

Tobacco Use Among California American Indian/ Alaska Native Youth

American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) have the highest prevalence of cigarette smoking compared to all other racial/ethnic groups in the United States (U.S.)¹. In 2019, the prevalence of current cigarette smoking among AI/AN high school students in the U.S. was 16.2% compared to 5.8% among all high school students in the U.S.². Furthermore, in 2019, AI/AN high school students in the U.S. had a higher prevalence of current vape use at 40.0% compared to 27.5% among all high school students in the U.S.².

This factsheet uses data from the 2019-2020 California Student Tobacco Survey (CSTS)³. The CSTS is a representative biennial statewide tobacco surveillance survey. The CSTS represents 875,490 California high school students in grades 10 and 12, including 58,031 AI/AN students. As a note, the term marijuana (instead of cannabis) is used throughout the fact sheet, as youth were asked specifically about their marijuana use in the survey instrument.

This factsheet presents tobacco use, secondhand exposure, and access to tobacco products among AI/AN youth compared to all other races. It is important to note that some AI/AN use traditional tobacco for cultural events such as ceremonial, prayer, or medicinal purposes. Tobacco data in this factsheet refer to commercial tobacco use.

A student was counted as AI/AN if they selected AI/AN as whole or part of their race when completing the CSTS.

Prevalence

AI/AN youth had the highest prevalence of any tobacco use, marijuana use, and vape use compared to all other high school youth in California (see Figure 1).

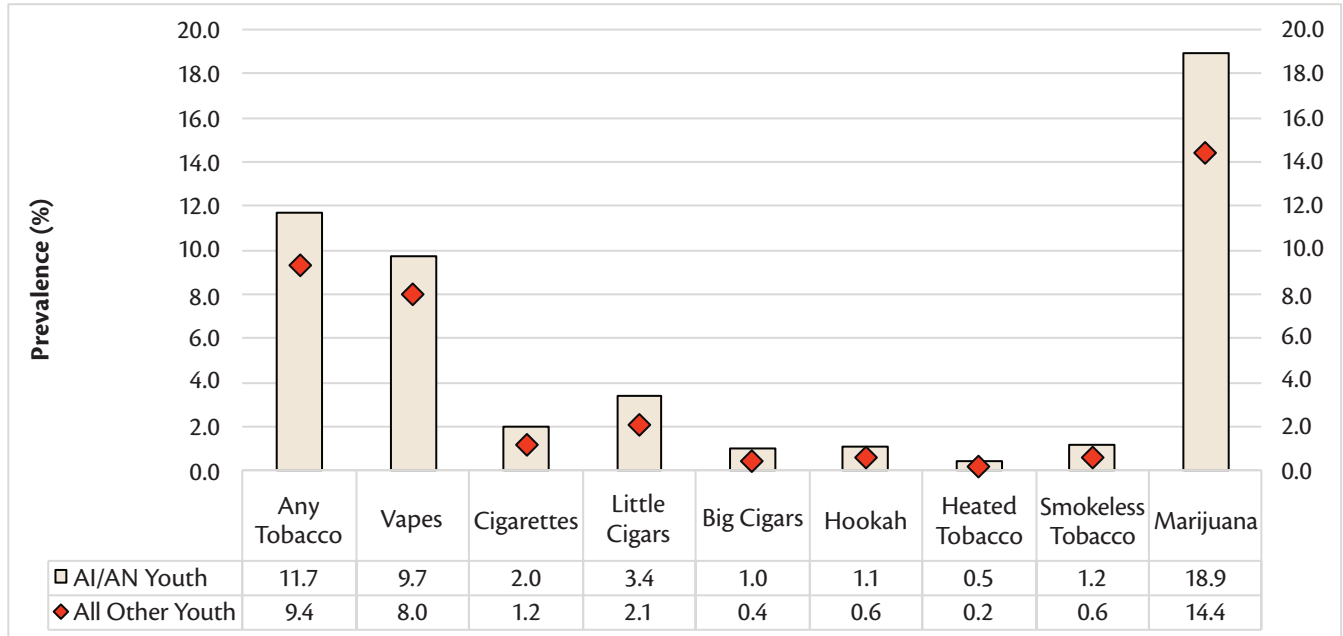


Figure 1. Current (past 30 day) tobacco and marijuana prevalence by AI/AN youth compared to all other youth.

