



Birth Control Use Among Florida Women with Unintended Pregnancies, 2000-2001

According to Florida PRAMS 2000 and 2001 survey data, almost half (46.7 percent) of the pregnancies in among Florida residents were either mistimed (*wanted in the future*) or unwanted (*not wanted then or at any time in the future*). Among women in Florida who had such unintended pregnancies, 52.4 percent were using some form of birth control when they became pregnant. The prevalence of such ineffective birth control among women with unintended pregnancies was:

- Similar among all race/ethnicity groups. In particular, 51.2 percent among non-Hispanic White women, 54.8 percent among non-Hispanic Black women, and 54.0 percent among Hispanic women.
- Higher among women with more than a high school education (58.9 percent) than among those with less than a high school education (46.2 percent); 51.1 percent among women with a high school education.
- Similar among all levels of household income. In particular, 49.5 percent among women with incomes of \$15,600 or less, 54.5 percent among those with incomes between \$15,601 and \$39,600, and 55.0 percent among women with incomes of \$39,601 or more.

Among women who had unintended pregnancies, 47.6 percent were not using any form of birth control when they became pregnant. The prevalence of not using birth control among women with unintended pregnancies was:

- Similar among all race/ethnicity groups. In particular, 48.8 percent among non-Hispanic White women, 45.2 percent among non-Hispanic Black women, and 46.0 percent among Hispanic women.
- Higher among women with less than a high school education (53.8 percent) than among those with more than a high school education (41.1 percent); 48.9 percent among women with a high school education.
- Similar among all levels of household income. In particular, 50.6 percent among women with incomes of \$15,600 or less, 45.5 percent among those with incomes between \$15,601 and \$39,600, and 45.0 percent among women with incomes of \$39,601 or more.
- Higher among Medicaid recipients (50.7 percent) than among non-Medicaid recipients (42.6 percent).
- Higher among unmarried women (50.8 percent) than among married women (43.2 percent).

This study shows the demographic characteristics of women who have had unintended pregnancies and who either used ineffective methods of birth control or who did not use birth control at all. This data indicate that the ineffective use of birth control among women with unintended pregnancies is more likely to occur among women with higher levels of education. Additionally, this study shows that the absence of using any form of birth control among women with unintended pregnancies is more likely to occur among women who have lower levels of education, are Medicaid recipients, and/or are unmarried. These findings may assist healthcare providers and program planners in Florida to tailor effective family planning information for women of child-bearing age.

The Florida Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a random survey of recent mothers of live-born infants. It is designed to monitor the physical, economic, and social health of Florida mothers and newborns. PRAMS data are "weighted" so that the resulting estimates can be generalized to the entire state population. PRAMS data from 2000 and 2001 were combined to increase sample size and precision of estimates for this study.

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