

# Iqmik: A Form of Smokeless Tobacco Used Among Alaska Natives

Caroline C. Renner, MPH; Carrie Enoch, RHS; Christi A. Patten, PhD  
Jon O. Ebbert, MD; Richard D. Hurt, MD; Thomas P. Moyer, PhD  
Ellen M. Provost, DO, MPH

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**Objectives:** To describe a home-made form of smokeless tobacco known as Iqmik used among Alaska Natives residing in western Alaska. **Methods:** Individual and small-group interviews were conducted with 23 adult Alaska Natives. The major themes from the interview data were summarized. A chemical analysis was conducted of the alkalinity of a sample of fungus ash

used to prepare Iqmik. **Results:** Few adverse health effects of using Iqmik were reported. The alkalinity of the sample of fungus ash was high (pH=10.9). **Conclusion:** The high alkalinity of Iqmik may contribute to the higher rates of tobacco use in this population.

**Key words:** tobacco, smokeless tobacco, Alaska Natives, Iqmik

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