Maternal and Child Health

Pregnant women initiating prenatal care in the first trimester

Percentage of women initiating prenatal care during the first trimester is a marker for access to maternal health care services. Early prenatal care is important because many important developments take place during the first trimester, screenings can identify babies or mothers at risk for complications, and health care providers can educate and prepare mothers for pregnancy and parenting.

Prenatal care initiation in the first trimester of pregnancy declined slightly from 2000 (81.3%) through 2007 (78.4%). Changes in the new Oregon birth certificate

FIGURE 1

Pregnant women initiating prenatal care in the 1st trimester, Oregon, 2000–2013

Source: Oregon Birth Certificate Data

led to lower numbers starting with 2008 births. Prenatal care initiation has improved since 2008.

**Additional Resources:** [Oregon Birth Data](#); [Oregon Perinatal Data Book](#), pp.26-29

**About the Data:** Data source is Oregon Birth Certificate Data. Data include the percentage of live births where mothers reported initiating prenatal care during the first trimester of pregnancy.

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