

PRENATAL CARE

Prenatal care—especially care beginning in the first trimester—allows health care providers to identify and manage a pregnant woman's risk factors and health conditions and to provide expectant parents with relevant health care advice. In 2010, in the 33 States that had implemented the 2003 revision to the standard birth certificate as of January 1st and collected prenatal care information in the same format,⁸⁷ 73.1 percent of women giving birth were determined to have received prenatal care in the first trimester, while 6.2 percent of women began prenatal care in the third trimester or did not receive any prenatal care.

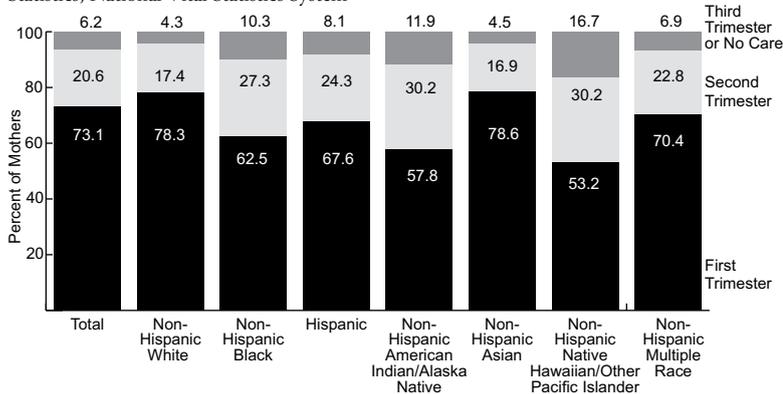
The timing of prenatal care initiation differs by race/ethnicity. Non-Hispanic Asian and non-Hispanic White mothers were most likely to begin prenatal care in the first trimester (78.6 and 78.3 percent, respectively) and least likely to begin prenatal care in the third trimester or not all (4.5 and 4.3 percent, respectively). The lowest rates of early prenatal care—received within the first trimester—were observed among non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander and non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native mothers (53.2 and 57.8 percent, respectively), followed by non-Hispanic Black mothers (62.5 percent). These same racial and ethnic groups also had the highest rates of re-

ceiving late (third trimester) or no prenatal care (16.7, 11.9, and 10.3 percent, respectively).

Timing of prenatal care initiation also varies by maternal education, with early prenatal care entry increasing with greater educational attainment. For example, in 2010, first trimester prenatal care was obtained by only 57.6 percent of mothers with less than a high school diploma, compared to 86.7 percent of mothers with a bachelor's degree or higher. Conversely, only 2.5 percent of mothers with a bachelor's degree received late or no prenatal care, compared to 11.6 percent of mothers with less than a high school diploma.

Timing of Prenatal Care Initiation,* by Maternal Race/Ethnicity, 2010

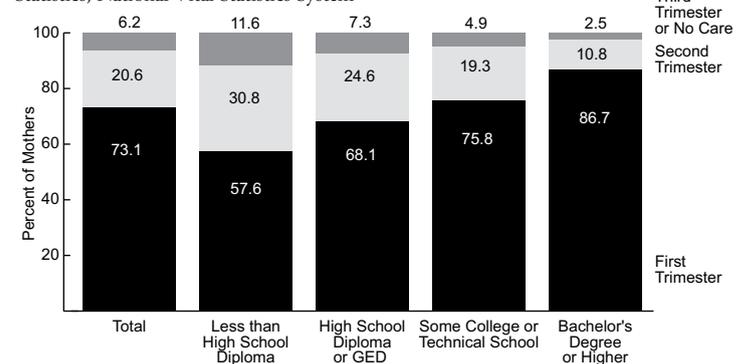
Source (III.9): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System



*Data are from 33 states that implemented the 2003 revision of the birth certificate as of January 1, 2010, representing 67% of all US births; percentages may not total to 100 due to rounding.

Timing of Prenatal Care Initiation,* by Maternal Education, 2010

Source (III.9): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System



*Data are from 33 states that implemented the 2003 revision of the birth certificate as of January 1, 2010, representing 67% of all US births; percentages may not total to 100 due to rounding.