



Infant Exposure to Secondhand Cigarette Smoke in Florida, 2000-2001

What do asthma, ear infections, respiratory tract irritation, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) have in common? They are all possible consequences of infant exposure to secondhand smoke.¹

According to Florida PRAMS 2000 and 2001 survey data, one in 12 (8.6 percent) infants were exposed to secondhand cigarette smoke for at least one hour per day, on average. The prevalence of infant exposure to secondhand cigarette smoke in Florida was:

- The highest among non-Hispanic White women (12.4 percent); 7.9 percent among non-Hispanic Black women, and 1.0 percent among Hispanic women.
- Higher among women age 24 and younger than among those age 25 and older. In particular, 13.0 percent among women age 19 and younger, 12.0 percent among those age 20 to 24, 6.3 percent among women between the ages of 25 and 34, and 6.8 percent among those 35-years old and over.
- The lowest among women with more than a high school education (5.9 percent); 10.8 percent among those with a high school education, and 10.9 percent among those with less than a high school education.
- The highest among women with household incomes of \$15,600 or less (11.9 percent); 8.0 percent among women with household incomes between \$15,601 and \$39,600, and 5.8 percent among those with household incomes over \$39,600.
- Higher among Medicaid recipients (12.5 percent) than among non-Medicaid recipients (5.9 percent).
- Higher among unmarried women (12.8 percent) than among married women (6.2 percent).
- Nearly four times higher among women who smoked cigarettes before pregnancy (20.6 percent) than among those who did not smoke before pregnancy (5.5 percent).
- Almost five times higher among women who smoked cigarettes during pregnancy (30.1 percent) than among those who did not smoke during pregnancy (6.1 percent).
- Almost five times higher among women who were current cigarette smokers after pregnancy at the time of this survey (26.0 percent) than among those who were not current smokers (5.4 percent).
- Higher among women who drank alcohol during pregnancy (10.2 percent) than among those who did not drink alcohol during pregnancy (7.3 percent).
- Higher among women who were victims of domestic violence either before or during pregnancy (20.4 percent and 18.5 percent, respectively) than among women who were not (7.8 percent and 8.2 percent, respectively).
- Higher among women with unintended pregnancies (10.4 percent) than among those with intended pregnancies (7.1 percent).

This study shows that women who are more likely to expose their infants to secondhand cigarette smoke are non-Hispanic Whites, are under the age of 25, have lower levels of education or income, are Medicaid recipients, are not married, smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol during pregnancy, are victims of domestic violence, and/or have unintended pregnancies. These findings may assist healthcare providers and program planners in providing effective information for preventing the incidence of infant exposure to secondhand cigarette smoke.

The Florida Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a random survey of recent mothers of live-born infants. It is designed to monitor the physical, economic, and social health of Florida mothers and newborns. PRAMS data are "weighted" so that the resulting estimates can be generalized to the entire state population. PRAMS data from 2000 and 2001 were combined to increase sample size and precision of estimates for this study.

1. Blackburn C, Spencer N, Bonas S, et al. Effect of strategies to reduce exposure of infants to environmental tobacco smoke in the home: cross-sectional survey. *British Medical Journal*, Aug. 2, 2003; Volume 327, pp.257.

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