

Births to Women Lacking Adequate Prenatal Care

Definition

Births to Women Lacking Adequate Prenatal Care is defined as the percentage of women beginning prenatal care in the second or third trimester of pregnancy or receiving no prenatal care at all. Data are reported by place of mother's residence, not place of infant's birth, and include only those women who gave birth, not all women who were pregnant.

Research Highlights

- ❖ Women who receive early and consistent prenatal care are more likely to have healthier babies. The early diagnosis of a pregnancy can lead to a plan of care which takes into consideration the medical, nutritional, psychosocial, and educational needs of the patient and her family.¹
- ❖ "Early prenatal care (i.e., care in the first trimester of pregnancy) allows women and their health-care providers to identify and, when possible, treat or correct health problems and health-compromising behaviors that can be particularly damaging during the initial stages of fetal development."² Receiving prenatal care late in a pregnancy or receiving no prenatal care at all, can lead to negative health outcomes for mother and child. "Adequate prenatal care is determined by both the early receipt of prenatal care . . . and the receipt of an appropriate number of prenatal care visits for each stage of pregnancy."³
- ❖ In 1999, 83.2 percent of women in the U.S. who gave birth received prenatal care in the first trimester.⁴
- ❖ In 1998, women in the U.S. who lived in cities were less likely to receive prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy than those who did not (79.5 versus 82.8 percent).⁵

Inadequate Prenatal Care, Nevada: 1999

Number of Women with Delayed Prenatal Care	Percent of Women with Delayed Prenatal Care	Number of Women with No Prenatal Care	Percent of Women with No Prenatal Care
6,064	24%	793	3%

Note: Of the 28,893 live births to Nevada women in 1999, information regarding prenatal-care status is not available for nearly 12 percent (3,467). Therefore, the figures presented are based on the number of live births in which prenatal-care status is available (25,426).

Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, 1999.

Nevada

- ❖ Twenty-seven percent of the births to Nevada's women in 1999 had delayed or no prenatal care. The corresponding national percentage for 1998 was 17 percent.⁶
- ❖ The average number of prenatal visits for Nevada mothers who received prenatal care in 1999 was 11.94. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends that women receive at least 13 prenatal visits during a full-term, low-risk pregnancy.⁷

"Assuring early initiation of prenatal care is an important component of safe motherhood programs, which aim to improve maternal and infant health outcomes."⁸

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Entry into Prenatal Care-United States, 1989--1997, Morbidity Weekly Report (MMWR)