

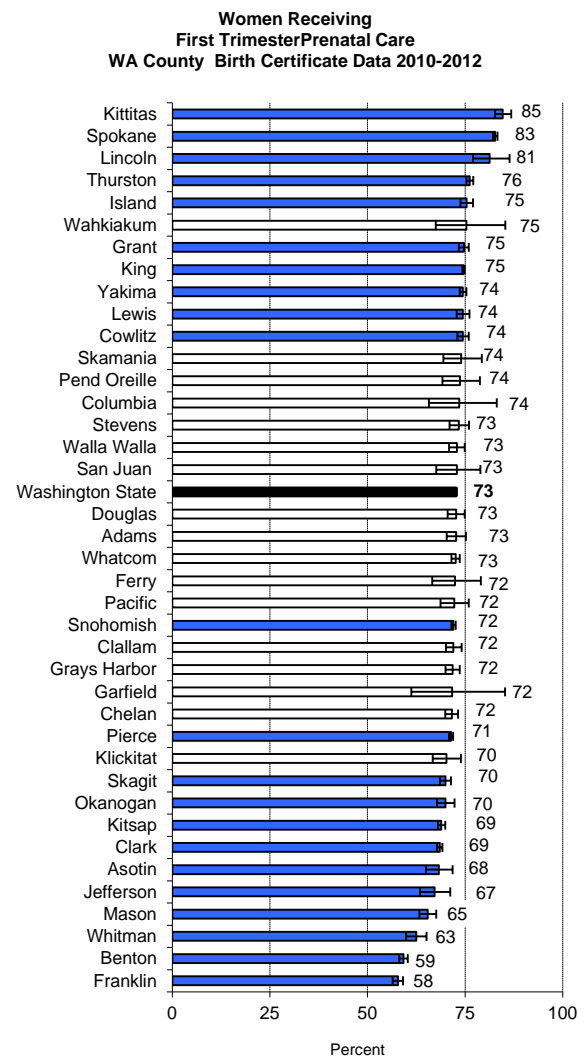
Prenatal Care


Key Findings:

- Early and continuous prenatal care is considered an important strategy for improving the long-term health of the mother and preventing adverse birth outcomes.
- In 2012, approximately 73 percent of pregnant women in Washington State entered prenatal care during the first trimester (first three months) of pregnancy.¹ National level data are not available because not all states have adopted the 2003 Birth Certificate which captures the exact date of first trimester prenatal care. In 2002, the last year WA and national rates can be compared, the national rate was 84% and the WA State rate stood at 83%.⁴
- First trimester prenatal care varies by county of residence. This variability may be due in part to the number of providers available and the proportion of women receiving Medicaid coverage.
- In 2010-2012, women who were more likely to begin prenatal care services in the first trimester included women over age 25, non-Hispanic White women, Asian women, and women not receiving Medicaid coverage.^{1,3}
- Only 45% of Pacific Islander women began prenatal care in the first trimester, much lower than women of other racial and ethnic groups.¹
- Washington is not currently meeting the Healthy People 2020 goal to increase to 77.9% the percentage of all pregnant women who receive prenatal care in the first trimester.²

Definition: Prenatal care is comprehensive medical care provided during pregnancy. Services include screening and treatment for medical conditions, and identification and interventions for behavioral risk factors associated with poor birth outcomes. Prenatal care is monitored by the proportion of women initiating care in the first three months of pregnancy (first trimester).

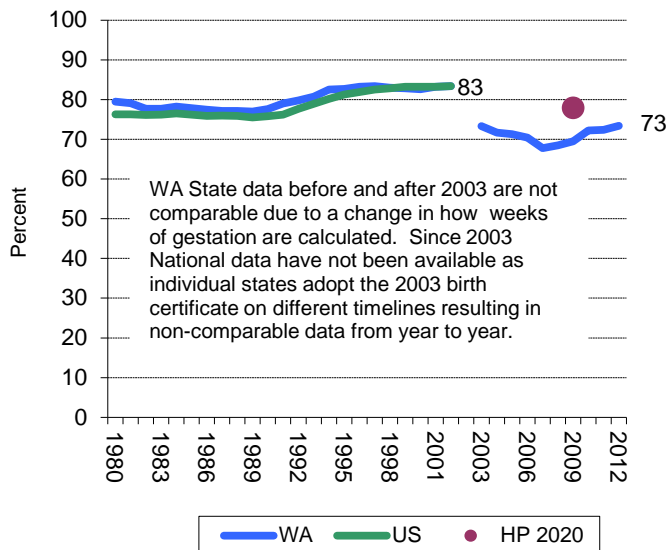
County¹



 Significantly different from state rate, $p < .05$.