Note. Any tobacco product use includes students who reported using cigarettes, little cigars or cigarillos, big cigars, hookah, vapes, smokeless tobacco, or heated tobacco products in the past 30 days.

Data source. 2019-2020 California Student Tobacco Survey.

Age of Initiation

More AI/AN youth initiated tobacco use by the age of 13 compared to all other youth. The proportion of youth that started using cigarettes by the age of 13 was highest in AI/AN compared to all other youth. Similar pattern of results was shown for vapes and vape with marijuana (see Figure 2).

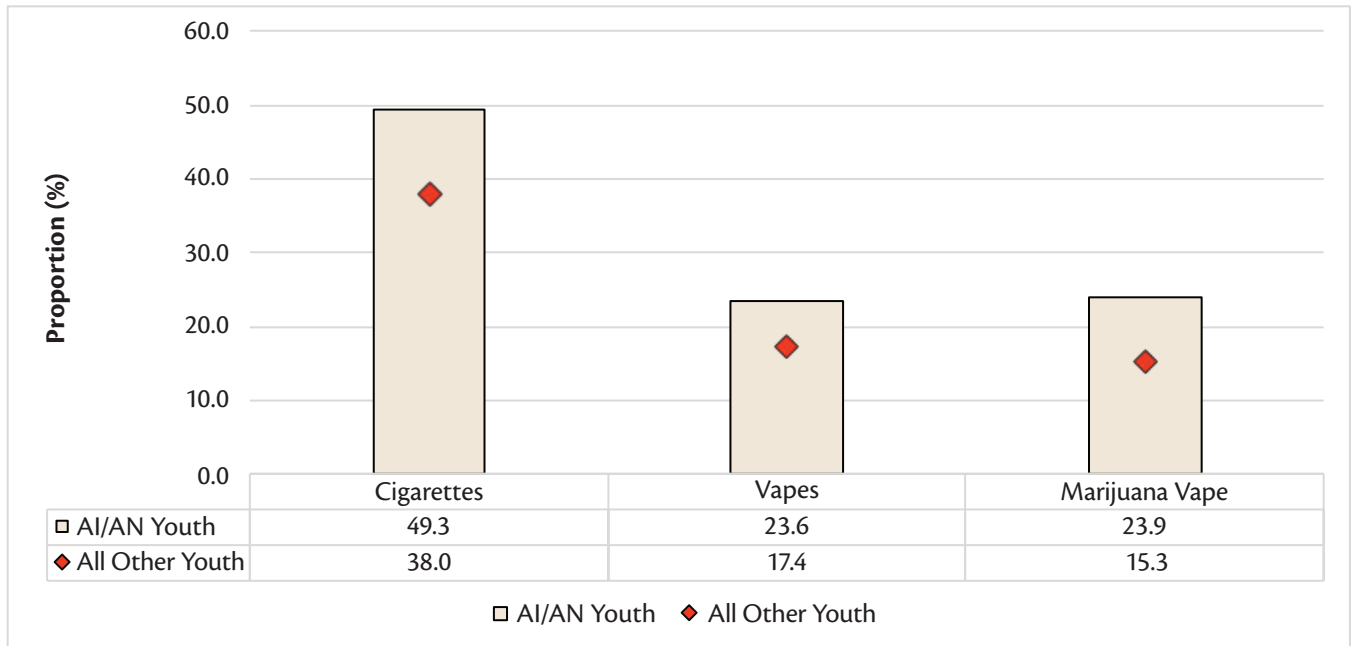


Figure 2. Tobacco and marijuana initiation by the age of 13 by AI/AN youth compared to all other youth.

Data source: 2019-2020 California Student Tobacco Survey.

Cessation

AI/AN youth who vaped had the lowest proportion to have attempted to quit vapes compared to all other youth. Similar pattern of results was shown for little cigars or cigarillos and hookah pens (See Figure 3).

However, more AI/AN youth who used cigarettes tried to quit cigarettes compared to all other youth. Similar pattern of results was shown for marijuana.

