

## BACKGROUND

- Rates of tobacco in the U.S. military have historically been higher than civilian populations.
- Tobacco disparities in civilian adult and adolescent populations exist.
  - Current use (of any product) is highest among non-Hispanic Native American, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and multiracial individuals compared to other racial/ethnic backgrounds.
- Less is understood about military racial/ethnic tobacco disparities.

## OBJECTIVES

- Compare prevalence rates of current tobacco use by race/ethnicity in a large sample of U.S. Air Force trainees.

## METHODS

- Participants were 28,763 Airmen undergoing US Air Force Technical Training at five different Air Force bases.
- 21.30% female, 78.70% male
- 69.07% White, 12.73% Black, 3.52% Asian, 7.45% multiracial, 7.24% other racial backgrounds.
- Conducted survey regarding tobacco use behaviors and at beginning of Technical Training.
- Prevalence rates of tobacco products were compared across racial/ethnic groups: Non-Hispanic (NH)-White, NH-Black, NH-Asian, NH-American Indian/Alaska Natives, NH-Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, NH-multiracial, and Hispanic.

## RESULTS

	Tobacco Product				
	Electronic Cigarettes	Cigarettes	Cigars (cigarillos/little cigars)	Hookah	Smokeless tobacco*
	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)
<b>Overall Sample</b>	3616 (12.1)	2192 (7.3)	2062 (6.9)	971 (3.3)	1753 (5.9)
<b>NH-White</b>	2410 (15.3)	1489 (9.4)	1246 (7.9)	425 (2.7)	1434 (9.1)
<b>NH-Black</b>	231 (5.0)	126 (2.7)	347 (7.4)	170 (3.7)	37 (0.8)
<b>Hispanic</b>	553 (9.8)	327 (5.8)	274 (4.9)	239 (4.3)	152 (2.7)
<b>NH-Asian</b>	105 (8.6)	77 (6.3)	23 (1.9)	36 (3.0)	17 (1.4)
<b>NH-American Indian/Alaskan Native</b>	33 (14.2)	20 (8.6)	20 (8.6)	11 (4.7)	25 (10.8)
<b>NH-Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander</b>	52 (16.2)	25 (7.8)	9 (2.8)	11 (3.5)	9 (2.8)
<b>NH-Multiracial</b>	168 (11.5)	93 (6.3)	106 (7.2)	61 (4.2)	45 (3.1)

*Note.* Current (at least monthly) use of any tobacco product was defined as current use of one or more tobacco product types, including cigars), smokeless tobacco (including chewing tobacco and snus), electronic cigarettes, hookahs, pipes, and hand-rolled cigarettes. Cigare

\*\* Chewing tobacco/snuff/dip/snus/dissolvable tobacco

- Overall, e-cigarettes were most common (12.1%), followed by cigarettes (7.3%), tobacco (5.9%), hookah (3.3%), and pipe tobacco (0.6%).
- By product, for e-cigarettes, NH Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander had the compared to other groups.
- For cigars, NH American Indian/Alaska Natives had the highest prevalence (8.6% NH Asian - 7.9% NH White).
- Similarly, for hookah, highest prevalence (4.7%) was among NH American In comparatively (Range: 2.7%: NH White - 4.3%: Hispanic).

## CONCLUSIONS

- The current rate of any tobacco product in this military sample (22.1%) was high personnel (27.3%), compared to civilian adults (19.7%).
- However, in this sample, NH American Indian/Alaska Natives and NH Native Hawaiian personnel were disproportionately using e-cigarettes, cigars, and hookah.
- Results highlight the importance of tailoring tobacco interventions and policies used, particularly in the U.S. military, given tobacco disparities impacting produ