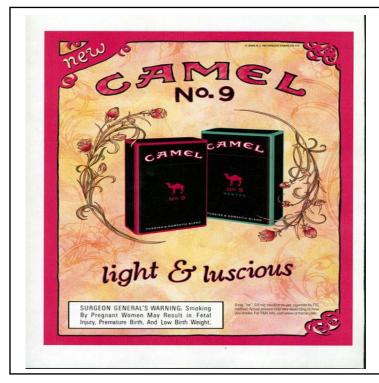
Sports Illustrated, November 2003

Cosmopolitan: November 2003

Honey: November 2003

Maxim: November 2003

www.trinketsandtrash.org



2007 Ad found in: Cosmopolitan Glamour Instyle Lucky Marie Claire Newsweek

www.trinketsandtrash.org

Menthol & African Americans

"No one really knows how African Americans came to prefer menthol cigarettes in the first place. But relentlessly targeted marketing campaigns locked the preference in place."

The Atlantic, 2011



Targeting started in 1960s with these five approaches:

- 1. Collect data about AA consumers
- 2. Use mobile marketing vans
- Develop special promotions for inner city tobacco retailers
- Engage with local organizations to improve corporate image
- 5. Advertise in AA magazines

Yerger et al. (2007)



1. Collect data about AA consumers

R. J. Reynolds

NEGRO MARKET STUDY

I. Profile of the Negro Market

A. Population

B. Income/Employment

C. Education

II. Media Planning

A. Negro Media Usage Rationale

B. Media Analysis

1. Radio

2. Television

3. Newspapers

4. Magazines

5. Sunday Supplement

"A Study of Ethnic Markets" R.J. Reynolds, 1969 240 page report of "Negro, Spanishlanguage, and Jewish special markets"



Source: https://industrydocuments.library.ucsf.edu/tobacco/docs/#id=jrgc0035

"Blacks simply have more pressing concerns than smoking issues."

-RJ Reynolds, 1985

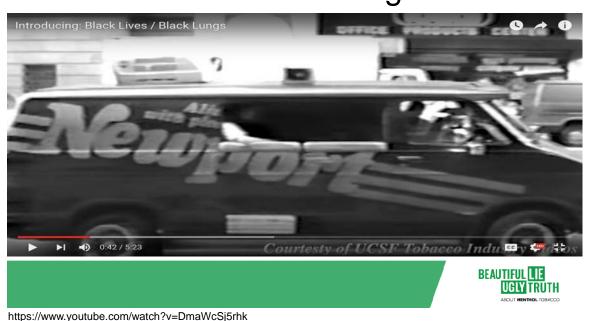
TPSAC Report

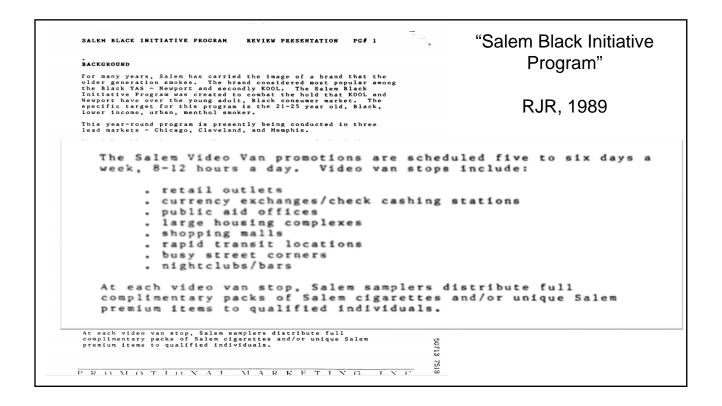
"The daring, flamboyant aspect of YA [young adult] Black smokers' personalities are evident in the many trends they start. And the fact that these trends often spread to the general population speaks to the unrecognized power and influence of this subgroup yields on society."

R.J. Reynolds, 1989

TPSAC Report

2. Mobile Marketing Vans





3. Develop special promotions for inner city tobacco retailers

1989, Salem Black Initiative Lead Market Plan:

"Objective is to attract growing segment of 18-24 year old urban Black smokers. Program includes monthly retail pack promotions."

https://industrydocuments.library.ucsf.edu/tobacco/docs/#id=pmyl0092

Program Description Launched April 1 into Cleveland, Memphis and Chicago Lead Markets. National expansion planned for April, 1990. Objective is to attract growing segment of 18-24 year old urban Black smokers. Features highly targeted and localized advertising, retail promotion and field marketing support with a single-minded focus on SALEM. Advertising New SALEM "Fresh On The Scene" advertising is highly relevant and motivating to urban Black YAS smokers. The new advertising reflects the world of nightlife, music and entertainment and communicates a positive message about SALEM that significantly improves SALEM perceptions among target smokers. Retail calls in Black outlets increased from quarterly to monthly. Volume requirements lowered to add new Black calls in high traffic areas. Program includes monthly retail pack promotions (premium with one pack purchase). Field Marketing Roving video wans cover the city in the daytime distributing free sample 20's and premiums. Video vans also visit popular adult nightclubs for sampling inside and outside the club and attend local special events and programs. Weekly SALEM nights conducted in popular local nightclubs with sampling, premiums and prizes for event participants.