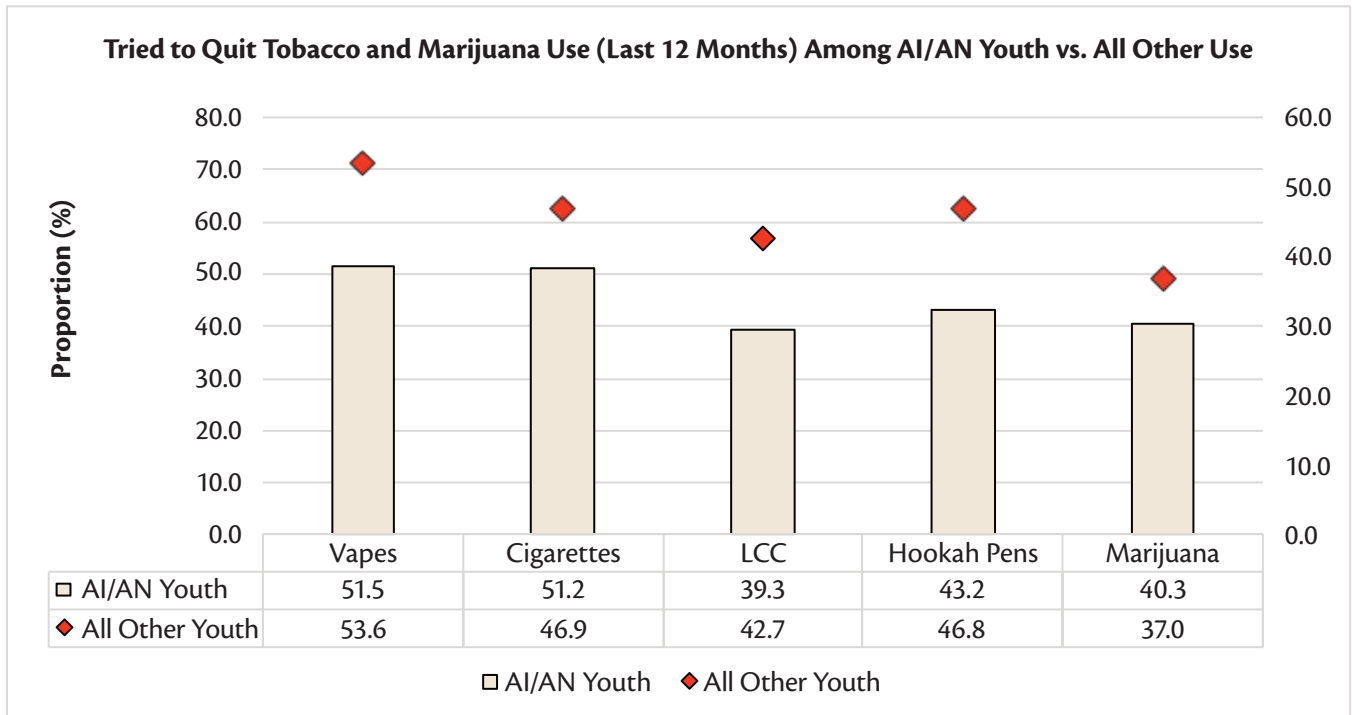


Figure 3. Tried to quit tobacco (last 12 months) by AI/AN youth compared to all other youth.

Data source. 2019-2020 California Student Tobacco Survey.

AN youth who used vapes reported to having the highest proportion to not plan to quit vapes compared to all other youth. Similar pattern of results was shown for cigarettes and little cigars (see Figure 4).

