

Vermont PRAMS Data Brief

Contraception Use

This is a report on the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), a survey conducted on a sample of Vermont women with live births since 2001. This report includes data from 2001^a-2007.

Included in the survey are questions on contraception use when the respondent got pregnant, and reasons for not using contraception. By design, these questions are asked only of those who were not trying to get pregnant at the time. Intendedness of pregnancy is a topic of previous reports.

Responses to questions about contraception use postpartum are also presented. Question wording from the PRAMS survey is presented at the end of this report.

Contraception use at conception

- Mothers who stated that, thinking back to before they get pregnant, they wanted to be pregnant later, or didn't want to be pregnant then or at any time in the future were considered to have an unintended pregnancy. Nearly 35 percent of live births were from pregnancies that were unintended. This has been relatively stable through the seven years of data available.
- 48% of those with unintended pregnancies reported that they did not use contraception.
- Compared with college-educated moms, contraception use is significantly less prevalent among those with a high school diploma or lower level of education.
- No significant differences in contraception use were observed by age or insurance status prior to pregnancy.

Reasons for not using contraception at conception

- The most common response was "I didn't mind if got pregnant" (34%) followed by "I thought could not get pregnant at that time" (24%).
- Nearly a quarter of respondents wrote in a reason not listed, including the below types of responses. Written in most frequently was that they
 - were "careless" or "forgot" or "were lazy"
 - were breastfeeding
 - were switching methods
 - had religious objections

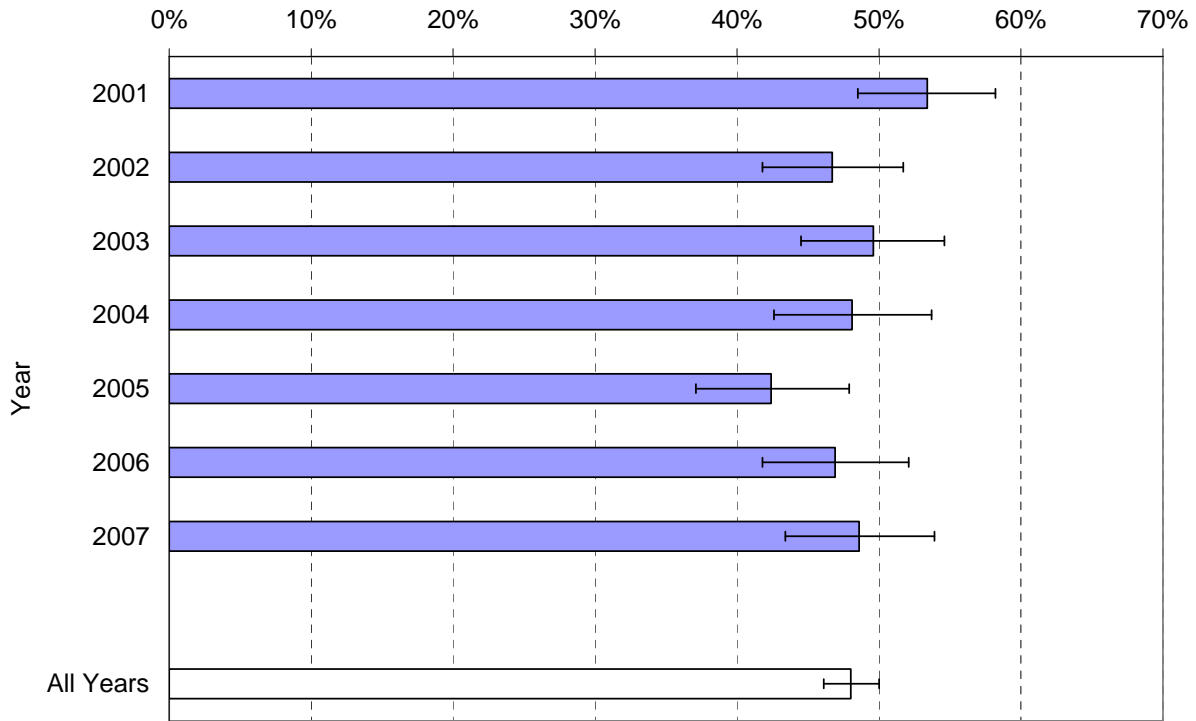
Postpartum Contraception Use

- Over the seven-year period, 87.5 % of mothers report that they are using some form of contraception now (at the time they filled out the PRAMS survey).
- For those not using contraception at the current time, abstinence and "don't want to use" are the most common reasons.
- Use of postpartum contraception is significantly associated with the most recent pregnancy being unintended.
- Those who received counseling on postpartum birth control during their prenatal care visits were significantly more likely to use birth control postpartum (89% vs. 82%).

