

STATISTICAL NEWS

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2003 Data on Health Risk Behaviors Available

Data on Overweight, Smoking, etc. Show Various Health Disparities

According to preliminary results from the 2003 Pennsylvania Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey, 60 percent of Pennsylvania adults were overweight or obese, 23 percent engaged in no leisure-time physical activity, 15 percent reported that their general health was fair or poor, and 25 percent smoked cigarettes.

These and many other health behavioral facts/risk factors for 2003 are now available upon request from the Bureau of Health Statistics and Research. These data are collected via the BRFSS sample survey which estimates the percentage of Pennsylvania adults at risk due to unhealthy behaviors.

The BRFSS is a cooperative effort of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Each state uses a standard questionnaire to collect data by means of telephone interviews with randomly selected state adult residents. This data collection effort has been conducted in Pennsylvania every year since 1989.

...60 percent of Pennsylvania adults were overweight or obese...and 25 percent smoked cigarettes.

Some data highlights for 2003 follow.

Overweight/Obese

The percentage of overweight or obese male adults (70) was significantly higher than the percentage (51) for female adults in 2003. Non-Hispanic black adults also had a significantly higher percentage (76) than non-Hispanic whites (60). Percentages for older adults (30 and older) were significantly higher than younger adults. For example, approximately 61 percent of adults aged 30-44 and 68 percent of those aged 45-64 were overweight or obese compared to 43 percent of those aged 18-29. Among the Department's Health Districts, the highest percentages were recorded for the North Central (69) and Northeastern (63) Districts.

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Pregnancies Continue Decline in 2002

2002 Number and Rate Are Lowest Figures Ever Recorded

There were 177,290 pregnancies reported among female residents of Pennsylvania in 2002, a decrease of 2,625 or 1.5 percent, from the 179,915 reported for 2001. The 2002 figure was the lowest annual number of reported pregnancies ever recorded for the State since 1980 when the data were first compiled.

The 2002 reported pregnancy rate of 70.1 per 1,000 females ages 15-44 was also the lowest such figure ever recorded for Pennsylvania since 1980. Figure 1 on page 4 depicts the annual rate of reported pregnancies for all Pennsylvania residents from 1990 through 2002. Figure 1 also shows the teenage (15-19) reported pregnancy rate for the same years. The teen rate has declined considerably, from 73.6 in 1990 to an all time low of 42.5 in 2002 (a 42.3 percent drop).

Table 1 on page 4 shows 2002 reported pregnancy statistics by woman's age group and outcome for the state. In 2002, 80.3 percent of the reported pregnancies resulted in

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DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH

Edward G. Rendell, Governor
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Secretary of Health

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Dentists and Dental Hygienists Surveyed in Pa

Data on Age, Activity Status, and Sex/Race Disparities Reviewed

Only 77 percent of licensed dentists in Pennsylvania practiced direct patient dental care in Pennsylvania in 2003 according to the results from a survey of dentists and dental hygienists recently released by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Increased representation of both women and African Americans as providers of direct patient dental care could act to strengthen the presence of direct patient care providers in Pennsylvania.

...women comprised only 14 percent of the dentists providing direct patient care in Pennsylvania.

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Dentists:

In the 2003 survey, women comprised only 14 percent of the dentists providing direct patient care in Pennsylvania. In addition, eighty-one percent of female dentists in the state were under the age of 50. However, only 42 percent of male dentists in Pennsylvania were younger than 50—significantly lower than the 81 percent for females.

The percentage of dentists engaged in direct patient care who were African Ameri-

cans was noticeably lower (2 percent), compared to their percent representation in Pennsylvania's population over the age of 30 (8 percent).

Dental Hygienists:

Data for dental hygienists showed a slightly lower percentage of direct dental care work in Pennsylvania (76 percent), compared to dentists (77 percent).

African Americans were as underrepresented as dental hygienists (1 percent) as they were for dentists (2 percent).

