

**Racial Differences in Selected PRAMS Variables,  
1996 and 1997  
PRAMS Report # 8**



**P R A M S**  
Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System

## **Racial Differences in Selected PRAMS Variables, 1996 and 1997 PRAMS Reports #8**

Reported by Chrissy Gest, MA and Daniel R. Thompson, MPH  
Florida Department of Health Bureau of Epidemiology

### **Description of PRAMS, the Sample and Definition of Race**

PRAMS (the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System) is a joint surveillance project between the Florida Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, designed to monitor the physical, economic, and social health of Florida's mothers and newborns. PRAMS is a mail survey with telephone follow-up of a random sample of recent mothers of live-born infants, completed when the infant is approximately three months old. Minority and low birth weight infants are over-sampled. 5370 mothers were sampled in 1996 and 1997 with 4237 surveys completed, for a response rate of 78.9%. The results presented are weighted to reflect the total population of Florida mothers and infants, as non-respondents to the survey are somewhat different from respondents.

Race was divided into four groups based on the maternal race and Hispanic origin as listed on the birth certificate: white non-Hispanic, black non-Hispanic, other non-Hispanic and Hispanic. The group other non-Hispanic includes women who were American Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Other Asian or Pacific Islander, or other non-white. Hispanic origin includes: Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other unknown Hispanic.

The sample consisted of

1,939 white non-Hispanic women  
1,563 black non-Hispanic women  
101 other non-Hispanic women  
and 630 Hispanic women.

There were 4 women with unknown race or Hispanic origin in the sample. These women were kept in the denominator for all calculations.

Unless otherwise indicated in chart definitions, the denominator for all variables includes all women including women who left the question blank or answered "I don't know".

Weighted percent missing included in the chart definitions is the percent of women that left the question blank or answered "I don't know".

The sample was weighted so that the results reflect all Florida women who gave birth in 1996 and 1997 (374727 women).

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For more information contact:

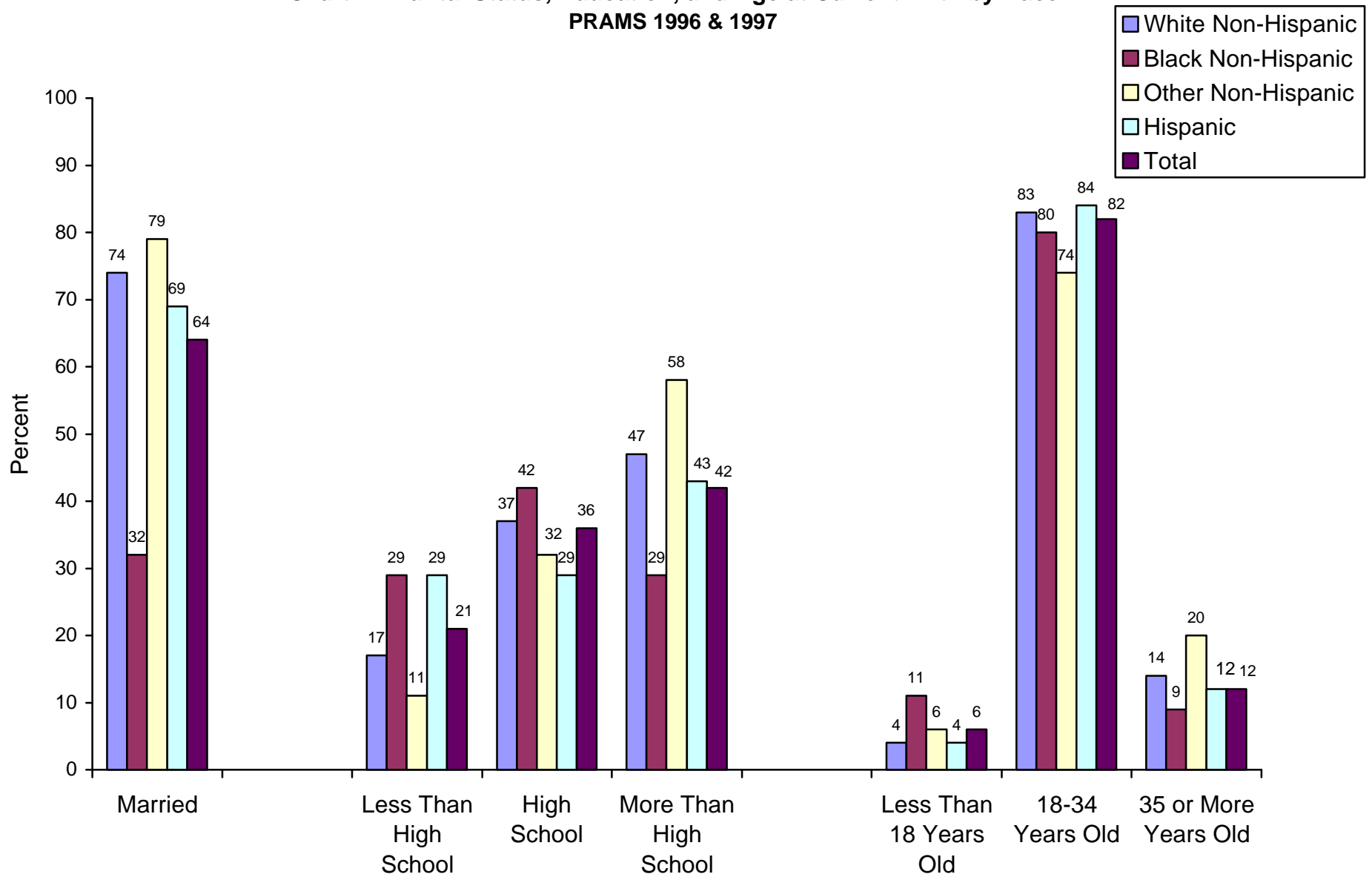
*Florida Department of Health  
Bureau of Epidemiology  
2020 Capital Circle S.E., BIN A-12  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0720  
Telephone: (850)254-4401 or Suncom: 205-4401  
Fax: (850)922-9299 or Suncom: 292-9299*

## **Definitions for Chart 1**

➡ Marital status (weighted percent missing = 0.0%) and education (weighted percent missing = 0.2%) were taken from the birth certificate.

➡ Age at current birth (weighted percent missing = 0.0%) was based on the mother's age as recorded on the birth certificate.

**Chart 1. Marital Status, Education, and Age at Current Birth by Race  
PRAMS 1996 & 1997**



## Definitions for Chart 2

➔Age at first birth (weighted percent missing = 2%) was based on the PRAMS question:

How old were you when you had your **first** baby? \_\_\_\_ years old

➔Poverty (weighted percent missing = 9%) was created using two PRAMS questions:

How many people live in your house, apartment, or trailer? **Count yourself.**  
How many?

Babies, children, or teens aged 17 years or younger \_\_\_\_\_  
Adults aged 18 years or older \_\_\_\_\_

What was your family's monthly income from all sources, during the 12 months before your new baby was born?

- Under \$650
- \$651 to \$1,300
- \$1,301 to \$2,100
- \$2,101 to \$3,300
- \$3,301 to \$4,200
- \$4,201 or more

Household size and household income were used to place respondent's at or below 100% of the federal poverty line, if the poverty level was indeterminate for a respondent because the PRAMS categories overlap the federal poverty guidelines, then that respondent was labeled as "intermediate".

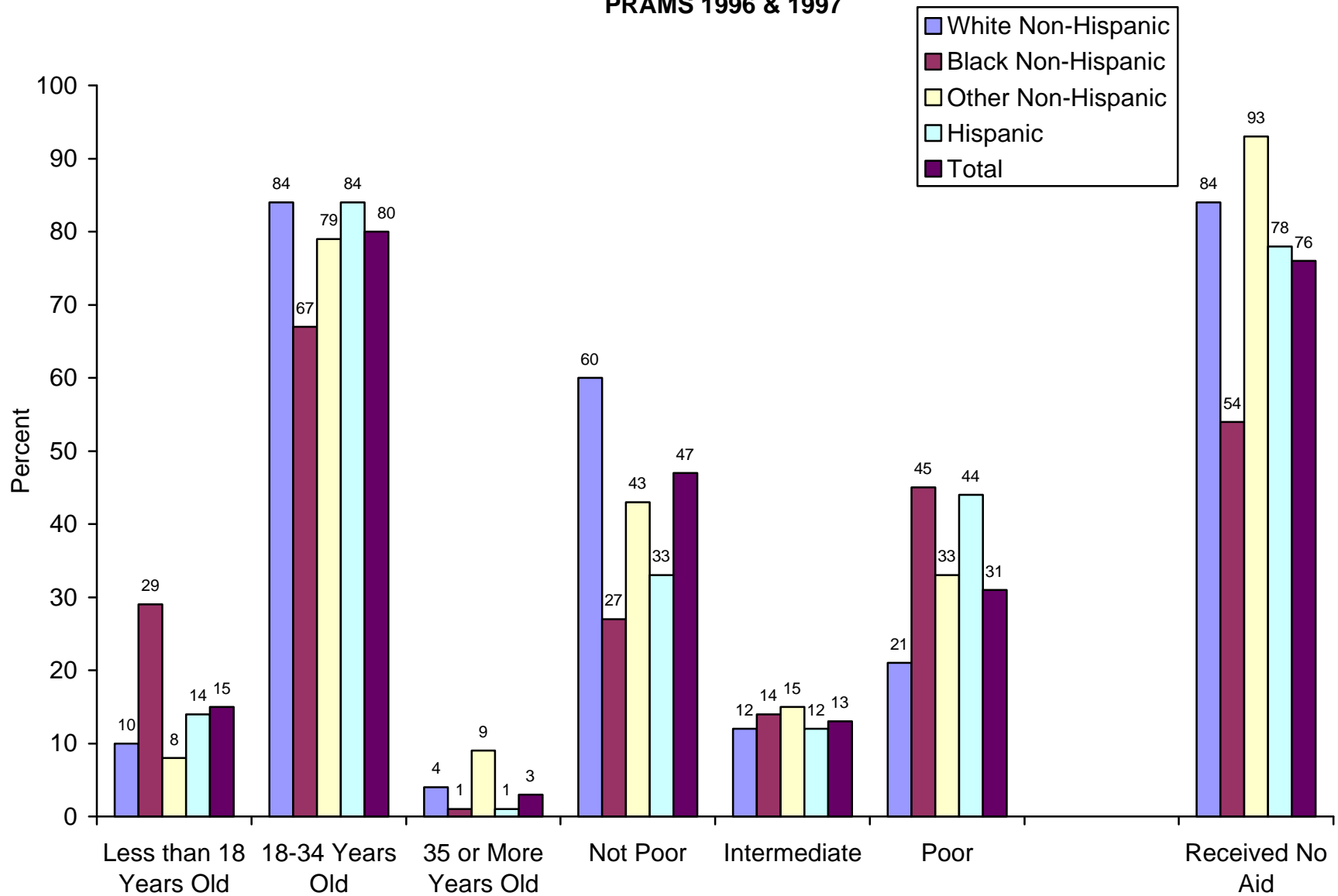
➔Source of income (weighted percent missing = 3%) was based on the PRAMS question:

What were the sources of your family income during the past 12 months? **Check all that apply.**

- Money from a job or a business
- Aid such as TANF/WAGES (formerly AFDC), welfare, public assistance, general assistance, food stamps, or SSI
- Unemployment benefits
- Child support or alimony
- Fees, rental income, commissions, interest, dividends
- Social security, workers' compensation, veteran benefits, or pensions
- other → please tell us: \_\_\_\_\_

Sources of income were grouped as received aid (response #2 above) or received no aid.

