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# West Virginia Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)

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## What is PRAMS?

**PRAMS** is a joint research project between the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Our survey asks new mothers questions about their behaviors and experiences before, during and after their pregnancy. Every woman in West Virginia who had a live birth in the past 2 - 4 months has an equal chance to be selected. Names are randomly selected, like a lottery, from the West Virginia Birth Certificate Registry. No other factors cause mothers to be included in this survey. Participants receive a special gift for completion of the survey.

## WV PRAMS 2006 Statistics:

- ✓ 43% of the pregnancies that resulted in a live birth in West Virginia were unintended, meaning they were wanted later or not at all.
- ✓ 83% of mothers received prenatal care in the first 3 months of pregnancy.
- ✓ 29% of mothers smoked during the last trimester of pregnancy.
- ✓ 56% of mothers breastfed their infants for at least some period of time.

## Why does PRAMS exist?

**PRAMS** was initiated in 1987 because infant mortality rates were no longer declining as rapidly as they had in prior years. The incidence of low birth weight infants had changed little in the previous 20 years. Research indicates that maternal behaviors during pregnancy influences infant birth weight and mortality rates. The goal of **PRAMS** is to identify maternal risk behaviors that negatively affect pregnancy outcomes by using the information that is collected. **PRAMS** provides state specific data for planning and assessing health programs and for describing maternal experiences that may contribute to maternal and infant health.

## Questions about PRAMS?

For more information call **(304) 558-5388**  
or **Toll-Free In WV 1-800-642-8522.**

