

National Native Commercial Tobacco Abuse Prevention Network

Dear National Network Member,

Welcome to the **National Native Commercial Tobacco Abuse Prevention Network**. On behalf of our Network management team I would like to thank you for your interest in commercial tobacco use prevention and your commitment to American Indian and Alaska Native health.

A “**network**” can be defined as an association of individuals having a common interest, formed to provide mutual assistance and helpful information. As a member of the National Network you are connected with hundreds of dedicated allied health professionals, grassroots coalition members, educators, and concerned community members that are interested in increasing the health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives through commercial tobacco use prevention and cessation.

Our mission is to provide a forum for tribes and tribal organizations to obtain and disseminate information in order to identify and eliminate health disparities related to commercial tobacco abuse. The National Network has created a system of information sharing that maximizes member’s ability to deliver highly effective programs that are evidence-based and culturally competent.

As a member you are granted access to a wealth of resources provided by tribes, tribal organizations, coalitions, and allied health professionals. Be sure to visit our website frequently at **www.KeepItSacred.org**, as information and the repository of resources are updated frequently. Resources that are vital to impacting change across a wide variety of topics like the Tribal Smoke-Free Policy Toolkit, Network Membership Map, and Media Center can be found on our site. Our Facebook page can also be accessed from our website and provides daily news, events, and funding opportunities.

We welcome you to share your ideas, local successes, anecdotal stories, and strategies. Together, as a network we can work together to reduce commercial tobacco abuse and providing a strong voice on behalf of American Indians and Alaska Natives all over the country.

Respectfully,



Kim Alford
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American Indian and Alaska Native Commercial Tobacco Use:

Commercial Tobacco use is the number one preventable cause of morbidity and mortality in the United States. Commercial tobacco causes harm to nearly every organ of the body and the list of diseases that are scientifically linked to smoking and smokeless tobacco use continues to grow. Despite all that is known about the economic and health consequences of commercial tobacco abuse, an estimated 46.0 million Americans (20.6%) continue to smoke. American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) have the highest smoking prevalence (32%) as well as smokeless tobacco use (7.1%) when compared to other populations. Tribal specific data from the American Indian Adult Tobacco Survey (AI-ATS) and the Alaska Native Adult Tobacco Survey (AN-ATS) have revealed that the range for specific smoking estimates within tribal nations were as low as 28% to as high as 79%.

Regional differences in AI/AN smoking exist and have remained relatively stable and are lowest in the Southwest (21.2%) and highest in the Northern Plains (44.1%) and Alaska (39.0%). It is important to note that the disease burden among those conditions that are directly linked to commercial tobacco abuse mirror smoking and smokeless tobacco use prevalence. In example, when examining Indian Health Service (IHS) regions, lung cancer mortality is highest in the Northern Plains (Billings, Bemidji, Aberdeen) and Alaska where smoking prevalence is also the highest, and lowest in the Southwest (Tucson, Albuquerque, Navajo, Phoenix) where smoking is the least prevalent.

Cigarette smoking among adults, by race in 2008

Characteristic	Men	Women	Total	
	(n= 9,387)	(n=12,138)	(N=21,525)	
Characteristic	%	%	%	(95% CI)
White	23.5	20.6	22.0	(21.1-23.0)
Black	25.6	17.8	21.3	(19.5-23.1)
Hispanic	20.7	10.7	15.8	(14.3-17.5)
AI/AN	42.3	22.4	32.4	(24.4-41.6)
Asian	15.7	4.7	9.9	(7.8-12.6)
All Races	23.1	18.3	20.6	(19.9-21.4)

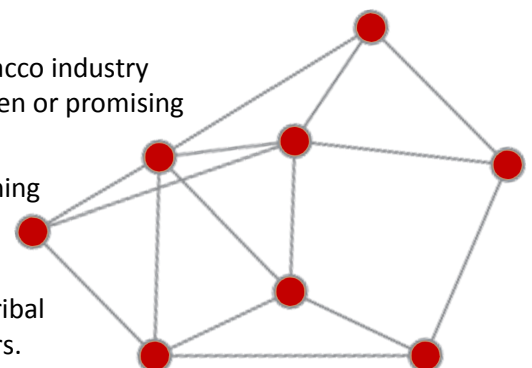
Role of the National Network:

Due to persistent smoking and smokeless tobacco use disparities, AI/AN commercial tobacco use is a major concern that needs to be placed as a high public health priority. The National Native Commercial Tobacco Abuse Prevention Network addresses these concerns by developing a forum for AI/AN serving organizations to obtain and disseminate evidence-based and culturally appropriate information that work toward the identification and elimination of health disparities related to commercial tobacco. The National Network takes leadership on commercial tobacco use issues by engaging a diverse and ever growing collective of AI/AN stakeholders and links them to critical resources that are capacity building in an effort to improve the quality of stakeholder interventions.

The National Network will build a nationwide community of individuals, coalitions, and organizations dedicated to the elimination of commercial tobacco abuse and exposure to dangerous secondhand smoke. The National Network actively seeks to increase its outreach to commercial tobacco control stakeholders in several areas including, but not limited to allied health professions, educational institutions, tribal leadership, elders, and grassroots community members.

National Network Priorities:

- To inform the tobacco prevention community about: 1. the depth of the tobacco industry targeting; 2. gaps in AI/AN tobacco use data; 3. strategies to implement proven or promising interventions.
- To build capacity by recruiting individuals and organizations to facilitate learning and information sharing within the Network and the broader public health community.
- To become recognized and utilized as a go-to resource for AI/AN for tribes, tribal organizations and coalitions, states, communities, and other external partners.



History

The National Native Commercial Tobacco Abuse Prevention Network was established in the spring of 2008 in an effort to create a true collaborative-interlocking system of stakeholders within American Indian and Alaska Native communities. The

National Network is intimately connected to the communities they serve and bring a wealth of knowledge of culturally approaches for tobacco control. The National Network management is currently composed of the Intertribal Council of Michigan (ITCM), Muscogee Creek Nation (MCN), and the Health Education and Promotion Council (HEAPC). The core funding for the National Network comes through a cooperative agreement with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention– Office of Smoking and Health (agreement # 1U58DP001519-01), which is administered by the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan.

Membership in the National Network is free and open to all. Interested individuals should register to be network members by visiting www.keepitsacred.org.

Services

Provide tribes and AI/AN serving organizations the scientific knowledge and technical assistance that will allow them to implement high quality interventions that are culturally competent and grounded in science.

Collect data to inform **Promising Practices in Indian Country** – a compendium of culturally appropriate interventions that have been scientifically evaluated and have shown to be successful among AI/AN populations.

Provide expert guidance in implementing policy – policy advocacy from planning to enforcement.

Provide technical assistance that is informed by both science and cultural relevance.



Contact Us

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