

# **The 1996 Prenatal Care Survey Report**

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**Editor's note:** As of September 28, 1998, the Bureau of Health Information was created as part of a reorganization of the Department of Health and Family Services. The Bureau of Health Information comprises the former Center for Health Statistics and the Office of Health Care Information. The new Bureau is part of the new Division of Health Care Financing in the Department of Health and Family Services.

## Foreword

This report provides narrative findings and descriptive tables from the 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, which was conducted in the Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services. Survey data were provided by approximately 4,700 women who gave birth in Wisconsin in 1996. Results have been statistically weighted so they are representative of all Wisconsin women who gave birth in that year. The survey was funded jointly by the Wisconsin Information for State Health Policy Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services.

Patricia Nametz interpreted survey findings and wrote the report. Patricia Guhleman directed revision of the survey instrument (based on surveys in 1985 and 1990), designed the sampling methodology, and oversaw survey operations. Yvonne Brandreth constructed the database and provided computer analyses. Beverly Smith mailed out survey forms and entered survey responses. Mary Erikson, Section Chief, provided supervision and helpful suggestions in all phases of the research process.

Members of the Wisconsin Association of Perinatal Care assisted in formulating survey questions and determining which questions to include in the survey. In the Bureau of Family and Community Health, Division of Public Health (formerly the Bureau of Public Health), Laurie Tellier provided valuable consultation in the report planning and draft revision stages. Richard Aronson, M.D., Chief Medical Officer in the Division of Public Health, also provided valuable advice.

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## Introduction

This report presents results of a survey of Wisconsin women who gave birth in 1996. Using a mail-back questionnaire, respondents answered questions about their experience with prenatal care (health care during pregnancy) and related issues. Health care providers, policymakers, and program planners at the state and local level can use this report to help identify ways to improve access to care among expectant mothers.

The focus of the survey was to discover how many pregnant women in Wisconsin experience barriers to obtaining timely prenatal care, what those barriers are, and whether the likelihood of experiencing barriers to prenatal care differs among various groups of women in Wisconsin. Questions were also asked that allow estimates to be made of the characteristics of prenatal care and related factors, including where prenatal care was received, who provided it, and specific topics of patient education included as part of prenatal care.

Survey results have been analyzed in conjunction with statistical data from birth certificates. This allows examination of barriers to prenatal care as they relate to prenatal care utilization, low birthweight, and maternal characteristics.

This survey, with about 4,700 respondents, was based on a stratified sample of all women giving birth in Wisconsin. The sample was drawn from birth certificate records. (See Technical Notes for more information.)

The tables in this report provide statewide (and regional) percentage estimates for all women who gave birth in 1996. Tables also show the number of survey respondents on which each percentage is based. (See the Technical Notes for information about confidence intervals around the estimated percentages.) Where possible, results for 1996 are compared with results from a similar survey conducted in 1990.

Most women who responded to the survey answered every question. The few respondents who did not answer every question account for the slight differences in total sample size across tables.

The report consists of three main sections:

- differences by **source of payment**,
- differences by **maternal race/ethnicity**, and
- differences by geographic **region**.



## **1996 Prenatal Care Survey Report Selected Findings**

### **Findings By Source of Payment**

- According to responses to the 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, 60 percent of Wisconsin women who gave birth in 1996 reported that private insurance paid for their prenatal care, 10 percent reported both private insurance and “self,” 22 percent reported Medical Assistance (Medicaid) or Healthy Start, and 3 percent said “self” was their only source of payment for prenatal care. Two percent of women did not answer this question.
- Fifty-five percent of women who gave birth in 1996 were employed full-time during pregnancy. This represents an increase since 1990 (46%).
- Two-thirds of women said they knew they were pregnant within one month of conception. Women on Medical Assistance were less likely than women in other payment groups to report knowing this early that they were pregnant. Women in every payment group were more likely in 1996 than in 1990 to report knowing they were pregnant in the first month.
- The proportion of births that were the result of an unplanned pregnancy was similar in 1996 and 1990 (about 39%). Women on Medical Assistance (73%) and women whose source of payment was “self” (54%) were more likely than other women to report the pregnancy was unplanned.
- In 1996, 83 percent of women reported they did not find it hard to get prenatal care. Of the specific barriers to care asked about in the survey, the two most commonly reported were “I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care” (reported by 4% of women) and “I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted” (another 4%).
- Barriers to care cited more often by women on Medical Assistance than by privately-insured women included not knowing of the pregnancy “early on,” transportation needs, and trouble finding a babysitter.
- About half (51%) of all women who gave birth said they needed to take time off from work or school to get prenatal care, 28 percent needed to get a babysitter, and 12 percent had to ask someone to help with transportation.
- Thirty-one percent of women on Medical Assistance said they needed help with transportation, compared with 6 percent of women with private insurance.
- More than half of new mothers in 1996 (58%) said their hospital stay after birth was about right in length, but a substantial minority (40%) said their stay was too short. These proportions did not vary greatly by source of payment.

## Findings by Maternal Race/Ethnicity

- Survey results by maternal race/ethnicity reflect such factors as age, education, and income. In general, compared with all women giving birth, women in minority groups are more likely to be teenagers, have less than a high school education, and report a very low household income.
- Black women, Hispanic women, and Laotian/Hmong women were less likely than other women to report they knew of their pregnancy within one month of conception.
- The proportion of births that were the result of unplanned pregnancy varied: 35 percent among white women, 78 percent among black women, 62 percent among American Indian women, 54 percent among Hispanic women, and 49 percent among Laotian/Hmong women. Most births among teenagers and women in their early twenties were the result of unplanned pregnancy.
- A large majority of women giving birth in most race/ethnic groups reported, “I didn’t find it hard to get prenatal care.” The exception was Laotian/Hmong women, just 40 percent of whom gave this response.
- Barriers to care reported most frequently by Laotian/Hmong women were lack of money, trouble finding a babysitter, and not knowing of the pregnancy “early on.”
- Barriers cited most often by black women were not knowing of the pregnancy “early on,” lack of transportation, and problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.
- The most common barrier to care reported by American Indian women was “I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care.”
- Barriers to care reported most frequently by Hispanic women were lack of money, lack of transportation, not knowing of the pregnancy “early on,” and trouble finding a babysitter.
- Large proportions of women in every race/ethnic group said they had to take time off from work or school to get prenatal care, the most common “arrangement” needed to get prenatal care.
- The second most common arrangement needed overall, “get a babysitter” (reported by 27% of all women), was reported less frequently by black women (19%), Hispanic women (22%), and Laotian/Hmong women (12%). Instead, those groups of women were more likely to report they needed to ask for help with transportation (34% of black women, 29% of Hispanic women, and 33% of Laotian/Hmong women). American Indian women were also more likely than women overall to report they needed to ask someone to help with transportation (20% vs. 12%).

## Differences by Source of Payment

### Distribution of Women Giving Birth by Source of Payment

According to the 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, 60 percent of women who gave birth in 1996 reported that private insurance paid for their prenatal care (Table 1). Another 10 percent reported both private insurance and “self” as their payment sources. (The survey question was “Who paid for your prenatal care?” See the Technical Notes for full definition of payment source categories.)

Medical Assistance or Healthy Start was reported as the source of payment for prenatal care by 22 percent of women. (This proportion under-represents Medical Assistance births. Based on hospital discharge records, 28 percent of Wisconsin babies born in 1996 had MA listed as the first or second expected source of payment for hospital charges. See Technical Notes, last paragraph.)

Three percent of women said “self” was their only payment source for prenatal care. Two percent of women did not report their source of payment for prenatal care.

**Table 1. Source of Payment for Prenatal Care, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Source of Payment</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Private insurance	2,558	60%
Private insurance and self	368	10
Self	162	3
Medical Assistance	1,386	22
Other	93	2
Unknown	160	2
Total	4,727	100%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: Throughout this report, “N” indicates the number in the unweighted sample; this may vary slightly between questions because not all respondents answered every question. Percents in this report are weighted percents; that is, the estimated percentage among all Wisconsin women giving birth in 1996. Percents may not add to 100 due to rounding. See Technical Notes for full definition of payment source categories. The Medical Assistance (Medicaid) category in this report includes women in Healthy Start, a Wisconsin program that expanded Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women and children.

*Comparison with 1990.* The 1996 results represented an increase since 1990 in the proportion of women reporting private insurance as payment source for prenatal care (from 50% to 60%). The percent reporting Medical Assistance as their payment source also increased (from 20% to 22%). Conversely, there were decreases in the percent who reported a combination of private insurance and self-payment (from 18% to 10%), and in the percent who reported self-payment only (from 6% to 3%). These changes were all in the same direction as changes from 1985 to 1990.

**Source of Payment by Maternal Age**

Mothers in age groups younger than 25 were most likely to report that Medical Assistance paid for their prenatal care (Table 2). Conversely, private insurance was reported most often by mothers age 25 and older.

**Table 2. Source of Payment for Prenatal Care by Maternal Age, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Source of Payment</b>	<b>&lt;18</b> (243)	<b>18-19</b> (493)	<b>20-24</b> (862)	<b>25-29</b> (1,227)	<b>30-34</b> (1,197)	<b>35+</b> (545)
Private insurance	45%	29%	34%	71%	75%	71%
Private insur./Self	1	3	10	10	12	14
Self	3	2	3	4	2	4
Medical Assistance	45	64	48	15	10	10
Other	7	2	4	2	1	1
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Percents may not add to 100 due to rounding. Women whose source of payment was unknown (about 2 percent of women) have been excluded from this table. Maternal age was derived from birth certificate data.

## Medical Assistance Before and During Pregnancy

Prenatal Care Survey data for 1996 also suggest that women who received Medical Assistance during their pregnancy generally received it by the first trimester (Table 3).

**Table 3. Percent of Women Giving Birth Who Received Medical Assistance Before and in Each Trimester of Pregnancy, By Maternal Age, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Received Medical Assistance:</b>	<b>&lt;18</b> (255)	<b>18-19</b> (513)	<b>20-24</b> (901)	<b>25-29</b> (1,270)	<b>30-34</b> (1,224)	<b>35+</b> (564)	<b>All Births</b> (4,727)
3 mo. before pregnancy	21%	19%	15%	5%	3%	4%	8%
First trimester	27	37	29	10	5	6	14%
(3 mo. before pregnancy or first trimester or both)	(40)	(49)	(37)	(12)	(7)	(8)	(18)
Second trimester	23	43	31	10	6	6	15%
Third trimester	26	43	34	10	6	7	16%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Notes: Results are based on the survey question, "Were you receiving Medical Assistance or Healthy Start at any time: ...During the 3 months *before* this pregnancy? ...During the *first 3 months* of this pregnancy? ...During the *second 3 months*? ...During the *last 3 months*?" Respondents could check more than one answer. Respondents could also reply, "I did not receive Medical Assistance or Healthy Start at any of these times." Maternal age was derived from birth certificate data.