**Chart 2. Age at First Birth, Poverty Status and Source of Income by Race  
PRAMS 1996 & 1997**



### Definitions for Chart 3

➡Drinking alcohol in the last three months of pregnancy (weighted percent missing = 2%) was based on the PRAMS question:

During the **last 3 months** of your pregnancy, how many alcoholic drinks did you have in an average week?

- I didn't drink then
- Less than 1 drink a week
- 1 to 3 drinks a week
- 4 to 6 drinks a week
- 7 to 13 drinks a week
- 14 or more drinks a week
- I don't know

Women who drank any alcohol, including "less than 1 drink a week" were considered alcohol drinkers.

➡Smoking in the last three months of pregnancy (weighted percent missing = 2%) was based on the PRAMS question:

In the **last 3 months** of your pregnancy, how many cigarettes or packs of cigarettes did you smoke on an average day? (A pack has 20 cigarettes)

- \_\_\_ Cigarettes or \_\_\_ Packs
- Less than 1 cigarette a day
  - I don't smoke
  - I don't know

Women who smoked at all, including "less than 1 cigarette a day" were counted as smokers.

➡Infant tobacco exposure (weighted percent missing = 2%) was based on the PRAMS question:

About how many hours a day, on average, is your new baby in the same room with someone who is smoking?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Hours
- My baby is never in the same room with someone who is smoking

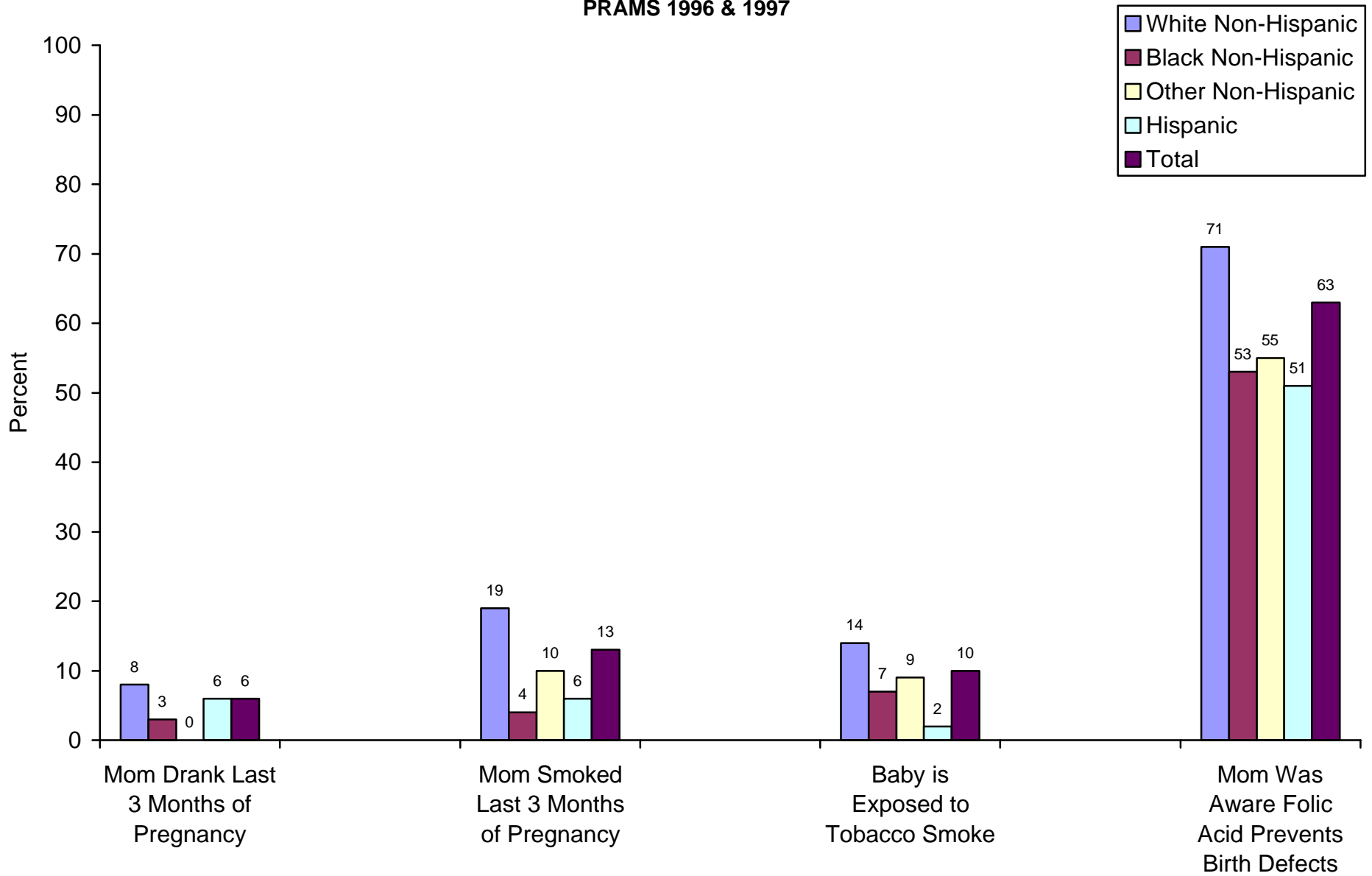
The baby was considered exposed to tobacco if they were in the same room with someone who was smoking at least 1 hour a day. The denominator for this variable only includes moms whose baby was still alive and was living with them. (Unweighted sample size = 4054, weighted percent skipped = 2%)

➡Knowledge of folic acid (weighted percent missing = 2%) was based on the PRAMS question:

Have you ever heard or read that taking the vitamin folic acid can help prevent some birth defects?

- No
- Yes

**Chart 3. Drinking Alcohol, Smoking, Tobacco Exposure and Knowledge of Folic Acid by Race**  
**PRAMS 1996 & 1997**



**Definitions for Chart 4**

➡Adequacy of prenatal care utilization (weighted percent missing = 5%) was calculated based on the Kotelchuck Index which determines adequacy of prenatal care based on: first entry into prenatal care, number of prenatal visits, number of expected visits based on month prenatal care began and length of gestation. (for a complete description see Kotelchuck M. *An Evaluation of the Kessner Adequacy of Prenatal Care Index and a Proposed Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index*. American Journal of Public Health 1994; 84: 1414-1420.)

➡Prenatal care in the first trimester (weighted percent missing = 4%) was calculated using the PRAMS question:

During each month of your pregnancy, about how many visits for prenatal care did you have? **If you don't know exactly how many, please give us your best guess. Don't count visits for WIC. It may help to use the calendar.**

Month of pregnancy	How many visits?
First month	_____
Second month	_____
Third month	_____
Fourth month	_____
Fifth month	_____
Sixth month	_____
Seventh month	_____
Eighth month	_____
Ninth month	_____

I did not go for prenatal care → **Go to Question 17**

Women who had at least one visit for prenatal care in the first three months were counted as having received prenatal care in the first trimester.

➡Whether or not the mom started prenatal care as early as she wanted (weighted percent missing = 2%) was based on the PRAMS question:

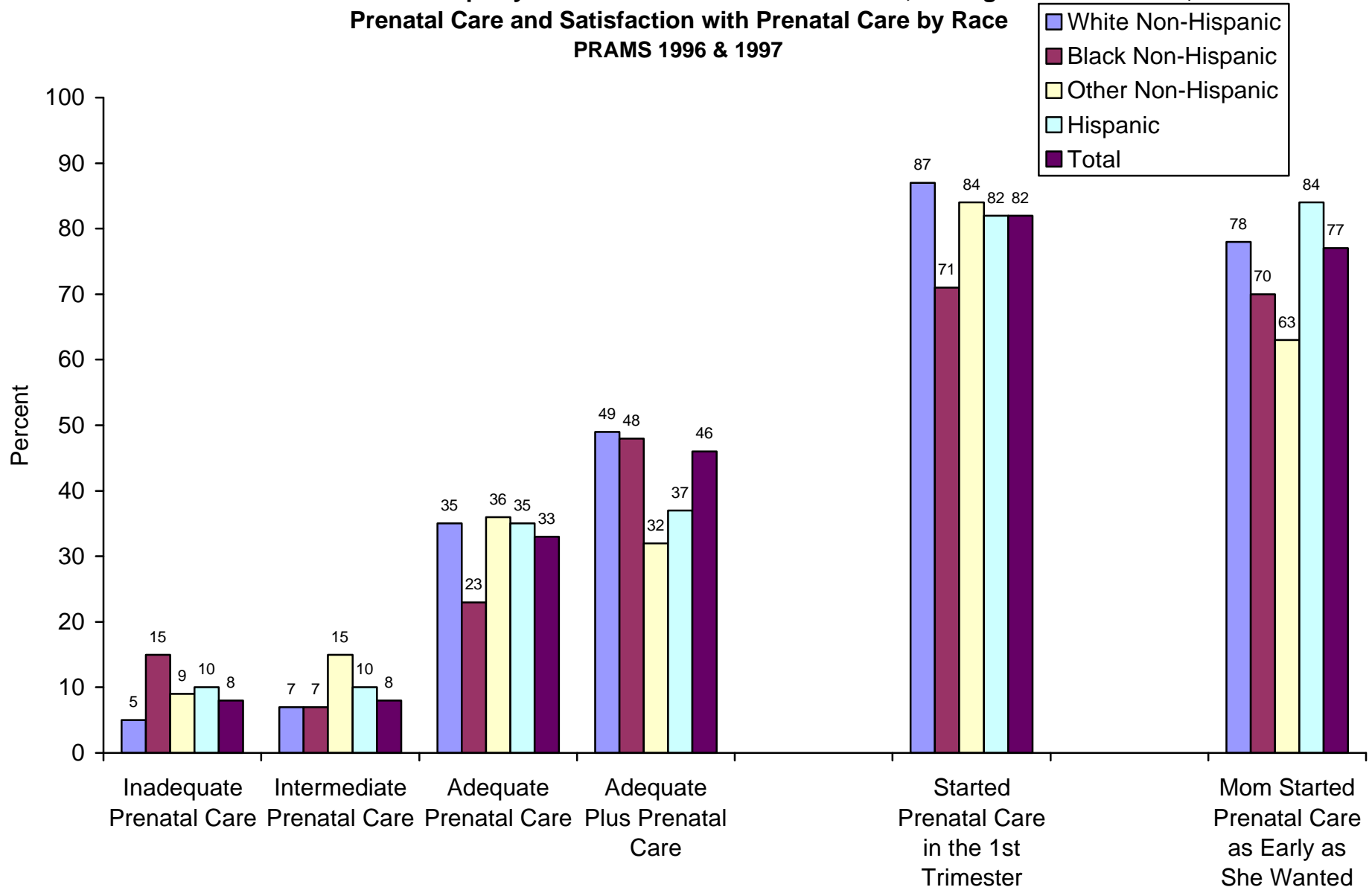
Did you get prenatal care as early in your pregnancy as you wanted?