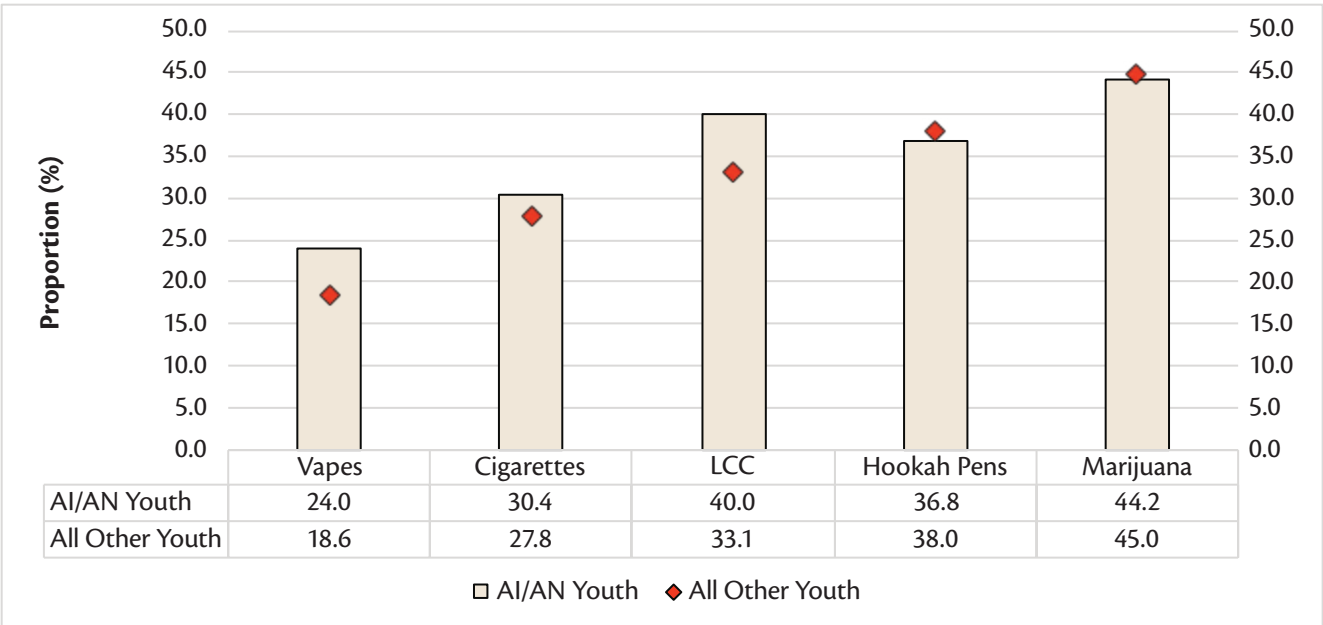


Figure 4. Do not plan to quit tobacco products and marijuana (last 30 days) by AI/AN youth compared to all other youth.

Data source. 2019-2020 California Student Tobacco Survey.

Accessibility

When exploring ease of access to tobacco products among AI/AN youth compared to all other youth, AI/AN youth stated it was easier for them to access tobacco products compared to all other youth (See Figure 5).

