

# Vermont PRAMS Data Brief

## **Prenatal Counseling – part 4 Preterm Delivery and Early Labor**

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<sup>a</sup>-2007.

Included in the survey are questions about the content of prenatal care. The previous reports have examined differences in responses across demographics for the prenatal counseling questions and the relationship between the responses and smoking and drinking behavior. This report focuses on the relationships between the responses and early labor and preterm delivery. The wording for the questions examined here is included at the end of this report.

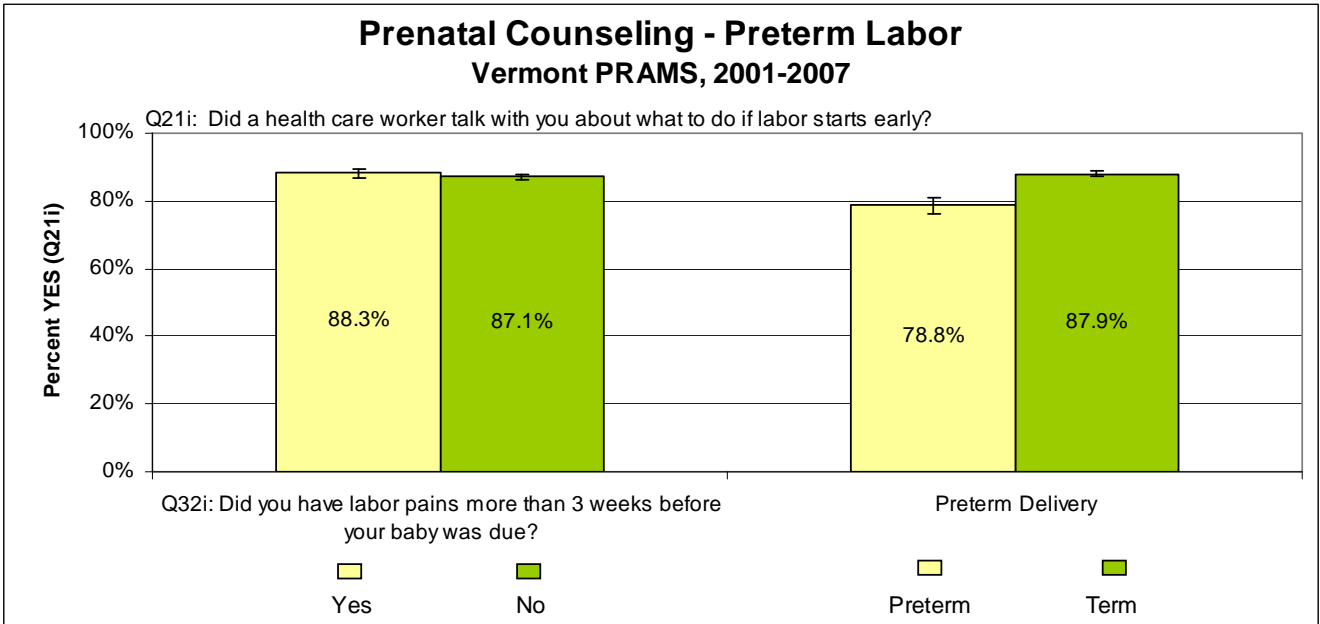
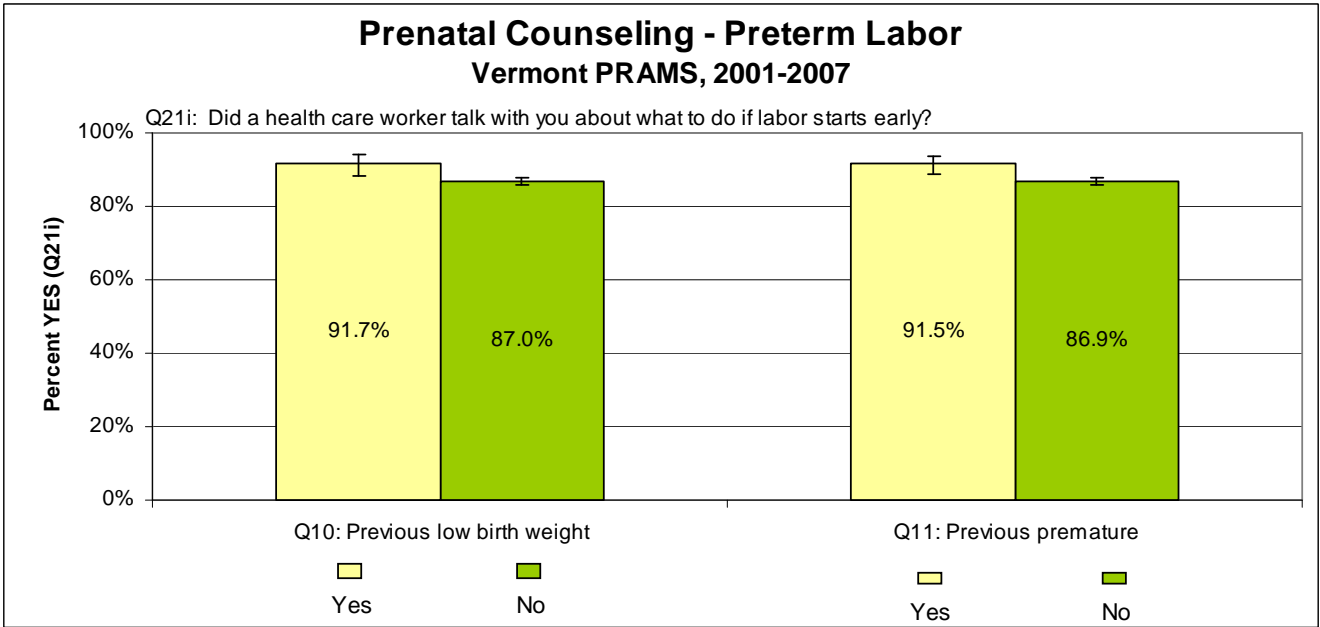
### **Prenatal Counseling and Preterm Labor:**

