



Cigarette Smoking During Pregnancy Among Florida Women, 2000-2001

Cigarette smoking during pregnancy is associated with adverse birth outcomes such as intrauterine growth retardation, low birth weight, and pre-term delivery.

According to Florida PRAMS 2000 and 2001 survey data, 9.3 percent of new mothers in Florida smoked cigarettes during pregnancy. The prevalence of cigarette smoking during pregnancy among women in Florida was:

- The highest by a substantial margin among non-Hispanic White women (15.7 percent); 2.4 percent among non-Hispanic Black women, and 2.0 percent among Hispanic women.
- The highest among women age 20 to 24 (12.3 percent); 11.1 percent among women age 19 and younger, 7.1 percent among women age 25 to 34, and 9.8 percent among women age 35 and older.
- Higher both among women with less than a high school education (15.1 percent) and among those with a high school education (11.2 percent) than among those with more than a high school education (5.2 percent).
- Higher among both women with household incomes of \$39,600 or less (11.0 percent) than among women with incomes of \$39,601 or more (5.3 percent).
- Higher among women who were unmarried (11.7 percent) than among women who were married (7.8 percent).
- Higher among women who smoked cigarettes during the three months before pregnancy (49.0 percent) than among women who did not smoke cigarettes during the three months before pregnancy (0.03 percent).
- Higher among Medicaid recipients (13.7 percent) than among non-Medicaid recipients (6.3 percent).

During prenatal care visits, healthcare providers discussed how smoking during pregnancy could affect their babies with 86.7 percent of women who smoked cigarettes before pregnancy. Among women who smoked cigarettes before pregnancy almost half (48.8 percent) were no longer smoking cigarettes by the third trimester of their pregnancies.

This study describes the demographic characteristics of women who smoked cigarettes during the third trimester of pregnancy. Cigarette smoking during pregnancy is more likely to occur among women who are non-Hispanic Whites, have lower levels of education or household income, are unmarried, smoke cigarettes before pregnancy, and/or are Medicaid recipients. The data show that professional counseling on the affects of cigarette smoking during pregnancy is an effective element in a woman's decision to quit smoking cigarettes during pregnancy. These findings may assist healthcare providers and program planners in Florida to provide effective information for the prevention of cigarette smoking among pregnant women.

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.

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