## Household Income

An estimated 15 percent of women giving birth in 1996 had a 1995 household income of less than \$10,000; another 22 percent had an income of between \$10,000 and \$24,999; and 63 percent had an income of \$25,000 or more (Table 4). The total proportion of births to women whose household incomes were below \$25,000 was 37 percent.

To put these income categories in context, they can be compared to the median household income in Wisconsin. (The median is the midpoint of Wisconsin household incomes; that is, half of households have incomes above and half below that income.) According to the March 1997 Current Population Survey of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the median household income in Wisconsin in 1995-1996 was \$41,082.

**Table 4. Percent of Household Income by Source of Payment for Prenatal Care, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Source of Payment (N)</b>	<b>&lt;\$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,000- \$24,999</b>	<b>\$25,000+</b>	<b>Total</b>
Private insurance (2,430)	4	14	82	100%
Private insur./Self (351)	1	18	81	100%
Self (143)	16	31	53	100%
Medical Assistance (1,272)	48	44	8	100%
Other (88)	37	40	23	100%
 All Births (4,284)	 15	 22	 63	 100%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Note: Results are based on the survey question, "What was your household income in 1995?"

Differences in household income by payment source were similar in the 1990 survey (which asked about 1989 income). For example, a household income below \$10,000 characterized 72 percent of Medical Assistance-covered women giving birth in 1990, compared with 11 percent of privately-insured women giving birth in that year.

The percent in the highest income category (\$25,000+) increased between 1990 and 1996 (from 50% to 63%), while the percent in the lower two categories (\$10,000-\$24,999 and <\$10,000) decreased (from 27 % to 22%, and 23 % to 15 %, respectively). These changes are roughly accounted for by inflation.

About 4-6 percent of women in every pay source group except “self-pay” had to pay something before beginning prenatal care (Table 5). In contrast, 27 percent of women who reported “self” as the only source of payment for prenatal care said they had to pay money “up-front” before prenatal care could begin.

**Table 5. Percent of Women Who Had to “Pay Money Up-Front” Before Prenatal Care Could Begin, By Payment Source, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Source of Payment (N)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Private insurance (2,514)	4
Private insurance/Self (365)	6
Self (160)	27
Medical Assistance (1,348)	4
Other (86)	5
All Births (4,478)	5%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: The survey question was, “Did you have to pay money up-front before prenatal care could begin?” It is against Medicaid program rules to charge recipients for Medicaid-covered services, except for required copayments. Pregnant women are among those exempted from the copayment requirement.

## Employment During Pregnancy

According to the Prenatal Care Survey, nearly three-quarters of women who gave birth in 1996 were employed either full-time or part-time during the pregnancy (Table 6). Fifty-five percent were employed full-time (this includes all women who checked “full-time,” for any number of months). Another 20 percent worked part-time (this includes those who checked “part-time,” excluding those who also checked “full-time”). About one-quarter of new mothers (26 percent) said they were not employed during the pregnancy.

Women with private insurance, or both private insurance and “self” as payment sources, were most likely to report working full-time during their pregnancy (63% and 59%, respectively). Forty-three percent of women whose sole source of payment was “self” were employed full-time during pregnancy, as were 35 percent of women with Medical Assistance.

**Table 6. Maternal Employment Status During Pregnancy, By Source of Payment for Prenatal Care, Wisconsin 1996**

Source of Payment (N)	Employment During Pregnancy			Total
	Full-Time	Part-Time	None	
Private insurance (2,526)	63%	18%	19%	100%
Private insur./Self (364)	59	21	21	100
Self (150)	43	15	42	100
Medical Assistance (1,366)	35	24	41	100
Other (90)	28	17	54	100
All Births (4,496)	55	20	26	100

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: Percents may not add to 100 due to rounding. Employment status was also examined excluding mothers under 18 years of age; this resulted in slightly higher percentages of employment during pregnancy in most insurance groups (table available upon request).

*Comparison with 1990.* The proportion of new mothers in 1996 who reported they worked during pregnancy represents an increase over 1990. In 1990, 46 percent of new mothers said they worked full-time during pregnancy and 22 percent worked part-time. In 1990, 32 percent said they were not employed at all during the pregnancy.

Between 1990 and 1996, the percent of women who said they were not employed at all during pregnancy decreased in most payment groups, most notably among women with private insurance (from 26% to 19%) and women with Medical Assistance (from 56% to 41%).

## Month Pregnancy Was Known

The earlier a pregnancy is identified, the earlier prenatal care can begin. The Prenatal Care Survey found that two-thirds of Wisconsin women giving birth in 1996 said they knew they were pregnant within one month of conception (Table 7). Women receiving Medical Assistance were less likely than women in other payment groups to report knowing this early that they were pregnant.

**Table 7. Number of Months Pregnant When Pregnancy Was Identified,\* By Source of Payment for Prenatal Care, Wisconsin 1996**

Source of Payment (N)	1 month		3 months	4 months		Total
	or less	2 months		or more		
Private Insurance (2,539)	73	23	3	1	100%	
Private Insurance/Self (365)	70	24	5	1	100%	
Self (160)	62	32	3	3	100%	
Medical Assistance (1,380)	51	33	11	5	100%	
Other (93)	50	18	26	6	100%	
All Births (4,537)	67	26	5	2	100%	

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Bureau of Health Information

\* "How many months pregnant were you when you found out you were pregnant?"

A higher percentage of women in 1996 than in 1990 reported they were aware of their pregnancy in the first month (67% in 1996 vs. 48% in 1990). The higher percentage of women who reported early knowledge of their pregnancy may partly reflect increased use of home pregnancy testing kits, as well as state efforts to promote early identification of pregnancy. This increase was seen for women in all payment groups, and represents a continuation of a trend seen between 1985 and 1990.

## Was Pregnancy Planned?

Across all women giving birth in 1996, 61 percent said that the pregnancy was planned and 39 percent said the pregnancy was unplanned (Table 8). These proportions are almost identical to those in 1990.

**Table 8. Whether Pregnancy Was Planned or Unplanned, By Source of Payment for Prenatal Care, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Source of Payment (N)</b>	<b>Planned</b>	<b>Unplanned</b>	<b>Total</b>
Private insurance (2,538)	74	27	100%
Private insur./Self (363)	71	30	100%
Self (156)	46	54	100%
Medical Assistance (1,367)	27	73	100%
Other (90)	29	71	100%
All Births (4,514)	61	39	100%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: Results are based on the survey question, "At the time you became pregnant, had you been planning to become pregnant?" Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

There were significant differences by payment source in the percentage of births that were the result of unplanned pregnancy. Births to mothers with Medical Assistance were most likely to be unplanned (73 percent). Births to women without any form of insurance (self-pay) were also more likely than other births to be unplanned (54 percent). These findings by payment source were similar to those in 1990.

## Regular Health Care Provider

Most women (81 percent) who gave birth in 1996 said they had a regular health care provider before the pregnancy (Table 9). Nineteen percent of women said they did not have a regular health care provider before becoming pregnant.

Women on Medical Assistance (39 percent) and women who self-paid for prenatal care (29 percent) were more likely than other women to report they had no regular health care provider before becoming pregnant.

This question was not asked in the 1990 survey.

**Table 9. Percent of Women Giving Birth Who Had/Did Not Have a Regular Health Care Provider Before Pregnancy, By Source of Payment, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Source of Payment (N)</b>	<b>Regular Provider</b>	<b>No Regular Provider</b>	<b>Total</b>
Private insurance (2,507)	89	11	100%
Private insurance/Self (364)	89	11	100%
Self (155)	71	29	100%
Medical Assistance (1,361)	61	39	100%
Other (92)	51	49	100%
All Births (4,479)	81	19	100%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

### Source(s) of Pregnancy Test

Women reported different sources for their pregnancy tests, and many women reported more than one source. The most popular source for pregnancy testing was the home pregnancy test, used by 61 percent of women who gave birth in 1996 (Table 10). The next most common source for pregnancy testing was the doctor’s office, reported by 39 percent of women who gave birth.

Women on Medical Assistance were somewhat less likely than other women to report using a home pregnancy test (46 percent) and somewhat more likely to report receiving a pregnancy test at a public health clinic (17 percent). Thirteen percent of women in the “self” payment group (vs. just 2 percent of women overall) said they did not have a pregnancy test at all.

This question was not asked in 1990.

**Table 10. Source(s) of Pregnancy Test, By Source of Payment for Prenatal Care, Wisconsin 1996**

Source of Payment (N)	Doctor’s Office	Hospital Clinic	Public Health Clinic	Other Clinic	Home Pregnancy Test	Did Not Have Test
Private insurance (2,558)	41	5	3	3	65	1
Private insur./ Self (368)	43	3	1	3	72	1
Self (162)	23	3	10	2	62	13
Medical Assistance (1,386)	34	8	17	9	46	2
Other (93)	25	19	11	4	44	5
All Births (4,567)	39%	6%	6%	4%	61%	2%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Note: Survey question was “Where did you have test to find out if you were pregnant?” Respondent could give more than one answer.

## Who Provided Prenatal Care?

When asked, “Whom did you see for your prenatal care?” most women said they had seen a doctor (92 percent) and nearly one-third (32 percent) said they had seen a nurse in the doctor’s office (Table 11). (Women could give more than one answer to this question.) Other health professionals were seen by smaller proportions of women: 7 percent saw a lay or nurse midwife, 6 percent saw a physician assistant, 13 percent saw a nurse practitioner, and 7 percent saw a nutritionist.

In general, differences were small between payment groups. One exception was among the “self” payment group; nearly one-quarter (23 percent) of these women saw a lay or nurse midwife for prenatal care.

This question was not analyzed in 1990.

**Table 11. Health Professional(s) Who Provided Prenatal Care, by Source of Payment, Wisconsin 1996**

Source of Payment (N)	Doctor	Nurse in Doctor’s Office	Lay or Nurse Midwife	Physician Assistant	Nurse Practitioner	Nutritionist
Private insurance (2,558)	94	32	4	7	13	5
Private insurance/ Self (368)	93	43	7	7	19	5
Self (162)	81	29	23	7	8	4
Medical Assistance (1,386)	89	27	11	5	12	14
Other (93)	84	22	16	7	19	9
All Births (4,567)	92%	32%	7%	6%	13%	7%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Note: The survey question was, “Whom did you see for your prenatal care?” Each respondent could give more than one answer.

