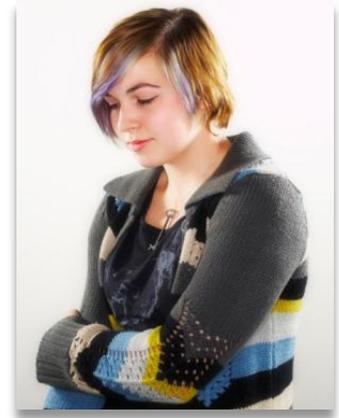


## Teen Pregnancy Prevention

### Unintended Pregnancy, Repeat Live Births, and Postpartum Contraceptive Use among Teenage Mothers (ages 15-19)



#### Background

CDC has identified Teen Pregnancy Prevention as a Winnable Battle.<sup>1</sup> The U.S. teen birth rate fell 9 percent from 2009 to 2010, reaching a historic low at 34.3 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19.<sup>2</sup> However, the birth rate among U.S. teens remains among the highest in the developed world.<sup>3</sup> Teen childbearing is a public health concern because teen mothers are more likely to experience negative social outcomes including school dropout, more likely to have low-paying jobs, and more likely to be financially dependent on their families and society overall.<sup>4</sup> In addition, infants of teen mothers are more likely than infants born to older women to be born preterm and with low birth weight, both of which make them prone to health complications.<sup>5-6</sup>

PRAMS is a reliable data collection system that provides state-based population estimates on teens who give birth along with associated risk behaviors and use of preventive services.

#### PRAMS Questions

Q1: *Before* you got pregnant with your new baby, did you ever have any other babies who were born alive? Response options are Yes and No.

Q2\*: Thinking back to *just before* you got pregnant with your *new* baby, how did you feel about becoming pregnant? Check one answer:

- I wanted to be pregnant sooner
- I wanted to be pregnant later
- I wanted to be pregnant then
- I didn't want to be pregnant then or at any time in the future

\*Note: Unintended, unwanted, and mistimed pregnancy is defined as follows:

- Unintended = I wanted to be pregnant later or I didn't want to be pregnant then or at any time in the future
- Mistimed = I wanted to be pregnant later
- Unwanted = I didn't want to be pregnant then or any time in the future

Q3: When you got pregnant with your new baby, were you trying to get pregnant? Response options are Yes and No.

Q4: When you got pregnant with your new baby, were you or your husband or partner doing

anything to keep from getting pregnant? (Some things people do to keep from getting pregnant include not having sex at certain times [natural family planning or rhythm] or withdrawal, and using birth control methods such as the pill, condoms, vaginal ring, IUD, having their tubes tied, or their partner having a vasectomy.) Response options are Yes and No.

Q5: What were your reasons or your husband's or partner's reasons for not doing anything to keep from getting pregnant? Check all that apply:

- I didn't mind if I got pregnant
- I thought I could not get pregnant at that time
- I had side effects from the birth control method I was using
- I had problems getting birth control when I needed it
- I thought my husband or partner or I was sterile (could not get pregnant at all)
- My husband or partner didn't want to use anything
- Other

Q6: Are you or your husband or partner doing anything *now* to keep from getting pregnant? (Some things people do to keep from getting pregnant include not having sex at certain times [natural family planning or rhythm] or withdrawal, and using birth control methods such as the pill, condoms, vaginal ring, IUD, having their tubes tied, or their partner having a vasectomy.) Response options are Yes and No.

Q7: What are your reasons or your husband's or partner's reasons for not doing anything to keep from getting pregnant *now*? Check all that apply:

- I am not having sex
- I want to get pregnant
- I don't want to use birth control
- My husband or partner doesn't want to use anything
- I don't think I can get pregnant (sterile)
- I can't pay for birth control
- I am pregnant now
- Other

Findings from women who delivered a live-born infant in 2009 in any of the 29 PRAMS states that met the response rate threshold of 65%<sup>1</sup> are included in this report.

## Findings in Brief

Unintended pregnancy was reported by 72.7%<sup>2</sup> of teenage mothers 15-19 years old who delivered a live-born infant (Figure 1, Table 1). The prevalence of unintended pregnancy was highest among those who were black (81.0%) and of "other" race/ethnicity (81.2%); had more than a high school education (84.9%); and those who reported private insurance coverage before pregnancy (76.9%) and at delivery (78.3%). Teenage mothers who were of Hispanic ethnicity (65.1%); had less than a high school education

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<sup>1</sup>The 29 PRAMS states that met the response rate threshold of 65% in 2009 include: AK, AR, CO, DE, GA, HI, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NJ, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI, and WY.

<sup>2</sup>95% confidence intervals (CI) for all percentages are included in the figures and tables.

(71.3%); and those who reported having “other” insurance coverage before pregnancy (66.0%) or no insurance coverage at delivery (59.8%) had lower prevalence rates of unintended pregnancy.

Among teenage mothers 15-19 years old with an unintended pregnancy, less than half (44.7%) reported using contraception (Figure 4, Table 2). The prevalence of contraceptive use among the same group was highest in black non-Hispanic (47.8%), those who had more than a high school education (61.9%), and who reported having other insurance coverage before pregnancy (48.1%) and at delivery (49.8%). Lower prevalence of contraceptive use were found among those of other race/ethnicity (39.9%), with less than a high school education (41.1%), and who reported Medicaid as their source of insurance coverage before pregnancy (43.4%) and at delivery (44.4%).

From all unintended pregnancy reported by teenage mothers 15-19 years old who delivered a live-born infant, 9.1% indicated their pregnancies were unwanted (Figure 2, Table 1) with the remaining 63.7% being mistimed (Figure 3, Table 1).

In 2009, 17.6% of teenage mothers 15-19 years old in 29 PRAMS states reported that they had a previous live birth (repeat birth) (Figure 5, Table 3). The prevalence of repeat live births was highest among those who were Hispanic (22.3%); had less than a high school education (19.2%); and those who reported Medicaid as their source of insurance coverage before pregnancy (22.4%); and at delivery (18.3%). Lower prevalence rates were found among those who were white, non-Hispanic (14.7%); had more than a high school education (8.1%); reported private insurance coverage before pregnancy (10.1%); and who reported no insurance coverage at delivery (7.7%).

