




Indicator W.5. Percentage of Pregnant Women Reporting That They Needed to See a Dentist for a Problem During Pregnancy

Description:	Percentage of pregnant women reporting that they needed to see a dentist for a problem during pregnancy																		
What data source is used?	The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a surveillance project of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state health departments. PRAMS collects self-reported data on women's attitudes and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy.																		
Who is the target population?	PRAMS is a state-level survey of resident women in the state who gave birth to a live-born infant during the year.																		
Which PRAMS question is used for this indicator?	<p>Standard Question Y7: This question is about the care of your teeth <u>during</u> your most recent pregnancy. For each item, check No if it is not true or does not apply to you or Yes if it is true.</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">No</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Yes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>a. I knew it was important to care for my teeth and gums during my pregnancy</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. A dental or other health care worker talked with me about how to care for my teeth and gums</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. I had insurance to cover dental care during my pregnancy</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td> d. I <u>needed</u> to see a dentist for a problem</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>e. I <u>went</u> to a dentist or dental clinic about a problem</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		No	Yes	a. I knew it was important to care for my teeth and gums during my pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. A dental or other health care worker talked with me about how to care for my teeth and gums	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	c. I had insurance to cover dental care during my pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 d. I <u>needed</u> to see a dentist for a problem	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	e. I <u>went</u> to a dentist or dental clinic about a problem	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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How is the indicator measured?	<p>The indicator is expressed as a percentage [numerator/denominator x 100%].</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #e6f2ff;"> <p>Numerator: The subset of women in the denominator who answered "Yes" to the response option: "I <u>needed</u> to see a dentist for a problem"</p> <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <p>Denominator: Number of women who answered "yes" or "no" to standard question Y7, response option "I <u>needed</u> to see a dentist for a problem"</p> </div>																		
Are any PRAMS respondents excluded?	Women who responded to the PRAMS questionnaire overall but did not answer standard question Y7, response option "I <u>needed</u> to see a dentist for a problem " are excluded from the indicator.																		
What does this indicator measure and why is it important?	This indicator is a measure of oral health care outcomes and signifies an adverse oral health status that requires dental care. Pregnancy-induced changes to physical and oral health can contribute to oral disease, such as gingivitis and cavities, with potential long-term impacts. ⁱ Regular dental visits can help reduce the risk of dental problems by providing women with preventive services and recommendations for good eating and oral health practices such as brushing. Regular dental visits also enable early diagnosis and treatment of dental problems to support better health outcomes.																		
Are there any limitations to this indicator?	PRAMS data are collected only from women who delivered a live-born infant, not all pregnant women. PRAMS data are self-reported and may be subject to various types of response and measurement bias, such as inaccurate recall or responses that are influenced by what is "socially acceptable" rather than what the "true" answer would be. Not all states conduct PRAMS every year.																		
Where can I get more information about PRAMS?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional information about the PRAMS survey is available from CDC. • Each state has a PRAMS coordinator. 																		

ⁱAmerican Dental Association. 2020. [Pregnancy](#). American Dental Association.