



**Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit  
RRFSS (2007) Fetal Alcohol Syndrome**

Proportion of adults (18+) who believe that drinking alcohol during pregnancy is harmful to the unborn child, RRFSS July - December 2007

Table 1: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (perceived risk of harm to unborn child due to alcohol consumption during pregnancy)

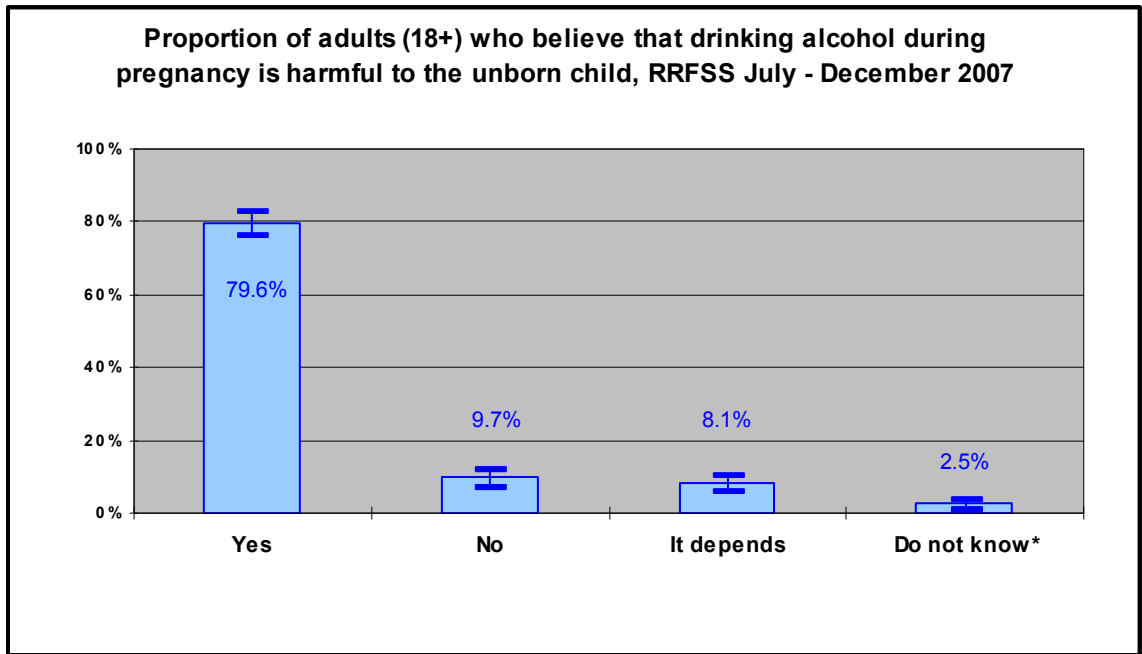
| Perceived risk of harm to unborn child due to alcohol consumption during pregnancy | Proportion | 95% upper confidence limit | 95% lower confidence limit |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Yes                                                                                | 79.6%      | 83.1%                      | 76.2%                      |
| No                                                                                 | 9.7%       | 12.2%                      | 7.2%                       |
| It depends                                                                         | 8.1%       | 10.4%                      | 5.8%                       |
| Do not know*                                                                       | 2.5%       | 3.9%                       | 1.2%                       |

\* Interpret with caution, high variability

\*\* Data not released

sample size 534

Figure 1: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (perceived risk of harm to unborn child due to alcohol consumption during pregnancy)



**Interpretation:**

79.6% (+/-3%) of adults (18+) believe that drinking alcohol during pregnancy is harmful to the unborn child.

9.7% (+/-3%) of adults (18+) believe that drinking alcohol during pregnancy is not harmful to the unborn child.

8.1% (+/-2%) of adults (18+) believe that harm to the unborn child as a result of drinking alcohol during pregnancy depends on other factors.

2.5%\* (+/-1%) of adults (18+) responded that they did not know the answer to this question or they refused to answer.