Postpartum contraceptive use was reported by 85.4% among teenage mothers ages 15-19 years who delivered a live born infant (Figure 6, Table 4). The prevalence of contraceptive use was highest among those who were white non-Hispanic (87.1%); had a high school education (87.6%); and reported private insurance coverage before pregnancy (87.9%) and at delivery (87.8%). Approximately 14.6% of teenage mothers 15-19 years old reported not using contraceptives to keep from getting pregnant at the time of the survey. Reasons for no postpartum use of contraception include: not having sex at the time of the survey (47.6%); not wanting to use birth control (23.6%); couldn't afford birth control (13.0%); wanting to get pregnant (8.6%); husband or partner did not want to use anything (10.3%); currently pregnant (2.9%); thought that couldn't get pregnant (sterile) (1.1%); some other reason for not using postpartum contraception (25.4%) (Table 5).

Please refer to Figures 7-10 and Table 5 for self-reported reasons for not currently using contraception stratified by selected maternal characteristics.

## **Public Health Implications**

Strategies such as providing appropriate access to contraception, encouraging consistent use of effective contraceptives, promoting condom use for protection against sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and increasing teens' motivation to use contraception consistently may improve the rates of contraceptive use among sexually active teens.

Health care providers, parents, and educators should: 1) encourage teens to delay the onset of sexual activity and abstinence; 2) provide teens with factual information about the conditions under which pregnancy can occur; 3) increase teens' motivation to avoid pregnancy, and 4) strengthen teens'

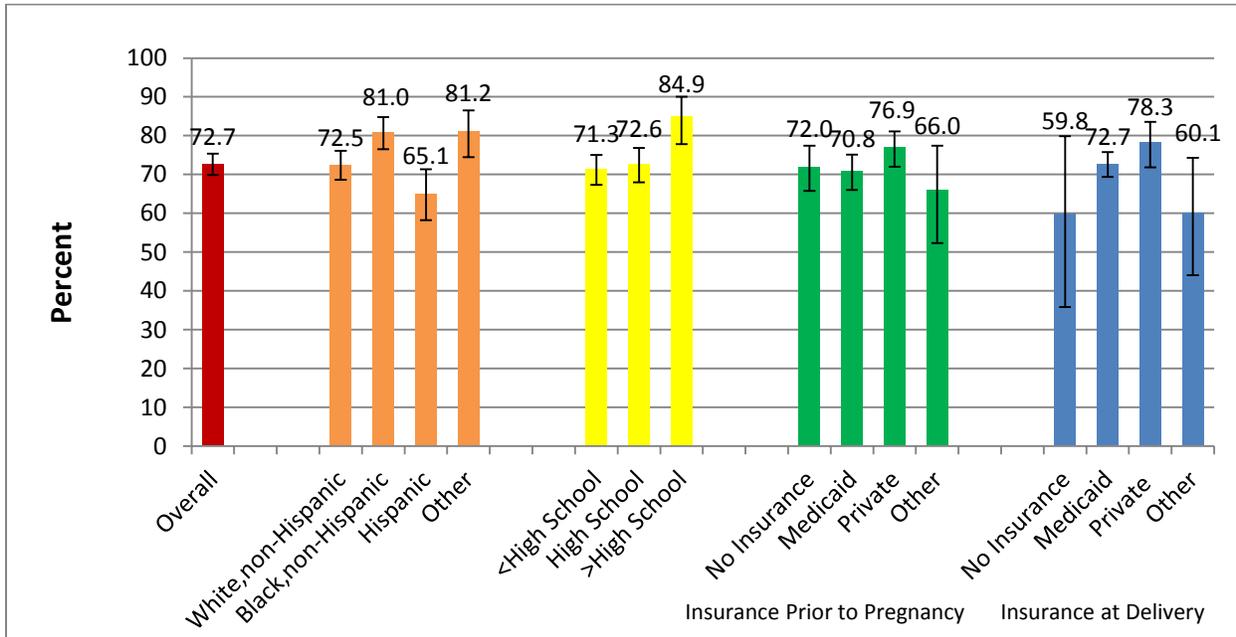
negotiation skills for pregnancy prevention. Increasing teens' knowledge, skills, and motivation for effective contraceptive use could be an important strategy to prevent unintended teen pregnancy and childbearing.<sup>7-9</sup>

PRAMS is a good data source for exploring and thus better understanding repeated teen births, lack of contraceptive use, and reasons for non-use. Findings from PRAMS can be used to monitor trends in teen births, identify populations at risk, and inform strategies for preventing teen pregnancy.

## References

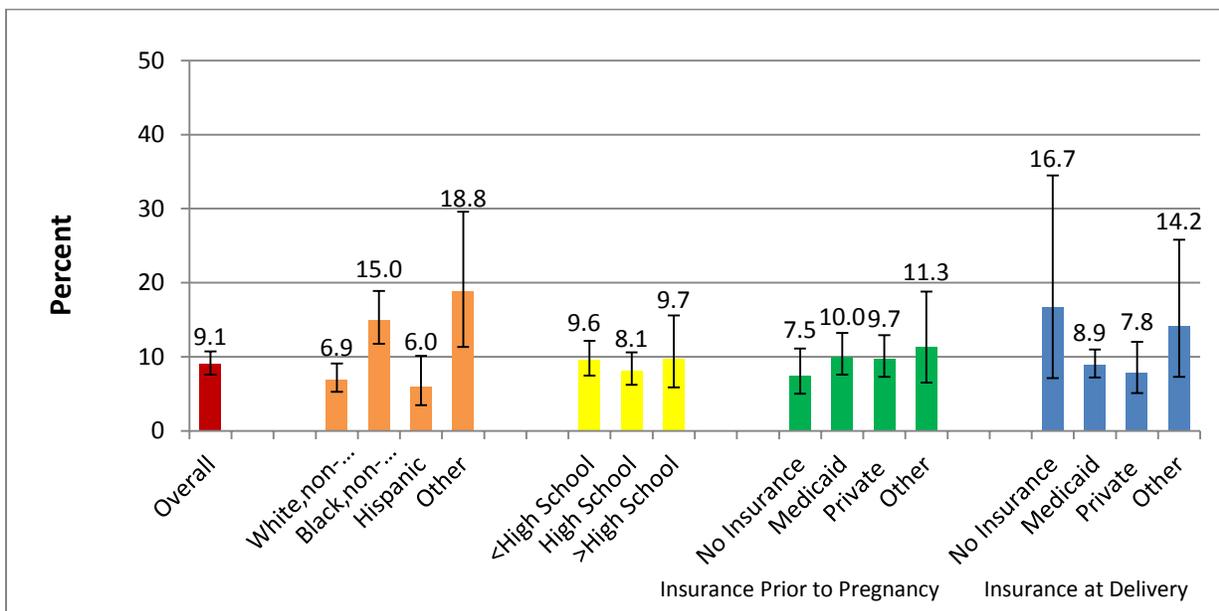
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**Figure 1.** Prevalence of unintended pregnancy among women 15-19 years of age by selected maternal demographics, 29 States\*, PRAMS 2009



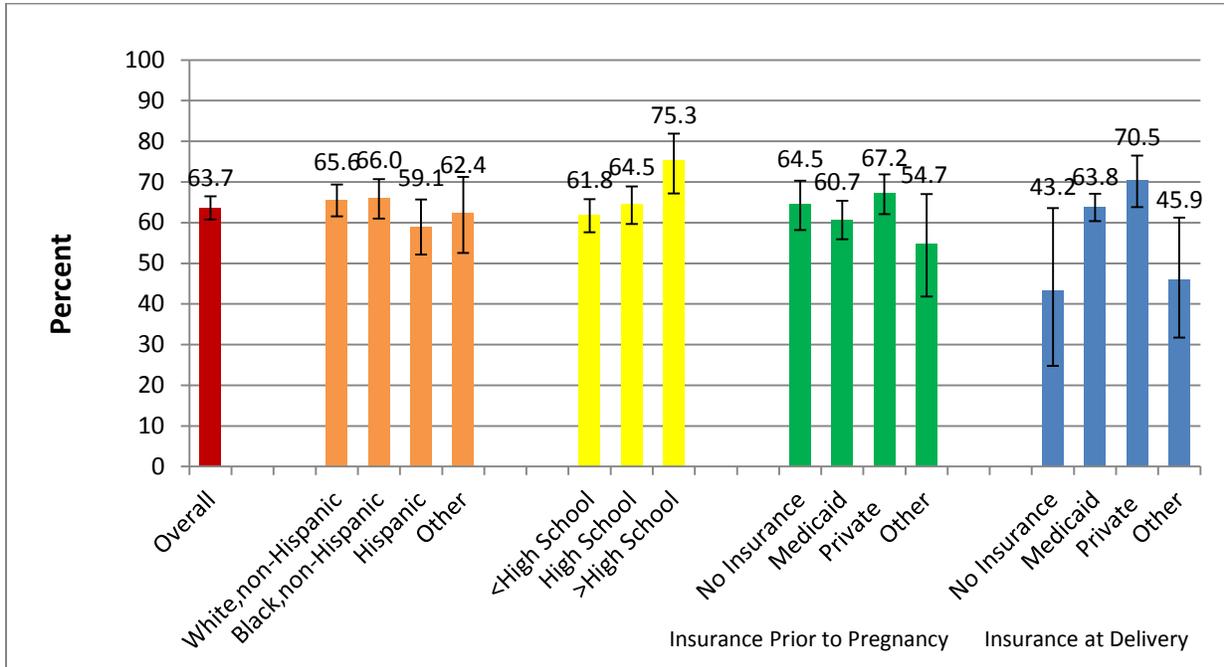
\*The 29 PRAMS states that met the response rate threshold of 65% in 2009 include: AK, AR, CO, DE, GA, HI, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NJ, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI, and WY.

**Figure 2.** Prevalence of unwanted pregnancy among women 15-19 years of age selected maternal demographics, 29 States, PRAMS 2009



\*The 29 PRAMS states that met the response rate threshold of 65% in 2009 include: AK, AR, CO, DE, GA, HI, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NJ, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI, and WY.

**Figure 3.** Prevalence of mistimed pregnancy among women 15-19 years of age by selected maternal demographics, 29 States\*, PRAMS 2009



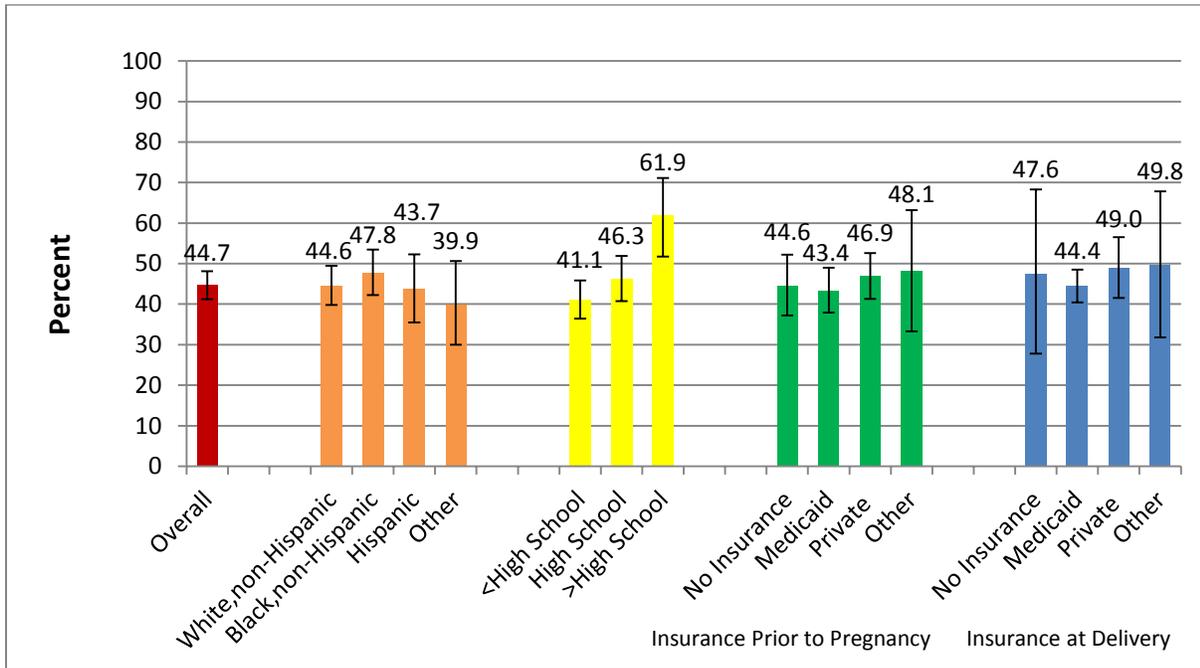
\*The 29 PRAMS states that met the response rate threshold of 65% in 2009 include: AK, AR, CO, DE, GA, HI, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NJ, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI, and WY.

