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# NICOTINE & CANNABIS POLICY CENTER

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**COVID-19, TOBACCO & VAPING: Insights from Researchers in California's San Joaquin Valley**



**The Impact of COVID-19 on Tobacco and Cannabis Use Among Adults in California's San Joaquin Valley**



Brought to you in  
partnership with  
the American Heart  
Association



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## *NCPC Research Core Team*



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We have no tobacco industry or  
pharmaceutical industry funding.



# NCPC RESEARCH CORE

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- Primary aim: To assess nicotine and cannabis product use and evaluate support for existing and emerging related policies among the population in the San Joaquin Valley.
- Data collection and COVID-19 pandemic

## Survey # 1:

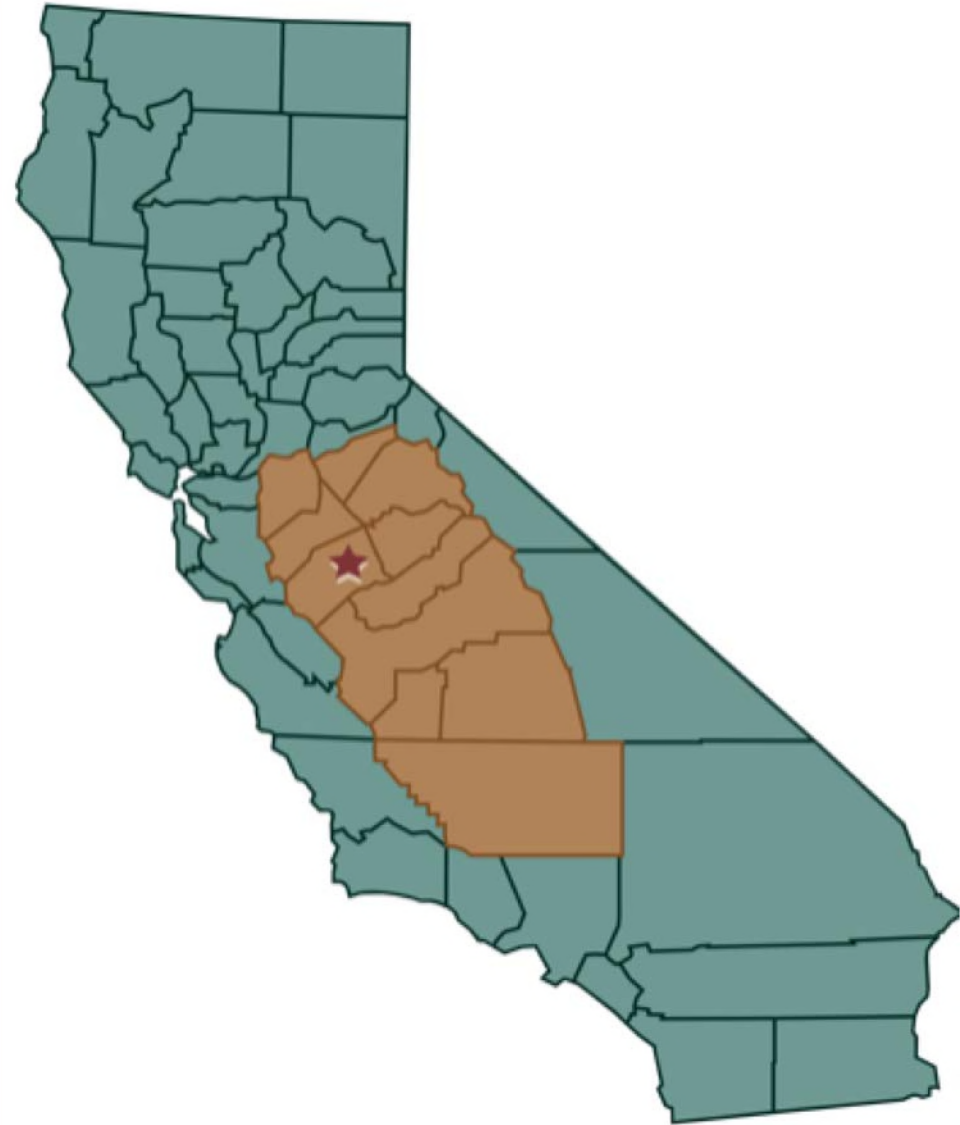
- February & May 2020
- General population