No

Yes → **Go to Question 13**

I did not want prenatal care → **Go to Question 13**

**Chart 4. Kotelchuck's Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Scale, Timing of Prenatal Care, Prenatal Care and Satisfaction with Prenatal Care by Race  
PRAMS 1996 & 1997**



**Definitions for Chart 5**

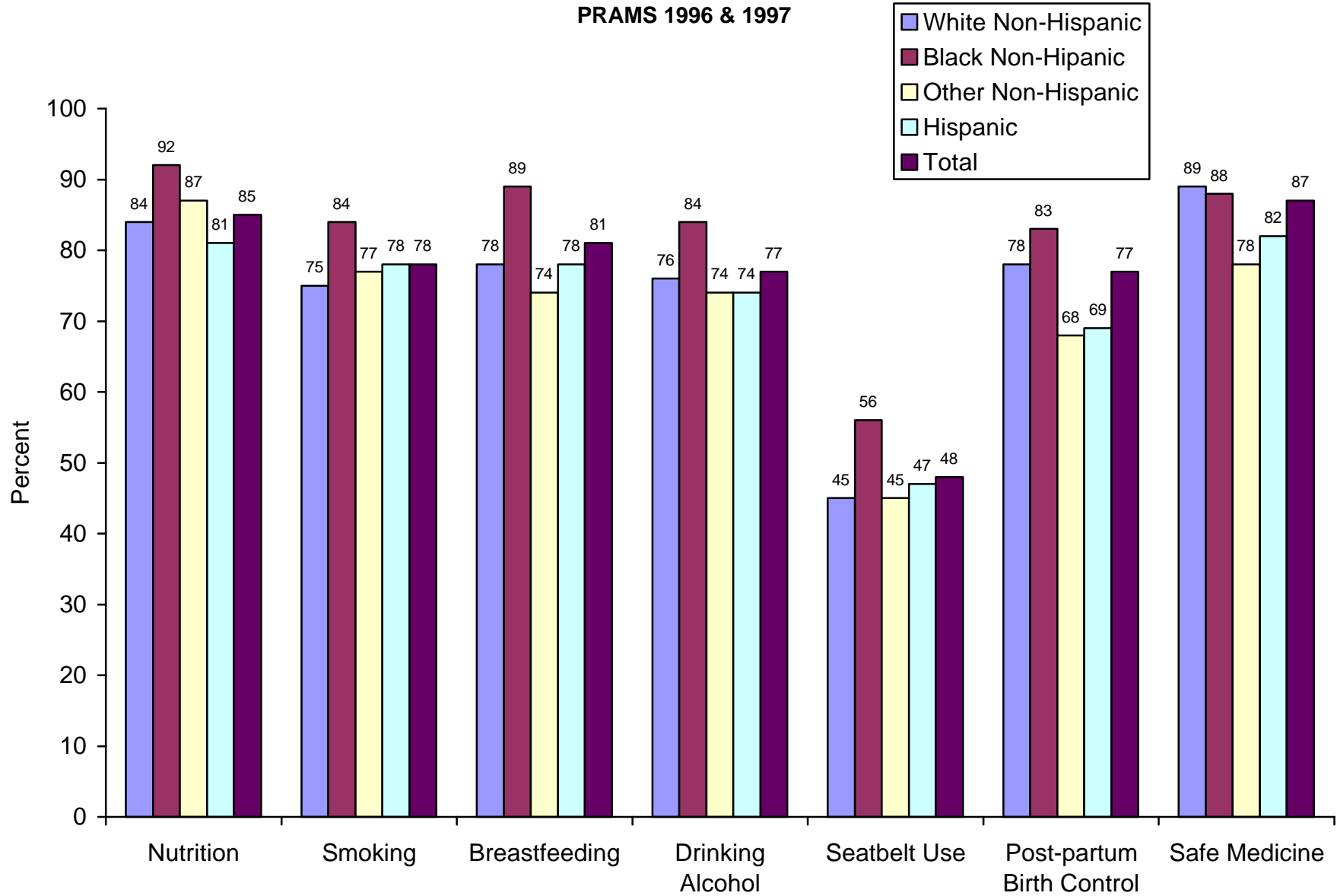
➡ Topics discussed by a health care worker during prenatal care for Chart 5 were based on the PRAMS question:

During any of your prenatal care visits, did a doctor, nurse, or other health care worker talk with you about any of the things listed below? **For each thing, please circle Y (Yes) if someone talked with you about it or N (No) if no one talked with you about it.**

	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
a. What you should eat during your pregnancy (2% weighted missing)	N	Y
b. How smoking during pregnancy could affect your baby (2% weighted missing)	N	Y
c. Breast-feeding your baby (2% weighted missing)	N	Y
d. How drinking alcohol during pregnancy could affect your baby (3% weighted missing)	N	Y
e. Using a seat belt during your pregnancy (3% weighted missing)	N	Y
f. Birth control methods to use after your pregnancy (2% weighted missing)	N	Y
g. The kinds of medicines that were safe to take during your pregnancy (2% weighted missing)	N	Y

The denominator does not include women who did not go for prenatal care. (Unweighted sample size = 4165, weighted percent skipped = 1%)

**Chart 5. Topics Discussed by Health Care Worker During Prenatal Care by Race**  
**PRAMS 1996 & 1997**



**Definitions for Chart 6 (Continuation of Chart 5)**

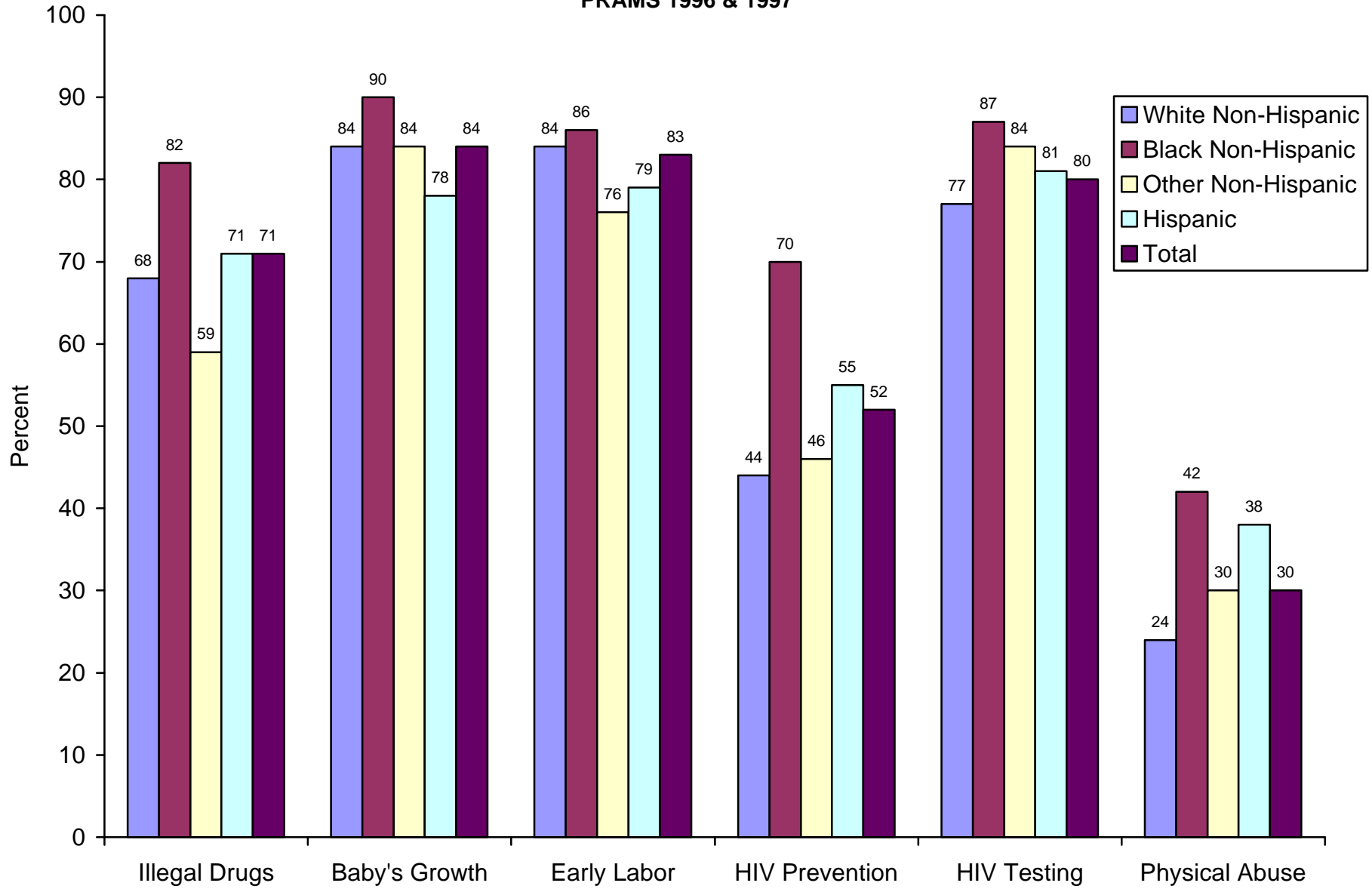
➡ Topics discussed by a health care worker during prenatal care for Chart 6 were based on the PRAMS question:

During any of your prenatal care visits, did a doctor, nurse, or other health care worker talk with you about any of the things listed below? **For each thing, please circle Y (Yes) if someone talked with you about it or N (No) if no one talked with you about it.**

	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
h. How using illegal drugs could affect your pregnancy (3% weighted missing)	N	Y
i. How your baby grows and develops during your pregnancy (2% weighted missing)	N	Y
j. What to do if your labor starts early (3% weighted missing)	N	Y
k. How to keep from getting HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) (3% weighted missing)	N	Y
l. Getting your blood tested for HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) (3% weighted missing)	N	Y
m. Physical abuse to women by their husbands or partners (3% weighted missing)	N	Y

The denominator does not include women who did not go for prenatal care.  
(Unweighted sample size = 4165, weighted percent skipped = 1%)

**Chart 6. Topics Discussed by Health Care Worker During Prenatal Care by Race**  
**PRAMS 1996 & 1997**



## Definitions for Chart 7

➡ Physical abuse during pregnancy (weighted percent missing = 0.6%) was based on the PRAMS question:

**During your most recent pregnancy**, did any of these people physically abuse you? **Check all that apply.**

- My husband or partner
- A family or household member **other than** my husband or partner
- A friend
- Someone else → Please tell us: \_\_\_\_\_

Women who checked any of the boxes were counted as physically abused during their pregnancy.

➡ Number of stressors (weighted percent missing = 2%) was based on the PRAMS question:

This question is about things that may have happened the **12 months before you delivered** your new baby. This includes the months before you got pregnant. **For each thing, circle Y (Yes) if it happened to you or N (No) if it did not. It may help to use the calendar.**

	No	Yes
a. A close family member was very sick and had to go into the hospital	N	Y
b. You got separated or divorced from your husband or partner	N	Y
c. You moved to a new address	N	Y
d. You were homeless	N	Y
e. Your husband or partner lost his job	N	Y
f. You lost your job even though you wanted to go on working	N	Y
g. You and your husband or partner argued more than usual	N	Y
h. Your husband or partner said he did not want you to be pregnant	N	Y
i. You had a lot of bills you couldn't pay	N	Y
j. You were involved in a physical fight	N	Y
k. You or your husband or partner went to jail	N	Y
l. Someone very close to you had a bad problem with drinking or drugs	N	Y
m. Someone very close to you died	N	Y

All yes responses were added together and divided into 3 groups: 1-2 stressors, 3-5 stressor, and 6-18 stressors.

➡ Unintended and unwanted pregnancy (weighted percent missing = 6%) were based on the PRAMS question:

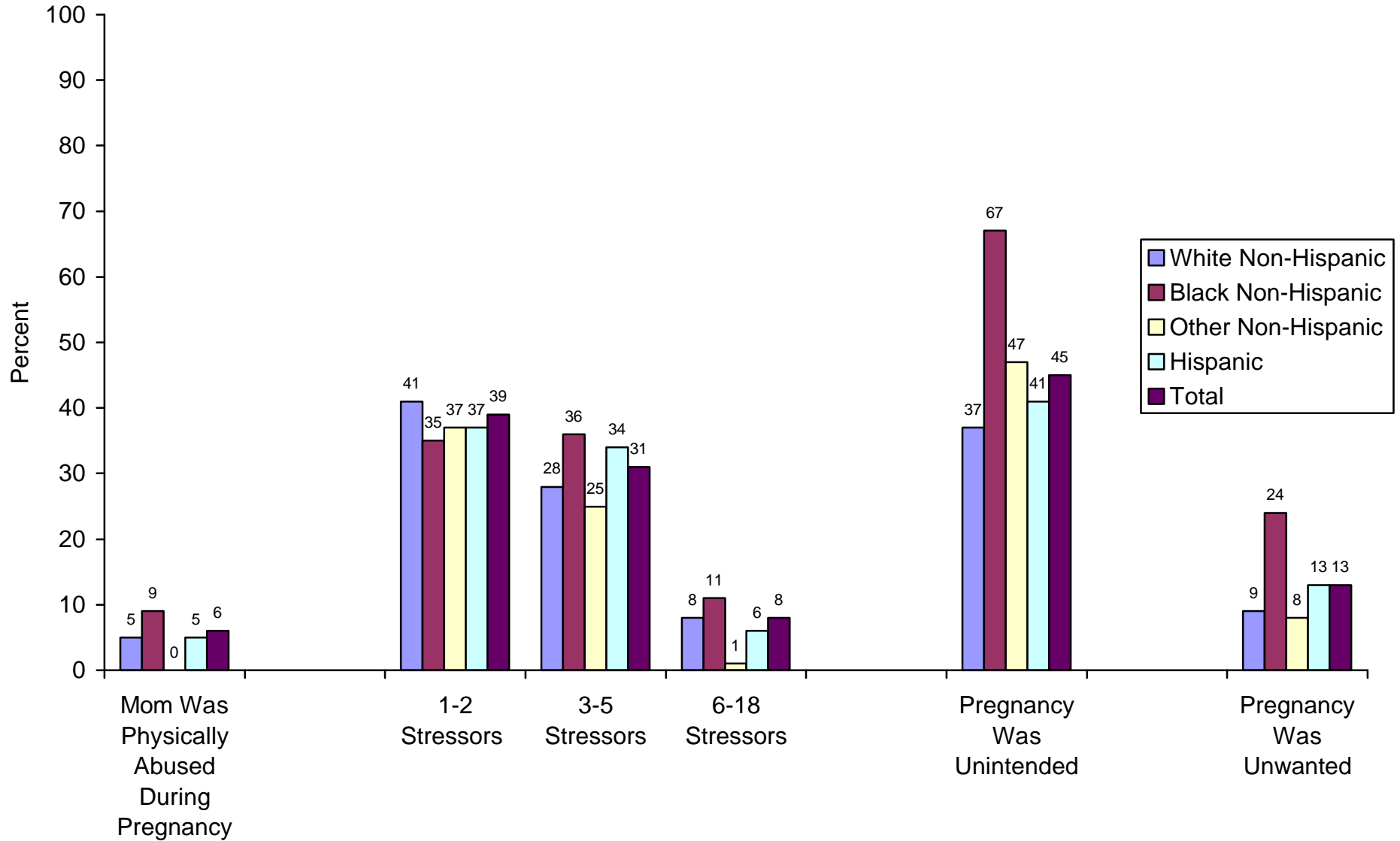
Thinking back to **just before** you got pregnant, how did you feel about becoming pregnant? **Check the best answer.**

- I wanted to be pregnant sooner
- I wanted to be pregnant later
- I wanted to be pregnant then
- I didn't want to be pregnant then or at any time in the future
- I don't know

Unintended pregnancies are pregnancies wanted later, or pregnancies not wanted then or at any time in the future.

Unwanted pregnancies are pregnancies not wanted then or at any time in the future.

**Chart 7. Physical Abuse, Number of Stressors 12 Months Before Birth, Unintended Pregnancy and Unwanted Pregnancy by Race  
PRAMS 1996 & 1997**



## **Definitions for Chart 8**

➡HIV testing (weighted percent missing = 1%) was based on the PRAMS question:

At any time during your most recent pregnancy **or** delivery, did you have a blood test for HIV (the virus that causes AIDS)?

- No
- Yes
- I don't know

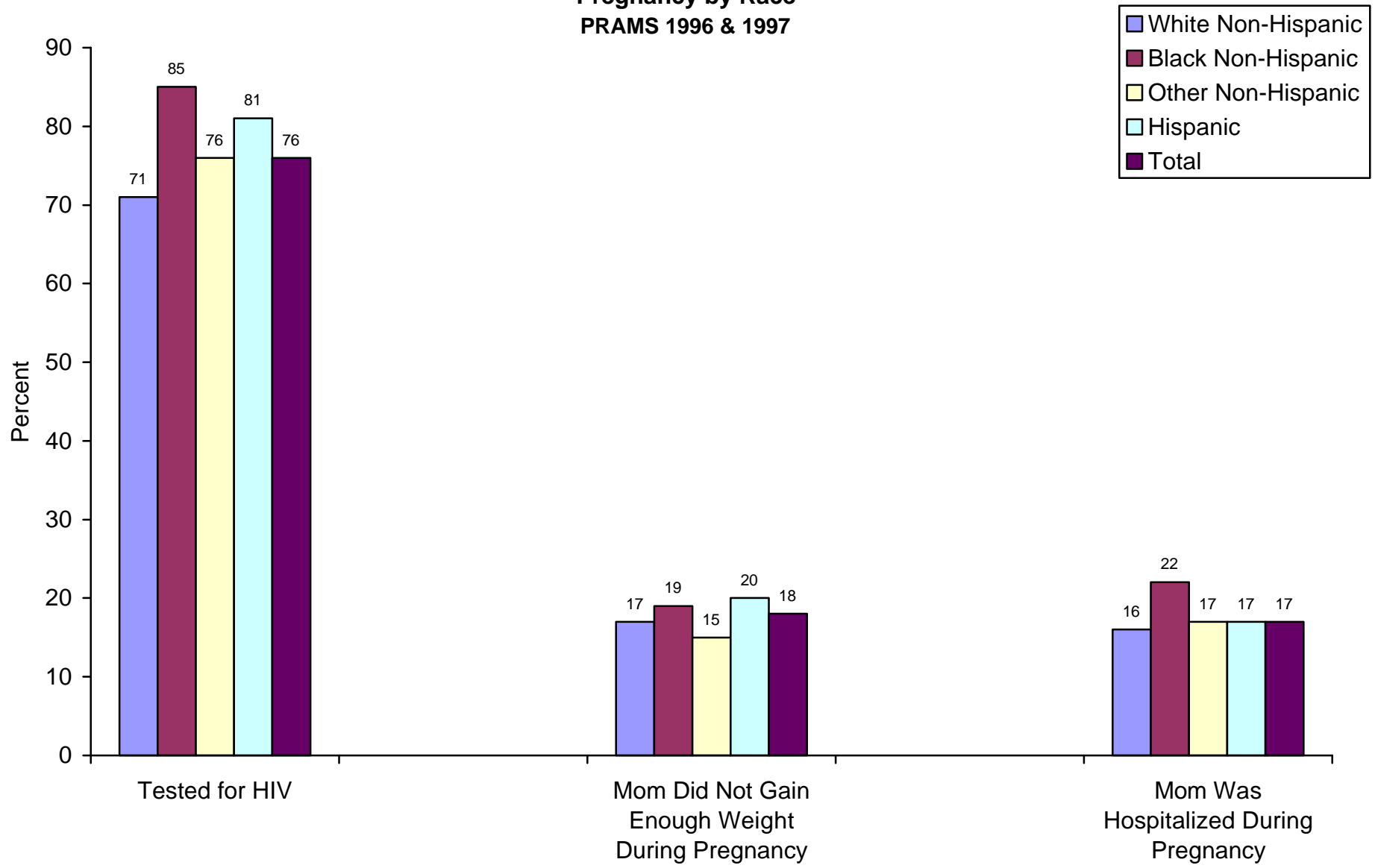
➡Adequate weight gain during pregnancy (weighted percent missing = 15%) was based on: Mom's body mass index (as calculated by the CDC using Mom's height and pre-pregnancy weight from PRAMS survey), number of pounds mom gained during pregnancy from the birth certificate, weeks gestation, and minimum number of pounds that should be gained according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Amount of weight gain was adjusted for weeks gestation.

