



WIC Participation Among Women in Florida, 2000-2001

Florida's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a federally funded nutrition program for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, and/or postpartum; infants; and children under five-years-old.

According to Florida PRAMS 2000 and 2001 survey data, 41.4 percent of pregnant women in Florida were WIC recipients. Among pregnant women in Florida who were WIC recipients:

- One in three (35.0 percent) were non-Hispanic Whites; 36.3 percent were non-Hispanic Blacks; and 28.8 percent were Hispanics.
- One in five (20.5 percent) were age 19 and younger; 32.2 percent were age 20 to 24; 38.1 percent were between the ages of 25 and 34; and 9.2 percent were age 35 and older.
- One in three (33.3 percent) had less than a high school education; 43.9 percent had a high school education; and 22.9 percent had more than a high school education.
- Nearly two-thirds (62.2 percent) had household incomes of \$15,600 or less; 33.3 percent had household incomes between \$15,601 and \$39,600; and 4.5 percent had household incomes over \$39,600.
- More than half (56.6 percent) were unmarried; 43.4 percent were married.
- Two out of three (66.3 percent) were without health insurance before pregnancy; 33.7 percent had health insurance before pregnancy.
- Three out of four (72.3 percent) were Medicaid recipients during pregnancy; 27.7 percent were not.

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

- Unintended pregnancy: 58.5 percent (38.3 percent).
- Husband or partner did not want pregnancy: 15.7 percent (7.1 percent).
- Unaware of pregnancy until after first trimester: 16.5 percent (5.9 percent).
- Domestic violence before pregnancy: 9.5 percent (4.5 percent).
- Domestic violence during pregnancy: 8.1 percent (2.3 percent).
- Maternal cigarette smoking during pregnancy: 11.9 percent (7.5 percent).
- Infant exposure to second hand cigarette smoke: 11.8 percent (6.4 percent).
- Knowledge of folic acid in preventing some birth defects: 70.7 percent (83.2 percent).
- Infant spent time in neonatal intensive care unit: 17.2 percent (10.6 percent).
- Breastfeeding: 68.8 percent (81.5 percent);
- Tested for HIV during pregnancy: 92.0 percent (83.0 percent).
- Infant not currently living with its mother: 1.1 percent (0.4 percent).

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