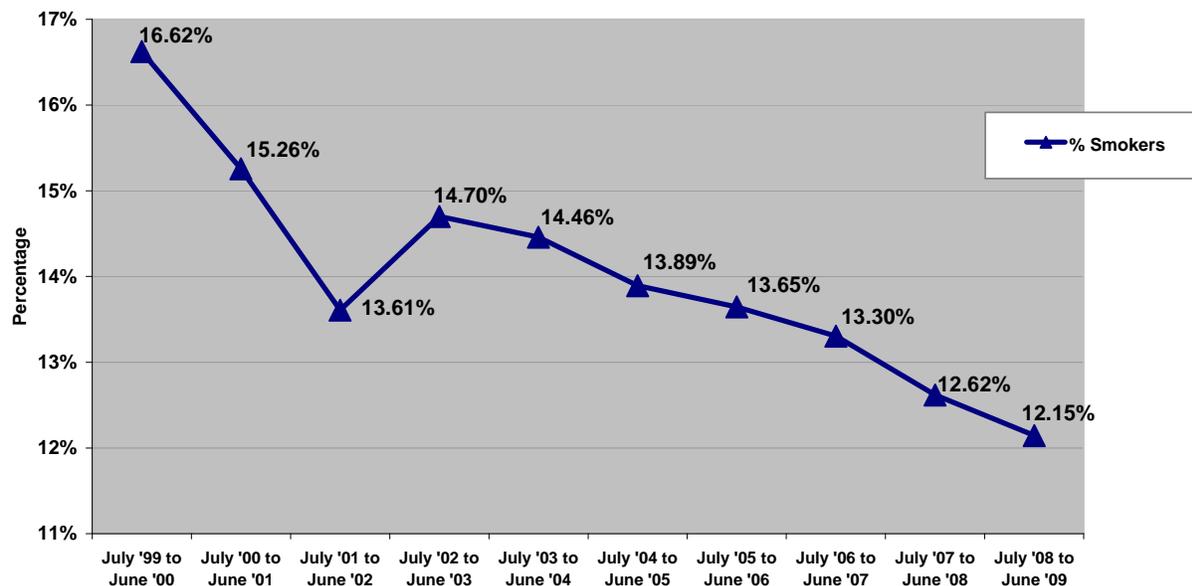


PSF Data Show Smoking During Pregnancy Down

The percentage of women in San Diego County who smoked at some point during their 1st trimester has decreased significantly in the past decade, according to data collected by the **Partnership for Smoke-Free Families Program** (PSF). Shown on the graph below, the data represent nearly 150,000 pregnant women screened county-wide.

Smoking during Pregnancy: PSF Data 1999-2009 (n=148,488)



Launched in 1998 by the CEOs of Rady Children's Hospital, Scripps and Sharp HealthCare, PSF has the goal of reducing tobacco smoke exposure among pregnant women and young children. The program works directly with more than 350 obstetricians, newborn home visitors and pediatricians to implement "best practices" as outlined in the *USDHHS Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence Clinical Practice Guideline*. PSF has become a standard of care in San Diego County, and is recognized nationally.

PSF prenatal data show that the exposure of pregnant women to smoke/smokers in the household also has decreased, from 22.6 percent of households with smokers in 1999 to 15.9 percent in 2009.

Since inception, PSF has collected screening data from the *PSF Prenatal Survey* completed by pregnant women during their first prenatal visit at participating ObGyn offices. A total of 234 prenatal providers at 66 offices throughout San Diego County currently

participate, including community clinics, solo practitioners, large group practices and multi-specialty centers serving ethnically diverse populations representative of the County. PSF partners with the California Smokers Helpline to proactively link smokers with proven cessation services. Currently, the First 5 Commission of San Diego is the primary program funder.

Conclusion

Smoking during pregnancy causes great risks to both mother and child and is considered the single most important and modifiable risk factor for improving deleterious health outcomes for mother and baby. PSF program data representing nearly 150,000 pregnant women screened county wide and depicted in the chart above show a steady decrease in smoking during pregnancy. Still, the rates remain too high in San Diego and we must continue to implement these proven best practice recommendations to address this important issue.

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