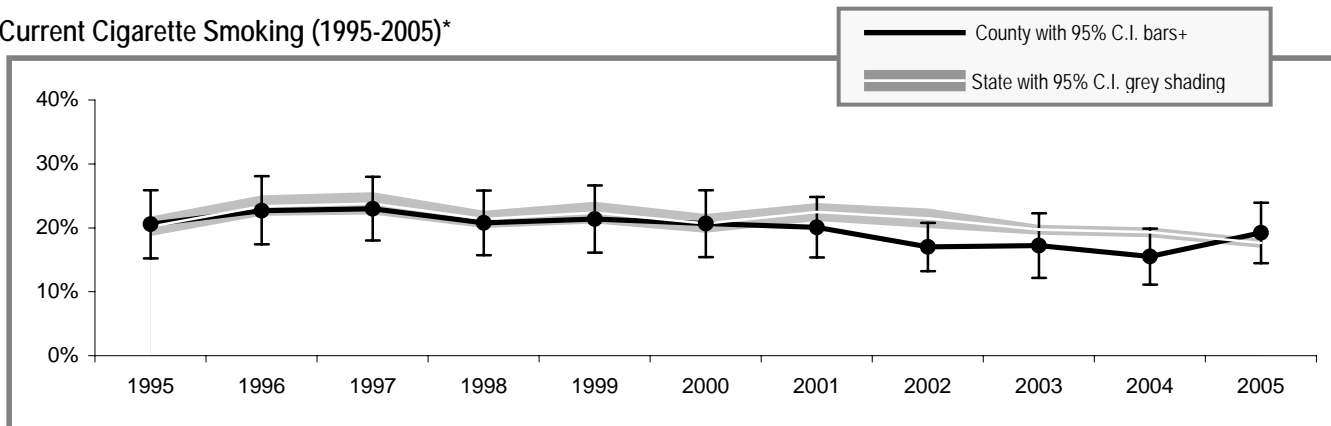


Whatcom County

Whatcom County

Adult Tobacco Use

Current Cigarette Smoking (1995-2005)*



* Smoking prevalence trend is based on English language surveys only. (Spanish language surveys began in 2003.)
 + County prevalence is a 3-year rolling average through 2002; starting in 2003 smoking prevalence is based on single-year data.

Current Smoking (2005)**

	<u>All adults</u>
Whatcom County	18.9% (± 4.7%)
Washington State	17.5% (± 0.7%)

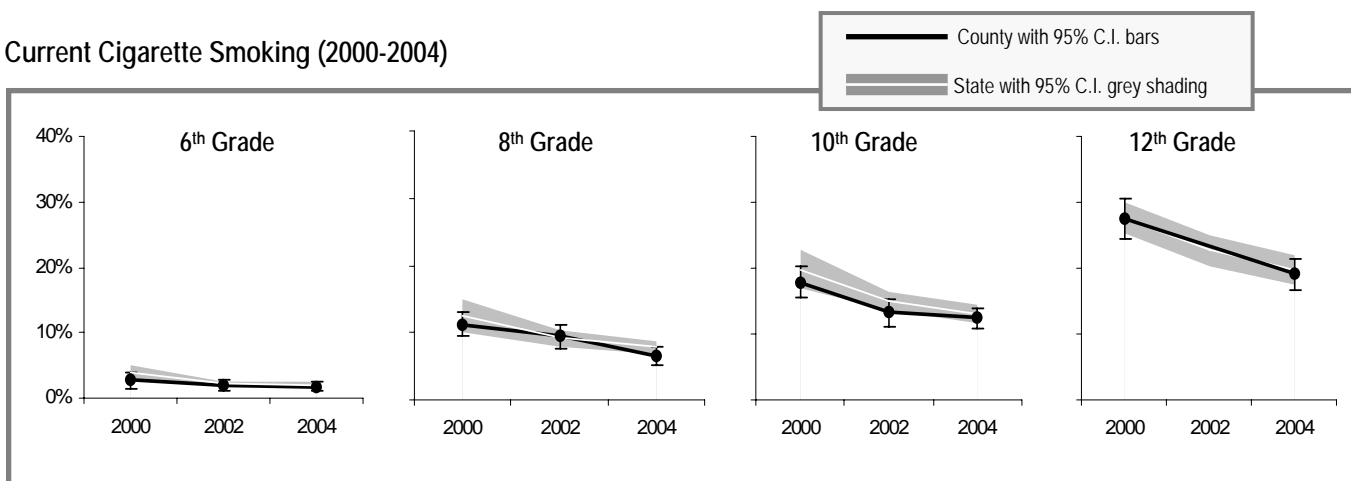
Current Smokeless Tobacco Use (2003-2005)**

	<u>All adults</u>	<u>Males only</u>
Whatcom County	2.8% (± 1.9%)	5.9% (± 4.0%)
Washington State	3.0% (± 0.3%)	5.8% (± 0.6%)

** Current smoking and smokeless prevalence include both English and Spanish language surveys.

Youth Tobacco Use

Current Cigarette Smoking (2000-2004)



Current Smoking (2004)

	<u>All 10th Graders</u>
Whatcom County	12.4% (± 1.6%)
Region**	14.7% (± 1.2%)
Washington State	13.0% (± 1.4%)

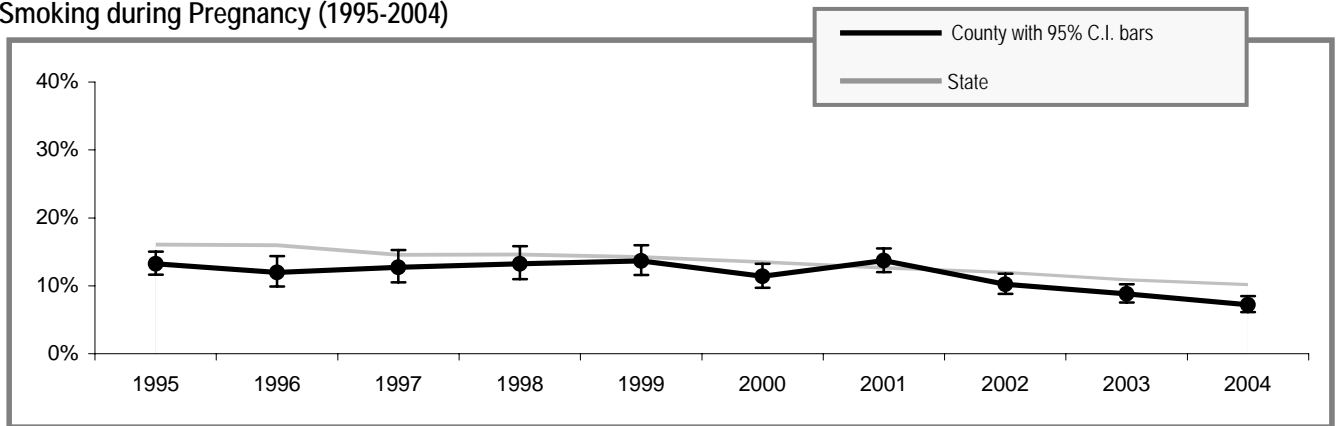
Current Smokeless Tobacco Use (2004)

	<u>All 10th Graders</u>	<u>10th Grade Males only</u>
Whatcom County	4.8% (± 1.2%)	7.9% (± 2.0%)
Region**	3.4% (± 0.8%)	8.6% (± 1.6%)
Washington State	4.9% (± 0.6%)	8.0% (± 1.2%)

** Region includes school districts in Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties.

Tobacco Use by Pregnant Women

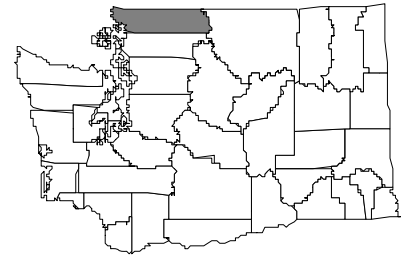
Smoking during Pregnancy (1995-2004)



People Affected in Whatcom County

2000 population: 166,814

- 24,000 adults smoke
- 3,600 adults use smokeless tobacco
- 190 infants are born annually to mothers who smoke during pregnancy
- 1,400 youth smoke
- 500 youth use smokeless tobacco
- 23,400 adults are exposed to secondhand smoke
- 2,500 youth are exposed to secondhand smoke
- 100 cancers diagnosed each year are smoking-related
- 200 adults die annually from smoking-related causes



Community Indicators for Whatcom County

- All restaurants and bars are now completely smokefree
- 86% of households have a ban on smoking (95% C.I. \pm 3%)
- 9% of retailers sold tobacco products to minors
- 39% of 10th graders say tobacco is "hard to get" (95% C.I. \pm 4%)
- 68 tobacco industry sampling event occurred in the past year – 1,982 samples were distributed
- 651 people called the Quitline in the past year
- 50% of smokers tried to quit in the past year (95% C.I. \pm 9%)
- 58% of tobacco users who had a healthcare visit in the past year were advised to quit by a healthcare professional (95% C.I. \pm 8%)
- 20% of tobacco users did not have a healthcare visit in the past year (95% C.I. \pm 6%)
- 25% of smokers who have health insurance say that their insurance covers help in quitting smoking, such as counseling or nicotine patches (95% C.I. \pm 11%)
- 43% of smokers with health insurance do not know if it covers help in quitting smoking (95% C.I. \pm 13%)

Priorities for Tobacco Prevention and Control

- Preventing Youth from Initiating Tobacco Use
- Increasing Tobacco Cessation
- Eliminating Exposure to Secondhand Smoke
- Identifying and Eliminating Tobacco-Related Disparities in High Risk Groups

Local Contact Information:

Alyssa Pavitt
phone: 360-676-6724, ext. 30689
fax: 360-676-7646
email: APavitt@co.whatcom.wa.us

Whatcom County Health Department
1500 North State Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

website: <http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/health/human/tobacco/tobaccoprogram.jsp>