

Vermont PRAMS Data Brief

Prenatal Counseling – part 7 Postpartum Birth Control

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-2008.

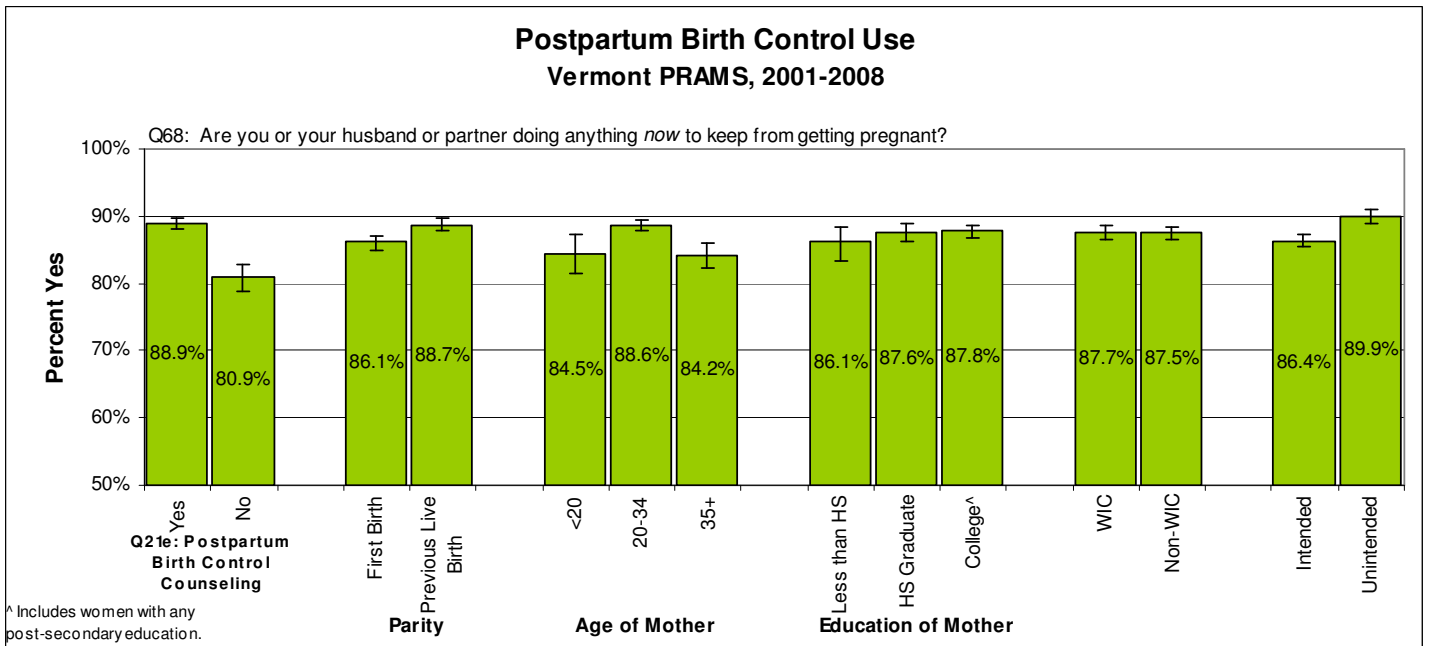
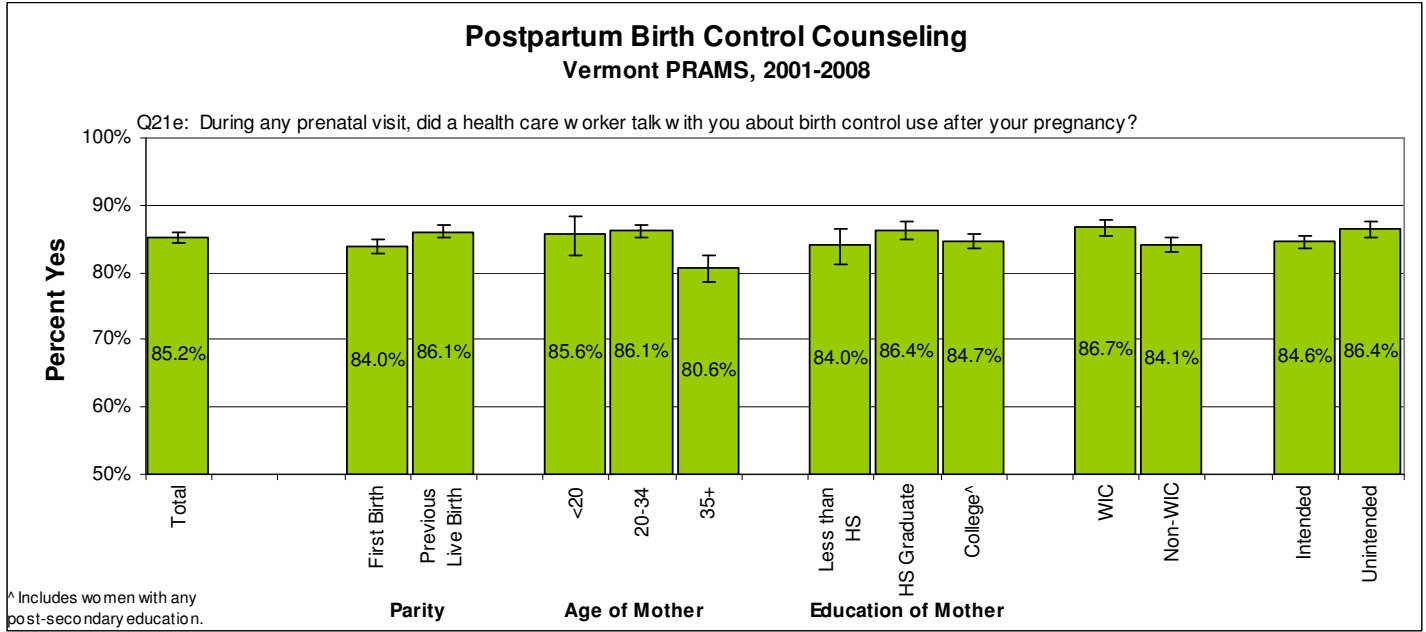
Included in the survey are questions about the content of prenatal care. Previous reports have examined trends in prenatal counseling, differences in responses across demographics for the prenatal counseling questions, and compared maternal behaviors and birth outcomes with prenatal counseling in specific topic areas. This report focuses on prenatal counseling and postpartum contraception use. The exact wording for the questions examined here is included at the end of this report.

Prenatal Counseling and Postpartum Birth Control:

- 85% of mothers report receiving postpartum birth control counseling as part of a prenatal care visit.
- Women who had a previous live birth, mothers under age 35, WIC recipients, and women with unintended pregnancies were most likely to receive birth control counseling.
- Mothers who had a prenatal discussion of postpartum birth control were significantly more likely to be using birth control after their baby was born.

^a 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
 Yes

31. During your most recent pregnancy, were you on WIC (the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)?

- No
 Yes

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