Among adults (18+) who believe that drinking alcohol during pregnancy is harmful to the unborn child, by most harmful time period to consume alcohol, RRFSS July - December 2007

Table 2: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (most harmful time period to consume alcohol)

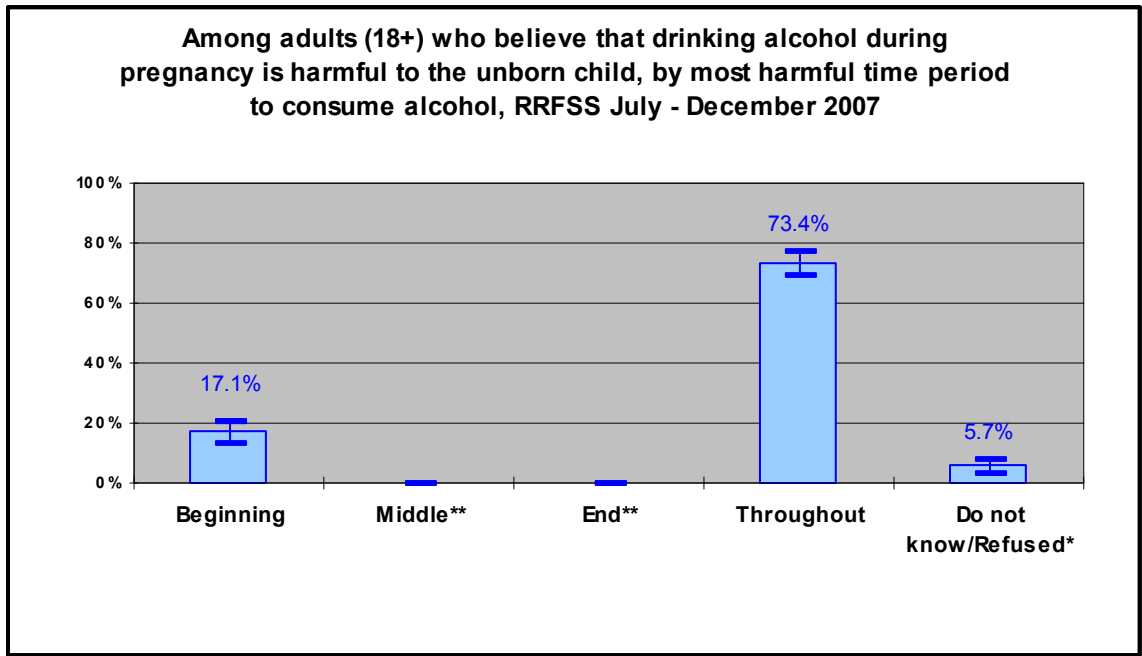
| Time period during pregnancy when drinking alcohol is most harmful | Proportion | 95% upper confidence limit | 95% lower confidence limit |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Beginning                                                          | 17.1%      | 20.5%                      | 13.6%                      |
| Middle**                                                           | **         | **                         | **                         |
| End**                                                              | **         | **                         | **                         |
| Throughout                                                         | 73.4%      | 77.4%                      | 69.3%                      |
| Do not know/Refused*                                               | 5.7%       | 7.8%                       | 3.6%                       |

\* Interpret with caution, high variability

\*\* Data not released

sample size 469

Figure 2: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (most harmful time period to consume alcohol)



**Interpretation:**

17.1% (+/-3%) believe that drinking alcohol at the beginning of a pregnancy is the time period most harmful to the unborn child.

73.4% (+/-4%) believe that drinking alcohol throughout a pregnancy is most harmful to the unborn child.

5.7%\* (+/-2%) responded that they did not know the answer to this question or they refused to answer.

Among adults (18+) who believe that drinking alcohol during pregnancy is harmful to the unborn child, proportion who believe the baby could be born with alcohol in its system, RRFSS July - December 2007

