

DNA Methylation in Newborns and Maternal Smoking in Pregnancy: Genome-wide Consortium Meta-analysis

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Epigenetic modifications, including DNA methylation, represent a potential mechanism for environmental impacts on human disease. Maternal smoking in pregnancy remains an important public health problem that impacts child health in a myriad of ways and has potential lifelong consequences. The mechanisms are largely unknown, but epigenetics most likely plays a role. We formed the Pregnancy And Childhood Epigenetics (PACE) consortium and meta-analyzed, across 13 cohorts (n = 6,685), the association between maternal smoking in pregnancy and newborn blood DNA methylation at over 450,000 CpG sites (CpGs) by using the Illumina 450K BeadChip. Over 6,000 CpGs were differentially methylated in relation to maternal smoking at genome-wide statistical significance (false discovery rate, 5%), including 2,965 CpGs corresponding to 2,017 genes not previously related to smoking and methylation in either newborns or adults. Several genes are relevant to diseases that can be caused by maternal smoking (e.g., orofacial clefts and asthma) or adult smoking (e.g., certain cancers). A number of differentially methylated CpGs were associated with gene expression. We observed enrichment in pathways and processes critical to development. In older children (5 cohorts, n = 3,187), 100% of CpGs gave at least nominal levels of significance, far more than expected by chance (p value < 2.2 × 10⁻¹⁶). Results were robust to different normalization methods used across studies and cell type adjustment. In this large scale meta-analysis of methylation data, we identified numerous loci involved in response to maternal smoking in pregnancy with persistence into later childhood and provide insights into mechanisms underlying effects of this important exposure.

Introduction

Despite years of advisories regarding health risks to the developing fetus from maternal smoking, many pregnant women still smoke, including 12.3% in the US.¹ Maternal

smoking during pregnancy is regarded as a cause of low birth weight, reduced pulmonary function (PLF [MIM: 608852]), orofacial clefts (OFC1 [MIM: 119530]), and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS [MIM: 272120]) in exposed newborns.² Other adverse birth outcomes³ have

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been associated with maternal smoking in pregnancy, along with common health problems in children, including asthma (ASRT [MIM: 600807]), otitis media (OMS [MIM: 166760]), and neurobehavioral disorders.²

The mechanisms for the adverse health effects of maternal smoking during pregnancy on offspring remain poorly understood.² Recently, studies have examined the potential role of epigenetic modifications such as DNA methylation at specific CpG sites (CpGs). These include studies examining genome-wide DNA methylation in newborns in relation to maternal smoking in pregnancy with the Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation27 (27K) BeadChip^{4–6} or the newer platform with wider coverage, the HumanMethylation450 (450K) BeadChip.^{7–10} A number of differentially methylated loci have been identified in offspring in relation to maternal smoking in pregnancy in individual studies (references in the [Supplemental](#)

[Note](#)). One study examined the top CpGs with respect to timing of exposure and found that the signals reflect sustained, rather than short-term, exposure to maternal smoking during pregnancy,¹¹ but this has not been evaluated genome-wide. A few studies suggest that some of these methylation signals persist into later childhood and adolescence, but data are limited.^{9,12} The combination of genome-wide data across studies via meta-analysis to generate large sample sizes for the discovery of loci that would not have been identified from individual studies has been very successful in genetics, but this approach has rarely been used with methylation data.

To address the impact of maternal smoking during pregnancy on newborns with much greater power, we recruited 13 birth cohort studies with data on maternal smoking during pregnancy and DNA methylation in offspring from the 450K BeadChip into the Pregnancy and

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Childhood Epigenetics consortium (PACE). We meta-analyzed harmonized cohort-specific associations between maternal smoking during pregnancy and DNA methylation in the offspring. We examined both sustained maternal smoking and any smoking during pregnancy. We also examined persistence of DNA methylation patterns related to maternal smoking in newborns among older children, including adjustment for postnatal secondhand tobacco smoke exposure. For functional follow-up of findings, we evaluated the associations between methylation status in the newly identified CpGs and expression levels of nearby genes and performed pathway and functional network analyses. This study represents a large and comprehensive evaluation of the impact of maternal smoking during pregnancy on DNA methylation in offspring.

Material and Methods

Participating Cohorts

A total of 13 PACE cohorts participated in the meta-analysis of maternal smoking during pregnancy and 450K DNA methylation in newborns. These studies, listed in alphabetical order, are the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC), the Center for Health Assessment of Mothers and Children of Salinas (CHAMACOS), the Children's Health Study (CHS), the GECKO Drenthe cohort, the Generation R Study, Isle of Wight (IOW), Mechanisms of the Development of Allergy (MeDALL), three independent datasets from the Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study (MoBa1, MoBa2, and MoBa3), the Norway Facial Clefts Study (NFCS), the Newborn Epigenetics Study (NEST), and Project Viva. MeDALL represents a pooled analysis of four cohorts with coordinated methylation measurements: Infancia y Medio Ambiente (INMA), Etudes des Déterminants pré et postnatals précoces du développement et de la santé de l'Enfant (EDEN), Children's Allergy Environment Stockholm Epidemiology study (BAMSE), and Prevention and Incidence of Asthma and Mite Allergy (PIAMA). Two of the MeDALL cohorts contributed to the newborn meta-analysis (INMA and EDEN). There were five studies with data on older children: ALSPAC, Genes-environments and Admixture in Latino Americans (GALA II), the Study to Explore Early Development (SEED), MeDALL (INMA, EDEN, BAMSE, and PIAMA), and an independent methylation dataset from BAMSE subjects. Ethical approval for study protocols was obtained for all participating cohorts. Further information on this as well as the study methods for each cohort are described in detail in the [Supplemental Note](#).

For this paper, participating cohorts shared only results files from in-house analyses. No individual data were shared for this paper. Therefore, access to the individual cohort-level data for the purpose of reproducing results would require individual data transfer agreements to be negotiated with and approved by each of the contributing cohorts.

Harmonization of Maternal Smoking Variables

Cohorts assessed maternal smoking during pregnancy via questionnaires completed by the mothers. The MoBa study (MoBa1 and MoBa2) also used cotinine measurements from maternal blood samples taken during pregnancy as part of the definition

of maternal smoking during pregnancy. More details on the cohort-specific smoking variables are in the [Supplemental Note](#). In a previous publication from the MoBa1 study, significant associations between maternal smoking during pregnancy and DNA methylation in newborns were driven not by transient smoking that ended early in pregnancy but rather by sustained smoking during pregnancy.¹¹ Thus, each cohort ran separate models to evaluate both sustained smoking and any smoking during pregnancy. The variable (yes/no) for sustained smoking during pregnancy was designed to capture women who smoked at least one cigarette per day through most of pregnancy. To cleanly contrast the effect of sustained smoking through pregnancy with that of never smoking during pregnancy, we excluded women who reported quitting smoking during pregnancy from the sustained smoking models. The variable (yes/no) for any maternal smoking during pregnancy was designed to capture any amount of smoking during pregnancy, at any time, even if a woman reported quitting. Because we did not exclude women who quit smoking during pregnancy from the models representing any smoking during pregnancy, the total sample sizes are slightly larger than those of the models representing sustained smoking during pregnancy. Genome-wide analyses use large sample statistics. We limited meta-analyses to cohorts with at least 15 subjects in both the exposed and unexposed groups. This excluded four cohorts (CHAMACOS, CHS, IOW, and Project Viva) from the sustained smoking models. However these cohorts did participate in the meta-analysis of any smoking during pregnancy.

Methylation Measurements and Quality Control

Each cohort independently conducted laboratory measurements and quality control. The samples for each cohort underwent bisulfite conversion via the EZ-96 DNA Methylation kit (Zymo Research). Samples were processed with the Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation450 (450K) BeadChip (Illumina) at Illumina or in cohort-specific laboratories.

Quality control of samples was performed by each cohort and failed samples were excluded on the basis of Illumina's detection p value, low sample DNA concentration, sample call rate, CpG-specific percentage of missing values, bisulfite conversion efficiency, gender verification with multidimensional scaling plots, and other quality control metrics specific to cohorts. Cohorts could also use validated, published statistical methods for normalizing their methylation data on the untransformed methylation beta values (ranging from 0 to 1). Some cohorts also made independent probe exclusions. More details are provided in the [Supplemental Note](#). For the meta-analysis, additional probe exclusions were made across all cohorts. Specifically, we excluded control probes ($n = 65$), probes that mapped to the X ($n = 11,232$) or Y ($n = 416$) chromosomes, probes with an underlying SNP mapping to the last five nucleotides of the probe sequence ($N = 9,168$) as previously described,⁷ and CpGs with an implausible (zero) value for the SE ($n = 67$). This left a total of 464,628 CpGs included in the meta-analysis.

Cohort-Specific Statistical Analyses

Each cohort ran independent statistical analyses according to a common pre-specified analysis plan. Robust linear regression was used in R¹³ to evaluate the association between maternal smoking during pregnancy and cord blood DNA methylation for each probe while accounting for potential heteroskedasticity and/or influential outliers. Each cohort ran the following

covariate-adjusted statistical models: (1) the primary model, which used sustained maternal smoking during pregnancy as the exposure and the normalized betas as the outcome, (2) sustained maternal smoking during pregnancy as the exposure and raw betas (not normalized) as the outcome, (3) any maternal smoking during pregnancy as the exposure and normalized betas as the outcome, (4) any maternal smoking during pregnancy as the exposure and raw betas as the outcome, and (5) sustained maternal smoking during pregnancy as the exposure and normalized betas as the outcome, with additional adjustment for cell type proportion. All models were adjusted for maternal age, maternal education (or a surrogate socioeconomic metric), parity, and technical covariates such as batch or plate. Some cohorts used ComBat¹⁴ to account for batch effects and therefore did not include batch or plate as covariates in the models with normalized betas (see [Supplemental Note](#)). Additional correction for study design or sampling factors was done as needed in some cohorts. Because maternal smoking during pregnancy is not related to the child's sex, it cannot be a confounder and thus was not included in models. We did not adjust for principal components (PCs) because not all cohorts had genome-wide genotype data and cohorts with genotype data had it only for a subset of subjects with methylation data. Furthermore, in one large cohort with PC data, models adjusted for PCs showed little variation in the results (correlation of betas = 0.991; correlation of log(p values) = 0.996) when compared to models without this adjustment, despite a reduction in sample size. The statistical models for cohorts with DNA methylation measured in older children were the same, with the additional adjustment for second-hand tobacco smoke exposure.

All cohorts independently estimated cell type proportion by using the reference-based Houseman method¹⁵ in the minfi package¹⁶ with the Reinius et al. dataset for reference.¹⁷ Cell type correction was applied by inclusion of the six estimated cell type proportions (CD8T, CD4T, NK cells, B cells, monocytes, granulocytes) as covariates in cohort-specific statistical models.

Meta-analysis

We performed inverse variance-weighted fixed-effects meta-analysis with METAL.¹⁸ We accounted for multiple testing by controlling the false discovery rate (FDR) at 5%, implementing the method by Benjamini and Hochberg.¹⁹ This method was applied to all instances of FDR correction described in this paper unless otherwise specified. CpGs with an FDR-corrected p value less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant. CpGs that were statistically significant based on the more stringent Bonferroni correction (uncorrected p value < 1.08×10^{-7} to account for 464,628 tests) were also noted.

To determine the robustness of our models and findings, we performed an additional analysis in which we removed the cohorts of non-European ancestry ([Table S1](#)). We compared the effect estimates, SEs, and the distribution of the p values for the model to the estimates for our primary model to evaluate the consistency of our findings.

Examination in Older Children of CpGs Associated with Smoking in Cord Blood

The FDR-significant CpGs identified in the primary model from the newborn meta-analyses were followed up with a lookup replication approach in the results from five older children cohorts, and FDR correction was applied to account for the number of CpGs tested.

Literature Review to Identify Genes Previously Associated with Smoking and Methylation

We performed a systematic literature review to determine which CpGs represented findings not previously related to smoking exposure and methylation in the literature. A query of NCBI's PubMed database was performed with the search terms ("DNA Methylation"[Mesh] OR methylation) AND ("Smoking"[Mesh] OR smoking) in order to be broad enough to capture all past studies reporting such results. CpGs with previously reported associations with smoking, both from prenatal exposure or in adults, were considered. This search yielded 789 results when performed on March 1, 2015. All results were then reviewed by title and abstract to determine whether they met inclusion criteria. First, results were limited to those performed in healthy human populations. That is, participants could not exclusively have been drawn from disease cases and studies could not have been performed only in cell lines or animals. Case-control analyses that included healthy controls were accepted as meeting this criterion, and no limitation was applied concerning the tissue used for DNA extraction. Second, studies were required to have performed DNA methylation analysis agnostically on a large scale as opposed to targeted interrogation of candidate CpGs. This was operationalized by including only analyses that examined >1,000 sites simultaneously. The Illumina 450K, 27K, and GoldenGate arrays all met this criterion. Third, the exposure was restricted to tobacco cigarette smoking. Related exposures, such as to other forms of tobacco use or smoke exposure, were not included. Lastly, studies had to have reported their significant results publicly. Studies that failed to report p values or gene annotations were excluded.

Review of the existing literature on the effect of smoking on DNA methylation identified 25 publications meeting inclusion criteria. Of these, 16 studies reported results for adult smoking exposure,²⁰⁻³⁵ and nine provided results of association between maternal smoking during pregnancy on child DNA methylation.^{4,7-9,12,36-39} CpG level results (p values and gene annotations) for sites showing significant association between smoking exposure and DNA methylation were extracted and compiled for comparison with the results from the meta-analysis. Results were considered significant if they met the multiple testing criteria implemented within the publication. For studies failing to implement any multiple testing correction, a naive Bonferroni threshold for the number of tests performed in the individual study was used. Genes previously associated with either adult smoking or maternal smoking in pregnancy ([Table S6](#)) were excluded from our list of meta-analysis results.

CpG Annotation

The official gene name was noted for each CpG via Illumina's genome coordinate.⁴⁰ We enhanced the annotation provided by Illumina by using the UCSC Genome Browser (including data the RefSeq and Ensembl databases), as well as annotation data in Bioconductor. All of the annotations use the human February 2009 (GRCh37/hg19) assembly. We also used the program Snipper to annotate the nearest genes within 10 Mb of each CpG. We include this expanded Snipper gene annotation in our tables and the [Discussion](#).

For selected genes, we used coMet⁴¹ to graphically display additional information about CpGs, including physical location, correlation, statistical significance, and functional annotation.

Enrichment Analysis

We evaluated whether the CpGs significantly associated with smoking (based on the FDR p value < 0.05) were enriched, relative to all CpGs analyzed, for several biologic annotations provided in the Illumina annotation file. We assessed enrichment by using the two-sided doubling mid p value of the hypergeometric test.²⁴ We also evaluated enrichment in a subset of CpGs mapping to imprinted differentially methylated regions (DMRs) described by Court et al.⁴²

Pathway Analyses

We linked the CpGs significantly associated with smoking (based on an FDR p value < 0.05) to genes on the basis of only the 450K BeadChip annotation file.⁴³ Probes lacking an annotated Entrez Gene ID were filtered ($n = 1,971$), as were duplicate gene entries ($n = 1,473$). A total of 2,629 unique gene identifiers were used in gene ontology enrichment analysis with three different procedures as described below.

This resulted in 2,235 genes that mapped to gene ontologies of biological processes, and using topGO in R,⁴⁴ we tested for gene enrichment over the background array (16,119 unique annotated Entrez Gene IDs) by using Fisher's exact tests with a minimum of five genes per node. In addition, we used the DAVID bioinformatics resource⁴⁵ to test for enrichment in gene ontology biological processes with a threshold of five, and we used the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure to control for false discoveries. Finally, we used QIAGEN's Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (IPA) to identify relevant signaling and functional pathways.

Functional Network Analysis

To construct a functional association network, it was desirable to reduce the list of tested CpGs, so we prioritized the FDR-significant CpGs from the primary model in a stepwise manner. First, we only included those CpGs that were FDR significant in both the primary and cell-type-adjusted models (FDR p values < 0.05). Next, we sorted these CpGs according to their effect size (beta coefficient), and selected the top quartile ($n = 980$). The genes mapping to these prioritized CpGs were then used as input for the construction of a functional interaction network. We used the GeneMANIA algorithm, as well as its functional association data, including genetic interaction, physical interactions, co-expression, shared protein domains, and co-localization networks.⁴⁶ We selected the "all available networks" option with a 500-gene output (accessed March 11, 2015). Functional enrichment analysis was then performed on all genes from the constructed interaction network against Gene Ontology (GO) terms to detect significantly enriched GO terms.⁴⁷ FDR correction was applied to this analysis based on the q value; a threshold of $q < 0.01$ was used.

Methylation Transcription Analysis

To further explore the associations between methylation and gene expression, we performed methylation-expression analyses, evaluating the association between the methylation status of CpGs and differences in quantitative levels of gene expression. All identified CpGs that reached FDR-corrected significance and that we identified as not previously reported in the literature were tested for association with expression levels of genes within a region of 250 kb upstream or downstream of the CpG⁴⁸ (total region 500 kb) to evaluate whether the CpG-methylation status influenced transcript levels of genes. We had two datasets available for this analysis. One dataset included mRNA gene expression (Illumina

HumanHT-12 v.4) and 450K methylation data, both from whole-blood samples from 730 adults over 45 years of age in the Rotterdam Study, a population-based prospective cohort study in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.⁴⁹ This gene expression dataset is available at the GEO public repository under the accession number GEO: GSE33828. The second dataset included mRNA gene expression (Affymetrix Human Transcriptome Array 2.0) and 450K methylation data on whole-blood samples from 107 children at 4 years of age from the INMA study in Spain. Study population details for the Rotterdam Study and INMA are in the [Supplemental Note](#). In the Rotterdam dataset, 2,636 of the 2,965 CpGs examined mapped to a transcript within the 500 kb window. We created residuals for mRNA expression after regressing out the Houseman-estimated white-blood-cell proportions, the erythrocyte and platelet cell counts, fasting state, RNA quality score, plate number, age, and sex on the mRNA expression levels by using a linear mixed model. We then created residuals for DNA methylation, regressing out the Houseman-estimated white-blood-cell proportions, age, sex, batch effects on the dasen-normalized⁵⁰ beta-values of the CpGs by using a linear mixed model. We used a linear regression model to evaluate the association between the residuals of the mRNA expression levels and the residuals of the dasen-normalized beta-values of the CpGs.

The INMA gene expression data were normalized with Expression Console Software from Affymetrix, and probes were clustered to the transcript level. Only transcripts within the 500 kb window of selected CpGs were considered in the analysis ($n = 45,076$ transcripts). To control for technical variation in the DNA methylation dataset, a PC analysis of 600 negative control probes was performed with 10,000 permutations, and the residuals of a linear regression model including the first five PCs were estimated. The effect of sex and Houseman cell-type-proportion estimates were adjusted for in a second-stage linear regression model. Two models were applied to control for technical and unwanted biological variation when estimating gene expression residuals. In the first one, sex and Houseman estimates were regressed out. In the second one, 14 surrogate variables estimated with the sva R package¹⁴ were adjusted for in a second model including sex and Houseman estimates. A linear regression model of residuals of gene expression versus residuals of methylation was performed. Multiple testing for both Rotterdam and INMA gene expression analyses was controlled with Benjamini-Hochberg FDR correction.

Examination of Polymorphic and Cross-Reactive Probes

The list of FDR-significant CpGs was matched to the list of polymorphic and cross-reactive CpGs provided by Chen et al.⁵¹ to identify potential problematic probes. We additionally performed the dip test⁵² for unimodality for each CpG to test for non-unimodal distributions in the MoBa1 cohort ($n = 1,068$). Also using the MoBa1 cohort, we visually inspected density plots for each of the probes that matched to the list of polymorphic probes from Chen et al. to assess departures from unimodality, including from small numbers of outlier values.

Results

Study Characteristics

A total of 13 cohorts participated in the meta-analysis of maternal smoking during pregnancy and 450K DNA

Table 1. Smoking Variable Frequencies for the Cohorts Participating in Meta-analyses: Newborns and Older Children

Study ^a	Study Population	Participants ^b	No. of Participants Exposed to Sustained Maternal Smoking during Pregnancy (%)	No. of Participants Exposed to Any Maternal Smoking during Pregnancy (%)
ALSPAC	newborns	860	87 (10.1)	120 (14.0)
CHAMACOS	newborns	378	7 (1.9) ^c	24 (6.3)
CHS	newborns	85	NA ^c	22 (25.9)
GECKO	newborns	255	70 (27.5)	129 (50.6)
Generation R	newborns	883	129 (14.6)	220 (24.9)
IOW	newborns	90	9 (10.0) ^c	23 (25.6)
MeDALL	newborns	362	43 (11.9)	63 (17.5)
MoBa1	newborns	1,063	156 (14.7)	312 (29.4)
MoBa2	newborns	671	70 (10.4)	173 (25.8)
MoBa3	newborns	252	28 (11.1)	73 (29.0)
NEST	newborns	413	69 (16.7)	136 (32.9)
NFCS	newborns	889	245 (27.6)	325 (36.6)
Project Viva	newborns	485	14 (2.9) ^c	26 (5.4)
ALSPAC	older children	840	89 (10.6)	115 (13.7)
BAMSE	older children	347	26 (7.5)	43 (12.4)
GALA II	older children	569	40 (7.0)	76 (13.4)
MeDALL	older children	851	86 (10.2)	121 (14.3)
SEED	older children	584	25 (4.3)	49 (8.4)

NA, not available.

^aStudy names and additional information: The Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC), the Center for Health Assessment of Mothers and Children of Salinas (CHAMACOS), the Children's Health Study (CHS), the GECKO Drenthe cohort, the Generation R Study, Isle of Wight (IOW), Mechanisms of the Development of Allergy (MeDALL), three independent datasets from the Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study (MoBa1, MoBa2, and MoBa3), the Norway Facial Clefts Study (NFCS), the Newborn Epigenetics Study (NEST), and Project Viva. MeDALL represents a pooled analysis of four cohorts with coordinated methylation measurements: Infancia y Medio Ambiente (INMA), Etudes des Déterminants pré et postnatals précoces du développement et de la santé de l'Enfant (EDEN), Children's Allergy Environment Stockholm Epidemiology study (BAMSE), and Prevention and Incidence of Asthma and Mite Allergy (PIAMA). Two of the MeDALL cohorts contributed to the newborn meta-analysis (INMA and EDEN). Studies with data on older children: ALSPAC, Genes-environments and Admixture in Latino Americans (GALA II), the Study to Explore Early Development (SEED), MeDALL (INMA, EDEN, BAMSE, and PIAMA), and an independent methylation dataset from BAMSE subjects.

^bNumber of participants with smoking data, 450K methylation, and covariates. Participants who quit smoking during pregnancy were not included in the sustained smoking models.

^cCohorts in which the sustained smoking category had $n < 15$ or insufficient information to create the requested category, resulting in exclusion from the sustained smoking analysis models. All cohorts were included in the models evaluating the exposure of any smoking during pregnancy.

methylation in newborns. Among these 6,685 newborns, 897 (13%) were exposed to sustained maternal smoking during pregnancy and 1,646 (25%) were exposed to any maternal smoking during pregnancy. We also included five cohorts of older children ($n = 3,187$, average age = 6.8 years); 266 children (8%) were exposed to sustained smoking during pregnancy and 404 (13%) were exposed to any maternal smoking during pregnancy. The cohort-specific summary statistics for maternal smoking are presented in Table 1 and covariates in Table S1. The majority of participants were of European ancestry (Table S1).

Meta-analysis

Our primary model evaluated the association between sustained maternal smoking during pregnancy and differential DNA methylation in newborns by using normalized methylation betas as the outcome, adjusting for covariates

(Figure 1). The cohort-specific lambdas and number of CpGs included in each model are listed in Table S2. Among the 6,073 CpGs with FDR significance (Table S3), 568 also met the strict Bonferroni threshold for statistical significance (p value $< 1.08 \times 10^{-7}$, correcting for 464,628 independent tests). Results were quite robust to cell type adjustment (Table S3): all 568 Bonferroni-significant CpGs from the primary model remained FDR significant in the cell-type-adjusted model, and 78% were Bonferroni significant in both models. The $\log_{10}(p$ values) for the primary model and cell-type-adjusted models were highly correlated (correlation coefficient = 0.92 across all CpGs, 0.98 for the FDR-significant CpGs in the primary model, Figure S1). Given the general similarity of the results before and after cell type adjustment and the fact that the available reference panel is from a small number ($n = 6$) of adult men,¹⁷ we regard the covariate-adjusted model as the

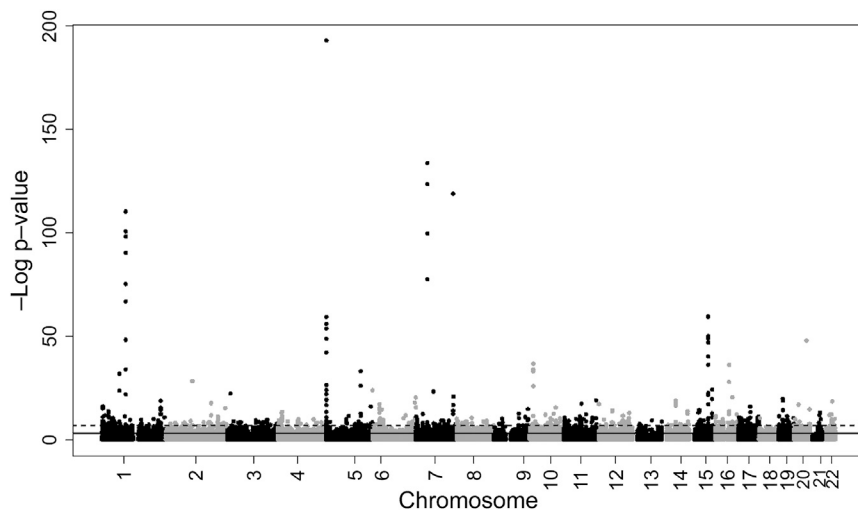


Figure 1. Meta-analysis of the Association between Sustained Maternal Smoking during Pregnancy and DNA Methylation in Newborn Cord Blood

A total of 6,073 CpGs were considered statistically significant when using FDR correction (solid horizontal line); 568 were Bonferroni significant (dashed horizontal line).

Examination of Potentially Polymorphic and Cross-Reactive Probes

A total of 742 of the 6,073 FDR-significant CpGs overlapped with the list of 70,889 potentially polymorphic probes provided by a table of Chen et al.⁵¹ Only 137 of the 6,073 FDR-significant CpGs overlapped with the list of 29,233 cross-reactive probes annotated by Chen et al. Many of the probes flagged by Chen et al. are associated with very low-frequency SNPs and thus are likely to have minimal impact on results in most datasets. In visual inspection of the density plots of all 742 such probes, we flagged 19 CpGs as having a possible deviation from unimodality (listed in Table S7). However, results from the dip test⁵² applied to all 6,073 FDR significant CpGs identified only four CpGs as statistically significantly deviated from unimodality (FDR adjusted $p < 0.05$; cg11459648, cg17847044, cg15028160, and cg25849281).

primary model. The results for other models (the cell-type-adjusted model, the model representing any smoking during pregnancy, and the methylation model representing sustained smoking during pregnancy associated with older children) and the mean methylation values in newborns and older children are shown for all 6,073 CpGs in Table S3.

Among the 6,073 FDR-significant CpGs, smoking during pregnancy was associated approximately equally with increased methylation (52%) and decreased methylation (48%) (Figure 2). Out of the 3,932 CpGs that were also FDR-significant after cell type adjustment, there were 967 CpGs in or within 10 Mb of the 1,185 genes we identified in our systematic literature review (see Supplemental Note and Table S4) as previously reported to be differentially methylated in relation to smoking. This left 2,965 CpGs (corresponding to 2,017 annotated mapped or nearest genes) that had not previously been reported (Table S5; genes highlighted in discussion shown in Table 2). For comprehensive comparison with the previous literature, we also present our results for all CpGs that were either not FDR significant after cell type adjustment and/or that annotated to genes already described in the literature as related to smoking and methylation ($n = 3,108$ CpGs, Table S6). Our top finding among the 6,073 FDR-significant CpGs was for *AHRR* (MIM: 606517) cg05575921 (p value = 1.64×10^{-193}), which is the top most statistically significant CpG in many other studies evaluating either personal smoking or maternal smoking during pregnancy.

We found our results to be robust to different analytic approaches. We present results from models using normalized betas as the outcome. When using raw betas as the outcome, we observed little difference in the results (Spearman's correlation coefficient = 0.96 for regression coefficients; 0.98 for \log_{10} [p values]) for our significant findings). Furthermore, exclusion of the one cohort with newborns of non-European ancestry (NEST) from the model representing sustained maternal smoking provided similar results (Spearman's correlation coefficient = 0.99 for regression coefficients; 0.89 for \log_{10} [p values]).

Only 137 of the 6,073 FDR-significant CpGs overlapped with the list of 29,233 cross-reactive probes annotated by Chen et al. Many of the probes flagged by Chen et al. are associated with very low-frequency SNPs and thus are likely to have minimal impact on results in most datasets. In visual inspection of the density plots of all 742 such probes, we flagged 19 CpGs as having a possible deviation from unimodality (listed in Table S7). However, results from the dip test⁵² applied to all 6,073 FDR significant CpGs identified only four CpGs as statistically significantly deviated from unimodality (FDR adjusted $p < 0.05$; cg11459648, cg17847044, cg15028160, and cg25849281).

Persistence in Older Children of DNA Methylation Related to Maternal Smoking during Pregnancy

Because of the smaller sample size and smaller proportion of children exposed to maternal smoking in the older children models, we had less statistical power than we did for the newborn models. When we compared the coefficients for newborns and older children for all 6,073 CpGs that were significantly associated with maternal smoking in newborns, 4,403 (73%) had a consistent direction of effect and all 6,073 (100%) gave nominal p values < 0.05 for the older children models, which is higher than the 5% expected by chance alone (Kolmogorov p value $< 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$). Among these, 3,722 CpGs (61%) had a weaker effect size (attenuation) in the older children than in the newborns, but the attenuation overall was very small in magnitude and not significant (mean attenuation = -0.00039 , SD = 0.0059). Compared to CpGs in newborns, of the 148 CpGs that met FDR significance at lookup replication level in the older children (Table S8), 100% were consistent in the direction of effect, and there was attenuation for 32%, again small in magnitude and not significant (mean attenuation = -0.00008 , SD = 0.018).

Enrichment Analysis

For our 6,073 FDR-significant CpGs, we observed enrichment for localization to CpG island shores (35% versus

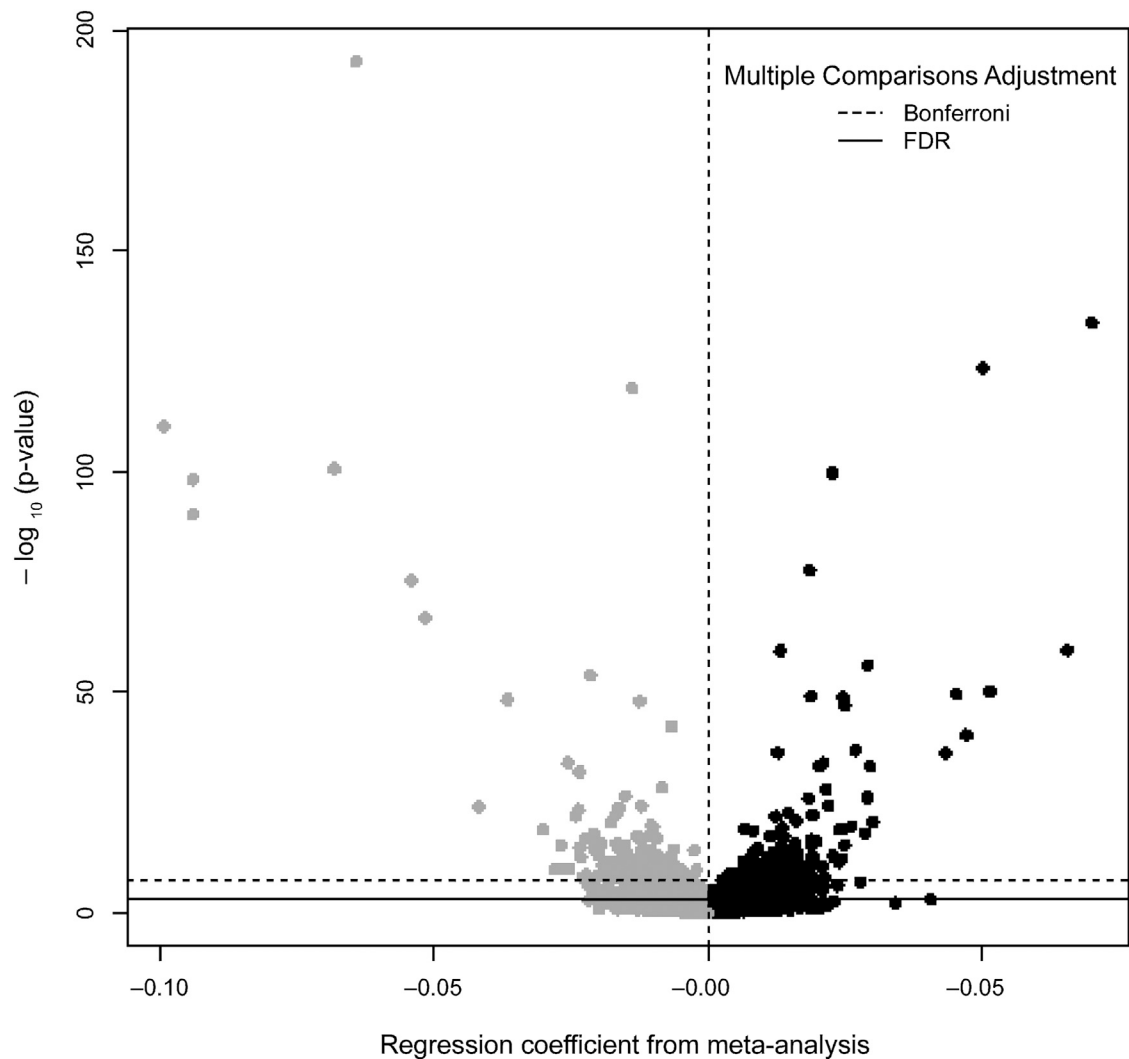


Figure 2. Volcano Plot Indicating the Direction of Effects for the Meta-analysis of the Association between Sustained Maternal Smoking during Pregnancy and DNA Methylation in Newborn Cord Blood

23% overall as compared to all CpGs on the array, p value = 2.8×10^{-100}), enhancers (29% versus 22% overall, p value = 5.7×10^{-45}), and DNase hypersensitivity sites (14% versus 12% overall, p value = 2.8×10^{-7}). Conversely, we found relative depletion in CpG islands (18% versus 31% overall, p value = 9.1×10^{-116}), FANTOM promoters (2.5% versus 6.7% overall, p value = 2.1×10^{-49}), and promoter-associated regions (13% versus 19% overall, p value = 2.3×10^{-33}). There was no statistically significant enrichment or depletion of sites mapping to imprinted DMRs (0.082% versus 0.16% overall, p value = 0.107).

Pathway Analysis

Our pathway analyses indicated that the FDR-significant CpG sites corresponded to genes enriched for several categories of biological processes, including anatomical development, phosphate-containing compound metabolism, nervous system development, and cell communication

processes (Figure S2). Based on DAVID, eight biological processes were enriched, including GTPase signal transduction, neuronal differentiation, and protein kinase activity (Figure S3). The top statistically significantly enriched diseases and biofunctions identified through Ingenuity software included tumor adhesion, neuron development, and connective tissue differentiation (Figure S4).

Functional Network Analysis

Functional network analysis revealed 447 significantly enriched GO terms after FDR correction was applied (q value < 0.01 for this analysis, Table S9). The majority of the enriched terms, and particularly the most statistically significant ones, pointed toward biological processes related to cell, tissue, or organ development, proliferation, morphogenesis, differentiation, growth, and other biologically relevant processes. There were also several enriched processes related to embryonic morphogenesis or development.

Table 2. Meta-analysis Results from Newborns for Selected Loci Not Previously Reported with Genome-wide Statistically Significant Differential Methylation in Newborn DNA in Relation to Sustained Maternal Smoking in Pregnancy

Chr.	Position	CpG	Mapped Gene ^a	Nearest Gene (10 Mb) ^b	Gene Group ^c	Regression Coefficient	SE	p Value	Direction of Effect across Cohorts ^d	Mean Beta ^e
1	24648203	cg06376426	<i>GRHL3</i>	<i>GRHL3</i>	TSS1500; body	-0.004	0.001	1.84E-04	-+-----	0.262
2	43685377	cg20629315	<i>THADA</i>	<i>THADA</i>	body	0.003	0.001	4.62E-04	-----++	0.896
2	206628553	cg22308949	<i>NRP2</i>	<i>NRP2</i>	body	-0.016	0.002	7.83E-12	-----	0.413
2	206628625	cg05348875	<i>NRP2</i>	<i>NRP2</i>	body	-0.026	0.004	1.13E-10	-----	0.613
2	206628692	cg14157435	<i>NRP2</i>	<i>NRP2</i>	body	-0.028	0.004	1.61E-10	-----	0.413
2	206692685	cg14400541	-	<i>NRP2</i>	-	-0.008	0.002	5.19E-05	+-----	0.501
3	189348936	cg05129081	<i>TP63</i>	<i>TP63</i>	TSS1500	0.012	0.002	1.21E-07	+++++---	0.539
3	189349021	cg06720722	<i>TP63</i>	<i>TP63</i>	TSS200	0.009	0.002	8.49E-06	+++++---	0.798
4	10117479	cg22821355	<i>WDR1</i>	<i>WDR1</i>	body	-0.007	0.002	1.50E-04	-----	0.382
4	81109888	cg01789499	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	5' UTR	-0.009	0.002	1.86E-04	-----+--	0.852
4	81110205	cg09595050	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	5' UTR	-0.018	0.004	1.71E-06	-----	0.739
4	81110459	cg14197071	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	5' UTR	-0.021	0.005	5.33E-06	-----+--	0.723
4	81111177	cg27111250	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	5' UTR	-0.020	0.005	1.61E-05	-----+--	0.708
4	81111393	cg27639662	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	5' UTR	-0.016	0.004	3.33E-05	-----+--	0.702
4	81117647	cg05452645	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	TSS1500; 5' UTR	-0.022	0.004	8.95E-09	-----+--	0.520
4	81117665	cg00138041	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	TSS1500; 5' UTR	-0.021	0.004	1.39E-06	-----+--	0.556
4	81117853	cg06373870	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	TSS1500; 5' UTR	-0.017	0.003	1.24E-08	-----+--	0.422
4	81118188	cg03463411	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	TSS1500; 5' UTR	-0.014	0.003	1.09E-06	-----+--	0.372
4	81118343	cg04235768	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	TSS1500; 5' UTR	-0.014	0.002	1.35E-09	-----+--	0.159
4	81118588	cg26299084	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	5' UTR; TSS200	-0.012	0.003	1.98E-06	-----+--	0.247
4	81118794	cg06307913	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	5' UTR; 1 st exon	-0.020	0.003	3.72E-09	-----+--	0.424
4	81119178	cg27242132	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	5' UTR	-0.022	0.004	2.98E-09	-----+--	0.240
4	81119198	cg18073471	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	5' UTR	-0.018	0.003	1.21E-08	-----+--	0.178
4	81119249	cg02458885	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	5' UTR	-0.010	0.002	5.94E-06	-----+--	0.189
4	81119299	cg11388320	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	5' UTR	-0.023	0.004	1.12E-08	-----	0.324
4	81119473	cg22902505	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	5' UTR	-0.027	0.004	1.21E-10	-----+--	0.433
4	81122726	cg05522011	<i>PRDM8</i>	<i>PRDM8</i>	body	-0.015	0.004	2.00E-04	-----+--	0.799
5	78365647	cg01856645	<i>DMGDH</i> ; <i>BHMT2</i>	<i>BHMT2</i>	TSS200; body	0.008	0.002	3.35E-06	+++++---	0.177
5	78365687	cg06501366	<i>BHMT2</i> ; <i>DMGDH</i>	<i>BHMT2</i>	body; TSS1500	0.018	0.003	1.11E-10	+++++---	0.408
5	78365691	cg08328513	<i>BHMT2</i> ; <i>DMGDH</i>	<i>BHMT2</i>	body; TSS1500	0.017	0.003	3.94E-09	+++++---	0.265
5	78365710	cg23911707	<i>BHMT2</i> ; <i>DMGDH</i>	<i>BHMT2</i>	body; TSS1500	0.006	0.001	5.69E-06	+++++---	0.260
5	78365801	cg03400060	<i>BHMT2</i> ; <i>DMGDH</i>	<i>BHMT2</i>	body; TSS1500	0.012	0.002	2.96E-10	+++++---	0.392
5	78366076	cg01902605	<i>BHMT2</i> ; <i>DMGDH</i>	<i>BHMT2</i>	body; TSS1500	0.013	0.002	1.50E-09	+++++---	0.707
6	7673306	cg25370658	-	<i>BMP6</i>	-	0.004	0.001	2.63E-04	+++++---	0.806
6	7698374	cg17951878	-	<i>BMP6</i>	-	0.013	0.003	1.15E-06	+++++---	0.286
6	7731280	cg23623251	<i>BMP6</i>	<i>BMP6</i>	body	0.006	0.002	3.25E-04	+++++---	0.783
6	10405499	cg16199280	<i>TFAP2A</i>	<i>TFAP2A</i>	body	0.006	0.002	3.26E-04	+++++---	0.342

(Continued on next page)

Table 2. Continued

Chr.	Position	CpG	Mapped Gene ^a	Nearest Gene (10 Mb) ^b	Gene Group ^c	Regression Coefficient	SE	p Value	Direction of Effect across Cohorts ^d	Mean Beta ^e
6	55767865	cg16728651	–	<i>BMP5</i>	–	–0.010	0.002	1.05E-06	-----	0.729
6	152011415	cg08161546	<i>ESR1</i>	<i>ESR1</i>	TSS1500	0.008	0.002	3.50E-04	+++++	0.709
6	152124815	cg08415493	<i>ESR1</i>	<i>ESR1</i>	5' UTR	–0.003	0.001	1.74E-04	+-----	0.706
6	152126736	cg20893956	<i>ESR1</i>	<i>ESR1</i>	5' UTR; TSS200	–0.009	0.002	4.13E-05	–+-----	0.620
6	152126785	cg07746998	<i>ESR1</i>	<i>ESR1</i>	5' UTR; TSS200	–0.006	0.002	1.18E-04	–+-----	0.594
6	152126895	cg21157690	<i>ESR1</i>	<i>ESR1</i>	5' UTR; 1 st exon	–0.008	0.002	5.70E-05	–+-----	0.747
6	152126938	cg17264271	<i>ESR1</i>	<i>ESR1</i>	5' UTR; 1 st exon	–0.009	0.002	1.26E-06	–+-----	0.627
6	152130058	cg04063345	<i>ESR1</i>	<i>ESR1</i>	body	–0.013	0.004	1.22E-04	–+-----	0.507
6	152130207	cg15626350	<i>ESR1</i>	<i>ESR1</i>	body	–0.018	0.004	1.42E-06	–+-----	0.444
6	152130332	cg00601836	<i>ESR1</i>	<i>ESR1</i>	body	–0.014	0.003	1.19E-06	–+-----	0.676
8	1403050	cg16442298	–	<i>DLGAP2</i>	–	–0.004	0.001	3.28E-04	-----	0.716
8	1404023	cg03551508	–	<i>DLGAP2</i>	–	–0.007	0.002	2.74E-05	-----	0.746
8	1427491	cg00827210	–	<i>DLGAP2</i>	–	–0.007	0.001	4.83E-07	-----+	0.882
8	1442292	cg13063207	–	<i>DLGAP2</i>	–	–0.006	0.001	1.85E-05	-----	0.847
8	1458508	cg24526596	<i>DLGAP2</i>	<i>DLGAP2</i>	5' UTR	–0.005	0.001	2.52E-04	-----+	0.590
8	1462903	cg25955692	<i>DLGAP2</i>	<i>DLGAP2</i>	5' UTR	–0.005	0.001	1.67E-05	++++-----	0.874
8	1468625	cg00598912	<i>DLGAP2</i>	<i>DLGAP2</i>	5' UTR	–0.003	0.001	1.39E-04	-----	0.831
8	1494546	cg23424125	<i>DLGAP2</i>	<i>DLGAP2</i>	5' UTR	–0.010	0.003	3.23E-04	-----+	0.850
8	1501226	cg03185622	<i>DLGAP2</i>	<i>DLGAP2</i>	body	–0.005	0.001	5.33E-07	++++-----	0.825
8	1526540	cg15833940	<i>DLGAP2</i>	<i>DLGAP2</i>	body	–0.013	0.003	6.70E-06	-----	0.659
8	1534376	cg02840179	<i>DLGAP2</i>	<i>DLGAP2</i>	body	–0.004	0.001	1.05E-04	-----	0.816
8	1615080	cg02709139	<i>DLGAP2</i>	<i>DLGAP2</i>	body	–0.007	0.002	1.32E-05	-----+	0.870
8	1616381	cg04687241	<i>DLGAP2</i>	<i>DLGAP2</i>	body	–0.008	0.002	6.92E-06	–+-----	0.666
8	1618448	cg06040034	<i>DLGAP2</i>	<i>DLGAP2</i>	body	–0.013	0.003	2.42E-06	-----	0.619
8	1649758	cg02083412	<i>DLGAP2</i>	<i>DLGAP2</i>	3' UTR	–0.004	0.001	3.15E-05	-----+	0.129
8	1649868	cg22763586	<i>DLGAP2</i>	<i>DLGAP2</i>	3' UTR	–0.013	0.003	5.83E-07	-----+	0.450
8	1650172	cg27351978	<i>DLGAP2</i>	<i>DLGAP2</i>	3' UTR	–0.015	0.004	8.69E-05	-----+	0.566
8	1650309	cg02690013	<i>DLGAP2</i>	<i>DLGAP2</i>	3' UTR	–0.013	0.003	9.92E-06	-----+	0.599
14	54412780	cg23104439	–	<i>BMP4</i>	–	0.005	0.001	2.08E-04	+++++-----	0.741
14	54418728	cg05928290	<i>BMP4</i>	<i>BMP4</i>	body	0.024	0.003	1.48E-19	+++++-----	0.759
14	54418804	cg05923197	<i>BMP4</i>	<i>BMP4</i>	body	0.029	0.003	1.08E-18	+++++-----	0.699
14	54418851	cg09367901	<i>BMP4</i>	<i>BMP4</i>	body	0.019	0.002	3.98E-17	+++++-----	0.827
14	54419614	cg08046044	<i>BMP4</i>	<i>BMP4</i>	5' UTR	0.005	0.001	2.70E-09	+++++-----	0.077
14	54424149	cg24526899	<i>BMP4</i>	<i>BMP4</i>	TSS1500	0.007	0.002	5.14E-04	+++++-----	0.441
17	76930245	cg04999637	–	<i>TIMP2</i>	–	0.005	0.001	6.91E-05	+++++-----	0.583

Meta-analysis results of the association between sustained maternal smoking during pregnancy and DNA methylation in newborns, adjusted for covariates, using normalized methylation betas as the outcome. Selected not previously reported loci genome-wide significant after FDR correction. Results sorted by the chromosome (chr.) and position of the CpG sites listed. Selection limited to genes prioritized for discussion.

^aUCSC Genome Browser annotated gene.

^bNearest gene (within 10 Mb) symbol, determined with the Snipper program.

^cUCSC gene region feature category. Regions for the gene and related isoforms are listed.

^dDirection of effect across cohorts included in the statistical model: maternal smoking during pregnancy associated with increased (+) or decreased (–) methylation in alphabetical order of cohorts.

^eAverage of the mean methylation beta values across the newborn cohorts. For complete listing of CpGs differentially methylated in relation to sustained maternal smoking during pregnancy and for results from meta-analysis models unadjusted for covariates and adjusted for covariates and cell type, see Table S3.

Methylation Transcription Analysis

To assess transcriptional effects related to methylation differences, we investigated whether methylation status correlated with gene expression levels for our 2,965 CpGs associated with sustained maternal smoking in newborns that we identified through literature review as not having been previously reported. In the Rotterdam Study dataset of adults, out of the 2,636 (of the 2,965) CpGs that we were able to match to a gene transcript (± 250 kb), 254 unique CpGs (343 total CpG-gene transcript associations) were significantly associated with expression of a nearby gene in whole blood from adults (FDR p value < 0.05 , Table S10). We observed strong associations for several CpGs annotated to the same gene and corresponding gene expression levels, most strikingly for *IL32* (MIM: 606001), which had four CpGs associated with its expression, and *HOXB2* (MIM: 142967), which had several CpGs related to its expression (lowest p value 2.38×10^{-72} , Table S10). In the much smaller study of children at age four from INMA ($n = 107$), 35 CpGs were associated with gene expression (FDR p value < 0.05). The following six genes had CpGs with methylation that was statistically significantly related to gene expression in both the Rotterdam Study adults and INMA children: *ENOSF1* (MIM: 607427), *HOXB2* (MIM: 142967), *IL32* (MIM: 606001), *NLRP2* (MIM: 609364), *PASK* (MIM: 607505), and *TDRD9*. In both the adult and child datasets, for the majority of CpGs statistically significantly associated with expression, the direction was inverse (higher methylation, lower expression). This inverse relationship represented 68% (Clopper-Pearson 95% confidence interval = 62%–73%) of the adult associations and 79% (Clopper-Pearson 95% confidence interval = 62%–91%) of the associations for children.

Newborn DNA Methylation Related to Any Maternal Smoking during Pregnancy

In addition to the sustained smoking model, we meta-analyzed the effect of any maternal smoking during pregnancy on newborn methylation. As expected, based on previous literature,¹² we found that despite the much larger number of women with any smoking during pregnancy, there were fewer statistically significant findings for this less specific exposure (4,653 FDR-significant CpGs, Table S3).

Discussion

We combined data across studies in a large-scale epigenome-wide meta-analysis to evaluate the association between maternal smoking during pregnancy and DNA methylation in offspring. We established the PACE consortium to study this association and used 13 birth cohort studies from the US and Europe that, with the same reproducible platform, measured CpG-specific DNA methylation across the epigenome in newborns. Combining these

studies resulted in the discovery of 6,073 statistically significant CpGs; 3,932 remained statistically significant after adjustment for cell type proportion. Our results are remarkably robust to different modeling techniques. Our findings were very similar when using either the raw methylation betas or the normalized betas as the outcome. This is despite the variety of data processing methods used across the cohorts for normalization and corrections for technical variables such as batch (described in the Supplemental Note). This consistency is reassuring given the range of published methods available for researchers to apply to 450K DNA methylation data for quality control, normalization, and adjustment for technical variation. Furthermore, our main findings persisted after cell type adjustment (Table S3, Figure S1).

As predicted based on earlier evaluation of top findings for maternal smoking in the MoBa cohort,¹² we had fewer statistically significant findings for any smoking during pregnancy than for sustained smoking during pregnancy (Figure S5). Nonetheless, with the large sample size of this meta-analysis, we still observed many statistically significant CpGs after FDR correction in the any smoking models, and the directions of effect and p values were similar to those from the sustained smoking models (Table S3, Figure S6). However, the stronger signal for sustained smoking suggests that this might be the more powerful variable for studying epigenetic effects and possible health outcomes from this exposure in offspring.

Our observation of a large number of genome-wide significant CpGs related to maternal smoking is not surprising given reports of multiple genome-wide significant loci identified in single studies, all with smaller sample sizes.^{7,8,10,22,37,38} Reassuringly, among our myriad findings, the top hit in all newborn models was *AHRR* cg05575921 (p value $< 1.64 \times 10^{-193}$), which has been observed as differentially methylated in relation to smoking in many studies of adults and children.^{7,8,10,28,35,53}

Our enrichment testing of the genome-wide results is in line with previous findings showing that island shores, enhancers, and DNase I hypersensitive sites are more dynamic (susceptible to methylation changes) than promoter regions⁵⁴ and imprinted loci.⁵⁵ These regions might be more resistant to changes in DNA methylation in response to in utero exposure.⁵⁵ Thus, it is not surprising that associations between maternal smoking and newborn methylation might be more likely to be found in island shore and enhancer regions as opposed to promoters or CpG islands.

To assess the underlying biology involved in the associated genomic regions, we applied pathway and functional analyses, as well as tests of enrichment. These results implicated numerous neurological pathways, pathways involved in embryogenesis, and various developmental pathways. These observations could provide insight into the etiology of childhood health outcomes related to maternal smoking during pregnancy.

We focus discussion on some specific genes among the associations that, according to our literature review, had

not been previously reported (2,965 CpGs annotating to 2,017 mapped or nearest genes). For 27 of these genes, mutations or SNPs have been implicated in susceptibility to orofacial clefts (as identified with the Snipper program described in the [Supplemental Note](#)). This includes the following genes (each representing one FDR-significant CpG unless otherwise specified): *BHMT2* ([MIM: 605932] six CpGs), *GRHL3* (MIM: 608317), *THADA* (MIM: 611800), *GAD67* (MIM: 605363), *TP63* ([MIM: 603273] two CpGs), *MSX1* (MIM: 142983), *WDR1* (MIM: 604734), *SPP1* (MIM: 166490), *BMP6* (MIM: 112266), *TFAP2A* (MIM: 107580), *COL11A2* ([MIM: 120290] three CpGs), *PDGFRA* (MIM: 173490), *MN1* (MIM: 156100), *MSX2* ([MIM: 123101] four CpGs), *PVT1* (MIM: 165140), *ZIC2* (MIM: 603073), *HOXA2* ([MIM: 604685] ten CpGs), *WNT3* (MIM: 165330), *RUNX2* ([MIM: 600211] two CpGs), *TERT* (MIM: 187270), *SPATA13* ([MIM: 613324] two CpGs), *VAX1* (MIM: 604294), *TIMP2* (MIM: 188825), *NOG* (MIM: 602991), *BEST3* (MIM: 607337), *MYH9* (MIM: 160775), and *BMP4* ([MIM: 112262] six CpGs) (results in [Table S5](#)). Although this does not imply that the smoking-related CpGs are on the causal pathway, we note that the Surgeon General's Report summarizes the evidence as sufficient to infer a causal relationship between maternal smoking during pregnancy and these birth defects.² Many of these genes also have varied biological effects relevant to other aspects of development.

Among this group of genes previously related to orofacial clefts, bone morphogenetic protein 4 (*BMP4*) is especially interesting. Maternal smoking might interact with SNPs in this gene in relation to oral clefts.⁵⁶ We identified six CpGs in *BMP4* at genome-wide significance in newborns; two remained statistically significant in the older children. In addition to orofacial clefts, SNPs in *BMP4* are related to tooth development and eruption, as well as to colorectal cancer in genome-wide association studies (GWASs).⁵⁷ BMPs, including *BMP4*,⁵⁸ also play an important role in lung development: reduced lung function among infants is an established consequence of maternal smoking during pregnancy.² A plot showing greater detail on the CpGs in or near *BMP4* is provided in [Figure S7](#).

We observed six CpGs significantly related to maternal smoking in betaine-homocysteine methyltransferase (*BHMT2*; [Figure S8](#)). Genetic variants in this gene have been associated with orofacial clefts in candidate-gene studies⁵⁹ and with selenium levels in GWASs.^{60,61} Of note, in experimental studies, selenium has been shown to protect against orofacial clefts induced by exposure to teratogens.⁶² In the Cancer Genome Atlas, methylation of *BHMT2* in lung adenocarcinoma (lung cancer [MIM: 211980]) was strongly correlated (3rd rank genome wide) with smoking history.⁶³

The gene *PRDM8* (PR domain containing 8 [MIM: 616639]) has the largest number of CpGs (18 of 61, based on Illumina annotation) significantly associated with maternal smoking during pregnancy. Maternal smoking during pregnancy was associated with decreased methyl-

ation throughout the gene. *PRDM8* is one of several *PRDMs* belonging to the SET domain family of histone methyltransferases.⁶⁴ *PRDM* genes either act as direct histone methyltransferases or recruit a suite of histone-modifying enzymes to target promoters.⁶⁵ *PRDM8* specifically methylates H3K9 of histones to repress transcriptional activity.⁶⁶ *PRDM8* expression is tightly regulated in a spatiotemporal manner during neural development;⁶⁷ it regulates morphological transition in neocortical development⁶⁸ and forms part of a repressor complex that directs, through regulation of cadherin-11, neural circuit assembly.⁶⁹ Thus *PRDM8* appears to play an important role in neurologic development.

DLGAP2 (discs large homolog-associated protein 2 [MIM: 605438]) is another gene with a large number of significant CpGs (14 of 192 tested) associated with maternal smoking in our study. *DLGAP2*, also known as *SAPAP2*, belongs to a gene family that encodes SAP90/PSD95-associated proteins (SAPAPs), and is known to be involved in the molecular organization of synapses and in neuronal cell signaling.⁷⁰ *DLGAP2* was first identified in studies of progressive epilepsy with mental retardation (EPMR [MIM: 610003])⁷¹ and has been associated with other CNS disorders such as schizophrenia (SCZD [MIM: 181500])⁷² and autism spectrum disorders (ASD [MIM: 209850]).^{73,74} Differential methylation at this locus in a rat model appears to play a role in the development of post-traumatic stress disorder.⁷⁵

The neuropilin-2 (*NRP2* [MIM: 602070]) gene had three CpGs located in close proximity (among 48 tested) that were statistically significantly associated with maternal smoking during pregnancy. *NRP2* is one of two transmembrane receptors for axonal guidance cues of the class 3 semaphorin (SEMA) family and is expressed in sympathetic neural crest cells and their progeny.⁷⁶ It might also be required in vivo for sorting migrating cortical and striatal interneurons to their correct destination.⁷⁷ *NRP2* also functions as a receptor for some forms of vascular endothelial growth factor, thereby playing a crucial role in angiogenesis and lymphangiogenesis.⁷⁸ Polymorphisms in *NRP2* have been associated with several diseases, including autism⁷⁷ and multiple cancers.^{79–83}

Hypermethylation of *ESR1* (estrogen receptor 1 [MIM: 133430], a key nuclear transcription factor) on chromosome 6q25.1 is well-studied in relation to presence and prognosis of various malignancies such as breast cancer and hepatocellular carcinoma,^{84,85} as well as asthma.^{86,87} We found an inverse association between maternal smoking and methylation levels for seven out of the eight FDR-significant *ESR1* CpGs. *ESR1* hypomethylation has been reported in relation to induced microRNA expression (synthetic miR-29b oligonucleotides) in acute myeloid leukemia cells.⁸⁸

To evaluate possible functional gene expression effects of methylation at the CpGs that we found to be significantly related to maternal smoking, we analyzed data from two studies—one of adults and another of children

at age four years. Although on first pass, one might expect a higher proportion of the CpGs related to maternal smoking to also be related to gene expression, there are several factors that decrease the likelihood of seeing significant associations. Most importantly, the sample size for discovery of the methylation association with smoking was much larger than that of the datasets available to correlate gene expression and methylation (about 10-fold smaller for the adult gene expression dataset and about 60-fold smaller for the childhood dataset). In addition, gene expression in blood might be more transient than methylation, decreasing the ability to find significant associations with a single gene-expression measurement. Furthermore, constitutive gene expression is measured in this setting, whereas many genes are inducible and methylation might contribute to this process. Lastly, some in-utero-induced changes to methylation could have affected transcription during fetal development but not in postnatal life, and might have transcription-independent functional mechanisms. Nonetheless, we observed significant associations between methylation and gene expression at six genes in both the adults and the children. The majority of CpGs significantly associated with expression were in the commonly expected direction of methylation related to gene silencing. Notably, CpGs in *IL32* (Figure S9), a proinflammatory cytokine involved in several diseases such as asthma⁸⁹ and cancer,⁹⁰ *HOXB2*, a transcription factor involved in development⁹¹ and several cancer forms,⁹² and *PASK* (PAS domain containing serine/threonine kinase), involved in glucose homeostasis,⁹³ were significantly associated with expression in both datasets.

We analyzed the associations of CpGs with expression levels of genes within a region of 250 kb up- or downstream of the CpG. Consensus on the optimal physical distance for these analyses is lacking. However, in a recent study, associations between CpGs and SNPs were the strongest when within close proximity (500 kb) of the CpG.⁴⁸ Despite the limitations with the expression datasets included in our study, we believe that the transcriptomics data provide functional support for our maternal smoking findings.

In older children, all of the CpGs significantly associated with maternal smoking in newborns gave at least nominal levels of significance (p value < 0.05). This skew of the distribution of p values toward small values was much more than expected by chance (Kolmogorov p value $< 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$), demonstrating a very high level of replication and persistence of findings at birth into later childhood. This is consistent with and substantially extends a few previous reports.^{9,12} We had only very limited data with repeat measures in the same individuals so we could not meta-analyze change in methylation over time.

This inaugural paper from the PACE consortium represents a major effort to combine data from many studies in a large-scale meta-analysis of epigenome-wide association studies of maternal smoking in relation to methylation in newborns. We report at least an order of

magnitude more genes differentially methylated in response to maternal smoking than have been identified in any previous study. This suggests that meta-analysis in epigenome-wide association studies produces similar success to that of genome-wide association SNP studies in the identification of biologically meaningful loci. The similarity in the results obtained when using the raw betas compared to those obtained when using normalized betas generated with various methods indicates that cohort-specific processing methods do not interfere with the ability to perform meta-analysis.

We identified nearly 3,000 CpGs corresponding to genes differentially methylated in offspring in relation to whether their mothers smoked during pregnancy. Some of these genes have been implicated in genetic studies of orofacial clefts or asthma, both conditions related to maternal smoking in pregnancy, and others in the pathogenesis of cancers that are associated with adult smoking, including lung, colorectal (CRC [MIM: 114500]), and liver (HCC [MIM: 114550]).² We also find substantial persistence of effects of maternal smoking identified in newborns into later childhood. Our findings might implicate epigenetic mechanisms in the etiology of these exposure-disease relationships. This large-scale study also provides confirmation of previously reported loci, many of which have not been previously replicated. Pathway analysis highlights the involvement of identified genes in various developmental pathways, and functional effects at the transcriptomics level were observed for many of the identified CpGs. These findings could provide new insights into the mechanisms involved in the detrimental health outcomes that arise from this important in utero exposure.

Supplemental Data

Supplemental Data include a Supplemental Note, nine figures, and ten tables and can be found with this article online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ajhg.2016.02.019>.

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Web Resources

The URLs for data presented herein are as follows:

A Catalog of Published Genome-Wide Association Studies, National Human Genome Research Institute, <http://www.genome.gov/gwastudies>

Bioconductor, <http://www.bioconductor.org/>

Infinium HumanMethylation450K v1.2 Product Files, http://support.illumina.com/downloads/infinium_humanmethylation450_product_files.html

Ingenuity, www.ingenuity.com
 OMIM, <http://www.omim.org/>
 Snipper, <http://csg.sph.umich.edu/boehnke/snipper>
 The R Project for Statistical Computing, R v.3.0.2, <http://www.r-project.org/>
 UCSC Human Genome Browser, <http://hgdownload.soe.ucsc.edu/goldenPath/hg19/database/>

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Supplemental Data

DNA Methylation in Newborns and Maternal Smoking in Pregnancy: Genome-wide Consortium Meta-analysis

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Figure S1. Comparison of $-\log_{10}(p \text{ values})$ from the model evaluating the effect of sustained maternal smoking during pregnancy on methylation (primary model) to the same model additionally adjusted for cell type proportion indicated strongly correlated p values (correlation coefficient = 0.92 across all CpGs, 0.98 for the CpGs FDR significant in the primary model).

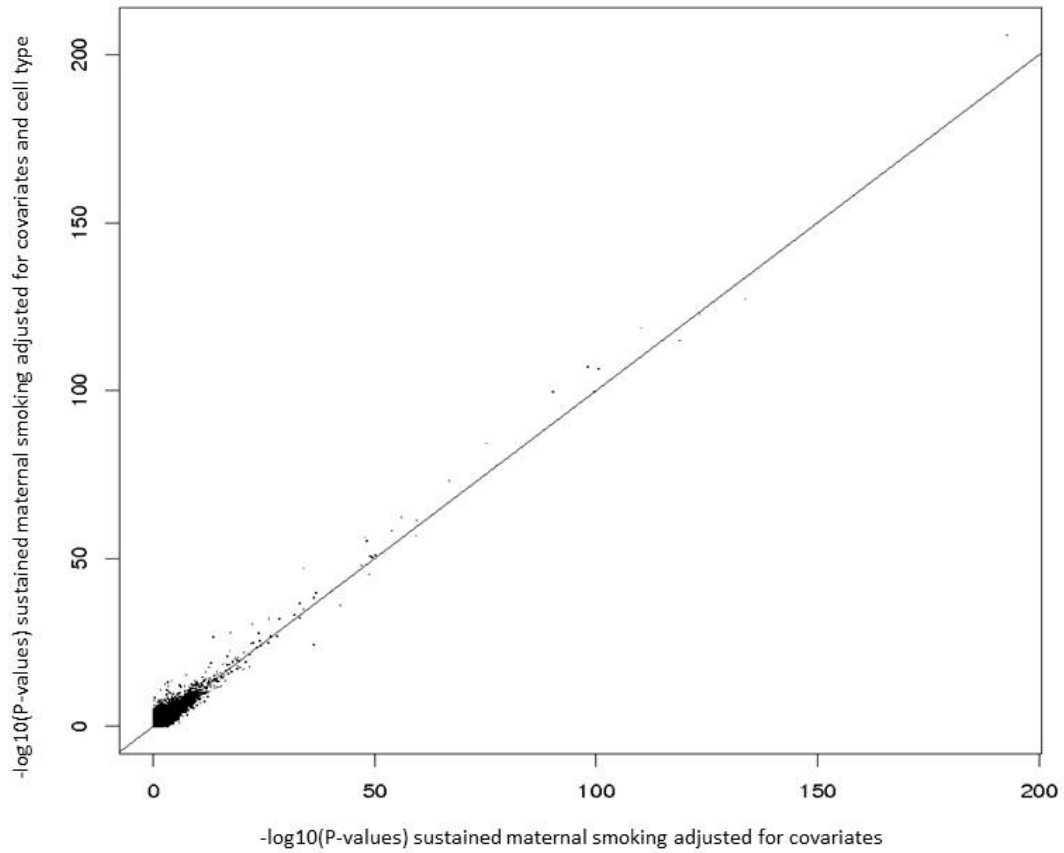


Figure S2. Top 15 statistically enriched gene ontology, biological processes, among genes differentially methylated with sustained smoke exposure. Enrichment was tested using Fisher's exact test and the topGO R package.

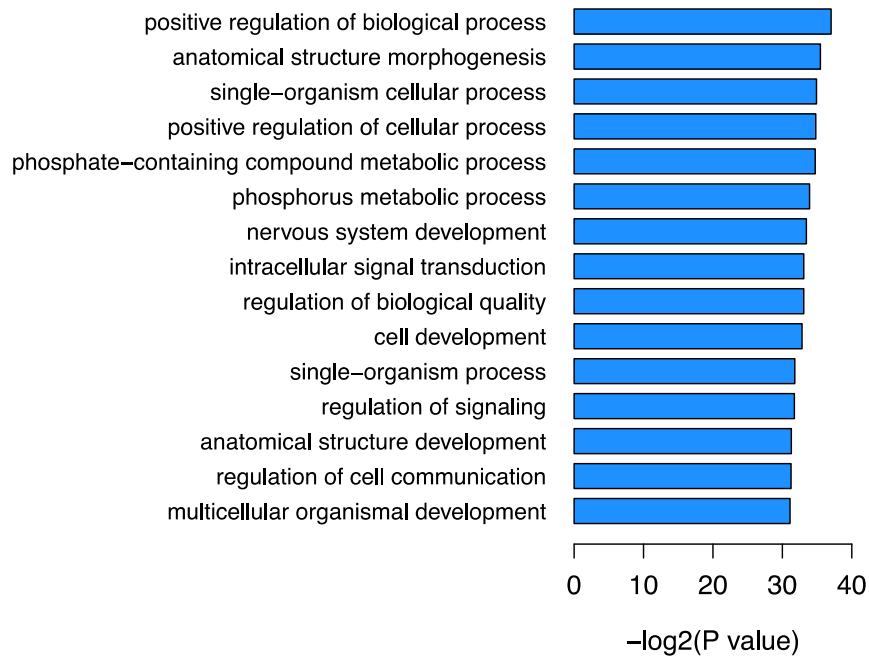


Figure S3. Enriched gene ontology biological processes reaching Benjamini-Hochberg threshold of 0.1, among genes differentially methylated with sustained smoke exposure. Enrichment was tested using the DAVID bioinformatics resource.

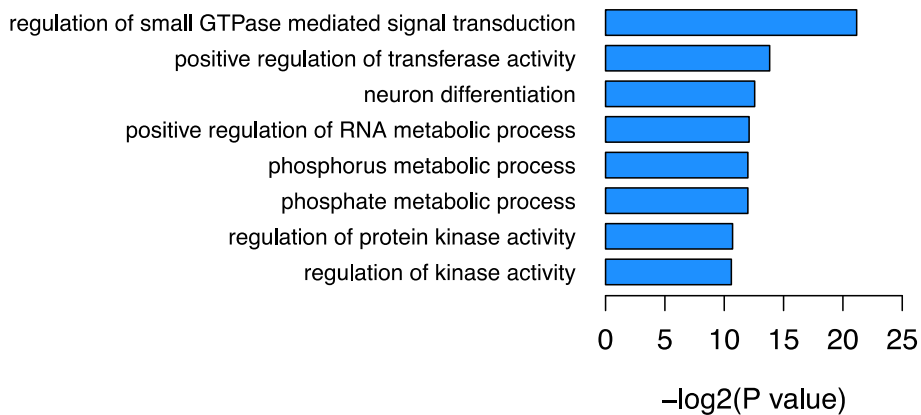


Figure S4. Top 15 statistically enriched diseases and biofunctions in genes differentially methylated with sustained smoke exposure. Enrichment was tested using Qiagen's IPA software.

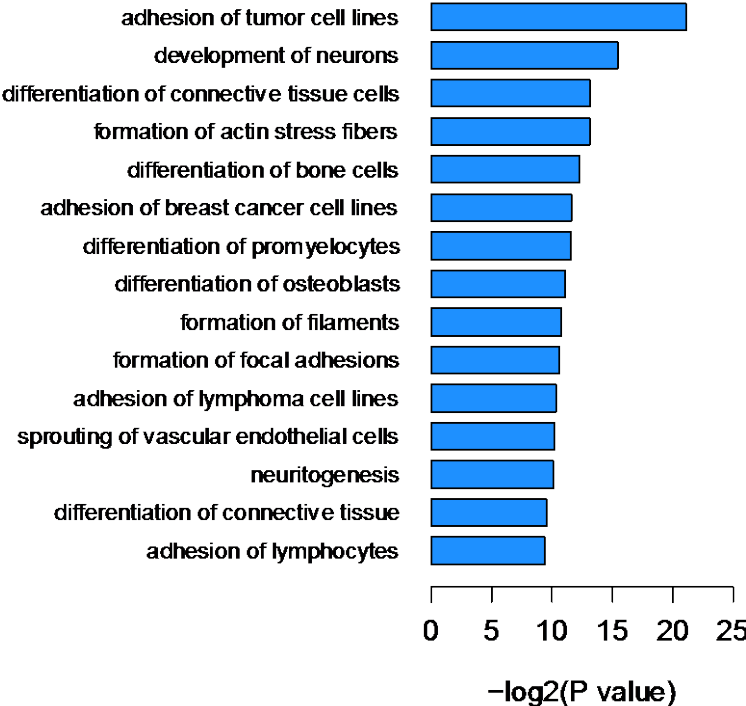


Figure S5. Meta-analysis of the association between any maternal smoking and DNA methylation in newborn cord blood. A total of 4,653 CpGs were considered statistically significant using FDR correction (solid horizontal line); 407 Bonferroni significant (dashed horizontal line).

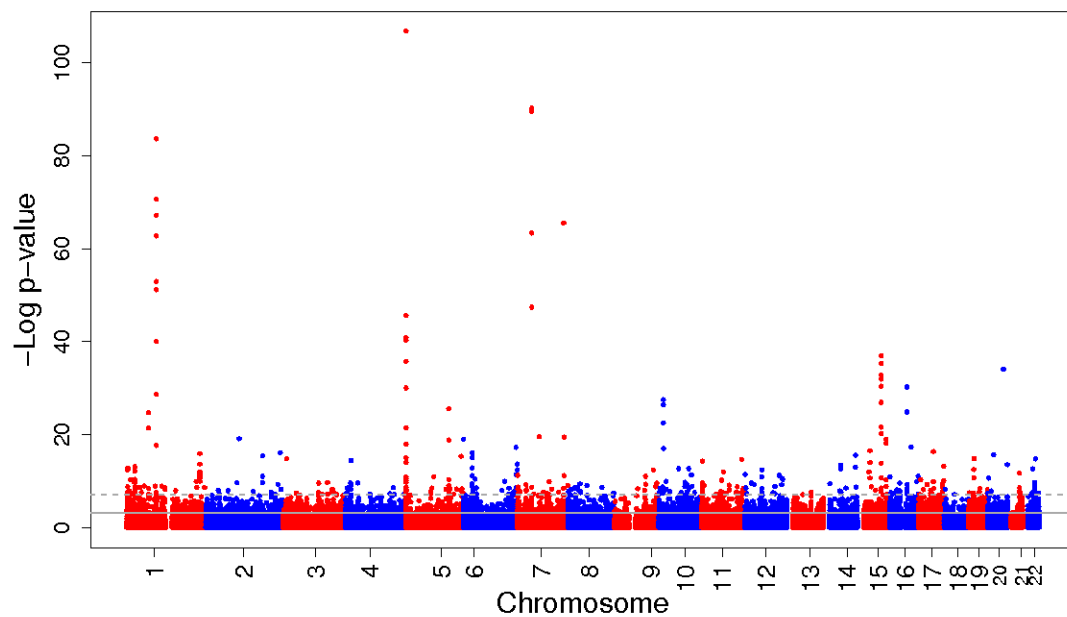


Figure S6. Comparison of $-\log_{10}(p \text{ values})$ from the model evaluating effect of sustained maternal smoking during pregnancy on methylation (primary model) with the model evaluating the effect of any maternal smoking during pregnancy on methylation (correlation coefficient = 0.68 across all CpGs, 0.96 across CpGs FDR significant in the primary model).

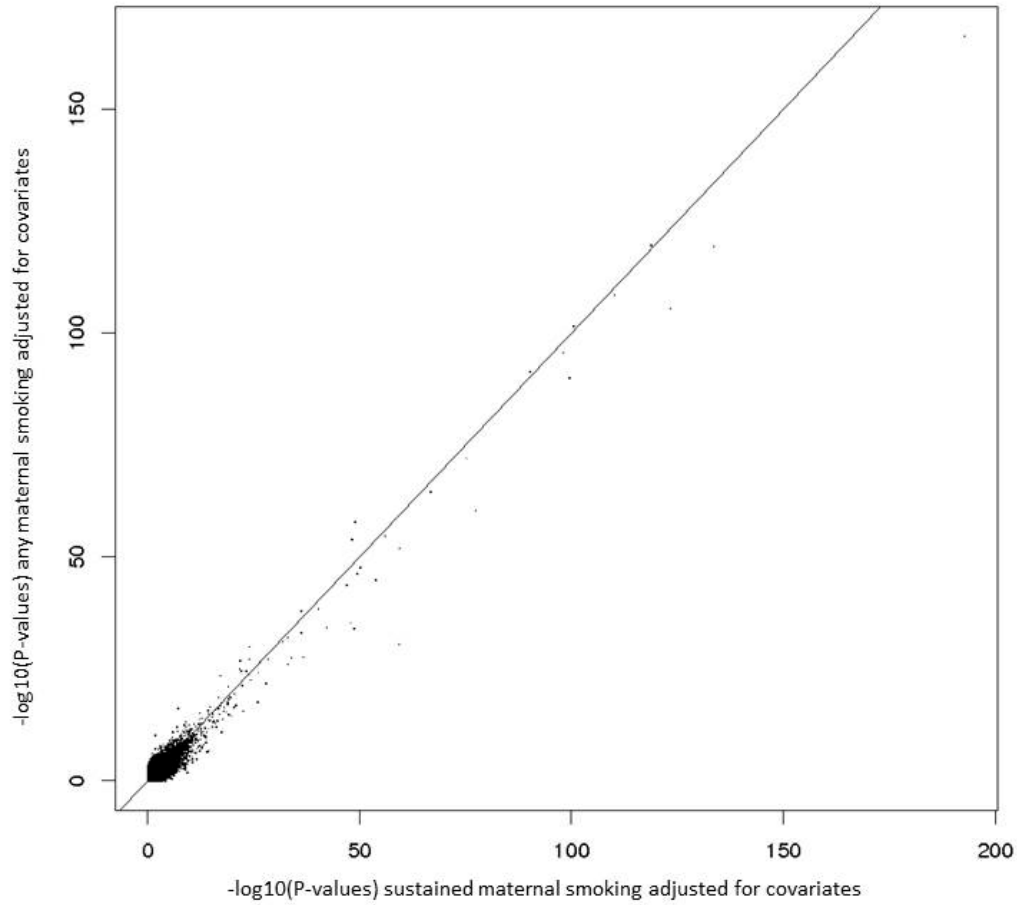


Figure S7. Meta-analysis results for the association between sustained maternal smoking during pregnancy and DNA methylation in newborn cord blood: CpGs in or near *BMP4*. Panel A: $-\log_{10}(P \text{ values})$ from the meta-analysis model, CpGs indicated by dots, color coded based on pairwise correlation with neighboring CpGs. Panel B: Annotation tracks for the plotted genomic region. Panel C: Pairwise correlation matrix across the displayed CpGs.

BMP4 methylation in newborns – sustained maternal smoking

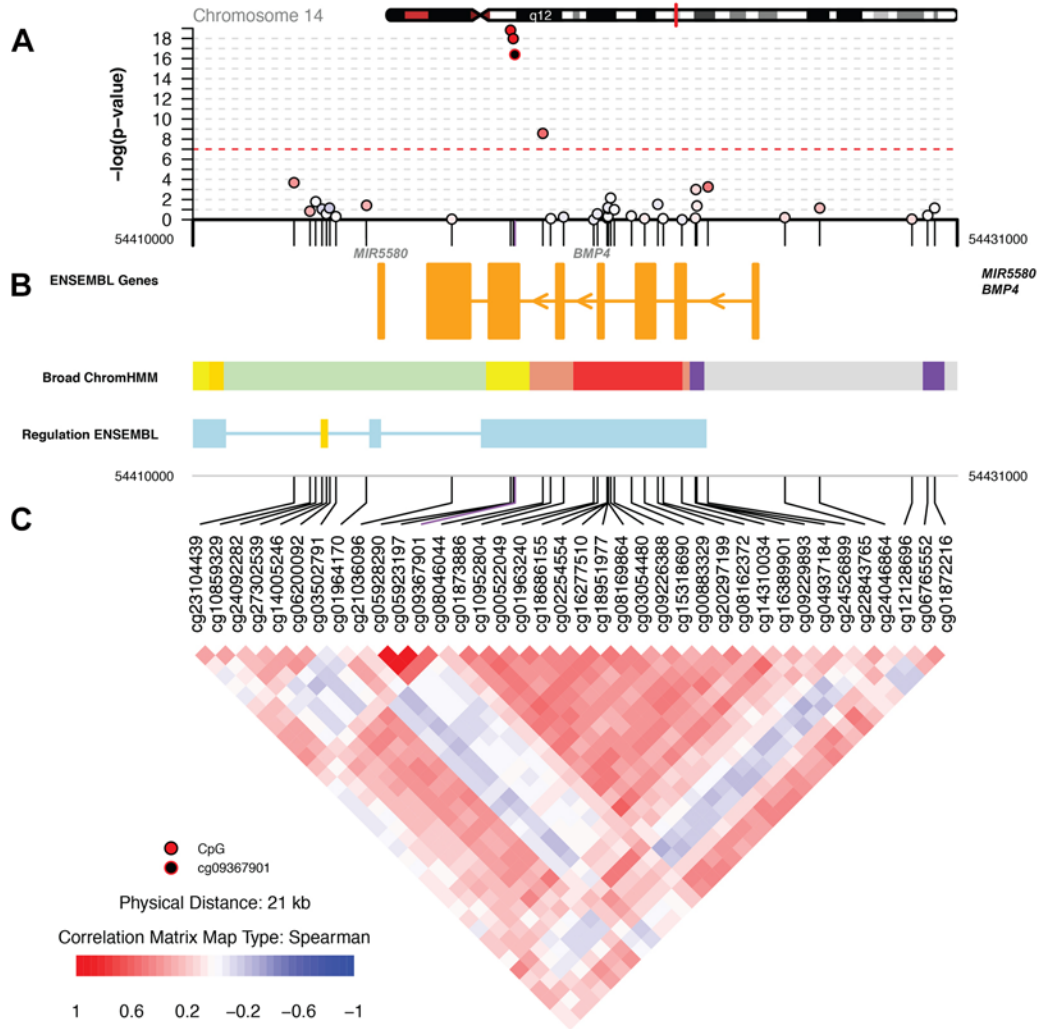


Figure S8. Meta-analysis results for the association between sustained maternal smoking during pregnancy and DNA methylation in newborn cord blood: CpGs in or near *BHMT2*. Panel A: $-\log_{10}(p\text{-value})$ from the meta-analysis model, CpGs indicated by dots, color coded based on pairwise correlation with neighboring CpGs. Panel B: Annotation tracks for the plotted genomic region. Panel C: Pairwise correlation matrix across the displayed CpGs.

BHMT2 methylation in newborns – sustained maternal smoking

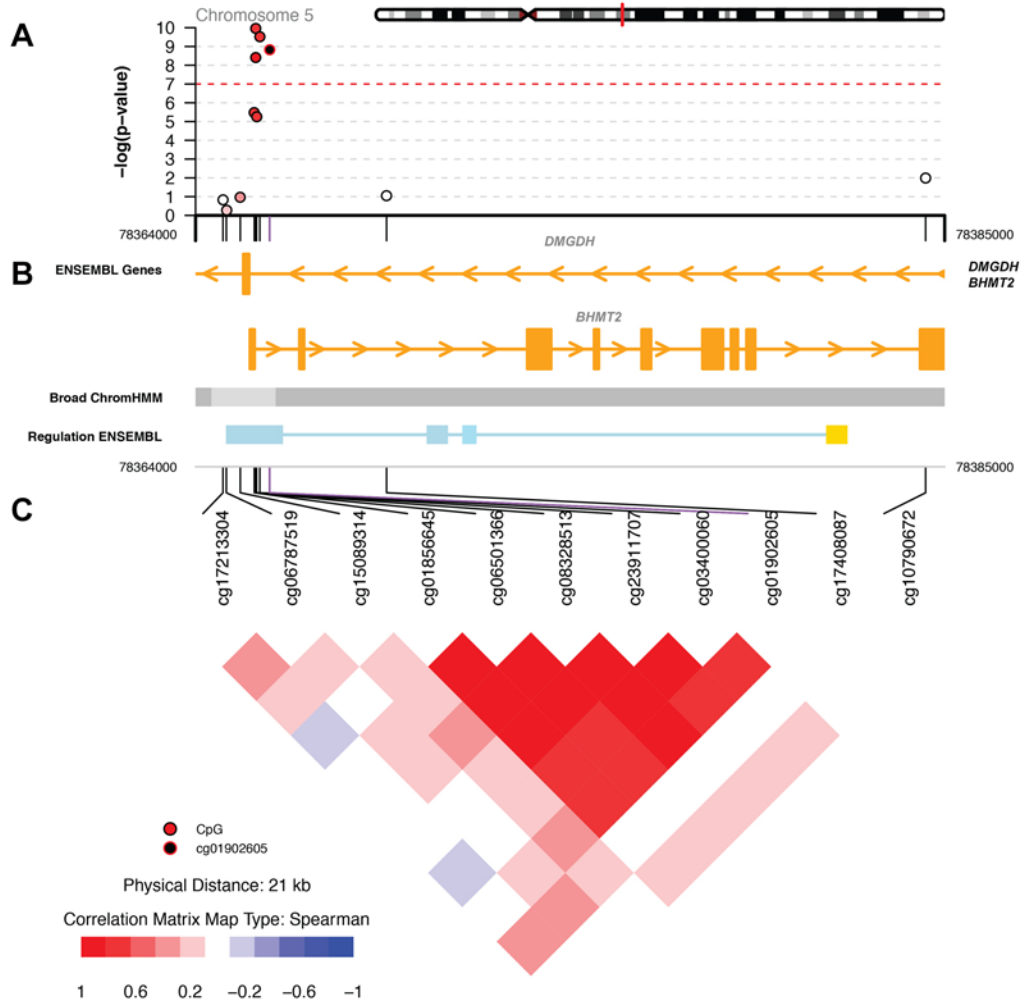


Figure S9. Meta-analysis results for the association between sustained maternal smoking during pregnancy and DNA methylation in newborn cord blood: CpGs in or near *IL32*. Panel A: $-\log_{10}(p\text{-value})$ from the meta-analysis model, CpGs indicated by dots, color coded based on pairwise correlation with neighboring CpGs. Panel B: Annotation tracks for the plotted genomic region. Panel C: Pairwise correlation matrix across the displayed CpGs.

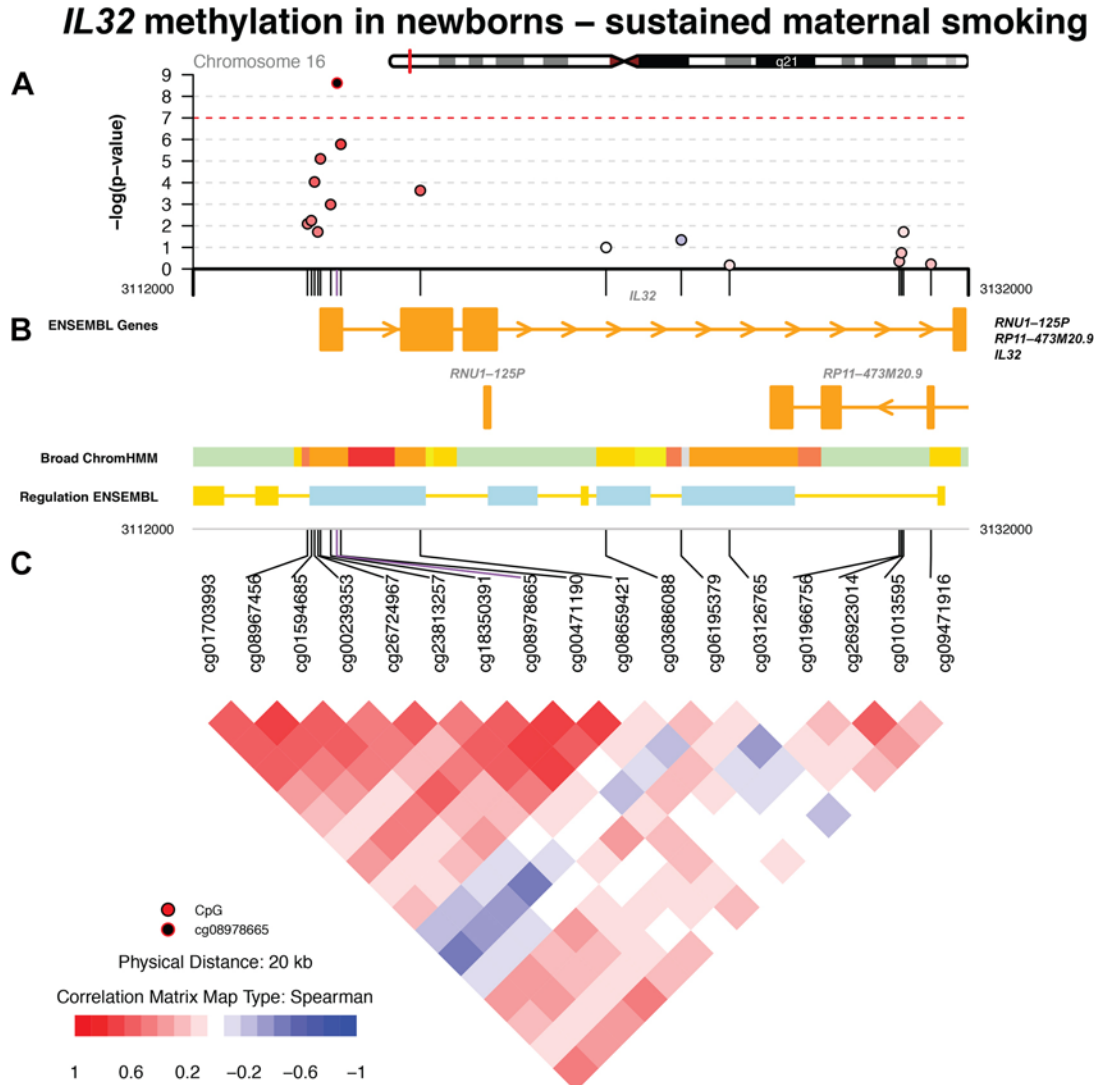


Table S1. Cohort-specific covariate frequencies

Cohort	Study population	Ancestry (%)	Maternal age (years) Mean (SD)	Maternal education N (%)				Parity N (%)			
				Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	0	1	2	3 or more
ALSPAC	newborns	European	30.0 (4.4)	141 (16.4)	293 (34.1)	248 (28.8)	178 (20.7)	408 (47.4)	311 (36.2)	109 (12.7%)	32 (3.7)
CHAMACOS	newborns	Mexican-American	25.2 (5.0)	301 (79.6)	44 (11.6)	31 (8.2)	2 (0.5)	135 (35.7)	109 (28.8)	80 (21.2)	54 (14.3)
CHS	newborns	European	29.3 (5.8)	9 (11.4)	11 (13.9)	36 (32.9)	23 (21.9)	25 (29.4)	31 (36.5)	23 (27.1)	6 (7.1)
GECKO	newborns	European	30.3 (0.26)	175 (68.6)	80 (31.4)	-	-	87 (34.1)	116 (45.5)	40 (15.7)	12 (4.7)
Generation R	newborns	European	31.5 (4.2)	19 (2.2)	301 (34.1)	226 (25.7)	333 (37.9)	525 (59.5)	274 (31.0)	72 (8.2)	12 (1.4)
IOW	newborns	European	21.42 (1.31)	2 (2.2)	32 (35.5)	24 (26.6)	32 (35.5)	50 (55.5)	28 (31.1)	7 (8.0)	2 (2.0)
MeDALL	newborns	European	30.7 (4.6)	59 (16.3)	183 (50.6)	108 (29.8)	-	177 (48.9)	161 (44.5)	12 (3.3)	1 (2.7)
MOBA1	newborns	European	29.9 (4.3)	78 (7.3)	344 (32.4)	471 (44.3)	170 (16.0)	434 (40.8)	435 (40.9)	138 (13.0)	56 (5.3)
MOBA2	newborns	European	30.0 (4.5)	54 (8.0)	224 (33.4)	269 (40.1)	124 (18.5)	275 (41.0)	230 (34.3)	137 (20.4)	29 (4.3)
MOBA3	newborns	European	29.8 (4.4)	21 (10.1)	43 (20.8)	104 (50.2)	39 (18.8)	105 (50.7)	68 (32.9)	25 (12.1)	9 (4.3)
NFCS	newborns	European	29.6 (4.9)	118 (13.3)	421 (47.4)	299 (33.6)	51 (5.7)	367 (41.3)	311 (35.0)	156 (17.6)	55 (6.2)
NEST	newborns	European (49) African American (45) Other (6)	28.9 (6.4)	47 (11.2)	92 (21.9)	115 (27.4)	166 (39.5)	136 (32.9)	135 (32.6)	83 (20.0)	60 (14.5)
Project Viva	newborns	European (71) African American (12) Hispanic (8) Asian (5) Other (5)	32.1 (5.3)	11 (2.3)	33 (6.8)	119 (24.5)	322 (66.4)	225 (46.4)	177 (36.5)	59 (12.2)	24 (4.9)
ALSPAC	older children	European	30.2 (4.3)	123 (14.6)	291 (34.6)	249 (29.6)	177 (21.1)	389 (46.3)	313 (37.3)	106 (12.6)	32 (3.8)
BAMSE	older children	European	30.8 (4.3)	28 (8.5)	82 (24.8)	102 (30.7)	119 (36)	185 (55.9)	106 (32.0)	40 (12.1)	-
GALA II	older children	Mexican (49) Puerto Rican (38) Other Latino (14)	25.3 (6.3)	223 (39.2)	153 (26.9)	119 (20.9)	69 (12.1)	270 (47.5)	162 (28.5)	83 (14.6)	54 (9.5)
MeDALL	older children	European	30.8 (4.3)	197 (23.1)	340 (40.0)	301 (35.4)	-	430 (50.5)	347 (40.8)	52 (6.1)	11 (1.2)
SEED	older children	European (58) African American (12) Other (30)	36.6 (5.3)	23 (3.9)	60 (10.3)	155 (26.5)	346 (59.2)	-	-	-	-

^a Frequencies for categories displayed for descriptive purposes. Some cohorts collapsed covariate categories in statistical models to accommodate small sample size. Maternal education categories were standardized to capture European and North American education systems (Level 1: less than secondary school; Level 2: secondary school completion; Level 3: some college or university; Level 4: college degree or more). A few studies had insufficient data for some covariates or specific categories, indicated with “-.”

Table S2. Cohort and model-specific lambdas and probe number

Study	Study Population	Lambda Values				Number of probes	
		Sustained smoking, raw betas	Sustained smoking, normalized betas	Any smoking, raw betas	Any smoking, normalized betas	Raw betas	Normalized betas
ALSPAC	newborns	1.66	1.09	1.80	1.03	485,512	485,512
CHAMACOS	newborns	NA	NA	1.05	1.00	435,369	435,369
CHS	newborns	NA	NA	2.27	1.41	383,857	482,650
GECKO	newborns	0.93	1.02	1.08	1.24	465,891	465,891
Generation R	newborns	1.43	1.56	1.96	1.78	436,013	436,010
IOW	newborns	NA	NA	4.44	0.83	485,577	343,203
MeDALL	newborns	0.84	1.16	1.04	1.54	485,512	439,306
MOBA1	newborns	1.31	1.27	1.31	1.07	473,844	473,844
MOBA2	newborns	1.48	0.81	1.16	1.33	473,748	473,748
MOBA3	newborns	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.29	466,629	466,629
NFCS	newborns	1.16	1.16	0.98	1.13	483,859	485,577
NEST	newborns	1.06	1.06	1.15	1.15	469,119	469,119
Project Viva	newborns	NA	NA	2.31	1.35	464,952	464,952
Meta-Analysis	newborns	2.16	1.47	2.96	1.36	464,696	464,628
ALSPAC	older children	-	0.79	-	-	-	485,512
BAMSE	older children	-	0.96	-	-	-	438,713
GALA II	older children	-	0.89	-	-	-	321,503
MeDALL	older children	-	0.94	-	-	-	439,306
SEED	older children	-	1.07	-	-	-	485,512
Meta-Analysis	older children	-	0.90	-	-	-	464,696

^a Sustained smoking refers to models evaluating sustained maternal smoking during pregnancy as the exposure; any smoking refers to models evaluating any smoking by the mother during pregnancy as the exposure. Raw betas represent methylation values after quality control that were not normalized or subjected to additional data processing. Normalized betas represent methylation values after quality control that were normalized and/or processed according to cohort-specific protocols described in the Supplemental Methods. NA values indicate the model was not run for that cohort due to having less than 15 exposed subjects.

Table S4. Studies identified in literature review reporting statistically significant associations between smoking (maternal/personal) exposure and DNA methylation, after correction for multiple testing (FDR or Bonferroni)

First author	Year	Exposure	PMID
Breitling	2011	Adult smoking	21457905
Philibert	2012	Adult smoking	23070629
Siedlinski	2012	Adult smoking	22617718
Wan	2012	Adult smoking	22492999
Philibert	2013	Adult smoking	24120260
Zeilinger	2013	Adult smoking	23691101
Sun	2013	Adult smoking	23657504
Shenker	2013	Adult smoking	23175441
Dogan	2014	Adult smoking	24559495
Elliot	2014	Adult smoking	24485148
Besingi	2014	Adult smoking	24334605
Philibert	2014	Adult smoking	24120261
Tsaprouni	2014	Adult smoking	25424692
Wan	2014	Adult smoking	25517428
Zaghlool	2015	Adult smoking	25663950
Flanagan	2015	Adult smoking	25371448
Guida	2015	Adult smoking	25556184
Joubert	2012	Maternal smoking	22851337
Breton	2014	Maternal smoking	24964093
Markunas	2014	Maternal smoking	24906187
Harlid	2014	Maternal smoking	24704585
Lee	2014	Maternal smoking	25325234
Chhabra	2014	Maternal smoking	25482056
Maccani	2014	Maternal smoking	24283877
Richmond	2014	Maternal smoking	25552657
Ivorra	2015	Maternal smoking	25623364

Table S7. Probes flagged as potentially polymorphic or cross-reactive* among the 6,073 genome wide significant CpGs differentially methylated in newborn DNA in relation to maternal smoking

Chromosome	Position	CpG	Mapped Gene	Nearest Gene (10 Mb)	Diptest p value
1	156161651	cg24849049	-	<i>SLC25A44</i>	0.995
2	9471179	cg06627617	<i>ASAP2</i>	<i>ASAP2</i>	0.990
3	158465384	cg16757990	-	<i>RARRES1</i>	0.986
3	159563158	cg12847013	<i>SCHIP1</i>	<i>IQCJ-SCHIP1</i>	0.997
5	79549315	cg16518115	<i>SERINC5</i>	<i>SERINC5</i>	0.995
6	30095517	cg20999347	-	<i>TRIM40</i>	0.995
6	31804172	cg11931646	<i>C6orf48;SNORD52</i>	<i>C6orf48</i>	0.964
10	44231015	cg19730699	-	<i>HNRNPA3P1</i>	0.001
10	105219172	cg00453258	<i>CALHM1</i>	<i>CALHM1</i>	0.098
11	910094	cg07066326	<i>CHID1</i>	<i>CHID1</i>	0.730
11	2846932	cg17416793	<i>KCNQ1</i>	<i>KCNQ1</i>	0.913
11	124791601	cg09176023	<i>HEPACAM</i>	<i>HEPACAM</i>	0.719
12	20576950	cg03618302	<i>PDE3A</i>	<i>PDE3A</i>	0.990
14	104758477	cg20279254	-	<i>KIF26A</i>	0.908
16	1584118	cg08296037	<i>IFT140;TMEM204</i>	<i>IFT140</i>	0.991
17	14106800	cg13619177	<i>COX10</i>	<i>COX10</i>	0.984
17	74069256	cg21885995	<i>SRP68</i>	<i>SRP68</i>	0.991
18	32824104	cg23785882	<i>ZNF397</i>	<i>ZNF397</i>	0.979
19	58086380	cg23012294	<i>ZNF416</i>	<i>ZNF416</i>	0.759

^a As identified by Chen et al. Discovery of cross-reactive probes and polymorphic CpGs in the Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation450 microarray. *Epigenetics* **8**, 203-9 (2013). Column headers: Mapped gene represents UCSC RefGene from Illumina annotation; Nearest Gene captures genes within 10 Mb using snipper software for annotation; Diptest p value computed using the diptest to evaluate variation from unimodality. Visual inspection of CpGs resulted in the above list of flags based on potential outlier values.

Supplemental Note

Cohort-specific methods; cohorts listed in alphabetical order

ALSPAC

ALSPAC design and study population

ALSPAC is a large, prospective cohort study based in the South West of England. 14,541 pregnant women resident in Avon, UK with expected dates of delivery 1st April 1991 to 31st December 1992 were recruited and detailed information has been collected on these women and their offspring at regular intervals.^{1,2} The study website contains details of all the data that is available through a fully searchable data dictionary (<http://www.bris.ac.uk/alspac/researchers/data-access/data-dictionary/>).

As part of the ARIES (Accessible Resource for Integrated Epigenomic Studies, <http://www.ariesepigenomics.org.uk/>) project, the Infinium HM450 BeadChip has been used to generate epigenetic data on 1,018 mother-offspring pairs in the ALSPAC cohort. The ARIES participants were selected based on availability of DNA samples at two time points for the mother (antenatal and at follow-up when the offspring were adolescents) and three time points for the offspring (neonatal, childhood (age 7) and adolescence (age 17)). DNA methylation data for cord blood in the neonates and peripheral blood in the children at age 7 were included in this analysis. Written informed consent has been obtained for all ALSPAC participants. Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the ALSPAC Ethics and Law Committee and the Local Research Ethics Committees.

ALSPAC maternal smoking variables

Information on mothers' smoking status during pregnancy was obtained in questionnaires administered at 18 and 32 weeks gestation. Information was obtained about whether the mother smoked in each trimester of pregnancy and the number of cigarettes smoked on average per day. From these data, a dichotomous variable for sustained maternal smoking during pregnancy was derived. A mother was classified as a sustained smoker if she smoked in all three trimesters, smoked in the first and third trimester but not the second, or smoked in the second and third trimesters but not the first. The reference group consisted of mothers who had reported not smoking in all three trimesters. We excluded all individuals who smoked in one trimester only (i.e. not sustained) or who had missing information of smoking for

two or more trimesters. Of those with missing information on one trimester, women were classified as a sustained smoker if they said they smoked in the other two trimesters.

Another dichotomous variable for any maternal smoking during pregnancy was derived. Any smoking was defined based on reported smoking in any of the three trimesters. The reference group considered of mothers who had reported not smoking in all three trimesters.

ALSPAC methylation measurements

Cord blood and peripheral blood samples (whole blood, buffy coats or blood spots) were collected according to standard procedures. The DNA methylation wet-lab and pre-processing analyses were performed at the University of Bristol as part of the ARIES project. Following extraction, DNA was bisulphite-converted using the Zymo EZ DNA Methylation™ kit (Zymo, Irvine, CA). Following conversion, genome-wide methylation status of over 485,000 CpG sites was measured using the Infinium HM450 BeadChip according to the standard protocol. The arrays were scanned using an Illumina iScan and initial quality review was assessed using GenomeStudio (version 2011.1). Samples from all time points in ARIES were distributed across slides using a semi-random approach (sampling criteria were in place to ensure that all time points were represented on each array) to minimise the possibility of confounding by batch effects. In addition, during the data generation process, a wide range of batch variables were recorded in a purpose-built laboratory information management system (LIMS). The main batch variable was found to be the bisulphite conversion (BCD) plate number. Samples were converted in batches of 48 samples and each batch identified by a plate number. The LIMS also reported quality control (QC) metrics from the standard control probes on the 450K BeadChip for each sample. Samples failing QC (average probe p value ≥ 0.01) were repeated and if unsuccessful excluded from further analysis. As an additional QC step genotype probes were compared with SNP-chip data from the same individual to identify and remove any sample mismatches. For individuals with no genome-wide SNP data, samples were flagged if there was a sex-mismatch based on X-chromosome methylation.

For the secondary model, methylation data were pre-processed using R (version 3.0.1), with background correction and subset quantile normalization performed using the pipeline described by Touleimat and Tost.³ All 485,512 probes were included in this analysis.

ALSPAC covariates

Maternal age at delivery was derived from date of birth, which was recorded at that time. This was categorized in 0-24, 25-29 or 30+ years. Mother's parity and her highest educational

qualification were recorded in a questionnaire completed during pregnancy. Parity was categorized into 0, 1, 2 or 3+ previous offspring. Maternal education was collapsed into one of four categories: vocational/CSE (the lower level of national school exams at age 16), O-level (the higher level of national school exams at age 16), A-level (national school exams at age 18) or university degree. Analyses were additionally adjusted for batch effects by adding bisulfite conversion (BC) run date as a covariate.

BAMSE

BAMSE design and study population

BAMSE is a prospective population-based cohort study of children recruited at birth and followed during childhood and adolescence. Details of the study design, inclusion criteria, enrollment and data collection are described elsewhere.⁴ In short, 4,089 children born between 1994 and 1996 in four municipalities of Stockholm County, Sweden were enrolled. At baseline, when the infant was approximately 2 months of age, parents completed a questionnaire that assessed residential characteristics, as well as socioeconomic and lifestyle factors, including parental smoking habits. When children were 1, 2, 4, 8 years, the parents completed questionnaires focusing on children's symptoms related to wheezing and allergic diseases, as well as various exposures. The survey response rates were 96%, 94%, 91%, and 84%, respectively. Furthermore, blood was obtained from 2,614 (64%) and 2,480 (61%) of the children at the age of 4 and 8 years, respectively. The baseline and follow-up studies were approved by the Regional Ethical Review Board, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, and the parents of all participating children provided informed consent.

BAMSE maternal smoking variables

Maternal smoking during pregnancy was assessed by questionnaire at the time of recruitment (at a median age of the children of 2 months). Sustained smoking in pregnancy was defined as maternal daily smoking of one cigarette or more during each trimester of pregnancy reported. Those smoking early in pregnancy and having missing information for later in pregnancy were classified as a sustained smoker. Those who smoked in trimester 1, did not smoke in trimester 2 but took it up again in trimester 3 were designated as a sustained smoker. Women who smoked in pregnancy but quit during the pregnancy or those started to smoke only in the 3rd trimester were excluded. Reference category included women who did not smoke

during pregnancy. Any smoking was defined as smoking at least one cigarette per day at any time during the pregnancy.

BAMSE methylation measurements

Epigenome-wide DNA methylation was measured in 472 Caucasian children, using DNA extracted from blood samples collected at the age of 8 years. 500 ng DNA per sample underwent bisulfite conversion using the EZ-96 DNA Methylation kit (Shallow) (Zymo Research Corporation, Irvine, USA). Samples were plated onto 96-well plates in randomized order. Samples were processed with the Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation450 BeadChip (Illumina Inc., San Diego, USA).

Quality control of analyzed samples was performed using standardized criteria. Samples were excluded in case of sample call rate <99%, colour balance >3, low staining efficiency, poor extension efficiency, poor hybridization performance, low stripping efficiency after extension and poor bisulfite conversion. We also applied multidimensional scaling (MDS) plot to evaluate gender outliers based on chromosome X data that produced two separated clusters for male and female. We omitted five samples that do not belong to the distinct cluster. Furthermore, we applied median intensity plot for methylated and unmethylated intensity by using the minfi R package (three samples below the 10.5 cutoff were excluded). All criteria described above led to exclusion of 8 samples. In addition, 89 samples were removed as these were already included in the MeDALL cohorts' sample, leaving a total of 375 samples in the analysis.

Probes with a single nucleotide polymorphism in the single base extension site with a frequency of > 5% were excluded,⁵ as were probes with non-optimal binding (non-mapping or mapping multiple times to either the normal or the bisulphite-converted genome), and the probes belonging to chrX and chrY, resulting in the exclusion of 46,799 probes, leaving a total of 438,713 probes in the analysis.

Furthermore, we implemented "DASEN" recommended from watermelon package to do signal correction and normalization.⁶

BAMSE covariates

Information on parity was collected from the Birth Registry and was categorized into 0, 1 and ≥ 2 . Maternal age and maternal education information were collected from a questionnaire administered at enrollment. Maternal age was used as a continuous covariate and maternal education was categorized into < high school, high school, some college, and ≥ 4 years of college. Ever doctor's diagnosis of asthma was considered to be a selection factor and

information was collected from questionnaires at 1, 2, 4, and 8 years of age in the children. Environmental tobacco smoke exposure at 8 years was evaluated by asking whether someone in the home smoked using questionnaires. The covariate batch was also accounted for in analysis models based on the bisulfite treatment date (6 categories).

CHAMACOS

CHAMACOS design and study population

The Center for the Health Assessment of Mothers and Children of Salinas (CHAMACOS) study is a longitudinal birth cohort study of the effects of exposure to pesticides and environmental chemicals on the health and development of Mexican-American children living in the agricultural region of Salinas Valley, CA. Detailed description of the CHAMACOS cohort has previously been published.^{7,8} Briefly, 601 pregnant women were enrolled in 1999-2000 at community clinics and 527 liveborn singletons were born. Follow up visits occurred at regular intervals throughout childhood. Study protocols were approved by the University of California, Berkeley Committee for Protection of Human Subjects and written informed consent was obtained from all mothers.

CHAMACOS maternal smoking variables

Information on maternal smoking status was obtained through participant interview at baseline (~13 weeks gestation), follow up interview (~26 weeks gestation), and delivery. Subjects were considered sustained smokers if they indicated they had smoked since baseline during either follow up interview, or 'any' smokers if they reported having smoked at any of the three visits. However, if smoking was reported at baseline but not at follow up interview or delivery, participants were considered to have quit. Participants were designated as exposed to secondhand smoke if they weren't active smokers but reported living with a smoker during pregnancy or delivery interview.

CHAMACOS methylation measurements

DNA methylation was measured in DNA isolated from the cord blood of 378 CHAMACOS newborns by Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation450 (450K) BeadChips. DNA samples were bisulfite converted using Zymo Bisulfite Conversion Kits (Zymo Research, Irvine, CA), whole genome amplified, enzymatically fragmented, purified, and applied to the 450K BeadChips (Illumina, San Diego, CA) according to manufacturer protocol. 450K BeadChips

were handled by robotics and analyzed using the Illumina Hi-Scan system. DNA methylation was measured at 485,512 CpG sites.

Probe signal intensities were extracted by Illumina GenomeStudio software (version XXV2011.1, Methylation Module 1.9) methylation module and background subtracted. QA/QC was performed systematically by assessment of assay repeatability batch effects using 38 technical replicates, and data quality established as previously described.⁹ Quality was also ensured by only retaining samples where 95% of sites assayed had detection $P > 0.01$. The same threshold (95% detection at $p > 0.01$) was imposed to CpGs as well ($n = 460$ removed). Sites with annotated probe SNPs and with common SNPs (minor allele frequency $> 5\%$) within 50bp of the target identified in the MXL (Mexican ancestry in Los Angeles, California) HapMap population were excluded from analysis ($n = 49,748$). This left a total of 435,369 CpGs in the analysis. In the secondary model, color channel bias, batch effects and difference in Infinium chemistry were minimized by application of ASMN algorithm,⁹ followed by BMIQ normalization.¹⁰

CHAMACOS covariates

Maternal age, parity and education were assessed by participant interview at baseline visit (~13 weeks gestation). Maternal age was treated as a continuous variable. Parity was coded as a binary variable, with 0 as the baseline and ≥ 1 as the alternative. Maternal education was also treated as a binary categorical variable, with subjects either reporting less than a high school degree or having completed high school education or beyond. Analysis was also adjusted for batch effects by including 450K plate ($n = 10$) as additional covariates.

CHS

CHS design and study population

The Children's Health Study (CHS) is a population-based prospective cohort study from age 5 onwards in Southern California, which has been described in detail elsewhere.¹¹ The study protocol was approved by the University of Southern California Institutional Review Board and informed, written consent and assent were provided by the parents and children respectively. A total of 5,341 children were recruited, all of whom were born between 1995 and 1997 and are currently being followed until age 18.

CHS maternal smoking variables

Assessment of prenatal tobacco smoke exposure was based on parent/guardian written responses on a self-administered questionnaire. Prenatal smoke exposure was defined as an affirmative answer to the following question: “Did your child’s biologic mother smoke while she was pregnant with your child (include time when she was pregnant but did not yet know that she was)?”

CHS methylation measurements

Epigenome-wide DNA methylation was measured in 85 Hispanic and non-Hispanic white children, using DNA extracted from newborn bloodspots archived by the state of California. Laboratory personnel performing DNA methylation analysis were blinded to study subject information. DNA was extracted from whole blood cells using the QiaAmp DNA blood kit (Qiagen Inc, Valencia, CA) and stored at -80 degrees Celcius. 700-1000ng of genomic DNA from each sample was treated with bisulfite using the EZ-96 DNA Methylation Kit™ (Zymo Research, Irvine, CA, USA), according to the manufacturer’s recommended protocol and eluted in 18 ul. The results of the Infinium HumanMethylation450 BeadChip (HM450) were compiled for each locus as previously described and were reported as beta (β) values.¹²

Quality control of analyzed samples was performed using standardized criteria. Samples were excluded in case of sample call rate <99% or mismatched sex, leading to exclusion of 3 subjects.

CpG loci on the HM450 array were removed from analyses if they were on the X and Y chromosomes, or if they contained SNPs, deletions, repeats, or if they have more than 10% missing values. Data were processed in the methylumi package in R, after which a normal exponential background correction was applied to the raw intensities at the array level to reduce background noise.¹³ We then normalized each sample’s methylation values to have the same quantiles to address sample to sample variability.¹⁴ Beta-values were calculated for all CpG sites.

CHS covariates

Information on maternal age, parity and maternal education was collected by questionnaire at enrollment. Maternal age was used as a continuous covariate. Parity was categorized into 0 or ≥ 1 (*note, this collapsed categorical variable was to aid convergence issues for the cohort*). Maternal education was categorized into lower (none, primary or secondary education) and higher (more than secondary education). Ancestry (European,

African, and Asian) was measured using ancestry informative markers (AIMS) SNPs and included as an additional covariate.

GALA II

GALA II design and study population

The Genes-environments & Admixture in Latino Americans (GALA II) study is a case-control study initiated in 2008 designed to investigate genetic, behavioral, social, and environmental determinants of asthma risk and morbidity among children aged 8-21 years, as previously described in detail.¹⁵⁻¹⁷ The study used identical protocols to recruit nearly 5,000 Latinos (age 8-21) from 5 recruitment centers across the US (San Francisco Bay area; Houston, TX; Chicago, IL; New York, NY; and Puerto Rico). The study was approved by each of the five sites' institutional review boards, and all subjects provided informed consent/assent.

GALA II maternal smoking variables

Maternal smoking during pregnancy was assessed by self-report at time of subject recruitment. The child's parent or caregiver was asked, "Did [child's] mother smoke while she was pregnant with child?" Mothers who reported to have not smoked during pregnancy were considered the reference group of non-smokers. If the parent or caregiver responded affirmatively, a follow-up question was asked: "During which trimesters?" to which respondents could answer "Yes", "No", or "Don't know" to each of the three trimesters of pregnancy. Mothers who smoked for 1 or 2 trimesters were defined as having smoked during pregnancy but quit during pregnancy. Mothers who reported to have smoked for all three trimesters were considered sustained smokers.

GALA II methylation measurements

After examining DNA from 576 subjects for complete bisulfite conversion of DNA (Zymo Research, Irvine, CA), we randomized the samples onto the Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation450 BeadChip (Illumina Inc., San Diego, USA). Raw genome-wide methylation data were loaded in the R¹⁸ package minfi¹⁹ and assessed for basic quality control metrics, including determination of poorly performing probes with insignificant detection p values above background control probes (i.e., detection p value >0.01). Probes with a single nucleotide polymorphism in the single base extension site were excluded. Since our study

population included both males and females, we also removed the X and Y chromosomes from the raw methylation values. A total of 321,509 methylation loci were included for analysis.

We corrected for batch (microarray chip) effect using the ComBat function in the R package SVA (surrogate variable analysis)²⁰ and performed SWAN normalization to correct for intra-array differences between Illumina Type I and Type II probes.^{21,22} A total of 569 samples passed quality control metrics and were included in the analysis.

GALA II covariates

Since GALA II was designed as a case-control study of asthma (i.e., subject enrollment was stratified by asthma status) of children and young adults age 8-21, we included asthma status, sex, and child's age as covariates in our secondary model. Because of concerns regarding postnatal secondhand smoke (SHS) exposure, we also adjusted for SHS exposure in the first two years of life (yes/no) as well as subjects' exposure to household smokers at time of recruitment (yes/no). These variables were chosen from postnatal SHS measure of other timepoints to maximize exposure assessment while minimizing multicollinearity. Additional covariates, also assessed by questionnaire, included maternal age (continuous), parity (categorical: 0, 1, 2, or ≥ 3 siblings), maternal education (some high school, high school graduate or equivalent, some college, and at least college graduate), and proportions of genetic African and Native American ancestry.

GECKO Drenthe

GECKO Drenthe design and study population

The GECKO Drenthe cohort is a population-based birth cohort in Drenthe, a northern province in the Netherlands.²³ All mothers of babies born between April 2006 and April 2007 were invited to participate during the third trimester of pregnancy. Of all 4,778 infants born in this period, a total of 2,874 children (60%) participated in the study and are followed until adulthood. This study has been approved by the Medical Ethical Committee of the University Medical Center Groningen and parents of all participants gave written informed consent.

GECKO maternal smoking variables

Information on maternal and paternal smoking was derived from the questionnaires during the third trimester of pregnancy. This questionnaire included a question about current smoking (during the third trimester) and a question whether she had ever smoked during this

pregnancy. If the mother currently smoked (in the third trimester), she was defined as a sustained smoker (n=70). If the mother had smoked during this pregnancy, but was not currently smoking anymore, the mother was defined as having smoked but quit by late in pregnancy (n=59). For the any smoking during pregnancy variable, we combined these two categories (n=129). If she had answered “no” to both questions, the mother was defined as a non-smoker (n=126). We selected 258 infants: 129 exposed to maternal smoking during pregnancy and 129 unexposed to both maternal and paternal smoking during pregnancy.

GECKO methylation measurements

From these 258 infants, we used DNA which was extracted from cord blood for the epigenome-wide DNA methylation analyses. To limit batch effects, we randomized all samples on gender and smoking status. Samples (500 ng per sample) were placed on three 96-well plates. Bisulfite conversion was performed using the EZ-96 DNA methylation kit (Zymo research Corporation, Irvine, USA). Then, we processed the samples with the Infinium HumanMethylation450 BeadChip (Illumina Inc., San Diego, USA).

We used minfi to calculate betas and p values for all 485,577 CpGs. During the quality control, we excluded two males that clustered in the female group, based on X chromosome betas. We performed Illumina-suggested background normalization, colour correction and Subset-quantile Within Array Normalization (SWAN). We excluded one sample because it did not meet the criteria of $\geq 99\%$ of the CpGs with detection p value < 0.05 . This resulted in 129 exposed and 126 unexposed children. We excluded control probes, probes on X or Y chromosomes and probes that did not meet our criteria of a detection p value of < 0.05 in $\geq 99\%$ of the samples, resulting in 465,891 remaining CpGs.

GECKO covariates

We adjusted analyses for maternal age, parity, maternal education and batch. Information on these covariates was collected with the questionnaire during the third trimester of pregnancy. Maternal age was calculated by subtracting the date of birth of the mother from the date of birth from the child, used as a continuous variable. Parity was categorized into 0, 1, 2 or 3+. Maternal education was categorized into low (everything lower than (applied university) versus high education (applied university). Covariate batch was categorized into 96-well plate number 1, 2 or 3.

Generation R

Generation R design and study population

The Generation R Study is a population-based prospective cohort study from fetal life onwards in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, which has been described in detail elsewhere.^{24,25} The study protocol was approved by the Medical Ethics Committee of the Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam. Written informed consent was obtained for all participants. All children were born between April 2002 and January 2006 and form a largely prenatally enrolled birth cohort that is currently being followed until young adulthood. A total of 9,778 mothers were included, most during pregnancy (response rate at birth 61%).

Generation R maternal smoking variables

Maternal smoking during pregnancy was assessed by questionnaires in early (<18 weeks gestational age), mid (18-25 weeks gestational age) and late (>25 weeks gestational age) pregnancy. Pregnant women were asked whether they had smoked and if so, how much. Sustained smoking was defined as continued smoking of ≥ 1 cigarette per day throughout pregnancy. Women who quit smoking during pregnancy were not classified as sustained smokers and were not included in the sustained smoking analysis. Any smoking was defined as smoking any number of cigarettes at any time during pregnancy.

Generation R methylation measurements

Epigenome-wide DNA methylation was measured in 979 Caucasian children, using DNA extracted from cord blood. 500 ng DNA per sample underwent bisulfite conversion using the EZ-96 DNA Methylation kit (Shallow) (Zymo Research Corporation, Irvine, USA). Samples were plated onto 96-well plates in no specific order. Samples were processed with the Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation450 BeadChip (Illumina Inc., San Diego, USA).

Quality control of analyzed samples was performed using standardized criteria. Samples were excluded in case of sample call rate <99%, colour balance >3, low staining efficiency, poor extension efficiency, poor hybridization performance, low stripping efficiency after extension and poor bisulfite conversion, leading to exclusion of 7 samples (6 for low sample call rates, 1 for poor bisulfite conversion). In addition, 2 samples were excluded because of a gender mismatch and 1 sample because of a retracted informed consent, leaving a total of 969 samples in the analysis.

Probes with a single nucleotide polymorphism in the single base extension site with a frequency of > 1% in the GoNLv4 reference panel were excluded, as were probes with non-

optimal binding (non-mapping or mapping multiple times to either the normal or the bisulphite-converted genome), resulting in the exclusion of 49,564 probes, leaving a total of 436,013 probes in the analysis.

Data were normalized with DASES normalization using a pipeline adapted from that developed by Touleimat and Tost.³ DASES normalization includes background adjustment, between-array normalization applied to type I and type II probes separately, and dye bias correction applied to type I and type II probes separately and is based on the DASEN method described by Pidsley et al, but adds the dye bias correction, which is not included in DASEN.⁶ Beta-values were calculated for all CpG sites.

Generation R covariates

Information on maternal age, parity and maternal education was collected by questionnaire at enrollment. Maternal age was used as a continuous covariate. Parity was categorized into 0 or ≥ 1 (note, this collapsed categorical variable was to aid convergence issues for the cohort). Maternal education was categorized into lower (none, primary or secondary education) and higher (more than secondary education) (categories for maternal education were also collapsed to aid convergence issues). Analyses were additionally adjusted for batch effects by adding plate number (11 categories) as a covariate.

IOW

IOW design and study population

A whole population birth cohort was established on the Isle of Wight, UK, in 1989 to prospectively study the natural history of allergic diseases from birth onwards. Both the Isle of Wight and the study population are 99% Caucasian. Ethics approvals were obtained from the Isle of Wight Local Research Ethics Committee (now named the National Research Ethics Service, NRES Committee South Central – Southampton B) at recruitment and for the 1, 2, 4, 10 and 18 years follow-up. Of the 1,536 children born between January 1, 1989, and February 28, 1990, written informed consent was obtained from parents to enroll 1,456 newborns. Children were followed up at the ages of 1 (n = 1,167), 2 (n = 1,174), 4 (n = 1,218), 10 (n = 1,373), and 18 years (n = 1,313). From January 2012 to May 2014, we further recruited 367 1989-1990 cohort participants and 90 newborns of these participants. These 90 mother-child pairs are included in the current study.

IOW third generation cohort maternal smoking variables

Maternal smoking during pregnancy was assessed by questionnaires at 20 and 28 weeks of pregnancy, and 3 months after birth. Pregnant women were asked whether they had smoked and if so, how much. Sustained smoking was defined as continued smoking of ≥ 1 cigarette per day throughout pregnancy. Women who quit smoking during pregnancy were not classified as sustained smokers and were not included in the sustained smoking analysis. Any smoking was defined as smoking any number of cigarettes at any time during pregnancy.

IOW third generation cohort methylation measurements

Epigenome-wide DNA methylation was measured in 90 Caucasian children, using DNA extracted from cord blood, and 1000 ng DNA per sample underwent bisulfite conversion using the EZ-96 DNA Methylation kit (Shallow) (Zymo Research Corporation, Irvine, USA). Samples were plated onto 96-well plates in no specific order. Samples were processed with the Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation450 BeadChip (Illumina Inc., San Diego, USA).

Quality control of analyzed samples was performed using standardized criteria. All samples are over 99.8% probes detected. Samples were deleted if more than 75% CpG sites of that sample with detection p value larger than or equal to 10^{-5} , CpG sites were deleted if 10% of the samples with detection p value larger than or equal to 0.01. CpG sites with missing values caused by insufficient copies of a probe binding to the sample DNA were excluded from the study. Also, DNA methylation from the 90 subjects were measured in four batches. After excluding missing values in each batch, in total 358,214 CpG sites were included in the study.

Data were pre-processed using IMA package²⁶ in R including quantile normalization and type I and type II probe peak correction. Beta-values were calculated for all CpG sites.

IOW third generation cohort covariates

Information on maternal age, maternal education was collected by questionnaire at enrollment. Maternal age was used as a continuous covariate. Maternal education was categorized into four levels (<high school, High school, some college, and 4 years of college or more). Analyses were additionally adjusted for batch effects (4 batches) as a covariate.

MeDALL

MeDALL (Mechanisms of the Development of ALLergy) is a collaborative project supported by the European Union under the Health Cooperation Work Programme of the 7th

Framework programme (grant agreement number 261357). MeDALL epigenetics studies include four birth cohorts. These are EDEN, BAMSE, PIAMA and INMA.

MeDALL - INMA (Childhood and Environment)

The INMA—INfancia y Medio Ambiente—(Environment and Childhood) Project is a network of birth cohorts in Spain that aim to study the role of environmental pollutants in air, water and diet during pregnancy and early childhood in relation to child growth and development.²⁷ The study has been approved by Ethical Committee of each participating center and written consent was obtained from participating parents. Data for this study came from INMA Sabadell cohort (children born between 2004 and 2007).²⁷ A total of 203 mothers with pregnancy smoking information and offspring cord blood DNA methylation were included.

Blood at birth and at age 4y was obtained in EDTA tubes and extracted using the Chemagic DNA Blood Kits (Perkin Elmer) in a Chemagen Magnetic Separation Module 1 station at the Spanish National Genotyping Center (CEGEN, <http://www.usc.es/cegen/>). All additional laboratory methods related to DNA methylation measurements are described in the DNA methylation data section for the MeDALL consortium.

Maternal smoking during pregnancy was assessed by questionnaires at 32 weeks of pregnancy. Pregnant women were asked whether they were current smokers (at week 32 of pregnancy) and if so, how much. They were also asked if they had stopped smoking due to pregnancy and when (before pregnancy or at what month of pregnancy). Sustained smoking was defined as continued smoking of ≥ 1 cigarette per day throughout pregnancy. Women who quit smoking during pregnancy were not classified as sustained smokers and were not included in the sustained smoking analysis. Any smoking was defined as smoking any number of cigarettes at any time during pregnancy.

Information on parity and maternal education was collected by questionnaire at enrollment (week 12 of pregnancy). Maternal age was used as a continuous covariate. Parity was categorized into 0 or ≥ 1 . Maternal education was categorized into three levels: primary or less, medium (secondary) or high (university).

MeDALL – INMA Gene expression data

At age four years, whole blood was collected in PAXGene tubes and extracted using the kit recommended by the company. All samples had a RNA Integrity Number (RIN) higher than seven. Gene expression data was obtained using Affymetrix HTA 2.0 at the European Institute for Systems Biology and Medicine in Lyon. Gene expression was normalized using Expression

Console Software from Affymetrix and probes were clustered to the transcript level. Twelve samples were excluded because they were outliers defined as more than 3SD from the mean for PC1 or PC2 (N=8) or there were sex discrepancies (N=8). Expression transcripts were annotated using version 35 of Affymetrix annotation. The final sample size was 107.

MeDALL - EDEN

The EDEN (Etude des Déterminants pré et post natals du développement et de la santé de l'Enfant) study is a prospective Birth Cohort Study (<https://eden.vjf.inserm.fr/>), which has been described in detail elsewhere.²⁸ Pregnant women seen for a prenatal visit at the departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the University Hospitals of Nancy and Poitiers before their twenty-fourth week of amenorrhea were invited to participate. Enrollment started in February 2003 in Poitiers and September 2003 in Nancy; recruitment lasted 27 months in each center. Among eligible women, 55% (2,002 women) accepted to participate. The study has been approved by the ethical committees Comité Consultatif pour la Protection des Personnes dans la Recherche Biomédicale, Le Kremlin-Bicêtre University hospital, and Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés .

Maternal smoking during pregnancy was assessed by questionnaires completed in mid-pregnancy (24-28 weeks gestational age) and after delivery. Pregnant women were asked whether they had smoked and if so, how much. Sustained smoking was defined as continued smoking of ≥ 1 cigarette per day throughout pregnancy. Women who quit smoking during pregnancy were not classified as sustained smokers and were not included in the sustained smoking analysis. Any smoking was defined as smoking any number of cigarettes at any time during pregnancy.

MeDALL - BAMSE

See description of the BAMSE study earlier in the study population methods. The BAMSE MeDALL subset consisted of 289 samples collected at 4 years processed as described for the MeDALL consortium (see MeDALL methylation measurements section).

MeDALL - PIAMA

For the PIAMA (Prevention and Incidence of Asthma and Mite Allergy) birth cohort study, pregnant women were recruited in 1996-1997 during their second trimester of pregnancy from a series of communities in the North, West, and Centre of The Netherlands. Details of the study design have been published previously.²⁹ Non-allergic pregnant women were invited to

participate in a “natural history” study arm. Pregnant women identified as allergic through a validated screening questionnaire were primarily allocated to an intervention arm with a random subset allocated to the natural history arm. The intervention involved the use of mite-impermeable mattress and pillow covers. The study started with 3,963 newborns. Full questionnaire follow-ups of the children took place at 3 months of age, yearly from 1 to 8 years of age, and at ages 11 and 14 years. Medical examinations were performed in subsets of the population at ages 4, 8, 12 and 16 years. DNA was extracted of children who provided blood samples at ages 4 and 8 years. The Medical Ethical Committees of the participating institutes approved the study, and all participants gave written informed consent. Any maternal smoking during pregnancy was defined as smoking any number of cigarettes at least during the first 4 weeks of pregnancy. Sustained maternal smoking during pregnancy was defined as smoking any number of cigarettes during the third trimester of pregnancy. Childhood smoke exposure was defined as any smoking by the father or the mother inside the house between the child’s birth and 8 years of age.

MeDALL - Methylation measurements

In the MeDALL study, peripheral blood samples were collected from all consenting cohort participants, and DNA from peripheral and cord blood samples was isolated by the laboratories participating in the MEDALL study using different methods. To uniform the concentration and purity the samples underwent a precipitation-based concentration and purification using GlycoBlue (Ambion) if needed. DNA concentration was determined by Nanodrop measurement and picogreen quantification. After normalization of the concentration, the samples were randomized to avoid batch effects. Standard male and female DNA samples were included in this step for control reasons. 500 ng of DNA of each sample was bisulfite-converted using the EZ 96-DNA methylation kit following the manufacturer’s standard protocol. After verification of the bisulfite conversion using Sanger Sequencing, the DNA methylation was measured using the Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation450 BeadChip. DNA methylation data were preprocessed using the minfi package,¹⁹ and the DASEN method from the watermelon package⁶ was used for normalization.

A series of steps were completed for quality control and data analysis. First, we implemented sample filtering to remove bad quality and mixed up samples. Second, 65 SNPs assays, the probes on sex chromosomes, the probes that mapped on multi-loci, and the probes containing SNPs at the target CpG sites with a MAF>10% were excluded. The multi-loci probes and probes containing SNPs are selected based on reference.⁵ This led to a total number of

439,306 CpG sites. Third, we implemented “DASEN” to perform signal correction and normalization. Fourth, to remove bias in methylation profiles unrelated to underlying biological processes, we implemented correction procedures based on 613 negative control probes presented in 450K arrays since these negative control probes are supposed to not relate to biological variation.³⁰ Finally, we implemented PCA on control probes data. We performed 10,000 permutations for controls probe data and selected principal components with p value defined as to get the p value of $(\text{number of var}(\text{random pc}) > \text{var}(\text{pc})) / (\text{number of permutations}) < 10^{-4}$.³¹ The methylation data for each CpG are thus the residuals from a linear model incorporating the significant 5 PCs. The final robust linear regression models were adjusted for maternal age, parity, maternal education, bclot, and sections, for both newborn and older children analyses. Here “bclot” represents bisulfite conversion kit batch number. “Sections” denotes the position of array. In newborns, there are only two cohorts (EDEN and INMA), and in older kids, there are four cohorts (EDEN, INMA, PIAMA and BAMSE), with an average age around 4. Parity was categorized into 0 and ≥ 1 due to convergence issues using robust linear regression. The other covariates were selected based on testing the difference of the correlation p value before and after correction by Kolmogorov–Smirnov test.

MOBA

MoBa design and study population

Participants in the current analysis represent three subsets of mother-offspring pairs from the national Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study (MoBa).^{32,33} Each subset is referred to here as MoBa1, MoBa2, and MoBa3. MoBa1 and MoBa2 study populations were part of a larger study within MoBa that was designed to evaluate the association between maternal plasma folate during pregnancy and childhood asthma status at 3 years of age.³⁴ We previously reported an association between maternal smoking during pregnancy and differential DNA methylation in 1,062 MoBa1 newborns.³⁵ We subsequently measured DNA methylation in an additional 685 newborns with maternal plasma folate measurements and following separate quality control and preprocessing (MoBa2). MoBa3 was designed to evaluate the association between differential cord blood DNA methylation and later childhood cancer status. These analyses include the children who had cord blood DNA methylation measurements, smoking information, and covariate data (N=1,063 from MoBa1; N=671 from MoBa2; N=207 from MoBa3), and each dataset was analyzed independently. The year of birth for participants in these MoBa participants ranged from 2000-2009. All three studies were approved by the

Regional Committee for Ethics in Medical Research and the Norwegian Data Inspectorate, and written informed consent was provided by all mothers participating. In addition, MoBa1 and MoBa2 were approved by the Institutional Review Board of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, USA.

MoBa maternal smoking variables

For MoBa1 and MoBa2, maternal blood sample collection during pregnancy was completed as previously described.³³ Maternal blood samples were drawn during pregnancy (median weeks gestation=18 weeks, 25th-75th percentile=16-21 weeks) in EDTA-coated tubes, centrifuged within 30 minutes after collection, and stored at 4°C in the hospital where they were collected. Samples were then shipped overnight to the Biobank of MoBa at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health in Oslo. Upon receipt (1-2 days after blood collection), plasma was aliquoted onto polypropylene microtiter plates, sealed with heat-sealing foil sheets, and stored at -80°C. Maternal blood samples were not analyzed for MoBa3 for this analysis.

Maternal smoking during pregnancy was assessed by maternal questionnaire for all three datasets. For all MoBa1 subjects, 221 of the MoBa2 subjects, and no MoBa3 subjects, cotinine, a biomarker of smoking, was measured by liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)³⁶ in plasma collected at approximately gestational week 18. Cotinine values above 56.8 nmol/L were used to indicate that a mother was smoking at this time point.³⁷ The self-reported smoking information and cotinine data were combined for samples with both information as described in a previous publication using the MoBa1 dataset.³⁸ For this analysis, we classified mother's smoking into three categories using her report of smoking during pregnancy and cotinine values: never smoking during pregnancy, smoked during pregnancy but quit by 18 weeks, and smoked through gestational week 18. Quitting by 18 weeks was defined by mother's report plus having a cotinine value below 56.8 nmol/L, if available. We further collapsed this variable to represent sustained smoking (yes/no) during pregnancy, excluding mothers who stopped smoking during pregnancy from the analyses to reduce noise. We also created a variable capturing any smoking (yes/no) during pregnancy, where mothers who stopped smoking during pregnancy were assigned a value of "yes" for any smoking during pregnancy.

MoBa covariates

For all MoBa datasets in this analysis, information on maternal age, parity, and maternal education was collected via questionnaires completed by the mother or from birth registry

records. Maternal age was included as a continuous variable. Parity was categorized as 0, 1, 2, or ≥ 3 births. Maternal educational level was categorized as previously described³⁵ into less than high school/secondary school, high school/secondary school completion, some college or university, or 4 years of college/university or more.

MoBa methylation measurements

Details of the DNA methylation measurements and quality control for the MoBa1 participants were previously described³⁵ and the same protocol was implemented for the MoBa2 participants. Briefly, umbilical cord blood samples were collected and frozen at birth at -80°C . All biological material was obtained from the Biobank of the MoBa study.³³ Bisulfite conversion was performed using the EZ-96 DNA Methylation kit (Zymo Research Corporation, Irvine, CA) and DNA methylation was measured at 485,577 CpGs in cord blood using Illumina's Infinium HumanMethylation450 BeadChip.³⁹ Raw intensity (.idat) files were handled in R using the *minfi* package¹⁹ to calculate the methylation level at each CpG as the beta-value ($\beta = \text{intensity of the methylated allele (M)} / (\text{intensity of the unmethylated allele (U)} + \text{intensity of the methylated allele (M)} + 100)$) and the data was exported for quality control and processing.

Probe and sample-specific quality control was performed in the MoBa1, MoBa2, and MoBa3 datasets separately. Similar protocols were applied to MoBa1 and MoBa2, as follows: Control probes (N=65) and probes on X (N=11,230) and Y (N=416) chromosomes were excluded in both datasets. Remaining CpGs missing $> 10\%$ of methylation data were also removed (N=20 in MoBa1, none in MoBa2). Samples indicated by Illumina to have failed or have an average detection p value across all probes < 0.05 (N=49 MoBa1, N=35 MoBa2) and samples with gender mismatch (N=13 MoBa1, N=8 MoBa2) were also removed. For MoBa1 and MoBa2, we accounted for the two different probe designs by applying the intra-array normalization strategy Beta Mixture Quantile dilation (BMIQ).¹⁰ The Empirical Bayes method via *ComBat* was applied separately in each dataset for batch correction using the *sva* package in R.⁴⁰

Similar data quality control and processing was applied to MoBa3 with some slight differences. Methylation features were filtered from (i) cross-reactive probes, (ii) probes mapping to sex chromosomes and (iii) probes overlapping with a known single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) with an allele frequency of at least 5% in the overall population (all ethnic groups), resulting in the exclusion of 36,231 probes. Data quality was further assessed using box plots for the distribution of methylated and unmethylated signals, and multidimensional scaling plots and unsupervised clustering were used to check for sample outliers. After

background correction and color-bias adjustment, type I and type II probe distributions were aligned using the intra-array beta-mixture quantile normalization (BMIQ)¹⁰ from the wateRmelon package. Beta-values were calculated for all CpG sites. Batch effects were corrected by surrogate variable analysis (SVA).²⁰

NEST

NEST design and study population

The Newborn Epigenetics Study (NEST) is a multiethnic birth cohort designed to identify the effects of early exposures on epigenetic profiles and phenotypic outcomes. Pregnant women were recruited from prenatal clinics serving Duke University Hospital and Durham Regional Hospital Obstetrics facilities in Durham, North Carolina from April 2005 to July 2009. Gestational age at enrollment ranged from 6 to 42 weeks (median 30 weeks). Eligibility criteria were women aged 18 years or older, English speaking, pregnant, and an intention to use one of the two obstetrics facilities. Among these, women infected with HIV or intending to give up custody of the offspring of index pregnancy were excluded. Current smokers were targeted for the first ~200 participants. Of the 1,101 women who met eligibility criteria and were approached, 895 (81%) were enrolled and umbilical cord blood was collected from 741 infants. The current analysis was limited to the 413 infants with 450k and covariate data. This study was approved by the Duke Institutional Review Board.

NEST maternal smoking variables

Four questions were used to ascertain smoking status. Women were first asked if they ever smoked and whether they were current smokers by responding to questions “Have you ever smoked 100 cigarettes or more in your lifetime?” (Yes/ No), followed by, “Do you smoke now?” (Yes/No). To determine the timing of cigarette smoking exposure to the offspring, women who reported being smokers were then asked to respond to the question, “Did you smoke anytime in the year before you found out you were pregnant?” Women also responded to the question “After you found out you were pregnant, which of the following best describes your behavior?” The four possible responses were, “I continue to smoke,” or “I stopped during the first/second/third trimester.” From these responses, three categories of maternal cigarette smoking were created as follows: (a) “smokers during pregnancy” were women who reported having ever smoked 100 cigarettes or more, being a current smoker, and smoking during pregnancy; (b) “quitters during pregnancy” were women who reported having ever smoked 100

cigarettes or more, smoking during the year of pregnancy, and stopping smoking any time during the pregnancy; (c) “non-smokers” were women who never smoked 100 cigarettes or more.

NEST methylation measurements

Genomic DNA from buffy coat specimens was extracted from umbilical cord blood using Puregene Reagents (Qiagen, Valencia, CA). Bisulfite conversion was performed using the EZ-96 DNA Methylation Kit (Zymo Research Corporation) and DNA methylation was measured at 485,577 CpGs using Illumina’s Infinium Human- Methylation450 BeadChip. Illumina’s GenomeStudio Methylation module version 1.0 (Illumina Inc.) was used to calculate the methylation level at each CpG as the beta value.

Probe and sample-specific quality control was performed in the NEST cohort using a similar approach to MoBa1 and MoBa2 cohorts as the data analysis was completed at the NIEHS. Specifically, control probes (N=65) and probes on X (N=11,230) and Y (N=416) chromosomes were excluded as well as CpGs missing > 10% of methylation data. Samples indicated by Illumina to have failed or have an average detection p value across all probes < 0.05 and samples with gender mismatch were also removed. The two different probe designs by applying the intra-array normalization strategy Beta Mixture Quantile dilation (BMIQ).¹⁰ The Empirical Bayes method via *ComBat* was applied for batch correction using the *sva* package in *R*.⁴⁰

NEST covariates

Covariates considered as potential confounders were maternal body mass index (BMI) before pregnancy, age (<30 years, 30–39 years, >40+ years), educational attainment, and ethnicity (African American, Caucasia and Other), as well as offspring gestational age at delivery (<37 weeks or ≥37 weeks), birth weight, and sex.

NFCS

Norway Facial Clefts Study design and study population

The Norway Facial Clefts Study (NFCS) is a national population-based case-control study of cleft lip and cleft palate, disorders characterized by the incomplete fusion of the lip and/or palate during development. The study design has been previously described in detail.⁴¹ Study approval was obtained by the Norwegian Data Inspectorate and Regional Medical Ethics

Committee of Western Norway and informed consent was provided by both the mother and father. Briefly, between the years of 1996 and 2001 all families of newborns referred for cleft surgery in Norway were contacted and, of those eligible, 88% agreed to participate (N=573). Controls were selected by a random sampling of roughly 4 per 1,000 live births in Norway during that same time period and, of those eligible, 76% agreed to participate (N=763). After completion of data collection and linkage with the Medical Birth Registry, all identifiers were permanently stripped from the data set, with no opportunity for further follow-up.

Norway Facial Clefts Study smoking variables

Information about maternal tobacco smoke exposure at the beginning of pregnancy was obtained through self-administered questionnaires sent to the mothers 3-4 months after delivery. Mothers were asked about cigarette smoking during the first trimester (average number of cigarettes smoked per day or per month). If a mother reported smoking at least one cigarette per day on average, she was considered to be an active smoker at the beginning of pregnancy. In order to determine if a woman was a sustained smoker (i.e. smoked at the beginning of pregnancy and did not report quitting at any time during pregnancy), we utilized the Medical Birth Registry of Norway (MBRN). The MBRN provides information on whether the mother smoked at the end of pregnancy, as well as the frequency of smoking. A woman was considered to be a sustained smoker if she reported actively smoking at the beginning of pregnancy based on the Norway Facial Clefts Study questionnaire and met one of the following criteria: 1) reported being a daily smoker at the end of pregnancy, 2) reported being a sometimes smoker at the end of pregnancy but indicated smoking at least one cigarette per day on average, or 3) no information regarding smoking status at the end of pregnancy was available (i.e. in the absence of further information, women were assumed to have continued smoking).

Norway Facial Clefts Study measurements

Epigenome-wide DNA methylation was measured in 889 newborns, using DNA extracted from heel stick blood samples that were collected 2-3 days after delivery as part of a standardized program of testing for phenylketonuria (PKU). A detailed description of DNA methylation data generation (Illumina HumanMethylation450 beadchips), quality control, and data pre-processing has been provided previously.⁴² Briefly, one microgram of DNA was bisulfite converted using the EZ DNA Methylation kit following the manufacturer's protocol. 898 newborn and 60 technical control samples were run on Illumina HumanMethylation450

BeadChips according to the manufacturer's instructions at the NIH Center for Inherited Disease Research. After exclusions, 889 samples remained for analysis.

Raw intensity data were obtained using the Illumina GenomeStudio methylation module (version 2011.1). At each CpG site on the array, methylation status was determined based on intensity measures corresponding to unmethylated (U) or methylated (M) signal. The Illumina HumanMethylation450 BeadChip contains two probe types: Infinium Type I (2 probe types, 1 color channel) and II (1 probe type, 2 color channels). As the Type II probes use two color channels to assess methylation, dye bias was corrected using the normalization function (`normalizeMethyLumiSet`), provided in the R package, `methyLumi`.⁴³ Before association analysis, the M and U intensity values for Type I and II probes were separately background adjusted (4 separate groups) using the robust multi-array average (RMA) method (Irizarry et al. 2003) and quantile normalized using the normalization function (`normalize.quantiles`), provided in the R package, `Affy`.¹⁴ The β -value ($M/(M+U+100)$) was then computed and used in the association analysis. β -values that were more than 3 standard deviations from the mean and methylation levels that were deemed undetectable (Illumina detection p value ≥ 0.05) were excluded. Prior to running the robust linear regression secondary model, residuals were calculated for each CpG probe from linear regression models adjusting for batch (96-well plate, 10 levels). The mean β -value was added back to the residuals.

Norway Facial Clefts Study covariates

Information on maternal age, parity, and maternal education was collected in the same self-administered questionnaires (around 3-4 months after delivery). Facial cleft status was categorized as none (control), cleft lip with or without cleft palate, and cleft palate only. Maternal age was treated as a continuous covariate. Parity was categorized as 0, 1, 2, 3+. Maternal education was categorized as less than high school and high school and above. Analyses were additionally adjusted for bisulfite conversion efficiency by adding the mean bisulfite control probe intensity as a covariate in the model.

Rotterdam Study

Rotterdam study design and study population

The analyses for DNA methylation and gene expression were performed using data from the third cohort of the Rotterdam Study. The design of the Rotterdam Study has been described elsewhere.⁴⁴ In brief, all inhabitants living in the neighborhood Ommoord in Rotterdam, the

Netherlands, aged 45 years and over were invited to participate. During the center visit, 3,934 participants were examined between February 2006 and December 2008. We performed the analyses on 747 Caucasian subjects with DNA methylation data and gene expression data available. The Rotterdam Study has been approved by the medical ethics committee according to the Population Screening Act: Rotterdam Study, executed by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports of the Netherlands. All participants in the present analysis provided written informed consent to participate and to obtain information from their treating physicians.

Rotterdam study DNA methylation data

DNA methylation was measured using Illumina Human Methylation 450K array of whole blood samples, following the manufacturers' protocol.⁴⁵ The methylation percentage of a CpG site was reported as a beta-value ranging between 0 (no methylation) and 1 (full methylation).

Quality control of the samples was done with Genome Studio and MixupMapper.⁴⁶ A total number of 16 samples were removed: 7 had a sample call rate below 99%; 5 had incomplete bisulfite conversion and 4 had gender clustering. Quality control of the probes was done based on the detection p value calculated with Genome Studio. Probes with a detection p value of more than 0.01 in more than 1% of the samples were excluded. This resulted in a total set of 474,528 probes which were normalized with Dasen. Dasen normalization involved background adjustment of the methylated and unmethylated intensities followed by separate quantile normalization of methylated Type I, unmethylated Type I, methylated Type II and unmethylated Type II intensities.⁶

Rotterdam study gene expression data

Whole-blood was collected (PAXGene Tubes – Becton Dickinson) and total RNA was isolated (PAXGene Blood RNA kits - Qiagen). To ensure a constant high quality of the RNA preparations, all RNA samples were analyzed using the Labchip GX (Calliper) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Samples with an RNA Quality Score more than 7 were amplified and labeled (Ambion TotalPrep RNA), and hybridized to the Illumina HumanHT12v4 Expression Beadchips as described by the manufacturer's protocol. Processing of the Rotterdam Study RNA samples was performed at the Genetic Laboratory of Internal Medicine, Erasmus University Medical Centre Rotterdam. The accession number for the RS-III expression dataset reported in this paper is GEO: GSE33828. Illumina gene expression data was quantile-normalized to the median distribution and subsequently log₂-transformed. The probe and sample means were centered to zero. Genes were declared significantly expressed when the

detection p values calculated by GenomeStudio were less than 0.05 in more than 10% of all discovery samples, which added to a total number of 21,238 probes.⁴⁶ Quality control was done using the eQTL-mapping pipeline. We only analyzed probes that uniquely mapped to the human genome build 37.⁴⁷

SEED

SEED design and study population

The Study to Explore Early Development (SEED) is a multi-site US-based case-control study of autism that has been described in detail.⁴⁸ SEED phase I enrolled families with a child born between September 2003 and August 2006. All children enrolled in SEED I were aged 30-68 months at the time of clinical assessments and sample collection. IRB approval was obtained from each of six SEED study sites including Northern California Kaiser Permanente (CA), Johns Hopkins University (MD), University of North Carolina (NC), University of Pennsylvania (PA), University of Colorado Denver (CO), and the Centers for Disease Control (GA).

SEED maternal smoking variables

Maternal smoking during pregnancy was obtained via the SEED caregiver interview (CGI), as described previously⁴⁸. In this analysis, we considered only maternal interviews. The SEED CGI instrument includes several questions regarding active smoking and dose (cigarettes/day) during pregnancy by month or trimester (for those not being able to recall consumption by month). Maternal active smoking during each trimester was defined as either any exposure for >2 months, or an average consumption of ≥ 1 cigarette/day for ≥ 1 month during the exposure window. We defined “sustained smokers” as having active maternal smoking for at least 2 of the 3 trimesters. Participants who were defined as active smokers during at least one trimester were considered “any smokers”.

SEED methylation measurements

Whole blood genomic DNA was extracted from 610 SEED samples and 500ng was bisulfite treated using the EZ DNA methylation kit (Zymo Research, Irvine, CA). Samples were randomized across and within plates and run on the Illumina HumanMethylation 450k array (Illumina, San Diego, CA) at the Center for Epigenetics, Johns Hopkins University. Each plate contained replicate samples, as well as two internal control samples used by the Epigenetics Center for cross-plate comparisons and quality control measures.

Quality assurance analyses were performed using Bioconductor and R-3.0.x. Illumina idat files were obtained and processed using the minfi package (version 1.8.9).¹⁹ We generated sample quality control reports using the qcReport function. We assessed the correlation of replicate samples across plates to identify problems with particular plates/batches and to assess the accuracy of the DNA methylation values; correlation coefficients for the 8 replicate samples ranged from 0.989 to 0.994. Based on insufficient probe intensity in >10% of samples, 771 probes were excluded. Two samples with low overall 450K intensities and one sample with an outlier blood cell composition were removed, resulting in high quality DNAm data for 607 samples, 584 of those had both prenatal tobacco exposure and covariate data. We then performed quantile normalization¹⁹ and adjusted normalized data for batch effects using the sva package (version 3.9.1).⁴⁹

SEED covariates

Maternal age and education were obtained via the SEED CGI. Education was categorized as less than high school, high school, some college, college degree or more. Age was continuous. Parity was not available at the time of analysis. Our analyses were adjusted for autism status (yes, no). Analyses were also adjusted for ancestry groups (European, African, Asian, Admix), determined using corresponding GWAS data.

Project Viva

Project Viva design and study population

Project Viva is a population-based prospective pre-birth cohort of mothers and their children in Eastern Massachusetts, USA, which has been described in detail elsewhere.⁵⁰ The study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and written consent was obtained from participating women. Women were enrolled from 1999 to 2002 and enrollment included a total of 2,128 live births. Follow up of the children through early adolescence is ongoing.

Project Viva maternal smoking variables

Maternal smoking during pregnancy was assessed on questionnaires administered in early pregnancy asking about current smoking (mean 11.3 weeks), and about smoking in the past 3 months at the 2nd trimester visit and in an interview at delivery. Any smoking during pregnancy was defined as report of current smoking on the early pregnancy questionnaire or

smoking in the past 3 months on the mid-pregnancy or delivery questionnaires or extraction of maternal smoking from the medical record chart review.

Project Viva methylation measurements

DNA samples extracted from cord blood were arranged using a stratified randomization to ensure balance of cohort characteristics across sample plates/batches. Samples were bisulfite converted using the EZ-96 DNA Methylation kit (Zymo Research Corporation, Irvine, USA). The Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation450 BeadChip (Illumina Inc., San Diego, USA) was run at Illumina FastTrack Microarray Services (San Diego, CA). Failing samples were rerun and passing arrays were defined as having >99% of probes with a detection p value <0.05. After excluding samples with identity concerns (inconsistent genotyping and/or inferred sex) there were 485 unique samples and all of these were included in the analysis of any smoking during pregnancy. Sample preprocessing included the exclusion of allosomal probes, non-CpG probes, and failing probes (<99% of samples with detection p values <0.05). A total of 14,707 probes were excluded from chromosomes X or Y or being a CpH site or an rs probe. An additional 5,918 probes were excluded for failing by the detection p value criteria above and results were reported for the remaining 464,952 CpG sites. Retained data with a detection p value > 0.05 was set to NA (but included no more than 5 samples per probe by the failure criteria described). Pre-processing for the secondary model included four additional steps: 1. background subtraction using the out-of-band probes (noob) as implemented in methylumi; 2. dye bias adjustment using the methylumi default; 3. within array type II probe adjustment using BMIQ as implemented in watermelon; and 4. conversion to M-values, adjustment for analytic plate using ComBat (plate was the largest batch effect seen in PCA), and subsequent transformation back to the beta scale.

Project Viva covariates

Information on maternal age, education, race/ethnicity, and parity was collected by interview or questionnaire at enrollment in the 1st trimester of pregnancy. Maternal age was used as a continuous covariate. Maternal education was categorized into lower (none, primary or secondary education) and higher (more than secondary education). Race/ethnicity of the mother was dichotomized as White/non-White. Parity was categorized into 0 or ≥1.

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