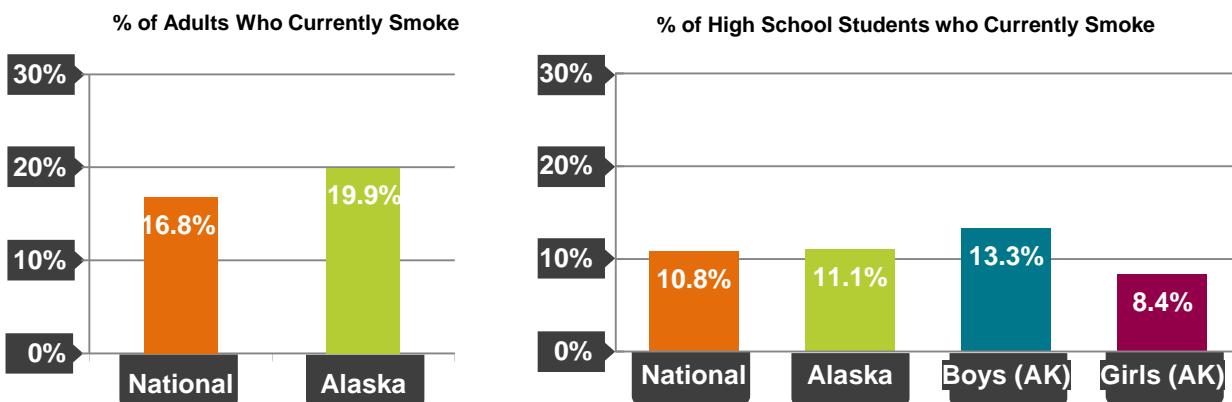


## TOBACCO IN ALASKA

### CIGARETTE USE<sup>\*1-2</sup>



### OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCT USE

- The prevalence of smokeless tobacco use among adults in Alaska was 6.8% in 2013. 8.8% of adult current cigarette smokers in Alaska were also current smokeless tobacco users in 2013.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2015, 11.7% of high school students in Alaska used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on at least one day in the past 30 days. Nationally, 7.3% of high school students used smokeless tobacco on at least one day in the past 30 days.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2015, 7.1% of high school students in Alaska smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on at least one day in the past 30 days. Nationally, 10.3% of high school students smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on at least one day in the past 30 days.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2015, 17.7% of high school students in Alaska used electronic vapor products on at least one day in the past 30 days. Nationally, 24.1% of high school students used electronic vapor products on at least one day in the past 30 days.<sup>2</sup>

### ECONOMICS OF TOBACCO USE AND TOBACCO CONTROL

- In FY2016, Alaska allocated \$8.8 million in state funds to tobacco prevention, which is 86.4% of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Annual Spending Target.<sup>4</sup>
- Alaska received an estimated \$96 million in tobacco settlement payments and taxes in FY2016.<sup>4</sup>
- The health care costs in Alaska, directly caused by smoking, amount to \$438 million annually.<sup>4</sup>

\* National and state-level prevalence numbers reflect the most recent data available. This may differ across state fact sheets.

- Alaska loses \$205.9 million in productivity each year due to smoking.<sup>5</sup>

## STATE TOBACCO LAWS<sup>6-7</sup>

### EXCISE TAX

- The state tax increased to \$2.00 per pack of cigarettes in July 2007. All other tobacco products are taxed 75% of the wholesale price.

### CLEAN INDOOR AIR ORDINANCES

- Smoking is prohibited in schools and childcare facilities.
- Smoking restrictions are required in all government workplaces, private workplaces, restaurants, retail stores, and recreational/cultural facilities.
- There are no smoking restrictions in bars.

### YOUTH ACCESS LAWS

- The minimum age requirement for the purchase of tobacco products is 19, and penalties exist for both minors and merchants who violate this law.
- Establishments are required to post signs stating that sales to persons under 19 are prohibited.
- The sale to minors of alternative nicotine products, including electronic cigarettes, is prohibited.

## CESSATION STATISTICS AND BENEFITS

- The CDC estimates that 53.4% of adult every day smokers in Alaska quit smoking for one or more days in 2014.<sup>8</sup>
- Alaska's Medicaid program covers all seven recommended tobacco cessation medications and individual counseling.<sup>7†</sup>
- The state Medicaid program's barriers to coverage include annual limits on quit attempts, limits on duration, minimal co-payment requirements, and prior authorization requirements for NRT Nasal Spray, NRT Inhaler and Varenicline (Chantix).<sup>7</sup>
- Alaska's state quitline invests \$5.61 per smoker; the national average investment per smoker is \$3.37.<sup>7</sup>
- Alaska does not have a private insurance mandate provision for cessation.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>†</sup> The seven recommended cessation medications are NRT Gum, NRT Patch, NRT Nasal Spray, NRT Inhaler, NRT Lozenge, Varenicline (Chantix), and Bupropion (Zyban).

Fiore MC, et al. Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence: 2008 Update. Clinical Practice Guideline. Rockville, MD: US Department of Health and Human Services. Public Health Service: May 2008.

## REFERENCES

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- <sup>2</sup> CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, 2013
- <sup>3</sup> CDC, State-Specific Prevalence of Cigarette Smoking and Smokeless Tobacco Use Among Adults—MMWR, United States, 2011–2013
- <sup>4</sup> Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Broken Promises to Our Children: a State-by-State Look at the 1998 State Tobacco Settlement 17 Years Later FY2016, 2015
- <sup>5</sup> Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Toll of Tobacco in the United States, 2015
- <sup>6</sup> American Lung Association, SLATI Reports, 2015
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- <sup>8</sup> CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation System, 2014