

Illinois Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) Surveillance Highlights

- 43.8 percent of pregnancies resulting in live births were reported as unintended.
- 47.6 percent of women who had an unintended pregnancy were not using birth control at the time of conception.
- 80.3 percent of women reported starting prenatal care in the first trimester.
- 83 percent of women reported that they had gotten prenatal care as early as they had wanted. For those women who reported not getting care early enough, common reasons include:
 - I didn't know I was pregnant (38.9%)
 - I couldn't get an appointment earlier in my pregnancy (28.2%)
 - I didn't have my Medicaid card (19.4%)
 - I didn't have enough money or insurance to pay for my visits (18.3%)
- 82.6 percent of women reported having heard or read about the importance of taking folic acid to prevent some birth defects.
- 66.9 percent of women reported being tested for HIV during their pregnancy, while 15.3 percent did not know if they were tested.
- 32.7 percent of women went to a dentist or dental clinic during their pregnancy and 33.1 percent reported being counseled by a dental or other health care worker about care of teeth and gums.
- 5.1 percent of women reported being physically abused by their husband or partner in the 12 months before their pregnancy. Nearly 4 percent (3.7%) reported abuse during pregnancy.
- 21.9 percent of women who gave live birth smoked cigarettes during the three months before they became pregnant, and 12.6 percent still smoked during the last three months of pregnancy.
- 45.3 percent of women reported drinking alcoholic beverages on a weekly basis in the three months before becoming pregnant. That figure dropped to 5.2 percent during the last three months of pregnancy. During both time periods, most women reported drinking fewer than three drinks per week.
- 90.9 percent of mothers reported their babies had well baby shots or vaccinations before the age of 3 months.
- 63.7 percent of women reported they most often put their baby to sleep on his or her back.
- 72 percent of women reported breastfeeding their baby at least once after birth and 58.4 percent were still breastfeeding one month after delivery.
- Among mothers who did not breastfeed, the most common reason for not doing so was that they did not like breastfeeding (45.5%).