



Well-Baby Checkups in Florida, 2000-2001

Pediatric well-baby checkups are a critical part of infant and childhood care. They are intended to assess the child's growth and development, provide immunizations, and recognize and treat health problems.

According to Florida PRAMS 2000 and 2001 survey data, 97.6 percent of infants in Florida had at least one well-baby checkup. This represents 375,266 infants. However, approximately 9,280 infants did not have a well-baby checkup. The prevalence of having well-baby checkups in Florida was:

- Similar by race/ethnicity: 97.9 percent among non-Hispanic White women, 98.4 percent among non-Hispanic Black women, and 96.1 percent among Hispanic women.
- Higher among women age 25 and older than among those age 24 and younger. In particular, 96.8 percent among women age 19 and younger, 95.6 percent among those age 20 to 24, 98.6 percent among women between the ages of 25 and 34, and 98.4 percent among those 35-years-old and over.
- Lower among women with less than a high school education (95.7 percent) than among those with more than a high school education (98.7 percent), and 97.2 percent among those with a high school education.
- The lowest among women with household incomes of \$15,600 or less (95.1 percent); 98.7 percent among women with household incomes between \$15,601 and \$39,600; and 99.3 percent among those with household incomes over \$39,600.
- Lower among Medicaid recipients (95.8 percent) than among non-Medicaid recipients (98.9 percent).
- Lower among WIC recipients (96.3 percent) than among non-WIC recipients (98.5 percent).
- Higher among married women (98.7 percent) than among unmarried women (95.6 percent).
- Higher among women whose newborns weighed 1,500 grams or less at birth (97.6 percent) than among those whose newborns weighed over 1,500 grams at birth (94.1 percent).
- Lower among women who were victims of physical abuse before pregnancy (91.8 percent) than among women who were not victims of physical abuse before pregnancy (98.0 percent).
- Higher among women with intended pregnancies (98.9 percent) than among those with unintended pregnancies (96.0 percent).
- Higher among women who were aware of their pregnancies during the first trimester (98.2 percent) than among those who were unaware of their pregnancies until after the first trimester (92.7 percent).

Eight out of ten (80.4 percent) pediatric well-baby checkups were conducted in private doctors' offices or HMO clinics. Other providers were health department clinics (8.6 percent), hospital clinics (6.9 percent), and birthing centers (1.4 percent).

Among the reasons cited by women as preventing a baby from having a well-baby checkup, more than half (55.8 percent) did not have enough money or insurance, 26.2 percent had no transportation, 9.2 percent stated their baby was too sick, 7.2 percent had no one to care for their other children, and 1.6 percent could not get an appointment.

This study shows that women who are less likely to take their infants for a well-baby checkup are under the age of 25, have lower levels of education or income, are Medicaid or WIC recipients, are not married, give birth to babies weighing more than 1,500 grams at birth, are victims of physical abuse before pregnancy, have unintended pregnancies, and/or are unaware of their pregnancies until after the first trimester. Having insufficient financial resources, no health insurance, and/or no transportation are the main barriers to having well-baby checkups. These findings may assist healthcare providers in providing effective information for increasing the prevalence of well-baby checkups.

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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