

COMMUNITIES OF COLOR NETWORK

The Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living
Louisiana Tobacco Control Program

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND TOBACCO USE

- # African Americans are more likely to die from smoking related diseases than Whites; yet they start smoking later and smoke fewer cigarettes.
- # Tobacco use is a major contributor to the leading causes of morbidities among African Americans. Heart Disease, Stroke, Cancer and Diabetes effect African American at higher rates than other ethnic groups.
- # African Americans are exposed to secondhand smoke more than other racial or ethnic groups.
- # Most African American smoke menthol cigarettes. Menthol cigarettes are more addictive than non-menthol. Also menthol products are aggressively marketed in African American communities.
- # Lower utilization of cessation medication and counseling services results in less success for African Americans at quitting smoking than Whites and Hispanics.

Reference: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention