

Maternal Intentions for Infant Dental Visits

Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System | Michigan, 2016-2018

Age One Dental Visits

Background

The Michigan Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring Survey (MI PRAMS) has recently begun asking new mothers questions about whether they intend to take their infant to the dentist by their first birthday. Infants normally begin to erupt teeth between 6 and 12 months, at which time the teeth are vulnerable to decay and demineralization of the enamel. Once decay has begun it can progress rapidly, as primary teeth are much smaller and the enamel is thinner than in permanent teeth.¹ Tooth decay can lead to malnutrition, infection, premature tooth loss and costly restorative interventions. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends a dental visit by age one.²

Results

Based on the combined 2016-2018 MI PRAMS data set, almost two-thirds (64.7%) of new Michigan mothers intend to take their child to the dentist before their first birthday. Mothers with less than a high school diploma were more likely to report intending to follow through with the age one dental visits (77.2%) compared to mothers who obtained a college degree (52.9%). Women who had an annual household income of <\$16,000 were more likely to report intending to take their child to the dentist before their first birthday (82.2%) compared to women who had an annual household income of ≥\$60,000 (50.9%). Women with public insurance (76.9%) or without insurance (71.6%) were more likely to report the intention to take their infant to the dentist before their first birthday more than women with private insurance (57.9%).

Discussion

This is the first time that Michigan women have been asked about their plans for infant oral health care on MI PRAMS. Interestingly, these results show an inverse relationship to income, age and education. These results suggest that the large statewide effort to educate women on Medicaid on the age one dental visit may be making an impact. Furthermore, these results indicate the need to reach women on private insurance who may never engage with public health services. Additional efforts should be made to engage the private practice dental community who may be more likely to provide services to those on private insurances. Further research is needed to determine if this is a true association or related to other factors which were not accounted for in this study.

About Michigan PRAMS

MI PRAMS is a collaborative effort between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services that provides data about factors, both positive and negative, that may impact the health of mothers and babies in Michigan. It is a population-based mail/telephone survey designed to monitor selected self-reported maternal behaviors and experiences that occur before, during and after pregnancy as well as infant health status.

Reported Intentions of Age One Dental Visits (%)

	Weighted Percent	95% CI ¹
Dental Visit Intention		
Yes	64.7	62.9-66.3
No	35.3	33.7-37.1
Age, years		
<20	80.5	72.9-86.3
20-24	74.8	70.9-78.2
25-29	68.3	65.2-71.2
30-34	57.3	54.0-60.6
≥35	53.3	48.8-57.6
Education		
<High School	77.2	71.8-81.8
HS Graduate	75.5	72.2-78.6
Some College	64.6	61.5-67.7
College Graduate	52.9	49.9-55.9
Household Income		
< \$16K	82.2	79.1-85.0
\$16K - \$24K	71.8	66.9-76.2
\$24K - \$40K	69.9	65.1-74.3
\$40K - \$60K	57.6	52.5-62.6
≥ \$60K	50.9	47.8-53.9
Insurance		
Public	76.9	74.1-79.6
Private	57.9	55.7-60.2
None	71.6	64.2-77.9

Data Source: MI PRAMS, 2016-2018

¹Confidence Interval: A range that contains 95% of the true mean of the population

References

¹Baker, S., Lee, J., & Wright, R. (2019). The importance of the age one dental visit. *Pediatric Oral Health Research & Policy Center*. Retrieved from <https://www.aapd.org/globalassets/media/policy-center/year1visit.pdf>

²America's Pediatric Dentist. (2019). Get it done in year one. *American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry*. Retrieved from <http://www.mychildrensteeth.org/assets/2/7/GetItDoneInYearOne.pdf>

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