➡Hospitalization during pregnancy (weighted percent missing = 2%) was based on the PRAMS question:

**Not counting** the time you went to the hospital to have your baby, how many **other** times during your pregnancy did you go into a hospital and stay **at least one night**?

- None → **Go to Question 30**
- 1 time
- 2 times
- 3 times
- 4 times or more

**Chart 8. HIV Testing, Inadequate Weight Gain During Pregnancy and Hospitalization During Pregnancy by Race  
PRAMS 1996 & 1997**



## **Definitions for Chart 9**

➡ Payment source for prenatal care (weighted percent missing = 5%) was based on the PRAMS question:

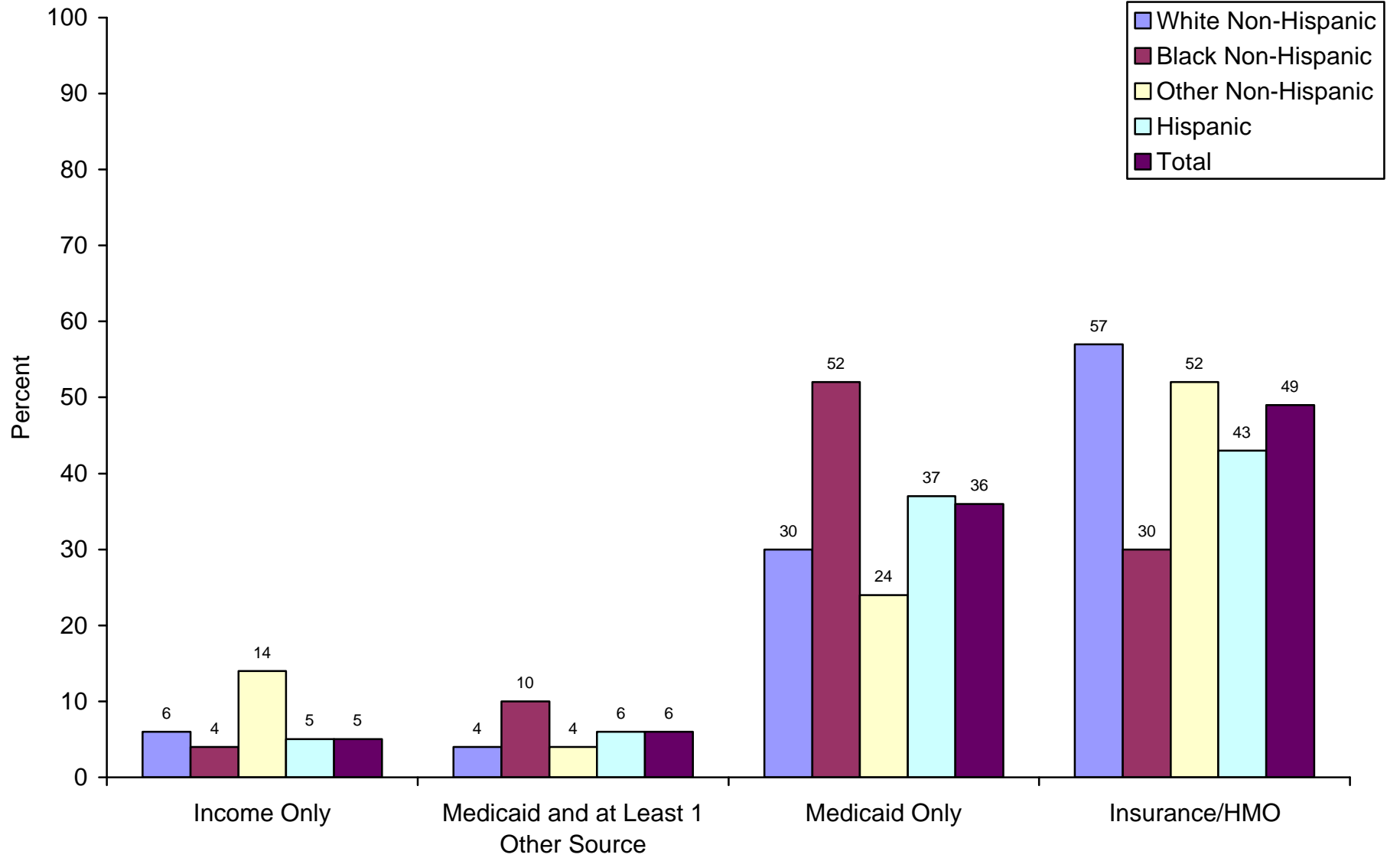
How was your prenatal care paid for? **Check all that apply.**

- Medicaid
- Personal income (cash, check or credit card)
- Health insurance
- Medipass
- Private HMO
- Other → Please tell us: \_\_\_\_\_

Medicaid and Medipass were combined and are referred to as “Medicaid”. Health insurance and using a private HMO were combined into one payment source. All categories are mutually exclusive. Women who paid using private insurance may have also used personal income as an additional source (for example, a co-payment). The “other” response was excluded from the analysis because after analyzing the responses, it was clear that most of these responses were not valid.

The denominator does not include women who did not have prenatal care.  
(Unweighted sample size = 4165, weighted percent skipped = 1%)

**Chart 9. Payment Source for Prenatal Care by Race  
PRAMS 1996 & 1997**



## **Definitions for Chart 10**

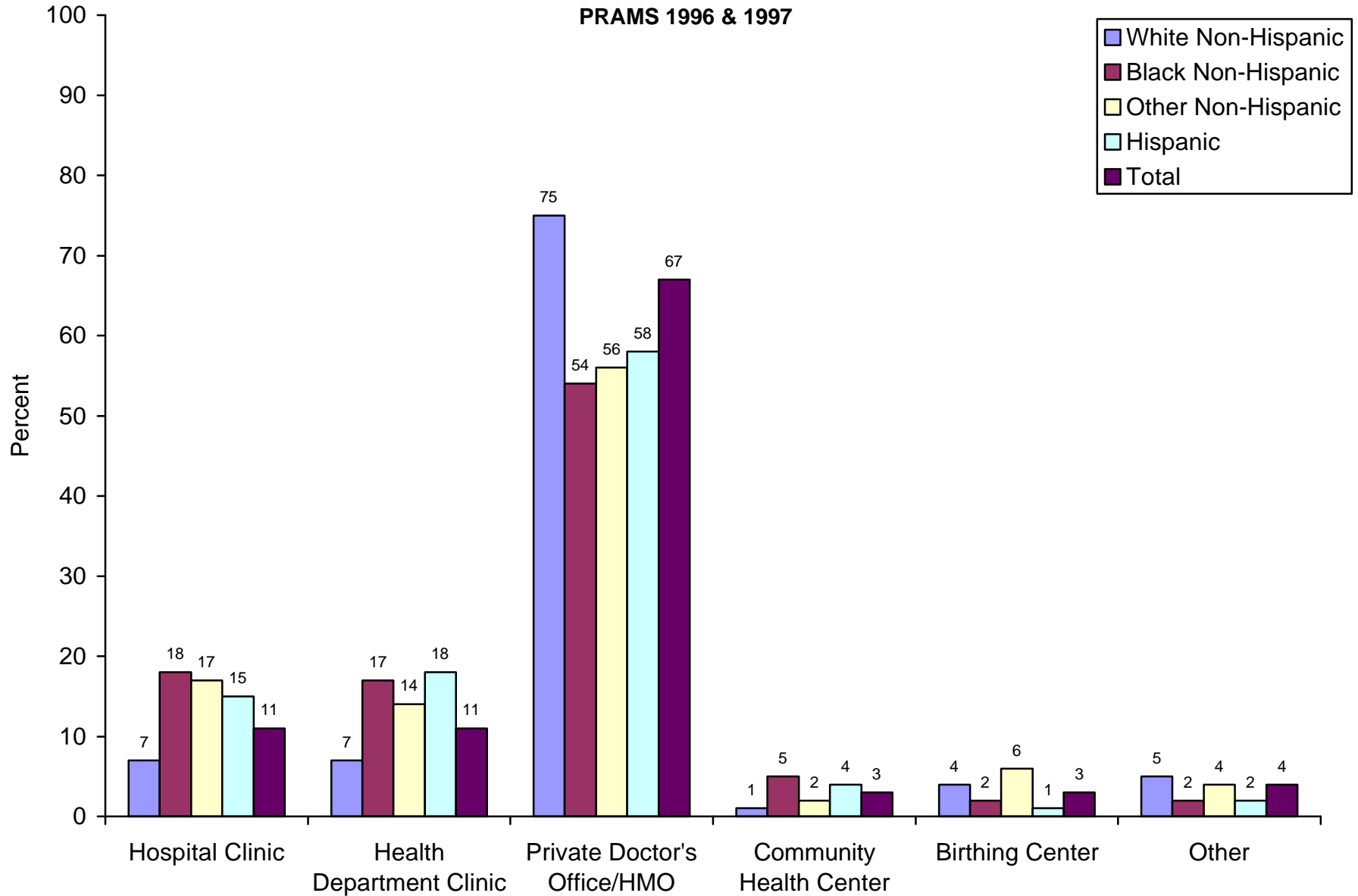
➡ Provider source for prenatal care (weighted percent missing = 2%) was based on the PRAMS question:

Where did you go ***most of the time*** for your prenatal visits? **Don't include visits for WIC. Check one answer.**

- Hospital clinic
- Health department clinic
- Private doctor's office
- Birthing center
- Community health center
- Other → Please tell us: \_\_\_\_\_

The denominator does not include women who did not have prenatal care.  
(Unweighted sample size = 4165, weighted percent skipped = 1%)

**Chart 10. Provider Source for Prenatal Care by Race  
PRAMS 1996 & 1997**

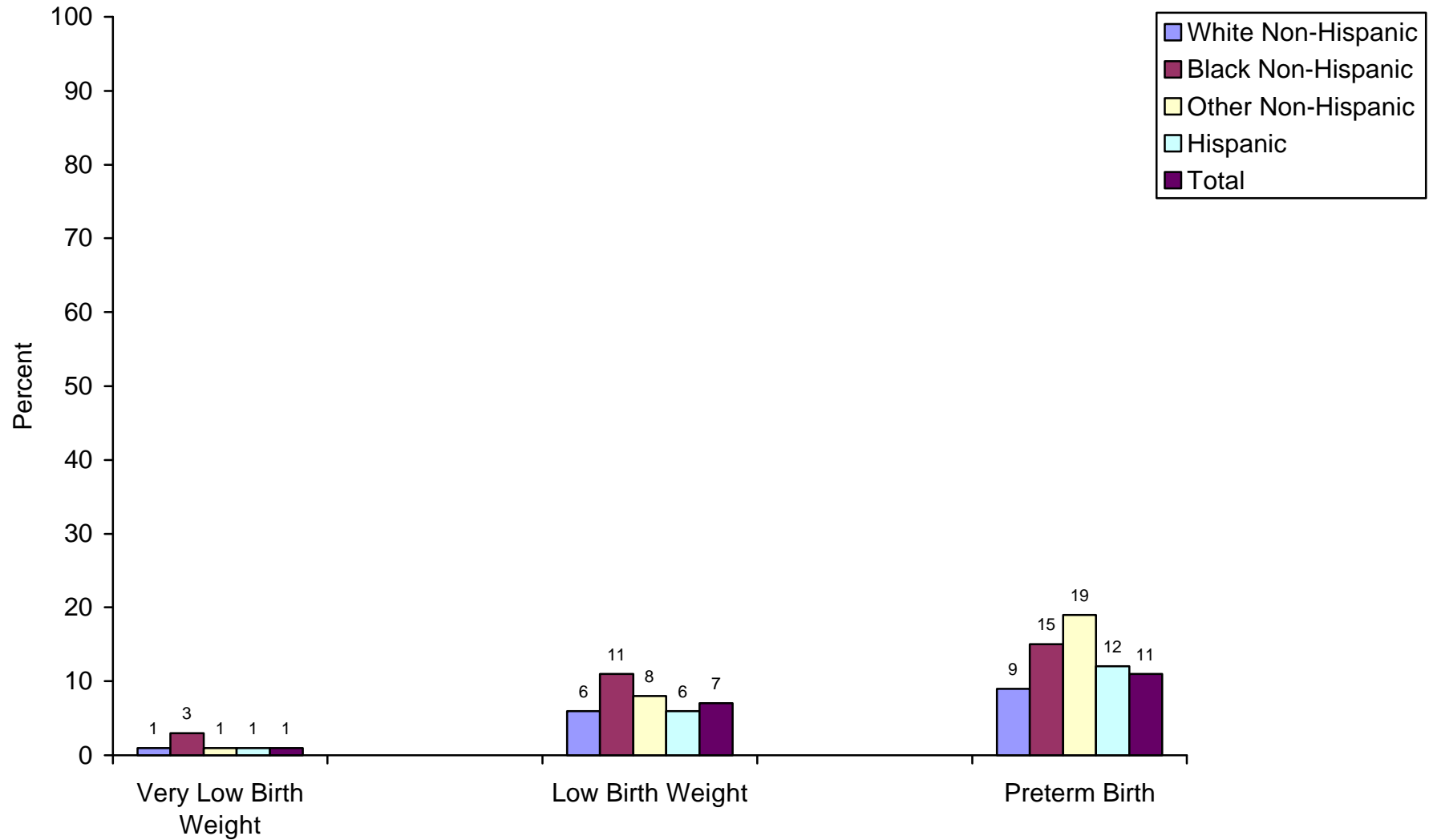


### **Definitions for Chart 11**

➡ For very low birth weight and low birth weight, birth weight in grams from the birth certificate (weighted percent missing = 0.01%) was used. Low birth weight was defined as an infant born weighing less than 2,499 grams, while very low birth weight births are infants born weighing less than 1,499 grams.

➡ Preterm births are infants born at 36 weeks of gestation or less. Number of weeks gestation (weighted percent missing = 4%) was calculated by subtracting mother's LMP date converted to days (from birth certificate) from infant's birth date (from birth certificate) then dividing by 7, this number is then rounded down. (Gestation= $\text{Truncation}(\text{DOB}-\text{LMP}/7)$ )

**Chart 11. Very Low Birth Weight, Low Birth Weight and Preterm Birth by Race**  
**PRAMS 1996 & 1997**



## **Definitions for Chart 12**

➡ Type of delivery was taken from the birth certificate (weighted percent missing = 0.2).

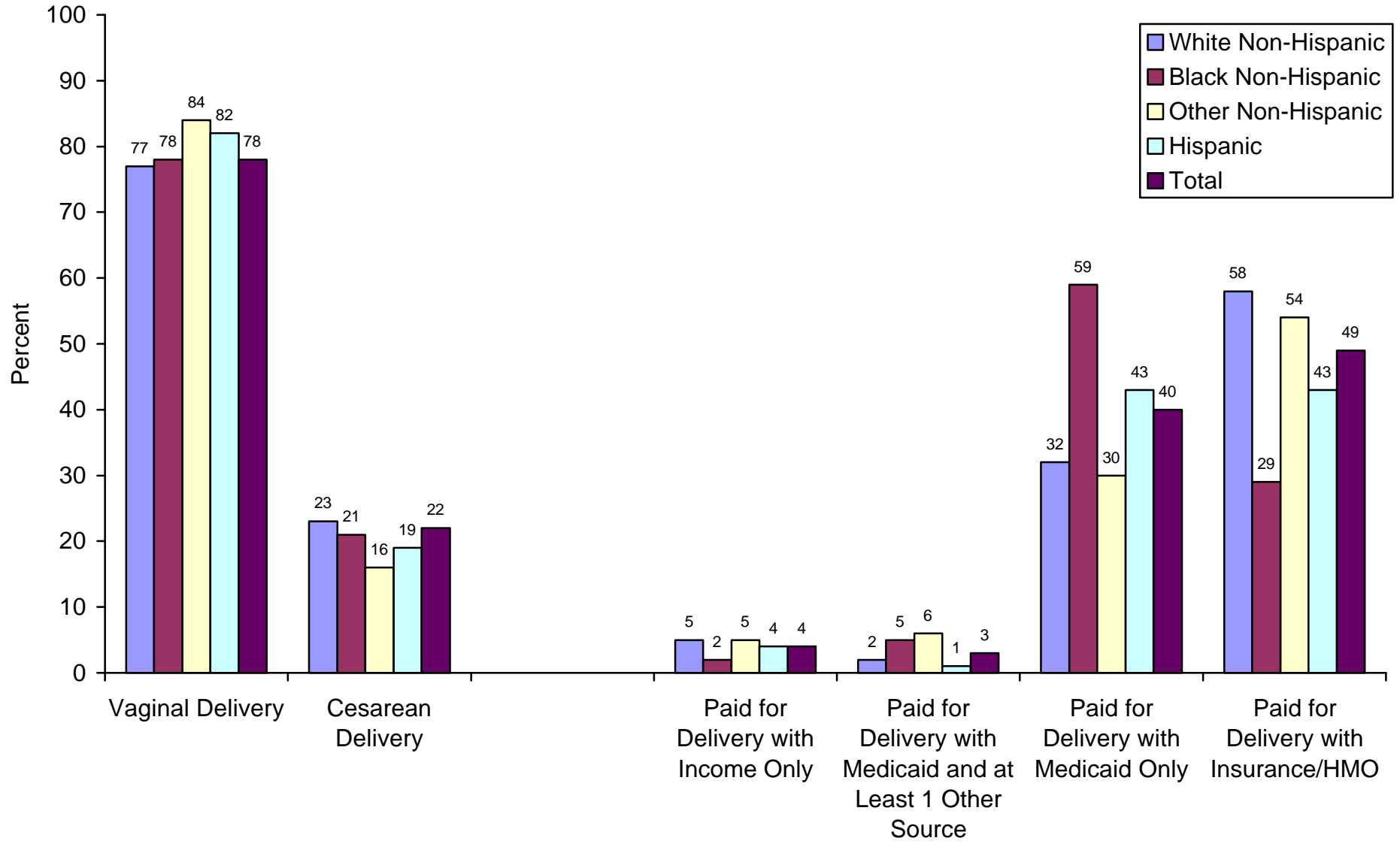
➡ Payment source for delivery (weighted percent missing = 5%) was based on the PRAMS question:

How was your delivery paid for? **Check all that apply.**

- Medicaid
- Personal income (cash, check or credit card)
- Health insurance
- Medipass
- Private HMO
- Other → Please tell us: \_\_\_\_\_

Medicaid and Medipass were combined and are referred to as “Medicaid”. Health insurance and using a private HMO were combined into one payment source. All categories are mutually exclusive. Women who paid using private insurance may have also used personal income as an additional source (for example, a co-payment). The “other” response was excluded from the analysis because after analyzing the responses, it was clear that most of these responses were not valid.

**Chart 12. Type of Delivery and Payment Source for Delivery by Race  
PRAMS 1996 & 1997**



### **Definitions for Chart 13**

➡Length of hospital stay (mom's weighted percent missing = 1%, baby's weighted percent missing = 2%) was based on the PRAMS questions:

When you had your baby, how many nights did you stay in the hospital?

\_\_\_\_\_ Nights

- I did not stay overnight in the hospital
- I did not have my baby in a hospital

and

When your baby was born, how many nights did he or she stay in the hospital?

