

West Virginia Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (WV PRAMS)

What is PRAMS?

A research project that is an on-going, population-based surveillance system designed to identify maternal attitudes and experiences before, during and after pregnancy.

How are PRAMS data collected?

Each month, all West Virginia women who have had a live birth have a 1 in 14 chance of being chosen 3 months after their baby's birth. Approximately 100 women are randomly selected from the West Virginia Birth Certificate Registry. Names are randomly selected and no other factors cause a mother to be chosen. Selected women are asked to complete a questionnaire by mail first; after several attempts, the non-respondents are called and asked if they would participate by phone. After completion of the survey, each participant receives a special gift.

Why does PRAMS exist?

PRAMS was created in 1987 by the CDC because infant mortality rates were no longer declining as rapidly as they had; and the number of low birthweight babies had changed little in the previous 20 years. The goal of PRAMS is to identify maternal risk behaviors that may affect both maternal and infant health.

How are PRAMS data used?

Information can be used to identify women and babies at high risk for health problems, to monitor changes in health status and to measure progress towards goals in improving the health of mothers and babies.

Information is also used by state and local governments to plan and review programs and policies aimed at reducing health problems among mothers and babies.

Data is used by West Virginia agencies to address emerging issues affecting the health of mothers and babies and contribute to planning maternal and infant health programs.

2020 Statistics

● **22% of pregnancies that resulted in a live birth, were unintended, meaning the pregnancy was wanted later or not at all** ●

● **71.2% of moms breast-fed their infants for at least some period of time** ●

● **18.4% of moms smoked during the last trimester of pregnancy** ●

● **89.5% of infants were placed on their back to sleep** ●

● **90.3% of moms received prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy** ●

For more information:

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