

# Resiliency in Collaborative Prevention

**Summary:** Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness (WPHW) Wetamaweyi Educator and organization team members are re-entering the prevention world of “in person” opportunities. Through Commercial and Traditional Tobacco Initiative: prevention efforts and messaging, the collaborative team are building and demonstrating resiliency, with and within Indigenous Communities, while increasing their opportunity and exposure to protective factors that are positively associated with health and social outcomes

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**“Smokeless Smudge makes me feel like I can smudge again, without coughing from the smoke!!” –Anonymous HBMI Community Member**

## Need/Issue (or "Challenge")

Native Americans and Alaskan Natives currently have the highest smoking rate of any racial or ethnic population. As we begin to emerge from the global pandemic and restore the connection to our indigenous communities, ceremonies, and traditions, we are faced with even more negative risk factors as an ethnic group. Opportunities for cultural connectedness prevention activities and events have been limited, impacting the collaborative efforts of healthy messaging. The US Department of Health and Human services, Child Welfare Information Gateway states:

“Their resilience does not occur in isolation: the Tribal culture, community, and environment are connected. Native Americans draw strength from traditional ways of living, places, relationships, and collective successes.” Increasing these opportunities is essential to demonstrating resiliency and how traditionally, culture is our prevention!

## Intervention/ Program Description

According to the Journal of Primary Prevention article: “Identifying protective factors to promote health in American Indian and Alaskan native Adolescence: A literature Review”:

“identified nine categories of protective factors positively associated with health and social outcomes.....Such factors positively influenced adolescent alcohol, tobacco, and substance use,” the article also states:

“Strengths-based health promotion efforts that leverage local, innate protective factors and work with American Indian/Alaskan Natives (AIANs) to create environments rich in protective factors are key to improving the health and wellbeing of AIAN adolescents.” WPHW coordinator demonstrates these strategies in all organization and community opportunities for increased Commercial and Traditional Tobacco Education and dissemination of resources.

## Results/ Success

WPHW collaborative measures have increased their opportunities for participation in community events! Providing and demonstrating culturally specific materials and activities, at all organization and community opportunities, has increased Commercial and Traditional Tobacco Education and the dissemination of resources and materials. Reciprocity is highly practiced, further increasing the opportunity for cultural connectedness with Commercial Tobacco Prevention Messaging!

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