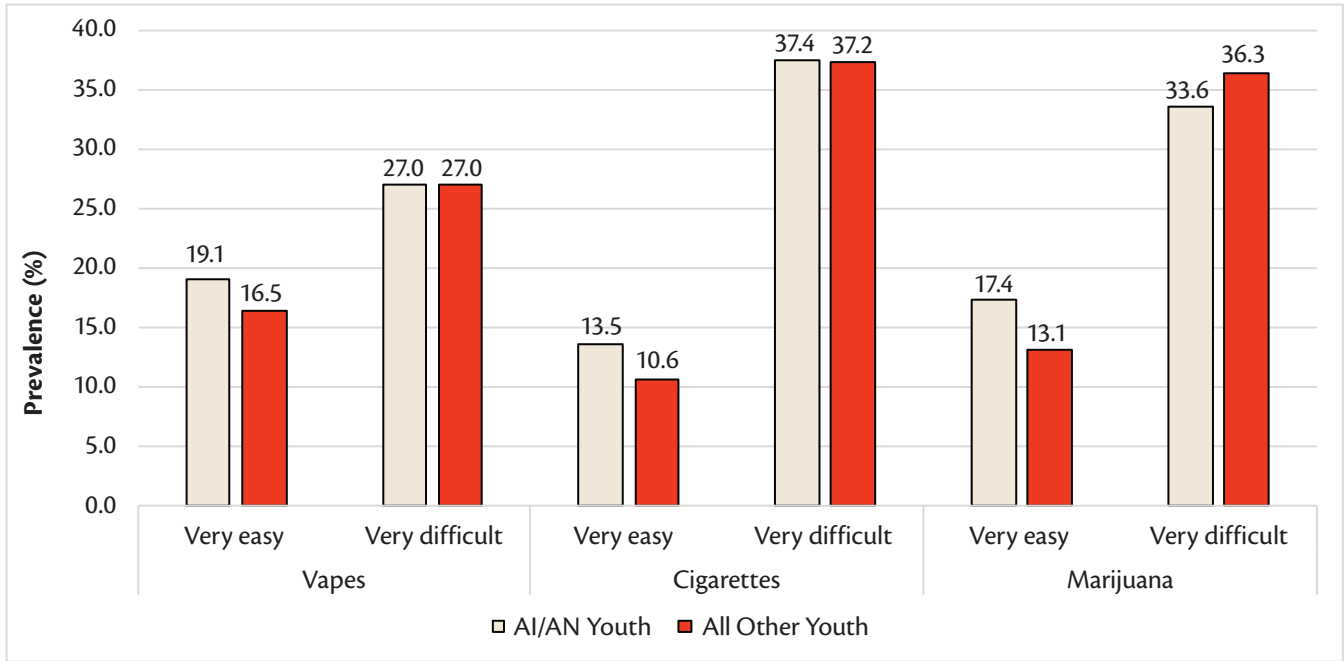


Figure 5. Perceived difficulty/ease of access to tobacco products and marijuana by AI/AN youth compared to all other youth.

Data source. 2019-2020 California Student Tobacco Survey.

Secondhand Exposure

AI/AN youth had the highest proportion of indoor secondhand exposure to cigarettes and marijuana compared to all other youth (See Figure 6). About the same percent of AI/AN and all other youth reported to indoor secondhand exposure to vapes.

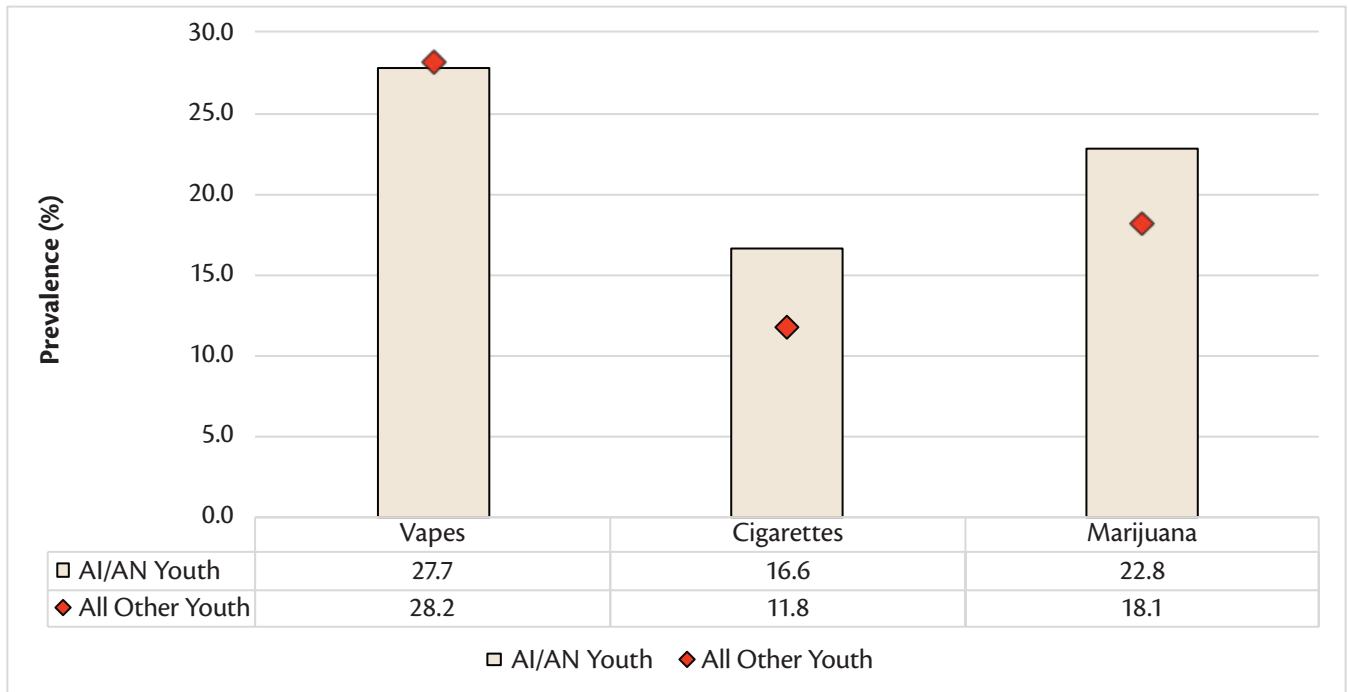


Figure 6. Indoor secondhand exposure by AI/AN youth compared to all other youth.