**Table 1. Prevalence of unintended, unwanted, and mistimed pregnancy among women 15-19 years of age by selected maternal demographics, 29 States\*, PRAMS 2009**

	Prevalence of Unintended Pregnancy		Prevalence of Unwanted Pregnancy		Prevalence of Mistimed Pregnancy	
	Percent (%)	95% CI	Percent (%)	95% CI	Percent (%)	95% CI
<b>Overall</b>	72.7	69.9-75.4	9.1	7.6-10.7	63.7	60.7-66.5
<b>Maternal race/ethnicity</b>						
White, non-Hispanic	72.5	68.6-76.1	6.9	5.3-9.1	65.6	61.5-69.4
Black, non-Hispanic	81.0	76.5-84.8	15.0	11.7-18.9	66.0	61.0-70.7
Hispanic	65.1	58.2-71.3	6.0	3.5-10.1	59.1	52.1-65.7
Other	81.2	74.4-86.5	18.8	11.4-29.6	62.4	52.6-71.3
<b>Maternal education</b>						
<High School	71.3	67.3-75.0	9.6	7.5-12.2	61.8	57.6-65.8
High School	72.6	67.9-76.9	8.1	6.2-10.6	64.5	59.7-68.9
>High School	84.9	77.9-90.1	9.7	5.9-15.6	75.3	67.2-81.9
<b>Insurance prior to pregnancy</b>						
No insurance	72.0	65.8-77.4	7.5	5.0-11.1	64.5	58.2-70.3
Medicaid	70.8	66.0-75.1	10.0	7.6-13.2	60.7	55.9-65.4
Private	76.9	72.0-81.1	9.7	7.3-12.9	67.2	62.1-71.9
Other	66.0	52.3-77.4	11.3	6.5-18.8	54.7	41.8-67.0
<b>Insurance at delivery</b>						
No insurance	59.8	35.8-79.9	16.7	7.1-34.5	43.2	24.8-63.6
Medicaid	72.7	69.4-75.8	8.9	7.2-11.0	63.8	60.4-67.1
Private	78.3	71.8-83.6	7.8	5.1-12.0	70.5	63.8-76.5
Other	60.1	44.0-74.3	14.2	7.3-25.8	45.9	31.7-61.2

\*The 29 PRAMS states that met the response rate threshold of 65% in 2009 include: AK, AR, CO, DE, GA, HI, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NJ, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI, and WY.

**Figure 4.** Prevalence of contraceptive use at time of pregnancy among women 15-19 years of age with an unintended live birth, by selected maternal demographics, 29 States\*, PRAMS 2009



\*The 29 PRAMS states that met the response rate threshold of 65% in 2009 include: AK, AR, CO, DE, GA, HI, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NJ, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI, and WY.

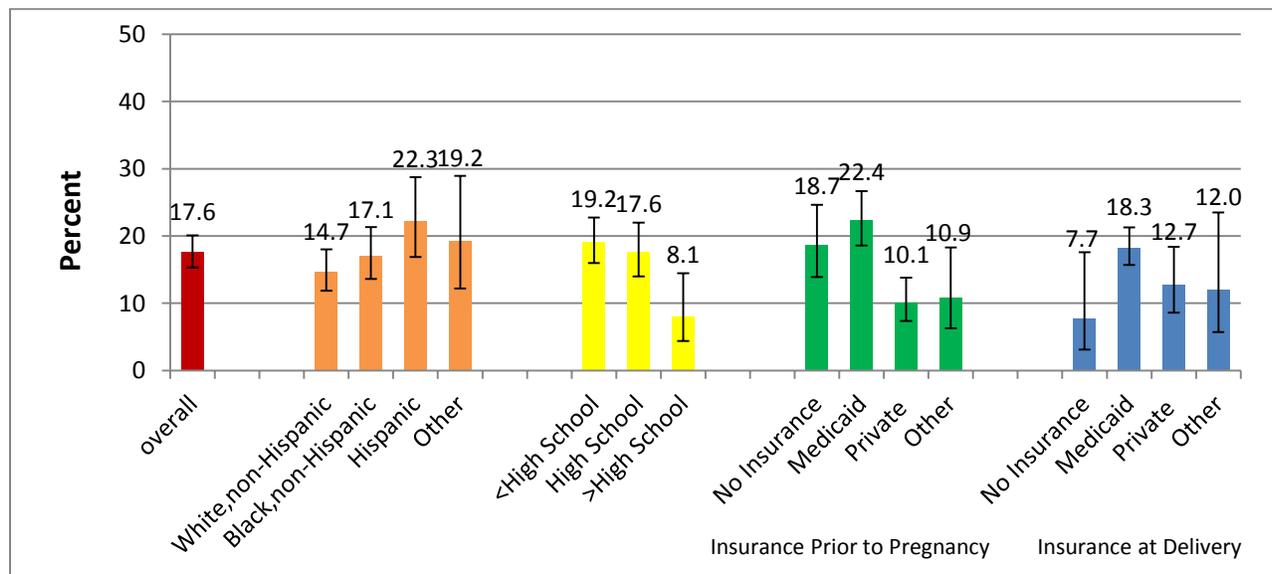
**Table 2. Prevalence of contraceptive use at time of pregnancy among women 15-19 years of age with an unintended live birth by selected maternal demographics, 29 States\*, PRAMS 2009**

	Prevalence of Contraceptive Use at time of Pregnancy		Prevalence of No Contraceptive Use at time of Pregnancy	
	Percent (%)	95% CI	Percent (%)	95% CI
<b>Overall</b>	44.7	41.3-48.1	55.3	51.9-58.8
<b>Maternal race/ethnicity</b>				
White, non-Hispanic	44.6	39.8-49.5	55.4	51.0-60.2
Black, non-Hispanic	47.8	42.2-53.5	52.2	46.5-57.8
Hispanic	43.7	35.5-52.3	56.3	47.7-64.5
Other	39.9	30.0-50.6	60.1	49.4-70.0
<b>Maternal education</b>				
<High School	41.1	36.5-45.9	59.0	54.1-63.5
High School	46.3	40.8-51.9	53.7	48.1-59.3
>High School	61.9	51.7-71.1	38.1	29.0-48.3
<b>Insurance prior to pregnancy</b>				
No insurance	44.6	37.2-52.2	55.4	47.8-62.8

