
MMWR Introduction

Although significant progress has been made in reducing overall commercial tobacco product use, disparities persist, with American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) having one of the highest cigarette smoking prevalence rates among all racial/ethnic groups. CDC analyzed self-reported current (past 30-day) use of five tobacco product types (cigarettes; cigars/cigarillos/little cigars; roll-your-own tobacco; pipes; and smokeless tobacco) among AI/AN adults from the 2010–2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH); results were compared with six other racial/ethnic groups (Hispanic; non-Hispanic White [white]; non-Hispanic Black [black]; non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander [NHOPI]; non-Hispanic Asian [Asian]; and non-Hispanic multi-race [multi-race]).

During 2010–2015, the prevalence of current use of any tobacco product was significantly higher among AI/ANs than non-AI/ANs combined, overall and among all assessed subgroups, except people with at least a college degree. Furthermore, AI/ANs had higher prevalence of any tobacco product use and cigarette smoking than any other individual racial/ethnic group. Addressing the social determinants of health and providing evidence-based, population-level, and appropriately tailored tobacco control interventions could help reduce tobacco product use and eliminate disparities in tobacco product use among AI/ANs.

MMWR Highlights

Current (past 30-day) use of any tobacco product among AI/AN and non-AI/AN adults aged ≥18 years, overall and by sociodemographic and socioeconomic characteristics, NSDUH, 2010–2015

- Overall, 43.3% of all AI/AN adults used any tobacco product, compared with 27.7% of all non-AI/AN adults.
  - By sex, 49.7% of AI/AN male adults and 37.8% of all female adults used any tobacco product, compared with 34.3% of non-AI/AN male adults and 21.5% of non-AI/AN female adults.
  - By age group, AI/AN use of any tobacco product was 55.6% among people aged 18 to 25 years, 53.0% among people aged 26 to 34 years, 49.7% among people aged 25 to 49 years, and 29.6% among people aged 50 years and older.
  - By education level, AI/AN use of any tobacco product was 49.8% among people with less than a high school diploma, 45.3% among people with a high school diploma, 43.5% among people with some college education, and 21.0% among people with at least an undergraduate degree.
  - By annual family income, AI/AN use of any tobacco product was 50.3% among people earning less than $20,000, 41.2% among people earning $20,000–$49,999, 40.6% among people earning $50,000–$74,999, and 32.4% among people earning $75,000 or more.
  - By family income relative to the Federal Poverty Threshold, AI/AN use of any tobacco product was 51.3% among those at or below the threshold, 43.5% among those at up to two times the threshold, and 36.0% among people at two times the threshold or more.
  - By marital status, AI/AN use of any tobacco product was 37.9% among people who were married, 40.9% among people who were widowed/divorced/separated, and 50.5% among people who were never married.