

Where Did The "Never Smokers" Come From?

By Norman E. Kjono

From 1985 to 1992 High School Senior Daily Smokers declined from 19.5 to 17.2 percent (-11.8%). During that period adult Current Smokers also decreased from 30.1 to 26.5 percent (-12.0%), and adult Never Smokers increased from 45.8 to 50.1 percent (9.4%).

Those data sets make intuitive sense: as High School Senior smoking decreases we should see adult Current Smokers decline and adult Never Smokers increase in subsequent years. If fewer kids are smoking more adults will have never smoked. Those trends are consistent in the graphic at lower left. Overall trends for 1985 to 2000 appear in top graphic below.

1992 to 1997 presented historic increases for High School Senior Daily Smokers (+43.0%). Based on the previous 1985 to 1992 observations, and one's intuitive sense, we should observe *increases* in adult Current Smokers and a *decrease* in adult Never Smoker populations 1992 to 2000. More kids smoking now equals fewer adult Never Smokers later.

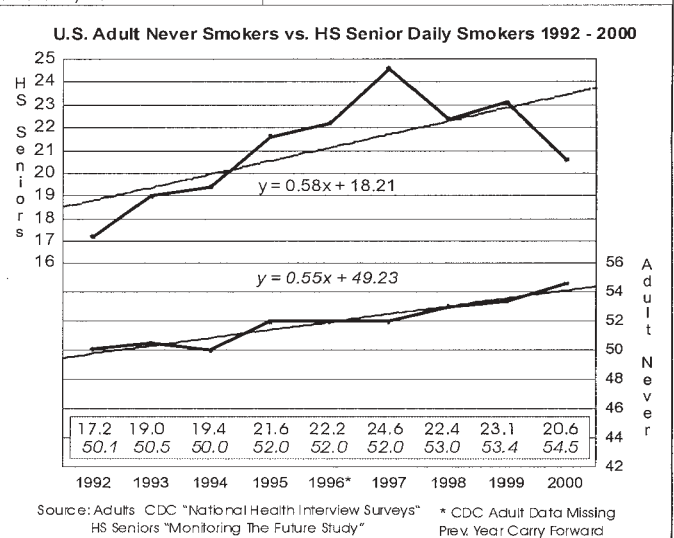
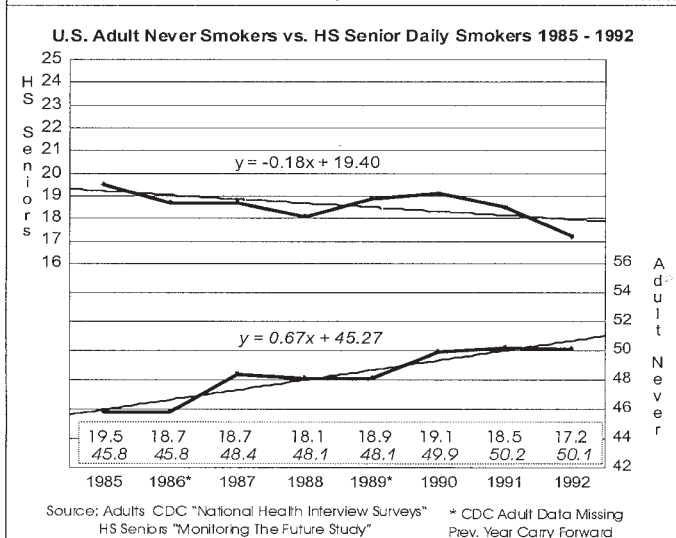
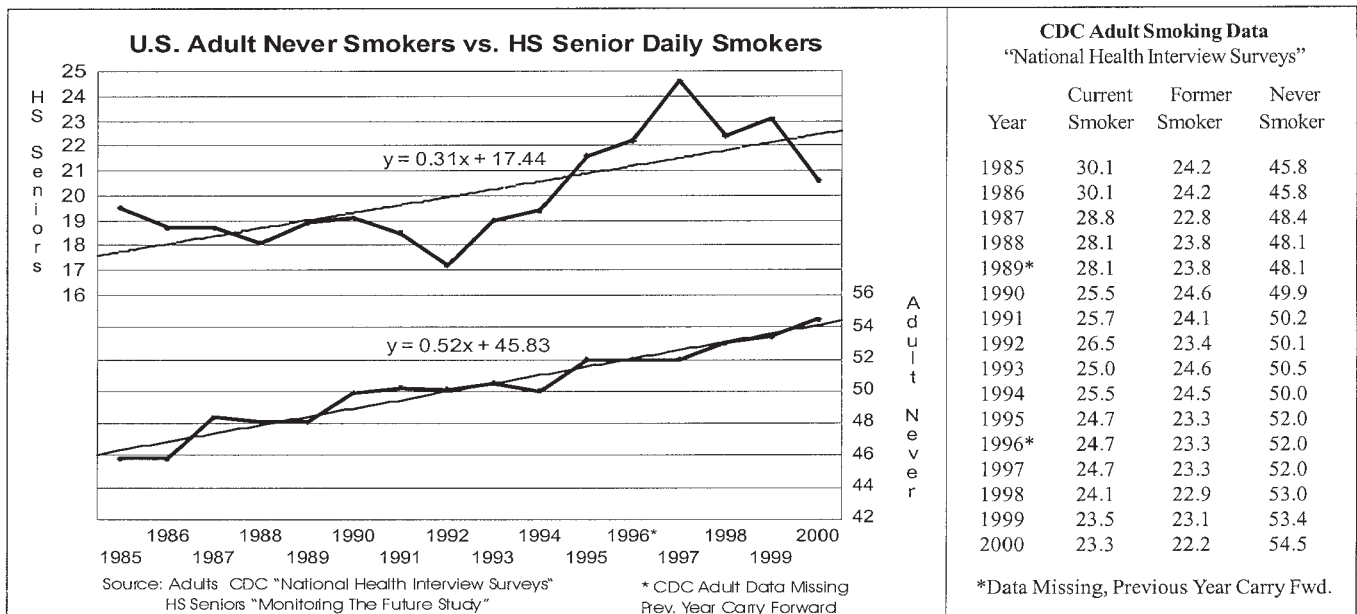
1992 to 2000 High School Senior Daily Smokers increased from 17.2 to 20.6 percent (+19.8%). 1992 to 2000 adult Current Smokers decreased from 26.5 to 23.3 percent (-12.1%), Never Smokers increased from 50.1 to 54.5 percent (+8.8%).

Those data sets (graphic lower right) conflict. They are troubling considering that 1992 to 2000 adult Former Smokers also decreased from 23.4 to 22.2 percent (-5.1%), so the reduction in adult Current Smokers is not accounted for by higher adult quit smoking rates. If that were the case we should see increasing, not decreasing, adult Former Smoker percentages. With sharp youth smoking rate increases 1992 to 2000 we should not observe adult Never Smoker populations increasing from 50.1 to 54.5 percent during the same period.

It appears that CDC NHIS survey samples may now be skewed toward Never Smoker populations. Such a skew would produce reduced adult Current Smoker prevalence despite sharp increases in youth smoker populations 1992 to 1997, while adult Former Smokers also decreased.

During the 1990s CDC redesigned its NHIS procedures. Are NHIS smoking survey samples now skewed toward Never Smokers? Where did the adult Never Smokers come from?

Redmond WA September 30, 2002



W O R L D

norman kijono

From: "norman kijono" <normkari@earthlink.net>
To: <nmmwrq@cdc.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2002 6:28 PM
Attach: NEVER.PDF
Subject: NHIS Smoking Data
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,

I am preparing a report that I will present to members of our state legislature regarding youth and adult smoking.

While updating my data bases from "National Health Interview Surveys" and "Monitoring the Future Study" I discovered an apparent conflict between the two reports' information. That apparent conflict is explained graphically and in text in the attached one-page Adobe .PDF file.

I would appreciate if you would clarify how NHIS data report reduced adult Current Smoker and Former Smoker percentages 1992 to 2000, while MTF's data report sharp increases in High School Senior Daily Smoker percentages 1992 to 1997. I would also appreciate if CDC would explain how higher percentages of high school seniors who have Tried Cigarettes and are Daily Smokers can result in an increase in adult Never Smoker populations. The opposite effect would intuitively appear to be the case, that as youth experimentation with tobacco increases, and as youth daily smoker percentages increase, subsequent year adult Never Smoker populations should go down, not up.

It seems to me that sharp increases in High School Senior daily smoking 1992 to 1997 should translate in immediately following years to higher adult Current Smoker percentages. That is particularly true for 1992 to 2000 because adult Former Smoker percentages decreased during that time. It is also of concern to me that Never Smoker percentages increase significantly during a period of record-high youth smoking and youth tobacco experimentation, according to MTF's data.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this inquiry. I appreciate your assistance.

Norman E. Kijono

norman kijono

From: "norman kijono" <normkari@earthlink.net>
To: <nmmwrq@cdc.gov>
Cc: "Mel Simburg" <msimburg@SKSP.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2002 4:03 PM
Subject: Fw: Information Quality Guidelines Request
----- Original Message -----
From: norman kijono
To: nmmwrq@cdc.gov
Cc: Mel Simburg
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2002 2:58 PM
Subject: Information Quality Guidelines Request

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

Public Law 106-554; H.R. 5658, as published under Section 515 of the "Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001," requires that

"The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall, by not later than September 30, 2001, and with public and Federal agency involvement, issue guidelines under sections 3504(d)(1) and 3516 of title 44, United States Code, that provide procedural guidance to Federal agencies for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information (including statistical information) disseminated by Federal agencies in fulfillment of the purposes and provisions of chapter 35, title 44, United States Code, commonly referred to as the Paperwork Reduction Act."

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget fulfilled the requirements of the above-referenced public law, through its "Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by Federal Agencies," which became effective October 1, 2002. The office's final guidelines were published in the *Federal Register* February 22, 2002, and may be accessed by link at http://webgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid=R2-59-filed.pdf

1. The Office of Management and Budget's guidelines require that a notice of its guidelines be posted on each Federal agency's Web site. Please provide a description of where such notice may be found on the CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION Web site, and provide a link to that location.
2. The Office of Management and Budget's guidelines also require that Federal agencies have in place and published information quality guidelines by October 1, 2002, as consistent with the purposes and operations of the agency. Please provide a copy of CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION information quality guidelines pursuant to OMB's requirements and provisions of Public Law 106-554.

Thank you for your attention to these matters

Norman E. Kijono