## Where Was Prenatal Care Provided?

When asked, “Where did you get your prenatal care?” most women said a doctor’s office (81 percent) and/or a hospital clinic (17 percent) (Table 12). (A respondent could give more than one answer.)

Women with Medical Assistance were less likely to cite a doctor’s office as the setting for prenatal care (71 percent) and more likely to report receiving care in a hospital clinic (25 percent).

This question was not analyzed by payment source in 1990.

**Table 12. Setting(s) Where Prenatal Care Was Provided, by Source of Payment, Wisconsin 1996**

Source of Payment (N)	Doctor’s Office	Hospital Clinic	Public	Other Clinic	Community	Other
			Health Clinic		Health Center	
Private insurance (2,558)	85	15	2	4	1	1
Private insurance/ Self (368)	87	13	3	4	1	4
Self (162)	65	12	6	9	3	14
Medical Assistance (1,386)	71	25	7	4	4	2
Other (93)	49	38	9	1	8	6
All Births (4,567)	81%	17%	3%	4%	2%	2%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Note: The survey question was, “Where did you get your prenatal care?” Each respondent could give more than one answer.

## Barriers to Obtaining Prenatal Care

The 1996 Prenatal Care Survey provides information about barriers to prenatal care experienced by women who gave birth in 1996. “Barriers” encompass anything that might make it more difficult for a woman to obtain care, including both tangible barriers (such as lack of money or transportation) and less tangible ones (such as late identification of pregnancy or a belief that prenatal care isn’t important).

Relatively few women who gave birth in 1996 reported experiencing barriers to care. An estimated 83 percent of women statewide said they “didn’t find it hard to get prenatal care” (Table 13). Of the specific barriers surveyed, the two most commonly reported were “I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care” (reported by 4% of women) and “I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted” (another 4%).

An especially positive finding was that fewer than 1 percent of women giving birth said “I didn’t think prenatal care was very necessary.” The proportion reporting this barrier was similarly low in every payment group.

**Table 13. Percent of Women Who Reported Specific Barriers to Obtaining Prenatal Care, By Source of Payment, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Barriers to Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Private Insurance (2,558)</b>	<b>Private/ Self (368)</b>	<b>Self (162)</b>	<b>Medical Assistance (1,386)</b>	<b>Other (93)</b>	<b>All Births (4,727)</b>
I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care.	<1%	2%	11%	11%	24%	4%
I didn’t know I was pregnant early on.	2	1	2	6	9	3
I didn’t have transportation to prenatal care.	1	<1	2	7	9	2
I had problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.	1	<1	--	5	9	2
I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted.	4	6	5	5	5	4
I didn’t think prenatal care was very necessary.	<1	2	1	<1	2	<1
I had trouble finding a baby-sitter for my other children.	2	2	2	6	7	3
I didn’t find it hard to get prenatal care.	89	83	80	72	70	83

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Note: The survey question was, “Did you find it hard to get prenatal care for any of the following reasons?” Each respondent could give more than one answer.

Some differences in individual barriers by payment source were found. For example, not having enough money for prenatal care was reported by fewer than 1 percent of women with private insurance, but 11 percent of self-pay women, 11 percent of women with Medical Assistance, and 24 percent of the “other” pay group. Other problems cited more often by women on Medical Assistance than privately-insured women included not knowing of the pregnancy early on, transportation needs, and trouble finding a babysitter.

*Comparisons with 1990.* No overall assessment of barriers to prenatal care in 1996 vs. 1990 can be made, owing to differences in survey questionnaires between the two years. Nevertheless, comparisons can be made for specific barriers inquired about in both survey years.

In general, differences in specific reported barriers to care reported in 1996 vs. 1990 were small, but in a favorable direction. Lack of money for prenatal care was reported by 4 percent in 1996 vs. 6 percent in 1990. Not knowing of the pregnancy “early on” was reported by 3 percent in 1996 vs. 9 percent in 1990. Lack of transportation was cited by 2 percent in 1996 vs. 4 percent in 1990. Trouble finding a babysitter was reported by 3 percent in 1996 vs. 5 percent in 1990.

## Difficulty Making the First Prenatal Care Visit

In another set of questions related to prenatal care barriers, women giving birth in 1996 were also asked whether it was hard to make the *first* prenatal care visit for any reason. Most women (87%) said they had no difficulty making their first visit (Table 14). Six percent of women said it took a long time to get their first appointment.

Among all women giving birth, the percentage reporting each of the reasons listed in Table 14 was similar in 1996 and 1990.

**Table 14. Percent of Women Who “Found It Hard to Make the First Prenatal Care Visit,” By Source of Payment, Wisconsin 1996**

Reason It Was Hard To Make First Visit	Private Insurance (2,558)	Private/ Self (368)	Self (162)	Medical Assistance (1,386)	Other (93)	All Births (4,567)
I had to try more than one office before I got a prenatal care appointment.	1%	3%	3%	4%	9%	2%
It took a long time to get my first prenatal care appointment.	6	6	7	8	8	6
I wasn't sure where to go for prenatal care.	2	3	5	6	10	3
I wasn't sure I would have the baby.	1	1	1	5	1	2
I had no difficulty making my first visit.	89	88	88	81	80	87

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Note: The survey question was: “Was it hard for you to make your *first* prenatal care visit for any of the following reasons?” Each respondent could give more than one answer.

## Arrangements to Get Care

Women were also asked whether they needed to make special arrangements (such as getting a babysitter) so that they could get prenatal care. In general, the most common arrangement they needed to make was to take time off from work or school, reported by about half (51%) of all women (Table 15). Twenty-eight percent of women needed to get a babysitter, and 12 percent had to ask someone to help with transportation.

There was little variation by payment source in the percentage of women who needed to arrange for a babysitter so they could get prenatal care. On the other hand, differences were marked in the percentage of women who needed to take time off from work or school, and in the percentage of women who needed help with transportation. For example, 31 percent of women with Medical Assistance needed help with transportation, compared with just 6 percent of women with private insurance.

The 1990 survey did not include comparable questions.

**Table 15. Percent of Women Who Needed to Make Selected Arrangements to Get Prenatal Care, By Source of Payment, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Arrangement Needed</b>	<b>Private Insurance (2,558)</b>	<b>Private/ Self (368)</b>	<b>Self (162)</b>	<b>Medical Assistance (1,386)</b>	<b>Other (93)</b>	<b>All Births (4,567)</b>
Take time off from work or school.	56%	57%	30%	39%	34%	51%
Get a babysitter.	28	29	26	25	38	28
Ask someone to help with transportation.	6	6	11	31	36	12
Other	2	4	5	3	4	3

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Note: The survey question was, "Did you need to make any of the following arrangements to get prenatal care?" Each respondent could give more than one answer.

## Topics Discussed as Part of Prenatal Care

Prenatal care usually includes patient education, to help the pregnant woman understand what she can do to increase the likelihood of a healthy birth. According to 1996 Prenatal Care Survey results, 85 percent of women who gave birth in 1996 said their health care provider(s) talked about danger signs during pregnancy (such as early labor and bleeding) (Table 16). A similar high proportion of women said their doctor or other provider of prenatal care discussed what to do about early contractions and other symptoms (80%) and pregnancy-related discomfort (82%).

More than 80 percent of women said that, as part of prenatal care, they had received advice about diet and nutrition, avoiding drugs, drinking, and smoking. Smaller proportions said they had been talked to about attending childbirth classes (72 %) and care of the baby after birth (50%).

There were few differences by payment source. Women in the self-pay group were somewhat less likely than other women to say they had received information about danger signs during pregnancy, and what to do about early contractions and other symptoms. Self-pay women were also less likely than other women to say their provider talked to them about attending childbirth classes.

**Table 16. Percent of Women Who Said Their Health Care Provider(s) Talked About Specific Subjects As Part of Prenatal Care, By Source of Payment, Wisconsin 1996**

Provider Talked About...	Private Insurance (2,558)	Private/ Self (368)	Self (162)	Medical Assistance (1,386)	Other (93)	All Births (4,567)
Danger signs during pregnancy (early labor, bleeding, etc.)	86%	85%	69%	84%	80%	85%
What to do about early contractions, vaginal discharge, illness	81	81	70	80	78	80
Discomfort from pregnancy (swelling, backache, etc.)	82	83	75	81	77	82
Diet and nutrition	84	80	76	80	77	82
Avoiding drugs	81	78	75	81	89	81
Drinking alcohol	82	79	77	82	89	82
Smoking	81	79	78	83	93	82
Attending childbirth classes	74	76	58	67	71	72
Care of baby after birth	47	45	46	58	66	50

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Note: Each respondent could give more than one answer.

A similar series of questions about topics discussed during prenatal care was asked in the 1990 survey. For each topic, the percentage of women who reported it was discussed as part of prenatal care in 1996 was similar to or higher than in 1990.

### Prenatal Care Onset

The highest proportion of women beginning prenatal care in the first trimester was found among women with private insurance (Table 17). This finding was expected because women with private insurance tend to be older (in their late twenties and early thirties as opposed to teens and early twenties), with higher levels of education and income. In contrast, women whose source of payment for prenatal care is Medical Assistance tend to be younger, with lower levels of education and income.<sup>1</sup>

These differences contribute to the differing proportions of women reporting barriers to care (see Tables 13 and 14).

**Table 17. Trimester that Prenatal Care Began, By Source of Payment, Wisconsin 1996**

Source of Payment (N)	First Trimester	Second Trimester	Third Trimester	No Prenatal Care	Total
Private insurance (2,556)	94	6	1	<1	100%
Private insurance/ Self (368)	88	9	3	1	100%
Self (162)	69	23	7	1	100%
Medical Assistance (1,385)	77	20	3	<1	100%
Other (93)	79	15	6	0	100%
All Births (4,564)	88	10	2	<1	100%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Rows may not add to 100 due to rounding. Trimester that prenatal care began was derived from birth certificate data.

The proportion of women on Medical Assistance who receive first-trimester prenatal care has apparently improved since 1990. In that year, 65 percent of women giving birth whose source of payment for prenatal care was Medical Assistance began care in the first trimester; 28 percent began care in the second trimester, and 7 percent began care in the third trimester.

In contrast to this improvement, women who reported “self” as the payment source for prenatal care showed a decline in the proportion who received first-trimester care, from 79 percent in 1990 to 69 percent in 1996. There were corresponding increases in the proportion who began

<sup>1</sup> *Prenatal Care: Reaching Mothers, Reaching Infants* (Sarah S. Brown, editor). Institute of Medicine, Division of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Committee to Study Outreach for Prenatal Care. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C., 1988.

care in the second trimester (from 17% to 23%) or the third trimester (from 4% to 7%). Note, however, that the “self-pay” group represented a smaller proportion of women giving birth in 1996 (3%) than in 1990 (6%).

### Adequacy of Prenatal Care

For purposes of analysis, inadequate prenatal care was defined as third-trimester onset of care, fewer than five prenatal care visits, or no prenatal care at all. By this standard, source of payment was associated with differences in the percentage of women with inadequate prenatal care. For example, just 1 percent of women with private insurance had inadequate prenatal care, compared with 11 percent of women whose source of payment was “self” (Table 18).

**Table 18. Percent of Women with Inadequate Prenatal Care, Wisconsin 1996**

Source of Payment (N)	Percent
Private insurance (2,552)	1
Private insurance/Self (367)	3
Self (162)	11
Medical Assistance (1,384)	5
Other (93)	7
All Births (4,558)	3%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Inadequate prenatal care was defined as third-trimester onset, fewer than five prenatal care visits, or no prenatal care, as reported on the birth certificate. The estimated percentage of women with inadequate prenatal care based on the weighted sample (3%) was lower than the percentage based upon a complete count of births in 1996 (5%); see Table 40.

*Comparison with 1990.* Among women whose source of payment for prenatal care was Medical Assistance, the estimated percentage with inadequate prenatal care decreased between 1990 and 1996 (from 9% to 5%). Among women whose source of payment was “self,” however, the percentage with inadequate prenatal care rose from 5 percent to 11 percent. (Again, the self-pay group represented a smaller proportion of women giving birth in 1996 than in 1990.)

Some of the apparent improvement in prenatal care for women on Medical Assistance may reflect increases during the 1990s in the Healthy Start population; these women are generally older and have higher incomes and more education than other women on Medical Assistance<sup>2</sup> (characteristics generally associated with more favorable prenatal care utilization).

<sup>2</sup> “Evaluation of the Wisconsin Healthy Start Waiver Demonstration Program” (Final Report), prepared for the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services by Maximus, Inc., October 1994.

## Low Birthweight

The percentage of births characterized by low birthweight (below 2,500 grams or about 5.5 pounds) is an important indicator of infant health. Compared with other newborns, a low birthweight baby is at increased risk of death or health problems during the first year of life. The risk of death or serious impairment is highest for infants with very low birthweights (below 1,500 grams or about 3.3 pounds).

Efforts to prevent low birthweight involve encouraging early identification of pregnancy and timely prenatal care. Besides late or infrequent prenatal care, some of the other factors associated with a higher risk of low birthweight include very young maternal age, poor nutrition, poverty, and cigarette smoking.

Prenatal Care Survey data for 1996 suggest that low birthweight occurred about twice as often among infants born to women with Medical Assistance, compared with women who had private insurance (8% vs. 4%) (Table 19).

A comparison with data from the 1990 survey suggests little or no change in low birthweight incidence between 1990 and 1996 within payment groups. During the 1990-1996 period, the overall low birthweight percentage (based on all Wisconsin resident births, not survey data) increased from 5.9 percent to 6.3 percent; this mirrors a national trend.

**Table 19. Percent Distribution of Birthweight By Source of Payment for Prenatal Care, Wisconsin 1996**

Source of Payment (N)	<1,500 grams	1,500-2,499 grams	(All Low Birthweight)	2,500+ grams	Total
Private insurance (2,558)	1	4	(4)	96	100%
Private insurance/ Self (368)	1	4	(5)	95	100%
Self (162)	2	4	(6)	94	100%
Medical Assistance (1,386)	2	6	(8)	92	100%
Other (93)	--	5	(5)	95	100%
All Births (4,567)	1	4	(5)	95	100%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Rows may not add to 100 due to rounding; rounding may also affect the “all low birthweight” percentages. Birthweight was derived from birth certificate data. The statewide birthweight distribution for all births in 1996 differed somewhat from that of this weighted sample; the statewide low birthweight percentage in 1996 was 6.3 percent.

## Length of Hospital Stay After Birth

In the 1996 survey, new mothers were asked their perceptions about the amount of time they spent in the hospital after the baby's birth. This question relates to a decrease in the average length of stay for obstetrical deliveries over the past couple of decades, a decrease partly the result of insurers' efforts at cost containment. (The decreasing length of stay for deliveries occurred as part of a general decline in hospital length of stay for nearly all diagnoses and conditions.)

More than half of new mothers in 1996 (58 percent) said their hospital stay after birth was "about right" in length, but a substantial minority (40 percent) said their stay was too short (Table 20). Very few mothers (2 percent) said their stay was too long. About 1 percent of births did not occur in a hospital.

Hospital discharge data indicate that the average length of stay for women giving birth in Wisconsin hospitals in 1996 was 2.1 days.

This question was not asked in the 1990 survey.

**Table 20. Perceived Appropriateness of Hospital Length of Stay After Childbirth, By Source of Payment for Prenatal Care, Wisconsin 1996**

Source of Payment (N)	Time Spent in Hospital Was.....				Total
	About Right	Too Long	Too Short	(No Stay in Hospital)	
Private insurance (2,528)	56	1	43	0	100%
Private insurance/ Self (364)	60	<1	39	1	100%
Self (161)	52	1	29	19	100%
Medical Assistance (1,367)	62	4	34	<1	100%
Other (92)	68	6	26	1	100%
All Births (4,512)	58%	2%	40%	1%	100%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Note: The survey question was, "After your baby was born, was the amount of time you stayed in the hospital...about right?...too long?...too short?" Or "I didn't stay in a hospital when my baby was born." Rows may not add to 100 due to rounding.

In general, the proportion of mothers who felt their stay was about right in length and the proportion who felt their stay was too short did not differ greatly between payment groups. The most striking finding from these data is that 19 percent of self-pay births apparently did not occur in a hospital; this is the only payment group for which out-of-hospital births constituted more than 1 percent of births.

From this percentage, it appears that about half of non-hospital (presumably home) births in 1996 were to women who self-paid for their prenatal care. About 80 percent of self-pay births were to non-Hispanic white women; about 16 percent were to Hispanic women. (Hispanic women accounted for about 5 percent of births in 1996; see following section.)

## Differences by Maternal Race/Ethnicity

### Distribution of Women Giving Birth by Maternal Race/Ethnicity

Table 21 presents birth certificate data to show the distribution of Wisconsin resident births by maternal race/ethnicity in 1996. Births to non-Hispanic white women represented about 82 percent of all births in 1996. Because this group constitutes such a high proportion of all births, it is important to look beyond the statewide totals for measures of health. This is especially true when trying to understand differences in outcomes so that health promotion efforts can be tailored for particular groups.

**Table 21. Number and Percent of Births by Maternal Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
White	54,843	81.8
Black	6,380	9.5
American Indian	811	1.2
Hispanic	3,138	4.7
Laotian/Hmong	1,031	1.5
Other	854	1.3
All Births	67,076	100.0%

Source: Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Frequencies presented in the "Number" column of this table are complete counts of Wisconsin resident births in each maternal race/ethnicity category in 1996. Total (all births) includes 19 births for which race/ethnicity of mother was not reported on the birth certificate.

## Maternal Age and Education by Race/Ethnicity

Birth certificate data show that Wisconsin women in minority groups tend to give birth at younger ages. Teenage births (maternal age younger than 20) represented about 10 percent of all births in 1996, but about 30 percent of black births, 19 percent of American Indian births, 22 percent of Hispanic births, and 23 percent of Laotian/Hmong births (Table 22).

**Table 22. Births by Maternal Age and Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Race/Ethnicity (Number)</b>	<b>&lt;18</b>	<b>18-19</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>35+</b>	<b>All Births</b>
White (54,843)	2.3	5.1	19.0	31.9	28.4	13.2	100%
Black (6,380)	14.3	15.2	33.5	19.9	11.4	5.8	100%
American Indian (811)	7.5	11.7	33.5	25.8	16.2	5.3	100%
Hispanic (3,138)	8.3	13.3	33.5	25.3	12.9	6.7	100%
Laotian/Hmong (1,031)	11.6	11.6	28.3	21.1	15.9	11.3	100%
Other (854)	4.1	4.1	17.2	32.1	29.0	13.5	100%
All Births (67,076)	3.9	6.6	21.4	30.2	25.7	12.1	100%

Source: Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Frequencies presented in parentheses (“Number”) in this table are complete counts of Wisconsin resident births in each maternal race/ethnicity category in 1996. Total (all births) includes 19 births for which race/ethnicity of the mother was not reported on the birth certificate.

Minority women giving birth also tend to have lower levels of formal education. In 1996, mothers with less than a high school education represented 68 percent of Laotian/Hmong births, 50 percent of Hispanic births, 44 percent of black births, and 35 percent of American Indian births (Table 23). The comparable proportion among all women giving birth was 17 percent.

**Table 23. Births by Maternal Education and Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Race/Ethnicity (Number)</b>	<b>Less than High School</b>	<b>High School Graduate</b>	<b>Some College</b>	<b>College Graduate</b>	<b>Total</b>
White (54,843)	9.6	33.9	26.9	29.5	100%
Black (6,380)	44.1	34.5	17.1	4.3	100%
American Indian (811)	35.1	39.8	19.5	5.6	100%
Hispanic (3,138)	49.6	29.6	13.0	7.7	100%
Laotian/Hmong (1,031)	68.3	21.0	7.0	2.5	100%
Other (854)	17.9	20.8	16.6	43.9	100%
All Births (67,076)	16.1	33.5	24.8	25.6	100%

Source: Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Frequencies presented in parentheses (“Number”) are complete counts of Wisconsin resident births in each maternal race/ethnicity category in 1996. Total (all births) includes 19 births for which race/ethnicity of the mother was not reported on the birth certificate.

## Household Income

Prenatal Care Survey data for 1996 shows there were distinct differences in household income levels between women in various race/ethnic groups. According to these data, over half (59 percent) of black women giving birth in 1996 reported a 1995 household income under \$10,000, compared with 15 percent of all women giving birth (Table 24). The proportion with this income level was also much higher in births to Laotian/Hmong women (46%), Hispanic women (38%), and American Indian women (28%).

These differences in income levels partly reflect the higher proportion of births to teenagers in each of these groups, but also patterns of educational attainment, job availability, and other complex factors.

To put these income categories in context, they can be compared to the median household income in Wisconsin. (The median is the midpoint of Wisconsin household incomes; that is, half of households have incomes above and half below that income.) According to the March 1997 Current Population Survey of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the median household income for Wisconsin in 1995-1996 was \$41,082.

Income levels by race/ethnicity were not analyzed in the 1990 survey.