Data source. 2019-2020 California Student Tobacco Survey.

Similarly, AI/AN youth had the highest exposure to outdoor secondhand smoke cigarettes, but the percent of AI/AN and all other youth had similar outdoor exposure for vapes (See Figure 7).

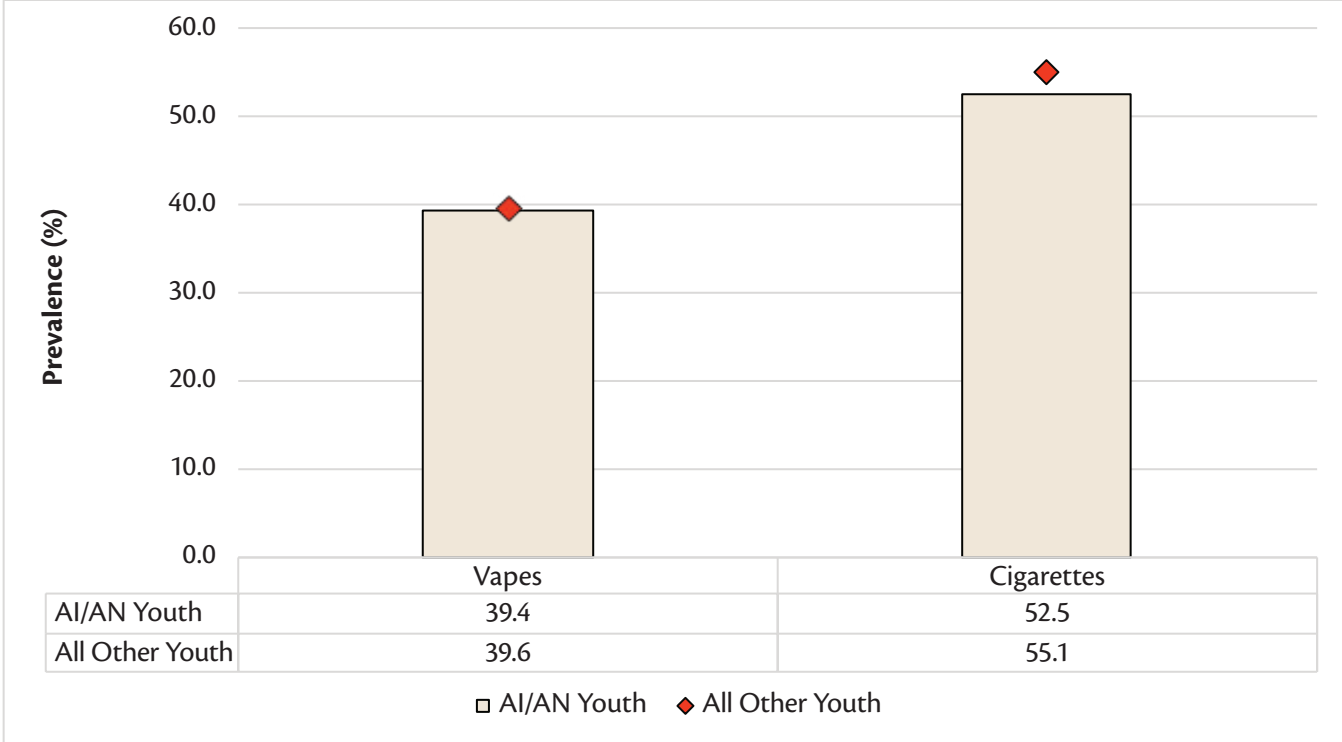


Figure 7. Outdoor secondhand smoke exposure by AI/AN youth compared to all other youth.

Data source. 2019-2020 California Student Tobacco Survey.

