

# Cigarette Smoking During Pregnancy



## Introduction

The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is an ongoing surveillance system of maternal behavior and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy.<sup>1</sup> This population-based survey is designed to collect data on maternal health and behavior, prenatal and postpartum care, and infant health. The 2008 Florida PRAMS survey had a total of 2,624 respondents. The data presented in this fact sheet are weighted to be representative of new mothers and newborns in Florida.

## Background

Cigarette smoke contains over 1,000 different compounds. The two main compounds nicotine and carbon monoxide, account for almost every smoking-related complication in pregnancy. When a woman smokes during pregnancy, toxic chemicals enter her bloodstream and can decrease the amount of oxygen the baby gets.

Research indicates that women who smoke during pregnancy are more likely to have<sup>2</sup>:

- Vaginal bleeding.
- A stillbirth.
- Abnormal pregnancy.

Babies born to women who smoke during pregnancy are more likely to be born:

- With birth defects such as cleft lip or palate
- Prematurely.
- At low birth weight.
- Underweight for the number of weeks of pregnancy.

This fact sheet examines the overall prevalence of cigarette smoking during pregnancy among new mothers in Florida.

## Results

- Overall, 21.2% of Florida's new moms reported smoking at least 100 cigarettes in the past two years; 19% reported smoking in the three months before they got pregnant; 8.6% reported smoking during the last three months of pregnancy; and 12.4% reported smoking in their postpartum. (Figure1)

Figure 1. Percentage of Cigarette Smoking Before/During/After Pregnancy, Florida, 2008

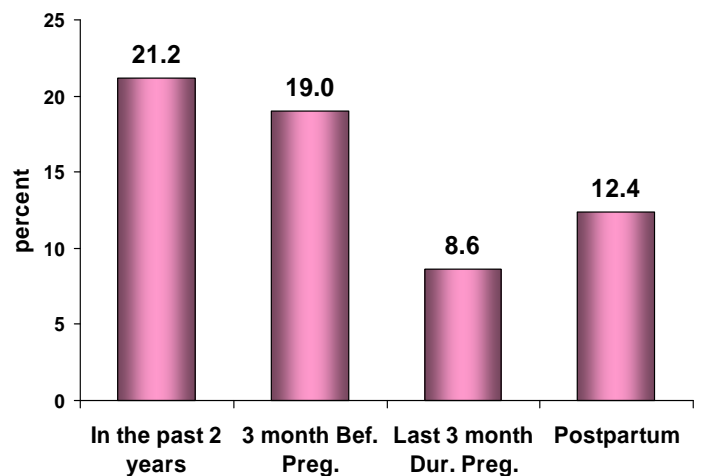
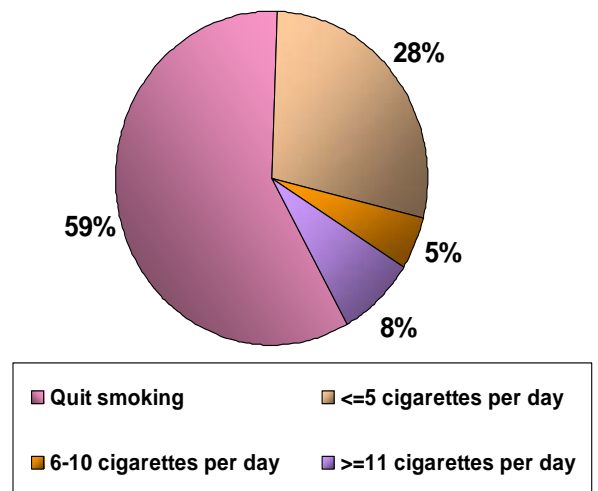


Figure 2. Percentage of Cigarette Smoking During the Last 3 Months of Pregnancy Among Smoking Moms, Florida, 2008



- Of new mothers who smoked at least 100 cigarettes in the past two years, 58.5% reported quitting smoking in the last three months of pregnancy; 28.4% reported smoking five or less cigarettes per day; 5% reported smoking six to ten cigarettes per day; and 8% reported smoking eleven or more cigarettes per day in the last three months of pregnancy. (Figure 2)
- Of new mothers, 74% reported that a doctor, nurse, or other health care worker talked to them about how smoking during pregnancy could affect babies.

