

Vermont PRAMS Data Brief

Domestic Abuse – part 1 Trends and Demographics

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 2004-2008.

Included in the survey are questions about domestic abuse before, during and after pregnancy. Mothers are asked if they were physically hurt by a husband, partner, ex-husband or ex-partner before, during and after pregnancy. Additionally, for the time periods during and after the most recent pregnancy, there are questions asking about other threats to personal safety. This report examines the responses to these domestic abuse questions for recent trends and across demographic categories. The exact wording for the questions is included at the end of this report. These questions were not asked of women under age 20.

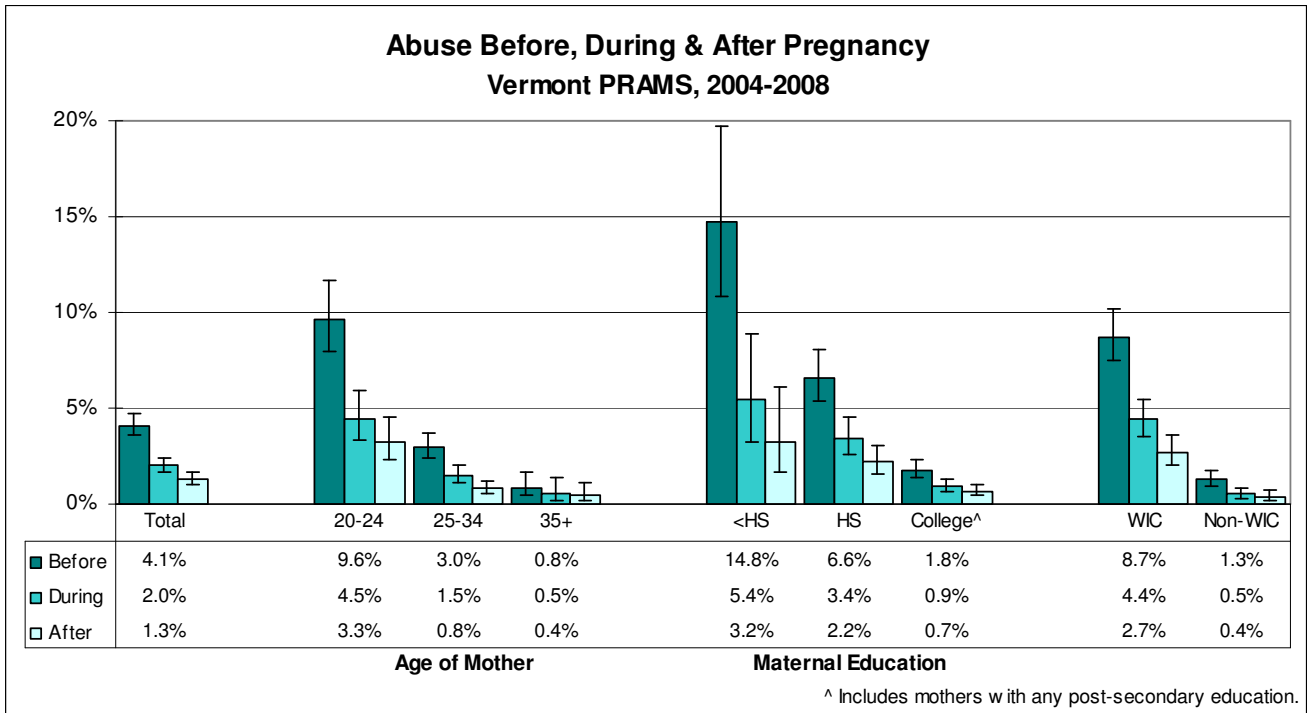
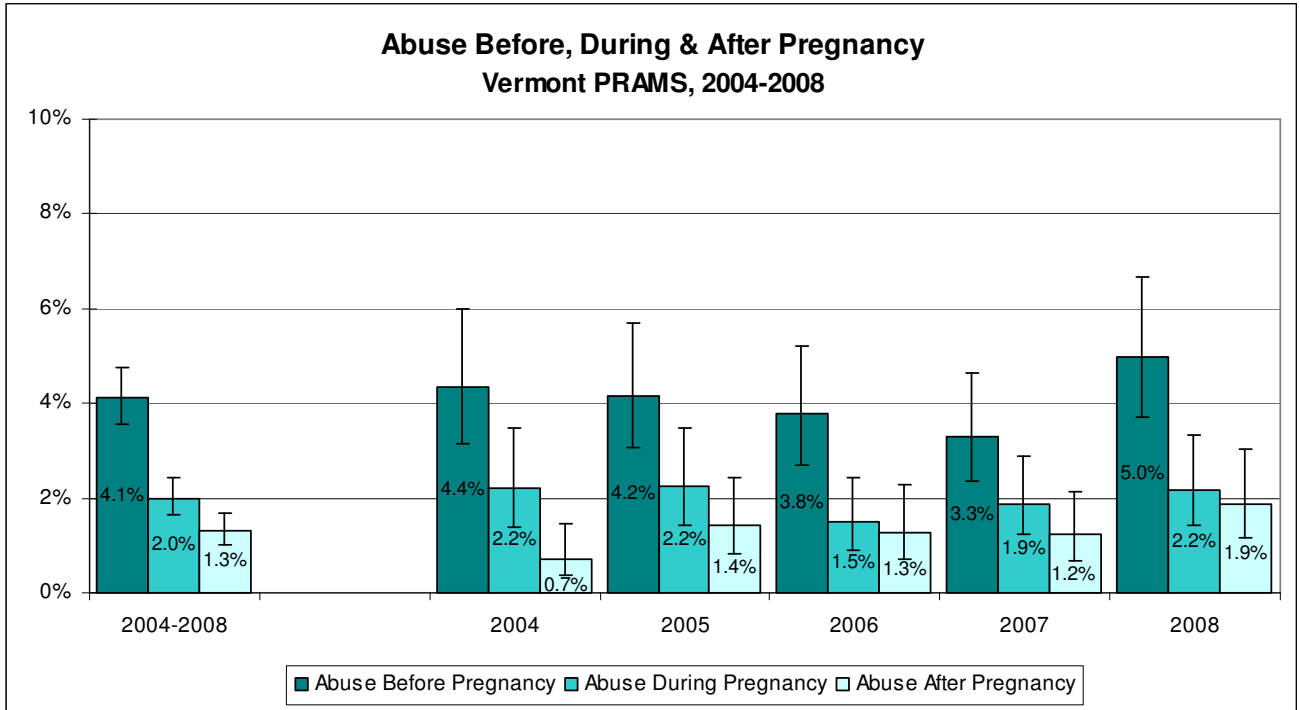
Domestic Abuse Before, During & After Pregnancy:

- From 2004-2008, 4.1% of women reported being physically hurt by a husband or partner or ex-husband/partner in the 12 months prior to their most recent pregnancy.
- Fewer women reported being physically hurt by a partner or ex-partner after their pregnancy than during or before pregnancy.
- From 2004-2008, two percent of women reported being physically hurt by a partner or ex-partner during their most recent pregnancy, while 1.3 percent reported being physically hurt by a partner or ex-partner after their pregnancy.
- While more women reported being physically hurt by a partner or ex-partner in 2008, this does not indicate a significant upward trend in abuse rates.
- Abuse rates were highest among women age 20-24, women with less than a high school education, and WIC recipients.

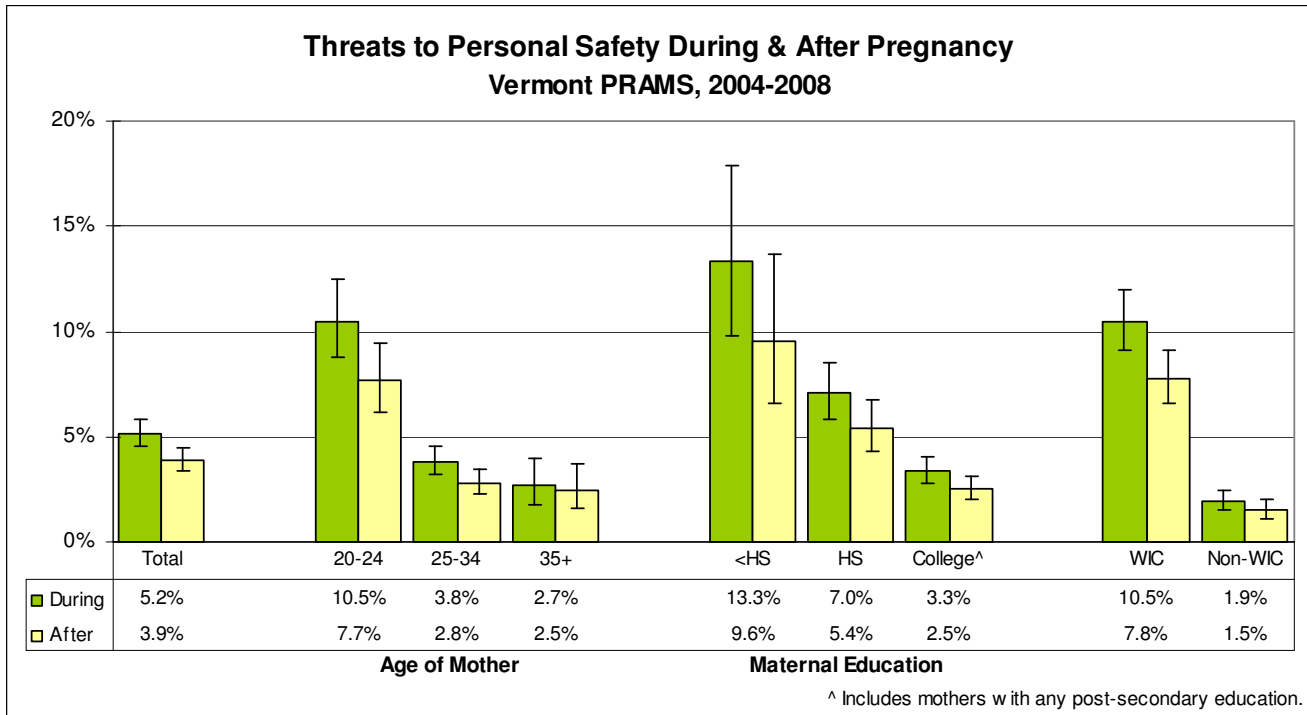
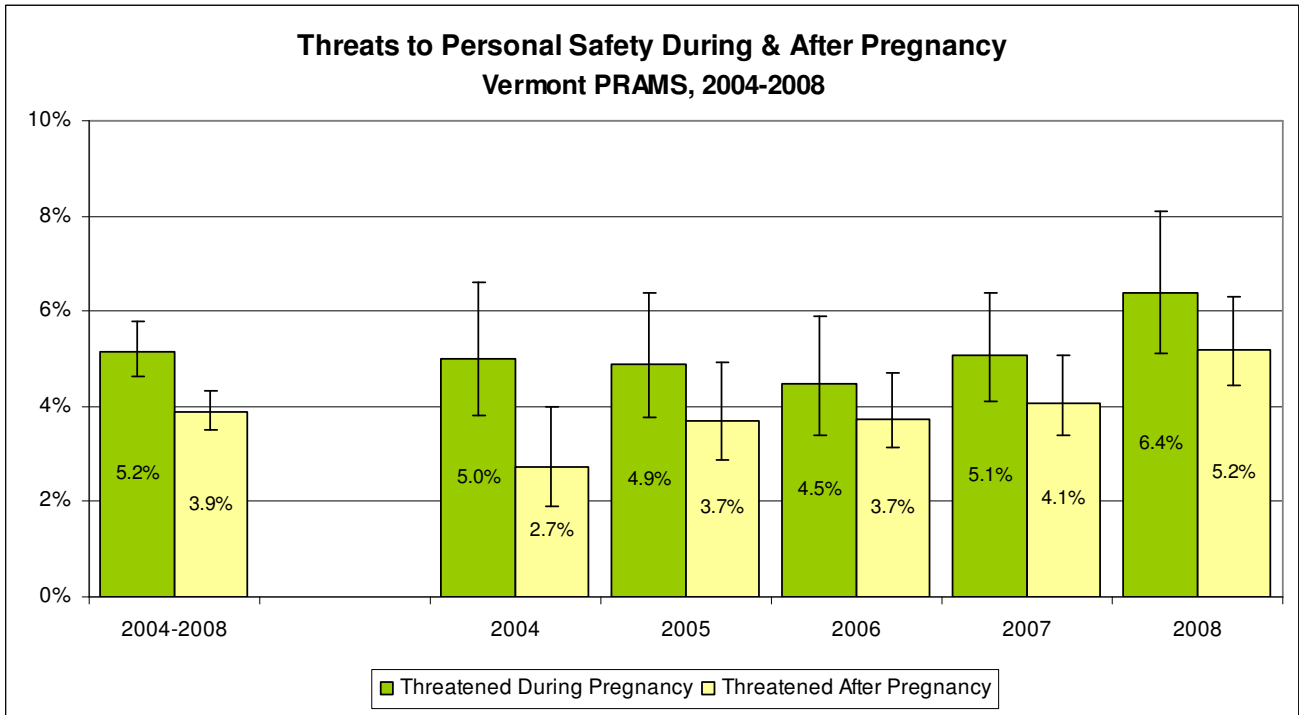
Domestic Threats to Personal Safety, During & After Pregnancy:

- From 2004-2008, 5.2% of women reported being threatened during pregnancy, while 3.9% reported they were threatened after pregnancy.
- There was a significantly increasing trend in women being threatened after their most recent pregnancy.
- Younger mothers, mothers with lower education levels, and mothers on WIC were most likely to report threats to personal safety during or after pregnancy.

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PRAMS Questions on Domestic Abuse:

43a. During the 12 months before you got pregnant, did an ex-husband or ex-partner push, hit, slap, kick, choke, or physically hurt you in any other way?

- No
- Yes

43b. During the 12 months before you got pregnant, were you physically hurt in any way by your husband or partner?

- No
- Yes

The next questions are about the time during your most recent pregnancy.

44a. During your most recent pregnancy, did an ex-husband or ex-partner push, hit, slap, kick, choke, or physically hurt you in any other way?

- No
- Yes

44b. During your most recent pregnancy, were you physically hurt in any way by your husband or partner?

- No
- Yes

83. This question is about things that may have happened during your most recent pregnancy.

For each thing, circle **Y** (Yes) if it happened to you or circle **N** (No) if it did not.

**During your most recent pregnancy—
No Yes**

- a. Your husband or partner threatened you or made you feel unsafe in some way N Y
- b. You were frightened for the safety of yourself or your family because of the anger or threats of your husband or partner. N Y
- c. Your husband or partner tried to control your daily activities, for example, controlling who you could talk to or where you could go N Y
- d. Your husband or partner forced you to take part in any sexual activity when you did not want to (including touch that made you uncomfortable) N Y

84. This question is about things that may have happened since your most recent delivery.

For each thing, circle **Y** (Yes) if it happened to you or circle **N** (No) if it did not.

**Since your most recent delivery—
No Yes**

- a. Your ex-husband or ex-partner pushed, hit, slapped, kicked, choked, or physically hurt you in any other way . . . N Y
- b. Your husband or partner physically hurt you in any way N Y
- c. Your husband or partner threatened you or made you feel unsafe in some way N Y
- d. You were frightened for the safety of yourself or your family because of the anger or threats of your husband or partner. N Y
- e. Your husband or partner tried to control your daily activities, for example, controlling who you could talk to or where you could go N Y
- f. Your husband or partner forced you to take part in any sexual activity when you did not want to (including touch that made you uncomfortable) N Y

Other PRAMS Question used for this report:

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

- No
- Yes

How responses are coded:

Yes to 43a *or* 43b = Abused Before Pregnancy.

Yes to any of 83a,b,c = Threatened During Pregnancy.

Yes to 44a *or* 44b = Abused During Pregnancy.

Yes to any of 84c,d,e = Threatened After Pregnancy.

Yes to 84a *or* 84b = Abused After Pregnancy.