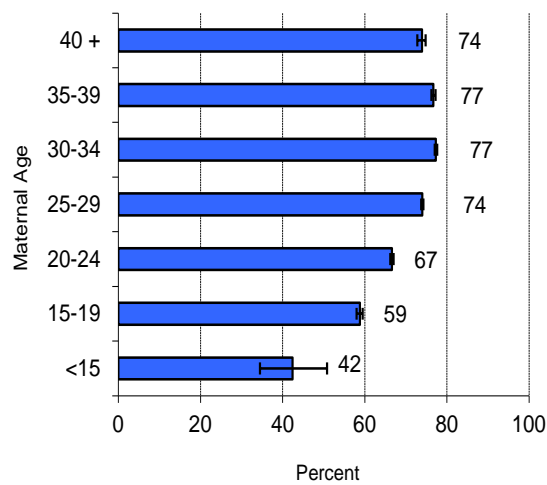
Time Trend ^{1,2,b}

**Women Receiving 1st Trimester Prenatal Care
WA and US, Birth Certificate Data 1981-2012**



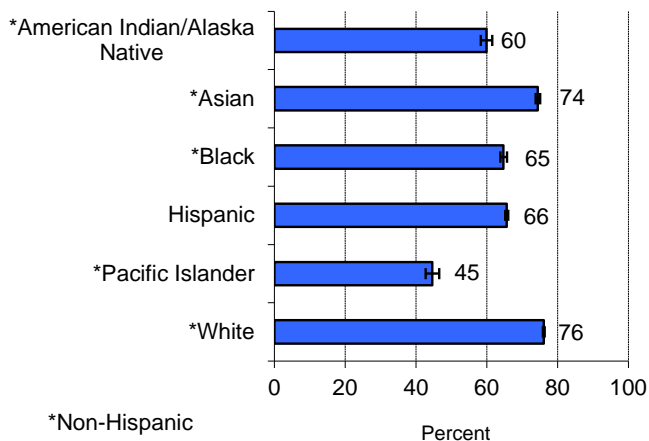
Maternal Age ¹

**Women Receiving 1st Trimester Prenatal Care
Maternal Age
WA Birth Certificate Data 2010-2012**



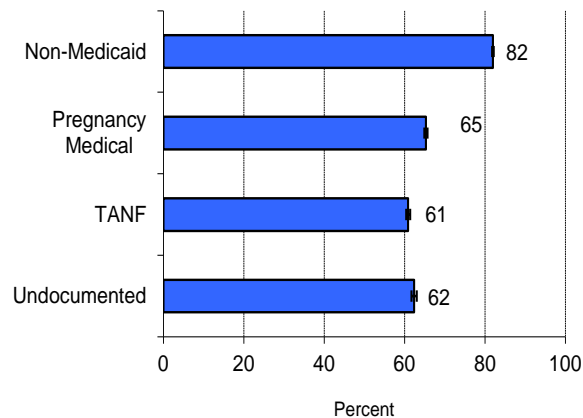
Race and Ethnicity ¹

**Women Receiving 1st Trimester Prenatal Care
Maternal Race/Ethnicity
WA Birth Certificate Data 2010-2012**



Medicaid Status ^{3,a}

**Women Receiving 1st Trimester Prenatal Care
Medicaid Program
WA First Steps Data Base 2010-2012**



Data Sources

1. Washington State Birth Certificate Data: Vital Registration System Annual Statistical Files, Births 1980-2021 [Data file]. (2013). Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Health.
2. Department of Health and Human Services (US). Healthy People 2020. <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/default.aspx>
3. Cawthon, L. (2013). Characteristics of Women Who Gave Birth in Washington State (First Steps Database). Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.
4. Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Sutton PD, Ventura SJ, Menacker F, Munson ML. Births: Final data for 2002. National vital statistics reports; vol 52 no 10. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 2003. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr52/nvsr52_10.pdf

Endnotes

- a. Medicaid women received maternity care paid for by Medicaid. Medicaid recipients were divided into three major subgroups (from highest to lowest socioeconomic status) based on program eligibility. **Pregnancy Medical** were women eligible for the pregnancy medical assistance “S” program. These women were U.S. citizens or legal US residents, and were eligible to receive Medicaid because they were pregnant and had incomes at or below 185% the federal poverty line; **TANF** were women enrolled in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. These women were very low income (generally < 50% the federal poverty level) and received cash assistance (TANF) in addition to Medicaid; and **Undocumented:** were women who were not legally admitted for permanent residence, lack temporary residence status, or were not lawfully present in the U.S. They were eligible to receive Medicaid because they were pregnant and had incomes at or below 185% the federal poverty level. Undocumented women were not eligible for TANF although their incomes were often lower than women on TANF. All three Medicaid groups had incomes below most non-Medicaid women. Note that Medicaid eligibility status for pregnant legal residents who were not US Citizens changed in Spring 2009. Prior to Spring 2009, legal residents who were not US Citizens were grouped with Undocumented women (and called Non-Citizens).
- b. The 2003 Standard Certificate of Live Birth changed the way that the initiation of prenatal care was recorded. The birth certificate in use in Washington State prior to the 2003 Standard Certificate recorded the month that a woman began prenatal care, while the 2003 Standard Certificate recorded the actual date she began prenatal care.

For persons with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY 1-800-833-6388).