**Table 3: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (baby born with alcohol in its system)**

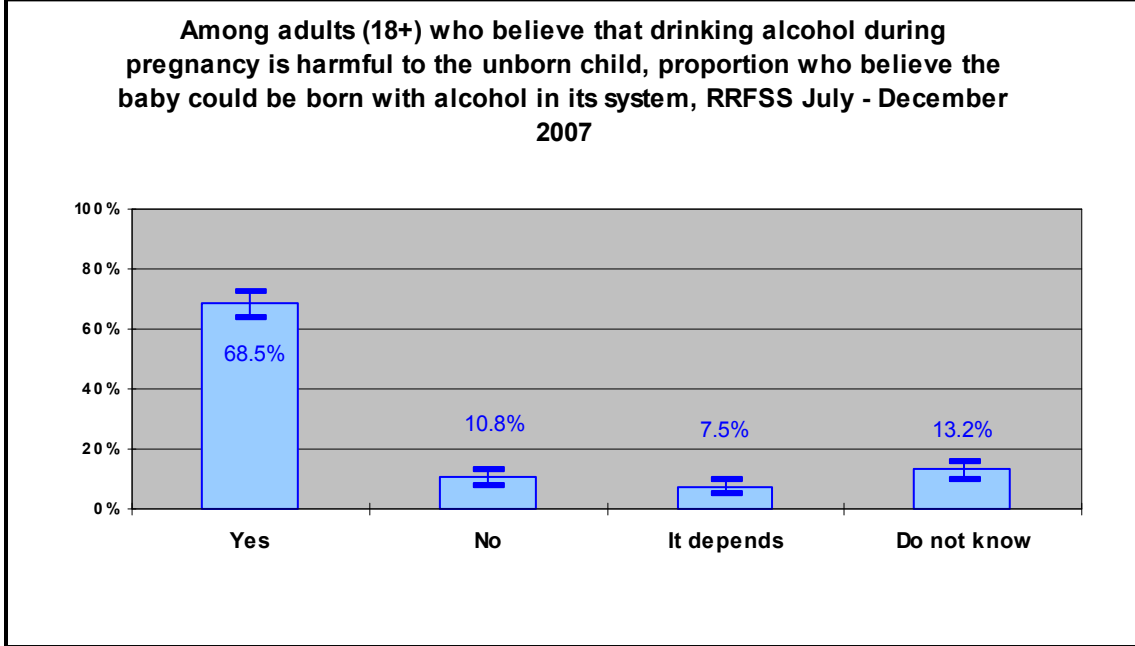
| Baby born with alcohol in its system | Proportion | 95% upper confidence limit | 95% lower confidence limit |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Yes                                  | 68.5%      | 72.7%                      | 64.3%                      |
| No                                   | 10.8%      | 13.6%                      | 7.9%                       |
| It depends                           | 7.5%       | 9.9%                       | 5.1%                       |
| Do not know                          | 13.2%      | 16.3%                      | 10.1%                      |

\* Interpret with caution, high variability

\*\* Data not released

sample size 466

**Figure 3: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (baby born with alcohol in its system)**



**Interpretation:**

68.5% (+/-4%) believe that if a woman drank during pregnancy, her baby could be born with alcohol in its system.

10.8% (+/-3%) believe that if a woman drank during pregnancy, her baby could be born with alcohol in its system.

7.5% (+/-2%) believe that if a woman drank during pregnancy, her baby could be born with alcohol in its system, depending on other factors.

13.2% (+/-3%) responded that they did not know the answer to this question or they refused to answer.

Among adults (18+) who believe that drinking alcohol during pregnancy is harmful to the unborn child, proportion who believe the baby could be born with permanent brain damage, RRFSS July - December 2007