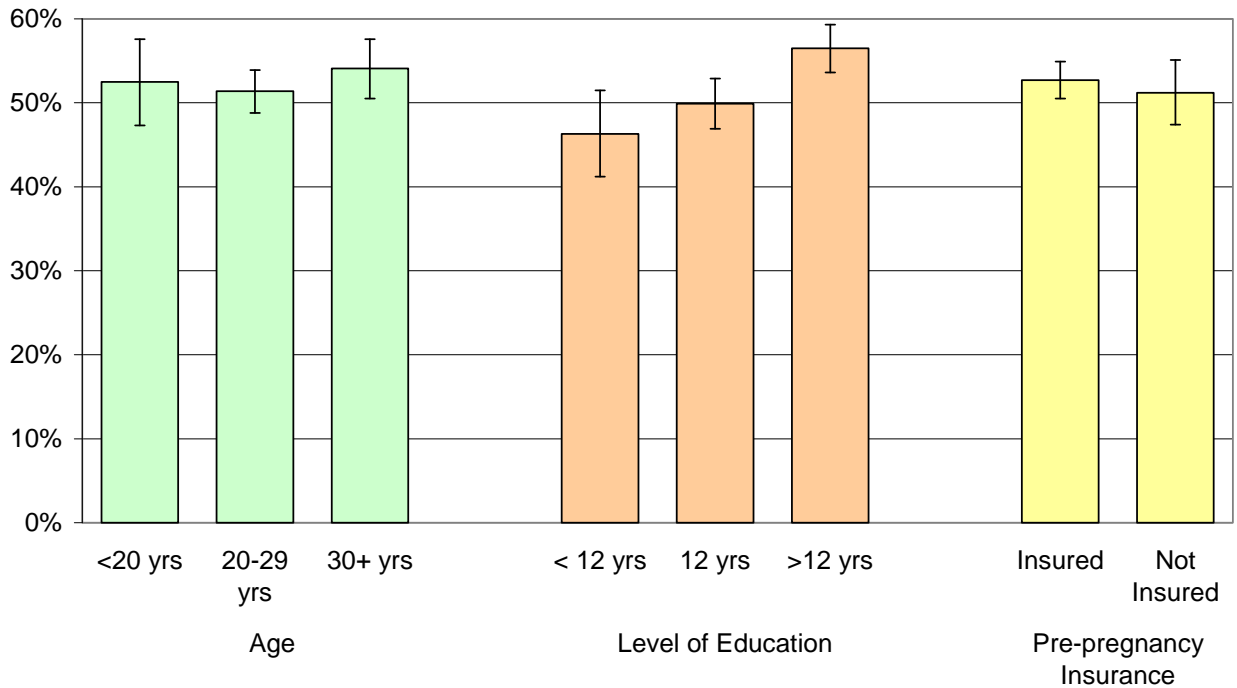
^a 2001 data includes mothers who gave birth from October 2000 to December 2001. Data Collection began in January 2001.

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Among Unintended Pregnancies:
Percent who reported no contraception use when they got pregnant

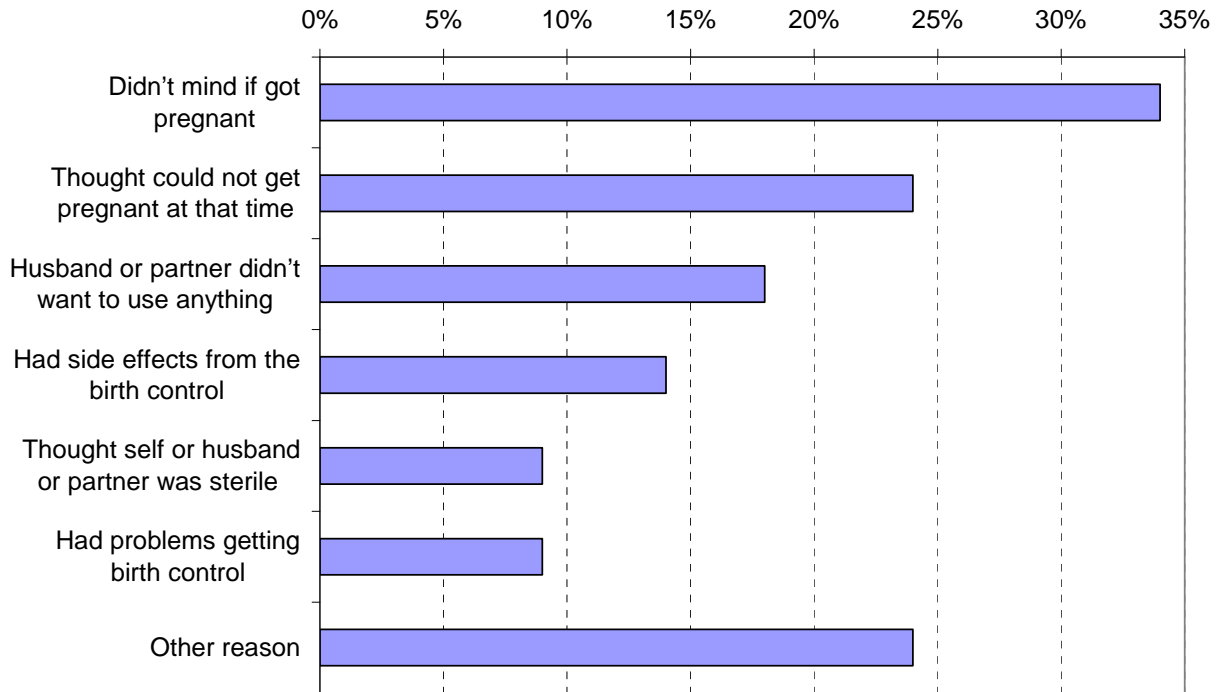


Among Unintended Pregnancies (2001-2007):
Percent who used contraception by Age, Education, and
Pre-pregnancy Insurance Status



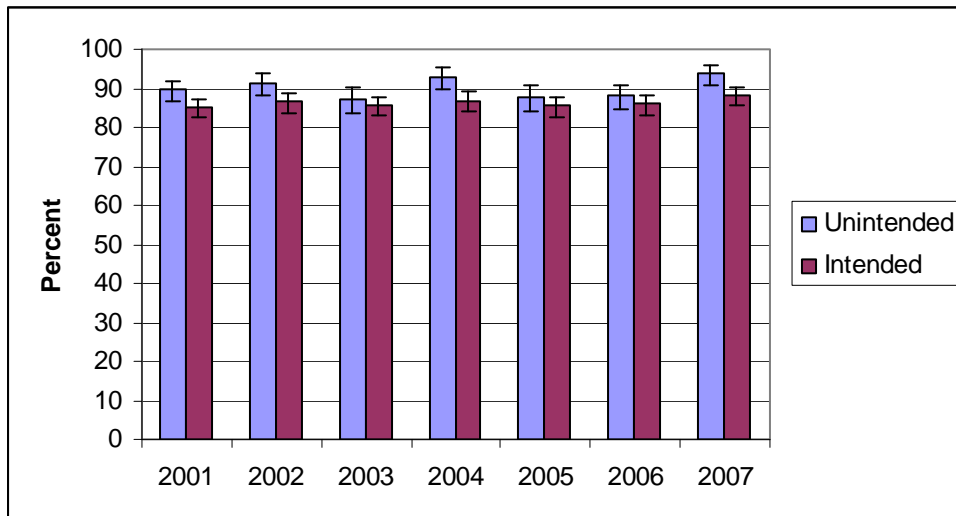
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Reasons* for not doing anything to keep from getting pregnant among unintended pregnancies (2001-2007)



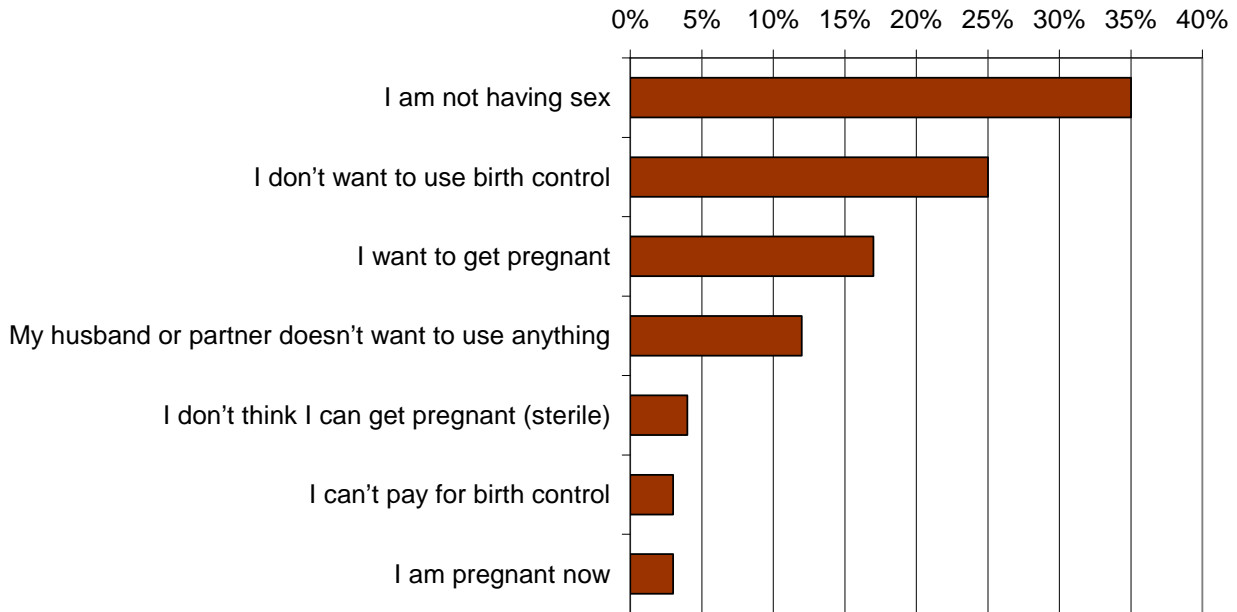
* Respondents may choose more than one reason.

Percent using contraception now by intendedness of most recent pregnancy



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Postpartum contraception (2001-2007): Reasons* for not using contraception postpartum now



* Respondents may choose more than one reason.

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PRAMS questions on Intendedness, Contraception at Conception and Prenatal Care

12. Thinking back to *just before* you got pregnant with your *new* baby, how did you feel about becoming pregnant?

- I wanted to be pregnant sooner
- I wanted to be pregnant later
- I wanted to be pregnant then
- I didn't want to be pregnant then or at any time in the future

Mothers choosing the 2nd or 4th option were coded as having an unintended pregnancy

13. When you got pregnant with your new baby, were you trying to get pregnant?

- No
- Yes —————> *skip next two questions*

14. When you got pregnant with your new baby, were you or your husband or partner doing anything to keep from getting pregnant?

(Some things people do to keep from getting pregnant include not having sex at certain times [rhythm] or withdrawal, and using birth control methods such as the pill, condoms, cervical ring, IUD, having their tubes tied, or their partner having a vasectomy.)

- No
- Yes —————> *skip next question*

15. What were your or your husband's or partner's reasons for not doing anything to keep from getting pregnant?

- I didn't mind if I got pregnant
- I thought I could not get pregnant at that time
- I had side effects from the birth control method I was using
- I had problems getting birth control when I needed it
- I thought my husband or partner or I was sterile (could not get pregnant at all)
- My husband or partner didn't want to use anything
- Other
Please tell us: _____

21. During any of your prenatal care visits, did a doctor, nurse, or other health care worker talk with you about any of the things listed below?

Please count only discussions, not reading materials or videos. For each item, circle **Y** (Yes) if someone talked with you about it or circle **N** (No) if no one talked with you about it.

- e. Birth control methods to use after my pregnancy N Y

PRAMS Postpartum Contraception Questions

68. Are you or your husband or partner doing anything *now* to keep from getting pregnant?

(Some things people do to keep from getting pregnant include not having sex at certain times [rhythm] or withdrawal, and using birth control methods such as the pill, condoms, cervical ring, IUD, having their tubes tied, or their partner having a vasectomy.)

- No
- Yes —————> *skip next question*

69. What are your or your husband's or partner's reasons for not doing anything to keep from getting pregnant *now*?

- I am not having sex
- I want to get pregnant
- I don't want to use birth control
- My husband or partner doesn't want to use anything
- I don't think I can get pregnant (sterile)
- I can't pay for birth control
- I am pregnant now
- Other
Please tell us: _____