

Survey Results

Risk Factors...

Youth were more likely to smoke in the **past-month** when they:

- had friends, cousins, & parents who smoked cigarettes
- reported being around secondhand smoke from a car or room in the past week
- had ever used natural tobacco for ceremonial reasons

Youth were more likely to smoke in their **lifetime** when they:

- had friends, siblings, & cousins who smoked cigarettes
- had used natural tobacco for ceremonial reasons

Protective Factors...

Youth were less likely to smoke in their **lifetime** and in the **past month** when they:

- held positive beliefs about traditional tobacco
- earned good grades
- reported having grandparents who smoked

Where do we go from here?

We will work to further our understanding of the risk and protective factors for smoking among AI youth and develop smoking prevention and cessation programs for AI youth and their families.

We will also work together with the AI community to provide information to organizations for use in funding purposes or developing educational programs. **Any specific survey information is available upon request.**

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Urban Youth Programs

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Culture and Tobacco Among American Indian Adolescents

A Tobacco Survey Study of American Indian youth in California

University of Southern California
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Tobacco and Native Youth

Commercial tobacco abuse is an important health issue among American Indian (AI) adolescents. AI youth have a higher smoking prevalence than any other ethnic or racial group in the United States.



In California, there are 107 federally recognized tribes - more than any state except Alaska - and many non-federally recognized tribes as well. Therefore, it is important to be cognizant of the sacred role of tobacco in many traditional AI cultures when developing tobacco prevention messages.

USE Tobacco Survey Project

To address the problem of tobacco use among Native youth, we developed a survey project entitled "Culture and Tobacco Among American Indian Adolescents." In this survey we wanted to assess attitudes and behaviors toward tobacco that are specific to AI youth in California.

Goals of the Survey

- To develop tobacco prevention messages that help preserve traditional ways while preventing harmful effects of recreational tobacco use.
- To identify general and culturally-specific risk and protective factors for tobacco use among AI youth
- To inform culturally relevant tobacco cessation and prevention programs for AI youth

California has the highest population of American Indians (696,600) in the United States, according to the 2006 U.S. Census.



Of the 58 counties in California, this map reflects the 41 counties in which survey participants reside, according to the zip codes they provided on the survey.

Los Angeles County has the highest number of American Indians and Alaska Natives compared to any other county in the United States.

Survey Results

Youth between the ages of 13-19 were eligible to take the survey. These are just some of the results based on the surveys of 1,077 youth who both self-identified as American Indian, Native American, or Alaska Native and completed the entire survey.

Demographics...

Most youth were:

- between 15-16 years old (36%)
- female (56%)
- in 10th-12th grade (57%)
- lived outside a reservation (61%), though this does not exclude rural areas

Cigarette Use...

- Over 50% of youth reported experimenting with cigarettes in their lifetime
- 26% reported cigarette use in the past month
- 27% were between 10-13 years old when they had their first cigarette puff

Wild/Natural/Traditional Tobacco...

Youth were asked how much they knew about the ceremonial uses of tobacco:

