

Vermont PRAMS Data Brief

Timing of Prenatal Care

This is a report on the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), a survey conducted on a sample of Vermont women with live births since 2001. This report includes PRAMS data from 2005, 2006 and 2007.

The timing of the first prenatal care visit from the birth certificate is compared with data available from the PRAMS survey. The survey asks the mother's satisfaction with the timing of the first prenatal visit, and asks her to identify barriers to attaining prenatal care. It also asks about pregnancy intention, how care was paid for, and the presence of stressors around the time of the pregnancy.

For the purposes of this report, prenatal care timing is categorized into 1st trimester initiation or after the 1st trimester. Additionally, 11 cases with no prenatal care visits are grouped with those obtaining care after the 1st trimester.

Month Prenatal Care Began

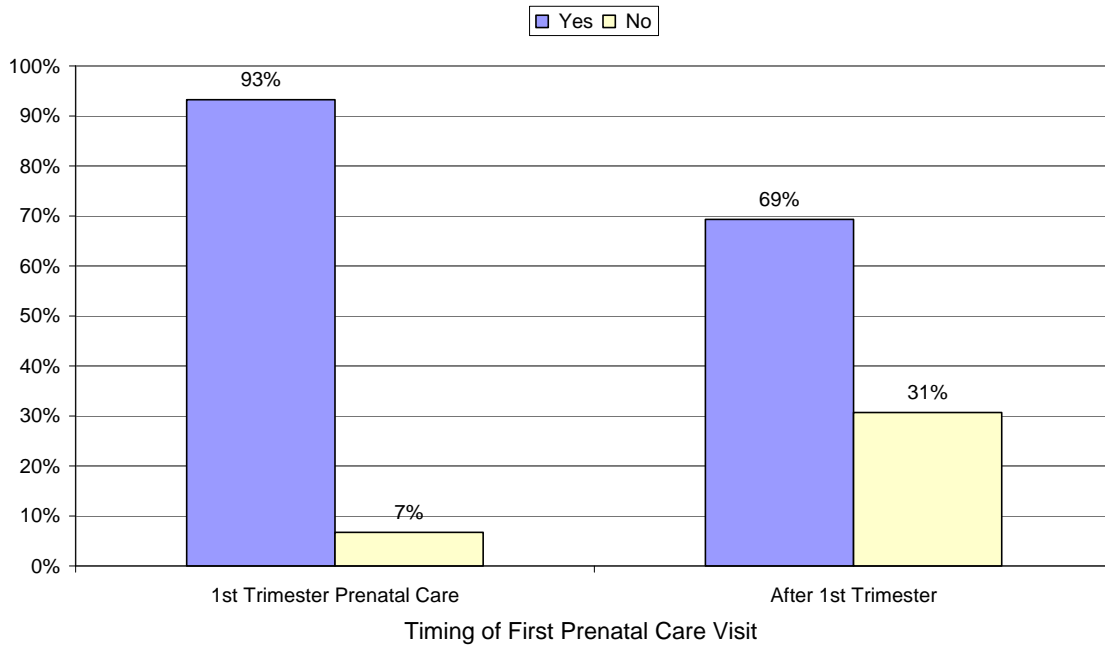
- From July 2005 to December 2007, the proportion of PRAMS respondents who had begun prenatal care in the 1st trimester was nearly 86 %.
- Those with prenatal care initiation later than the 1st trimester were more apt to report they did not get prenatal care as soon as they wanted (31 %).
- For pregnancies with prenatal care initiated after the 1st trimester, the most frequently-listed problem getting care was “didn't have enough money or health insurance” followed by “couldn't get an appointment.”

Factors influencing Prenatal Care Timing

- Younger mothers and those with less education are associated with less timely initiation of prenatal care. Nearly 30 % of teens—over twice the proportion of older moms—got prenatal care later than the first trimester. Of respondents with some high school but no degree, 24 % initiated prenatal care after the 1st trimester. Only 10 % of college graduates started prenatal care that late.
- The proportion of unmarried mothers obtaining prenatal care later than the first trimester was 10 % higher than those that were married (21 vs. 11 percent).
- Of those getting prenatal care in the 1st trimester, 69 % responded that their pregnancy was intended. Of those whose prenatal care came after that, 45 % reported the pregnancy was intended.
- The PRAMS survey questions on stress are grouped into four categories: Emotional Stress, Financial Stress, Partner Stress, and Traumatic Stress.
 - Timing of entry into prenatal care was not significantly different based on the presence of emotional stress.
 - Mothers with partner stress or financial stress were significantly more likely to initiate prenatal care after the 1st trimester than those without those stressors.
 - More than a quarter of those with traumatic stress entered prenatal care later than the 1st trimester, compared to 12.5 % without those stressors.

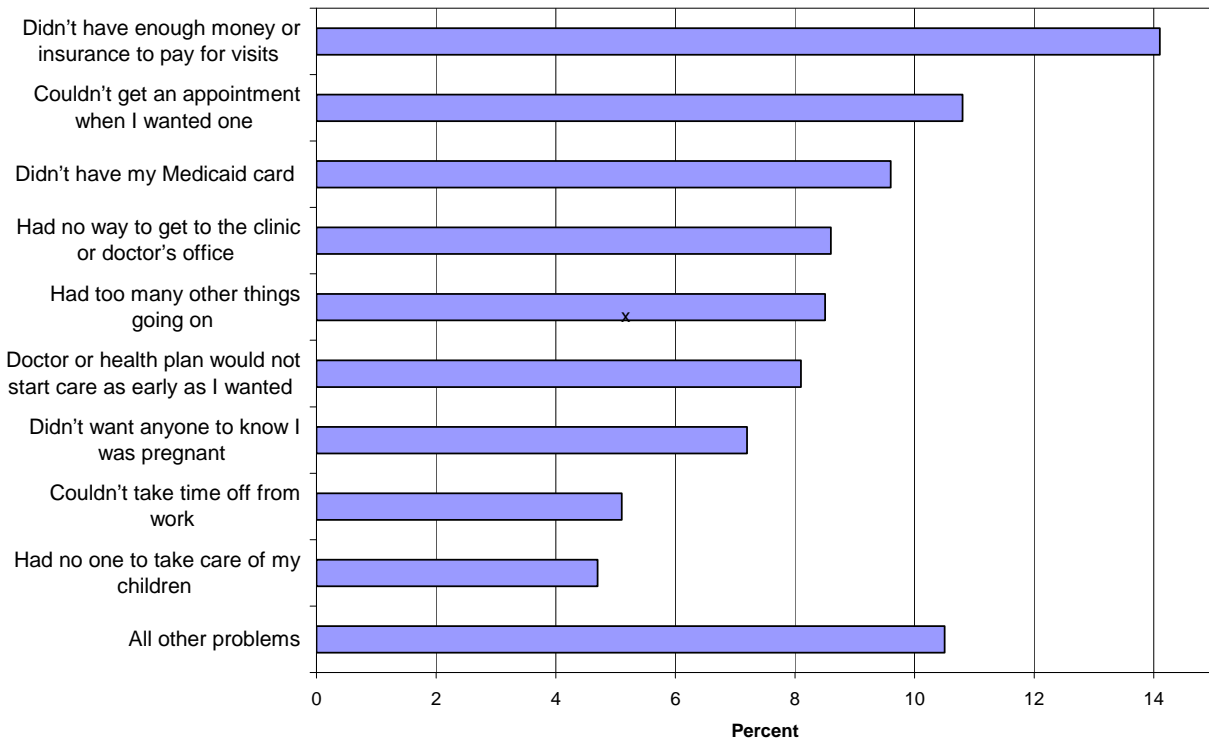
Definitions of the stress categories appear at the end of this report.

Within Prenatal Care Initiation Period,
Percent "Got Prenatal Care As Soon in the Pregnancy as She Wanted?"

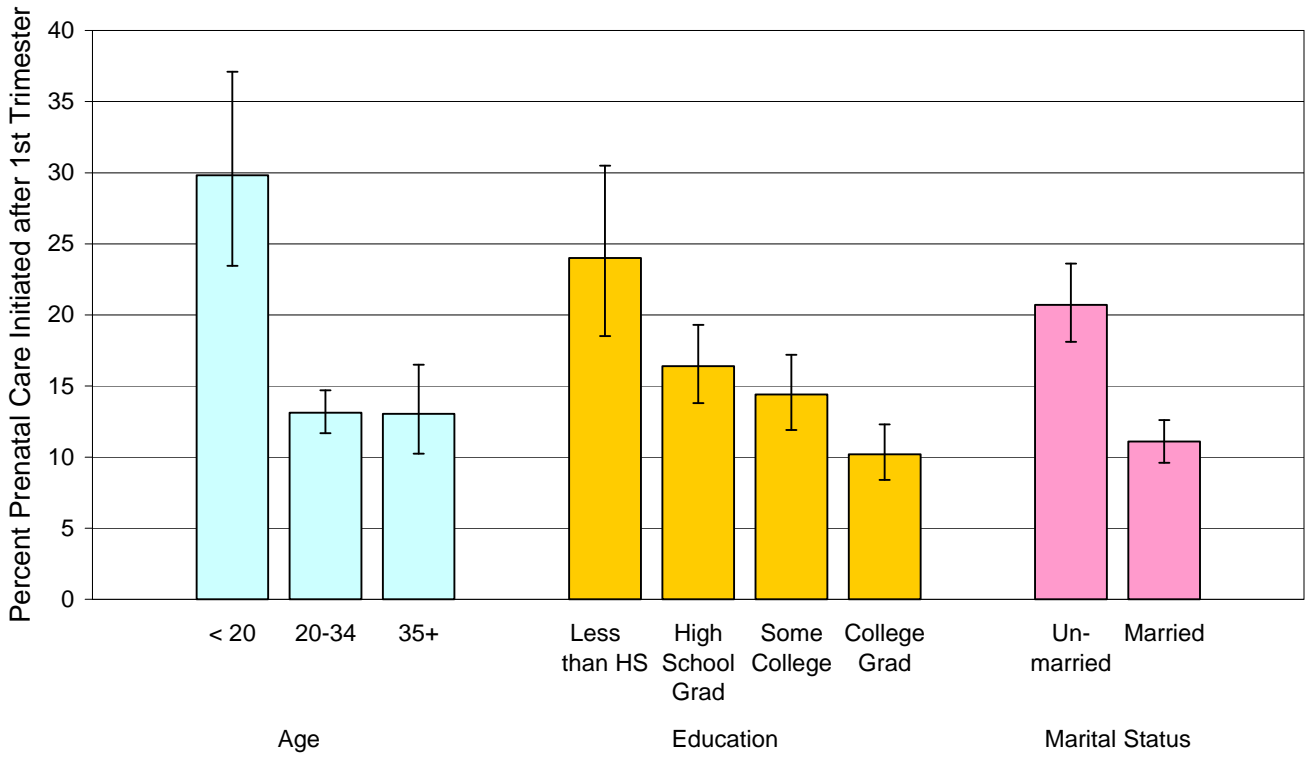


Source: VT PRAMS 2005-2007.

Problems getting prenatal care (2005-2007)

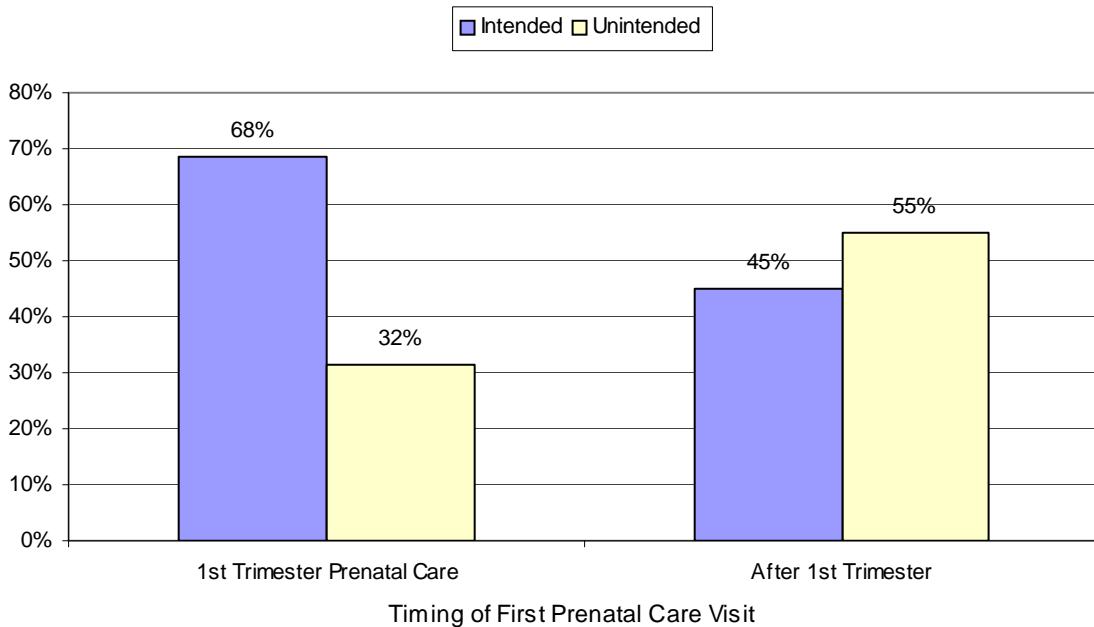


Prevalence of Prenatal Care Visits Initiated After the 1st Trimester by Age, Education and Marital Status



Source: VT PRAMS 2005-2007.

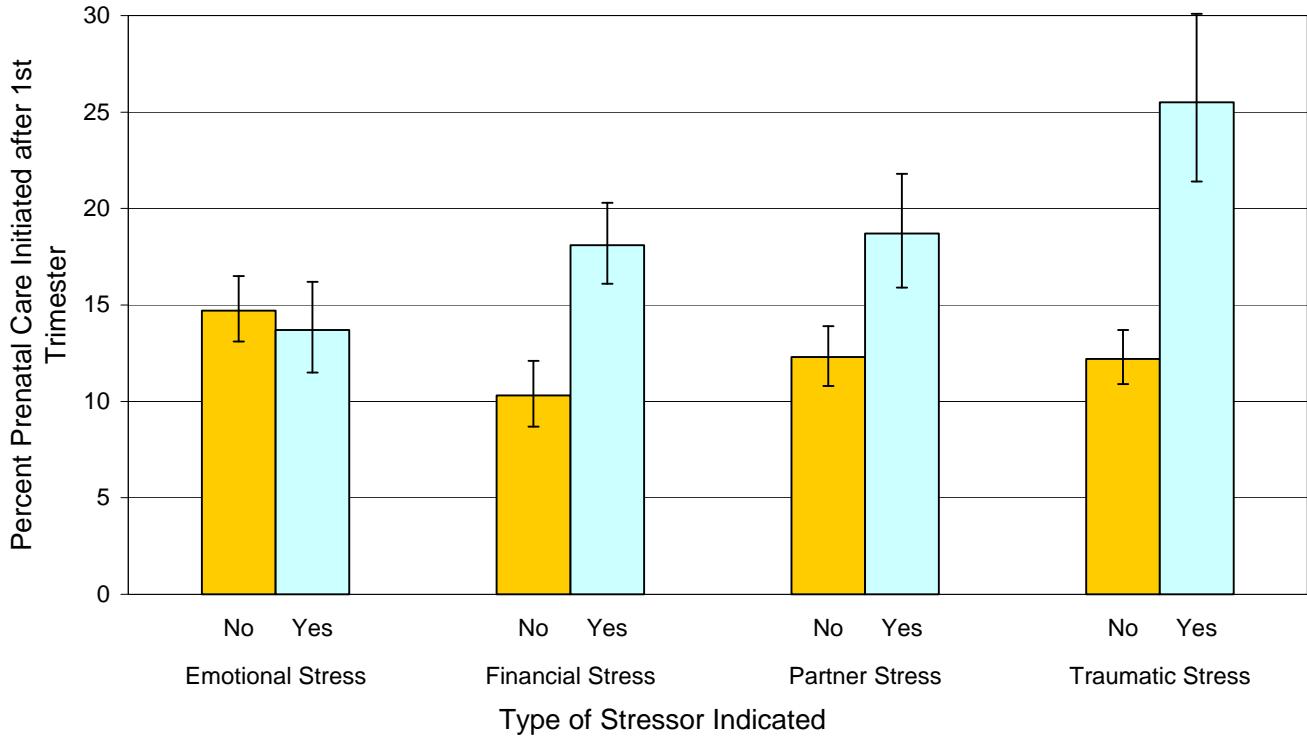
Within Prenatal Care Initiation Period, Percent Intended and Unintended Pregnancies



Source: VT PRAMS 2005-2007.

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Prevalence of Prenatal Care Visits Initiated After the 1st Trimester by Stress Indicators



Source: VT PRAMS 2005-2007.

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Selected topics - PRAMS Questionnaire 2005-2007

12. Thinking back to just before you got pregnant with your new baby, how did you feel about becoming pregnant?

- I wanted to be pregnant sooner
- I wanted to be pregnant later
- I wanted to be pregnant then
- I didn't want to be pregnant then or at any time in the future

18. Did you get prenatal care as early in your pregnancy as you wanted?

- No
- Yes
- I didn't want prenatal care

19. Here is a list of problems some women can have getting prenatal care. For each item, circle **Y** (Yes) if it was a problem for you during your most recent pregnancy or circle **N** (No) if it was not a problem or did not apply to you.

- a. I couldn't get an appointment when I wanted one . N Y
 - b. I didn't have enough money or insurance to pay for my visits N Y
 - c. I had no way to get to the clinic or doctor's office . N Y
 - d. I couldn't take time off from work N Y
 - e. The doctor or my health plan would not start care as early as I wanted N Y
 - f. I didn't have my Medicaid card N Y
 - g. I had no one to take care of my children N Y
 - h. I had too many other things going on N Y
 - i. I didn't want anyone to know I was pregnant . . . N Y
 - j. Other N Y
- Please tell us: _____

The four categories of stressors during pregnancy were constructed in the following way from Q 41, 42 & 44:

- 1) emotional**
A very sick family member had to go into the hospital or someone close to the respondent died;
- 2) financial**
The respondent moved to a new address, her husband or partner lost his job, she lost her job, or she had a lot of bills she could not pay, or there wasn't enough money to buy food;
- 3) partner-related**
The respondent separated or divorced from her husband or partner, she argued more than usual with her husband or partner, or her husband/partner said he did not want her to be pregnant, or indication of husband/ex-husband or partner/ex-partner abuse; and
- 4) traumatic**
The respondent was homeless, she was involved in a physical fight, she or her husband/partner went to jail, or someone close to her had a problem with drinking or drugs.

41. This question is about things that may have happened during the 12 months before your new baby was born. For each item, circle **Y** (Yes) if it happened to you or circle **N** (No) if it did not. (It may help to use the calendar.)

- a. A close family member was very sick and had to go into the hospital N Y
- b. I got separated or divorced from my husband or partner N Y
- c. I moved to a new address N Y
- d. I was homeless N Y
- e. My husband or partner lost his job N Y
- f. I lost my job even though I wanted to go on working N Y
- g. I argued with my husband or partner more than usual N Y
- h. My husband or partner said he didn't want me to be pregnant N Y
- i. I had a lot of bills I couldn't pay. N Y
- j. I was in a physical fight N Y
- k. My husband or partner or I went to jail N Y
- l. Someone very close to me had a bad problem with drinking or drugs N Y
- m. Someone very close to me died N Y

42. During the 12 months before your new baby was born, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money to buy food?

- No
- Yes

44a. During your most recent pregnancy, did an ex-husband or ex-partner push, hit, slap, kick, choke, or physically hurt you in any other way?

- No
- Yes

44b. During your most recent pregnancy, were you physically hurt in any way by your husband or partner?

- No
- Yes