

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

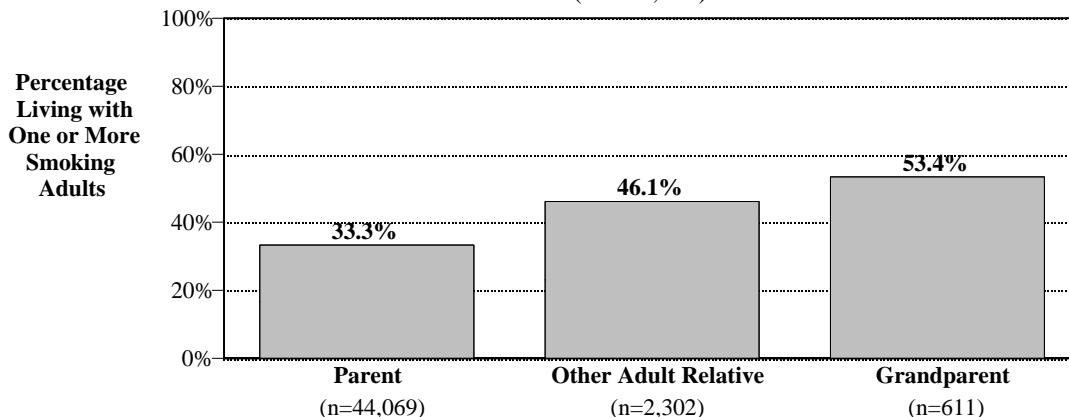
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One-Third of Children Live with One or More Adult Smokers; Children Living in Nonparental Homes More Likely to Live with Smokers

Overall, slightly more than one-third (34.4%) of children in the U.S. live with at least one adult smoker, according to an analysis of data from a national representative household survey. Children who lived in nonparental homes—households headed by an adult other than their parents—were significantly more likely to live with smokers and thus be exposed to second hand smoke (SHS). More than half (53.4%) of children who lived in their grandparents' homes lived with one or more adult smokers, as did 46.1% of children who lived in the homes of other adult relatives, compared with 33.3% of children in parental homes. Children who lived in nonparental homes were also more likely to live with multiple smokers—9.5% of children living in their grandparents' homes and 7.8% of those living in the homes of other adult relatives lived with three or more adult smokers, compared to 2.6% of children living in parental homes (data not shown). According to the authors, “the large number of children who live with smokers, along with the complexity of the homes in which these children live, reinforces the urgent need for strategies to help protect children from the harms of exposure to adult tobacco use” (p. e563).

Percentage of U.S. Children Living with One or More Smoking Adults, by Relationship of Head of Household to Child, 2000-2004

(N=46,982)



*Data are from the 2000-2004 concatenated Medical Expenditure Panel Surveys (MEPS), a nationally representative survey of the civilian, noninstitutionalized U.S. population, sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the National Center for Health Statistics.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from King, K., Martynenko, M., Bergman, M., Liu, Y-H, Winickoff, J. and Weitzman, M., “Family Composition and Children’s Exposure to Adult Smokers in Their Homes,” *Pediatrics* 123(4): e559-e564, 2009. Available online at <http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/123/4/e559>. For more information, contact Michael Weitzman at michael.weitzman@nyumc.org

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The Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention funded this project under grant BJAG 2005-1206. All points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State agency.