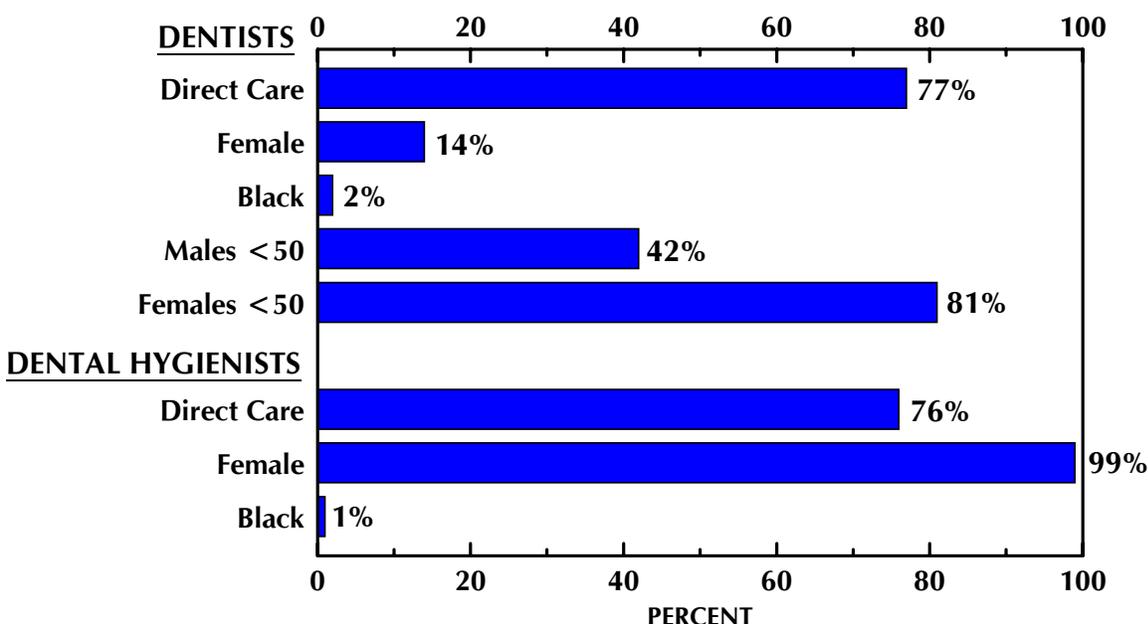
African Americans were as underrepresented as dental

hygienists (1 percent) as they were for dentists (2 percent). In contrast to the gender bias found for direct patient care dentists in Pennsylvania, it was males who were underrepresented as dental hygienists. Males represented only 1 percent of the total dental hygienist workforce in direct patient care in Pennsylvania. Of those that responded that they were African-American for the question on race, every one indicated that they were female.

The graph below highlights some of the differences by sex, race and age for the two dental health professions as well as activity status.

If you have any questions regarding the data presented here, please contact the Bureau at 717-783-2548.

Selected Characteristics for Dentists and Dental Hygienists
Pennsylvania, 2003



Web Site Updates:

Pennsylvania Vital Statistics 2002

PA, County, and Municipality Health Status Indicators

Pennsylvania Vital Statistics 2002:

Data tables and narrative highlights from the Department of Health's 2002 official annual report of birth, death, induced abortion, pregnancy, and population statistics (*Pennsylvania Vital Statistics 2002*) for the state, all counties, and selected major municipalities is now available on the Department's Health Statistics web page at www.health.state.pa.us/stats (select Vital Statistics).

There are approximately 200 pages of data tables including rates with 95% confidence intervals and many graphics. You can access a complete set of tables for each type of data (births, deaths, population, induced abortions or reported pregnancies) or access data tables for only a specific geographic area (state, county or municipality) within each type of data.

Health Status Indicators for PA Counties and Health Districts:

This annual report contains health status indicators for the United States, Pennsylvania, counties and health districts. It includes 95% confidence intervals and the results of significance testing, which are graphically depicted by county outline maps. Thus, the report provides descriptive and analytical statistics at the county and health district levels in one convenient publication for health data users.

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The health status indicators were developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in response to *Healthy People 2000* and *Healthy People 2010* objectives. They are to be used for assessing and comparing the health status of state and local areas. Some data highlights follow.

The percent of low birth weight babies and mothers having no prenatal care in the first trimester increased from 2001 to 2002 for Pennsylvania, while the percentage of births to mothers less than 18 years of age saw no change from 2001 to 2002. Age-adjusted death rates for cardiovascular disease, heart disease, lung cancer, female breast cancer, and homicide declined. The rates for stroke, motor vehicle accidents, and suicide increased. Infant death rates also increased as did the incidence rate for syphilis. However, AIDS and tuberculosis incidence rates both decreased.