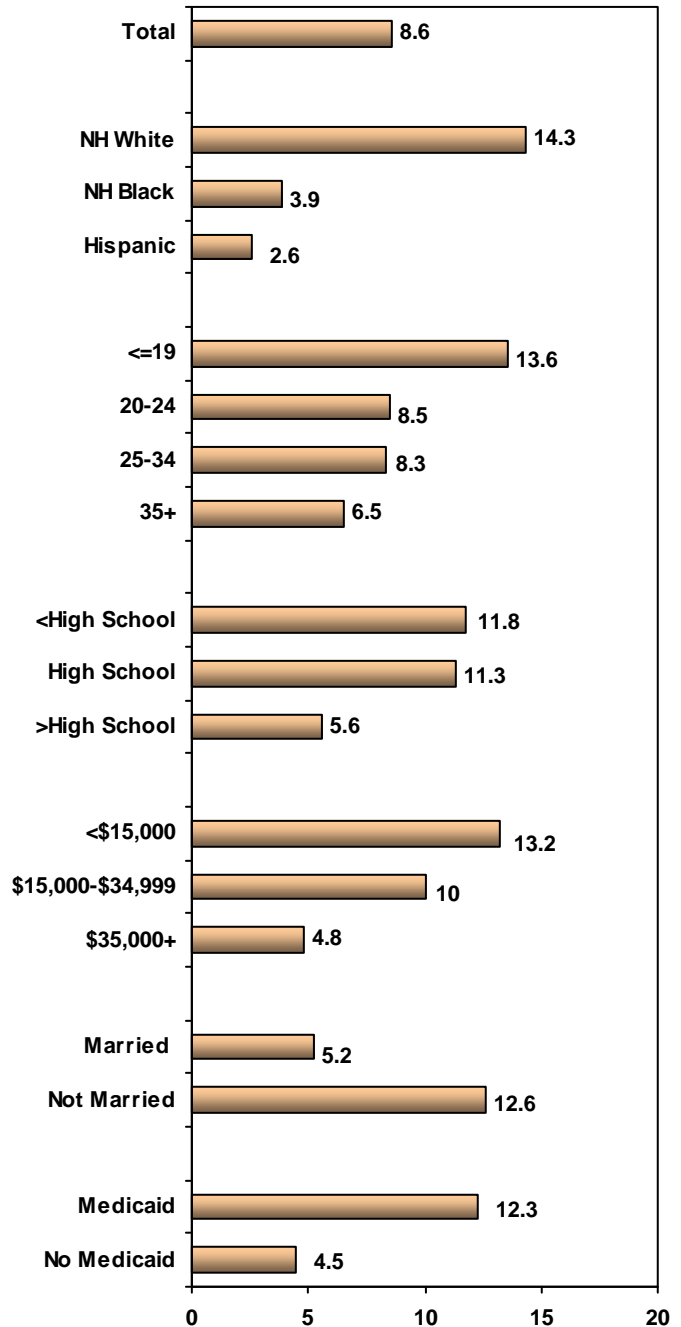
The prevalence of smoking during pregnancy was:

- Significantly higher among non-Hispanics (NH) whites compared to Hispanics and non-Hispanic blacks.
- Significantly higher among mothers less than 20-years-old compared to mothers 20-years-old and older.
- Significantly higher among mothers with a high school education or less compared to mothers with more than a high school education.
- Significantly higher among mothers with an annual family income of \$15,000 or less per year compared to mothers with a family income of \$35,000 or more.
- Significantly higher among unmarried mothers compared to their married counterparts.
- Significantly higher among mothers with Medicaid compared to mothers without Medicaid. (Figure 3)

## Summary

- More than 8% of new mothers in Florida smoked during their pregnancy. The prevalence was significantly higher among non-Hispanic whites, mothers 19-years-old and younger, mothers with a high school education or less, mothers with an annual family income of \$15,000 or less, unmarried mothers, and mothers with Medicaid.

**Figure 3. Prevalence of Smoking During Pregnancy By Demographic Characteristics, Florida, 2008**



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## Selected Citations

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitor System Data*. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007.
2. [http://www.marchofdimers.com/pregnancy/alcohol\\_smoking.html](http://www.marchofdimers.com/pregnancy/alcohol_smoking.html) (Access: March 9, 2011)