**Table 4: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (baby born with brain damage)**

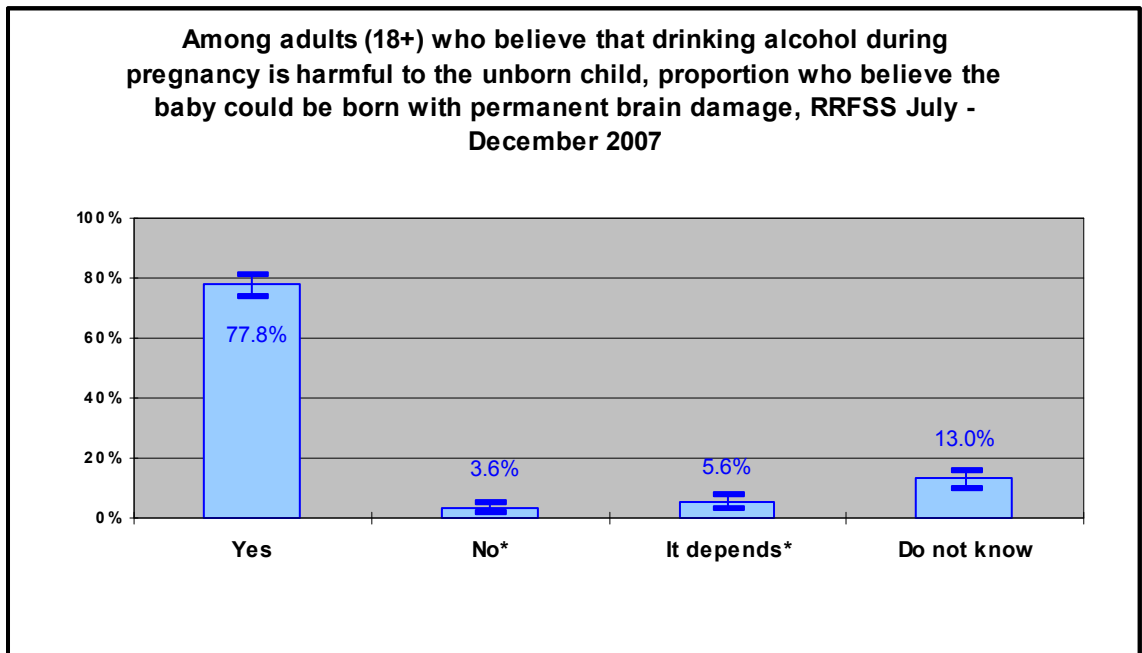
| Baby born with permanent brain damage | Proportion | 95% upper confidence limit | 95% lower confidence limit |
|---------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Yes                                   | 77.8%      | 81.6%                      | 74.0%                      |
| No*                                   | 3.6%       | 5.3%                       | 1.9%                       |
| It depends*                           | 5.6%       | 7.7%                       | 3.5%                       |
| Do not know                           | 13.0%      | 16.1%                      | 9.9%                       |

\* Interpret with caution, high variability

\*\* Data not released

sample size 466

**Figure 4: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (baby born with brain damage)**



**Interpretation:**

77.8% (+/-4%) believe that if a woman drank during pregnancy, her baby could be born with permanent brain damage.

3.6%\* (+/-2%) believe that if a woman drank during pregnancy, her baby could be born with permanent brain damage.

5.6%\* (+/-2%) believe that if a woman drank during pregnancy, her baby could be born with permanent brain damage, depending on other factors.

13.0% (+/-3%) responded that they did not know the answer to this question or they refused to answer.

Among adults (18+) who believe that drinking alcohol during pregnancy is harmful to the unborn child, proportion who believe the baby could be born with birth defects, RRFSS July - December 2007

**Table 5: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (baby born with birth defects)**

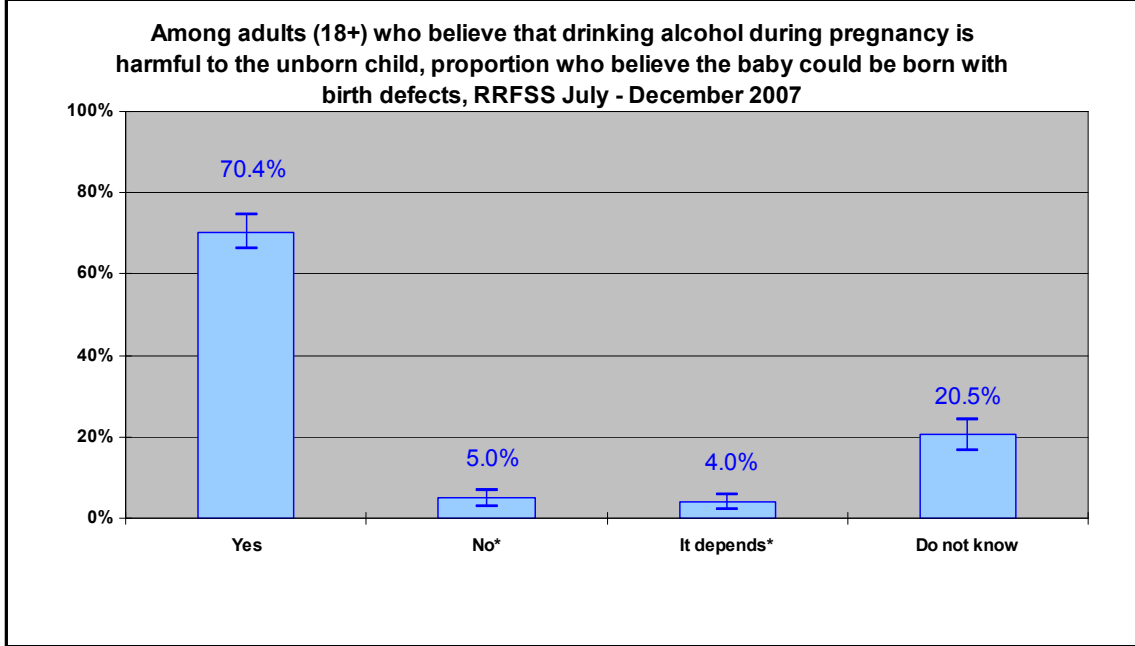
| Baby born with birth defects | Proportion | 95% upper confidence limit | 95% lower confidence limit |
|------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Yes                          | 70.4%      | 74.6%                      | 66.3%                      |
| No*                          | 5.0%       | 7.0%                       | 3.1%                       |
| It depends*                  | 4.0%       | 5.8%                       | 2.2%                       |
| Do not know                  | 20.5%      | 24.2%                      | 16.8%                      |