The report highlights some of the differences in the birth and infant death statistics among whites, blacks, Hispan-

ics, and Asians. Blacks and Hispanics have much higher percentages of teenage births and no prenatal care in the first trimester, as well as much higher infant death rates compared to whites and Asians. Blacks and Hispanics also have higher percentages of low birth weight babies.

Standard errors were calculated for many of the rates and percentages and 95% confidence intervals are shown. Significance or comparison testing was performed on most objectives to determine which county or Health District indicator was significantly higher or lower than the state figure and which state indicator was significantly higher or lower than the United States figure. The report also shows county-outlined state maps depicting the results of significance testing.

You can view and print this report at the Department's Health Statistics web page at www.health.state.pa.us/stats. Select the blue box entitled Vital Statistics.

Maternal and Child Health Status Indicators for PA and Major Municipalities:

This annual series of reports shows birth, death, infant death, childhood poverty and disease incidence statistics for 22 municipalities as well as for Pennsylvania. No major changes were made to the report this year.

These reports provide those concerned about maternal and child health with a statistical perspective on the types of urban health problems facing Pennsylvania's major cities. Much of the data are shown by race (white, black and Asian/Pacific Islander) and Hispanic origin.

The reports include leading causes of death among residents ages 1 to 17 for the five-year period of 1998-2002, infant death rates, low birth weight, mothers with no prenatal care in first trimester, teen births, children below the poverty level and the reported cases of vaccine-preventable diseases among residents under age 20.

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The twenty cities and two boroughs included in the report are Allentown, Altoona, Bethlehem, Chester, Easton, Erie, Harrisburg, Hazleton, Johnstown, Lancaster, Lebanon, McKeesport, New Castle, Norristown, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Reading, Scranton, West Mifflin, Wilkes-Barre, Williamsport and York.

These reports are online at www.health.state.pa.us/stats (select Vital Statistics) or hard copies can be requested.

Pregnancies Continue Decline in 2002...

a live birth, 18.9 percent in an induced abortion, and only 0.8 percent in a fetal death (non-induced termination of 16 weeks or more gestation).

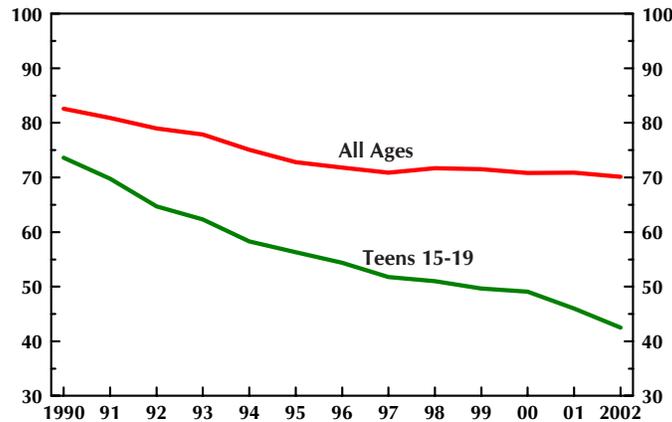
In 2002, 80.3 percent of the reported pregnancies resulted in a live birth, 18.9 percent in an induced abortion, and only 0.8 percent in a fetal death...

Women in the age group 20-29 accounted for almost 50 percent or 88,187 of all reported pregnancies in 2002; those under 20 years of age, for 10.8 percent or 19,217; and, women 30 years of age and older accounted for 39.4 percent or 69,847.

In 2002, 68.5 percent of all reported pregnancies to teenage residents under 20 years of age resulted in a live birth, compared to 78.2 percent for women 20-29 years of age and 86.3 percent for those women 30 years of age and older.

Table 2 on page 5 shows the number of 2002 reported pregnancies by age, race and Hispanic origin of woman for Pennsylvania residents. Pregnancies to white women in 2002 accounted for 76.1 percent or 134,833 of all reported pregnancies; black women accounted for 19.2 percent of all reported pregnancies or 34,041; and Asian/Pacific Islander women accounted for only 3.1 percent or 5,512 of all reported pregnancies. Re-

FIGURE 1
Reported Pregnancy Rate, All Ages and Teens 15-19
Pennsylvania Residents, 1990-2002



Year	All Ages	Teens 15-19
2002	70.1	42.5
2001	70.9	46.0
2000	70.8	49.1
1999	71.5	49.7
1998	71.7	51.0
1997	70.9	51.8
1996	71.8	54.4
1995	72.8	56.3
1994	75.1	58.3
1993	77.9	62.3
1992	79.0	64.7
1991	80.9	69.8
1990	82.6	73.6

ported pregnancies to women of Hispanic origin accounted for 5.9 percent. Please note that persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race.

