

# Urban American Indian Tobacco Prevention & Education Network

A Program of the Native American Rehabilitation Association since 1999

The Urban American Indian Tobacco Prevention & Education Network (UAITPEN) is one of five Specific Population Networks under contract with the state Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP) to address disparities in smoking rates and exposure, and to provide technical assistance to county and state TPEP programs. Our goals are to:

- Reduce tobacco related disparities among urban American Indian and Alaska Natives (AIAN)
- Increase cultural appropriate tobacco prevention services at agencies who serve urban AIAN
- Increase cultural competency of TPEP funded programs

According to the Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 38% of AIAN currently smoke, compared to 20% of White Oregonians. Urban AIAN suffer from significant health disparities when compared to other populations, and some of those key health indicators include tobacco use, infant mortality, late prenatal care, interpersonal violence, attempted suicides, and death due to diabetes, chronic liver disease and accidents.

Most program activities have been restricted to the Portland Metro area because of the location of NARA .

## Areas of expertise and experience:

Addressing tobacco in mental health and addictions  
Developing and implementing organizational tobacco policy  
Developing and implementing commercial tobacco free community events  
Community based convenience surveys  
Cultural competency trainings



## How UAITPEN can work with you:

- Increase your knowledge of the AIAN community in your county and/or school and tobacco-related disparities they experience.
- Provide connections between you and AIAN community organizations to ensure culturally competent and community-owned outcomes.
- Provide research and education on the differences between commercial and traditional tobacco use, and implications for policy development.

## Program expansion:

There are multiple areas in which the UAITPEN is expanding services:

- All urban areas in Oregon with significant AIAN communities, including Eugene/Lane County and Salem/Marion County.
- Addiction and mental health treatment centers that are considering tobacco-free policies in order to support populations that experience high rates of tobacco use (70-90% tobacco use rate).
- Integration of tobacco cessation systems into organizational tobacco-free policy.
- Collaboration with the Tribal TPEP programs in Oregon to increase commercial tobacco-free environments for all AIAN in Oregon.
- Providing consultation and coordination regarding working with tribes to address tobacco-related and other chronic disease

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## State TPEP program workgroups:

The UAITPEN provides technical assistance to State TPEP programs through participation in multiple work groups, including:

- Multicultural TPEP Council
- Strategic Plan Steering Committee
- Tobacco Education Clearinghouse Committee
- TPEP Training Task Force
- Tobacco in Mental Health and Addictions Work Group

## The community network:

The success of the UAITPEN is based around community participation, and we are blessed to have partnerships from all areas of the urban Indian community. These partnerships help our work get integrated into multiple environments, including K-12 schools, health clinics, addiction treatment centers, religious organizations, higher education institutes, and more. Network members are ready to engage with all TPEP partners in tobacco control work. Our members are part of the following organizations (and more):

- Portland Community College
- Native American Parent Support Group
- Native American Program of Legal Services
- Chemawa Indian Health Center
- Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
- Portland Public Schools Indian Education Program
- Reynolds School District Indian Education Program
- Northwest Regional Indian Education Program
- Indian Health Service's Western Oregon Service Unit
- Open Circle Ministries
- Bow & Arrow Culture Club
- Native People's Circle of Hope (A coalition of native cancer survivors and support groups)
- Portland State University's Native American Student and Community Center
- Multiple NARA programs including Diabetes, Family Wellness, Women's Wellness and more



## Contact information:

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## About NARA:



Founded in 1970 in Portland, Oregon, the Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest, Inc. is an Indian-owned, Indian-operated, non-profit agency. Originally an outpatient substance abuse treatment center, NARA NW now operates a residential family treatment center, an outpatient treatment center, a family resource program and a primary health care clinic. All services are centered on the family; it is NARA NW's philosophy that, "Without the family circle there will be no future."