



Healthcare Provider Discussions about Breastfeeding in Florida, 2000-2001

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) states that breastfeeding provides health, nutritional, immunologic, developmental, psychological, social, economic and environmental advantages unmatched by formula feeding. The AAP recommends breastfeeding for at least the first year of life. During prenatal care visits, healthcare providers can inform and educate pregnant women about the benefits of breastfeeding.

According to Florida PRAMS 2000 and 2001 survey data, during prenatal care visits, healthcare providers discussed the benefits of breastfeeding with 80.8 percent of women, 75.5 percent of whom breastfed their newborns. The prevalence of having such a discussion during a prenatal care visit in Florida was:

- The highest among non-Hispanic Black women (75.9 percent), next among Hispanic women (64.7 percent), and the lowest among non-Hispanic White women (57.6 percent).
- Lower as maternal age increased. In particular, 92.6 percent among women age 19 and younger, 83.3 percent among those age 20 to 24, 77.7 percent among women between the ages of 25 and 34, and 76.6 percent among those 35-years-old and over.
- Lower as maternal education increased. In particular, 87.3 percent among women with less than a high school education, 81.8 percent among those with a high school education, and 77.2 percent among those with more than a high school education.
- The highest among women with household incomes of \$15,600 or less (83.7 percent), 78.3 percent among women with household incomes between \$15,601 and \$39,600, and 78.1 percent among those with household incomes over \$39,600.
- Higher among Medicaid recipients (86.3 percent) than among non-Medicaid recipients (76.8 percent).
- Higher among WIC recipients (88.1 percent) than among non-WIC recipients (75.6 percent).
- Higher among unmarried women (85.5 percent) than among married women (78.1 percent).
- Higher among women with unintended pregnancies (83.6 percent) than among those with intended pregnancies (78.5 percent).
- Similar among first-time mothers (83.9 percent) and their multiparous counterparts (79.2 percent).
- Similar among women who were aware of their pregnancies during the first trimester (84.8 percent) and those who were unaware of their pregnancies until after the first trimester (80.6 percent).
- Higher among health department clinics (86.7 percent), community health centers (93.1 percent), and among birthing centers (98.1 percent) than among private doctors' offices or HMO clinics (79.2 percent); 84.7 percent among hospital clinics.

This study shows that healthcare providers are less likely to discuss the benefits of breastfeeding during prenatal care visits with women who are Hispanic, are age 25 and older, have higher levels of education or income, are non-Medicaid or non-WIC recipients, are married, have intended pregnancies, and/or acquire prenatal care from private doctors' offices or HMO clinics. These findings may assist healthcare providers in providing effective information for increasing the prevalence of breastfeeding among new mothers 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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