

Vermont PRAMS Data Brief

Topic: HIV Testing

July 6, 2007

This is a report on the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), a survey conducted on a sample of Vermont women with live births during calendar year 2004. More information on PRAMS can be found in the endnote to this document.

The topic for this report is testing for HIV. The 2004 Vermont PRAMS survey includes for the first time a number of questions on HIV testing, including the following:

At any time during your most recent pregnancy or delivery, did you have a test for HIV (the virus that causes AIDS)?

Those who answered “No” or “Don’t know” to this question are asked if they were offered an HIV test, and if they were, if they had turned down the test. The reasons for turning down the test are explored, including whether the mom had been tested before the pregnancy, and how long before.

Testing during current pregnancy and delivery

Nearly 60 percent said they had a test during their most recent pregnancy or delivery. Of the remainder, 57 percent indicated they were offered an HIV test, but 95 percent declined the test.

Women recently having given birth can be categorized into three groups: those who have been tested, those who were offered a test and declined, and those not offered a test.

	Respondents	Weighted Responses	
		Count	Percent
Had an HIV test	613	3,590	61.5 %
Declined an HIV test	210	1,234	21.2 %
Not offered an HIV test	181	1,011	17.3 %
	1,004	5,835	100.0 %

Those who were offered an HIV test but turned it down (N=210) were offered a set of reasons and were asked if it applied to them, with results that follow below (respondents could check as many reasons as applied):

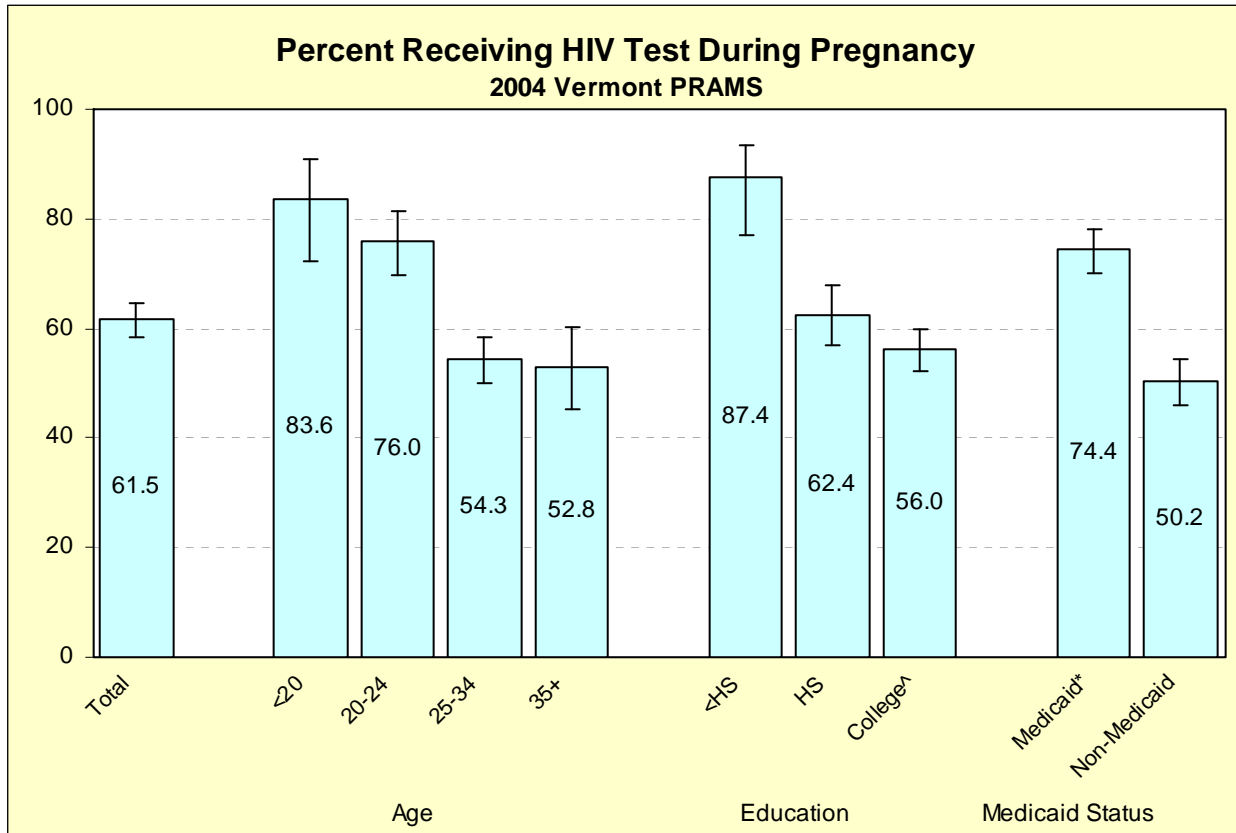
I did not think I was at risk for HIV	56%
I did not want people to think I was at risk for HIV	<1%*
I was afraid of getting the result	<1%*
I was tested before this pregnancy and did not think I needed to be tested	50%
Other reason	7%

* Represents one (1) respondent who listed the indicated reason.

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Demographics of those who were tested

Younger women, women with less than a high school education and women enrolled in Medicaid were more likely to be tested during pregnancy.



^ Includes mothers who completed any college work, whether or not they earned a degree.

* Mother was enrolled in Medicaid prior to pregnancy, or Medicaid** paid for prenatal care, or Medicaid** paid for delivery.