**Table 24. Household Income Among Women Who Gave Birth, by Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

Race/Ethnicity (N)	-----Household Income in 1995-----			Total
	<\$10,000	\$10,000-\$24,999	\$25,000+	
White (3,374)	10	20	70	100%
Black (391)	59	28	14	100%
American Indian (60)	28	32	40	100%
Hispanic (296)	38	36	26	100%
Laotian/Hmong (133)	46	41	13	100%
Other (139)	14	32	54	100%
All Births (4,393)	15	22	63	100%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Results are based on the survey question, "What was your household income in 1995?" Maternal race/ethnicity was derived from birth certificate data.

## Payment Source for Prenatal Care

As could be expected from the wide differences in age, income and education levels by race/ethnicity, there were corresponding differences in the source of payment for prenatal care (Table 25). A large proportion of women in every race/ethnic group reported private insurance as their payment source, but the proportion was lower than the statewide average among most minority groups. Conversely, Medical Assistance was the reported payment source for proportionately more women in minority groups than for all women statewide.

Few women (3%) reported “self” as their payment source for prenatal care. Ten percent of Hispanic women gave this response.

**Table 25. Source of Payment for Prenatal Care, By Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

Race/Ethnicity (N)	Private Insurance	Private Insur./Self	Self	Medical Assistance	Other	Total
White (3,507)	65	12	3	19	2	100%
Black (426)	40	1	1	57	2	100%
American Indian (63)	38	6	2	47	7	100%
Hispanic (320)	45	4	10	34	8	100%
Laotian/Hmong (121)	27	--	--	73	1	100%
Other (130)	68	5	3	19	5	100%
All Births (4,567)	62%	10%	3%	23%	2%	100%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Note: A dash (--) indicates that no one in the sample gave this response. See Technical Notes for definition of payment source categories. Maternal race/ethnicity was derived from birth certificate data. Percents may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Between 1990 and 1996, the proportion of Wisconsin women giving birth whose source of payment was private insurance increased (from 50% to 62%). The percent reporting Medical Assistance as payment source also increased (from 20% to 23%). Change varied by race/ethnicity:

- American Indian women were more likely to report private insurance (from 23% to 38%) and less likely to report Medical Assistance (from 60% to 47%).
- Black women were less likely to report private insurance (from 52% to 40%), and more likely to report Medical Assistance (from 39% to 57%).
- The only noticeable change among Hispanic women was an increased percentage reporting “self” as payment source (from 1% to 10%).
- Laotian/Hmong women were more likely to report private insurance (from 15% to 27%).
- White women were more likely to report private insurance (from 51% to 65%) and also more likely to report Medical Assistance (from 15% to 19%).

Five percent of women giving birth said they “had to pay money up-front before prenatal care could begin” (Table 26). This percentage did not vary much by race/ethnicity. A similar question was not asked in 1990.

**Table 26. Women Who Had to “Pay Money Up-Front” Before Prenatal Care Could Begin, By Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Race/Ethnicity (N)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
White (3,474)	5
Black (423)	5
American Indian (62)	6
Hispanic (322)	5
Laotian/Hmong (118)	6
Other (127)	8
All Births (4,526)	5%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: The survey question was, “Did you have to pay money up-front before prenatal care could begin?” Maternal race/ethnicity was derived from birth certificate data.

## Employment During Pregnancy

A substantial proportion of women in every race/ethnic group said they worked full-time during their pregnancy (Table 27). A somewhat lower proportion in each group reported they worked part-time.

No employment during pregnancy was reported by 26% of women overall. White women (22%) and American Indian women (29%) were least likely to say they were not employed at all during their pregnancy; and Laotian/Hmong women were most likely (64%). Black women and Hispanic women fell between these two extremes (47% and 50%, respectively).

**Table 27. Maternal Employment Status During Pregnancy, By Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

Race/Ethnicity (N)	Employment During Pregnancy			Total
	Full-Time	Part-Time	None	
White (3,522)	58%	20%	22%	100%
Black (431)	35	18	47	100
American Indian (65)	49	22	29	100
Hispanic (312)	37	13	50	100
Laotian/Hmong (136)	25	10	64	100
Other (138)	40	13	47	100
All Births (4,604)	54	20	26	100

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Notes: The survey question was, “Were you employed during your pregnancy?” Possible responses were “full-time,” “part-time,” and “not employed.” As presented here, *full-time* includes all women who checked “full-time,” for any number of months; *part-time* includes women who checked part-time, excluding those who also checked “full-time.” Maternal race/ethnicity was derived from birth certificate data. Percents may not add to 100 due to rounding. Employment status was also examined excluding mothers under 18 years of age; this resulted in slightly higher percentages of employment during pregnancy in every race/ethnicity group (table available upon request).

## Month Pregnancy Was Known

Early identification of pregnancy is important in obtaining early prenatal care. About two-thirds of Wisconsin women giving birth in 1996 said they knew they were pregnant within one month of conception (Table 28). Black women, Hispanic women, and Laotian/Hmong women were less likely to report they knew of their pregnancy in the first month.

**Table 28. Number of Months Pregnant When Pregnancy Was Identified, By Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

Source of Payment (N)	1 month or less	2 months	3 months	4 months or more	Total
White (3,554)	70	25	4	1	100%
Black (439)	50	26	15	9	100%
American Indian (67)	67	30	2	2	100%
Hispanic (343)	56	34	6	4	100%
Laotian/Hmong (144)	31	31	23	15	100%
Other (144)	51	34	10	5	100%
All Births (4,691)	66	26	5	2	100%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Survey question was “How many months pregnant were you when you found out you were pregnant?” Maternal race/ethnicity was derived from birth certificate data. Rows may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## Was Pregnancy Planned?

In general, births that are the result of a planned pregnancy tend to be associated with early identification of pregnancy, early and regular prenatal care, and better birth outcomes. In addition, planning for pregnancy permits preconceptional health care, where a woman's health status and possible risks can be assessed and managed before conception.

Based on 1996 survey results, an estimated 61 percent of all births in that year were the result of planned pregnancies and 39 percent were the result of unplanned pregnancies (Table 29). These proportions varied widely by race/ethnicity. One reason for the variations in planned vs. unplanned births is the differing age distributions between groups, since births to teenagers tend not to be planned (see Table 30).

**Table 29. Whether Pregnancy Was Planned or Unplanned, By Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Race/Ethnicity (N)</b>	<b>Planned</b>	<b>Unplanned</b>	<b>Total</b>
White (3,519)	65%	35%	100%
Black (433)	22	78	100%
American Indian (64)	38	62	100%
Hispanic (340)	46	54	100%
Laotian/Hmong (141)	51	49	100%
Other (140)	56	44	100%
All Births (4,637)	61	39	100%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Results are based on the survey question, "At the time you became pregnant, had you been planning to become pregnant?" Maternal race/ethnicity was based on birth certificate data.

In 1996, 80 percent or more of births to teenagers were the result of unplanned pregnancy (Table 30). More than half of births to women in their early twenties were unplanned as well.

**Table 30. Whether Pregnancy Was Planned or Unplanned, By Age, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Age (N)</b>	<b>Planned</b>	<b>Unplanned</b>	<b>Total</b>
Less than 18 (249)	12	88	100%
18-19 (507)	20	80	100%
20-24 (886)	43	57	100%
25-29 (1,246)	72	28	100%
30-34 (1,199)	74	26	100%
35 and older (550)	63	37	100%
All Births (4,637)	61	39	100%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Maternal age was derived from birth certificate data.

## Regular Health Care Provider

The majority of women in every race/ethnic group said they had had a regular health care provider before pregnancy (Table 31). Still, women in minority race/ethnic groups were less likely than other women to have had a regular source of care. This was especially true for Hispanic women and Laotian/Hmong women.

**Table 31. Percent of Women Giving Birth Who Had/Did Not Have a Regular Health Care Provider Before Pregnancy, By Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Race/Ethnicity (N)</b>	<b>Regular Provider</b>	<b>No Regular Provider</b>	<b>Total</b>
White (3,497)	83	17	100%
Black (423)	76	24	100%
American Indian (64)	68	32	100%
Hispanic (334)	57	43	100%
Laotian/Hmong (141)	60	40	100%
Other (140)	66	34	100%
All Births (4,599)	81	19	100%

Sources: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Maternal race/ethnicity was derived from birth certificate data.

## Source of Pregnancy Test

Home pregnancy tests were popular with women in every race/ethnic group, but most popular among white women (Table 32). Nearly two-thirds (66%) of white women who gave birth in 1996 reported using a home pregnancy test; the next highest percentages were among women in the “other” race/ethnic group (53%) and American Indian women (42%).

In general, the doctor’s office was the next most common source for a pregnancy test. Hospital clinics, public health clinics, and “other” clinics were also important sources of pregnancy testing for many women in Wisconsin.

This question was not asked in 1990.

**Table 32. Source(s) of Pregnancy Test, By Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Race/Ethnicity (N)</b>	<b>Doctor’s Office</b>	<b>Hospital Clinic</b>	<b>Public Health Clinic</b>	<b>Other Clinic</b>	<b>Home Pregnancy Test</b>	<b>Did Not Have Test</b>
White (3,582)	39	5	4	3	66	1
Black (441)	46	11	14	12	22	3
American Indian (67)	27	8	13	13	42	6
Hispanic (345)	26	12	23	11	30	4
Laotian/Hmong (148)	29	18	15	6	33	6
Other (144)	30	16	4	3	53	5
All Births (4,727)	38%	6%	6%	4%	60%	2%

Sources: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Survey question was “Where did you have test to find out if you were pregnant?” Respondent could check more than one answer. Maternal race/ethnicity was derived from birth certificate data.

## Who Provided Prenatal Care?

A large majority of women in each race/ethnic group reported seeing a doctor for prenatal care, but the percentage varied from a low of 68 percent of Laotian/Hmong women to a high of 93 percent among both white women and American Indian women (Table 33). Nearly one-third of women also reported receiving prenatal care from a nurse in a doctor's office. (Women could check all the answers to this question that were appropriate).

Twenty percent of black women and 10 percent of Hispanic women said they were seen by a lay or nurse midwife. Nurse practitioners provided prenatal care to 14 percent of white women and 19 percent of Hispanic women. Nutritionists provided prenatal care to 10 percent of black women and 17 percent of Hispanic women.

This question was not analyzed in 1990.

**Table 33. Health Professional(s) Who Provided Prenatal Care, by Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Race/Ethnicity (N)</b>	<b>Doctor</b>	<b>Nurse in Doctor's Office</b>	<b>Lay or Nurse Midwife</b>	<b>Physician Assistant</b>	<b>Nurse Practitioner</b>	<b>Nutri- tionist</b>
White (3,582)	93	33	5	6	14	6
Black (441)	78	17	20	3	5	10
American Indian (67)	93	22	6	3	7	7
Hispanic (345)	86	30	10	9	19	17
Laotian/Hmong (148)	68	22	9	4	5	6
Other (144)	78	24	10	3	10	9
All Births (4,727)	91%	31%	7%	6%	13%	7%

Sources: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information.