When assessing whether home rules were enforced for vaping, marijuana use, and cigarettes and other tobacco product use, AI/AN youth had the lowest proportion to have had a complete ban on vaping, marijuana use, and cigarettes and other tobacco produce use compared to all other youth.

Figure 8 displays the differences of home rules among AI/AN youth compared to all other youth.

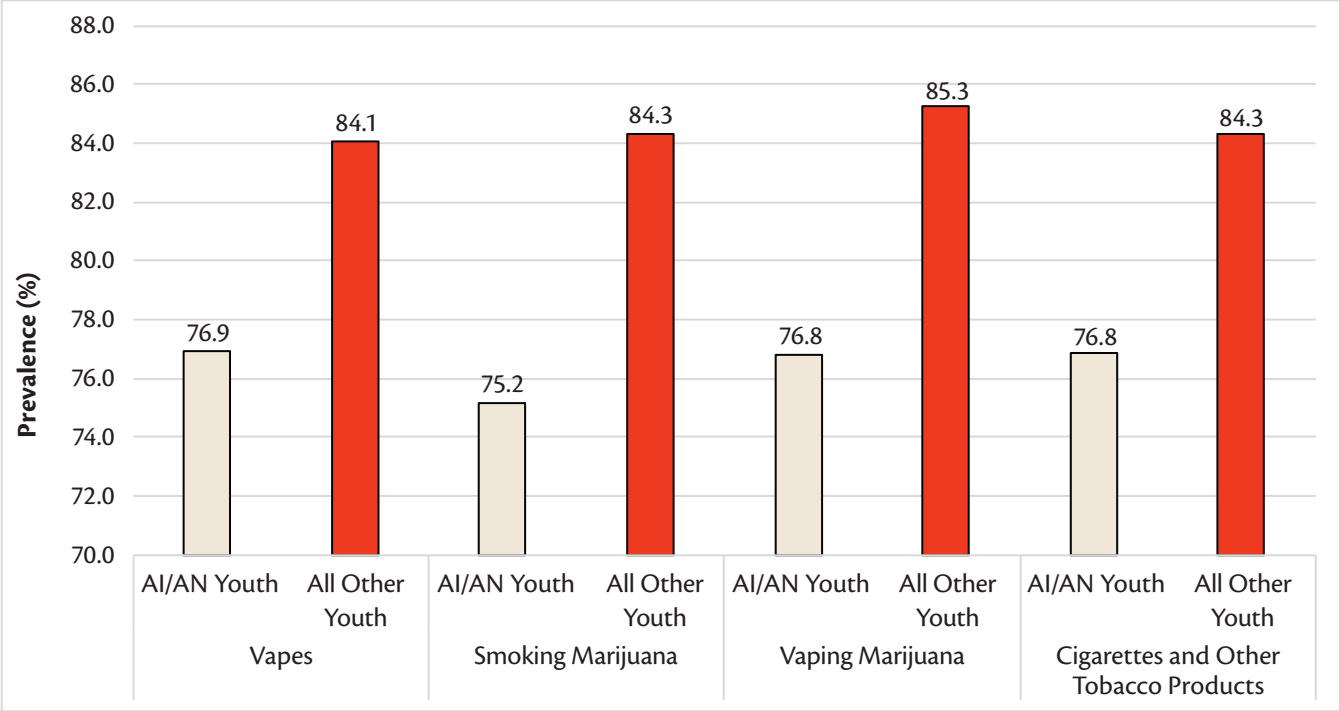


Figure 8. AI/AN youth who had a complete home ban for vape, marijuana, cigarettes, and other tobacco use vs. all other youth.

Data source. 2019-2020 California Student Tobacco Survey.

Reference

1. Indian Health Service. Tobacco Prevention 2021. Available at: <https://www.ihs.gov/hpdp/tobaccoprevention/>
2. Truth Initiative. Tobacco Use in the American Indian/Alaska Native Community. Available at: <https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/targeted-communities/tobacco-use-american-indianalaska-native-community>
3. Zhu S-H, Braden K, Zhuang Y-L, Gamst A, Cole AG, Wolfson T, Li S. *Results of the Statewide 2019-20 California Student Tobacco Survey*. San Diego, California: Center for Research and Intervention in Tobacco Control (CRITC), University of California San Diego. 2021.