



AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES

It is important to distinguish the differences between traditional tobacco and commercial tobacco use among American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Traditional tobacco is rarely smoked and is used for sacred, religious, and traditional purposes. The use of "tobacco" in this fact sheet refers to commercial tobacco, which is manufactured by companies for profit and contains harmful chemicals that cause death and disease. Tobacco use is the #1 cause of preventable disease, disability, and death among American Indian and Alaska Native populations.

American Indians and Alaska Natives use tobacco **at higher rates than any other racial or ethnic group** in the United States. National data show:



1 in 5

American Indian and Alaska Native **adults** smoke cigarettes.

1 in 6

American Indian and Alaska Native **women** smoked during pregnancy.

1 in 2

American Indian and Alaska Native **young adults ages 18 to 25** use tobacco.



40.4% of American Indian and Alaska Native high school students are current e-cigarette users, a rate **significantly higher than the national average of 27.5%**.

Tobacco use is associated with heart disease and cancer, **the two leading causes of death** among American Indian and Alaska Native adults.

Tobacco companies target indigenous populations with advertising, financial contributions to cultural organizations, and sponsored cultural events to increase tobacco use rates.



55.6% of American Indian and Alaska Native adult smokers report that **THEY WANT TO QUIT SMOKING.**