

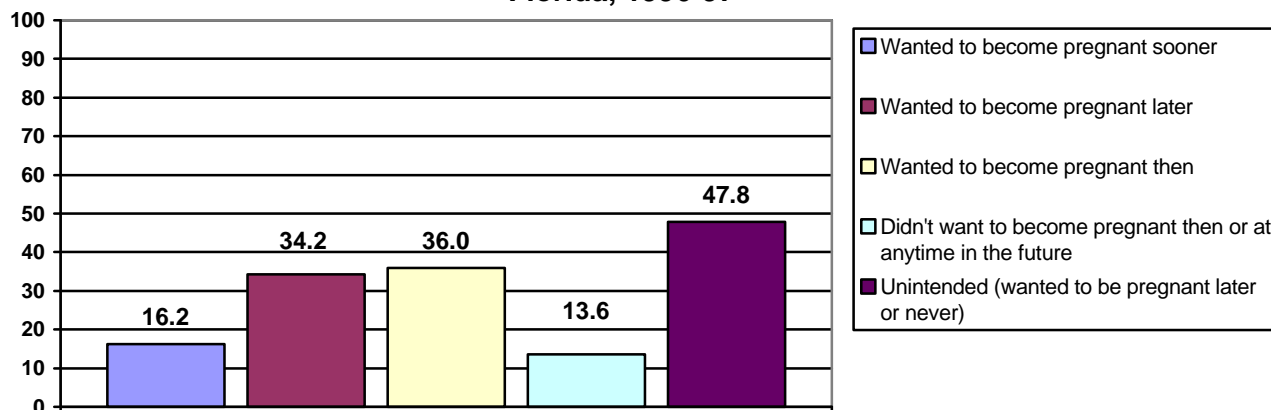


## Unintended Pregnancy Among Florida Women Having a Live Birth, 1996-97

March 12, 1999

PRAMS Report # 4 - Summary

### Responses to the PRAMS Question on When Pregnancy was Wanted Florida, 1996-97



Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) data for both 1996 and 1997 were used to learn which groups of Florida women were most likely to have a baby as the result of an unintended pregnancy. The study found that age, race, marital status and poverty are all related to a woman having an unintended pregnancy. The study also found that women with an unintended pregnancy are no more likely to behave in unhealthy ways, or to have trouble with their pregnancy or the health of their baby than women of similar demographics whose babies were intended. However, the study did find that the groups of women who are most likely to have an unintended pregnancy are also the same groups of women who are more likely to have unhealthy behaviors, or to have trouble with their pregnancy or the health of their baby. Decreasing the number of unintended pregnancies in these groups of women will result in fewer pregnant women behaving in unhealthy ways, having unhealthy pregnancies, and unhealthy babies.

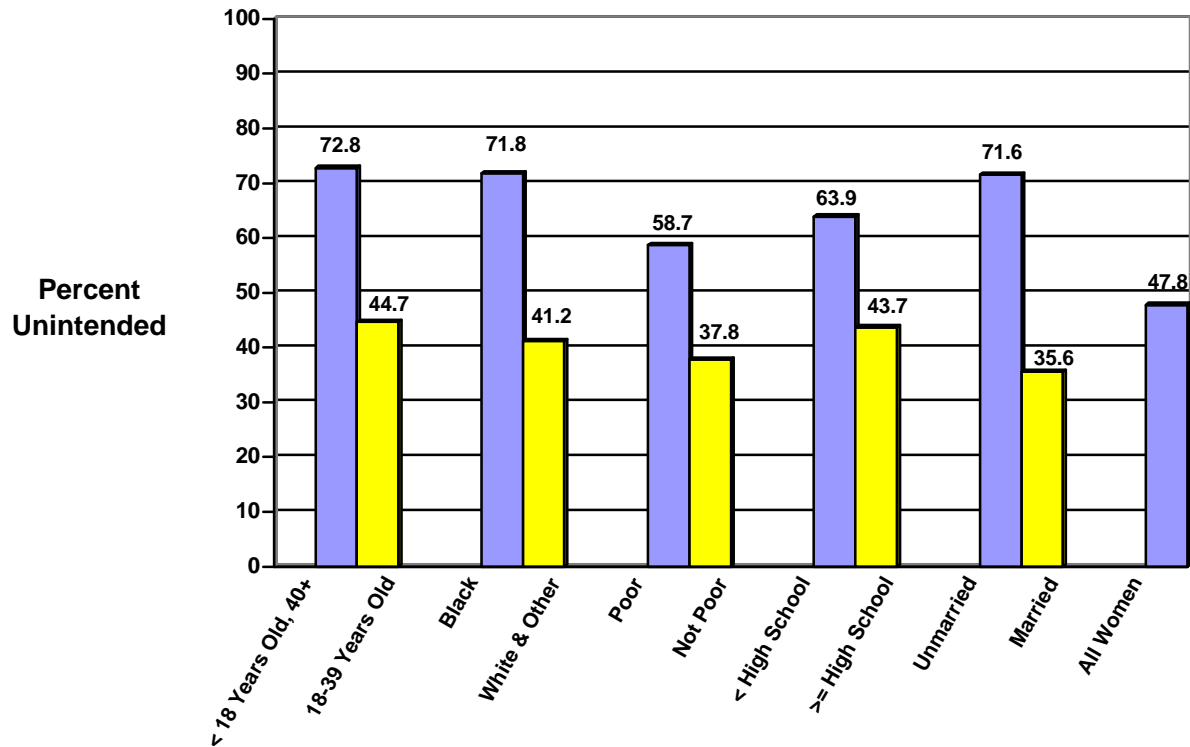
The full report is available from the Bureau of Epidemiology at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/>

### PRAMS Overview

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.

