

Maternal and Child Health

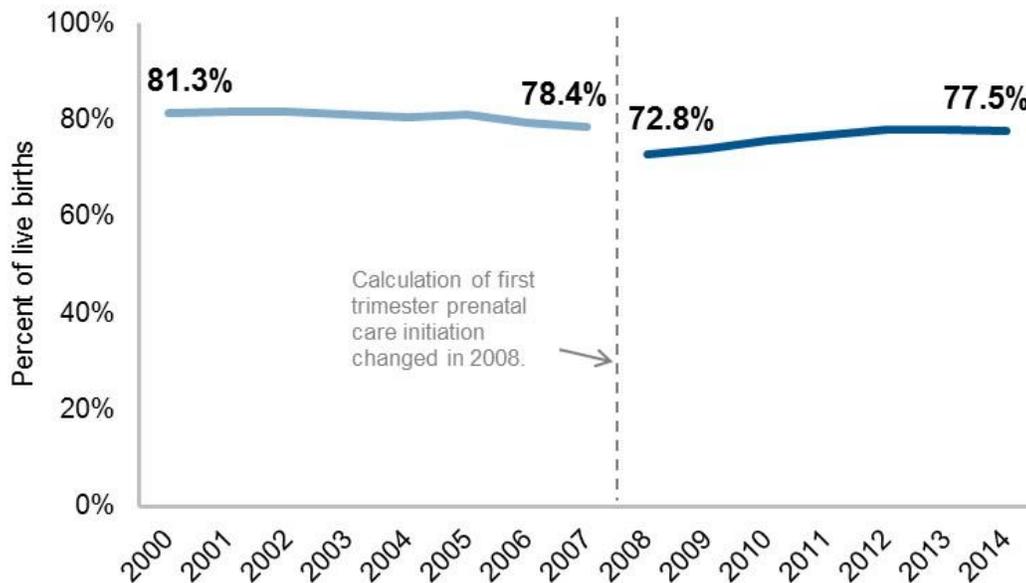
First trimester prenatal care

The 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 to identify and treat babies or mothers at risk for health conditions that can affect the pregnancy. It is also important because health care providers can educate and assist mothers with health issues related to pregnancy including nutrition, alcohol use, smoking, exercise, and preparing for childbirth and infant care. Babies born to women who receive prenatal care early and often throughout the pregnancy are less likely to have low birth weight or to be born prematurely.

The percentage of women who started prenatal care during the first trimester of pregnancy declined slightly from 2000 (81.3%) through 2007 (78.4%). However, it is important to note that changes to the Oregon birth certificate led to lower numbers starting with 2008 births. The percentage of women starting prenatal care during the first trimester has improved since 2008 (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1

Prenatal care in the 1st trimester by year, Oregon

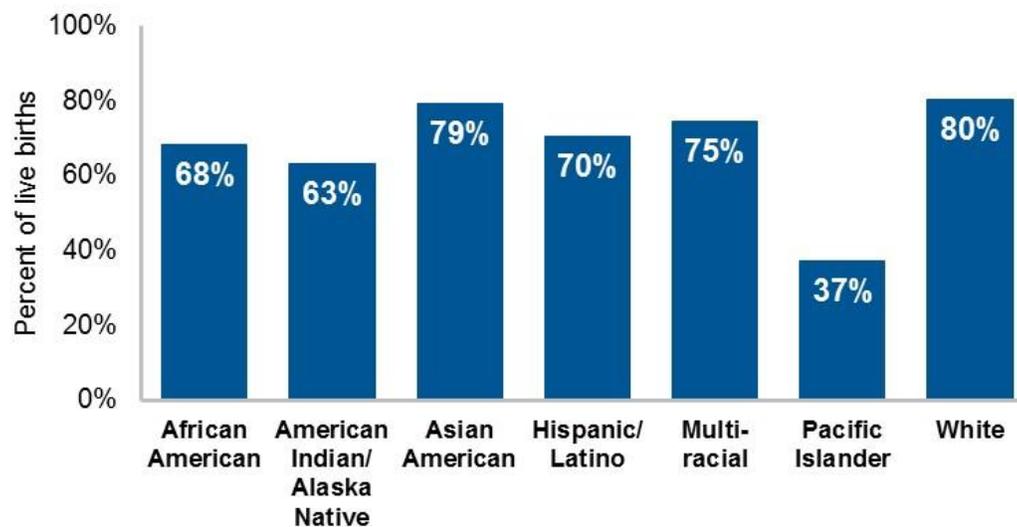


Source: Oregon Birth Certificate Data

All race and ethnic groups besides Asian Americans have lower rates of first trimester prenatal care than whites (Figure 2). More work is needed on removing barriers to the early start of prenatal care in these populations of Oregon women.

FIGURE 2

Prenatal care in the 1st trimester by race/ethnicity, Oregon, 2014



Notes: All other groups exclude Hispanic ethnicity
 Source: Oregon Birth Certificate Data

Psychosocial, financial, logistical, health care provider, and many other issues can create barriers to women in obtaining early prenatal care. In Oregon, efforts are being made to improve initiation of early prenatal care for our Medicaid population. Starting in 2014, Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) have had a financial incentive metric around provision of early prenatal care for women in Medicaid. In 2014, 68.1% of women whose deliveries were paid by Medicaid had prenatal care in the first trimester, and that increased to 70.4% in 2015.

Additional Resources: [Oregon Birth Data](#); [Oregon Perinatal Data Book](#), pp.26-29, [Oregon Health Plan Timeliness of Prenatal Care Guidance Document](#)

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. Birth certificate data documents whether a delivery was paid by Medicaid, but cannot be used to determine whether prenatal care for that pregnancy was paid by Medicaid. Birth Certificate data for 2015 is preliminary and does not include births to Oregon residents that occur in other states.

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[Oregon State Health Profile](#)

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