4. Engage with local organizations to improve corporate image

"Kool is to develop programs which ingratiate themselves with the Black community. These programs are to show the makers of Kool as a community citizen, be backfire-proof and pave the way for supporting the brand..."

- Brown & Williamson, 1976

Source: https://industrydocuments.library.ucsf.edu/tobacco/docs/#id=mtdn0139

Bottom Line...

Keep African Americans engaged as consumers and silent as opponents, while getting their African American leaders to speak on behalf of the tobacco industry.

Dr. Valerie Yerger



AA Organizations with Ties to Tobacco

- NAACP
- National Urban League
- Congressional Black Caucus
- National Black Chamber of Commerce
- National Black Police Association
- United Negro College Fund
- Southern Christian Leadership Council
- National Conference of Black Mayors



Yerger et. al (2007)

"The National Black Chamber of Commerce believes strongly that menthol is a rather inconsequential ingredient in a cigarette. Menthol simply is a taste preference preferred by African Americans and it should not be singled out for a ban."

> - Harry Alford, TPSAC Public Hearing, March 17, 2011

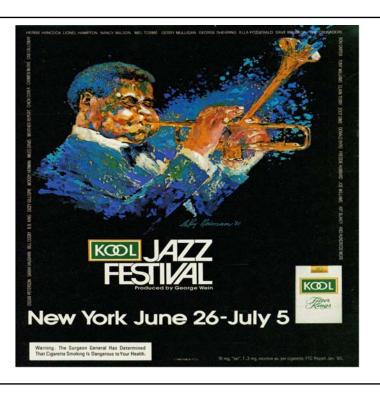
Dr. Valerie Yerger

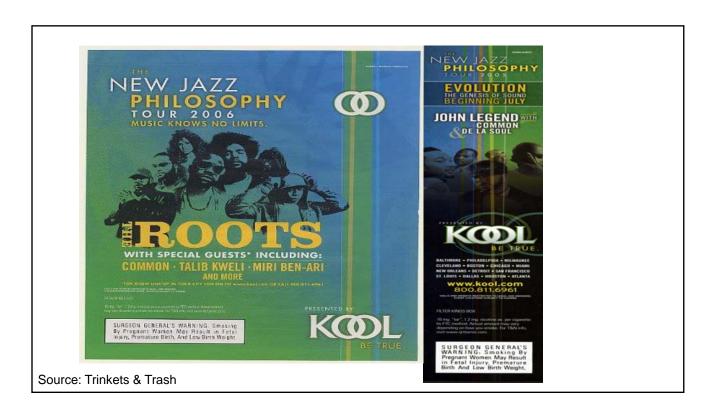




Kool Jazz Festival Ad, 1981

Source: Stanford School of Medicine





5. Advertise in AA magazines

"Younger adult Blacks of the 1930s to 1950s had basically gone with whatever brand was big among younger adult White smokers...It was time for Blacks to build their own brand in the 1960s, the heyday of Martin Luther King and 'Black pride'... Kool apparently capitalized on this aspect of the 1960s by simply advertising to Blacks before its competitors did. Kool ads were in Ebony consistently from at least 1962, when our records start...Kool became 'cool' and, by the early 1970s, had a 56% share among younger adult Blacks – it was the Black Marlboro."

- Diane Burrows, RJ Reynolds, 1984

http://legacy.library.ucsf.edu/tid/ene39d00

"However, if the key objective is to <u>sell</u> more of Product A to more Negroes, <u>then they must be</u> <u>communicated with, not merely reached.</u>"

- R.J. Reynolds, A Study of Ethnic Markets, 1969

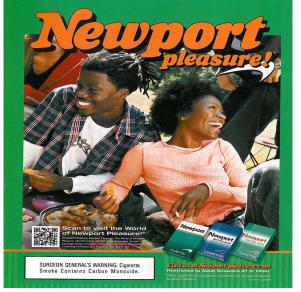
https://industrydocuments.library.ucsf.edu/tobacco/docs/#id=jrgc0035



1962

Source: Stanford Research into the Impact of Tobacco Advertising





1974

2013

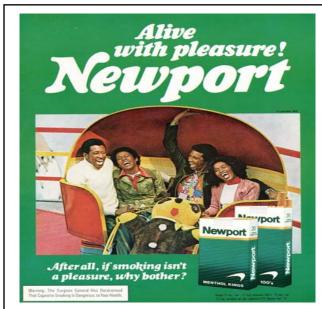
Sources: http://tobacco.stanford.edu/ and www.trinketsandtrash.org





