

PRAMS 1995 SURVEILLANCE REPORT

PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Division of Reproductive Health

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Preface

Accurate, timely information is vital to states as they develop programs and policies to improve the health of women and infants. Since 1987, the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) has served as a key data source for states addressing public health issues among their maternal and child health (MCH) populations.

PRAMS is a population-based survey of women delivering live infants. This survey collects information on women's experiences and behaviors before, during, and shortly after pregnancy. Thus, states participating in PRAMS gain unique and invaluable information for public health administrators, policymakers, and researchers.

We are pleased to present the first PRAMS Surveillance Report, a compilation of PRAMS results for a variety of MCH indicators. This report provides benchmarks by state for these indicators; moreover, it permits examination of these indicators across the participating states. The dissemination of these statistics is a key step in translating findings from PRAMS into public health action.

We hope that this report, the first in an anticipated series, will be useful to public health practitioners across the United States in improving the health of women and children. In addition, it will provide critical data in assessing progress toward *Healthy People 2000* goals and *Healthy Children 2000* objectives. We welcome your comments on the design and content of this report.

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This report is the product of the collaborative efforts of many people at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Review and commentary from PRAMS team members at CDC and from PRAMS Working Group members in participating states have enhanced its quality.

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