Medicaid	43.4	37.9-49.0	56.6	51.0-62.1
Private	46.9	41.3-52.6	53.1	47.4-58.8
Other	48.1	33.3-63.2	51.9	36.8-66.7
<b>Insurance at delivery</b>				
No insurance	47.6	27.8-68.3	52.4	31.7-72.2
Medicaid	44.4	40.4-48.5	55.6	51.5-59.7
Private	49.0	41.5-56.5	51.0	44.0-58.5
Other	49.8	31.8-67.8	50.2	32.2-68.2

\*The 29 PRAMS states that met the response rate threshold of 65% in 2009 include: AK, AR, CO, DE, GA, HI, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NJ, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI, and WY.

**Figure 5.** Prevalence of repeat live births among women 15-19 years of age by selected maternal demographics, 29 States\*, PRAMS 2009



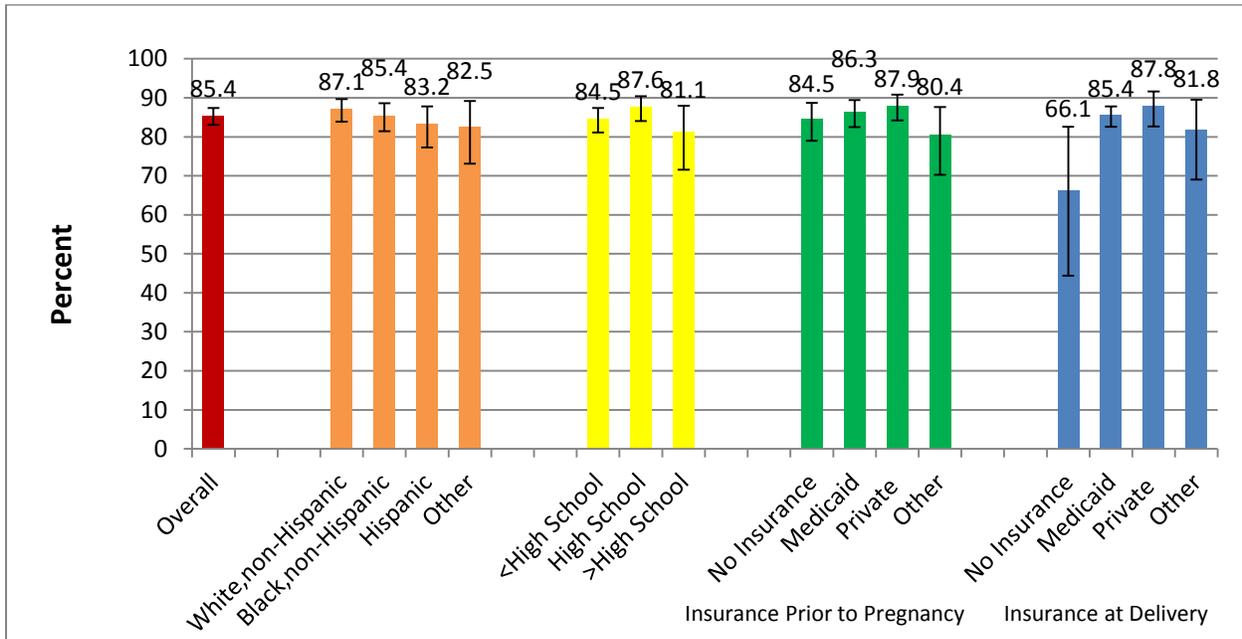
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	Prevalence of Repeat Live Births		Prevalence of No Repeat Live Birth	
	Percent (%)	95% CI	Percent (%)	95% CI
<b>Overall</b>	17.6	15.3-20.1	82.4	79.9-84.7
<b>Maternal race/ethnicity</b>				
White, non-Hispanic	14.7	11.9-18.0	85.3	82.3-88.1

Black, non-Hispanic	17.1	13.6-21.3	82.9	78.7-86.4
Hispanic	22.3	16.9-28.7	77.8	71.3-83.1
Other	19.2	12.2-28.9	80.7	71.1-87.8
<b>Maternal education</b>				
<High School	19.2	16.0-22.8	80.9	77.2-84.0
High School	17.6	14.0-22.0	82.4	78.0-86.0
>High School	8.1	4.4-14.5	92.0	85.6-95.6
<b>Insurance prior to pregnancy</b>				
No insurance	18.7	13.9-24.7	81.3	75.4-86.1
Medicaid	22.4	18.6-26.7	77.6	73.3-81.4
Private	10.1	7.4-13.8	89.9	86.2-92.6
Other	10.9	6.3-18.3	89.1	81.7-93.7
<b>Insurance at delivery</b>				
No insurance	7.6	3.1-17.6	92.3	82.5-96.9
Medicaid	18.3	15.7-21.3	81.7	78.7-84.3
Private	12.7	8.6-18.4	87.3	81.6-91.4
Other	12.0	5.7-23.5	88.1	76.6-94.3

\*The 29 PRAMS states that met the response rate threshold of 65% in 2009 include: AK, AR, CO, DE, GA, HI, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NJ, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI, and WY.

**Figure 6.** Prevalence of postpartum contraceptive use among women 15-19 years of age by selected maternal demographics, 29 States\*, PRAMS 2009



\*The 29 PRAMS states that met the response rate threshold of 65% in 2009 include: AK, AR, CO, DE, GA, HI, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NJ, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI, and WY.

