

## OVERVIEW OF THE BEHAVIORS AND EXPERIENCES OF MOTHERS IN GEORGIA, GA PRAMS, 1993-1997

The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a statewide, ongoing, population-based surveillance system that provides data on women who give birth in Georgia. GA PRAMS began in January 1993 and it supplements birth certificate data by collecting information on women's attitudes, experiences, and behaviors before, during, and after they deliver a live born infant.

Each month, a random sample of approximately 200 women is drawn from birth records and stratified by birthweight (low birthweight, normal birthweight) and race (black, other). Women are contacted by mail or telephone (for nonresponders) within 2-6 months after delivery. Each mother's questionnaire is linked to her infant's birth certificate. The data are weighted to adjust for survey design and nonresponse, and are representative of all Georgia women who deliver live infants.

**Georgia PRAMS**

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This report gives an overview of the behaviors, attitudes, and experiences of mothers delivering live born infants in Georgia from 1993 to 1997. Percentages represent state estimates for the period 1993 to 1997, unless otherwise stated. All percentages were rounded to the nearest whole number and represent only those responding to the question.

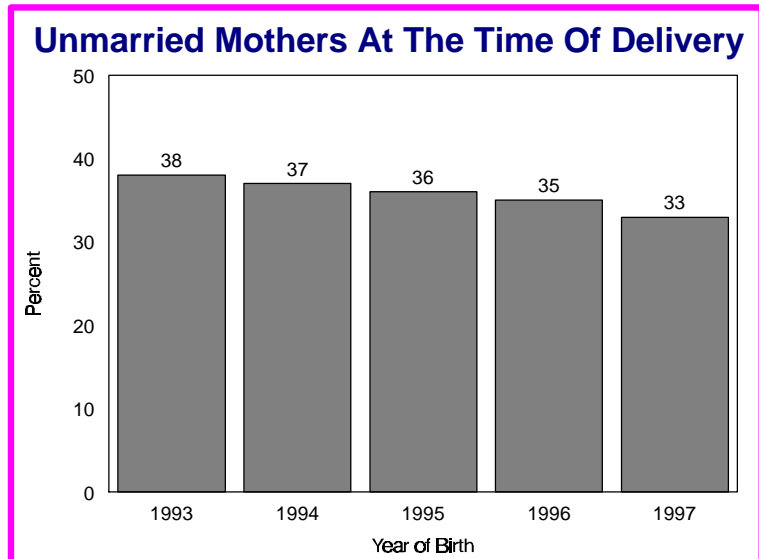
Year of birth	Mothers sampled	Mothers responding	Response rate	Total births in GA
1993	2,702	1,828	68%	110,491
1994	2,582	1,842	71%	110,986
1995	2,626	2,001	76%	112,244
1996	2,329	1,761	76%	113,986
1997	1,590	1,162	73%	118,169
1993-1997	11,829	8,594	73%	565,876

### Age/Race

Of the women responding to the survey from 1993 to 1997, 16% were less than 20 years old, 54% were between the ages of 20 and 29, and 30% were 30 years old or older. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of the mothers were white and 35% were black.

### Marital Status

Thirty six percent of all the mothers were unmarried at the time of delivery. The proportion of unmarried mothers decreased by 13% from 38% in 1993 to 33% in 1997. The number of mothers who were married at the time of delivery increased by nearly 8% from 62% in 1993 to 67% in 1997.



### Education/Income

Almost a quarter (23%) of the women had less than 12 years of education, 35% had a high school education, 21% had 13-15 years of education, and 21% had 16 or more years of education. Among mothers at least 19 years old, the age by which most are expected to graduate from high school, 16% had not completed high school, 37% had a high school education, and 47% had more than a high school education. During the 12 months before delivery, the total family income was less than \$8,000 for 25% of mothers, \$8,000 to \$19,999 for 24%, \$20,000 to \$39,999 for 21%, and \$40,000 or more for 29% of the women.

### Intendedness of Pregnancy

Nearly half (47%) of the women reported that their pregnancy was unintended, they either wanted to be pregnant later (34%) or did not want to be pregnant at all (13%). The number of unintended pregnancies declined by 13% from 52% in 1993 to 45% in 1997. Among teenage mothers, nearly three fourths (73%) reported that their pregnancy was unintended, either mistimed (58%) or unwanted (16%).

