

# the tobacco chronicles

TOBACCO IN THE U.S.  
1880-1995

Tobacco Practices, Policies, and Research  
Among American Indians and Alaska Natives



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## INTRODUCTION

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This is a resource chronicle about tobacco in the U.S., and more specifically about its relationship to American Indians and Alaska Natives. The chronicle is a product of a five year study “Reducing Cancer Risks Among Native American Adolescents in the Northeast,” funded by the National Cancer Institute and sponsored by Columbia University in New York City.

In 1990, the National Cancer Institute responded to the increasing rates of cancer among Native Americans by funding eight intervention research projects aimed at learning more about, and preventing cancer among Native Americans (particularly youth and women).

Tobacco use by American Indians or Native Americans and Alaska Natives has had a separate and unique history, but one that has in more recent times intersected with the mass production, marketing, and consumption of tobacco. This interplay between cultural antecedents of tobacco practices in ritual and ceremonial contexts and the manufacture of tobacco products by industry has had a tremendous negative impact on the health and lives of American Indians and Alaska Natives. As a result, scientifically proven methods for preventing certain cancers associated with tobacco abuse among Native Americans are needed. Also needed is a wider understanding of the significant social and political trends associated with tobacco. We hope this archive, **TOBACCO IN THE U.S. 1880-1995: Tobacco Practices, Policies, and Research Among American Indians and Alaska Natives** will be useful to anyone interested in reducing the consumption of tobacco.



This book in no way incorporates the vast amount of information and material on tobacco control efforts which have taken place over the past one hundred years in the U.S. and around the world. Much had to be excluded due to space limitations. The book focuses primarily on activities pertaining to American Indians and Alaska Natives. It highlights major milestones in terms of medical studies, government reports, and other key areas which have impacted Native American children and adults.