

# Access to pregnancy related services by maternal age and race



## Fact Sheet Purpose

The purpose of the fact sheet is to highlight access to pregnancy related services among women whose labor and delivery costs were reimbursed by Medicaid by maternal age and race/ethnicity. This information may be used to guide provider outreach and education efforts to improve women’s access to services such as prenatal care, preventive dental care during pregnancy, and post-partum care among women with Medicaid as their source of medical insurance.

## Background

Medicaid is a state/federal program that provides health insurance for certain groups of low-income people, including pregnant women. Iowa Medicaid is administered by the Iowa Department of Human Services through Iowa Medicaid Enterprise. In Iowa, pregnant women may be eligible for Medicaid if their household income is below 375 percent of the federal poverty level.

In 2015, the labor and delivery costs for 39% of Iowa resident births were reimbursed by Medicaid (39.0%; n=15,405 of 39,467 resident births).

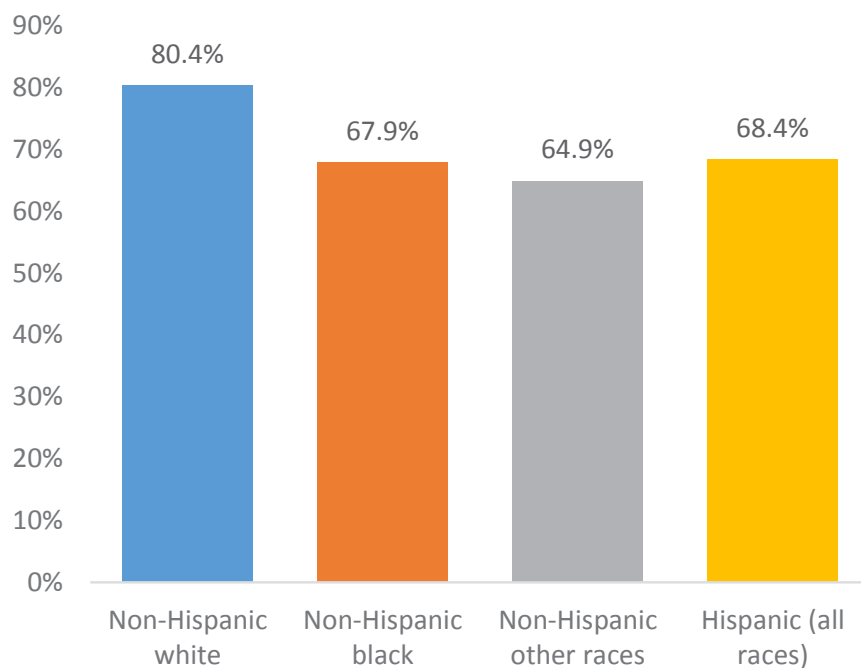
## Data Sources

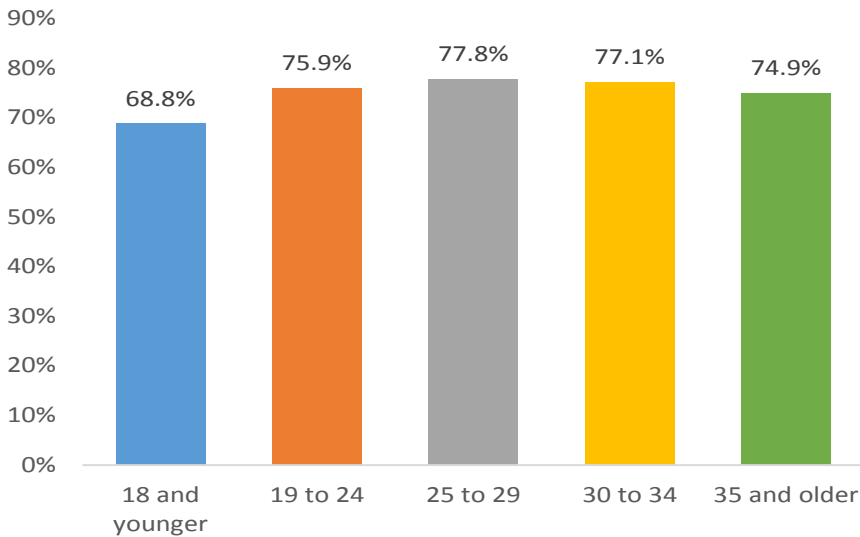
Data for this report were derived from a matched file of the 2015 birth certificate and Medicaid paid claims for calendar year 2015. Medicaid status was based on a paid claim with a delivery related diagnostic related group between 765 and 775, and linked to a birth certificate. Birth certificate data were used to determine maternal demographic characteristics and prenatal care initiation. Medicaid paid claims were used to determine receipt of preventive dental care and post-partum care.

**Figure 1. The percent of women who obtained first trimester prenatal care varied by maternal race and ethnicity, Iowa Medicaid reimbursed resident births, 2015**

First trimester initiation of prenatal care (PNC) was highest among non-Hispanic white women (80.4%).

The next highest proportion of first trimester PNC initiation was among Hispanic women (68.4%), followed closely by non-Hispanic black women (67.9%), and non-Hispanic women of other races (64.9%).





**Figure 2.** The percent of women who obtained first trimester prenatal care varied by maternal age, Iowa Medicaid reimbursed resident births, 2015

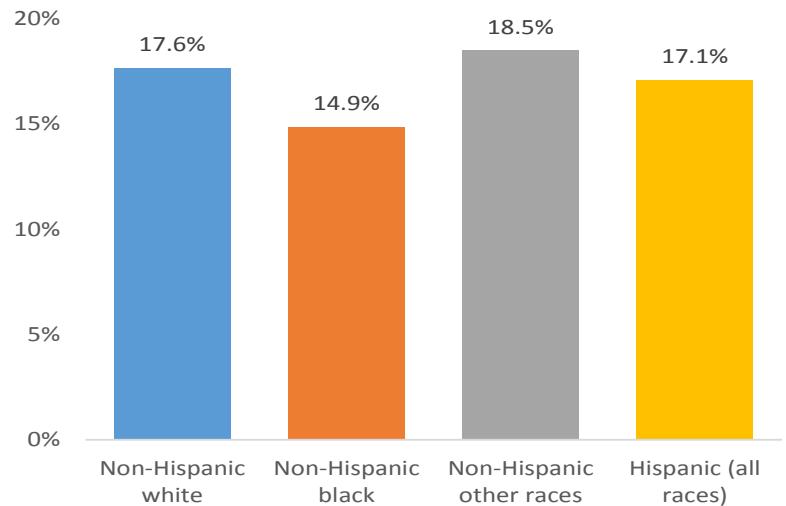
Nearly 75% of women older than 19 initiated PNC during their first trimester with a range of 74.9% to 77.8%, compared to women 18 and younger.

Women 18 and younger initiated first trimester at the lowest level (68.8%).

**Figure 3.** The percent of women who obtained preventive dental care during pregnancy varied by maternal race and ethnicity, Iowa Medicaid reimbursed resident births, 2015

The overall proportion of women who obtained preventive dental care during pregnancy is 17% (data not shown). The highest proportion of women who obtained preventive care during pregnancy was non-Hispanic women of other races (18.5%).

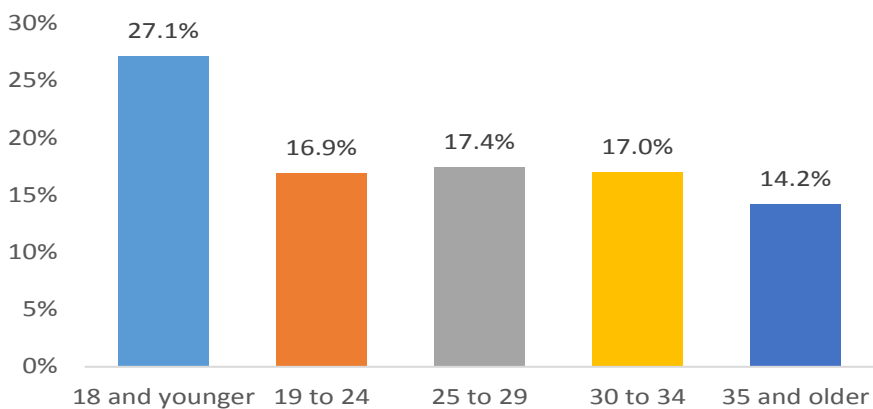
The lowest proportion of women who obtained preventive dental care during pregnancy was non-Hispanic black women (14.9%).

