



Prenatal Care Time Entry in Northern New Jersey

Valerie Pineiro, MPH

2023 Annual Conference and Awards Ceremony of New Jersey Public Health Association: The Future of New Jersey Public Health, Maximizing Equity for Communities

April 21, 2023

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Prenatal care (PNC) is medical care birthing people receive when they are pregnant.

PNC helps keep mom and baby safe and healthy.

Recommendations:

- Begins in the first trimester
- Regular checkups are scheduled and attended

Babies of birthing people who do not get PNC are:

- 3x's more likely to have a low birth weight
- 5x's more likely to die

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: United States 2020

- **77.7%** received early PNC
- **16.1%** began PNC in the second trimester
- **6.2%** received late or no PNC

Inadequate PNC:

- Beginning in the fifth month of pregnancy or later
 - Less than **50%** of the appropriate number of visits for an infant's gestational age
-
- **15.0%** of live births were born to a birthing person receiving inadequate PNC

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Healthy People 2030

TARGET: 80.5% of birthing people receive early PNC

In 2021, the percentage of birthing people who received early PNC was:
75.6%

In 2021 in NJ, the percentage of birthing people who received early PNC was:
77.5%



METHODS

A retrospective study was conducted with birth record data from New Jersey's Vital Events Registration & Information (VERI) system, using Tableau to determine the correlation between maternal race and source of payment with PNC time entry. Our dataset included all live births occurring in 2021 in the counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union, and Warren.

RESULTS: ODDS RATIOS

When comparing PNC time entry by all races...

- White, non-Hispanic: 0.4
- Black, non-Hispanic: 1.8
- **Hispanic: 2.2**
- Asian, non-Hispanic: 0.5

When comparing PNC time entry by insurance status...

- Private: 0.2
- **NJ Family Care: 2.7**
- **Self-Pay/Charity Care: 3.9**
- Out of State Medicaid: 1.7

RESULTS: HOW WE COMPARE TO HEALTHY PEOPLE 2030

Based off of our 2021 birth data:

First Trimester	Second or Third Trimester	Null
73.0%	20.3%	6.9%

Northern NJ's percentage of birthing people entering PNC in the first trimester in 2021 is **below**:

- Healthy People 2030 goal
- United States percentage in 2021
- The State's percentage in 2021

RESULTS: PERCENTAGES FOR LATE ENTRY

	Insurance Type			
Mom Race/Ethnicity	Private	NJ Family Care	Self-Pay/Charity Care	Out of State Medicaid
White, non-Hispanic	65.5%	25.7%	8.0%	0.8%
Black, non-Hispanic	26.7%	61.2%	11.5%	0.6%
Hispanic	19.1%	53.0%	27.3%	0.7%
Asian, non-Hispanic	71.3%	21.5%	7.1%	0.2%

CONCLUSION

- In Northern NJ, certain demographic factors, such as race and insurance status, can affect the likelihood of entering into PNC late.
 - Hispanic birthing people have the highest risk of entering PNC late compared to their racial counterparts.
 - Birthing people who use Self-Pay/Charity Care have the highest risk of entering into PNC late.
 - Black, non-Hispanic and Hispanic birthing people are most likely to use NJ Family Care.

CONCLUSION: PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- PNC access in Northern NJ is below where it is expected to be, and minority populations are most affected.
- This research further solidifies disparities in health equity and the availability of adequate health care for people of certain demographics.
- What can help?
 - Increase education and outreach to minority populations.
 - Creating programs
 - Increase partnerships with local health clinics.

Thank you!

Contact me:

Valerie Pineiro, MPH

Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey

vpineiro@pmch.org