During 2002, among Hispanic and black women, 19.7 and 19.4 percent (respectively) of the reported pregnancies were to teenagers (under 20 years of age). Among white and Asian/Pacific Islander females, only 8.8 and 4.1 per-

cent (respectively) were to teenagers of those ages.

In 2002, 85.7 percent of the reported pregnancies to white women resulted in a live birth and 13.6 percent in an induced abortion. Among Asian/Pacific Islander women, 78.6 percent of the reported pregnancies resulted in a live birth and 20.9 percent in an

Go to Page 5 or click here...

In 2002, 68.5% of all reported pregnancies to teenage residents resulted in a live birth, compared to 78.2% for women 20-29 and 86.3% for those women 30+.

TABLE 1
Reported Pregnancies by Woman's Age Group and Outcome
Pennsylvania Residents, 2002

Age of Woman	Reported Pregnancies	Live Births	Fetal Deaths	Induced Abortions
All Ages	177,290	142,380	1,407	33,503
Under 15	499	235	6	258
15-17	6,172	4,279	57	1,836
18-19	12,546	8,655	95	3,796
20-29	88,187	68,933	620	18,634
30 & Older	69,847	60,268	600	8,979

NOTE: Unknown ages included in total.

Pregnancies Decline...

induced abortion. Only 57.8 percent of the reported pregnancies among black women resulted in a live birth and 41.1 percent resulted in an induced abortion. The percentages of live births and induced abortions for Hispanic women were similar to those for white women at 82.0 and 16.9, respectively. (See Figure 2 below).

During 2002, among Hispanic and black women, 19.7 and 19.4 percent (respectively) of the reported pregnancies were to teenagers. Among white and Asian/Pacific Islander females, only 8.8 and 4.1 percent were to teenagers.

Three components were used to calculate the reported pregnancies (live births, fetal deaths, and induced abortions). Please note the following qualifications of the reported pregnancy statistics as released by the Bureau of Health Statistics and Research: fetal deaths exclude those less than 16 weeks of gestation and induced abortions exclude those performed outside the state to residents.

If you have any questions about the data presented here, please contact the Bureau of Health Statistics and Research at 717-783-2548.

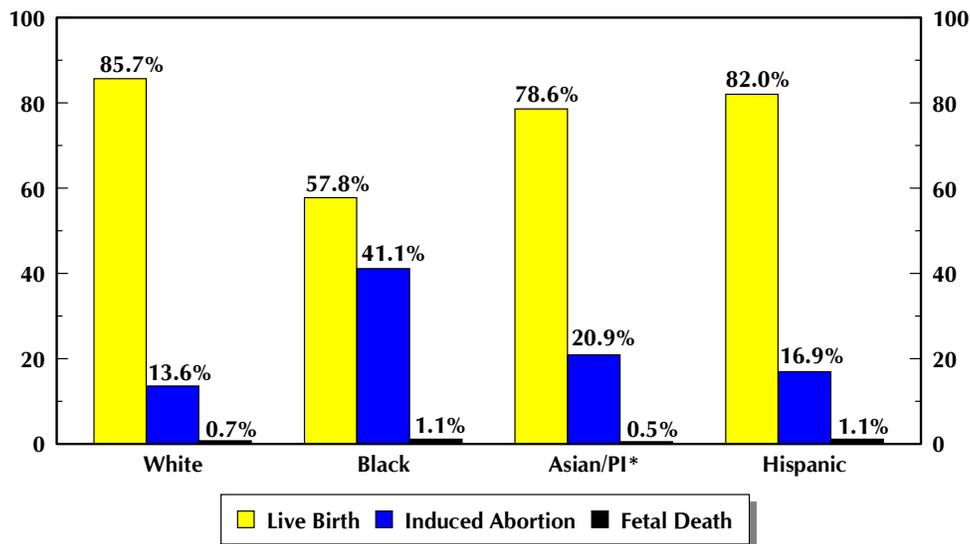
TABLE 2
Reported Pregnancies by Age, Race/Ethnicity of Woman
Pennsylvania Residents, 2002

Age of Woman	All Races	White	Black	Asian/PI*	Hispanic
All Ages	177,290	134,833	34,041	5,512	10,513
Under 15	499	181	305	4	55
15-17	6,172	3,464	2,480	53	746
18-19	12,546	8,269	3,815	167	1,266
20-29	88,187	65,017	19,135	2,552	6,262
30 & Older	69,847	57,891	8,294	2,734	2,182

*Pacific Islander

Notes: Unknown ages and races included in total. Hispanic can be of any race.

