

Oral Health

Iowa Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System

Iowa joined the PRAMS project in 2011 and began data collection in February of 2013. From 2013 to 2018, 11,942 Iowa mothers were asked to provide information on their experiences and behaviors before, during and after pregnancy. While the overall response rate for Iowa PRAMS consistently met or exceeded that set by CDC for inclusion in the national PRAMS data set, this was not the case in 2018 where Iowa had a 51% response rate (slightly short of the required 55% response rate).

Since the threshold was not met, the 2018 data is more susceptible to non-response bias than previous years of Iowa PRAMS data, however the results still provide a meaningful picture of maternal health behaviors for 2018.

Why Care About Oral Health?

Cavities are contagious! Pregnant women may be at higher risk for cavities because of changes in behaviors, such as eating habits. The bacteria that cause cavities in mom's mouth can be transmitted to their baby's mouth after delivery!¹

- (1) 1 in 4 women of childbearing age have untreated cavities¹;
- (2) Children of mothers who have high levels of untreated cavities or tooth loss are more than 3 times as likely to have cavities as a child¹;
- (3) Children with poor oral health status are nearly 3 times more likely to miss school because of dental pain.¹

In 2018:



69%

of mothers reported getting their teeth cleaned before pregnancy.



53%

of mothers reported getting their teeth cleaned during pregnancy.



85%

of mothers indicate they had dental insurance during pregnancy.



13%

of mothers did NOT go to the dentist during pregnancy because they could not afford to go.

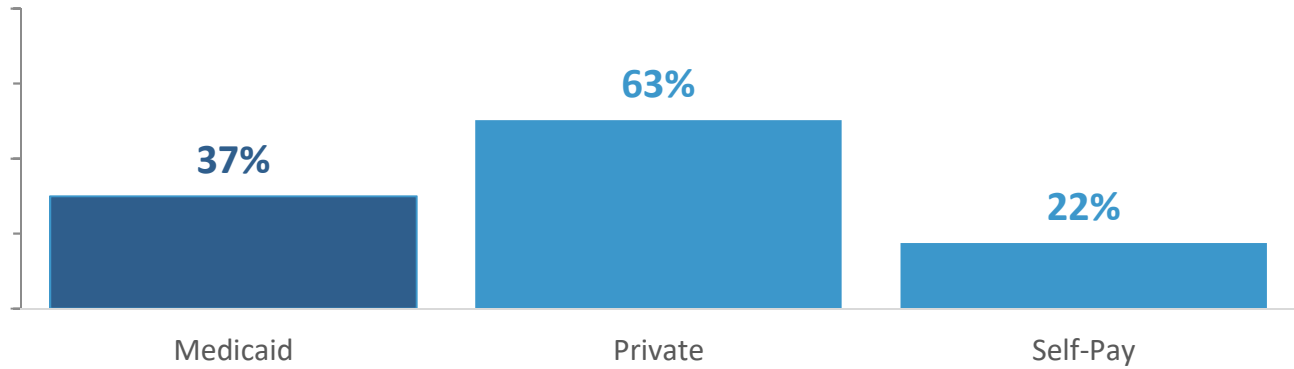
Find more data on oral health and other topics in our [2018 PRAMS Data Book](#).



Teeth Cleaned Breakdown

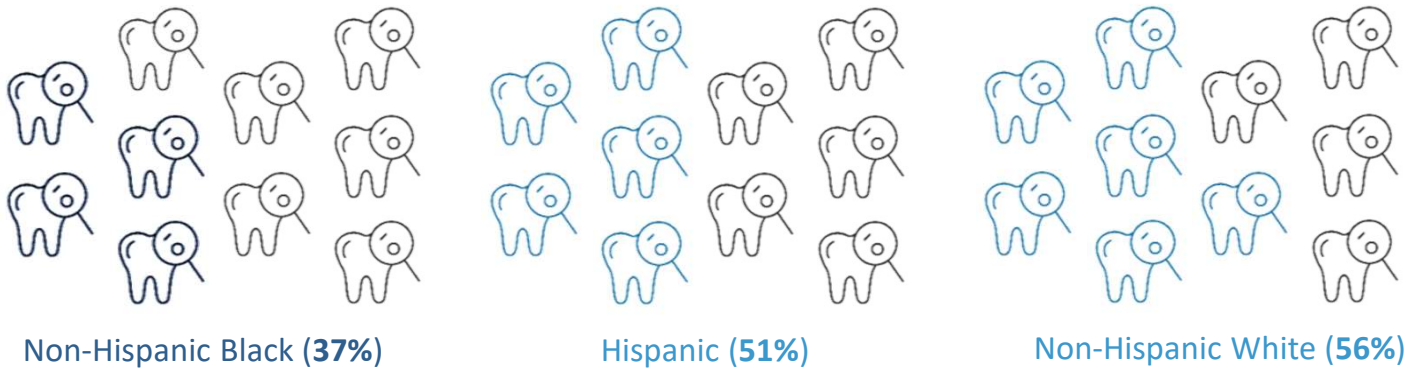
Payment Method

Mothers without health insurance at time of birth are least likely to report they had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy.



Race and Ethnicity

Four out of 10 mothers identifying as non-Hispanic black report they had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy.



Age

Mothers younger than 25 years are least likely to report they had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy.