1977 2011

Sources: http://tobacco.stanford.edu/ and www.trinketsandtrash.org



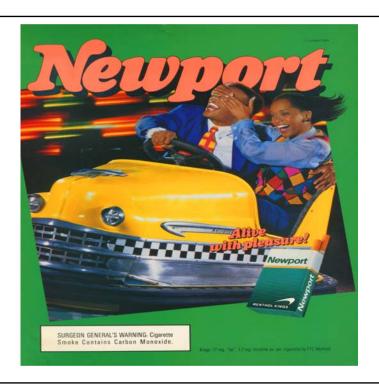


1975 2015

Sources: http://tobacco.stanford.edu/ and www.trinketsandtrash.org

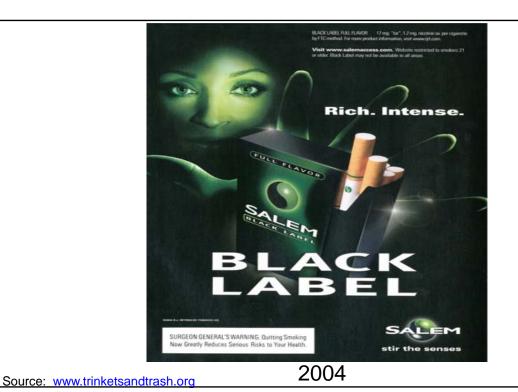
Newport ad, 1994

Source: Stanford School of Medicine





30



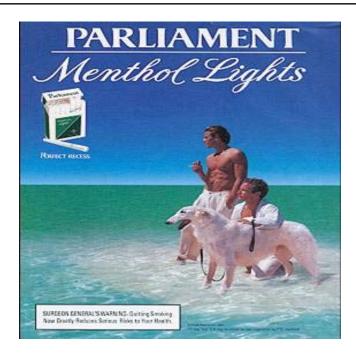


Menthol and the LGBTQ Community

- Menthol use is significantly higher among LGBTQ smokers, especially LGBTQ youth.
- The tobacco industry targets the LGBTQ community in general, and specifically with menthol products.



Source: Trinkets and Trash



"America's best companies can't put a value dollar on diversity, but they recognize the importance of it nonetheless...each of these companies has decided to demonstrate its commitment to gay and lesbian Americans by speaking directly to us in...Companies that Care."

January 2002 issue of OUT

AMERICA'S BEST CONTABLES carrier paid a deline value on diversity, but they recognise the investment of a secontable in They paid they serve. And they know that treating all customers with respect is good business and good corporate citizenship. The corposale intention of the contable in the follow intention of the communities to they serve and they know that treating all customers with respect is good business and good corporate citizenship. The corposale intention of the communities of the communitie

Source: Trinkets and Trash

Source: Trinkets and Trash





WHAT CAN BE DONE TO REGULATE MENTHOL?

Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control



Congress bans the manufacture of all <u>cigarettes</u> with candy, fruit, or spice flavorings

Directed the FDA to decide whether continued sale of menthol is "appropriate for public health"

TPSAC: Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee

"Removal of menthol cigarettes from the marketplace would benefit public health in the United States."

TPSAC report, March 2011



Tobacco Industry Opposition

- Lorillard's ad campaign: Adults should be free to choose to smoke menthol cigarettes with the headline "Freedom of Choice for Grown Folks" and that "the history of African Americans in this country has been one of fighting against paternalistic limitations and for freedoms"
- Litigation: Lorillard sued the FDA in 2011. A district court judge ordered the FDA to disregard TPSAC reports and findings. The FDA appealed that ruling. In January 2016, the appellate court reversed the Judge's earlier decision. The appellate court's ruling frees the FDA to rely on the TPSAC menthol report to take action to regulate menthol tobacco products.



Bottom Line...

 Let's not wait for the FDA to act when we know we can work together to protect our communities from the harm of menthol.



What can we do?

- The only city to regulate the sale of menthol is Chicago.
- Cities and counties in MN have the authority to regulate the sale of tobacco products, including menthol.
- Minneapolis and St. Paul have prohibited the sale of non-menthol flavored tobacco products in stores where kids can enter. The same could be done for menthol.



If menthol were banned...

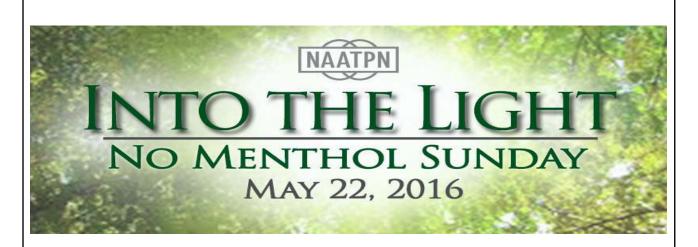
 Of MN Adults who smoke menthol, about half said they would quit smoking if menthol cigarettes were no longer sold in the United States. (MATS, 2014)



Join our menthol coalition!

- A group of health and community organizations in Minnesota committed to reducing the harm caused by menthol-flavored cigarettes and other tobacco products.
 We share a common goal of working to reduce the harm caused by menthol tobacco.
- Contact Betsy Brock (<u>betsy@ansrmn.org</u>) or LaTrisha Vetaw (Ivetaw@northpointinc.org) to sign up!





For more information and a guide for church leaders, visit:

http://www.naatpn.org/nomentholsunday

Discussion

- What message against menthol resonated most with you?
- What materials would be helpful to bring this information to your communities?
- What steps do you plan to take to spread the message about the danger of menthol?



Questions?

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