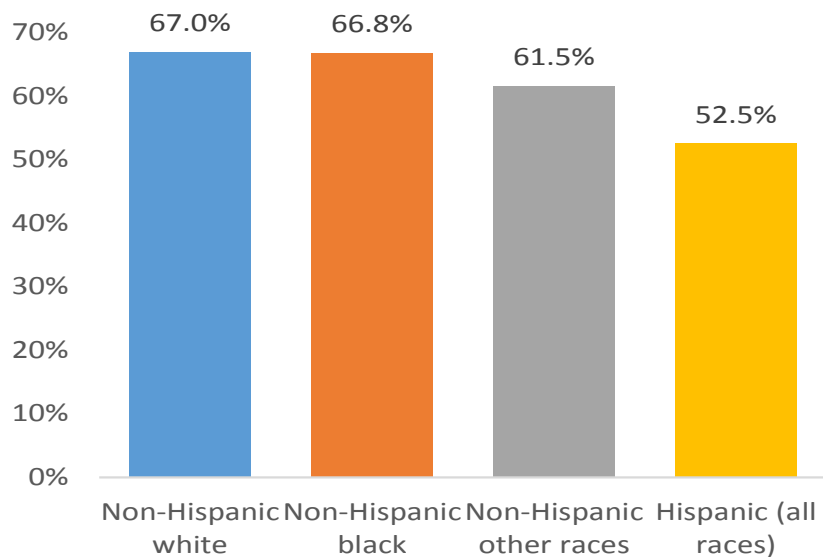


**Figure 4.** The percent of women who obtained preventive dental care during pregnancy was inversely related to maternal age, Iowa Medicaid reimbursed resident births, 2015

Women ages 18 and younger obtained preventive dental care during pregnancy at the highest percentage (27.1%) compared to women ages 19 and older.

Women ages 35 and older obtained preventive dental care at the lowest percentage (14.2%) compared to woman ages 34 and younger.





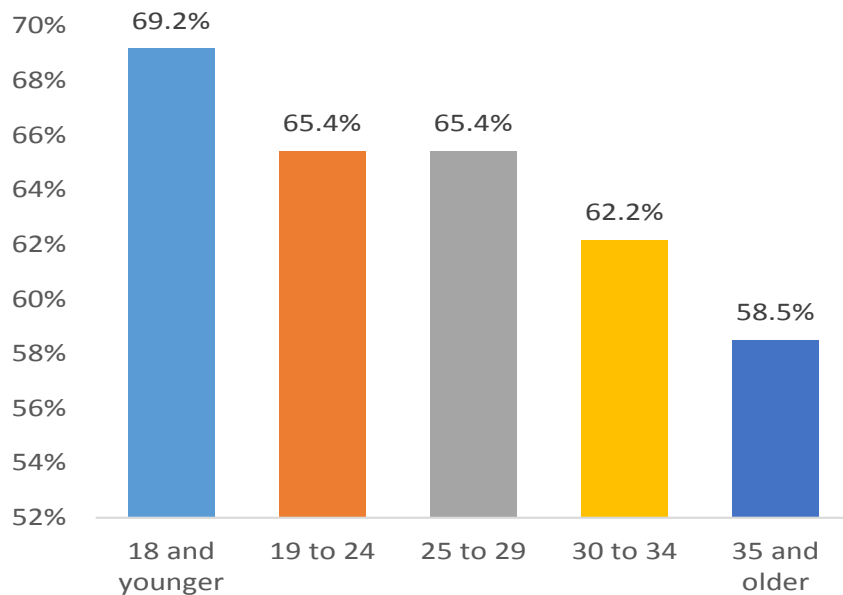
**Figure 5.** The percent of women who obtained post-partum care ranges from a high of 67.0% among non-Hispanic white women to a low of 52.5% among Hispanic women, Iowa Medicaid reimbursed resident births, 2015.

The proportion of non-Hispanic black women who obtained post-partum care (66.8%) was statistically equal to that of non-Hispanic white women (67.0%).

This report's results may underestimate the true percentage of women who obtained post-partum care because post-partum care may be contained in the global reimbursement for prenatal care and delivery.

**Figure 6.** The percent of women who obtained post-partum care was inversely related to age, Iowa Medicaid reimbursed resident births, 2015.

Just 58.5% of women ages 35 and older obtained post-partum care compared to nearly 70% (69.2%) of women ages 18 and younger.



## Recommendations

- Work with community based organizations such as Title V maternal health agencies and local public health agencies, as well as the Iowa Medicaid Managed Care Organizations to ensure that all women obtain timely pregnancy-related services.

## Additional Information<sup>1</sup>

For additional information or to obtain copies of this fact sheet, contact the Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health, at 321 E. 12th Street, Des Moines, IA 50309 or toll-free at 1-800-383-3826.

<sup>1</sup> The Iowa Department of Public Health acknowledges the Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Program, Field Support Branch, Division of Reproductive Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Public Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for analytic support and preparation of this fact sheet.