FIGURE 2
Reported Pregnancies, Percent Outcome by Race/Ethnicity
Pennsylvania Residents, 2002



NOTES: Hispanic origin can be of any race. Percents may not total 100.0 due to rounding.

*Pacific Islander

2003 Data on Health Risk Behaviors Available...

No-Leisure-Time

Physical Activity:

Higher percentages were recorded for adults aged 65 and over (32 compared to 25 for those aged 45-64, 20 for those 30-44, and 14 for those 18-29). All but one of the Health Districts had percentages in the range of 21 to 23. The Northeastern District had the highest figure (24).

The percentage of overweight or obese male adults (70) was significantly higher than the percentage (51) for female adults in 2003.

Fair or Poor Health

As would be expected, Pennsylvania adults aged 45 and older reported much higher percentages than younger adults. The Northwestern Health District had the highest percentage (17) while the North Central and Southwest Districts shared the lowest percentage (14).

Smoking

The percentage of non-Hispanic black adults (35) in Pennsylvania who smoked was significantly higher than the percentage (24) for non-Hispanic whites. The percentages of smokers for those aged 45-64 (24) and 65+ (10) were significantly lower than the rates

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for younger adult residents. There were no significant differences among the six Health Districts in the state.

A table of the 2003 data broken down by age, sex, race/ethnicity, and Department of Health District appears below. An annual report of BRFSS statistics for 2003 will probably be published by this fall.

A copy of the report should be on the Health Statistics web page (www.health.state.pa.us/stats) even sooner.

If you have any questions regarding the 2003 BRFSS data presented here, please contact the Bureau of Health Statistics and Research at 717-783-2548.

Among the Department's Health Districts, the highest percentages (of overweight or obese adults) were recorded for the North Central (69) and Northeastern (63) Districts.

Percent Prevalence (with 95% confidence limits) for Selected Behavioral Health Risks By Age, Sex, Race/Ethnicity, and Health District, Pennsylvania Adults, 2003

	Overweight or Obese	No Leisure-Time Physical Activity	Health Fair/Poor	Smoke Cigarettes
All Adults	60% (59-62)	23% (21-24)	15% (14-16)	25% (24-27)
Males	70% (68-73)	21% (18-23)	16% (14-18)	27% (24-29)
Females	51% (49-53)	25% (23-27)	14% (13-16)	24% (22-26)
Non-Hispanic White	60% (58-62)	22% (20-23)	14% (13-15)	24% (22-26)
Non-Hispanic Black	76% (70-83)	28% (21-34)	21% (15-27)	35% (27-42)
Hispanic	65% (53-76)	28% (18-39)	18% (10-26)	33% (21-46)
Ages 18-29	43% (38-47)	14% (10-17)	7% (5-10)	36% (31-41)
Ages 30-44	61% (58-64)	20% (17-22)	8% (7-10)	30% (27-33)
Ages 45-64	68% (66-71)	25% (22-27)	18% (16-21)	24% (22-26)
Ages 65+	64% (60-67)	32% (29-36)	27% (24-30)	10% (8-12)
SE Health District	60% (57-63)	23% (20-25)	16% (13-18)	26% (24-27)
NE Health District	63% (57-68)	24% (19-29)	16% (12-20)	26% (23-29)
SC Health District	59% (55-63)	23% (20-27)	14% (11-17)	29% (23-34)
NC Health District	69% (63-75)	21% (16-26)	13% (9-17)	24% (20-27)
NW Health District	62% (56-67)	22% (17-27)	17% (12-21)	22% (17-28)
SW Health District	58% (54-62)	22% (19-25)	14% (12-17)	23% (20-26)

Update: Healthy People 2010 Objectives

Focus Area 16 - Maternal, Infant, and Child Health

16-17c - Increase abstinence from cigarettes among pregnant women.

2010 Target: 99%

All Births and

Race/Ethnicity of Mother:

The percentage of live births to Pennsylvania mothers who did not smoke during pregnancy was 84.2 in 2002, somewhat higher than the 82.5 percent recorded in 1998.