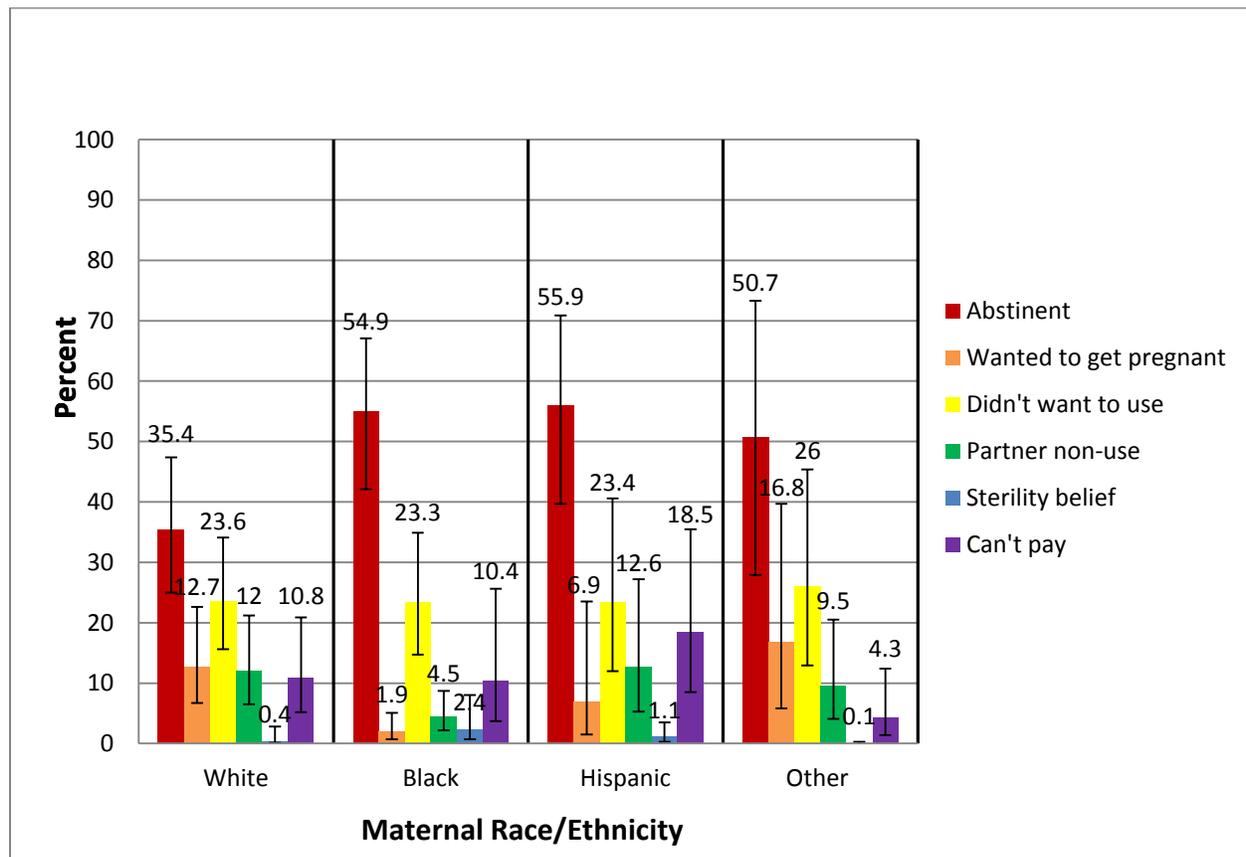
**Table 4.** Prevalence of postpartum contraceptive use among women 15-19 years of age by selected maternal demographics, 29 States\*, PRAMS 2009

	Prevalence of postpartum contraceptive use		Prevalence of No postpartum contraceptive use	
	Percent (%)	95% CI	Percent (%)	95% CI
<b>Overall</b>	85.4	83.1-87.4	14.6	12.6-17.0
<b>Maternal race/ethnicity</b>				
White, non-Hispanic	87.1	83.9-89.7	13.0	10.3-16.1
Black, non-Hispanic	85.4	81.4-88.6	14.6	11.4-18.6
Hispanic	83.2	77.2-87.8	16.8	12.2-22.8
Other	82.5	73.1-89.2	17.5	10.9-26.9
<b>Maternal education</b>				
<High School	84.5	81.1-87.4	15.5	12.6-19.0
High School	87.6	84.1-90.4	12.4	9.6-16.0
>High School	81.1	71.5-88.0	19.0	12.0-28.5
<b>Insurance prior to pregnancy</b>				
No insurance	84.5	78.9-88.7	15.6	11.3-21.1

Medicaid	86.3	82.5-89.4	13.7	10.6-17.5
Private	87.9	84.2-90.8	12.1	9.2-15.8
Other	80.4	70.3-87.6	19.7	12.4-29.7
<b>Insurance at delivery</b>				
No insurance	66.1	44.4-82.6	33.9	17.4-55.6
Medicaid	85.4	82.6-87.8	14.6	12.2-17.4
Private	87.8	82.7-91.6	12.2	8.4-17.3
Other	81.8	69.0-89.5	18.7	10.5-31.0

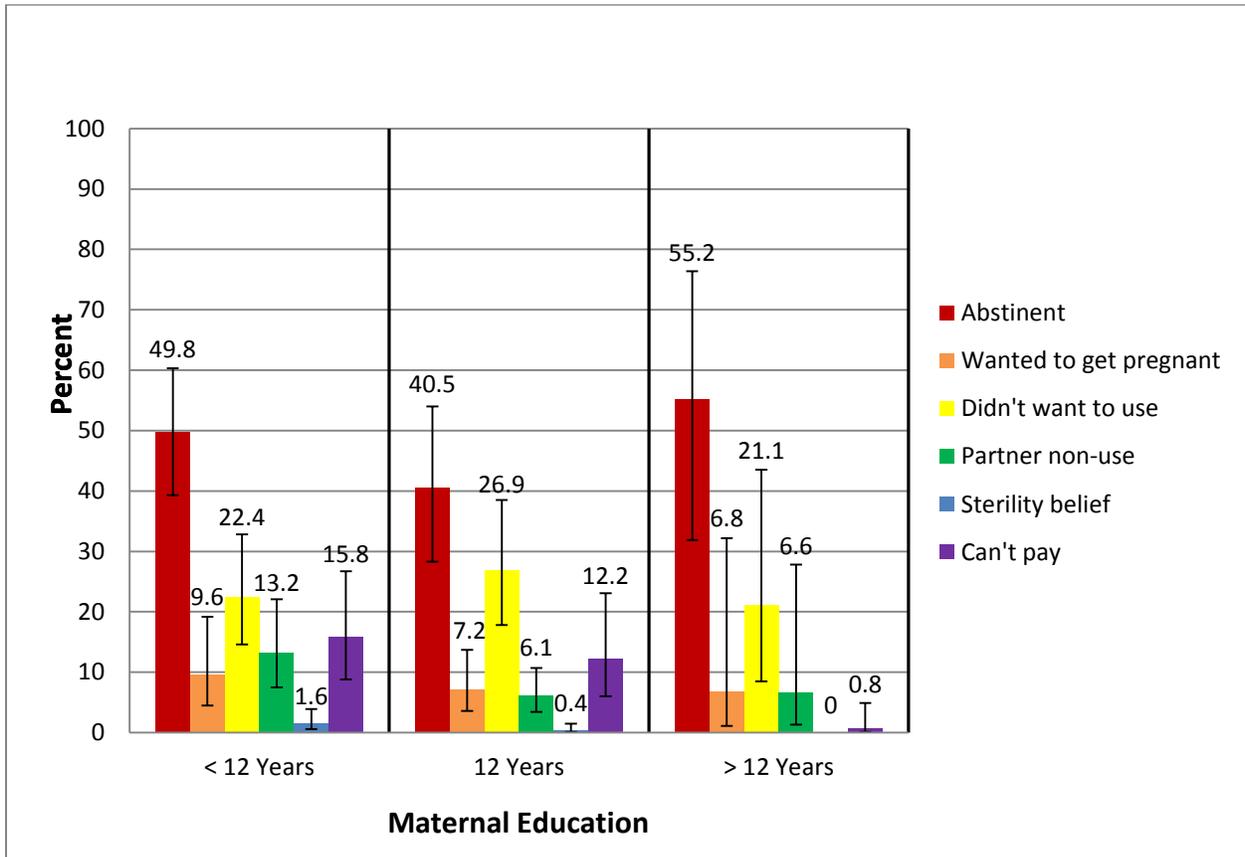
\*The 29 PRAMS states that met the response rate threshold of 65% in 2009 include: AK, AR, CO, DE, GA, HI, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NJ, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI, and WY.

