

Vermont PRAMS Data Brief

HIV Testing

This is a report on the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), a survey conducted on a sample of Vermont women with live births. This report examines data from 2004 to 2007.

This is an update of a previous report on HIV testing. The survey includes the following question:

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 had a test before the pregnancy, and how long before.

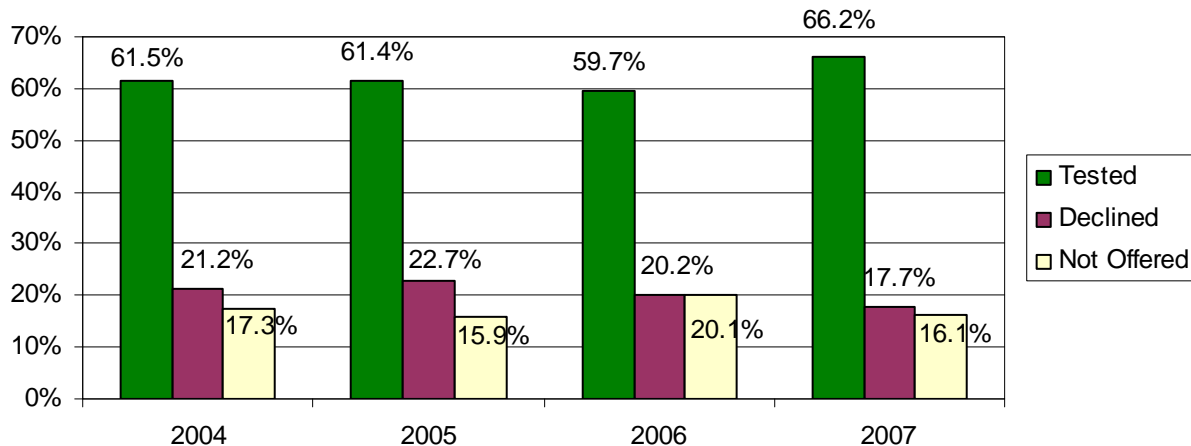
HIV testing during the most recent pregnancy and delivery

Respondents are categorized into those who have been tested, those who were offered a test and declined, and those who were not offered a test.

In 2007, just over 66 percent of women said they had an HIV test during their most recent pregnancy or delivery. This is a significant increase from previous years when the percent reporting testing was under 62 percent.

Fewer are declining an HIV test when they are offered one. In 2007 just over 18 percent declined the test, a significant decrease from the 20 percent or more in previous years. Those who report they were not offered the test ranged between 16 and 20 percent depending on year.

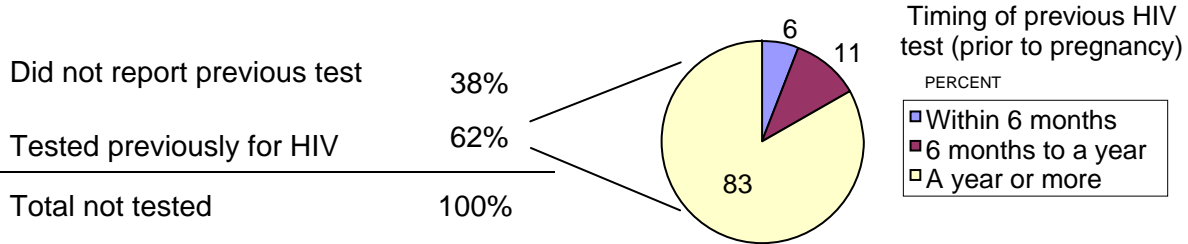
Percent Reporting an HIV Test During Pregnancy by Year, Vermont, 2004-2007



