

# TRIBAL TOBACCO USE PROJECT SURVEY MINNESOTA NATIVE COMMUNITIES

## About the Tribal Tobacco Use Project

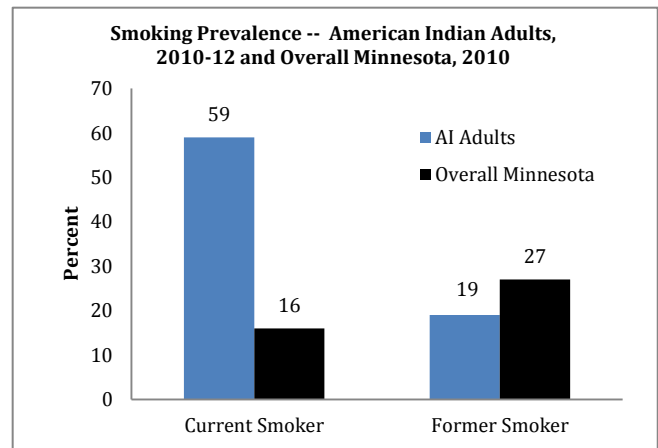
The Tribal Tobacco Use Project (TTUP) seeks to reveal data gaps by engaging tribes and American Indian communities in conducting a statewide survey about attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs related to tobacco use among American Indians in Minnesota. This information, which was gathered for the first time ever, will help, among a variety of other uses, inform the development of tobacco prevention and control programs and policies. The information may also substantiate the need for continued access to tobacco control resources and measure rates of commercial tobacco use.

This project is made possible through a unique collaborative partnership between the American Indian Community Tobacco Projects (AICTP), the American Indian Policy Center (AIPC), and an oversight group comprised of members of the American Indian community across the state. TTUP is funded by ClearWay Minnesota<sup>SM</sup>, an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of all Minnesotans by reducing tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke through research, action, and collaboration.

## Key Findings from the Tribal Tobacco Use Project Survey

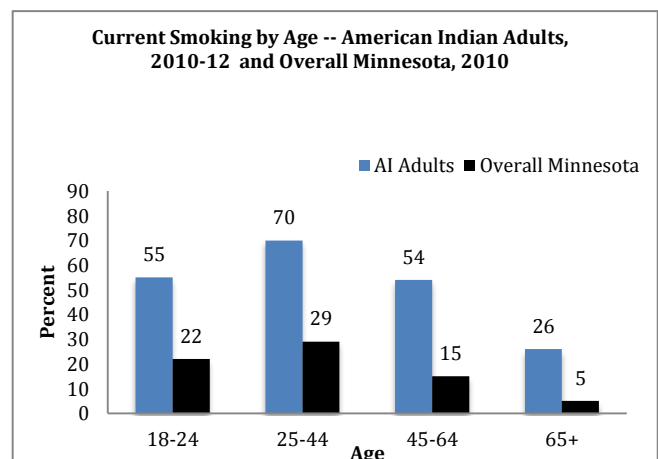
### Smoking prevalence

- 59% of American Indian adults identified as current smokers (compared to 16% of all MN adults)
- 19% of American Indian adults are former smokers (compared to 27% of all MN adults)
- 22% of American Indian adults have never been regular smokers (compared to 57% of all MN adults)
- Slightly more American Indian men (61%) compared to women (57%) are current smokers
- The percent of current cigarette smoking is more than two-fold higher in every age group among American Indian adults compared to the total Minnesota (see graph)
- American Indian young adults (age 18-24) are more likely to be never smokers (37%) compared to older AI adults



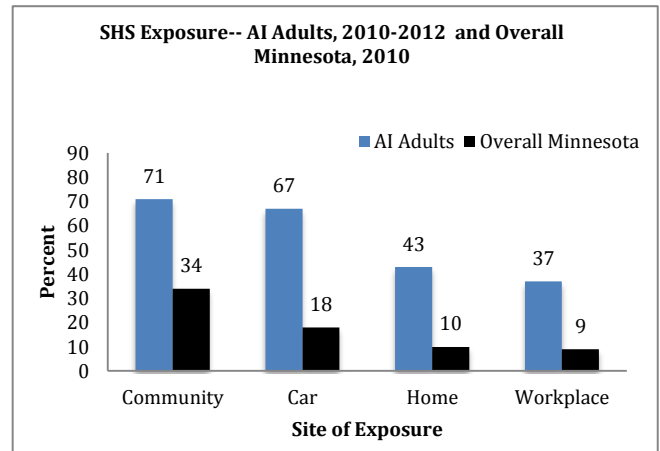
### Quitting smoking

- 62% of American Indian adults who smoke want to quit smoking
- 48% of smokers tried to quit smoking in the past year
- 39% reported that they are aware of programs to help people quit smoking



### Secondhand Smoke Exposure (SHS)

- 71% of respondents were exposed to SHS at community locations on a regular basis (compared to 34% total MN adults)
- 43% of American Indian adults reported being exposed to SHS at home every day
- 37% of employed respondents worked in indoor environments where they were exposed to SHS, compared to 9% of MN adults overall



### Traditional and Sacred Tobacco Versus Commercial Tobacco Use

The American Indian Community Tobacco Projects acknowledges the traditional and sacred role of tobacco for American Indians. American Indian traditions tell us to honor the Creator with the spiritual use of tobacco. We believe these traditions will help future generations to honor tobacco and resist tobacco misuse.

Tobacco misuse (also called commercial tobacco use) is the recreational or addictive use of tobacco (cigarettes, chewing tobacco, cigars, pipes, snuff). Data from national samples show American Indian people smoke more than other populations in the United States and, as a result, suffer disproportionately from tobacco-related illness and death. Available data are inadequate to fully understand and solve these issues in American Indian communities. This project provides the first ever reliable, statewide estimate of American Indian adult tobacco prevalence.

### Methods

The American Indian Community Tobacco Projects (AICTP) partnered with seven reservations and the urban communities in Duluth, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties to administer the Adult Tobacco Survey in 2010-2012. Participants were adults ages 18 and older who self-identified as American Indian and met the other criteria established by each reservation (e.g. used tribal clinic, lived on the reservation, enrolled in tribe, or lived in tribal housing). The survey included questions about smoking status, quitting tobacco use, secondhand smoke exposure, and traditional tobacco use.

A total of 2926 surveys were collected. The raw data were adjusted to reflect the age and gender distribution of American Indians (alone or with another race) in the 2010 Census for Minnesota.

