# Survey Results

### Risk Factors...

Youth were more likely to smoke in the pastmonth 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 Al community to provide information to organizations for use in funding purposes or developing educational programs. Any specific survey information is available upon request.

## Acknowldegements

Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP) American Indian Tobacco Education Network's Humboldt State University College Motivational Day California American Indian Education Centers California Conference on American Indian Education California Pow Wows Northern California Indian Development Council's Intertribal Gathering Title VII Programs Urban and Rural California Schools Urban Youth Programs

## Advisory Committee

Judy Delgado - *Maidu, Susanville Indian Rancheria* Tzenni-Bah Garcia - *Dine, Tarahumara* Phil Hale - *Navajo* Kathleen Jack - *Paiute* Lou Moerner- *ani-yv-wiya* Kurt Schweigman - *Lakota* Liz Lara O'Rourke - *Hupa, Yurok, Chilula* Michael Weahkee - *Zuni* 

## **Contact Information**

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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 Keck School of Medicine Institute for Prevention Research



## Tobacco and Native Youth

Commercial tobacco abuse is an important health issue among American Indian (AI) adolescents. Al 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.

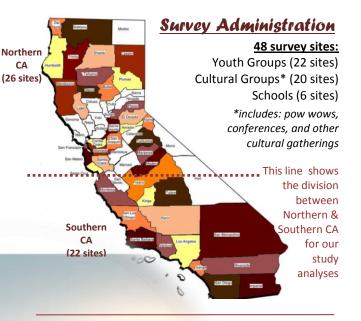
# **USC Tobacco Survey Project**

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 Al 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 Al 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 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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:

