

I was asked to provide information about how children's exposure to secondhand smoke is growing faster (or isn't decreasing as fast) than adult exposure. Following is information I found on the Internet. I have cut and pasted applicable information from each website. For the full article, please click on the URL above the quote.

http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/Global/GYTS/speeches_pr/youth_tobaccoPR.htm

Youth Tobacco Use and Exposure is a Global Problem

In the United States, 42.1 percent of students were exposed to smoke at home while 69.7 percent were exposed to smoke from others in public places.

<http://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/3rd/pdf/thirdreport.pdf>

Third National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals July 2005

**Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

Table 32. Cotinine

Using the most recent date in this report, for 2001 and 2002:

On page 73 there is a table that shows children from 3-11 years-old have a mean cotinine level of .110 ng/ml. This is second only to Non-Hispanic blacks who have a mean average of .164 ng/ml. The group who is the most polluted is children. The top 95% polluted people in that group have 3.21 ng/ml. The second-highest most polluted group is a tie at 3.12 ng/ml between the age group from 12 to 19 and Non-Hispanic blacks.

Copied from page 74:

From 1988 through 1991, as part of NHANES III, CDC determined that the median level (50th percentile) of cotinine among nonsmokers in the United States was 0.20 ng/mL (Pirkle et al., 1996). Since that 1988-1991 survey period, median levels of cotinine (as measured in NHANES 1999-2002) have decreased 68% in children, 69% in adolescents, and about 75% in adults. This reduction in cotinine levels suggests a major reduction in exposure of the general U.S. population to ETS since the period 1988-1991.

Copied from page 74 and 75:

Comparing Adjusted Geometric Means

Geometric mean levels of serum cotinine for the demographic groups in the NHANES 2001-2002 subsample were compared after adjusting for the covariates of age, race/ethnicity, and gender (data not shown). **Both groups aged 3-11 years and 12-19 years had higher adjusted geometric mean levels of cotinine than the group aged 20 years and older.** Males had higher levels than females. Non-Hispanic whites and Mexican Americans both had lower levels than non-Hispanic blacks. Higher levels of cotinine have previously been reported for non-Hispanic blacks (Caraballo et al., 1998). It is unknown whether these age, gender, and race/ethnicity differences represent differences in exposure, pharmacokinetics, or the relationship of dose per body weight.

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