

Barriers to Receiving Prenatal Care as Early as Wanted Among First Time Mothers

Receiving prenatal care in the first trimester is recommended for all pregnant women to achieve optimal pregnancy health. The Healthy People 2020 goal for prenatal care is to increase the percent of pregnant women who receive prenatal care in the first trimester to 77.9%. In Oklahoma, the percent of mothers who began prenatal care in the first trimester was 68.5%.^{1,2}

To better understand the status of early entry into prenatal care (PNC), Oklahoma PRAMS data for first time mothers were examined for barriers to receiving PNC as early as the

mother wanted. Overall, 20.5% of first time mothers in Oklahoma stated they did not get PNC as early as they wanted.

Those mothers who reported not receiving care when wanted were asked to indicate the reasons why; more than one response could be selected (Figure 1). The three most commonly reported barriers were that mothers could not get an appointment earlier, they did not know they were pregnant, and/or they did not have their Medicaid/SoonerCare card. Almost 13% of first time mothers did not want anyone to know they

OKLAHOMA FACTS

- 68.5% of mothers in Oklahoma receive prenatal care in the first trimester.
- 1 in 5 first time mothers did not receive prenatal care as early in their pregnancy as they wanted it.
- Inability to get an earlier appointment was a barrier for 44.5% of first time mothers.
- Transportation was a barrier to early prenatal care for 16.3% of first time mothers.
- 29.1% of Black mothers did not receive care as early in their pregnancy as they wanted.
- Almost 1 in 3 mothers less than 20 years old did not receive prenatal care as early as they wanted.
- 28.8% of mothers with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 did not receive prenatal care as early as they wanted.

Figure 1. Barriers to Receiving Prenatal Care as Early as Wanted Among First Time Mothers, Oklahoma PRAMS 2009-2011

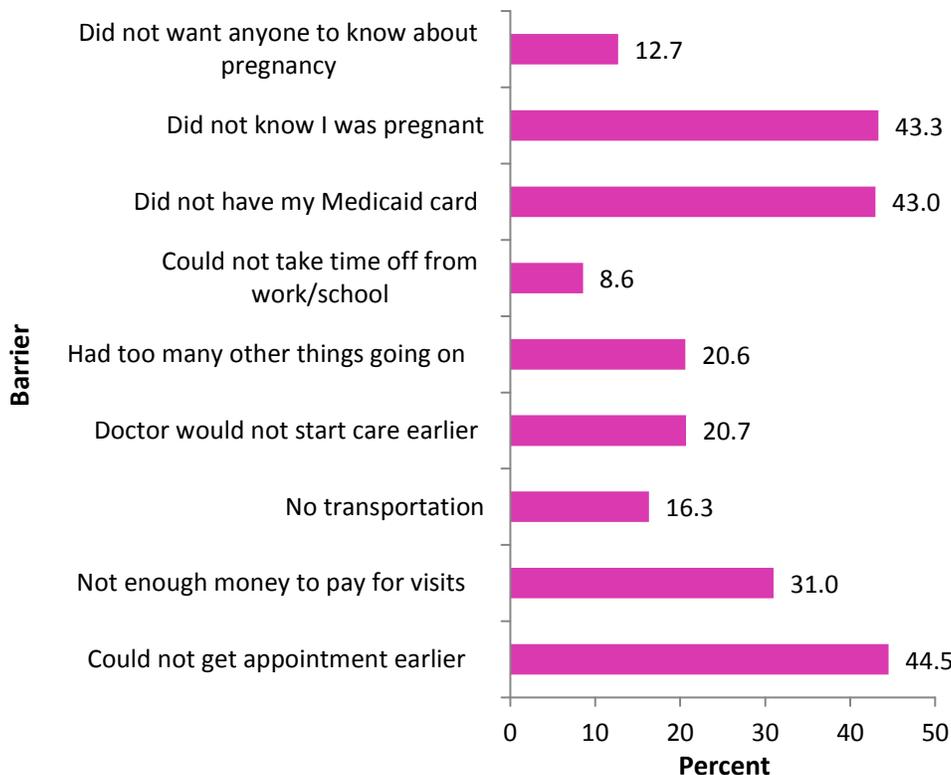
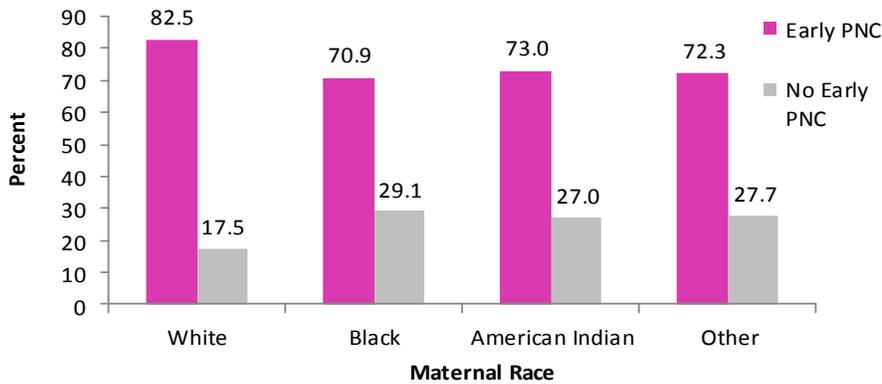