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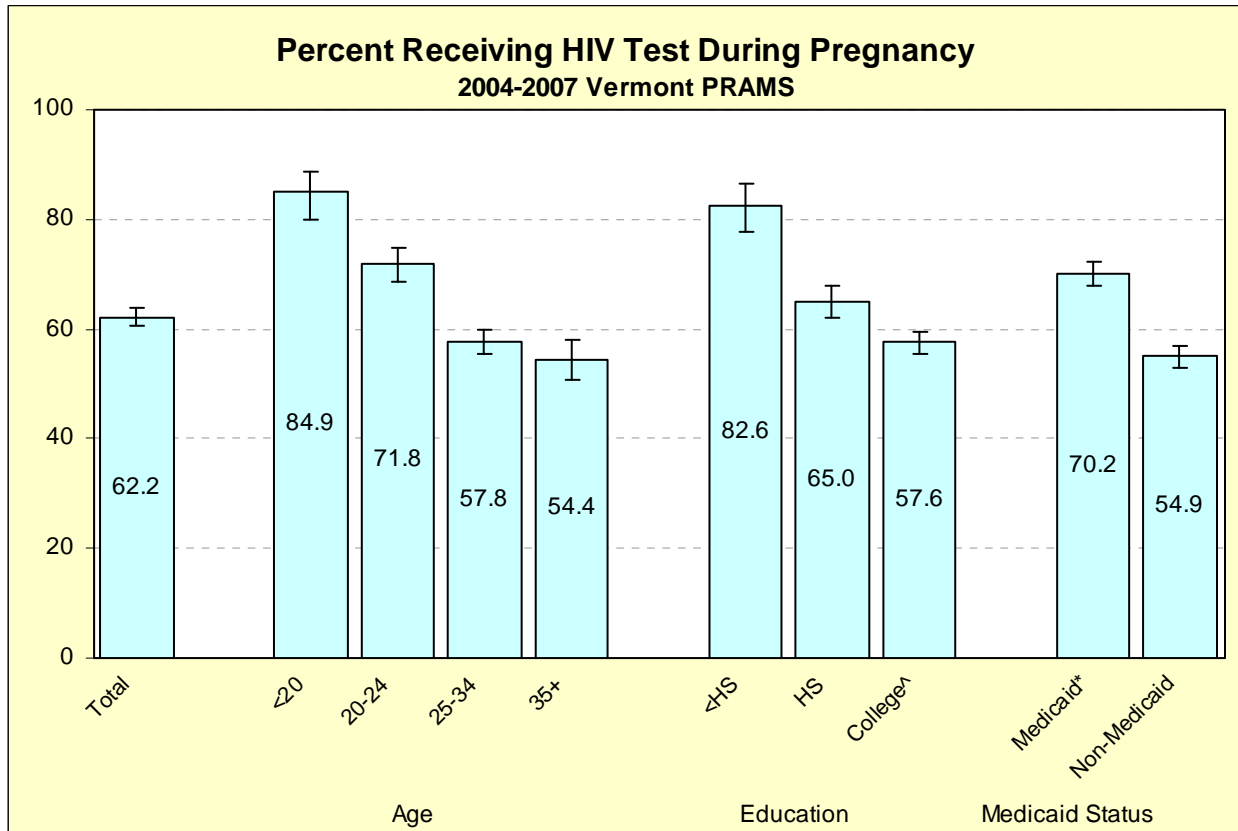
Previous tests for HIV

Many women who turn down an HIV test during their most recent pregnancy indicate they have had a prior test. As shown below, 62 % of these women report they had an HIV test previously, and most tests were done more than a year before their most recent pregnancy.



Demographics

Those in their teens and their early twenties or without a high school education are more likely to report having an HIV test during their most recent pregnancy. Those 25 and over, those with a college education, and those without Medicaid as a payer are the least likely to report an HIV test during their most recent pregnancy.



