

PRENATAL CARE

Data are from the

MAINE PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (PRAMS): 1998

➔ In 1998, 13,720 babies were born in Maine. Although nearly 91% of the mothers who had these babies received adequate or more than adequate prenatal care, more than 1,200 new mothers received a lesser level of prenatal care; 500 of those mothers received prenatal care that was considered inadequate*.

➔ New mothers who were most likely to have inadequate prenatal care were those mothers who were unmarried, younger than 20 years old, or insured by Medicaid. Participation in Medicaid and marital status were factors regardless of age.

➔ Women who received prenatal care late reported that the most common barriers to entering care as early as they wanted were:

- ? not realizing that they were pregnant 41%
- ? not having enough money 36%
- ? unable to get an earlier appointment 20%

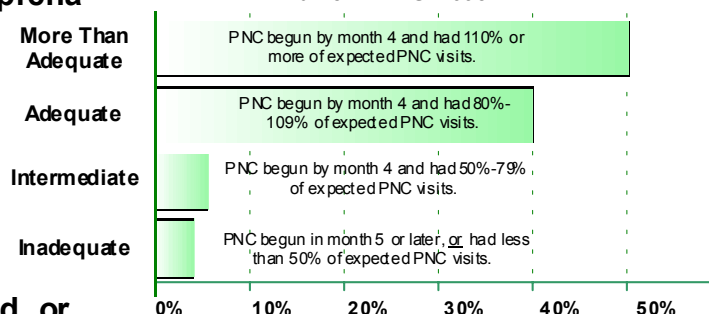
➔ In 1998, nearly 8% of mothers reported that they started prenatal care after the 1st trimester or that they did not have prenatal care at all; these mothers gave birth to more than 1,000 babies.

➔ As maternal education increased, so did the likelihood of receiving prenatal care earlier in the pregnancy¹.

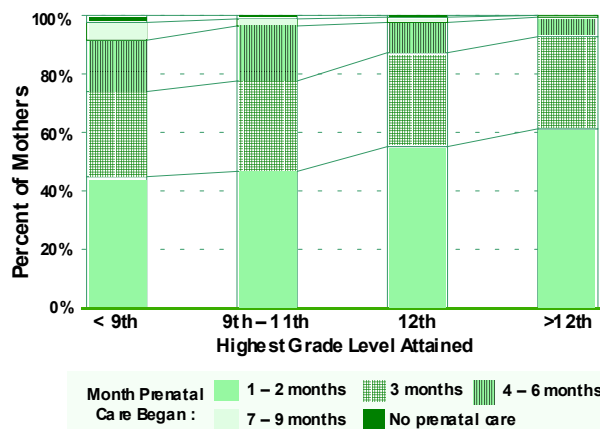
➔ Adolescent women (women younger than 20 years old) were 5 times more likely than older women (women older than 35) to use a hospital clinic for their prenatal care.

➔ Nearly 80% of new mothers received their prenatal care from a private doctor. This proportion has been virtually unchanged over the past decade. An additional 10% received their care in a hospital clinic.

Adequacy of Prenatal Care (PNC)*
Maine PRAMS: 1998



Month Prenatal Care Began by Education
Maine Vital Statistics System: 1998¹



* Adequacy of prenatal care was calculated using the Kotelchuck Index which defines adequacy based on number of prenatal care visits, month prenatal care began, sex of infant, gestational age, and birth weight.

¹ Data are from the Maine Vital Statistics System, 1998.

For further data on this topic, please contact:

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