American Indian Youth in California
Tobacco Use

American Indians in California

- In 2010, 1.0% (362,801) of Californians identified as American Indian or Alaska Native alone.¹
- There are 107 federally recognized tribes in California with Los Angeles having the largest urban Al population (combination of California tribes and out of state tribes) in the U.S.²

Tobacco Use among AI Youth in California

Culture and Tobacco among American Indian Adolescents³

- Over 50% of AI youth reported they have ever tried or experimented with cigarettes.
- 26% of youth reported that they used cigarettes in the past-month.
- 47% of youth were between 10-13 years old when they had their 1st puff on a cigarette.
- Having friends or siblings that smoke is more likely to influence smoking.
- Being exposed to secondhand smoke (in same room or in a car) can influence smoking.

Facts about Tobacco in AI Communities

Costs of Smoking and Policy Strategies for California Al communities⁴

- Youth are targeted by the Tobacco Industry at an early age to get them addicted and the Tobacco Industry reaps the benefits of making millions.
- Access to cheaper cigarettes on Indian reservations is associated with higher tobacco use rates and lower quit rates, especially among youth.
- Taxation has provided benefits like: decreased tobacco consumption and initiation to smoke, increased quit attempts by smokers, and an additional source of revenue that can be directed toward commercial tobacco prevention and preservation of traditional tobacco and activities.