## Survey #2:

- June 2020
- Smokers

Conducted online - recruited  
via Facebook

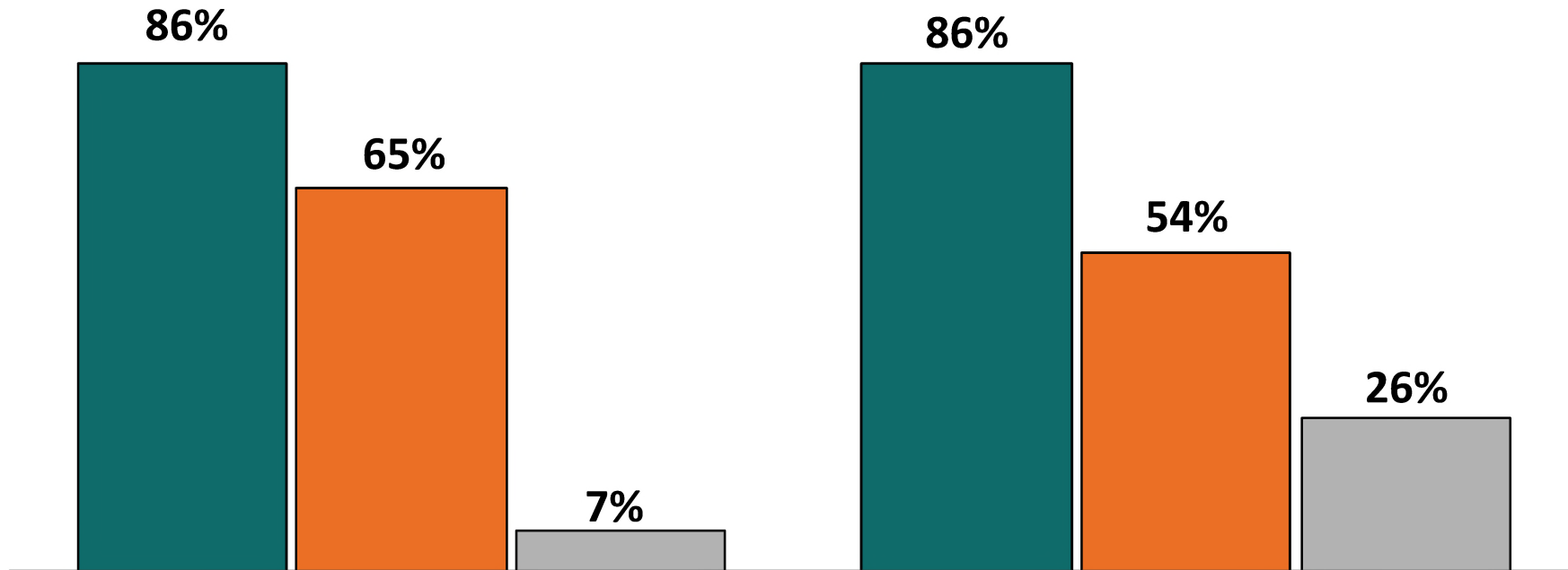
Inclusion criteria: 18+ years  
old, residing in SJV, & English  
speaking



# RESULTS – SURVEY # 1

% of sample that, in the last 30 days has used...

■ Cigarettes ■ E-cigarettes ■ Marijuana



FEBRUARY (N = 1,853)

MAY (N = 1,308)



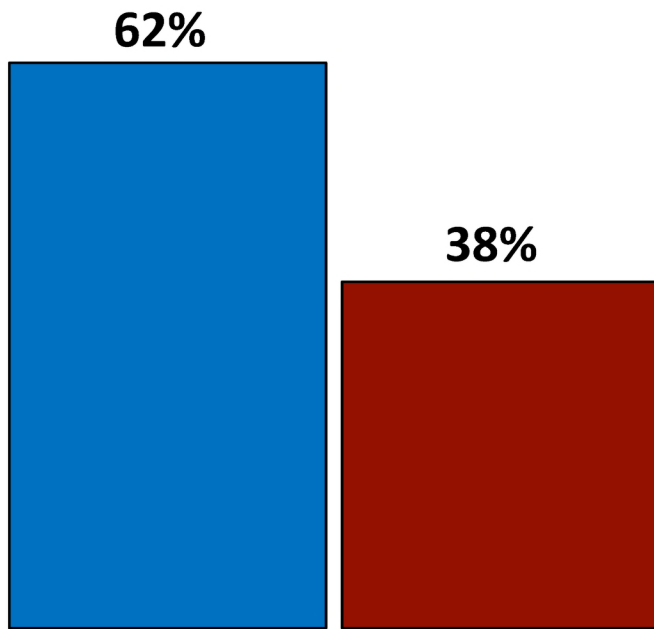
# RESULTS – SURVEY # 1

*Controlling for age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, and income:*

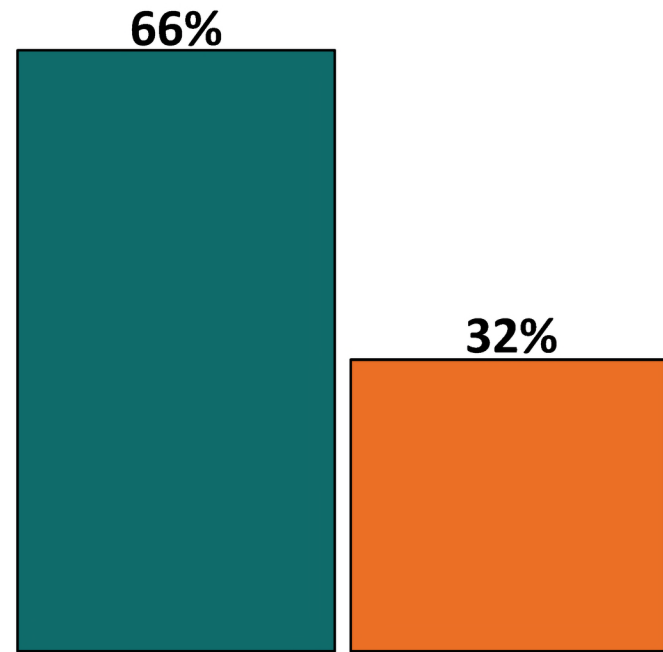
- Participants surveyed in May had higher odds of intending to quit smoking cigarettes in next 6 months vs. those surveyed in February
- Participants surveyed in May had higher odds of intending to quit using e-cigarettes in next 6 months vs. those surveyed in February