\* Interpret with caution, high variability

\*\* Data not released

sample size 466

**Figure 5: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (baby born with birth defects)**



**Interpretation:**

70.4% (+/-4%) believe that if a woman drank during pregnancy, her baby could be born with birth defects.  
 5.0%\* (+/-2%) believe that if a woman drank during pregnancy, her baby could be born with birth defects.  
 4.0%\* (+/-2%) believe that if a woman drank during pregnancy, her baby could be born with birth defects, depending on other factors.  
 20.5% (+/-4%) responded that they did not know the answer to this question or they refused to answer.

**Proportion of adults (18+) who have discussed the effects of alcohol on an unborn child with healthcare provider, RRFSS July - December 2007**

**Table 6a: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (discussion with healthcare provider)**

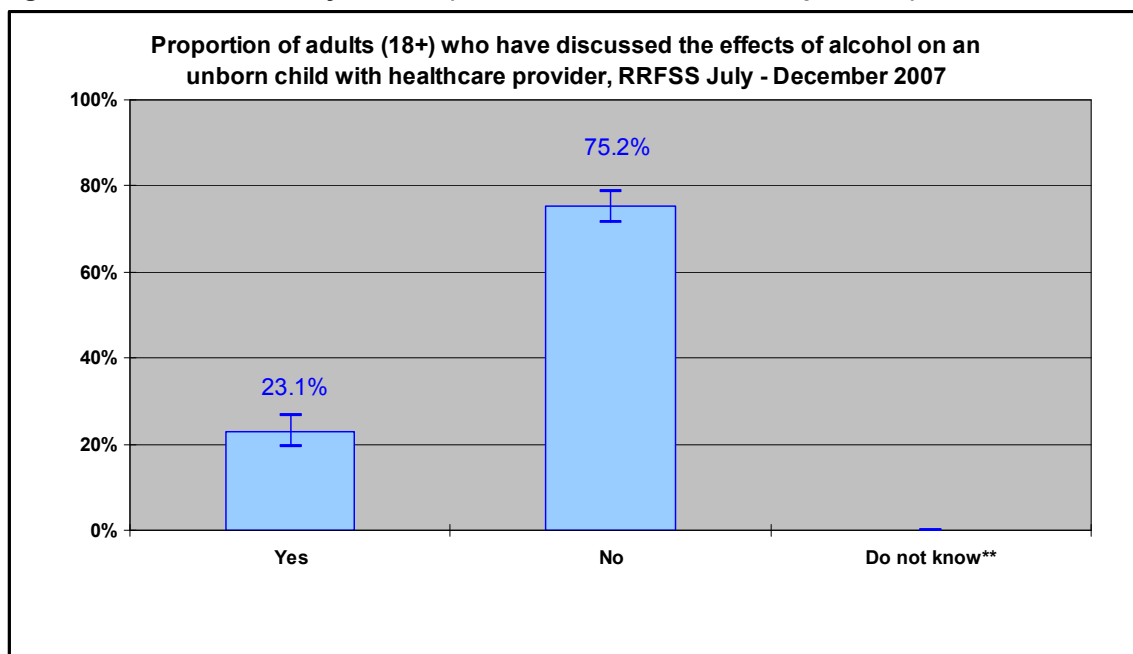
| Discussion with healthcare provider | Proportion | 95% upper confidence limit | 95% lower confidence limit |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Yes                                 | 23.1%      | 26.7%                      | 19.5%                      |
| No                                  | 75.2%      | 78.9%                      | 71.6%                      |
| Do not know**                       | **         | **                         | **                         |

