

# **Secondhand smoke exposure among urban American Indian adults and children**

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# Introduction

- The negative health consequences of SHS disproportionately affect the American Indian population.
- Little is known about the SHS exposure among American Indians.
- In this presentation, I will describe SHS exposure and efforts to protect children from SHS as reported by a sample of urban American Indian adults.

# Background

## **Little useful information about tobacco use among American Indians**

- Sample size too small
- Methods do not distinguish use from misuse
- Wide diversity in tobacco use among tribes
- Distrust of researchers and research methods

# Methods

- Participatory research project -- the American Indian Community Tobacco Project
- In 2005, 300 in-person interviews with urban American Indian adults in Minneapolis - St. Paul, Minnesota, US
- Convenience sample -- recruitment via newspaper ads and word of mouth
- Age by gender distribution mirrors 2000 U.S. Census

“During the past 7 days, did anyone smoke cigarettes anywhere inside your home?”

|                                     | % “yes” |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Overall                             | 52.3%   |
| By gender (p < 0.05)                |         |
| Female                              | 46.2%   |
| Male                                | 59.2%   |
| By smoking status (p < 0.001)       |         |
| Never                               | 29.7%   |
| Former                              | 28.6%   |
| Current                             | 66.7%   |
| By children in household (p < 0.05) |         |
| No children in HH                   | 59.7%   |
| At least 1 child in HH              | 46.4%   |

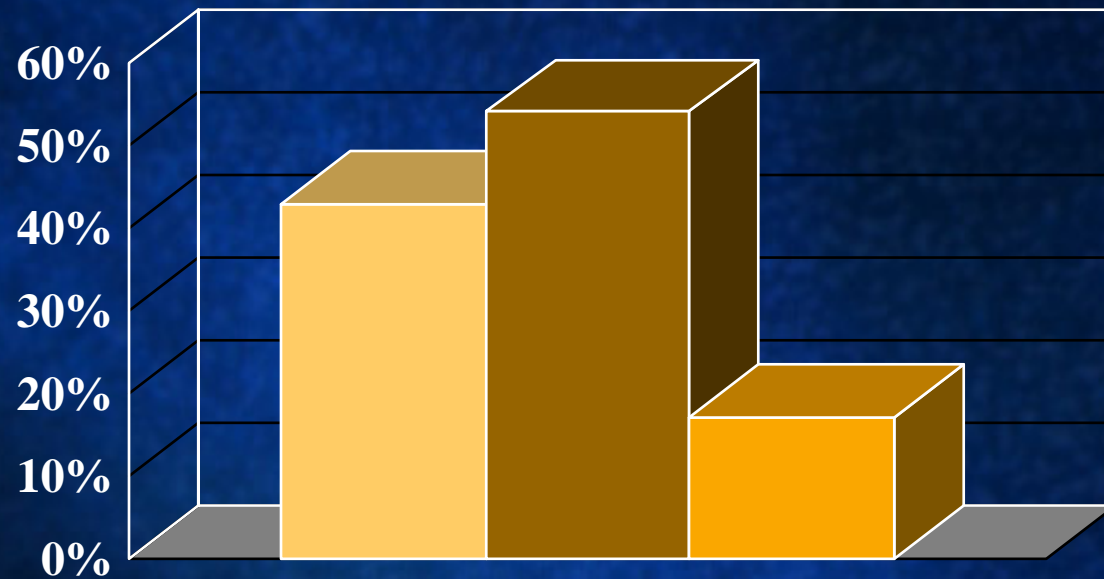
“In the past 12 months, have you asked anyone not to smoke cigarettes around you?”

|  | % “yes” |
|--|---------|
| Overall                                | 43.8%   |
| By gender (NS)                         |         |
| Female                                 | 48.4%   |
| Male                                   | 38.7%   |
| By smoking status ( $p < 0.001$ )      |         |
| Never                                  | 58.3%   |
| Former                                 | 67.1%   |
| Current                                | 31.4%   |
| By children in household ( $p < .05$ ) |         |
| No children in HH                      | 37.6%   |
| At least 1 child in HH                 | 48.8%   |

“In the past 12 months, have you asked anybody not to smoke cigarettes around children?”

|                                     | % “yes” |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Overall                             | 70.7%   |
| By gender (p < 0.05)                |         |
| Female                              | 76.9%   |
| Male                                | 63.4%   |
| By smoking status (NS)              |         |
| By children in household (p < 0.05) |         |
| No children in HH                   | 61.3%   |
| At least 1 child in HH              | 77.9%   |
| By ages of children in household    |         |
| Child < 2 years (p < 0.001)         | 94.4%   |
| Child < 6 years (p < 0.01)          | 83.5%   |

“Has cigarette smoke ever been a major factor in your decision not to go to a place or an event?”



|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Never smoked    | 43% |
| Former smoker   | 54% |
| Current current | 17% |

# Summary of Results

- Less than half of the adults in this sample live in a smoke-free home
- Less than half of these adults have asked someone not to smoke around them, but many have asked others not to smoke around children
- Most adults do not consider SHS when planning to go to a place or an event

# Discussion

- American Indians in this sample have made efforts to protect children from SHS by asking others not to smoke around young children but many do not have smoke-free homes.
- Future efforts should stress the importance of and effective strategies to reduce SHS exposure among all children and adults.

*The Circle*

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One of our **COMMUNITY'S BIGGEST ISSUES**  
is right in front of your nose.



When cigarette smoke constantly swirls through our homes, cars, work and gathering places, it's easy to forget it's there. But this silent presence is a huge problem.

Nearly **TWO OUT OF FIVE AMERICAN INDIAN DEATHS** are caused by smoking cigarettes or breathing second-hand smoke.

We need to start looking for ways to break this cycle of tobacco addiction in our families and in our communities. We've survived too much as a people to allow ourselves to be conquered by cigarettes.

**QUIT SMOKING:** It's a powerful gift to yourself, your family and our community's future.



**American Indian Community Tobacco Project**

For more information contact the American Indian Community Tobacco Project website:  
<http://www.epi.umn.edu/research/aictp/index.shtm>

**M P A A T**  
MINNESOTA NATIVE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON TOBACCO AND BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD

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