Between 1998 and 2002, percentages have increased for each of the three races shown here (white, black, Asian/Pacific Islander) and Hispanics. However, the percentages among black residents increased the most and in 2000 surpassed whites who now have the lowest percentage. Births to Asian/Pacific Islander mothers consistently had the highest percentage.

Only the percentage for births to Asian/Pacific Islander mothers is near the national Healthy People 2010 goal of 99 percent. The other three groups have much farther to go by 2010.

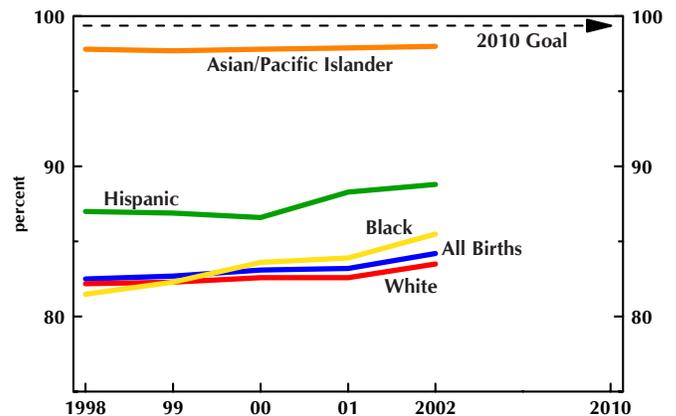
Education of Mother:

The percentages based on the education of the mother (aged 18-44) showed that the higher the educational status, the less likely is the mother to have smoked during her pregnancy.

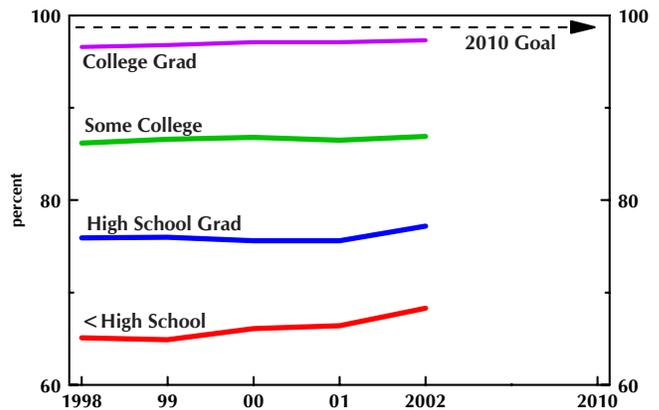
For births in 2002 to mothers with less than a high school education, only 68.3 percent of the mothers had not smoked – compared to 77.2 percent for high school graduates, 86.9 percent for those with some college, and 97.3 percent for college graduates. Percentages have increased between 1998 and 2002 for all of the educational levels. However, the increases have been larger for high school grads and those with less than a high school education.

Only the percentages for college graduates were close to the national Healthy People 2010 goal of 99 percent.

Percent of Live Births to Mothers Who Did Not Smoke During Pregnancy by Race/Ethnicity of Mother Pennsylvania Residents, 1998-2002



By Education of Mother (18-44), Pennsylvania, 1998-2002



Percent of Live Births to Mothers Who Did Not Smoke During Pregnancy by Race/Ethnicity and Education, Pennsylvania Residents, 1998-2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
All Births	82.5	82.7	83.1	83.2	84.2
White Mother	82.2	82.3	82.6	82.6	83.5
Black Mother	81.5	82.3	83.6	83.9	85.5
Asian/Pacific Islander Mother	97.8	97.7	97.8	97.9	98.0
Hispanic* Mother	87.0	86.9	86.6	88.3	88.8
Less Than High School (18-44) ..	65.1	64.9	66.1	66.4	68.3
High School Grad (18-44)	75.9	76.0	75.6	75.6	77.2
At least some college (18-44)	86.2	86.6	86.8	86.5	86.9
College Grad (18-44)	96.6	96.8	97.1	97.1	97.3

*Hispanics can be of any race NOTE: Unknowns excluded in calculations.

HP2010 State and County Data on the Web

To access the Department of Health's web page of Healthy People 2010 statistics for the state and counties, go to www.health.state.pa.us/stats. The latest available statistics as well as trend data are shown. You can view data for the state, all counties, a specific demographic element (age, sex, race, etc.) or just for a specific county. Complete data sets for the state and counties can be downloaded. There is also a link to the national HP2010 web site.

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