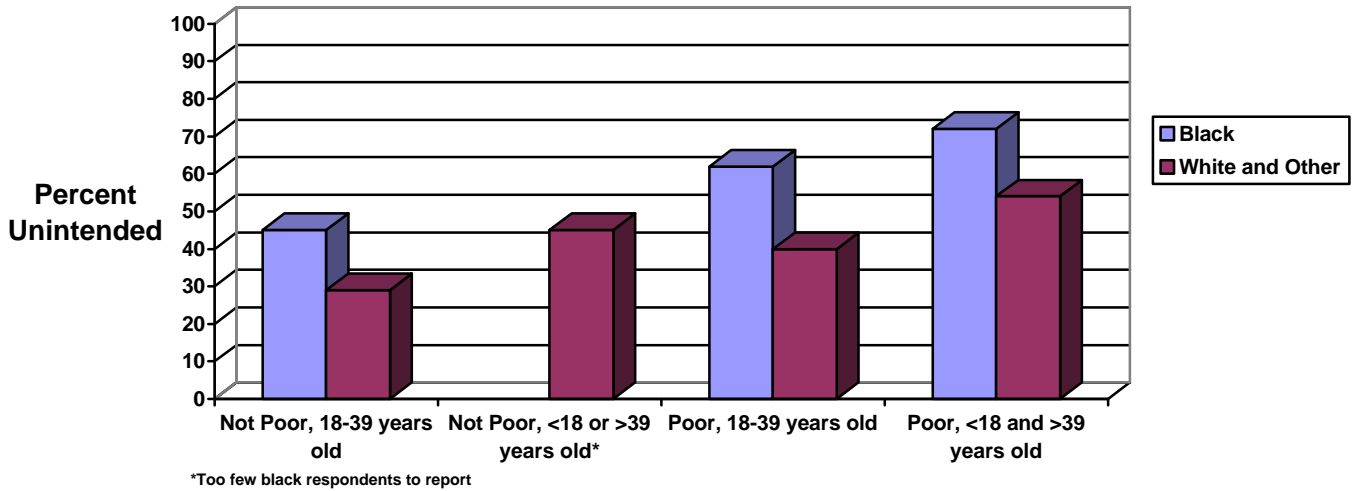
## The Socio-demographics of Unintended Pregnancy

Percent of Live Births that Resulted from Unintended Pregnancies for Selected Socio-demographic Characteristics  
Florida, 1996-97



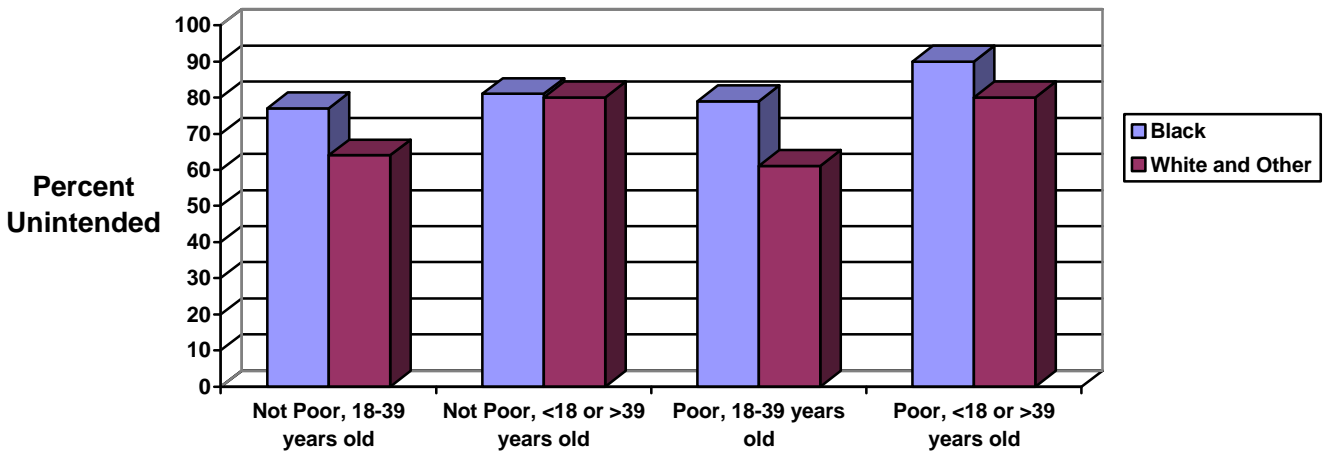
- Over 7 out of 10 babies born to unmarried women were the result of an unintended pregnancy, compared to over 3 out of 10 babies born to married women.
- Over 7 out of 10 recent mothers younger than 18 or older than 39 had their babies as the result of an unintended pregnancy, while more than 4 out of 10 women between 18 and 39 years of age did.
- More than 6 of 10 recent mothers with less than a high school education had their babies as the result of an unintended pregnancy, compared to 4 out of 10 recent mothers with a high school education or more.
- 71.8% of black women reported they had their baby as the result of an unintended pregnancy compared to 41.2% women who are not black.
- Poor women had a higher percentage of babies from unintended pregnancy (58.7%) compared to women who are not poor (37.8%).
- While women in certain groups have higher percentages of babies resulting from unintended pregnancy, even the groups of women with lower percentages still have more than is desirable.