\* Interpret with caution, high variability

\*\* Data not released

sample size 534

**Figure 6a: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (discussion with healthcare provider)**



**Interpretation:**

23.1% (+/-4%) of adults (18+) reported that they have discussed the effects of alcohol on an unborn child with a healthcare provider.

75.2% (+/-4%) of adults (18+) reported that they have not discussed the effects of alcohol on an unborn child with a healthcare provider.

**Proportion of adults (18+) who have discussed the effects of alcohol on an unborn child with healthcare provider, by sex, RRFSS July - December 2007**

**Table 6b: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (discussion with healthcare provider, by sex)**

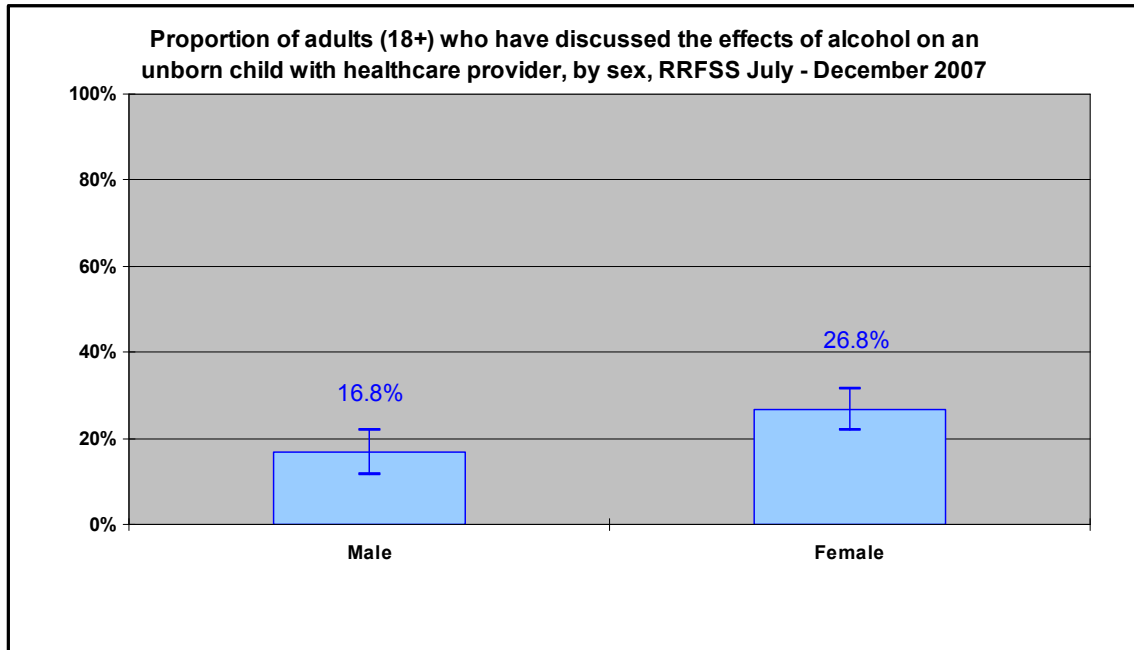
| Discussion with healthcare provider | Proportion | 95% upper confidence limit | 95% lower confidence limit |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Male                                | 16.8%      | 22.1%                      | 11.6%                      |
| Female                              | 26.8%      | 31.5%                      | 22.0%                      |

\* Interpret with caution, high variability

\*\* Data not released

sample size 534

**Figure 6b: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (discussion with healthcare provider, by sex)**



**Interpretation:**

16.8% (+/-5%) of adult males (18+) reported that they have discussed the effects of alcohol on an unborn child with a healthcare provider.

