

TOBACCO *Facts*

Disparities in Cigarette Use

Tobacco use among some population groups in North Dakota can be significantly higher than for the general population. Because many of these groups have fewer resources and decreased access to health care, they are at a higher risk for tobacco-related death and disease.

High-risk populations in North Dakota may include but are not limited to American Indians, pregnant women, 18- to 24-year-olds, bar workers, new Americans (i.e., refugees, immigrants), rural residents, homeless people, members of the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender communities, casino workers, members of the military and people with mental or physical disabilities.

American Indians

- Cigarette use among American Indians is more than twice as high as the overall state rate, at 47.9 percent.¹

Pregnant Women

- Pregnant women in North Dakota smoke at a rate of 18.4 percent.²
- Use of tobacco can cause things such as still birth, pre-term delivery and sudden infant death syndrome.
- In North Dakota, about \$636 per maternal smoker, or \$1 million, is spent annually on neonatal and smoking-attributable health issues.³

18- to 24-year-olds

- People in this age group smoke at a rate of 25.5 percent, compared to the overall adult smoking rate of 19.5 percent.⁴

¹ Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2005/2006.

² North Dakota Vital Records, 2006

³ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Smoking-Attributable Morbidity, Mortality and Economic Costs (SAMMEC) report, 1999.

⁴ BRFSS, 2006

What Is Being Done?

- All four tribes and one Indian service area receive funds to implement tobacco prevention programs. One of their goals is to respect the sacred use of tobacco in their culture while at the same time decreasing commercial tobacco use among their citizens.
- The North Dakota Tobacco Quitline is a free service available to all North Dakota citizens. It has translation services for eight languages, as well as TTY services for hearing-impaired callers.
- In 2006, a strategic plan was established to identify and eliminate tobacco-related disparities. A report about the plan, *North Dakota's Strategic Plan for the Identification and Elimination of Tobacco-Related Disparities*, can be found at www.ndhealth.gov/tobacco/Reports.htm.

