Tobacco Use and Exposure – Northwest Arctic Borough

### Community Indicators for Northwest Arctic Borough
- 84% of adults have a household ban on smoking (± 7%)
- 82% of adults agree that smoking should not be allowed in public indoor areas (± 7%)
- 76% of adults agree that smoking should not be allowed in restaurants (± 7%)
- 82% of those who work mostly indoors are protected by smokefree workplace policies (± 9%)
- 62% of smokers tried to quit in the past year (± 9%)
- 50% of current and former smokers started smoking regularly before age 18 (± 13%)

### People Affected in Northwest Arctic Borough
2007 population: 7,396
- Approximately:
  - 1,890 adults smoke
  - 250 adults use smokeless tobacco
  - 500 adults are exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes
  - 250 youth are exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes
  - 80 infants are exposed prenatally* to tobacco smoke each year
  - 15 cancers diagnosed in the past five years are smoking-related
  - 30 adults have died in the past five years from smoking-related causes

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*Note: Prenatal smoking, PRAMS 2000-2006 data. Other indicators, BRFSS 2004-2007 data. 95% confidence interval half-widths (margins of error) are presented in parentheses.*
Statewide Summary on Youth and Tobacco

- Cigarette smoking among Alaska high school students has decreased from 37% in 1995 to 18% in 2007
- Cigarette smoking among Alaska Native high school students has decreased from 62% in 1995 to 32% in 2007
- In 2007, 69% of Alaska youth smokers got their cigarettes primarily from other people around them
- 9% of retailers sold tobacco products to minors in 2007

Local Policies and Activities for Tobacco Prevention and Control – Northwest Arctic Borough

- The Alaska Tobacco Prevention and Control Program awards grants to local and regional organizations for local tobacco prevention and control. Contact the Program for an updated list of grantees.
- Local school districts may participate in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, and organizations can work with them to obtain local information about youth tobacco use and exposure.
- Some boroughs and municipalities in Alaska have health and safety powers and can set local policy and taxes.
- Northwest Arctic Borough is a Home Rule Borough, with ten 2nd Class Cities and a few unincorporated communities and villages. For more information on Borough and Municipal government, see these sites:
  - http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/rlinks/government/ak_local.html
  - http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/LOGON/home.cfm
- There are not yet any communities in the Northwest Arctic Borough that have local taxes on tobacco products.
- Three communities in the Northwest Arctic Borough have local policies regarding secondhand smoke.

State Program Contact Information:
Alaska Tobacco Prevention and Control Program
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
Phone: 907-269-2020
E-mail: tobacco@alaska.gov
Web: http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chronic/tobacco/default.htm

*PRENATAL SMOKE EXPOSURE DURING THE LAST THREE MONTHS OF PREGNANCY.
DATA SOURCES: ADULT TOBACCO USE AND EXPOSURE – AK DHSS, BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (BRFSS);
YOUTH TOBACCO USE –AK YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YRBS); POPULATION ESTIMATES – AK DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; MATERNAL SMOKING DURING PREGNANCY – AK PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (PRAMS); TOBACCO-RELATED CANCER INCIDENCE – AK CANCER REGISTRY; BIRTH AND DEATH DATA – AK BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.
SEE APPENDICES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.