- 87% of mothers indicated that a prenatal health care worker had discussed what to do if labor started early.
- 92% of mothers whose previous baby was low birthweight or preterm had discussed early labor with a health care worker, significantly more than other mothers.
- Mothers reporting labor pains more than three weeks before their due date were not any more or less likely to have had a health care worker discuss early labor than mothers who did not report early labor pains.
- However, just 79% of mothers who had a preterm delivery had a health care worker talk with them about what to do if labor starts early, significantly less than other mothers.
- The mothers least likely to have had a discussion with a health care worker about what to do if labor starts early were the mothers who had the earliest deliveries.
- Of the mothers who had a preterm delivery but no discussion with a healthcare worker about what to do if labor started early, 69% were first time mothers.
- Most mothers are having a discussion with a health care worker about what to do if labor starts early and providers appear to be targeting mothers with a previous preterm or low birthweight baby who are at higher risk for preterm delivery. However, these data suggest that the usual timing of the early labor discussion may be too late in the pregnancy to help some women, particularly first time mothers.

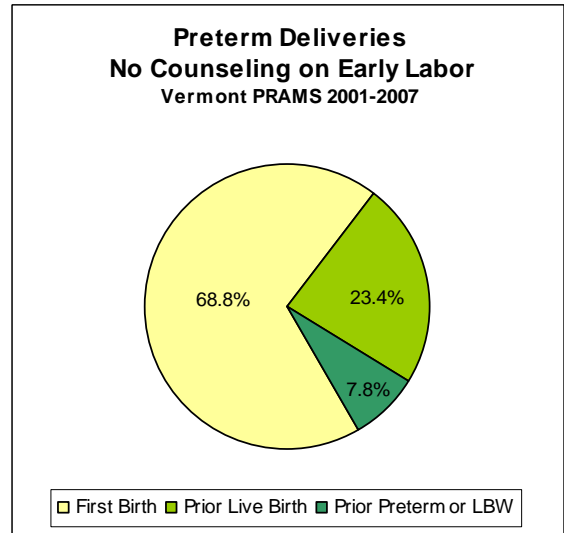
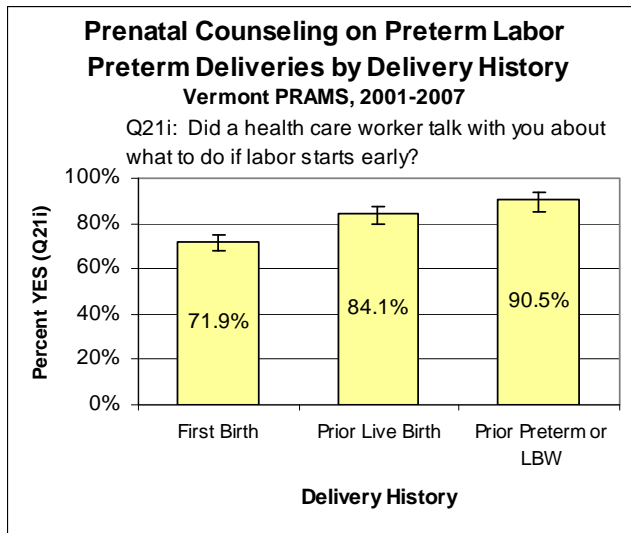
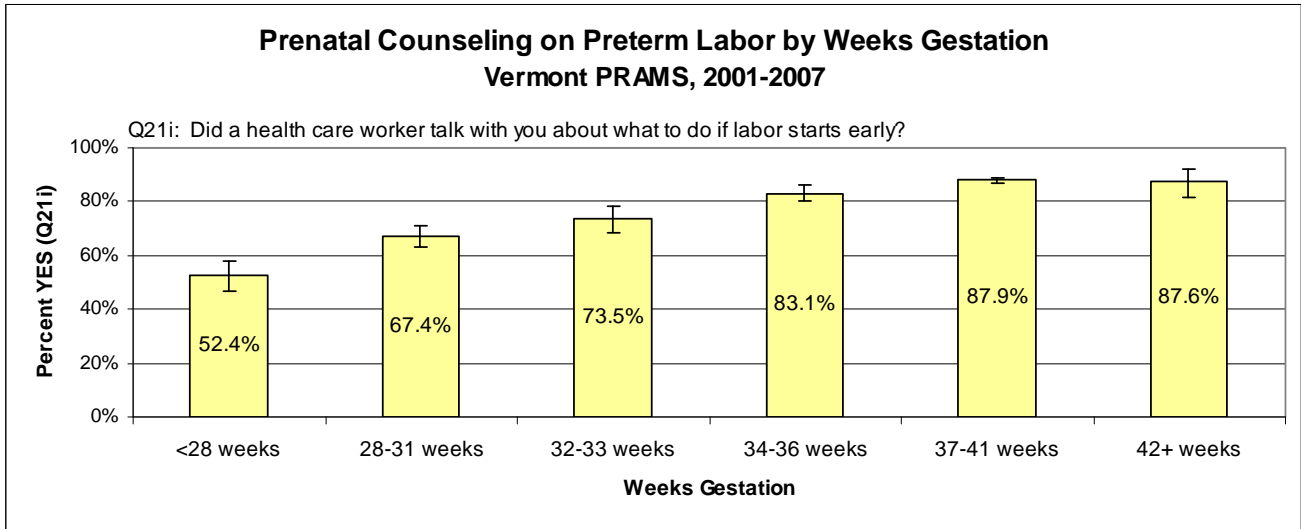
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<sup>a</sup> 2001 data includes mothers who gave birth from October 2000 to December 2001. Data Collection began in January 2001.