Figure 2. Percent Receiving Prenatal Care as Early as Wanted Among First Time Mothers, by Maternal Race, Oklahoma PRAMS 2009-2011



were pregnant. Transportation was an issue for 16.3%.

Figure 2 shows PNC as early as wanted by maternal race. First time Black mothers have the lowest rate at 70.9%.

Seventy-nine percent of non-Hispanic mothers received care as early as wanted, compared to 83.5% of Hispanic mothers (data not shown).

A striking disparity in early prenatal care by maternal age is depicted in Figure 3. Almost 1 in 3 mothers less than 20 years old did not receive care as early as wanted.

Ninety-one percent of mothers with annual household incomes of \$50,000 or more per year received PNC as early as wanted compared to 71.2% of mothers with incomes of

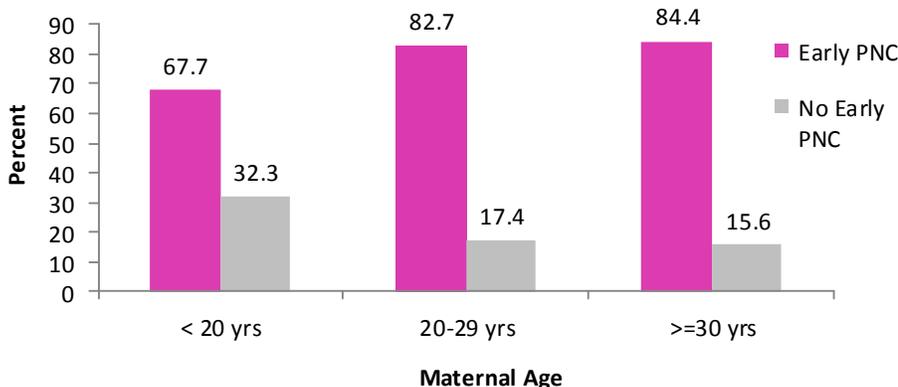
less than \$25,000 per year. Within the \$25,000-\$49,999 range, 87.8% of mothers received care as early as wanted (data not shown).

These data are self-reported for receiving prenatal care as early as wanted, irrespective of the month PNC began. Due to the large percentage of mothers who indicated issues with Medicaid cards or getting appointments, targeted outreach about online enrollment for Medicaid, for both young women (printing a temporary card) and providers (accepting temporary cards/print outs) may be needed.

References:

1. Healthy People 2020 Goal MICH 10.1. Available at <http://healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/DataDetails.aspx?hp2020id=MICH-10.1> Accessed 7/25/2014.
2. Oklahoma Vital Statistics Data. Births, 2013.

Figure 3. Percent Receiving Prenatal Care as Early as Wanted Among First Time Mothers, by Maternal Age, Oklahoma PRAMS 2009-2011



“ I feel you need a prenatal visit as soon as you find out you are pregnant.”

- PRAMS Mom

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PRAMS is a population-based surveillance system about maternal behaviors and experiences before, during, and after pregnancy. Approximately 250 mothers are selected to participate in Oklahoma each month. Mothers are sent as many as three mail questionnaires seeking their participation with follow-up phone interviews for non-respondents. Information included in the birth registry is used to develop analysis weights that adjust for probability of selection and non-response. Prevalence rates were calculated and the potential risk factors were identified using the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel Chi-Square (χ^2) Test. PRAMS had 8,834 respondents for 2009-2011 for a response rate of 68.3%.

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