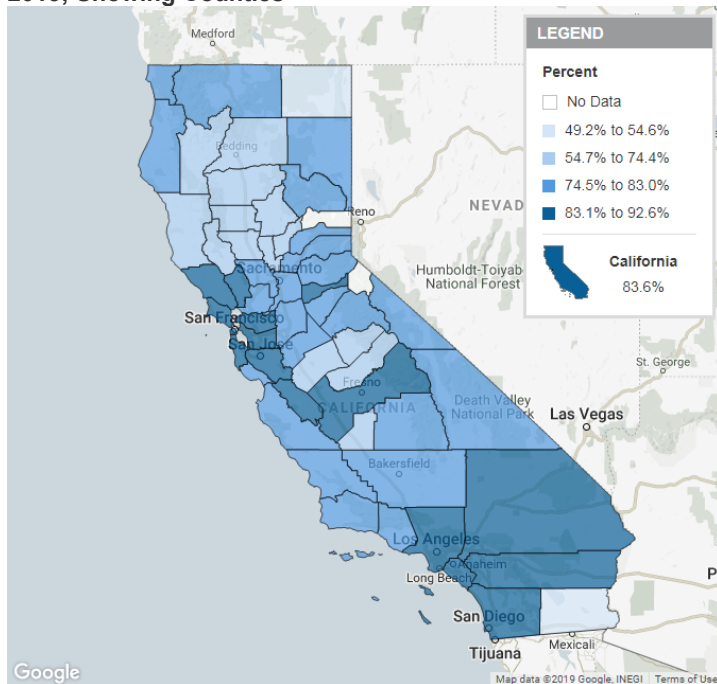


Prenatal Care in California

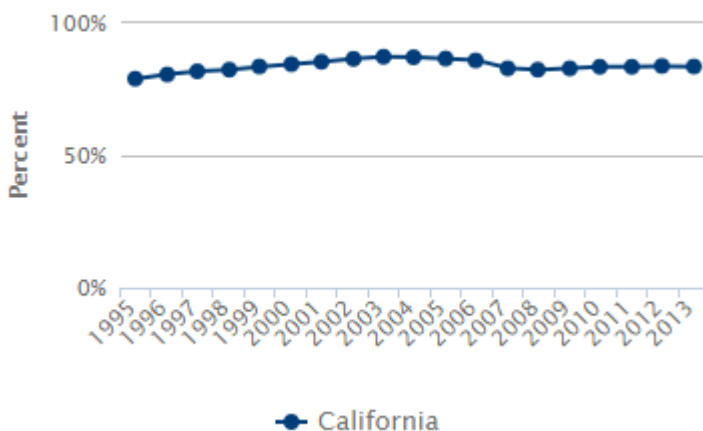
Infants Whose Mothers Received Prenatal Care in the First Trimester: 2013; Showing Counties



Definition: Percentage of infants whose mothers received prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy.

Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files (Mar. 2015).

Infants Whose Mothers Received Prenatal Care in the First Trimester: 1995-2013



Definition: Percentage of infants whose mothers received prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy.

What It Is

Prenatal care refers to health care during pregnancy. Timely prenatal care is measured by the number or percentage of infants born to mothers who received prenatal care in the first trimester (1-3 months). This information also is presented by the race/ethnicity of the mother. Early prenatal care increases the likelihood of a healthy pregnancy and birth.

Why This Topic Is Important

High quality prenatal care greatly reduces the risk of infant mortality (1). Timely prenatal care, i.e., in the first trimester, is especially important, as it lowers the risk of other adverse birth outcomes, such as low birth weight, developmental delays, and premature birth (one of the leading causes of infant death nationwide) (2). Prenatal doctor visits also are important for the health of the mother. Through prenatal care, health professionals are able to identify and resolve potential medical problems and provide guidance and encouragement on good habits in general and for a healthy pregnancy.

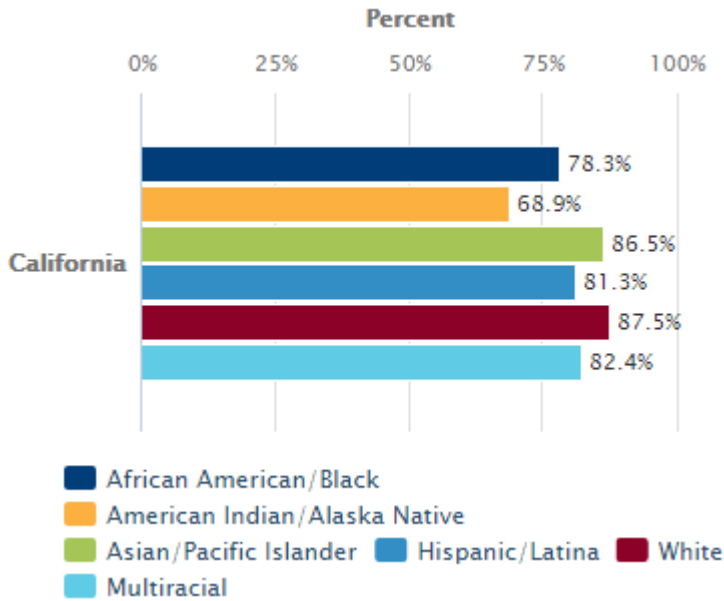
Women whose pregnancies are unintended are more likely to delay prenatal care (3). Rates of unintended pregnancy are highest among young women ages 18-24, those living in poverty, those with less than a high school diploma, and African American/Black and Latina/Hispanic women (4). Reducing disparities in access to prenatal care and improving access to timely care for all women has been a U.S. public health priority for the past two decades. Healthy People 2020, an initiative of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that sets national public health goals, set an objective to increase the percentage of pregnant women who receive prenatal care beginning in the first trimester from 70.8% to 77.9% by the year 2020 (5).

How Children Are Faring

In 2013, 84% of California infants were born to mothers who received prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy. This figure has held relatively steady in recent years, though it is down from a high of 87% in 2003. At the county level, the percentage of infants whose mothers receive timely prenatal care ranges widely, from 49% to 93% in 2013 among counties with available data. As in previous years, infants of White (88%) and Asian/Pacific Islander women (87%) had the highest percentages of timely prenatal care in 2013; infants of American Indian/Alaska Native women (69%) had the lowest.

Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files (Mar. 2015).

Infants Whose Mothers Received Prenatal Care in the First Trimester, by Race/Ethnicity: 2013



Definition: Percentage of infants whose mothers received prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, by race/ethnicity of mother (e.g., among California infants born to African American/Black mothers in 2013, 78.3% had mothers who received prenatal care during their first trimester).

Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files (Mar. 2015).

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:
<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/59/prenatal-care/summary>



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