



# Maternal Oral Health Practices

## PRAMS 2016-2018



### Background

Receiving oral health care and education during pregnancy is important both for the health of women and for their children’s oral health.<sup>1</sup> Pregnant women may develop gingivitis, where their gums swell and bleed easily. If left untreated, gingivitis may lead to 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 disease.<sup>1-3</sup>

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) *		
	2016	2017	2018
<b>Overall</b>	58.5 (55.0-61.8)	63.0 (59.4-66.5)	58.6 (55.2-62.0)
<b>Race/Ethnicity:</b>			
NH White	66.5 (62.4-70.4)	68.3 (63.8-72.5)	65.1 (60.8-69.2)
NH Black	39.0 (29.8-49.2)	52.6 (43.1-61.9)	52.8 (44.1-61.2)
Hispanic	45.2 (36.3-54.5)	56.8 (47.2-65.8)	45.0 (36.5-53.9)
Other	48.0 (36.4-59.9)¶	55.3 (41.8-68.1)¶	47.4 (35.1-60.1)¶
<b>Age:</b>			
<20 Years	56.4 (35.9-74.9)¶	--	54.1 (35.4-71.7)¶
20-24 Years	37.2 (28.2-47.1)	45.2 (35.2-55.5)¶	44.2 (34.1-54.8)¶
25-29 Years	55.7 (48.9-62.2)	62.2 (54.9-68.9)	55.3 (48.7-61.8)
30-34 Years	64.0 (58.4-69.2)	68.4 (62.4-73.9)	62.9 (57.1-68.3)
=>35 Years	67.7 (60.7-74.0)	67.3 (60.0-73.9)	64.4 (57.4-70.8)
<b>Education:</b>			
<12	31.7 (21.2-44.4)¶	44.0 (31.8-57.0)	32.7 (21.5-46.2)¶
12	43.4 (34.8-52.5)	38.7 (29.6-48.6)	46.7 (39.0-54.7)
>12	64.9 (61.0-68.5)	71.0 (67.1-74.7)	64.5 (60.5-68.2)
<b>Insurer Before Pregnancy:</b>			
Medicaid	39.2 (32.5-46.4)	41.4 (34.1-49.1)	48.0 (41.2-54.8)
Private	69.3 (65.3-73.0)	72.5 (68.4-76.3)	66.7 (62.6-70.6)
Uninsured	36.6 (24.3-50.8)¶	53.3 (39.5-66.6)¶	34.4 (23.4-47.5)¶

\* 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)**		
	2016	2017	2018
<b>Overall</b>	41.0 (36.1-46.0)	41.0 (35.5-46.6)	35.5 (30.6-40.7)
<b>Race/Ethnicity:</b>			
NH White	35.4 (29.7-41.6)	33.7 (27.4-40.6)	25.9 (20.5-32.2)
NH Black	61.5 (47.0-74.3)¶	57.2 (38.9-73.8)¶	57.3 (42.2-71.2)¶
Hispanic	45.2 (32.0-59.1)¶	51.2 (38.1-64.1)¶	50.4 (37.5-63.2)¶
Other	45.8 (29.4-63.1)¶	--	40.5 (25.0-58.1)¶
<b>Age:</b>			
<20 Years	--	--	--
20-24 Years	46.3 (30.5-62.9)¶	55.5 (39.1-70.7)¶	49.1 (30.2-68.3)¶
25-29 Years	41.8 (32.6-51.6)	43.7 (31.7-56.5)¶	37.5 (28.0-48.1)
30-34 Years	32.2 (25.2-40.2)	37.4 (29.3-46.3)	27.9 (21.2-35.7)
=>35 Years	47.9 (37.8 -58.2)¶	36.4 (26.5-47.7)	40.1 (29.9-51.3)¶
<b>Education:</b>			
<12	51.1 (34.3-67.7)¶	63.9 (44.0-79.9)¶	--
12	50.4 (35.9-64.8)¶	52.5 (35.8-68.8)¶	43.4 (30.6-57.0)¶
>12	38.2 (32.8-43.9)	36.2 (30.4-42.5)	33.3 (27.9-39.2)
<b>Insurer Before Pregnancy:</b>			
Medicaid	54.5 (43.3-65.2)¶	48.2 (35.0-61.6)	47.6 (34.9-60.6)¶
Private	37.4 (31.8-43.2)	34.6 (28.7-41.1)	31.6 (26.3-37.5)
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)*		
	2016	2017	2018
<b>Overall</b>	44.3 (41.4-47.3)	44.5 (41.4-47.6)	42.8 (39.9-45.8)
<b>Race/Ethnicity:</b>			
NH White	52.4 (48.6-56.2)	52.7 (48.4-56.8)	50.3 (46.3-54.3)
NH Black	17.0 (11.9-23.7)	24.7 (18.6-31.9)	28.1 (22.1-35.0)
Hispanic	42.7 (35.9-49.8)	42.3 (35.6-49.4)	38.6 (32.2-45.5)
Other	33.9 (25.2-43.8)	37.6 (28.1-48.3)	36.0 (26.7-46.5)
<b>Age:</b>			
<20 Years	30.1 (18.3-45.3)¶	20.8 (10.2-37.7)¶	27.2 (16.0-42.2)¶
20-24 Years	25.6 (19.6-32.8)	31.5 (24.8-39.0)	22.2 (16.4-29.3)
25-29 Years	43.8 (38.3-49.5)	38.3 (32.6-44.3)	40.7 (35.3-46.4)
30-34 Years	52.8 (47.8-57.8)	53.8 (48.3-59.1)	48.5 (43.2-53.7)
=>35 Years	52.0 (45.6-58.4)	53.4 (46.7-60.0)	56.1 (49.7-62.2)
<b>Education:</b>			
<12	29.8 (22.3-38.5)	27.9 (20.3-37.0)	26.7 (19.2-35.9)
12	27.0 (21.4-33.4)	28.7 (22.6-35.6)	28.0 (22.6-34.0)
>12	53.2 (49.6-56.7)	53.2 (49.4-56.9)	51.2 (47.6-54.8)
<b>Insurer During Pregnancy:</b>			
Medicaid	26.2 (22.3-30.6)	31.1 (26.8-35.7)	27.4 (23.4-31.8)
Private	60.9 (56.9-64.7)	57.3 (53.0-61.4)	56.2 (52.2-60.1)
Uninsured	--	--	--

\*Weighted percentage (95% Confidence Interval)

¶ Interpret with caution

-- Denominator <30 or numerator <6

## Summary

### Before pregnancy:

- From 2016 to 2018, approximately two-thirds of women had their teeth cleaned in the 12 months before pregnancy.
- Annually from 2016 to 2018, women with Medicaid insurance were **significantly** less likely to have their teeth cleaned before pregnancy compared to women with private insurance.
- Annually from 2016 to 2018, women with a high school or less than high school education were **significantly** less likely to have their teeth cleaned before pregnancy compared to women with more than a high school education
- Women who are less likely to have their teeth cleaned in the 12 months before pregnancy are non-Hispanic blacks or Hispanics.
- 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 2016 to 2018, less than half of women had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy.
- Annually from 2016 to 2018, non-Hispanic blacks were **significantly** less likely to have their teeth cleaned during pregnancy compared to non-Hispanic whites.
- Annually from 2016 to 2018, 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 2016 to 2018, women with a high school or less than high school education were **significantly** less likely to have their teeth cleaned during pregnancy compared to those with more than a high school education.
- Women who are less likely to have their teeth cleaned during pregnancy are Hispanics, women of other races, or 20-24 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>