\_\_\_\_\_ Nights

- My baby did not stay overnight in the hospital
- My baby was not born in a hospital

Length of hospital stay was also based on type of delivery from the birth certificate. A mom or baby stayed in the hospital longer than usual if she or the baby stayed more than 2 nights for vaginal delivery or more than 3 nights for cesarean delivery

➡Baby admitted to ICU (weighted percent missing = 2%) was based on the PRAMS question:

When your baby was born, was he or she put in an intensive care unit?

- No
- Yes
- I don't know

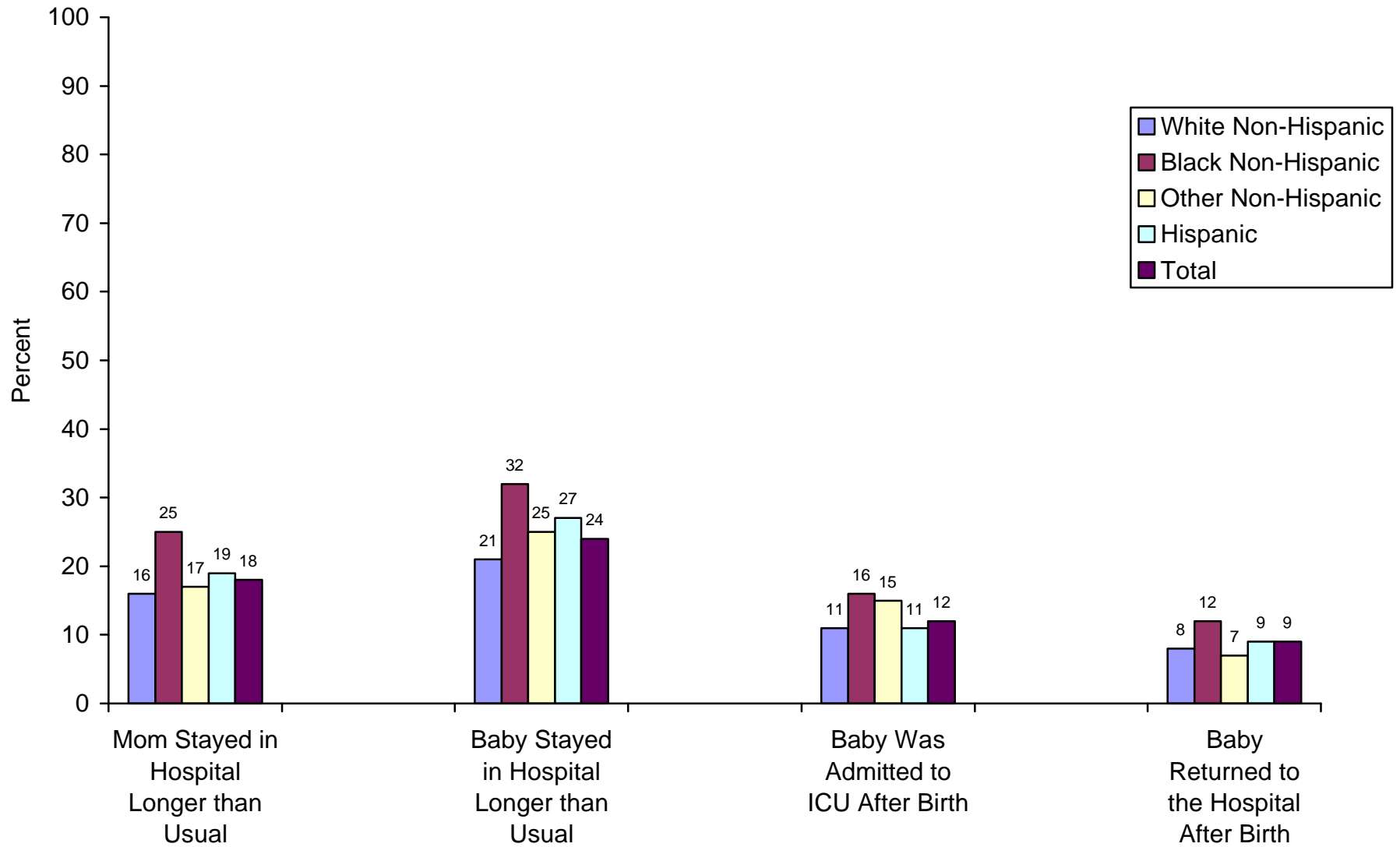
➡Baby returned to the hospital after birth (weighted percent missing = 2%) was based on the PRAMS question:

Since your new baby's birth, has he or she had to go back and stay at least one night in the hospital for any kind of problem?

- No
- Yes

The denominator for this variable only includes moms whose baby was still alive and was living with them. (Unweighted sample size = 4059, weighted percent skipped = 1%)

**Chart 13. Length of Hospital Stay, ICU Admission, and Baby Returned to Hospital by Race**  
**PRAMS 1996 & 1997**



## Definitions for Chart 14

➔ Things that happened in the hospital after birth are based on the PRAMS question:

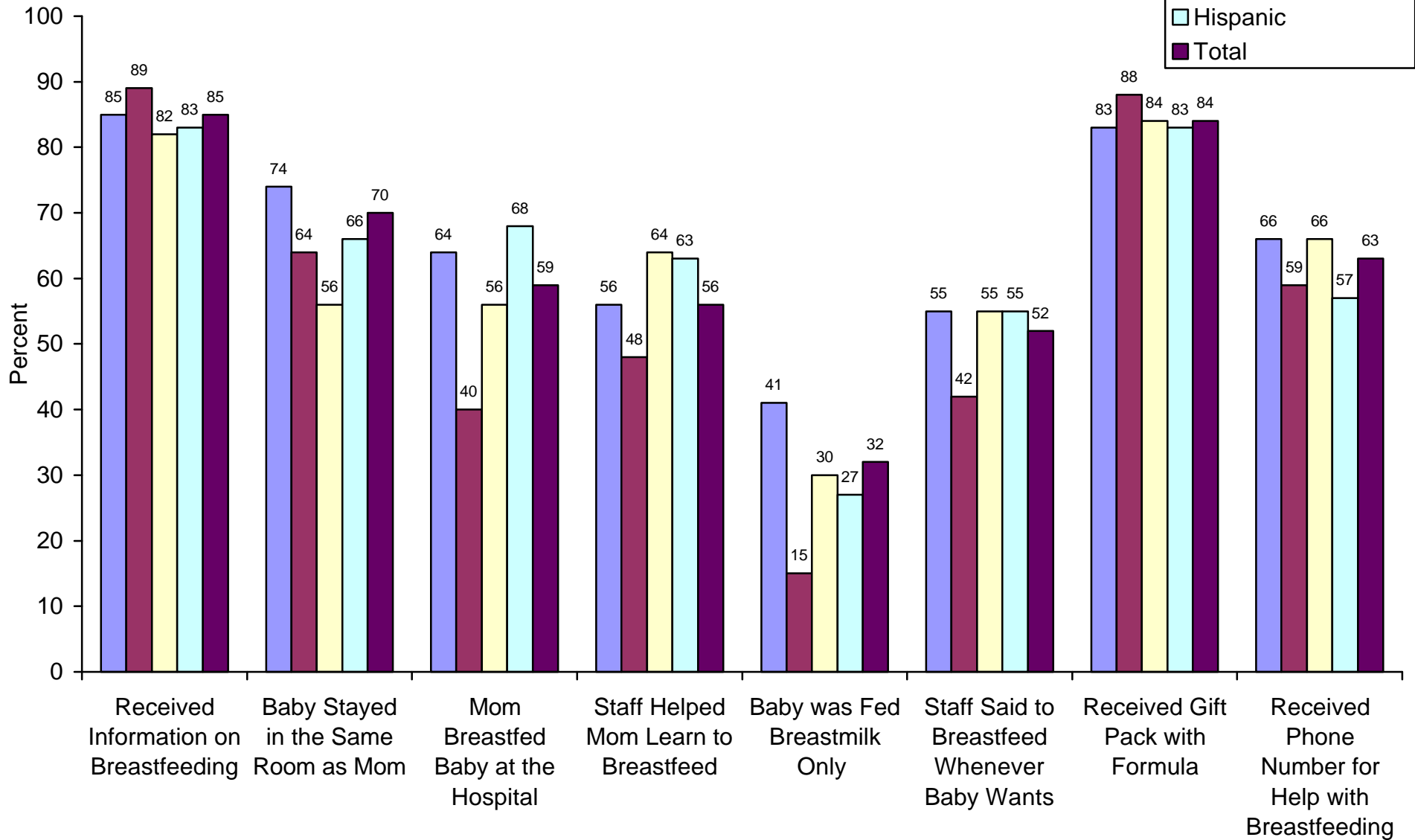
This question asks about things that may have happened at the hospital where your new baby was born. **For each thing, circle Y (Yes) if it happened or N (No) if it did not happen.**

	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
a. Hospital staff gave me information about breast-feeding (3% weighted missing)	N	Y
b. My baby stayed in the same room with me at the hospital (4% weighted missing)	N	Y
c. I breast-fed my baby at the hospital (3% weighted missing)	N	Y
d. Hospital staff helped me learn how to breast-feed (4% weighted missing)	N	Y
e. My baby was fed <b>only</b> breast milk at the hospital (3% weighted missing)	N	Y
f. Hospital staff told me to breast-feed whenever my baby wanted (5% weighted missing)	N	Y
g. The hospital gave me a gift pack with formula (4% weighted missing)	N	Y
h. The hospital gave me a telephone number to call for help about breast-feeding (5% weighted missing)	N	Y

The denominator for this variable only includes moms who had their baby in a hospital, moms whose baby was still alive and moms whose baby was living with them.

(Unweighted sample size = 4037, weighted percent skipped = 2%)

**Chart 14. Things that Happened in the Hospital After Birth by Race  
PRAMS 1996 & 1997**



## **Definitions for Chart 15**

➔ Mom breastfed baby at all (weighted percent missing = 2%) is based on the PRAMS question:

For how many weeks did you breast-feed your baby?

