



# Maternal Oral Health Practices

## PRAMS 2020-2022



### 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 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.<sup>1-3</sup>

The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) survey collects site-specific, population-based data on maternal experiences and behaviors before, during, and shortly after pregnancy. Illinois residents are sampled for PRAMS between two and six months after having a live birth.

### Teeth Cleaning Before Pregnancy

Among women who had a health care visit during the 12 months before pregnancy, the PRAMS survey asks if women had their teeth cleaned by a dentist or dental hygienist 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

Sub-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)*		
	2020	2021	2022
<b>Overall</b>	62.3 (58.8-65.7)	60.2 (56.4-64.0)	60.7 (56.4-64.8)
<b>Race/Ethnicity:</b>			
NH White	68.3 (63.9-72.3)	68.3 (63.6-72.7)	67.5 (62.3-72.3)
NH Black	46.5 (37.5-55.7)**	59.2 (47.7-69.7)**	45.4 (33.9-57.5)**
Hispanic	56.0 (46.8-64.8)**	43.2 (34.2-52.7)**	48.2 (37.6-59.0)**
Other	58.0 (44.3-70.7)**	43.7 (31.3-57.0)**	52.2 (35.9-67.9)**
<b>Age:</b>			
<20 Years	--	--	--
20-24 Years	44.2 (34.4-54.4)**	42.9 (30.2-56.7)**	46.9 (33.5-60.9)**
25-29 Years	58.8 (51.6-65.6)	54.9 (47.0-62.7)	53.5 (44.8-62.1)**
30-34 Years	66.7 (60.8-72.1)	67.0 (61.0-72.5)	65.7 (58.8-72.0)
=>35 Years	69.8 (62.7-76.0)	63.8 (56.3-70.7)	66.3 (58.3-73.6)
<b>Education:</b>			
<12	47.1 (31.6-63.2)**	29.0 (16.3-46.2)**	45.8 (28.6-64.0)**
12	47.8 (39.4-56.3)	48.0 (38.8-57.4)	49.3 (38.5-60.1)**
>12	67.6 (63.7-71.3)	66.3 (62.0-70.4)	63.8 (59.0-68.3)
<b>Insurer Before Pregnancy:</b>			
Medicaid	45.0 (37.6-52.7)	48.1 (39.7-56.6)	43.5 (34.1-53.5)**
Private	72.0 (68.0-75.7)	70.8 (66.4-74.9)	69.7 (64.9-74.1)
Uninsured	40.4 (27.5-54.9)**	25.7 (15.5-39.4)**	--

\* Weighted percentage (95% Confidence Interval)

\*\* Interpret with caution due to a larger confidence interval

-- Denominator <30 or numerator <6

## Information from Health Care Workers about Maternal Oral Health

The PRAMS survey aims to determine if women were advised by a doctor, nurse, or other health care worker to visit a dentist or dental hygienist before pregnancy. (Results exclude women who did not have a health care visit in the 12 months before pregnancy that involved discussing pregnancy preparation.)

**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)*		
	2020	2021	2022
<b>Overall</b>	35.8 (30.8-41.0)	31.0 (25.7-36.7)	28.9 (23.4-35.1)
<b>Race/Ethnicity:</b>			
NH White	32.3 (26.4-38.8)	28.9 (22.4-36.4)	27.8 (21.2-35.4)
NH Black	37.1 (22.8-54.0)**	32.7 (16.8-53.9)**	--
Hispanic	46.3 (34.5-58.5)**	34.2 (23.2-47.2)**	26.5 (15.7-41.1)**
Other	32.8 (17.3-53.2)**	30.1 (16.9-47.7)**	--
<b>Age:</b>			
<20 Years	--	--	--
20-24 Years	67.0 (49.7-80.6)**	--	--
25-29 Years	34.9 (24.8-46.7)**	32.8 (21.2-46.9)**	35.4 (23.1-49.9)
30-34 Years	28.3 (21.2-36.6)	28.5 (20.9-37.5)	21.4 (14.3-30.8)
=>35 Years	33.0 (24.4-42.8)**	37.4 (27.8-48.2)**	36.7 (25.9-48.9)**
<b>Education:</b>			
<12	--	--	--
12	51.9 (38.4-65.1)**	33.9 (19.8-51.5)**	32.9 (19.2-50.4)**
>12	32.7 (27.4-38.4)	28.5 (22.9-34.8)	25.4 (19.7-32.1)
<b>Insurer Before Pregnancy:</b>			
Medicaid	58.2 (42.6-72.3)**	42.6 (28.6-57.8)**	32.8 (19.2-50.2)**
Private	32.4 (27.1-38.2)	29.8 (24.0-36.4)	27.0 (21.1-33.9)
Uninsured	--	--	--

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## Teeth Cleaning During Pregnancy

The PRAMS survey also asks women if their teeth were cleaned by a dentist or dental hygienist during their 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)*		
	2020	2021	2022
<b>Overall</b>	40.8 (37.8-43.9)	45.7 (42.4-49.0)	42.6 (39.1-46.1)
<b>Race/Ethnicity:</b>			
NH White	48.0 (43.9-52.2)	52.9 (48.5-57.3)	51.6 (46.8-56.4)
NH Black	27.4 (21.0-34.8)	31.4 (23.5-40.6)	27.2 (19.9-36.0)
Hispanic	35.0 (28.6-42.0)	39.2 (32.5-46.2)	36.0 (29.1-43.6)
Other	34.7 (25.1-45.7)**	43.2 (32.4-54.8)**	25.6 (15.6-39.1)**
<b>Age:</b>			
<20 Years	32.1 (19.2-48.5)**	34.8 (21.2-51.3)**	--
20-24 Years	25.5 (19.1-33.0)	31.7 (22.9-42.1)**	23.3 (15.9-32.7)
25-29 Years	31.0 (25.8-36.8)	39.7 (33.5-46.2)	39.0 (32.3-46.1)
30-34 Years	49.2 (43.8-54.6)	52.7 (47.2-58.1)	50.1 (44.1-56.0)
=>35 Years	53.5 (46.8-60.2)	52.2 (45.4-58.8)	51.9 (44.6-59.2)
<b>Education:</b>			
<12	30.0 (20.3-41.9)**	31.4 (22.6-41.8)**	15.8 (8.9-26.5)
12	27.9 (22.4-34.1)	31.9 (25.6-39.1)	26.3 (20.2-33.6)
>12	47.5 (43.9-51.2)	52.5 (48.5-56.4)	51.0 (46.7-55.3)
<b>Insurer During Pregnancy:</b>			
Medicaid	25.3 (21.1-30.0)	27.1 (22.7-32.1)	23.4 (18.8-28.8)
Private	54.4 (50.3-58.4)	59.9 (55.4-64.2)	58.5 (53.8-63.0)
Uninsured	--	--	--

\*Weighted percentage (95% Confidence Interval)

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-- Denominator <30 or numerator <6

## Summary

### Before pregnancy

- Annually, from 2020 to 2022, about 6 out of 10 women had their teeth cleaned in the 12 months before pregnancy.
- In 2022, both non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic women were **significantly** less likely to have their teeth cleaned in the 12 months before pregnancy, compared to non-Hispanic White women.
- In 2020 and 2021, 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. In 2022, this level approached statistical significance as well.
- Annually, from 2020 to 2022, women with Medicaid insurance were **significantly** less likely to have their teeth cleaned before pregnancy compared to women with private insurance.
- Approximately one-third of women attending a health care visit before pregnancy received information from their health care worker about visiting a dentist or dental hygienist before pregnancy.

### During pregnancy

- Annually from 2020 to 2022, about 4 out of 10 women had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy.
- From 2020 to 2022, non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic women were **significantly** less likely to have their teeth cleaned during pregnancy compared to non-Hispanic White women.
- From 2020 to 2022, 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.
- From 2020 to 2022, about 1 out of 4 women with Medicaid insurance had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy, which is **significantly** less compared to those with private insurance.
- From 2020 to 2022, women under 30 years of age were less likely to have their teeth cleaned during pregnancy, compared to women 30 years of age and older.

## Resources

**American Dental Association:** <https://www.mouthhealthy.org/life-stages/pregnancy>

**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/a-z-topics/oral-health>

### References:

1. Oral Health Care During Pregnancy Expert Workgroup. 2012. Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: A National Consensus Statement. 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://owh-wh-d9-dev.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/documents/fact-sheet-oral-health.pdf>
3. American Dental Association: Pregnancy and your dental health. Available at: <https://www.mouthhealthy.org/life-stages/pregnancy/pregnancy-dental-concerns>

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

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



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