

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF™



MINORITY RESEARCH CENTER
on Tobacco & Addictions

The mission of the Minority Research Center is to provide assistance to the state and nation in tobacco and other substance abuse research, prevention, education, technical assistance and evaluation, especially in regard to minority populations (Blacks, Hispanics, Marshall Islanders, and Asians).

WHO WE ARE:

In 2011, leadership of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff 15% Set-A-Side Committee implemented the vision of a facility that would house all information and best practices regarding the impact of tobacco and addictions within minority communities. This vision was soon translated into the Minority Research Center on Tobacco & Addictions (MRC).

WHY WE EXIST:

The tobacco use prevalence remains high for minorities, especially males, and the research on this population remains limited. According to the Arkansas Department of Health as of 2011, the smoking rate for African American and Hispanic adults in Arkansas was approximately 27% and 15%, respectively. The national smoking rate for African American and Hispanic adults was approximately 26% and 20%, respectively. African American adults in Arkansas smoked at a slightly higher rate than the national average while Hispanic adults smoked at a lower rate. The MRC serves as a clearinghouse for conducting research and disseminating information involving minorities. The emphasis of the Center is to provide assistance to Arkansas and the nation in tobacco and other substance abuse research, prevention, education, technical assistance, and evaluation in regard to minority populations. The Minority Research Center on Tobacco & Addictions is funded by the Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement.

WHAT WE DO:

Our goal is to serve as a local, regional and national resource providing best practices and key learnings for eliminating the use of tobacco and other addictive substances within minority communities. Objectives include increasing knowledge about minority health disparities and addictions; increasing funding to researchers that will strengthen the capacity for addictions and community based participatory research; and collaborating with organizations whose goals include the radical reduction of smoking prevalence in minority populations.