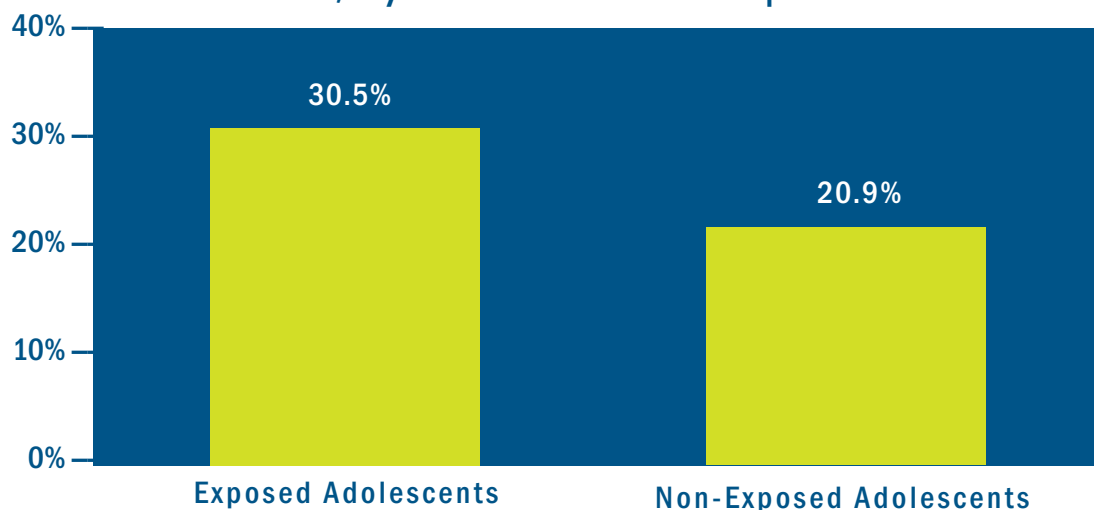




Moderate Alcohol Use During Pregnancy Associated With Increased Adolescent Behavioral Problems

While previous studies have linked moderate alcohol use during pregnancy to an increase in conduct disorders¹ in adolescents, a new report published in *Pediatrics* confirms that the increase is independent of other factors, such as parental substance use disorders, parental behavioral disorders, prenatal nicotine exposure, twin status, birth weight, and gestational age. Researchers interviewed 1,252 17-year-old adolescents and their families.² They found that significantly more adolescents whose mothers reported drinking one or more alcoholic drinks per week during their pregnancy³ had been diagnosed with a conduct disorder than those whose mothers did not (31% vs. 21%).

Percentage of Adolescents Diagnosed with a Conduct Disorder, by Prenatal Alcohol Exposure Status



Source: Disney, E. R., Iacono, W., McGue, M., Tully, E., and Legrand, L. (2008). Strengthening the case: Prenatal alcohol exposure is associated with increased risk for conduct disorder. *Pediatrics*, Vol. 122, No. 6, pp. 1225-1230

Notes:

- ¹ Conduct disorders are diagnosed through identification of symptoms including aggression to people or animals, destruction of property, and theft. Disorders were assessed through interviews with adolescents and parents using a variety of accepted diagnostic tools and criteria.
- ² Participants were drawn from the Minnesota Twin Family Study.
- ³ 13% of mothers reported drinking one or more drinks during their pregnancy. The average number of drinks consumed was 2.9 per week.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at www.centerforhealthandjustice.org.

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