\_\_\_\_\_ Weeks

- I didn't breast-feed my baby → **Go to Question 44**
- I breast-fed less than 1 week → **Go to Question 44**
- I'm still breast-feeding

All women who breastfed 1 or more weeks, breastfed less than 1 week, or were still breastfeeding at the time of the questionnaire were considered to have initiated breastfeeding. The denominator for this variable only includes moms whose baby was still alive and was living with them. (Unweighted sample size = 4054, weighted percent skipped = 2%)

➔ Baby's sleep position (weighted percent missing = 2%) was based on the PRAMS question:

How do you put your new baby down to sleep **most** of the time? **Check one answer.**

- On his or her side
- On his or her back
- On his or her stomach

The denominator for this variable only includes moms whose baby was still alive and was living with them. (Unweighted sample size = 4054, weighted percent skipped = 2%)

➔ Adequate well baby care visits (weighted percent missing = 10%) was based on the age of the baby at the time the PRAMS questionnaire was completed and the PRAMS question:

How many times has your baby been to a doctor or nurse for **routine** well baby care? **Don't count the times you took your baby for care when he or she was sick. It may help to use the calendar.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Times

- My baby hasn't been for routine well baby care → **Go to Question 48**

Adequate number of visits for infant's age was based on recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics. The denominator for this variable only includes moms whose baby was still alive and was living with them. (Unweighted sample size = 4054, weighted percent skipped = 2%)

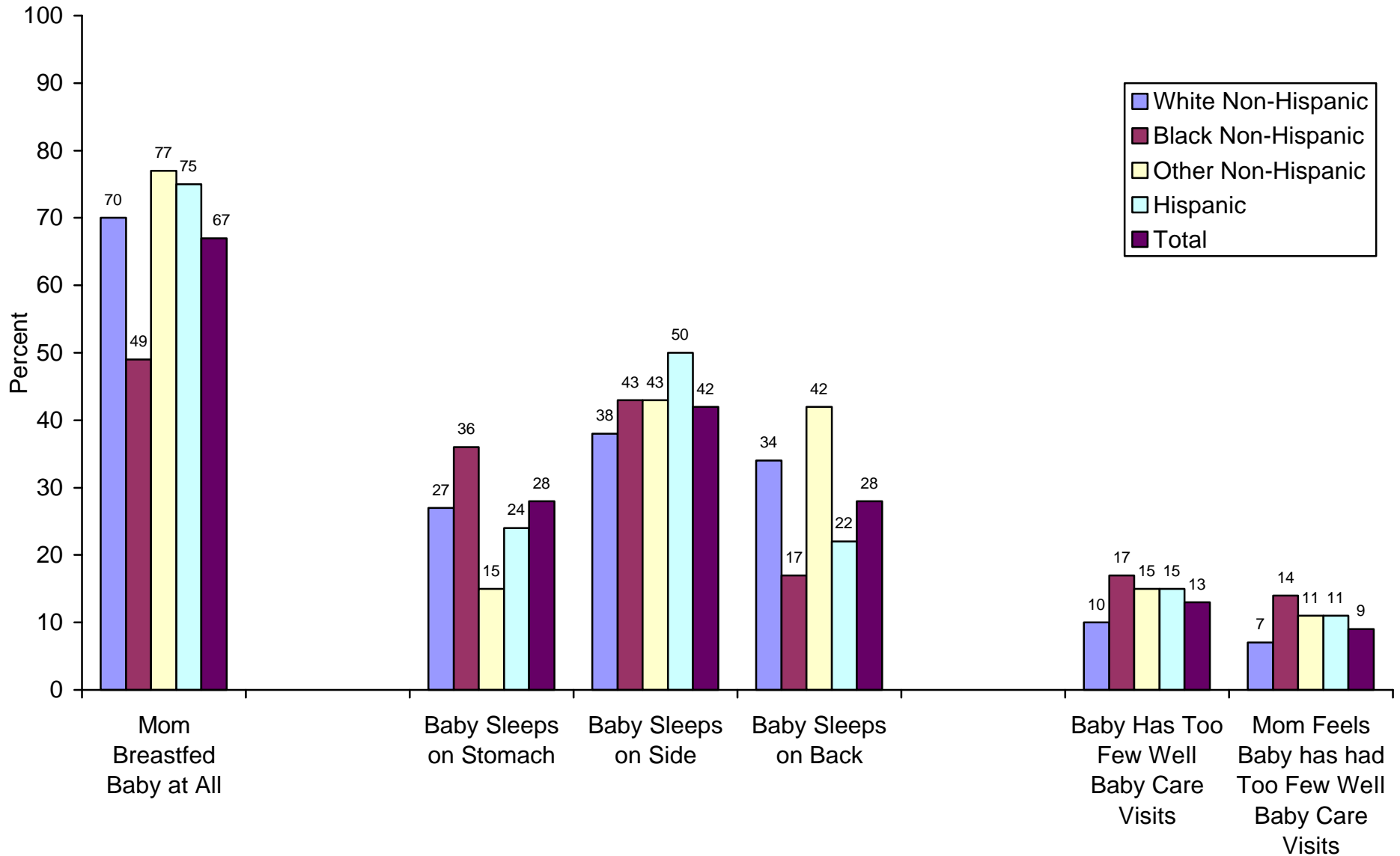
➔ Mom's satisfaction with well baby care (weighted percent missing = 2%) was based on the PRAMS question:

Has your baby gone as many times as you wanted for routine well baby care?

- No
- Yes → **Go to Question 68**

The denominator for this variable only includes moms whose baby was still alive and was living with them. (Unweighted sample size = 4059, weighted percent skipped = 1%)

**Chart 15. Breastfeeding Initiation, Baby's Sleep Position, Adequate Well Bare Care Visits and Mom's Satisfaction with the Number of Well Baby Care Visits by Race  
PRAMS 1996 & 1997**



**Definitions for Chart 16**

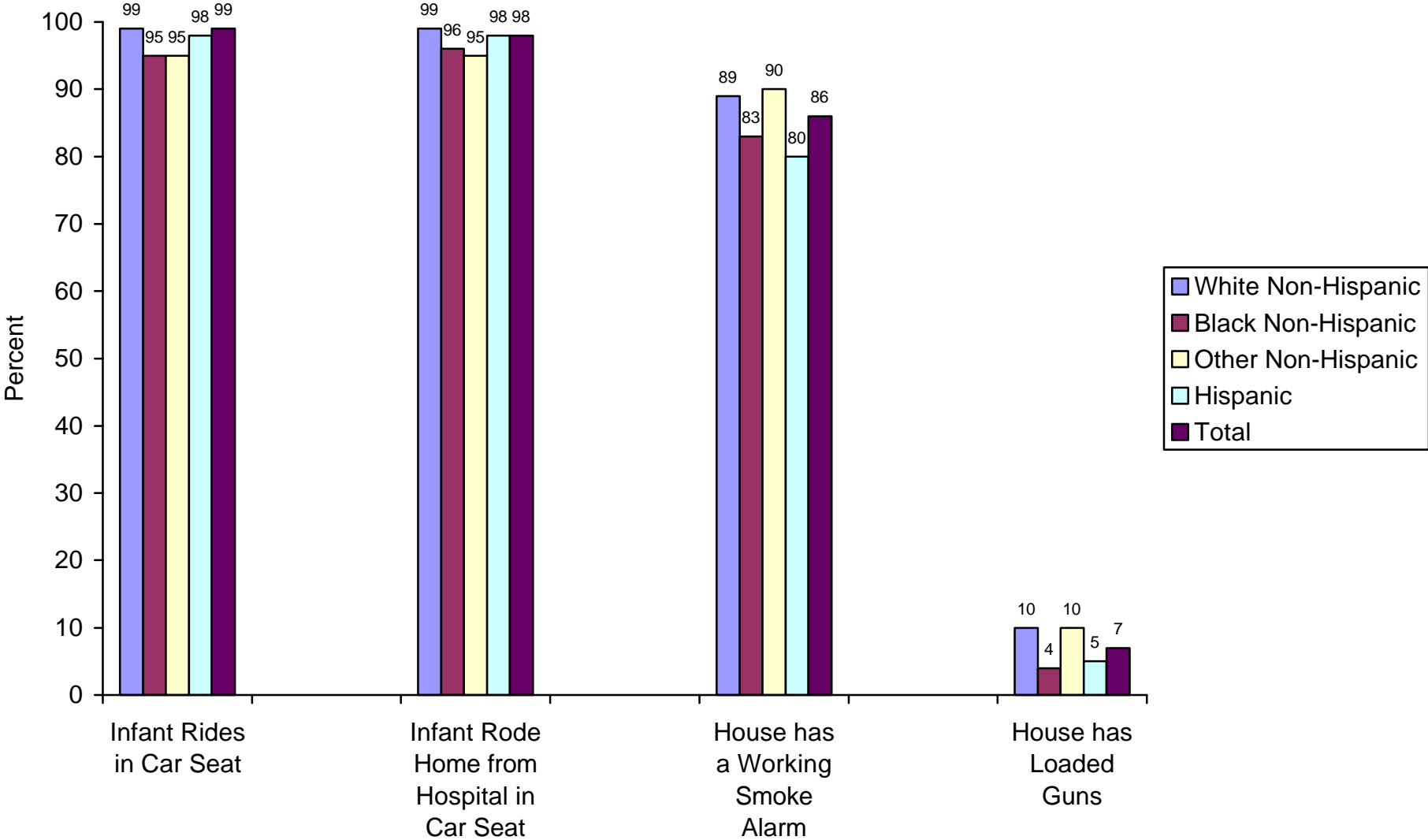
➔The safety issues were based on the PRAMS question:

Listed below are some things about safety. **For each thing, circle Y (Yes) if it applies to you or N (No) if it does not apply to you.**

	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
a. My infant was brought home from the hospital in an infant car seat (1% wghtd misng)	N	Y
b. My baby always rides in an infant car seat (1% weighted missing)	N	Y
c. My home has a working smoke alarm (2% weighted missing)	N	Y
d. There are loaded guns, rifles, or other firearms in my home (1% weighted missing)	N	Y

The denominator for this variable only includes moms whose baby was still alive and was living with them. (Unweighted sample size = 4059, weighted percent skipped = 1%)

**Chart 16. Safety Issues by Race  
PRAMS 1996 & 1997**



### **Definitions for Chart 17**

➡WIC service use before (weighted percent missing = 2%) and after birth (weighted percent missing = 3%) was based on the PRAMS questions:

During your pregnancy were you on WIC?

- No
- Yes

Since your new baby was born, have you used WIC services for your new baby?

- No
- Yes

The denominator for this variable only includes moms whose baby was still alive and was living with them. (Unweighted sample size = 4059, weighted percent skipped = 1%)

**Chart 17. Used WIC Services by Race  
PRAMS 1996 & 1997**

