



PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM PILOT (PRAMS)

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National Web Site: <http://www.cdc.gov/PRAMS>

Sources of Information for the Database

The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a population-based health surveillance system. PRAMS utilizes mixed mode system consisting of mail and telephone surveys to collect data. The survey distribution is conducted over a period of 3 to 6 months with participant samples drawn each month. The samples are derived from the live birth certificate files and are randomly generated to include women who gave birth 3 to 6 months prior to sample selection.

Fetal deaths, stillbirths, abortions, out-of-state births, and birth certificates with missing identification (i.e. mother's last name or mailing address) are excluded from the sample. Mothers are included regardless of age. Participation in the survey is strictly voluntary, and data are de-identified prior to analysis. The Kentucky PRAMS is a pilot project that has been conducted twice, once in 2008 and again in 2010. The first pilot project was funded by a community grant through the March of Dimes, and the second pilot was funded through the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant. A third pilot project will be conducted in Fall 2013. PRAMS is organizationally located in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Public Health, Division of Maternal and Child Health.

Description of the Data Collected

PRAMS collects data on perinatal maternal behavior and experiences that may be associated with adverse birth outcomes. Data are collected on a variety of topics including: access to prenatal care, insurance status, quality of prenatal care, infant sleeping position, medical problems during pregnancy, delivery of the infant, employment status of the mother, government assistance, pregnancy intent, smoking, and oral health.

Demographic data are collected both from the PRAMS survey and from the birth certificate and include race, age, education level, income, marital status, and insurance status.

Kentucky is not a CDC funded PRAMS state; however, both pilot projects were conducted following the PRAMS model surveillance protocol for CDC funded states and consists of three types of questions. Core questions are asked by all states, standardized questions are questions on particular topics developed by the CDC that the states may choose to use, and state-added questions are questions that the state develops that relate to health needs of the particular state.

Strengths of the Data

PRAMS provides data on health indicators, such as prematurity, low birth weight, infant mortality, late prenatal care, and pregnancy intent that are not collected by other surveillance systems. The data are matched to other databases to provide more comprehensive surveillance. In addition, the data are timely and typically available within the year following collection. Data are weighted so results can be generalized to Kentucky's entire population of pregnant women.

Specific Uses of Information

- Provide data not available from other sources about pregnancy and the first few months after birth
- Investigate emerging maternal and child health issues
- Provide data to plan and review policies focused on improving maternal and child health
- Provide data for grant applications
- Identify emerging issues that could affect maternal and child health program planning
- Evaluate health disparities

Data Limitations

There are some limitations in the PRAMS data: recall bias, non-response bias, small sample size, and inability to compare to other states. These limitations should not hinder the use of PRAMS data, but should be considered.

Recall Bias: PRAMS respondents are contacted within 3-6 months after giving birth and questions are asked regarding behaviors throughout the perinatal period, which includes, at minimum, a 12 month span of time. Due to this long time frame it is possible that the accuracy of the data may be impacted by the mother's ability to recall all of the past events. To alleviate this bias, calendars are included with survey mailings to help the mother develop a timeline of events during her pregnancy.

Non-response Bias: PRAMS surveys are mailed based on address information collected from the birth certificate files. In addition, surveys are only printed in English. Transient populations and non-English speaking populations are therefore more difficult to reach. It is possible that the results in the non-response population could differ from those of the respondents.

Small Sample Size: The PRAMS projects are point in time surveillance systems and only sample the population for 3-6 months of the year. Approximately 200 women are selected each month to participate in the survey and only 50-60% of participants respond. The first pilot project garnered a total sample size of 356 while the second project, which ran for a longer time, included 844 participants.

Inability to Compare to Other States: Kentucky PRAMS is not funded through the CDC. CDC funded states conduct continuous surveillance, follow the same protocol, and data are weighted by CDC statisticians. While Kentucky PRAMS follows CDC protocol for surveillance and data weighting, surveillance is not continuous and weighting is completed by the University of Kentucky.

System Evaluation

The data collection for the Kentucky PRAMS pilot projects followed the CDC model surveillance protocol to ensure consistent and valid sampling techniques and survey monitoring.

Data Set Availability

Kentucky PRAMS data are available for 2008 and 2010. The data are available in SAS and comma delimited format. A weighting variable is included in the data sets so that prevalence estimates can be generalized to the statewide population. Requests for Kentucky data may be made to the PRAMS coordinator who will forward a data request sheet to be filled out and returned (See Appendix G). National data are available on the CDC PRAMS website.

Average Yearly Sample Size	840
2010 Response Rate	55.2%
Data Format	SAS, comma delimited
Cost of Data Set	Free

Data Release Policy

Data requests should be addressed to the PRAMS data coordinator. Data release policies will be discussed at that time.

Data Publications

The PRAMS program produces a statewide summary for each survey year. The report for the 2008 data can be found on the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Maternal and Child Health website: http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/888F8BBC-3DF7-47A4-B34E-8BD7BABA1E09/0/PRAMSREPORT08final_withcovers.pdf.

Suggested Data Citation

Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH). *Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System Data*. Frankfort, Kentucky: Division of Maternal and Child Health, [survey year].

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