**Figure 7.** Self-reported reasons for not currently using contraception now among women 15-19 years of age by maternal race/ethnicity, 29 States\*, PRAMS 2009



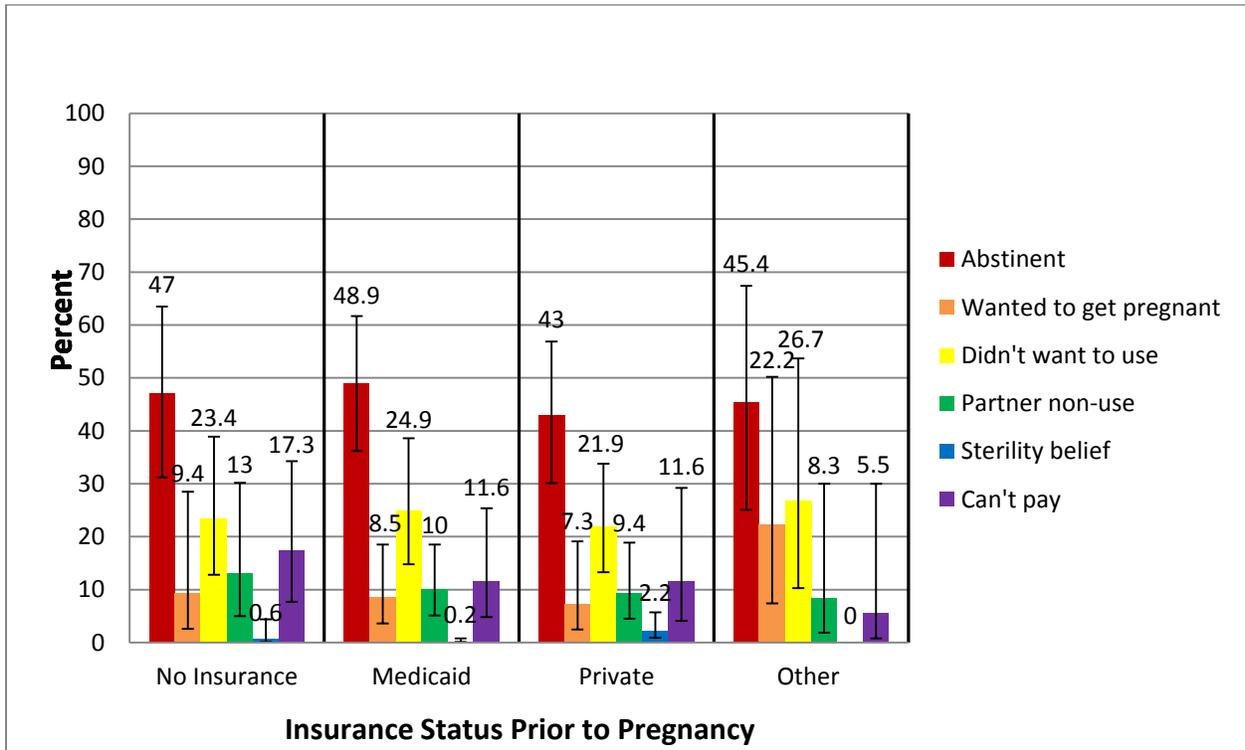
\*The 29 PRAMS states that met the response rate threshold of 65% in 2009 include: AK, AR, CO, DE, GA, HI, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NJ, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI, and WY.

**Figure 8.** Self-reported reasons for not currently using contraception among women 15-19 years of age by years of education obtained, 29 States\*, PRAMS 2009



