



Maternal Oral Health Practices

PRAMS 2017-2019



Background

Receiving oral health care and education during pregnancy is important both for the health of women and for their children’s oral health.¹ Pregnant women may develop gingivitis, where their gums swell and bleed easily. If left untreated, gingivitis may lead to a more severe gum disease. Most dental work (e.g., teeth cleaning, dental X-rays, filling of a decayed tooth) is safe during pregnancy, and regular teeth cleanings before and during pregnancy can help protect against gum diseases.¹⁻³

The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) collects site-specific, population-based data on maternal experiences and behaviors before, during, and shortly after pregnancy. Women are sampled for PRAMS between two and six months after having a live birth. Illinois PRAMS met or exceeded the response rate threshold set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for years included in this report.

Teeth Cleaning Before Pregnancy

Women who had their teeth cleaned by a dentist or dental hygienist in the 12 months before pregnancy, among women who had a health care visit during that period.

Question: In the 12 months before you got pregnant with your new baby, did you have any health care visits with a doctor, nurse, or other health care workers, including a dental or mental health worker? Response: Yes

Question: What type of health care visit did you have in the 12 months before you got pregnant with your new baby? Response: Visit to have my teeth cleaned by a dentist or dental hygienist.

Characteristics	Percentage (95% CI) *		
	2017	2018	2019
Overall	63.0 (59.4-66.5)	58.6 (55.2-62.0)	59.6 (56.0-63.1)
Race/Ethnicity:			
NH White	68.3 (63.8-72.5)	65.1 (60.8-69.2)	68.5 (64.0-72.7)
NH Black	52.6 (43.1-61.9)	52.8 (44.1-61.2)	47.6 (38.7-56.7)
Hispanic	56.8 (47.2-65.8)	45.0 (36.5-53.9)	36.0 (27.9-45.0)
Other	55.3 (41.8-68.1)¶	47.4 (35.1-60.1)¶	62.8 (48.7-75.0)¶
Age:			
<20 Years	--	54.1 (35.4-71.7)¶	--
20-24 Years	45.2 (35.2-55.5)¶	44.2 (34.1-54.8)¶	40.6 (31.3-50.7)¶
25-29 Years	62.2 (54.9-68.9)	55.3 (48.7-61.8)	58.8 (51.8-65.5)
30-34 Years	68.4 (62.4-73.9)	62.9 (57.1-68.3)	65.1 (59.1-70.6)
=>35 Years	67.3 (60.0-73.9)	64.4 (57.4-70.8)	70.4 (63.2-76.6)
Education:			
<12	44.0 (31.8-57.0)	32.7 (21.5-46.2)¶	32.3 (20.9-46.3)¶
12	38.7 (29.6-48.6)	46.7 (39.0-54.7)	42.1 (33.7-51.0)
>12	71.0 (67.1-74.7)	64.5 (60.5-68.2)	66.3 (62.3-70.2)
Insurer Before Pregnancy:			
Medicaid	41.4 (34.1-49.1)	48.0 (41.2-54.8)	42.8 (35.6-50.3)
Private	72.5 (68.4-76.3)	66.7 (62.6-70.6)	69.2 (65.0-73.1)
Uninsured	53.3 (39.5-66.6)¶	34.4 (23.4-47.5)¶	34.5 (23.0-48.1)¶

* Weighted percentage (95% Confidence Interval)

¶ Interpret with caution

Information from Health Care Worker about Maternal Oral Health

Women who were advised by a doctor, nurse, or other health care worker to visit a dentist or dental hygienist before pregnancy.*

Question: *Before* you got pregnant with your new baby, did a doctor, nurse, or other health care worker talk to you about preparing for a pregnancy? Response: Yes

Question: *Before* you got pregnant with your new baby, did a doctor, nurse, or other health care worker talk with you about any of the things listed below about preparing for a pregnancy? Response: Visiting a dentist or dental hygienist before pregnancy.

Characteristic	Percentage (95% CI)**		
	2017	2018	2019
Overall	41.0 (35.5-46.6)	35.5 (30.6-40.7)	36.7 (31.4-42.3)
Race/Ethnicity:			
NH White	33.7 (27.4-40.6)	25.9 (20.5-32.2)	29.7 (23.8-36.4)
NH Black	57.2 (38.9-73.8)¶	57.3 (42.2-71.2)¶	41.7 (26.0-59.4)¶
Hispanic	51.2 (38.1-64.1)¶	50.4 (37.5-63.2)¶	50.6 (36.5-64.7)¶
Other	--	40.5 (25.0-58.1)¶	52.4 (33.6-70.6)¶
Age:			
<20 Years	--	--	--
20-24 Years	55.5 (39.1-70.7)¶	49.1 (30.2-68.3)¶	--
25-29 Years	43.7 (31.7-56.5)¶	37.5 (28.0-48.1)	41.1 (30.8-52.3)¶
30-34 Years	37.4 (29.3-46.3)	27.9 (21.2-35.7)	26.9 (19.8-35.4)
=>35 Years	36.4 (26.5-47.7)	40.1 (29.9-51.3)¶	36.0 (26.1-47.3)¶
Education:			
<12	63.9 (44.0-79.9)¶	--	--
12	52.5 (35.8-68.8)¶	43.4 (30.6-57.0)¶	44.6 (30.9-59.2)¶
>12	36.2 (30.4-42.5)	33.3 (27.9-39.2)	31.9 (26.2-38.1)
Insurer Before Pregnancy:			
Medicaid	48.2 (35.0-61.6)	47.6 (34.9-60.6)¶	56.9 (42.9-69.9)¶
Private	34.6 (28.7-41.1)	31.6 (26.3-37.5)	30.6 (25.1-36.8)
Uninsured	--	--	--

* Excludes women who did not have a health care visit in the 12 months before pregnancy that involved discussion about pregnancy preparation

**Weighted percentage (95% Confidence Interval);

¶ Interpret with caution

-- Denominator <30 or numerator <6

Teeth Cleaning During Pregnancy

Women who had their teeth cleaned by a dentist or dental hygienist during their most recent pregnancy.