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

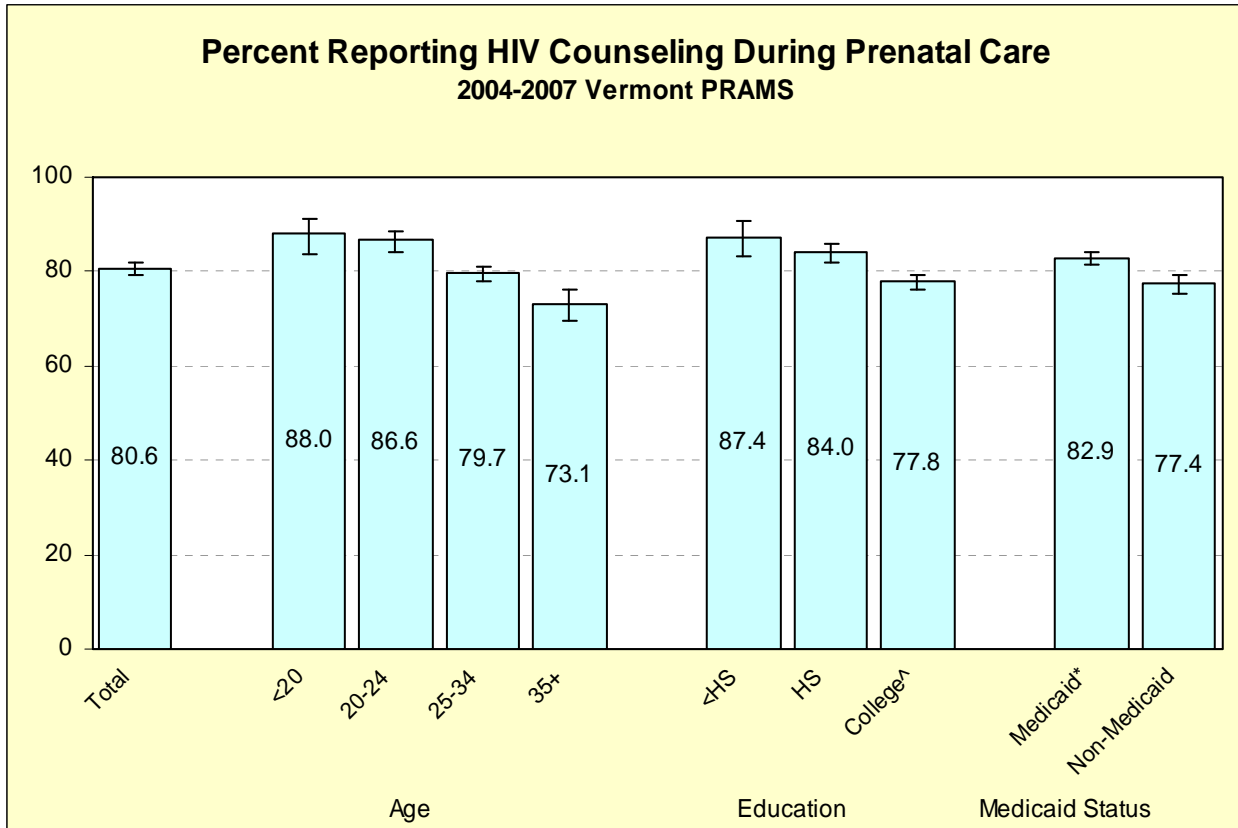
* Mother was enrolled in Medicaid prior to pregnancy, or Medicaid** paid for prenatal care, or Medicaid** paid for delivery.

** Includes Dr. Dynasaur.

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Prenatal Care Content

The PRAMS survey also asks if a doctor, nurse or other health care worker discussed getting tested for HIV during any of the mother's prenatal care visits. Just over 80 percent indicate that HIV testing was discussed in prenatal care. College educated women, those 35 years of age and over, and non-Medicaid recipients were least likely to report discussing HIV testing.



^ 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.

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PRAMS Question Wording: HIV Testing and Prenatal Care Content

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

- No
- Yes
- I don't know

Were you offered an HIV test during your most recent pregnancy or delivery?

- No
- Yes

Did you turn down the HIV test?

- No
- Yes

Why did you turn down the HIV test?

- I did not think I was at risk for HIV
- I did not want people to think I was at risk for HIV
- I was afraid of getting the result
- I was tested before this pregnancy, and did not think I needed to be tested again
- Other Please tell us:

Had you been tested for HIV before this pregnancy?

- No
- Yes
- I don't know

When were you tested before this pregnancy?

- Less than 6 months before you got pregnant
- 6 months to 1 year before you got pregnant
- More than 1 year before you got pregnant

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.

Getting tested for HIV
(the virus that causes AIDS). N Y

Questions or comments on this report may be addressed to John Gauthier, Vermont PRAMS Coordinator, jgauthi@vdh.state.vt.us, (802)863-7661 or to Mike Nyland-Funke, mnyland@vdh.state.vt.us, (802)863-7261.