



# Not all have a dip in ciggies

INDIGENOUS smoking rates are more than double the national average, a new study has found.

The study shows that while smoking rates have fallen among the general population since the 1970s, they remained the same for indigenous people.

Report co-author Dr David Thomas, from the Menzies School of Health Research, says about half of all indigenous people smoke and social disadvantage was the major factor.

"The poorest and most socially-disadvantaged indigenous people were those most likely to smoke, when compared with other indigenous people," he said.

Little had been done to spread anti-smoking messages among indigenous communities.

"Some of the things that we know have worked in the rest of the Australian population ... like smokefree areas ... haven't spread as widely into indigenous communities," he said.