

DESCRIPTION

It is important for women to begin prenatal appointments during their first three months of pregnancy. Women who begin prenatal care during their second or third trimester can have babies that are born too early or with a low birth weight.

HOW WE ARE DOING

During 2012-2016, only 73.7 percent of pregnant women in Ramsey County started prenatal care in the first trimester. This was less than the previous five-year period when 80 percent started prenatal care in their first trimester. Among the pregnant women who did not start prenatal care on time, 20 percent started care in their second trimester and 5 percent in their third trimester. During 2011-2015, the number of Hispanic women in Ramsey County receiving prenatal care in their first three months of pregnancy increased from 76 to 77 percent. African-American women remained steady at 69 percent and first trimester prenatal care decreased from 62 to 60 percent for Asian women. The decrease was more significant for American Indian women in Ramsey County- 64 to 53 percent during the same period. In 2016, 81.4 percent of pregnant Minnesota women and 74.7 percent of pregnant Ramsey County women received prenatal care during their first trimester.¹ During that same year, the national rate of first trimester care was 77.1 percent.² Compared to other counties in the seven-county metro area, only Ramsey County is not meeting the Healthy People 2020 goal.³

BENCHMARK INDICATOR

Healthy People 2020: Increase the proportion of pregnant women who receive prenatal care beginning in the first trimester
U.S. Target: 77.9 percent²

DISPARITIES

During 2011-2015, American Indian women were 32 percent less likely to receive prenatal care during their first trimester than white women. Asian women were 31 percent less likely; African-American women were 21 percent less likely; and Hispanic women were 13 percent less likely than white women in Ramsey County to receive prenatal care during their first trimester. Only 56 percent of Ramsey County women 19 or younger received care in their first three months.¹

RISK FACTORS

Young age, being nonwhite and low education are related to pregnant women getting late prenatal care.²

WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health offers home visiting services to more than 1,000 families each year. These visits help pregnant women find resources and support, including prenatal care. Public Health's Family Health Division also works closely with Minnesota's Prepaid Medical Assistance Plans to help pregnant women get care. The public health department also runs Child and Teen Checkups, a program that helps women under 22 on public insurance find routine health and prenatal care.

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Information to note

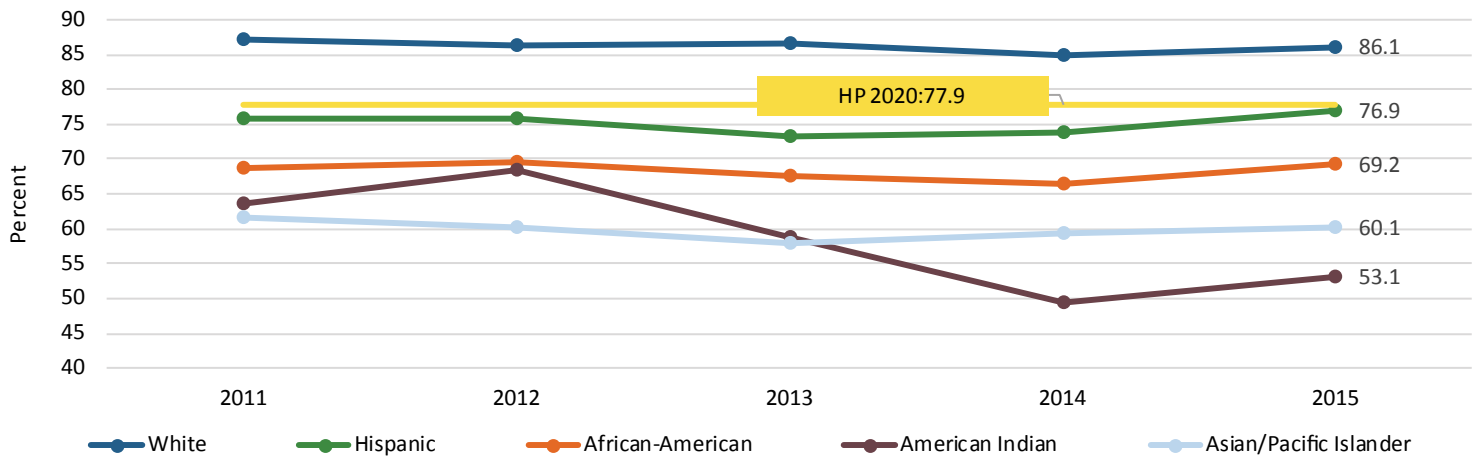
- In the past five years, the percentage of pregnant women in Ramsey County receiving prenatal care in their first trimester declined.
- Only 56 percent of women 19 or younger received prenatal care in their first trimester during 2011-2015.
- Nonwhite women of all races and ethnicities are less likely to receive prenatal care in the first trimester.