26.8% (+/-5%) of adult females (18+) reported that they have discussed the effects of alcohol on an unborn child with a healthcare provider.

Among adults (18+) who have discussed the effects of alcohol on an unborn child with healthcare provider, proportion who were told that a woman should not drink at all during pregnancy, RRFSS July - December 2007

**Table 7: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (message from healthcare providers: do not drink during pregnancy)**

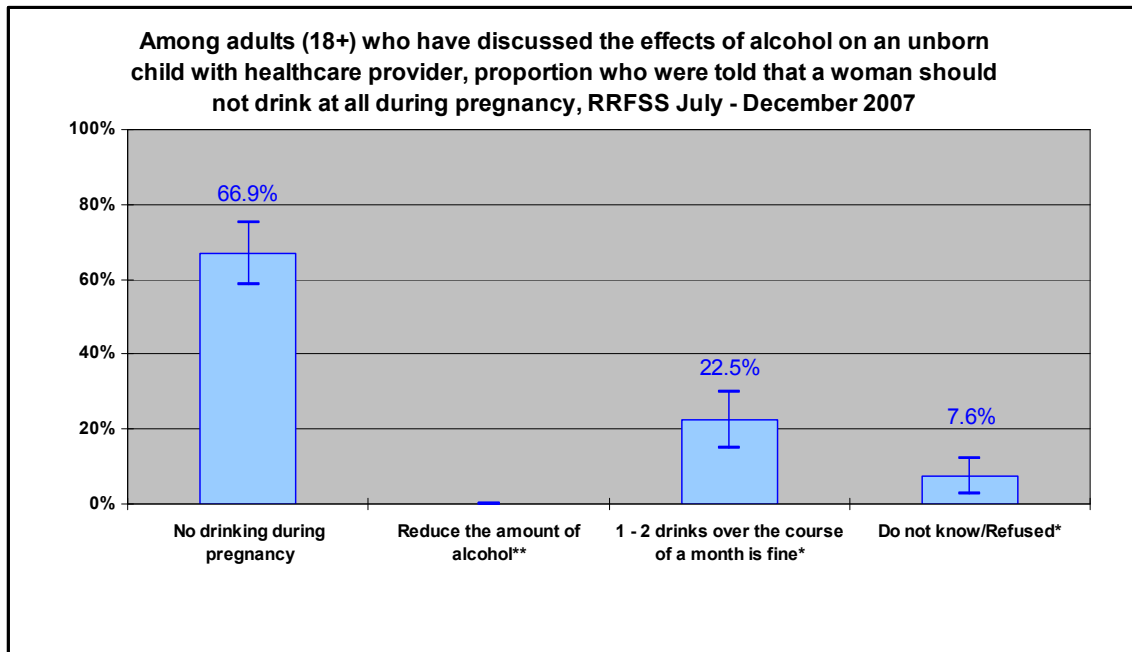
| Drinking during pregnancy                        | Proportion | 95% upper confidence limit | 95% lower confidence limit |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| No drinking during pregnancy                     | 66.9%      | 75.3%                      | 58.6%                      |
| Reduce the amount of alcohol**                   | **         | **                         | **                         |
| 1 - 2 drinks over the course of a month is fine* | 22.5%      | 29.9%                      | 15.1%                      |
| Do not know/Refused*                             | 7.6%       | 12.3%                      | 2.9%                       |

\* Interpret with caution, high variability

\*\* Data not released

sample size 124

**Figure 7: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (message from healthcare providers: do not drink during pregnancy)**



**Interpretation:**

66.9% (+/-8%) reported that they were told that a woman should not drink at all during pregnancy. 22.5%\* (+/-7%) reported that they were told that 1 – 2 drinks over the course of a month is fine. 7.6%\* (+/-5%) responded that they did not know the answer to this question or they refused to answer.