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### PRAMS Prenatal Counseling Questions:

#### Core Questions:

**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.

- |  |   | No | Yes |
|--|---|----|-----|
| a. How smoking during pregnancy could affect my baby. . . . .                          | N | Y  |     |
| b. Breastfeeding my baby . . . . .   | N | Y  |     |
| c. How drinking alcohol during pregnancy could affect my baby . . . . .                | N | Y  |     |
| d. Using a seat belt during my pregnancy . . . . .                                     | N | Y  |     |
| e. Birth control methods to use after my pregnancy . . . . .                           | N | Y  |     |
| f. Medicines that are safe to take during my pregnancy . . . . .                       | N | Y  |     |
| g. How using illegal drugs could affect my baby. . . . .                               | N | Y  |     |
| h. Doing tests to screen for birth defects or diseases that run in my family . . . . . | N | Y  |     |
| i. What to do if my labor starts early . . . . .                                       | N | Y  |     |
| j. Getting tested for HIV (the virus that causes AIDS). . . . .                        | N | Y  |     |
| k. Physical abuse to women by their husbands or partners . . . . .                     | N | Y  |     |

#### State Added Questions (added in 2004):

**22. During any of your prenatal care visits, did a doctor, nurse, or other health care worker talk with you about how much weight you should gain during your pregnancy?**

- No  
 Yes

**23. During any of your prenatal care visits, did a doctor, nurse, or other health care worker ask you—**

- |   |   | No | Yes |
|---|---|----|-----|
| a. How much alcohol you were drinking. . . . .  | N | Y  |     |
| b. If someone was hurting you emotionally or physically . . . . .                     | N | Y  |     |
| c. If you were using illegal drugs (marijuana or hash, cocaine, crack, etc.). . . . . | N | Y  |     |
| d. If you planned to use birth control after your baby was born . . . . .             | N | Y  |     |

### Other PRAMS Questions used in this brief:

**9. Before you got pregnant with your new baby, did you ever have any other babies who were born alive?**

- No —————> Go to Page 2, Question 12  
 Yes

**10. Did the baby born just before your new one weigh 5 pounds, 8 ounces (2.5 kilos) or less at birth?**

- No  
 Yes

**11. Was the baby just before your new one born more than 3 weeks before its due date?**

- No  
 Yes

**32. Did you have any of these problems during your most recent pregnancy?** For each item, circle **Y** (Yes) if you had the problem or circle **N** (No) if you did not.

- |   |   | No | Yes |
|---|---|----|-----|
| a. High blood sugar (diabetes) that started <i>before</i> this pregnancy . . . . .  | N | Y  |     |
| b. High blood sugar (diabetes) that started <i>during</i> this pregnancy . . . . .  | N | Y  |     |
| c. Vaginal bleeding . . . . .   | N | Y  |     |
| d. Kidney or bladder (urinary tract) infection . . . . .  | N | Y  |     |
| e. Severe nausea, vomiting, or dehydration . . . . .  | N | Y  |     |
| f. Cervix had to be sewn shut (incompetent cervix) . . . . .  | N | Y  |     |
| g. High blood pressure, hypertension (including pregnancy-induced hypertension [PIH]), preeclampsia, or toxemia . . . . . | N | Y  |     |
| h. Problems with the placenta (such as abruptio placentae or placenta previa) . . . . .                                   | N | Y  |     |
| i. Labor pains more than 3 weeks before my baby was due (preterm or early labor) . . . . .                                | N | Y  |     |
| j. Water broke more than 3 weeks before my baby was due (premature rupture of membranes [PROM]). . . . .                  | N | Y  |     |
| k. I had to have a blood transfusion . . . . .  | N | Y  |     |
| l. I was hurt in a car accident . . . . .   | N | Y  |     |