Note: Survey question was "Whom did you see for your prenatal care?" Respondent could check more than one answer. Maternal race/ethnicity was derived from birth certificate data.

## Where Was Prenatal Care Provided?

There were substantial variations by race/ethnicity in the settings women reported for prenatal care. Just 43 percent of Laotian/Hmong women said they received prenatal care in a doctor's office, compared with 83 percent of white women (Table 34). Hospital clinics were reported as a setting for prenatal care by 31 percent of Laotian/Hmong women, 29 percent of Hispanic women, 22 percent of black women, and 10 percent of white women. Public health clinics were reported most often by American Indian women (13%), Hispanic women (12%), and Laotian/Hmong women (11%). Community health centers were reported as a setting for prenatal care by 12 percent of American Indian women.

**Table 34. Setting(s) Where Prenatal Care Was Provided, by Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

Race/Ethnicity (N)	Doctor's Office	Hospital Clinic	Public Health Clinic	Other Clinic	Community	
					Health Center	Other
White (3,582)	83	16	3	4	1	2
Black (441)	68	22	2	5	6	2
American Indian (67)	68	10	13	6	12	2
Hispanic (345)	58	29	12	6	4	1
Laotian/Hmong (148)	43	31	11	6	5	1
Other (144)	58	30	1	3	5	1
All Births (4,727)	79%	17%	3%	4%	2%	2%

Sources: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Survey question was "Where did you get your prenatal care?" Respondent could check more than one answer. Maternal race/ethnicity was derived from birth certificate data.

## Barriers to Obtaining Prenatal Care

A large majority of women giving birth in most race/ethnic groups reported, “I didn’t find it hard to get prenatal care” (Table 35). The exception was Laotian/Hmong women, just 40 percent of whom gave this response.

The barrier to care checked most frequently by Laotian/Hmong women was “I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care” (15%), followed by “I had trouble finding a babysitter for my other children” (12%), “I didn’t know I was pregnant early on” (10%), “I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted” (10%), and “I didn’t have transportation to prenatal care” (8%).

**Table 35. Percent of Women Who Reported Specific Barriers to Obtaining Prenatal Care, By Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

Barriers to Prenatal Care	White (3,582)	Black (441)	Amer. Indian (67)	Hispanic (345)	Lao/ Hmong (148)	Other (144)	All Births (4,727)
I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care.	3%	4%	7%	12%	15%	4%	4%
I didn’t know I was pregnant early on.	2	8	3	8	10	7	3
I didn’t have transportation to prenatal care.	1	7	1	9	8	3	2
I had problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.	1	7	3	3	5	3	2
I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted.	4	4	3	4	10	7	4
I didn’t think prenatal care was very necessary.	<1	1	--	--	4	2	<1
I had trouble finding a babysitter for my other children.	3	4	3	6	12	2	3
I didn’t find it hard to get prenatal care.	86	74	73	70	40	67	83

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Note: The survey question was, “Did you find it hard to get prenatal care for any of the following reasons?” Each respondent could give more than one answer. Maternal race/ethnicity was derived from birth certificate data.

Black women were less likely than women as a whole to report they didn’t find it hard to get prenatal care (74% vs. 83%). Barriers cited most often by black women were not knowing of the pregnancy “early on” (8%), lack of transportation (7%), and “I had problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start” (7%).

American Indian women also were less likely than all women to report they didn't find it hard to get prenatal care (73% vs. 83%), but in general the proportions of Indian women reporting specific barriers were relatively small. (This may indicate they experienced barriers not listed in the question.) The most common barrier to care reported by American Indian women was "I didn't have enough money for prenatal care" (7%).

Seventy percent of Hispanic women said they didn't find it hard to get prenatal care, compared with 83 percent of all women. Barriers to care reported most frequently by Hispanic women were "I didn't have enough money for prenatal care" (12%), lack of transportation (9%), "I didn't know I was pregnant early on" (8%), and trouble finding a babysitter (6%).

## Difficulty Making the First Prenatal Care Visit

In general, high percentages of women in each race/ethnic group reported they had no difficulty in making their first prenatal care visit (Table 36). Hmong women were least likely to report this. Fifty-three percent of Hmong women reported no difficulty in making their first prenatal care visit, compared with 85 percent of all women giving birth. Women in other minority groups also were less likely than all women to report no difficulty in making the first visit, but the differences were not as marked.

Of the four specific reasons for difficulty in making the first visit included with this question, the one cited most often overall was “It took a long time to get my first appointment” (reported by 6% of all women). Among black women, however, the most common reason cited was “I wasn’t sure I would have the baby” (8%). American Indian women most often reported “I wasn’t sure I would have the baby” (7%) and “I wasn’t sure where to go for prenatal care” (7%). Hispanic women cited three reasons in about equal proportions: “It took a long time to get my first appointment” (8%), “I had to try more than one office before I got an appointment” (7%), and “I wasn’t sure where to go for prenatal care” (7%).

Laotian/Hmong women reported each of the four reasons more frequently than women as a whole did, but not frequently enough to explain their low percentage response to “I had no difficulty making my first visit.” It is probable that factors not listed (for example, those related to language and cultural differences) affected prenatal care use by these women.

**Table 36. Percent of Women Who Found It Hard to Make the First Prenatal Care Visit, By Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Reason It Was Hard To Make First Visit</b>	<b>White (3,582)</b>	<b>Black (441)</b>	<b>Amer. Indian (67)</b>	<b>Hispanic (345)</b>	<b>Lao/ Hmong (148)</b>	<b>Other (144)</b>	<b>All Births (4,727)</b>
I had to try more than one office before I got a prenatal care appointment.	2%	3%	--	7%	6%	5%	2%
It took a long time to get my first prenatal care appointment.	6	5	3	8	13	10	6
I wasn't sure where to go for prenatal care.	2	5	6	7	10	5	3
I wasn't sure I would have the baby.	1	8	7	2	7	5	2
I had no difficulty making my first visit.	88	77	79	79	53	69	85

Sources: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information.

Note: The survey question was: “Was it hard for you to make your *first* prenatal care visit for any of the following reasons?” Each respondent could give more than one answer. Maternal race/ethnicity was derived from birth certificate data.

## Arrangements to Get Care

Women were also asked whether they needed to make special arrangements (such as getting a babysitter) so they could get prenatal care. Substantial proportions of women in every race/ethnic group said they had to take time off from work or school, the most common response among women in every group (Table 37). The next most common response varied by race/ethnicity.

“Get a babysitter,” the second most common response overall, was cited less frequently by black women (19%), Hispanic women (22%), and Laotian/Hmong women (12%). Conversely, those groups of women were more likely than women as a whole to report they needed to ask someone to help with transportation (reported by 34% of black women, 29% of Hispanic women and 33% of Laotian/Hmong women).

About half of American Indian women (51%) said they needed to take time off from work or school, and about one-quarter (26%) said they needed to get a babysitter. These proportions were quite similar to those for all women. However, American Indian women were more likely to report they needed to ask someone to help with transportation (20% vs. 12%).

**Table 37. Percent of Women Who Needed to Make Selected Arrangements to Get Prenatal Care, By Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Arrangement Needed</b>	<b>White (3,582)</b>	<b>Black (441)</b>	<b>Amer. Indian (67)</b>	<b>Hispanic (345)</b>	<b>Lao/ Hmong (148)</b>	<b>Other (144)</b>	<b>All Births (4,727)</b>
Take time off from work or school	52%	38%	51%	37%	35%	43%	50%
Get a babysitter	29	19	26	22	12	13	27
Ask someone to help with transportation	8	34	20	29	33	30	12
Other	2	2	4	7	3	6	3

Sources: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: The survey question was: “Did you need to make any of the following arrangements to get prenatal care?” Each respondent could give more than one answer. Maternal race/ethnicity was derived from birth certificate data.

## Topics Discussed as Part of Prenatal Care

In general, more similarities than differences were found by race/ethnicity in the proportion of women reporting that various topics were discussed as part of prenatal care (Table 38). The most striking differences were in the markedly lower proportion of Laotian/Hmong women reporting discussion of most of these topics. Hispanic women were also less likely to report many of these topics were discussed as part of prenatal care.

No comparative data on this subject is available for 1990. The series of questions about topics discussed during prenatal care was not analyzed by race/ethnicity in 1990.

**Table 38. Percent of Women Who Said Their Health Care Provider(s) Talked About Specific Subjects As Part of Prenatal Care, By Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Provider Talked About...</b>	<b>White (3,582)</b>	<b>Black (441)</b>	<b>Amer. Indian (67)</b>	<b>Hispanic (345)</b>	<b>Lao/ Hmong (148)</b>	<b>Other (144)</b>	<b>All Births (4,727)</b>
Danger signs during pregnancy (early labor, bleeding, etc.)	85%	83%	81%	73%	47%	70%	83%
What to do about early contractions, vaginal discharge, illness	81	82	81	71	42	66	79
Discomfort from pregnancy (swelling, backache, etc.)	82	81	81	78	40	57	81
Diet and nutrition	84	79	76	69	37	69	81
Avoiding drugs	81	79	71	73	46	68	80
Drinking alcohol	82	79	75	74	47	66	80
Smoking	82	79	81	74	45	66	81
Attending childbirth classes	74	63	59	56	27	63	71
Care of baby after birth	48	61	48	58	41	45	49

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Note: The survey question was, "As part of your prenatal care, did your health care provider talk with you about the following?" Each respondent could give more than one answer. Maternal race/ethnicity was derived from birth certificate data.

## Prenatal Care Onset

Birth certificate data for 1996 show the differences in prenatal care onset by race/ethnicity (Table 39). While a majority of women in almost all groups began care in the first trimester of pregnancy, the proportions with first-trimester care were lower for black, American Indian, Hispanic, Laotian/Hmong, and “other” women than for white women and the total population of women giving birth.

In most groups, however, there has been progress since 1990 in the proportion of women with first-trimester care. The percentage increased among whites (from 86% to 88%), blacks (from 59% to 66%), American Indians (from 64% to 68%), and Hispanics (from 66% to 69%). Published data for 1990 did not present information for Laotian/Hmong women separately; in that year, 32 percent of Indochinese women (most of whom were Laotian and Hmong but also including Cambodian and Vietnamese) received first-trimester prenatal care. The “other” category was too different between the two years to make valid comparisons.

