

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

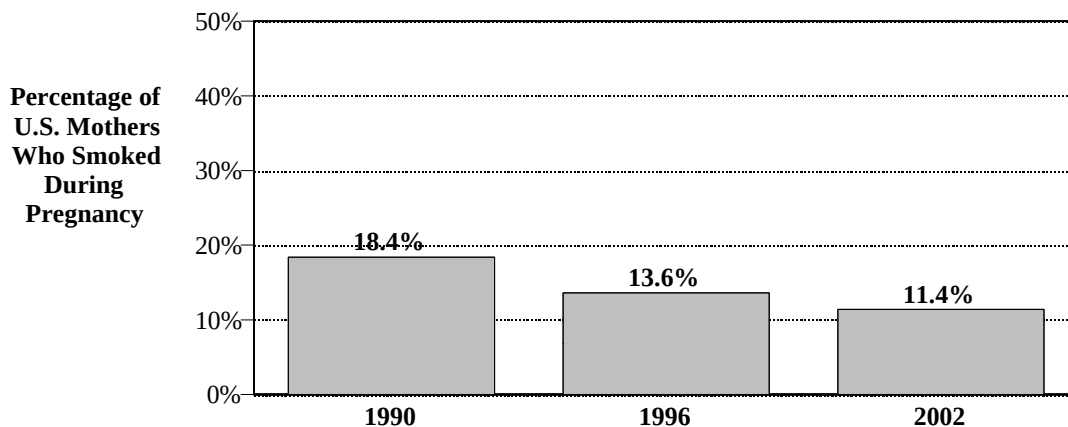
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Smoking During Pregnancy Decreased by More Than One-Third Since 1990

The percentage of women who smoked during pregnancy decreased by 38% from 1990 to 2002, according to data from the National Center for Health Statistics. Data on maternal smoking was collected from birth certificates from 49 states, the District of Columbia, and New York City.* In 1990, 18.4% of women giving birth in the United States reported smoking during pregnancy, compared to 11.4% in 2002. Declines in individual states ranged from 5.8% in West Virginia (from 27.8% in 1990 to 26.2% in 2002) to 68% in Massachusetts (from 25.3% in 1990 to 8.1% in 2002). The authors conclude that “while evidence suggests that specific cessation programs have been at least partly successful, . . . further efforts are needed to persuade these women of the health risks posed to their infants and themselves from smoking during pregnancy” (p. 913).

Editor’s Note: Part of this decline may have been because women were less likely to report smoking during pregnancy in 2002 than they were in 1990 due to a decreased social desirability and increased stigmatization of smoking.

Percentage of U.S. Mothers Who Reported Smoking During Pregnancy; 1990, 1996, and 2002



*No data were presented for California because smoking is not reported on birth certificates in the standard format. Not all states had data available for the entire period (Indiana, New York state, and South Dakota data are missing in 1990 and 1996; New York City and Oklahoma are missing in 1996).

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Smoking During Pregnancy—United States, 1990-2002,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 53(39):911-915, 2004. Available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5339a1.htm>.