Question: During *your most recent* pregnancy, did you have your teeth cleaned by a dentist or dental hygienist? Response: Yes

Characteristic	Percentage (95% CI)*		
	2017	2018	2019
Overall	44.5 (41.4-47.6)	42.8 (39.9-45.8)	48.1 (45.0-51.2)
Race/Ethnicity:			
NH White	52.7 (48.4-56.8)	50.3 (46.3-54.3)	57.3 (53.1-61.5)
NH Black	24.7 (18.6-31.9)	28.1 (22.1-35.0)	29.9 (23.3-37.5)
Hispanic	42.3 (35.6-49.4)	38.6 (32.2-45.5)	39.3 (33.0-45.9)
Other	37.6 (28.1-48.3)	36.0 (26.7-46.5)	49.1 (38.4-59.8)¶
Age:			
<20 Years	20.8 (10.2-37.7)¶	27.2 (16.0-42.2)¶	31.1 (18.5-47.4)¶
20-24 Years	31.5 (24.8-39.0)	22.2 (16.4-29.3)	28.7 (22.0-36.6)
25-29 Years	38.3 (32.6-44.3)	40.7 (35.3-46.4)	47.8 (42.0-53.7)
30-34 Years	53.8 (48.3-59.1)	48.5 (43.2-53.7)	57.2 (51.8-62.4)
=>35 Years	53.4 (46.7-60.0)	56.1 (49.7-62.2)	56.2 (49.6-62.6)
Education:			
<12	27.9 (20.3-37.0)	26.7 (19.2-35.9)	29.6 (21.3-39.5)
12	28.7 (22.6-35.6)	28.0 (22.6-34.0)	31.1 (25.2-37.7)
>12	53.2 (49.4-56.9)	51.2 (47.6-54.8)	56.6 (52.8-60.3)
Insurer During Pregnancy:			
Medicaid	31.1 (26.8-35.7)	27.4 (23.4-31.8)	30.9 (26.6-35.6)
Private	57.3 (53.0-61.4)	56.2 (52.2-60.1)	63.0 (58.9-67.0)
Uninsured	--	--	--

*Weighted percentage (95% Confidence Interval)

¶ Interpret with caution

-- Denominator <30 or numerator <6

Summary

Before pregnancy:

- From 2017 to 2019, about 6 of 10 women had their teeth cleaned in the 12 months before pregnancy.
- Annually from 2017 to 2019, women with Medicaid insurance were **significantly** less likely to have their teeth cleaned before pregnancy, compared to women with private insurance.
- Annually from 2017 to 2019, women with a high school education were **significantly** less likely to have their teeth cleaned before pregnancy, compared to women with more than a high school education.
- From 2017 to 2019, non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic women were increasingly less likely to have their teeth cleaned in the 12 months before pregnancy, compared to non-Hispanic White women with Hispanic women showing a marked decline. By 2019, both non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic women were **significantly** less likely to have their teeth cleaned, compared to non-Hispanic White women.
- Less than half of women attending a health care visit before pregnancy received information from their health care worker to visit a dentist or dental hygienist in preparation for pregnancy.

During pregnancy:

- From 2017 to 2019, less than half of women had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy.
- In 2018 and 2019, non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics were **significantly** less likely to have their teeth cleaned during pregnancy compared to non-Hispanic Whites.
- Annually from 2017 to 2019, less than one-third of women with Medicaid insurance had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy, which is **significantly** less compared to those with private insurance.
- Annually from 2017 to 2019, less than one-third of women with a high school or less than high school education had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy, which is **significantly** less compared to those with more than a high school education.
- Annually from 2017 to 2019, women under 30 years of age were less likely to have their teeth cleaned during pregnancy, compared to women over 30 years of age.

Resources

American Dental Association: <http://www.mouthhealthy.org/en/pregnancy/healthy-habits>

IDPH Oral Health Program: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/oral-health>

US Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health:

<https://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/oral-health.html>

References:

1. Oral Health Care During Pregnancy Expert Workgroup. Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: A National Consensus Statement-Summary of an Expert Workgroup Meeting. 2012. Washington, DC: National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center. Available at: <https://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/OralHealthPregnancyConsensus.pdf>
2. Office on Women's Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services-Oral Health Fact sheet. Available at: <https://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/oral-health.html>
3. American Dental Association: Is It Safe To Go To the Dentist During Pregnancy? Available at: <http://www.mouthhealthy.org/en/pregnancy/concerns>

To learn more about PRAMS methods and to see data availability by year visit:

<http://dph.illinois.gov/data-statistics/prams>



THE BEST SOURCE OF DATA ON MOTHERS AND BABIES