**Table 39. Trimester that Prenatal Care Began, By Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Race/Ethnicity (Number)</b>	<b>First Trimester</b>	<b>Second Trimester</b>	<b>Third Trimester</b>	<b>No Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Total</b>
White (54,843)	88	10	2	<1	100%
Black (6,380)	66	24	7	3	100%
American Indian (811)	68	22	7	2	100%
Hispanic (3,138)	69	23	6	2	100%
Laotian/Hmong (1,031)	47	43	10	1	100%
Other (854)	78	18	4	<1	100%
All Births (67,076)	84	13	2	1	100%

Source: Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Frequencies presented in parentheses (“Number”) are complete counts of Wisconsin resident births in each maternal race/ethnicity category in 1996. Total (all births) includes 19 births for which race/ethnicity of the mother was not reported on the birth certificate. Percents may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## Adequacy of Prenatal Care

For purposes of analysis, inadequate prenatal care was defined as third-trimester onset of care, fewer than five prenatal care visits, or no prenatal care at all. The percent of women who received inadequate prenatal care differed by maternal race/ethnicity, age, and education. (See Tables 40, 41, and 42.)

According to birth certificate data for all births in 1996, inadequate prenatal care was most common among Laotian/Hmong women (17%), African American women (16%), and American Indian women (13%). Hispanic women also received inadequate prenatal care more often than women as a whole (10% vs. 5%).

**Table 40. Percent of Women with Inadequate Prenatal Care by Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Race/Ethnicity (Number)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
White (54,843)	3
Black (6,380)	16
American Indian (811)	13
Hispanic (3,138)	10
Laotian/Hmong (1,096)	17
Other (789)	6
All Births (67,076)	5%

Source: Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Inadequate prenatal care was defined as third-trimester onset, fewer than five prenatal care visits, or no prenatal care. Frequencies presented in parentheses ("Number") in this table are complete counts of Wisconsin resident births in each maternal race/ethnicity category. Total (all births) includes 19 births for which race/ethnicity of the mother was not reported on the birth certificate.

*Comparison with 1990.* There has been a small decrease since 1990 in the percentage of women with inadequate prenatal care (from 6% to 5%). This decrease occurred in nearly all groups. From 1990 to 1996, the percent of women with inadequate prenatal care declined among whites (from 4% to 3%), blacks (18% to 16%), American Indians (14% to 13%), and Hispanics (13% to 10%).

Much of the difference in prenatal care utilization by race/ethnicity may reflect higher proportions of teenagers and women with less than a high school education among minority women giving birth. Tables 41 and 42 suggest the importance of maternal age and education level in the likelihood of receiving adequate prenatal care. Teenagers and women with less than a high school education are more likely than others to receive inadequate prenatal care.

**Table 41. Percent of Women with Inadequate Prenatal Care by Age, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Age (Number)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Less than 18 (2,650)	14
18-19 (4,453)	9
20-24 (14,331)	7
25-29 (20,279)	4
30-34 (17,254)	3
35 and older (8,106)	4
All Births (67,076)	5%

Source: Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Inadequate prenatal care was defined as third-trimester onset, fewer than five prenatal care visits, or no prenatal care. Frequencies presented in parentheses (“Number”) in this table are complete counts of Wisconsin resident births in each maternal age category. Total (all births) includes 3 births for which age of the mother was not reported on the birth certificate.

**Table 42. Percent of Women with Inadequate Prenatal Care by Education, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Education (Number)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Less than high school (10,788)	16
High school graduate (22,450)	5
Some college (16,608)	3
College graduate or more (17,147)	1
All Births (67,076)	5%

Source: Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Inadequate prenatal care was defined as third-trimester onset, fewer than five prenatal care visits, or no prenatal care. Frequencies presented in parentheses (“Number”) in this table are complete counts of Wisconsin resident births in each maternal education category. Total (all births) includes 83 births for which education of the mother was not reported on the birth certificate.

## Low Birthweight

Table 43 presents data for all Wisconsin resident births in 1996, showing the rate of low birthweight by maternal race/ethnicity. The differences in this outcome measure by race are not fully understood, but relate partly to the differences in prenatal care utilization among these groups, which in turn reflect differences in experiencing barriers to care.

**Table 43. Percent Distribution of Birthweight By Maternal Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

<b>Race/Ethnicity (Number)</b>	<b>&lt;1,500 grams</b>	<b>1,500-2,499 grams</b>	<b>(All Low Birthweight)</b>	<b>2,500+ grams</b>	<b>Total</b>
White (54,843)	1.0	4.5	5.5	94.5	100.0%
Black (6,380)	3.0	9.7	12.8	87.2	100.0%
American Indian (811)	0.9	4.3	5.2	94.8	100.0%
Hispanic (3,138)	1.6	4.9	6.5	93.5	100.0%
Laotian/Hmong (1,031)	1.5	6.1	7.6	92.4	100.0%
Other (854)	0.9	4.8	5.7	94.3	100.0%
All Births (67,076)	1.3	5.0	6.3	93.7	100.0%

Source: Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: Frequencies presented in parentheses (“Number”) are complete counts of Wisconsin resident births in each maternal race/ethnicity category in 1996. Total (all births) includes 19 births for which race/ethnicity of the mother was not reported on the birth certificate.

## Length of Hospital Stay After Birth

The 1996 Prenatal Care Survey asked new mothers their perceptions of the amount of time they spent in the hospital after the baby's birth. In general, mothers either thought their stay was about right, or too short (Table 44). Black women (49%) and white women (40%) were most likely to characterize their hospital stay as too short. Hispanic women (29%) and Laotian/Hmong women (16%) were least likely to do so.

Still, these estimates indicate that a substantial proportion of women in every race/ethnic group felt their hospital stay after delivery was too short. Hospital discharge data indicate that the average length of stay for women giving birth in Wisconsin hospitals in 1996 was 2.1 days.

**Table 44. Perceived Appropriateness of Hospital Length of Stay After Childbirth, By Maternal Race/Ethnicity, Wisconsin 1996**

Race/Ethnicity (N)	Time Spent in Hospital Was.....				Total
	About Right	Too Long	Too Short	(No Stay in Hospital)	
White (3,512)	58	1	40	1	100%
Black (434)	47	5	49	<1	100%
American Indian (67)	66	--	33	2	100%
Hispanic (340)	64	6	29	1	100%
Laotian/Hmong (142)	79	4	16	1	100%
Other (143)	64	3	34	--	100%
All Births (4,638)	58	2	39	1	100%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey and Wisconsin resident birth certificates, Bureau of Health Information

Note: The survey question was, "After your baby was born, was the amount of time you stayed in the hospital...about right?...too long?...too short?" Or, "I didn't stay in a hospital when my baby was born." Maternal race/ethnicity was derived from birth certificate data. Rows may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## **Selected Results by Region**

Information from the 1996 Prenatal Care Survey in this section is presented for two sets of regional groupings:

- The five Department of Health and Family Services regions in Wisconsin, and
- The state's seven perinatal regions, as defined by the Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care.

Information for the City of Milwaukee is presented separately (as well as being included in the data for the DHFS Southeastern Region).

## DHFS Southern Region

<b>Source of Payment for Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(642)	(4,567)
Private Insurance	67%	62%
Private Insurance and Self	9	10
Self	2	3
Medical Assistance	21	23
Other	2	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Percent Receiving Medical Assistance By Trimester</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(661)	(4,727)
Three months before pregnancy	4%	8%
First trimester	13	14
Second trimester	14	15
Third trimester	15	16

<b>Household Income in 1995</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(608)	(4,393)
Less than \$10,000	10%	15%
\$10,000-\$24,999	23	22
\$25,000 or more	67	63
Total	100%	100%

<b>Months Pregnant When Pregnancy Was Identified</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(660)	(4,691)
One month or less	68%	66%
Two months	25	26
Three months	6	5
Four months or more	1	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Was Pregnancy Planned?</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(650)	(4,637)
Yes	66%	61%
No	34	39
Total	100%	100%

<b>Had a Regular Health Care Provider Before this Pregnancy</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(661)	4,727)
Yes	83%	81%
No	17	19
Total	100%	100%

(Southern Region, continued)

<b>Barriers to Obtaining Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region (661)</b>	<b>State (4,727)</b>
“I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care.”	4%	4%
“I didn’t know I was pregnant early-on.”	2	3
“I didn’t have transportation to prenatal care.”	1	2
“I had problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.”	1	2
“I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted.”	4	4
“I didn’t think prenatal care was very necessary.”	<1	1
“I had trouble finding a babysitter for my other children.”	2	3
Any of these barriers	11%	14%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: Percents shown are weighted percents; that is, the estimated percentage among all Wisconsin women giving birth in the region (or state). Number in parentheses is the number in the unweighted sample for the region (or state); sample size may vary slightly between questions because not all respondents answered every question.

## DHFS Southeastern Region

<b>Source of Payment for Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(2,218)	(4,567)
Private Insurance	65%	62%
Private Insurance and Self	8	10
Self	3	3
Medical Assistance	22	23
Other	2	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Percent Receiving Medical Assistance By Trimester</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(2,285)	(4,727)
Three months before pregnancy	11%	8%
First trimester	13	14
Second trimester	12	15
Third trimester	14	16

<b>Household Income in 1995</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(2,116)	(4,393)
Less than \$10,000	19%	15%
\$10,000-\$24,999	20	22
\$25,000 or more	61	63
Total	100%	100%

<b>Months Pregnant When Pregnancy Was Identified</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(2,264)	(4,691)
One month or less	63%	66%
Two months	27	26
Three months	6	5
Four months or more	4	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Was Pregnancy Planned?</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(2,243)	(4,637)
Yes	66%	61%
No	44	39
Total	100%	100%

<b>Had a Regular Health Care Provider Before this Pregnancy</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(2,226)	4,727)
Yes	81%	81%
No	19	19
Total	100%	100%

(Southeastern Region, continued)

<b>Barriers to Obtaining Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region (2,285)</b>	<b>State (4,727)</b>
“I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care.”	4%	4%
“I didn’t know I was pregnant early-on.”	4	3
“I didn’t have transportation to prenatal care.”	3	2
“I had problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.”	3	2
“I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted.”	5	4
“I didn’t think prenatal care was very necessary.”	<1	1
“I had trouble finding a babysitter for my other children.”	3	3
Any of these barriers	17%	14%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: Percents shown are weighted percents; that is, the estimated percentage among all Wisconsin women giving birth in the region (or state). Number in parentheses is the number in the unweighted sample for the region (or state); sample size may vary slightly between questions because not all respondents answered every question.