** Includes Dr. Dynasaur.

Testing during periods prior to most recent pregnancy

If a recent test was not indicated—either because the mom turned down the test, or was not offered the test—then she was asked to indicate if she had a test for HIV prior to her most recent pregnancy:

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Had an HIV test <u>prior to</u> the most recent pregnancy?	57%	43%
Weighted responses	1276	956
Number of respondents	227	170

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For those who indicated a prior test, most (85 percent) reported it had occurred more than a year before they became pregnant.

Percent having a prior HIV test by time period

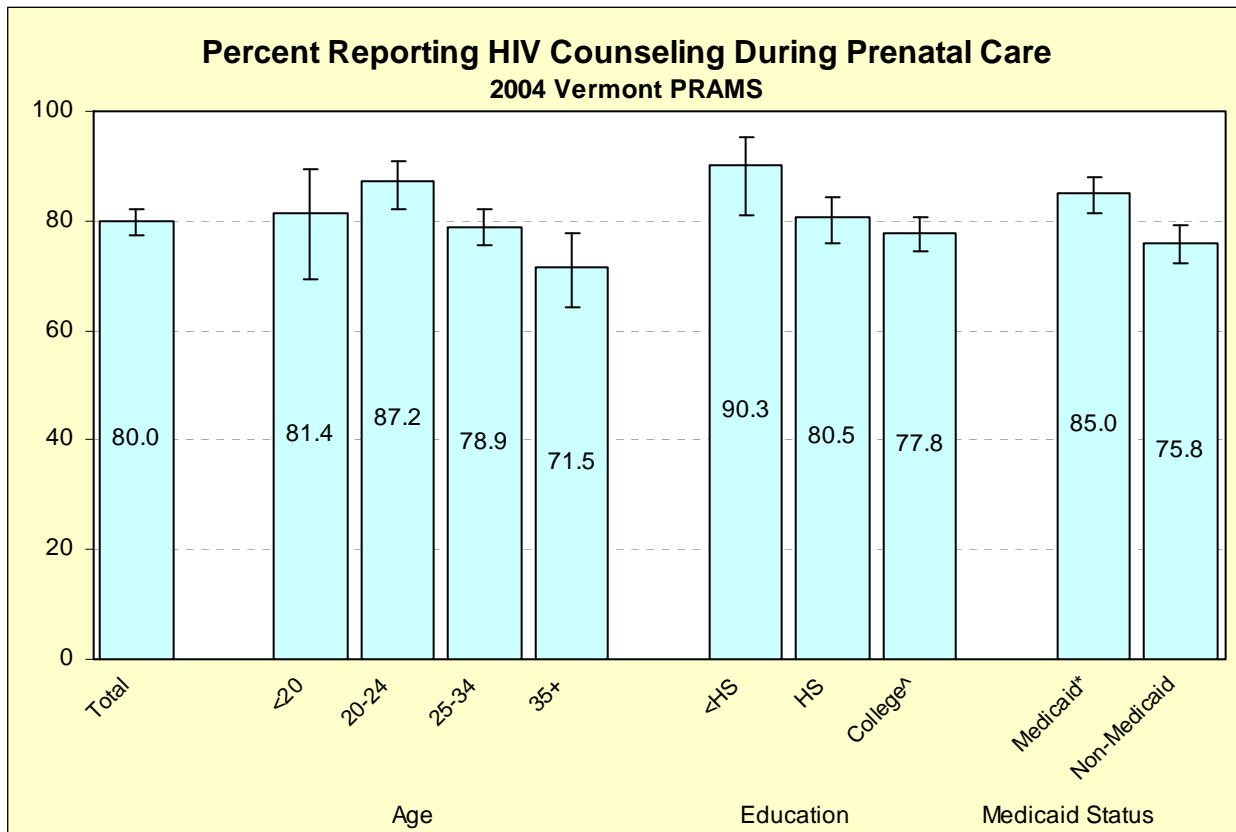
Less than 6 months before pregnancy	5 %
6 months to 1 year before pregnancy	10 %
More than 1 year before pregnancy	85 %

Prenatal care counseling and HIV testing

The Vermont PRAMS survey has asked about prenatal care content specific to HIV testing since its inception in 2001, and has continued this question in the 2004 survey:

During any of your prenatal care visits, did a doctor, nurse or other health care worker talk to you about...getting tested for HIV (the virus that causes AIDS)?

Over the four years, consistently 80 percent reported a health care worker had mentioned HIV testing during face-to-face prenatal care counseling. In 2004, women younger than 25 years of age are more likely to report being counseled on HIV than those 25 and over.



^ Includes mothers who completed any college work, whether or not they earned a degree.

* Mother was enrolled in Medicaid prior to pregnancy, or Medicaid** paid for prenatal care, or Medicaid** paid for delivery.

** Includes Dr. Dinosaur.

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Endnotes

The 2004 PRAMS survey sampled Vermont resident women who gave birth in Vermont or New Hampshire in 2004. A total of 1,368 women were surveyed, and 1,120 women responded to the survey for an overall 83 percent response rate. The sample was stratified by birthweight, with all of the mothers of low birthweight babies (those weighing less than 2,500 grams at birth) being sampled, and 4 of every 23 mothers of normal weight babies being sampled.

“Weighted Responses” indicates the number this survey result represents of the actual Vermont population based on the stratified sample design. Percentages are based on weighted responses unless otherwise specified.

Error bars in the graphics represent the 95% confidence interval for the displayed percentages.

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