¹ Minnesota Center for Health Statistics. Minnesota Department of Health. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs>. Accessed May 15, 2018.

² National Center for Health Statistics. 2015 Natality Public Use File. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/prenatal-care/data.htm>. Accessed February 2018.

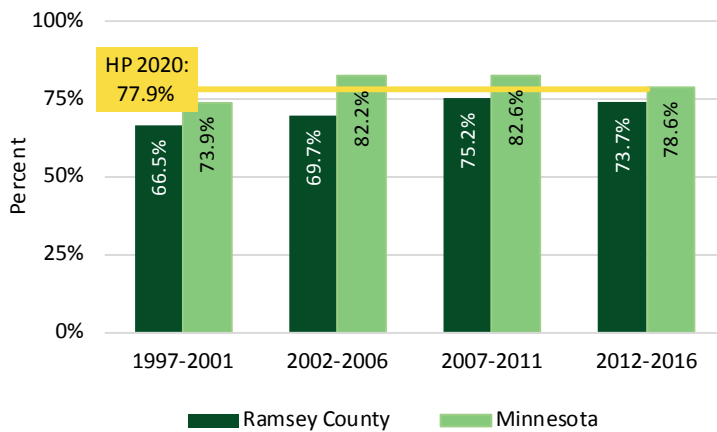
³ Maternal, Infant and Child Health. Healthy People 2020. <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/maternal-infant-and-child-health/objectives>. Accessed February 9, 2018.

Women Receiving 1st Trimester Prenatal Care by Race/Ethnicity, Ramsey County



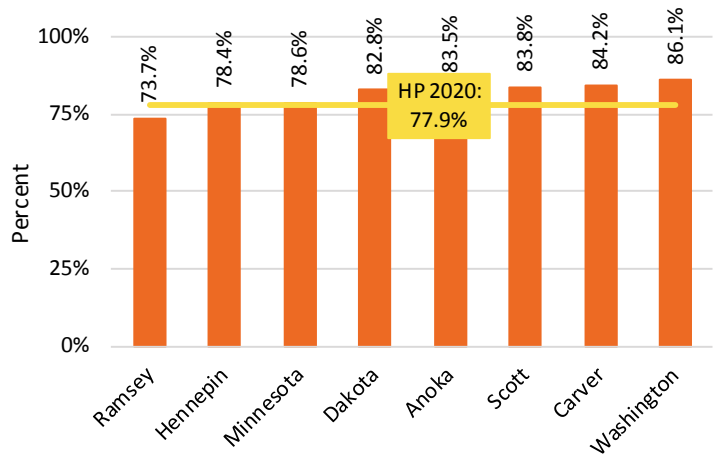
Source: Minnesota Department of Health.⁴

Women Receiving Prenatal Care in the 1st Trimester Over Time, Ramsey County



Source: County Health Table Trends.⁵

Women Receiving Prenatal Care in the 1st Trimester, 2012-2016



Source: County Health Table Trends.⁵

⁴ Minnesota Department of Health. Center for Health Statistics. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs> Accessed October 13, 2017.

⁵ County Health Table Trends. Minnesota Center for Health Statistics, MDH. Accessed February 26, 2018.