# RESULTS – SURVEY # 2

QUIT ATTEMPTS PAST 3 MOS.



INTEND TO QUIT NEXT 30 DAYS



(n = 240)



# RESULTS – SURVEY # 2

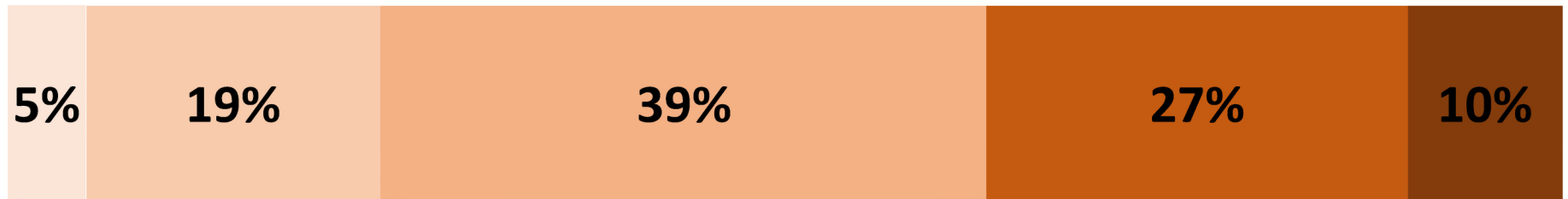
*Controlling for age, gender, sexual orientation, race, income, & # cigarettes per day:*

Increased worry that smoking makes one more susceptible to COVID-19...

1. More likely to have unsuccessfully attempted to quit in past 3 months
2. More likely to intend to quit in the next 30 days

# RESULTS – SURVEY # 2

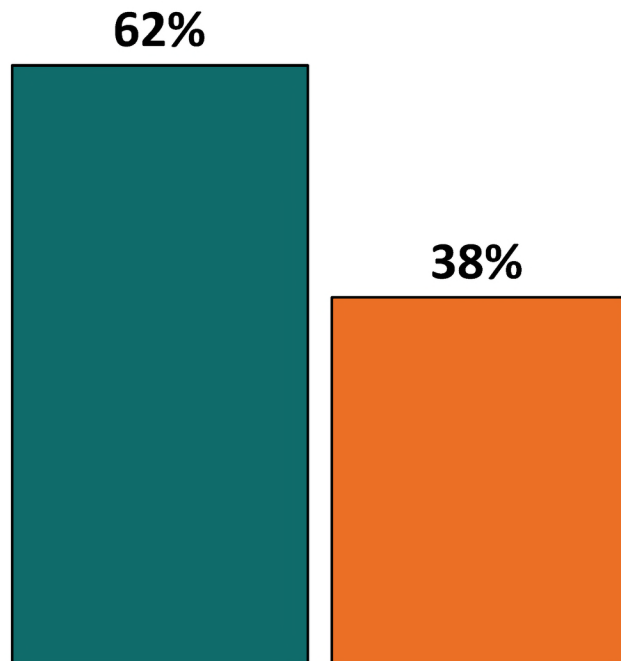
Difficulty in accessing cigarette cessation aids or products during a pandemic...



■ Not at all difficult   ■ Not very difficult   ■ Somewhat difficult   ■ Moderately difficult   ■ Very difficult

# RESULTS – SURVEY # 2

■ No ■ Yes



Past Month Marijuana Use

*Controlling for age, gender, sexual orientation, race, income, & # cigarettes per day:*

Increased worry that smoking makes one more susceptible to COVID-19...

More likely to have used marijuana in the past month.

# CONCLUSIONS

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- No difference in cigarette smoking between February & May but decreased e-cigarette use [Study 1]
- Increased marijuana use in May [Study 1]
- More likely to intend to quit smoking cigarettes and e-cigarettes in future [Study 1]

# CONCLUSIONS

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- Worry about COVID-19 related to cigarette smoking quit attempts and intentions to quit in future [Study 2]
- Worry about COVID-19 related to increased marijuana use [Study 2]

# IMPLICATIONS

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- E-cigarette use may be going down
- Increased marijuana use
- Cigarette smoking still problematic
- Possible increased interest in quitting
  - Opportunity to increase cessation efforts for tobacco in region



# THANK YOU

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EVIDENCE BASED SOLUTIONS FOR CENTRAL CALIFORNIA



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