**Preferred method of obtaining information on the effects of alcohol on an unborn baby, RRFSS July - December 2007**

**Table 8: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (preferred method of obtaining information)**

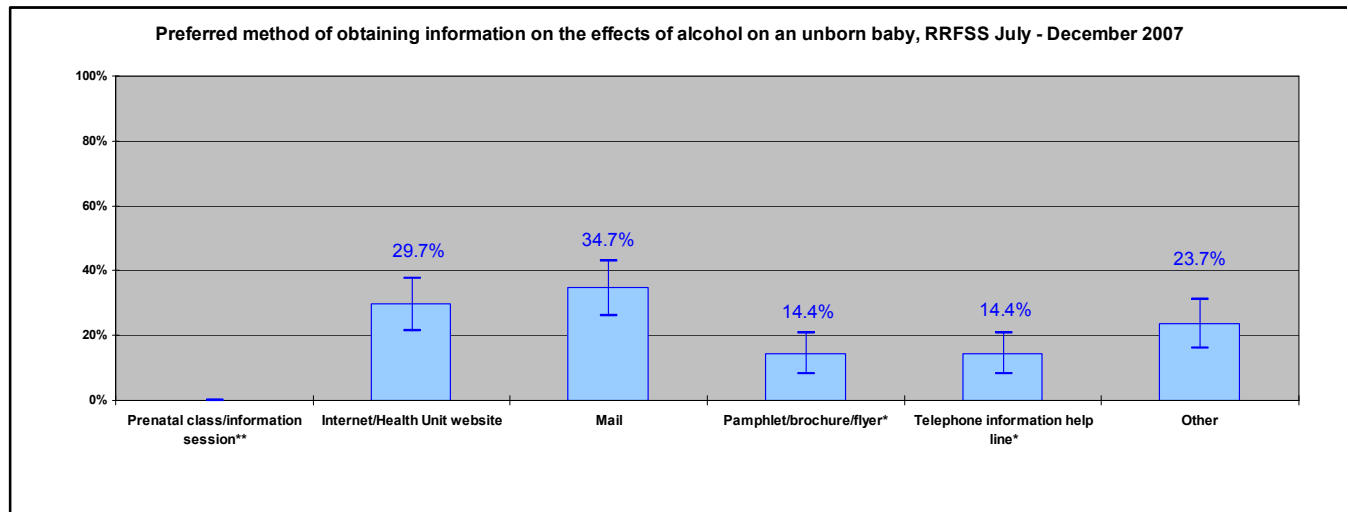
| Preferred method of obtaining information | Proportion | 95% upper confidence limit | 95% lower confidence limit |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Prenatal class/information session**      | **         | **                         | **                         |
| Internet/Health Unit website              | 29.7%      | 37.8%                      | 21.6%                      |
| Mail                                      | 34.7%      | 43.2%                      | 26.3%                      |
| Pamphlet/brochure/flyer*                  | 14.4%      | 20.6%                      | 8.2%                       |
| Telephone information help line*          | 14.4%      | 20.6%                      | 8.2%                       |
| Other                                     | 23.7%      | 31.3%                      | 16.2%                      |

\* Interpret with caution, high variability

\*\* Data not released

sample size 124

**Figure 8: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (preferred method of obtaining information)**



**Interpretation:**

Mail was reported to be the preferred method of obtaining information on the effects of alcohol on an unborn child (34.7%; +/-8%).

The internet/Health Unit website was also a popular method of obtaining information on the effects of alcohol on an unborn child (29.7%; +/-8%).

Pamphlet/brochure/flyer (14.4%\*; +/-6%), and telephone information help line (14.4%\*; +/-6%) were also mentioned by respondents as methods of obtaining information on the effects of alcohol on an unborn child.

**Limitations:**

1. Questions only asked of adult residents aged 18+.
2. Telephone survey only conducted in English.
3. Results are based on self-reported behaviours.
4. (\*) indicates that results are based on small sample size, thus estimates have high variability.

**Notes:**

- 1) The numbers in the tables and graphs are weighted.
  - 2) Missing responses are not included in the analysis.
  - 3) Don't know and refused responses are analyzed according to RRFSS analysis guideline.
  - 4) Release criteria of the data are according to RRFSS analysis guideline.
- \* Interpret with caution, high variability.  
\*\* Data not released.