



Injury from Automobile Accidents during Pregnancy in Florida, 2000-2002

While many auto accidents are simple "fender benders," others result in substantial property damage and serious injury. Pregnant women who are involved in automobile accidents are at risk for serious maternal injuries ranging from limb fractures, pelvic bone fracture, uterine rupture, abruption placenta, lacerations, as well as maternal and fetal death.

According to Florida PRAMS 2000, 2001, and 2002 survey data, compared to women who were not injured in an automobile accident during pregnancy, women who were injured in an automobile accident have a higher prevalence of preterm labor (59.8 percent versus 28.9 percent), and severe nausea, vomiting, or dehydration during pregnancy (50.8 percent versus 29.5 percent). The data show that 2.3 percent of women in Florida were injured in an automobile accident during their most recent pregnancy. The prevalence of being injured in an automobile accident among pregnant women in Florida was:

- The highest among non-Hispanic Black women (4.6 percent); 1.4 percent among non-Hispanic White women, and 2.2 percent among Hispanic women.
- Higher among women ages 24 and younger than among those ages 25 and older, in particular, 2.7 percent among women ages 19 and younger, 3.5 percent among those between the ages of 20 and 24, 1.9 percent among women ages 25 to 34, and 1.2 percent among those 35-years-old and older.
- Higher among women with less than a high school education (3.2 percent) than among those with more than a high school education (1.7 percent); 2.6 percent among women with a high school education.
- Higher among women with household incomes of \$15,600 or less (3.2 percent) than among women with incomes over \$39,600 (1.0 percent); 1.9 percent among women with household incomes between \$15,601 and \$39,600.
- Similar among unmarried women (2.2 percent) and married women (2.5 percent).
- Similar among women with unintended pregnancies (2.4 percent) and those with intended pregnancies (2.2 percent).
- Higher among Medicaid recipients (3.0 percent) than among non-Medicaid recipients (1.8 percent).
- Higher among Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) recipients (3.2 percent) than among non-WIC recipients (1.7 percent).
- Similar among women who smoked cigarettes either before pregnancy (2.8 percent) or during the last three months of pregnancy (3.6 percent) and those who did not smoke cigarettes either before (2.2 percent) or during pregnancy (2.1 percent).
- Similar among women with previous live births (2.2 percent) and first-time mothers (2.3 percent).
- Higher among women who did not drink alcohol either before pregnancy (2.8 percent) or during the last three months of pregnancy (2.3 percent) and those who did (1.5 percent and 1.0 percent, respectively).
- Similar among women who were victims of physical abuse either before pregnancy (3.8 percent) or during pregnancy (3.2 percent) than among women who were not (2.2 percent and 2.3 percent, respectively).
- Higher among women who became unemployed during the 12-month pre-birth period (5.2 percent) than among those who did not (1.8 percent).
- Higher among women who had a lot of bills they could not pay during the 12-month pre-birth period (3.7 percent) than among those who did not (1.7 percent).

This study shows that women who are more likely to be injured in an automobile accident during pregnancy are non-Hispanic Blacks, are ages 24 and younger, have lower levels of education or income, are Medicaid or WIC recipients, do not drink alcohol before or during pregnancy, become unemployed, and/or have personal financial difficulties. The data underscore the adverse health impact of being injured in an automobile accident on pregnancy outcomes. These findings may assist healthcare providers in providing effective information for decreasing the prevalence of injuries from automobile accidents among pregnant women in Florida.

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