



Pregnancy Intendedness Among Florida Women

During 2001 there were 205,800 live births among Florida residents. According to Florida PRAMS 2001 survey data, over one-third (36.5 percent) of these live births were conceived of pregnancies that were wanted later (mistimed). The prevalence of mistimed pregnancy was:

- Higher both among non-Hispanic Black women (41.5 percent) and among Hispanic women (43.4 percent) than among non-Hispanic White women (30.4 percent).
- The highest among younger women. In particular, 61.7 percent among women age 19 and younger, 52.8 percent among those age 20 to 24, 29.3 percent among those age 25 to 34, and 14.6 percent among women age 35 and older.
- Higher among women with less than a high school education (49.8 percent) than among those with more than a high school education (29.6 percent); (37.9 percent) among those with a high school education.
- Higher among Medicaid recipients (47.6 percent) than among non-Medicaid recipients (27.8 percent).
- Higher among women who were not married (56.6 percent) than among their married counterparts (25.2 percent).

One in ten (10.2 percent) live births to Florida residents during 2001 were conceived of pregnancies that were not wanted then or at any time in the future (unwanted). The prevalence of unwanted pregnancy was:

- The highest among non-Hispanic Black women (21.5 percent); 7.0 percent among non-Hispanic White women, and 7.8 percent among Hispanic women.
- Higher among women with less than a high school education (13.9 percent) than among those with more than a high school education (7.0 percent); (12.4 percent) among those with a high school education.
- Higher among Medicaid recipients (14.5 percent) than among non-Medicaid recipients (7.1 percent).
- Higher among women who were not married (13.7 percent) than among those who were married (8.3 percent).

This study shows that a mistimed pregnancy is more likely to occur among women who are non-Hispanic Blacks or Hispanics, age 24 and younger, have lower levels of education, are Medicaid recipients, and/or not married. This study also shows that an unwanted pregnancy is more likely to occur among women who are non-Hispanic Blacks, have lower levels of education, are Medicaid recipients, and/or are not married. These findings may assist healthcare providers and program planners in Florida to provide effective information for women to prevent pregnancies that are either mistimed or unwanted.

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. Florida PRAMS 2001 surveyed 2,006 new mothers, with a response rate of 75.3 percent

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