



Medicaid Participation Among Women Who are Pregnant in Florida, 2000-2001

Medicaid is the state and federal partnership that provides health coverage for selected categories of people with low incomes. Its purpose is to improve the health of people who might otherwise go without medical care for themselves and their children.

According to Florida PRAMS 2000 and 2001 survey data, 10.3 percent of women in Florida were on Medicaid before pregnancy. Medicaid paid for 36.1 percent of prenatal care visits and 38.7 percent of deliveries. Of the 41.8 percent of women who were Medicaid recipients either before or during pregnancy, 23.6 percent had trouble getting Medicaid during pregnancy. Among women in Florida who were Medicaid recipients either before or during pregnancy:

- Thirty-eight percent (37.9 percent) were non-Hispanic Whites; 34.2 percent were non-Hispanic Blacks; and 27.8 percent were Hispanics.
- One in five (22.6 percent) were age 19 and younger; 35.9 percent were age 20 to 24; 33.2 percent were between the ages of 25 and 34; and 8.4 percent were age 35 and older.
- One in three (36.6 percent) had less than a high school education; 44.8 percent had a high school education; and 18.6 percent had more than a high school education.
- Nearly two-thirds (64.5 percent) had household incomes of \$15,600 or less; 31.5 percent had household incomes between \$15,601 and \$39,600; and 4.0 percent had household incomes over \$39,600.
- Sixty-four percent (63.9 percent) were unmarried; 36.1 percent were married.
- Eight out of 10 (82.8 percent) were without health insurance before pregnancy; 12.8 percent had health insurance before pregnancy.

The prevalence of pregnancy-related outcomes among women in Florida who were Medicaid recipients either before or during pregnancy and those who were not Medicaid recipients (shown in parentheses) was:

- Unintended pregnancy: 64.1 percent (34.2 percent).
- Domestic violence before pregnancy: 10.8 percent (3.6 percent).
- Domestic violence during pregnancy: 8.7 percent (2.0 percent).
- Cigarette smoking during pregnancy: 13.7 percent (6.3 percent).
- Infant exposure to secondhand cigarette smoke: 12.5 percent (5.9 percent).
- Knowledge of folic acid in preventing some birth defects: 69.5 percent (84.0 percent).
- Preterm Birth: 11.5 percent (7.7 percent).
- Low birth weight: 9.3 percent (5.9 percent); very low birth weight: 1.8 percent (1.0 percent).
- Infant spent time in neonatal intensive care unit: 17.4 percent (10.7 percent).
- Breastfeeding: 67.8 percent (82.1 percent); breastfeeding for at least three months: 9.1 percent (15.0 percent).
- In WIC Supplemental Nutritional Program during pregnancy: 74.1 percent (19.0 percent).
- Tested for HIV during pregnancy: 92.0 percent (82.6 percent).
- Infant not currently living with its mother: 1.5 percent (0.02 percent).

This study shows the maternal demographics of Medicaid recipients. The data underscore the higher prevalence of some adverse outcomes and maternal behaviors among Medicaid recipients than among non-Medicaid recipients. These findings may assist healthcare providers in improving pregnancy outcomes among Medicaid recipients in Florida.

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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