**Percent of Babies Resulting from Unintended Pregnancy Born to Married Women by Poverty, Age and Race Florida, 1996-97**



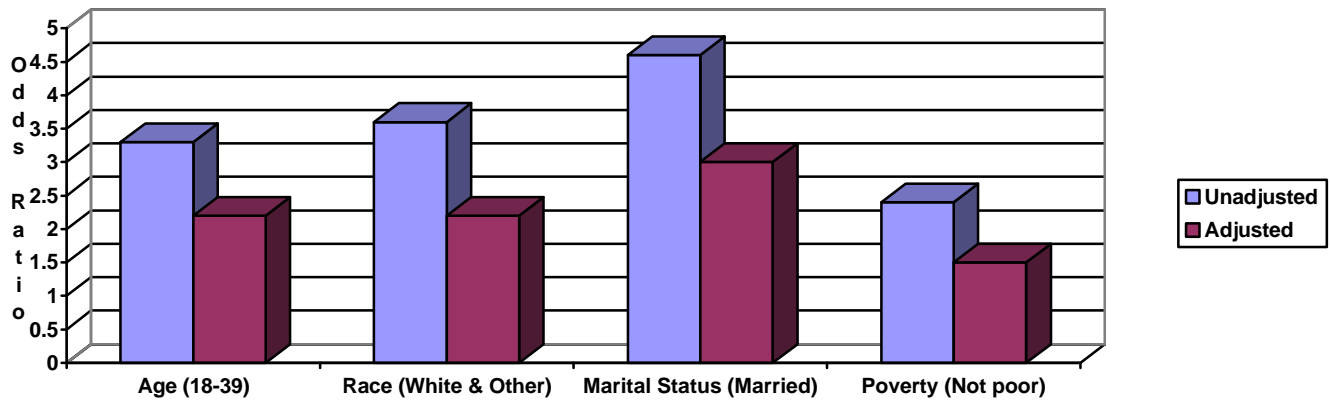
These charts show the percentage of babies resulting from an unintended pregnancy for women of different ages, race, poverty, and marital status. For unmarried, black, poor women who are less than 18 or greater than 39 years of age, 90.0% of their births were the result of an unintended pregnancy, compared to 28.7% of married, white and other, non-poor, women between the ages of 18 and 39.

**Percent of Babies Resulting from Unintended Pregnancy Born to Unmarried Women by Poverty, Race and Age Florida, 1996-97**



## The Socio-demographics of Unintended Pregnancy

Unadjusted and Adjusted Odds Ratios for Unintended Pregnancy for Different Groups of Recent Mothers, Florida, 1996-97



Unadjusted and adjusted odds ratios were calculated using SUDAAN software. Each “adjusted” bar in the chart shows the effect of that factor after taking into account the effect of the other factors. This study shows that age, race, marital status and poverty are all independently related to intendedness of pregnancy. Marital status had the strongest association with unintended pregnancy. After adjusting for the effects of age, race and poverty, unmarried women’s babies were still three times as likely to result from an unintended pregnancy as married women’s babies. Race also has a strong association with intendedness, even after adjusting for the effects age, poverty and marital status. Babies born to black women were more than twice as likely to result from an unintended pregnancy as were those with mothers who were white or of other races.

### Health Behaviors and Pregnancy Outcomes

Unadjusted and adjusted odds ratios were also calculated to look at the relationship between intendedness of pregnancy and unhealthy behaviors (smoking, drinking, inadequate prenatal care, etc.), problems during pregnancy, or having a baby with health problems. The study shows that the women who are most likely to have an unintended pregnancy are also the women most likely to have unhealthy behaviors, problems with their pregnancy, or unhealthy babies. However, unintendedness does not further increase the risk of these outcomes after taking the other characteristics of the women into account.

### Program Implications

Family planning clinics and doctors should make extra efforts to give women who are unmarried, black, poor or who are less than 18, or over 39 years of age family planning counseling and services. They should also make sure that all women of childbearing age learn about family planning and can get family planning services if they want them. Reducing the percent of births that this group of women has as a result of unintended pregnancy can reduce the number of unhealthy behaviors, unhealthy pregnancies and unhealthy babies.

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