

SMOKEFREE WORKPLACES

A Resolution for Alaska Tribes

Tribal leaders can protect people from secondhand smoke and protect children from tobacco-caused diseases and addiction by creating smokefree workplaces.

How does secondhand smoke affect Alaska Native people?

- In healthy non-smokers, secondhand smoke causes heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer¹
 - Non-smokers' heart disease risk rises 25–30%¹
 - Non-smokers' lung cancer risk rises 20–30%¹
- Causes asthma, bronchitis, and pneumonia in Alaska Native children¹
- Increases risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)¹

How will smokefree policies benefit Alaska Native people?

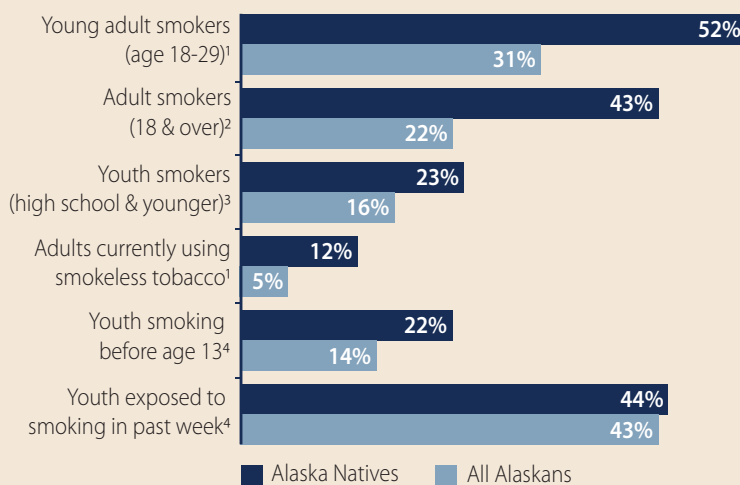
- Smokefree policies protect people from second hand smoke, encourage adults to quit smoking, and discourage youth from starting
- Smokefree policies have a positive impact on business and employment
- \$491 million is spent annually on health care costs and lost productivity from smoke-filled workplaces³
- 88% of adults and 80% of smokers in Alaska agree people should be protected from second hand smoke⁴
- 10-15 years of life return when a smoker quits tobacco⁵
- Children have the chance to grow up healthy and tobacco free

What are the risks of tobacco use?

Tobacco use by Alaska Native adults and youth **remain higher** than that of non-Natives. Tobacco use harms Alaska Native people with diseases that were not historically common.

- Cancer is leading cause of death for AK Natives
 - lung cancer, primarily from smoking, is the leading cause of cancer death²
 - 1 in 3 cancer deaths are caused by tobacco²
- Heart disease and strokes are the second leading cause of death with 1 in 5 caused by tobacco²
- Respiratory disease is a leading cause of Native death with 8 in 10 caused by tobacco²

Tobacco Use and Exposure in Alaska



¹ Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2006-2008.

² Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2008.

³ AK Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2009.

⁴ AK Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2007-2009.

1. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2006

2. *What State Surveys Tell Us About Tobacco Use Among Alaska Natives: Implications for Program Planning.* (2007). Div. of Public Health, AK Dept. of Health and Social Services.

3. *Tobacco Prevention and Control Annual Report (2008).* Div. of Public Health, AK Dept. of Health and Social Services.

4. *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2008.*

5. *The Health Consequences of Smoking: A report of the Surgeon General.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2004.