### Pregnancy history

Eight percent of mothers had a low birthweight (<2500 grams) baby and 9% of mothers had a preterm delivery (less than 37 weeks of gestation). Of the mothers with prior livebirths, 11% had a previous low birthweight baby and 11% percent had a previous premature baby. Among the mothers who had previous livebirths and whose most recent birth was preterm, 33% had a previous premature birth. Among the mothers who had previous low birthweight infants and whose most recent birth was low birthweight, 32% had a previous low birthweight baby.

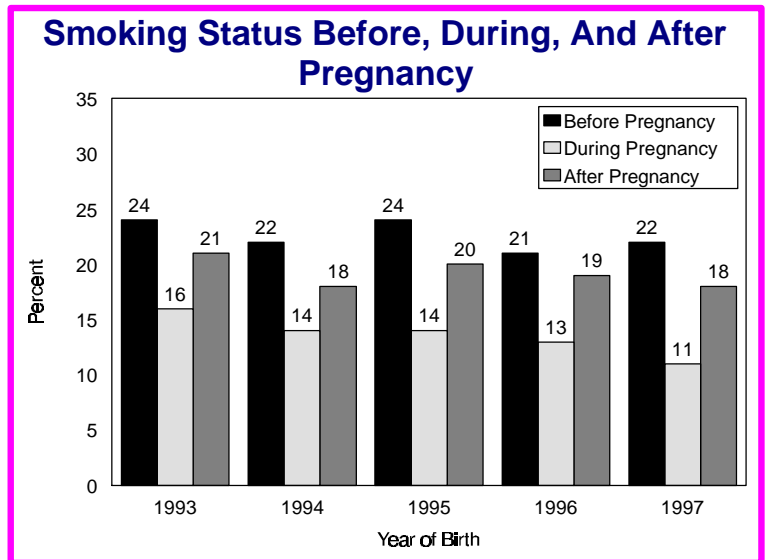
### WIC/Medicaid

Half the women were enrolled in WIC (Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children) during their pregnancy. The WIC program goal is to enroll in the first trimester. Of the women participating in WIC, 58% enrolled during the 1st trimester, 30% enrolled during the 2nd trimester, and 12% enrolled during the 3rd trimester. Nineteen percent of mothers were on Medicaid before they became pregnant. During pregnancy 50% of the women had some or all of their prenatal care paid by Medicaid and 51% of the women had their delivery paid by Medicaid.

## Smoking

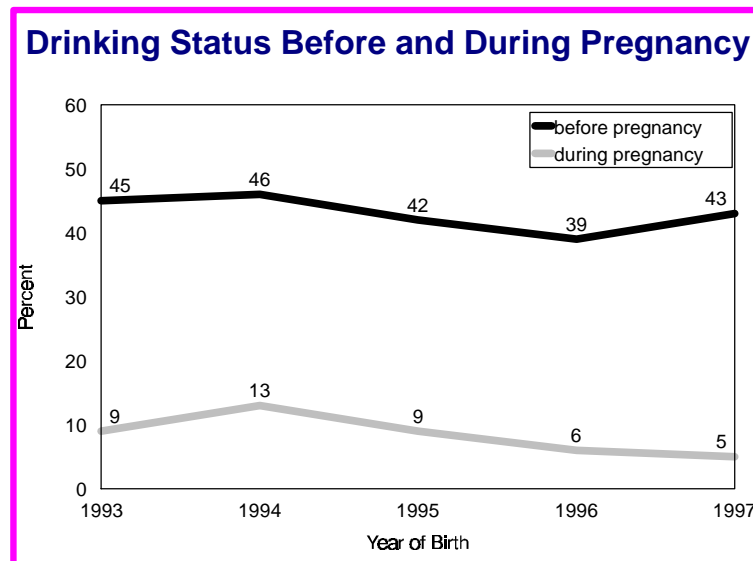
Twenty three percent of mothers reported smoking cigarettes in the 3 months before pregnancy. Cigarette smoking declined to 13% during the last trimester of pregnancy and then increased to 19% 2-6 months after delivery. This trend is apparent for each year.

