

SMOKEFREE WORKPLACES

A Resolution for Alaska Tribes

Tribal leaders can protect people from secondhand smoke and protect children from tobacco-caused diseases and addiction by creating smokefree workplaces.

How does secondhand smoke affect Alaska Native people?

- In healthy non-smokers, secondhand smoke causes heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer¹
 - Non-smokers' heart disease risk rises 25–30%¹
 - Non-smokers' lung cancer risk rises 20–30%¹
- Causes asthma, bronchitis, and pneumonia in Alaska Native children¹
- Increases risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)¹

How will smokefree policies benefit Alaska Native people?

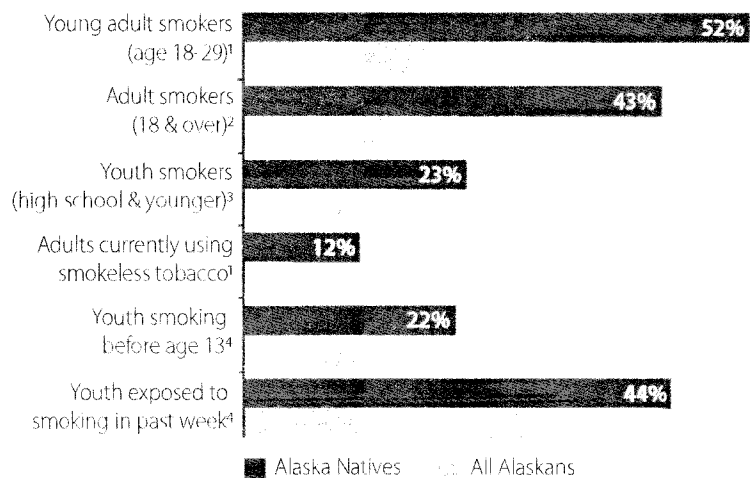
- Smokefree policies protect people from second hand smoke, encourage adults to quit smoking, and discourage youth from starting
- Smokefree policies have a positive impact on business and employment
- \$491 million is spent annually on health care costs and lost productivity from smoke-filled workplaces³
- 88% of adults and 80% of smokers in Alaska agree people should be protected from second hand smoke⁴
- 10-15 years of life return when a smoker quits tobacco⁵
- Children have the chance to grow up healthy and tobacco free

What are the risks of tobacco use?

Tobacco use by Alaska Native adults and youth **remain higher** than that of non-Natives. Tobacco use harms Alaska Native people with diseases that were not historically common.

- Cancer is leading cause of death for AK Natives
 - lung cancer, primarily from smoking, is the leading cause of cancer death²
 - 1 in 3 cancer deaths are caused by tobacco²
- Heart disease and strokes are the second leading cause of death with 1 in 5 caused by tobacco²
- Respiratory disease is a leading cause of Native death with 8 in 10 caused by tobacco²

Tobacco Use and Exposure in Alaska



¹ Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2006-2008.

² Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2008.

³ AK Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2009.

⁴ AK Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2007-2009.

1. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2006

2. *What State Surveys Tell Us About Tobacco Use Among Alaska Natives: Implications for Program Planning.* (2007). Div. of Public Health, AK Dept. of Health and Social Services.

3. *Tobacco Prevention and Control Annual Report (2008).* Div. of Public Health, AK Dept. of Health and Social Services.

4. *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2008.*

5. *The Health Consequences of Smoking: A report of the Surgeon General.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2004.

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION _____

TITLE: STATEWIDE SMOKEFREE WORKPLACES TO PROTECT TRIBAL CITIZENS FROM THE DANGERS OF SECONDHAND SMOKE

WHEREAS: Alaska Native people have the highest rate of tobacco use in the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease and Alaska Native people suffer serious health consequences including heart disease and cancer; and

WHEREAS: Secondhand tobacco smoke exposure is another leading cause of preventable death, and causes disease in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and cancer; and

WHEREAS: It has been determined by the U.S. Surgeon General that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, air ventilation systems do not work, and that only completely smokefree environments can protect health; and

WHEREAS: A significant amount of secondhand smoke exposure for Alaska Native adults and children occurs in the workplace and even short exposures may result in serious adverse health effects and even death; and

WHEREAS: Smokefree workplace laws protect people from secondhand smoke, reduce tobacco use overall, support healthy lifestyles, model healthy behavior, and support quit attempts; and

WHEREAS: The health of our people is of upmost importance and Alaska Native people have taken a lead in addressing health issues throughout the years; and

WHEREAS: Smokefree workplaces will protect the health of our children, grandchildren, families, and community members; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., support statewide smokefree workplaces to protect Alaska Native people from the known dangers of secondhand smoke.

SUBMITTED BY:



COMMITTEE ACTION:

CONVENTION ACTION: