



PRAMS

Ohio PRAMS Fact Sheet: Prenatal Care

Background

Prenatal care is essential to monitor the progress of a woman's pregnancy and identify potential problems that could result in a negative birth outcome. The National Institute of Health recommends that prenatal care begin during the first trimester of pregnancy.¹ As the pregnancy advances, the frequency of visits should increase up to delivery to ensure that mother and infant are safe and healthy.¹

In the United States, women who are minorities, live in poverty, or who have less than a high school education, are less likely to receive early prenatal care. When prenatal care is initiated late or not at all, both mother and infant have an increased risk for negative birth outcomes.²

Late or no prenatal care has been linked to higher rates of preterm and low birth weight infants. Recent national studies have found a four-fold increase in the number of low birth weight infants born among mothers who did not receive prenatal care.³ These infants are at a higher risk of birth defects, developmental issues and chronic medical conditions. Women who do not receive prenatal care are three to four times more likely to die of pregnancy complications.³

Receiving early and adequate prenatal care is an effective way to decrease maternal and infant morbidity and mortality. Improving the quality and availability of prenatal care is an important step in addressing maternal and child health.

Data Highlights:

- > Approximately 84 percent of Ohio mothers began prenatal care in the first trimester
- > As maternal age increased, the percentage of mothers who received early prenatal care increased
- > Black mothers were less likely to receive early prenatal care than white mothers
- > Mothers with 12 or more years of education were more likely to begin prenatal care early than mothers with less than 12 years of education
- > Mothers not using Medicaid were more likely to receive early prenatal care than mothers who received Medicaid
- > Mothers with low birth weight infants were almost equally likely to obtain early prenatal care as those with normal birth weight infants

* 95 percent confidence interval

Source: Ohio Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, Ohio Department of Health, 2011

Early Prenatal Care in Ohio Mothers, 2007-2009

<u>Maternal Characteristic</u>	<u>Percent Who Began Prenatal Care in the 1st Trimester</u>	<u>95% CI*</u>
Overall	84.1	82.5 - 85.5
Years of Age		
Less than 20	66.6	60.3 - 72.3
20-24	77.9	74.3 - 81.1
25-34	89.3	87.4 - 91.0
35+	90.0	85.8 - 93.0
Race		
Non-Hispanic White	86.2	84.4 - 87.9
Non-Hispanic Black	76.5	73.8 - 79.0
Hispanic	78.2	66.6 - 86.6
Non-Hispanic Other	78.6	68.9 - 85.8
Marital Status		
Married	90.8	89.0 - 92.3
Unmarried	74.7	71.9 - 77.3
Education		
Less than 12 years	64.0	58.6 - 69.0
12 years	80.2	76.8 - 83.3
More than 12 years	91.6	90.1 - 92.9
Medicaid Status for Prenatal Care and Delivery		
Medicaid	75.8	73.1 - 78.4
Non-Medicaid	90.6	88.8 - 92.1
Birth weight of Infant		
Low (<2500g)	83.4	81.5-85.5
Normal (>=2500g)	85.6	82.6-88.2

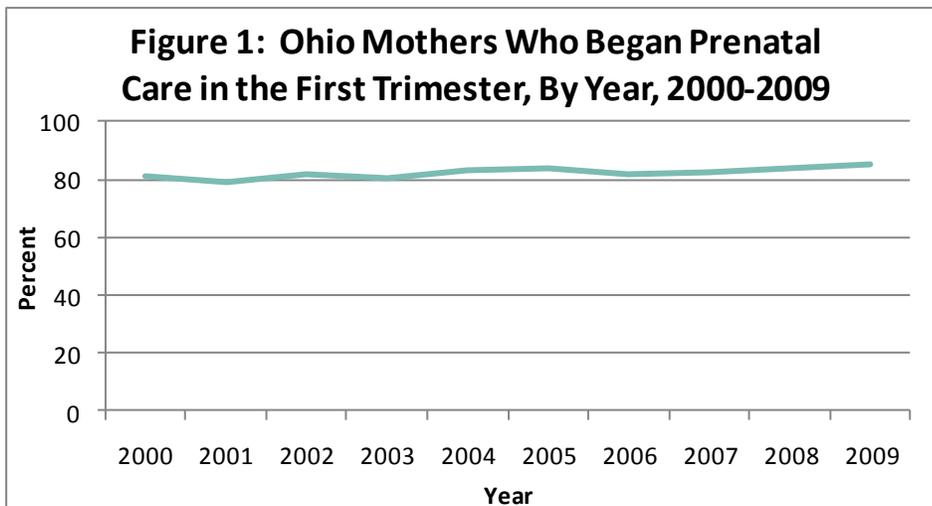




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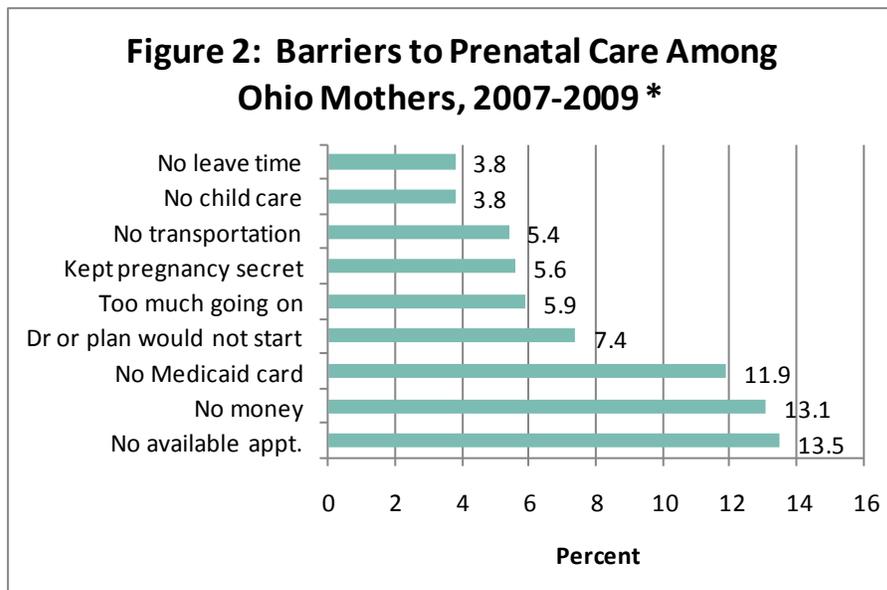
Prenatal Care

- The *Healthy People 2020* objective Maternal, Infant, and Child Health 10.1 is for 77.9 percent of pregnant women to begin prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy.
- Ohio mothers have consistently surpassed this target between 2000 and 2009, with at least 79 percent starting prenatal care in the first trimester each year (see Figure 1).



Source: Ohio Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, Center for Public Health Statistics and Informatics, Ohio Department of Health, 2011

- Disparities in prenatal care have been evident in Ohio throughout this time period, with some groups of women falling below the *Healthy People 2020* target.



- Common barriers to beginning prenatal care in Ohio included not having appointments available, lack of money to pay for the visit, and not receiving a Medicaid card early enough to begin care (see Figure 2).

- Setting programs and policies to reduce barriers and target women at risk for not receiving prenatal care is an important step in improving maternal and infant health in Ohio.

* Survey allowed mothers to choose all that applied

Source: Ohio Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, Center for Public Health Statistics and Informatics, Ohio Department of Health, 2011

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References:

[1] National Institute of Health. Retrieved September 2011. http://www.nichd.nih.gov/womenshealth/research/pregbirth/prenatal_care.cfm
 [2] Friedman, S. H., Heneghan, A., & Rosenthal, M. (2008). Characteristics of Women Who Do Not Seek Prenatal Care and Implications for Prevention. *The Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses*, 174-181.
 [3] Voices for Children in Nebraska. (2010). *Prenatal Care Issue Brief*. Retrieved August 2011. <http://www.voicesforchildren.com/pdf/IssueBrief-Prenatal-Care.pdf>