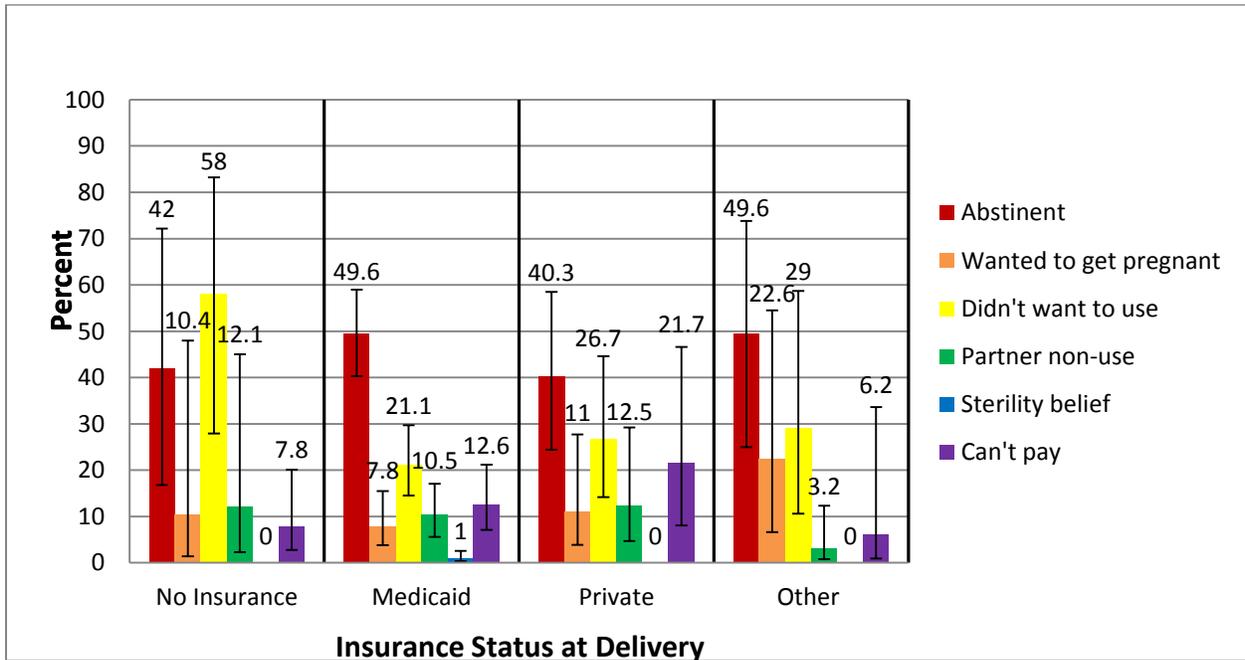
\*The 29 PRAMS states that met the response rate threshold of 65% in 2009 include: AK, AR, CO, DE, GA, HI, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NJ, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI, and WY.

**Figure 9.** Self-reported reasons for not currently using contraception among women 15-19 years of age by insurance status prior to pregnancy, 29 States\*, PRAMS 2009



\*The 29 PRAMS states that met the response rate threshold of 65% in 2009 include: AK, AR, CO, DE, GA, HI, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NJ, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI, and WY.

**Figure 10.** Self-reported reasons for not currently using contraception among women 15-19 years of age by insurance status at delivery, 29 States\*, PRAMS 2009



\*The 29 PRAMS states that met the response rate threshold of 65% in 2009 include: AK, AR, CO, DE, GA, HI, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NJ, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI, and WY.

**Table 5. Self-reported reasons for not currently using contraception stratified by selected maternal characteristics among teen mothers , 29 States\*, PRAMS 2009**

	Abstinent		Wanted to get pregnant		Didn't want to use		Partner non-use		Sterility belief		Can't pay	
	Percent (%)	95% CI	Percent (%)	95% CI	Percent (%)	95% CI	Percent (%)	95% CI	Percent (%)	95% CI	Percent (%)	95% CI
<b>Overall</b>	47.6	39.9-55.5	8.6	5.0-14.4	23.6	17.7-30.6	10.3	6.6-15.8	1.1	0.5-2.4	13	(8.2-20.0)
<b>Maternal race/ethnicity</b>												
Non-Hispanic White	35.4	25.1-47.4	12.7	6.8-22.6	23.6	15.6-34.1	12.0	6.5-21.2	0.4	0.1-2.8	10.8	(5.3-20.9)
Non-Hispanic Black	54.9	42.2-67.1	1.9	0.7-5.2	23.3	14.7-34.9	4.5	2.2-8.7	2.4	0.7-8.0	10.4	(3.8-25.7)
Hispanic	55.9	39.7-70.9	6.9	1.6-23.6	23.4	12.0-40.5	12.6	5.3-27.2	1.1	0.3-3.5	18.5	(8.6-35.5)
Other	50.7	27.8-73.2	16.8	5.8-39.7	26.0	13.0-45.4	9.5	4.1-20.6	0.1	0.0-0.3	4.3	(1.4-12.4)
<b>Maternal education</b>												
<High School	49.8	39.3-60.3	9.6	4.6-19.2	22.4	14.6-32.8	13.2	7.6-22.1	1.6	0.7-3.9	15.8	(8.8-26.7)
High School	40.5	28.3-54.0	7.2	3.7-13.8	26.9	17.8-38.5	6.1	3.4-10.7	0.4	0.1-1.5	12.2	(6.0-23.1)
>High School	55.2	31.9-76.4	6.8	1.1-32.1	21.1	8.5-43.4	6.6	1.3-27.8	0.0	0.0-0.0	0.8	(0.1-4.9)
<b>Insurance prior to pregnancy</b>												
No insurance	47.0	31.2-63.5	9.4	2.6-28.5	23.4	12.8-38.9	13.0	4.9-30.2	0.6	0.1-4.4	17.3	(7.7-34.3)
Medicaid	48.9	36.2-61.7	8.5	3.6-18.5	24.9	14.8-38.6	10.0	5.1-18.5	0.2	0.1-0.8	11.6	(4.8-25.4)
Private	43.0	30.1-56.9	7.3	2.5-19.1	21.9	13.3-33.8	9.4	4.5-18.9	2.2	0.9-5.7	11.6	(4.1-29.2)
Other	45.4	25.1-67.4	22.2	7.4-50.2	26.7	10.3-53.7	8.3	1.9-30.0	0.0	0.0-0.0	5.5	(0.8-30.0)
<b>Insurance at delivery</b>												
No insurance	42.0	16.8-72.2	10.4	1.4-48.0	58.0	27.9-83.2	12.1	2.3-45.0	0.0	0.0-0.0	7.8	(2.8-20.1)
Medicaid	49.6	40.3-59.0	7.8	3.8-15.5	21.1	14.5-29.7	10.5	6.1-17.6	1.0	0.4-2.6	12.6	(7.1-21.2)
Private	40.3	24.4-58.5	10.9	3.8-27.6	26.7	14.2-44.7	12.5	4.7-29.2	0.0	0.0-0.0	21.7	(8.1-46.6)
Other	49.6	25.4-74.0	22.6	6.6-54.5	29.0	10.6-58.7	3.2	0.8-12.3	0.0	0.0-0.0	6.2	(0.9-33.6)

\*The 29 PRAMS states that met the response rate threshold of 65% in 2009 include: AK, AR, CO, DE, GA, HI, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NJ, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI, and WY.