

# TRIBAL TOBACCO USE PROJECT II

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A Key Findings Report for Minnesota  
American Indian Communities



American Indian  
Cancer Foundation®

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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American Indian Cancer Foundation. *Tribal Tobacco Use Project II State Aggregate Key Findings Report*, 2023.

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

This is a technical report to provide results on the Tribal Tobacco Use Project II. The report can be used in planning and obtaining future funding for tribal tobacco control and health programs, as well as educating community members and stakeholders about tobacco use among American Indian adults in Minnesota.

## BACKGROUND - TOBACCO AND HEALTH

The American Indian Cancer Foundation acknowledges the traditional and sacred role of tobacco for American Indians throughout this project. Traditional tobacco use is separate from commercial tobacco use, and is used in ways that honor others and the Creator. It is offered in daily prayer, when harvesting food and medicine and as a sign of respect to others. Some use *cansasa* or *kinnickinnick* (red willow bark with other plants and bark) or traditional tobacco grown for this purpose, while others may use commercial tobacco purchased from a store, such as loose or pouch tobacco.

What is used for traditional tobacco, and how it is used, depends on many factors, such as tribal traditions, personal knowledge of traditional tobacco, and tobacco availability. We believe that these traditions will help future generations to honor tobacco and resist tobacco misuse.

Commercial tobacco use refers to the recreational or addictive use of commercially-grown and processed tobacco. Current commercial tobacco use rates within American Indians communities should be interpreted cautiously when analyzing data by demographic region (nation, state, region, tribe). National and state-level surveys undersample American Indians, do not differentiate between commercial and traditional tobacco use, and often exclude the community within the data collection process. This type of data collection produces misleading results that inaccurately portray the status of commercial tobacco use among specific American Indian communities.

Additional information on the process for this project can be found here: Roland KM, Anderson MD, Carroll DM, Webber AG, Rhodes KL, Poupart J, Forster JL, Peterson-Hickey M, Pickner WJ. Tribal Tobacco Use Project II: Planning, Implementation, and Dissemination Using Culturally Relevant Data Collection among American Indian Communities. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2022 Jun 23;19(13):7708. doi: 10.3390/ijerph19137708. PMID: 35805376; PMCID: PMC9265766.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about this report please visit <https://americanindiancancer.org/research-evaluation/> or contact [research@aicaf.org](mailto:research@aicaf.org).



## American Indian Cancer Foundation's Tribal Tobacco Use Project II: Key Findings in Minnesota Native Communities

The American Indian Cancer Foundation partnered with 6 tribal communities in Minnesota to conduct the Tribal Tobacco Use Project II (TTUP II) in 2019-2022. Participants were adults (18 years and older) who self-identified as American Indian and met other criteria established by each tribal community (e.g. used tribal clinic, lived in the community, enrolled in tribe). A total of 1495 surveys were collected. The raw data were adjusted to reflect the age and gender distribution of American Indians (alone) in the 2010 Census for Minnesota. The survey included questions about smoking status, quitting commercial tobacco use, secondhand smoke exposure and traditional tobacco use.

Traditional Tobacco Use		
71%	49%	28%
Have ever used traditional tobacco	Interested in learning more about traditional tobacco	Used traditional tobacco the last time tobacco was used for ceremonial prayer or sacred use

- 7 out of 10 have used traditional tobacco
- Almost half of participants are interested in learning more about traditional tobacco

Commercial Tobacco Use								
People who currently smoke			People who formerly smoked			Non-smokers		
TTUP I: State Aggregate 2013	TTUP II: State Aggregate 2023	MATS: All races 2018	TTUP I: State Aggregate 2013	TTUP II: State Aggregate 2023	MATS: All races 2018	TTUP I: State Aggregate 2013	TTUP II: State Aggregate 2023	MATS: All races 2018
59%	46%	14%	19%	24%	26%	22%	29%	60%
<i>Tribal Tobacco Use Project I: State Aggregate, 2013</i> <i>Tribal Tobacco Use Survey II: State Aggregate, 2023</i> <i>Minnesota Adult Tobacco Survey: Minnesota Department of Health, 2018</i>								

- Current commercial tobacco use has decreased by 22% since 2013, but is still much higher in this community than in the total MN population
- Never smokers have increased by 32% between 2013 and 2022 but is still much lower in this community than in the total MN population





Quitting Smoking				
53% Current smokers expressed an interest in quitting smoking	47%	60%		
	Current smokers have had at least one quit attempt in the last year	Current smokers reported some to a lot of support among friends and family for a quit attempt		
Secondhand Smoke Exposure (SHS)				
28%	16%	50%		
Are exposed to SHS at home	Are exposed to SHS at work	Are exposed to SHS in the car		
Attitudes about Secondhand Smoke Policies				
70%	81%			
Do not allow smoking in their home	Employees with smoke-free rules at their worksite			
E-Cigarette or Vaping Device Use				
38%	21%	7% current, 4% former		
Have ever tried e-cigarettes	Used e-cigarettes in the past 30 days	Used e-cigarettes to help quit smoking		
Menthol and Flavoring				
58%	67%	31%	46%	11%
Usual brand of cigarette is menthol among people who smoke	Use an e-cig or e-juice that is flavored to taste like clove, spice, fruit, chocolate, alcoholic drinks, candy or other sweets among e-cig users	Use an e-cig or e-juice that is menthol or mint flavored among e-cig users	Use a cigar, cigarillo, or little filtered cigar flavored to taste like menthol, spice, fruit, chocolate, alcoholic drinks, candy, or other sweets among cigarillo users	Use a cigar, cigarillo, or little filtered cigar flavored to taste like menthol among cigarillo users



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