



Mothers' Reports of Discrimination by Health Care Providers during Prenatal Care, Labor, or Delivery

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Background

- ✓ Discrimination and bias in health care delivery are important public health problems.
- ✓ Perceived discrimination may impact patients' willingness to seek health care and amount of trust in the health care system.
- ✓ Understanding of the nature and prevalence of discrimination in different health care contexts is limited.

Objectives

- ✓ Examine the extent to which Oregon women perceive that health care providers discriminated against them during prenatal care, labor, or delivery
- ✓ Explore the characteristics associated with perceived discrimination during prenatal care, labor, or delivery
- ✓ Determine whether perceived discrimination during prenatal care, labor, or delivery is associated with the frequency of well baby care

Methods

- ✓ Analysis of Oregon Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS).
- ✓ Consists of 5762 women who gave birth in Oregon in 1998, 2000, and 2001.
- ✓ All data were weighted.
- ✓ Perceived discrimination was assessed by asking: Do you feel that you were ever treated differently by health care providers during your prenatal care, labor, or delivery because of your:
 - ◆ Race
 - ◆ Ability to speak/understand English
 - ◆ Insurance status
 - ◆ Religious beliefs
 - ◆ Marital status
 - ◆ Culture
 - ◆ Age
 - ◆ Neighborhood you live in
 - ◆ Sexual orientation or lifestyle
 - ◆ Desire to have an out-of-hospital birth

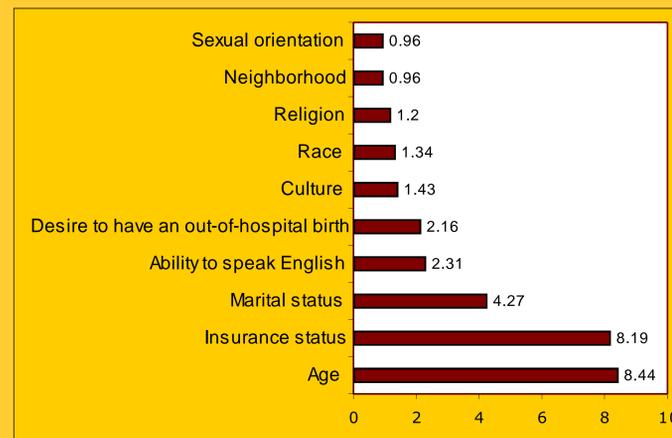
- ✓ A count variable was created from these 10 yes/no items, which was then dichotomized into 'no report of discrimination' and 'report of any discrimination'

Results

Reports of Discrimination

18.53% reported discrimination by a health provider during prenatal care, labor, or delivery for any of 10 reasons.

Percent reporting discrimination for each of the ten items asked.



Logistic regression of discrimination by a health care provider during prenatal care, labor, or delivery

Characteristic	OR (95% CI)
Being married	0.5(0.4-0.7)**
Hispanic (compared to White)	0.6(0.4-0.8)**
None or "other" health insurance for delivery (compared to employer sponsored)	1.8(1.2-2.9)**
Other source of prenatal care (compared to private MD)	3.2(2.1-5)**
Inability to pay bills during pregnancy	1.9(1.4-2.5)**

*p<.05
 **p<.01
 Note: Other predictors included in the model, whose relationships with discrimination were not significant, were age, income, receipt of prenatal care during the first trimester, low birth weight, and homelessness.

Linear regression of number of well baby visits

Characteristic	B (SE)
Maternal Age	-0.01 (.005)*
Low birth weight	0.8(.09)**
Prenatal care from a health department (compared to a private MD)	.3(0.1)*
Inability to pay bills during pregnancy	-.2(.07)**
Reported discrimination	-0.02(.1)
R ²	.043

*p<.05
 **p<.01
 Note: Other predictors included in the model, whose relationships with number of well baby visits were not significant, were marital status, race, income, receipt of prenatal care during the first trimester, type of insurance for delivery, source of well baby care, and homelessness.

Summary and Conclusions

- ✓ Almost 20% of women reported discrimination during prenatal care, labor, or delivery, with age-based discrimination the most frequently cited.
- ✓ Reported discrimination was associated with maternal characteristics.
- ✓ Discrimination in this setting was not associated with frequency of well baby visits.
- ✓ More research is needed to understand women's experiences with discrimination and potential health outcomes.

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