Smoking during pregnancy declined by 42% from 16% in 1993 to 11% in 1997. Of the women who continued smoking cigarettes during the last trimester of pregnancy, 65% reduced the number of cigarettes smoked and 32% smoked the same amount or more as compared to pre-pregnancy levels; 45% smoked 1-9 cigarettes a day, 29% smoked 10-19 cigarettes a day, and 27% smoked 20 or more cigarettes a day.



## Drinking

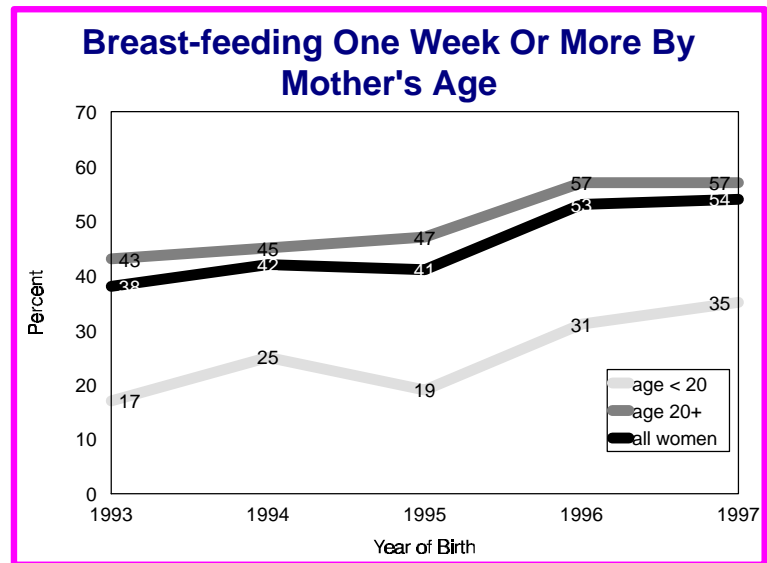
Drinking (1 or more alcoholic drinks per week) 3 months before pregnancy was relatively unchanged and ranged from 39% to 46%. Drinking during the last 3 months of pregnancy declined steadily from 13% in 1994 to 5% in 1997.



Of the women who drank during pregnancy, 36% reduced the amount of drinking and 55% drank the same amount or more as compared to pre-pregnancy levels. Eighty two percent of women who drank 3 months before pregnancy quit drinking during their pregnancy.

## Breastfeeding

Forty-six percent of all women breastfed their baby one week or more. Over the years 1993 to 1997, there was an increase in the number of women who breastfed at least one week. Teenagers had a much lower frequency of breastfeeding than adults.



## Prenatal Care

Nearly one fourth (24%) of the mothers did not start prenatal care by the 12th week of pregnancy (1st trimester). Twenty percent of the women reported that they did not get prenatal care as early as they wanted. Of these women, 32% attributed their delay in seeking prenatal care to late recognition of their pregnancy, 30% to difficulties in getting an appointment, 22% to lack of money or insurance, 9% to transportation problems, and 4% to lack of child care.

## Routine/Well-baby Care

At 3 to 4 months after delivery, an infant is expected to have received at least 2 to 3 routine visits, and at 5 to 6 months after delivery, an infant is expected to have received at least 3 to 4 well baby check-ups. The majority of Georgia babies received the expected number of visits for routine care. At 3 to 4 months after delivery, 30% of mothers had taken their baby for 2 visits and 35% had gone for 3 visits. At 5-6 months after delivery 33% had taken their baby for 3 visits, 25% had gone for 4 visits, and 22% had gone for 5 or more routine visits.

Nine percent of mothers had not taken their baby for routine care as many times as they wanted and the reasons for not having enough visits included lack of transportation (24%), lack of money or insurance (17%), not being able to get an appointment (17%), and lack of child care (9%).

## Violence/Physical Abuse

Nearly one in ten (8%) women were involved in a physical fight in the 12 months before they delivered their baby and 5% of women were physically hurt by their husband or partner in the 12 months before they delivered their baby.

PRAMS data are collected retrospectively and concern events that may have occurred up to one and half years prior to completing the questionnaire or interview, which may lead to errors in recall. PRAMS represents women who deliver liveborn infants and not women who had spontaneous abortions or fetal deaths. Even with these limitations, PRAMS is a valuable source of information about pregnancy health in Georgia and will be used to provide more specific analyses in the future.