## Milwaukee City

<b>Source of Payment for Prenatal Care</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
	(880)	(4,567)
Private Insurance	53%	62%
Private Insurance and Self	4	10
Self	2	3
Medical Assistance	37	23
Other	3	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Percent Receiving Medical Assistance By Trimester</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
	(919)	(4,727)
Three months before pregnancy	23%	8%
First trimester	19	14
Second trimester	18	15
Third trimester	19	16

<b>Household Income in 1995</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
	(830)	(4,393)
Less than \$10,000	39%	15%
\$10,000-\$24,999	26	22
\$25,000 or more	34	63
Total	100%	100%

<b>Months Pregnant When Pregnancy Was Identified</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
	(913)	(4,691)
One month or less	55%	66%
Two months	28	26
Three months	11	5
Four months or more	7	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Was Pregnancy Planned?</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
	(901)	(4,637)
Yes	38%	61%
No	62	39
Total	100%	100%

<b>Had a Regular Health Care Provider Before this Pregnancy</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
	(894)	4,727)
Yes	75%	81%
No	25	19
Total	100%	100%

(Milwaukee, continued)

<b>Barriers to Obtaining Prenatal Care</b>	<b>City (919)</b>	<b>State (4,727)</b>
“I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care.”	6%	4%
“I didn’t know I was pregnant early-on.”	7	3
“I didn’t have transportation to prenatal care.”	4	2
“I had problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.”	5	2
“I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted.”	4	4
“I didn’t think prenatal care was very necessary.”	1	1
“I had trouble finding a babysitter for my other children.”	4	3
Any of these barriers	23%	14%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: Percents shown are weighted percents; that is, the estimated percentage among all Wisconsin women giving birth in the city (or state). Number in parentheses is the number in the unweighted sample for the city (or state); sample size may vary slightly between questions because not all respondents answered every question.

## DHFS Northeastern Region

<b>Source of Payment for Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(665)	(4,567)
Private Insurance	58%	62%
Private Insurance and Self	17	10
Self	3	3
Medical Assistance	20	23
Other	3	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Percent Receiving Medical Assistance By Trimester</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(698)	(4,727)
Three months before pregnancy	4%	8%
First trimester	12	14
Second trimester	14	15
Third trimester	15	16

<b>Household Income in 1995</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(645)	(4,393)
Less than \$10,000	12%	15%
\$10,000-\$24,999	19	22
\$25,000 or more	69	63
Total	100%	100%

<b>Months Pregnant When Pregnancy Was Identified</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(693)	(4,691)
One month or less	71%	66%
Two months	23	26
Three months	4	5
Four months or more	1	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Was Pregnancy Planned?</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(683)	(4,637)
Yes	64%	61%
No	36	39
Total	100%	100%

<b>Had a Regular Health Care Provider Before this Pregnancy</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(675)	4,727)
Yes	82%	81%
No	18	19
Total	100%	100%

(Northeastern Region, continued)

<b>Barriers to Obtaining Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region (698)</b>	<b>State (4,727)</b>
“I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care.”	4%	4%
“I didn’t know I was pregnant early-on.”	2	3
“I didn’t have transportation to prenatal care.”	2	2
“I had problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.”	1	2
“I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted.”	3	4
“I didn’t think prenatal care was very necessary.”	1	1
“I had trouble finding a babysitter for my other children.”	3	3
Any of these barriers	13%	14%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: Percents shown are weighted percents; that is, the estimated percentage among all Wisconsin women giving birth in the region (or state). Number in parentheses is the number in the unweighted sample for the region (or state); sample size may vary slightly between questions because not all respondents answered every question.

## DHFS Western Region

<b>Source of Payment for Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(556)	(4,567)
Private Insurance	54%	62%
Private Insurance and Self	9	10
Self	4	3
Medical Assistance	31	23
Other	1	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Percent Receiving Medical Assistance By Trimester</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(579)	(4,727)
Three months before pregnancy	6%	8%
First trimester	19	14
Second trimester	22	15
Third trimester	23	16

<b>Household Income in 1995</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(547)	(4,393)
Less than \$10,000	15%	15%
\$10,000-\$24,999	30	22
\$25,000 or more	55	63
Total	100%	100%

<b>Months Pregnant When Pregnancy Was Identified</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(573)	(4,691)
One month or less	66%	66%
Two months	29	26
Three months	4	5
Four months or more	2	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Was Pregnancy Planned?</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(566)	(4,637)
Yes	63%	61%
No	37	39
Total	100%	100%

<b>Had a Regular Health Care Provider Before this Pregnancy</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(562)	4,727)
Yes	74%	81%
No	26	19
Total	100%	100%

(Western Region, continued)

<b>Barriers to Obtaining Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region (579)</b>	<b>State (4,727)</b>
“I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care.”	3%	4%
“I didn’t know I was pregnant early-on.”	1	3
“I didn’t have transportation to prenatal care.”	2	2
“I had problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.”	<1	2
“I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted.”	5	4
“I didn’t think prenatal care was very necessary.”	1	1
“I had trouble finding a babysitter for my other children.”	4	3
Any of these barriers	12%	14%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: Percents shown are weighted percents; that is, the estimated percentage among all Wisconsin women giving birth in the region (or state). Number in parentheses is the number in the unweighted sample for the region (or state); sample size may vary slightly between questions because not all respondents answered every question.

## DHFS Northern Region

<b>Source of Payment for Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(486)	(4,567)
Private Insurance	53%	62%
Private Insurance and Self	12	10
Self	4	3
Medical Assistance	32	23
Other	1	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Percent Receiving Medical Assistance By Trimester</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(504)	(4,727)
Three months before pregnancy	7%	8%
First trimester	19	14
Second trimester	21	15
Third trimester	20	16

<b>Household Income in 1995</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(477)	(4,393)
Less than \$10,000	15%	15%
\$10,000-\$24,999	26	22
\$25,000 or more	58	63
Total	100%	100%

<b>Months Pregnant When Pregnancy Was Identified</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(501)	(4,691)
One month or less	68%	66%
Two months	25	26
Three months	5	5
Four months or more	2	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Was Pregnancy Planned?</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(495)	(4,637)
Yes	64%	61%
No	36	39
Total	100%	100%

<b>Had a Regular Health Care Provider Before this Pregnancy</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(492)	(4,727)
Yes	78%	81%
No	22	19
Total	100%	100%

(Northern Region, continued)

<b>Barriers to Obtaining Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region (504)</b>	<b>State (4,727)</b>
“I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care.”	3%	4%
“I didn’t know I was pregnant early-on.”	2	3
“I didn’t have transportation to prenatal care.”	2	2
“I had problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.”	<1	2
“I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted.”	5	4
“I didn’t think prenatal care was very necessary.”	1	1
“I had trouble finding a babysitter for my other children.”	3	3
Any of these barriers	12%	14%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: Percents shown are weighted percents; that is, the estimated percentage among all Wisconsin women giving birth in the region (or state). Number in parentheses is the number in the unweighted sample for the region (or state); sample size may vary slightly between questions because not all respondents answered every question.

## Fox Valley Perinatal Region

<b>Source of Payment for Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(315)	(4,567)
Private Insurance	60%	62%
Private Insurance and Self	13	10
Self	3	3
Medical Assistance	20	23
Other	5	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Percent Receiving Medical Assistance By Trimester</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(330)	(4,727)
Three months before pregnancy	3%	8%
First trimester	12	14
Second trimester	15	15
Third trimester	15	16

<b>Household Income in 1995</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(311)	(4,393)
Less than \$10,000	11%	15%
\$10,000-\$24,999	18	22
\$25,000 or more	71	63
Total	100%	100%

<b>Months Pregnant When Pregnancy Was Identified</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(326)	(4,691)
One month or less	73%	66%
Two months	22	26
Three months	4	5
Four months or more	2	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Was Pregnancy Planned?</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(327)	(4,637)
Yes	60%	61%
No	40	39
Total	100%	100%

<b>Had a Regular Health Care Provider Before this Pregnancy</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(322)	(4,727)
Yes	81%	81%
No	19	19
Total	100%	100%

(Fox Valley Perinatal Region, continued)

<b>Barriers to Obtaining Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region (330)</b>	<b>State (4,727)</b>
“I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care.”	3%	4%
“I didn’t know I was pregnant early-on.”	1	3
“I didn’t have transportation to prenatal care.”	3	2
“I had problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.”	1	2
“I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted.”	3	4
“I didn’t think prenatal care was very necessary.”	<1	1
“I had trouble finding a babysitter for my other children.”	1	3
Any of these barriers	11%	14%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: Percents shown are weighted percents; that is, the estimated percentage among all Wisconsin women giving birth in the region (or state). Number in parentheses is the number in the unweighted sample for the region (or state); sample size may vary slightly between questions because not all respondents answered every question.

## Northeast Perinatal Region

<b>Source of Payment for Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(276)	(4,567)
Private Insurance	57%	62%
Private Insurance and Self	18	10
Self	3	3
Medical Assistance	21	23
Other	1	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Percent Receiving Medical Assistance By Trimester</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(287)	(4,727)
Three months before pregnancy	4%	8%
First trimester	13	14
Second trimester	15	15
Third trimester	16	16

<b>Household Income in 1995</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(261)	(4,393)
Less than \$10,000	12%	15%
\$10,000-\$24,999	22	22
\$25,000 or more	66	63
Total	100%	100%

<b>Months Pregnant When Pregnancy Was Identified</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(287)	(4,691)
One month or less	69%	66%
Two months	24	26
Three months	6	5
Four months or more	2	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Was Pregnancy Planned?</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(278)	(4,637)
Yes	66%	61%
No	34	39
Total	100%	100%

<b>Had a Regular Health Care Provider Before this Pregnancy</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(278)	(4,727)
Yes	82%	81%
No	18	19
Total	100%	100%

(Northeast Perinatal Region, continued)

<b>Barriers to Obtaining Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region (287)</b>	<b>State (4,727)</b>
“I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care.”	5%	4%
“I didn’t know I was pregnant early-on.”	4	3
“I didn’t have transportation to prenatal care.”	2	2
“I had problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.”	1	2
“I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted.”	4	4
“I didn’t think prenatal care was very necessary.”	1	1
“I had trouble finding a babysitter for my other children.”	6	3
Any of these barriers	9%	14%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: Percents shown are weighted percents; that is, the estimated percentage among all Wisconsin women giving birth in the region (or state). Number in parentheses is the number in the unweighted sample for the region (or state); sample size may vary slightly between questions because not all respondents answered every question.

## North Central Perinatal Region

<b>Source of Payment for Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(565)	(4,567)
Private Insurance	53%	62%
Private Insurance and Self	11	10
Self	5	3
Medical Assistance	30	23
Other	1	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Percent Receiving Medical Assistance By Trimester</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(588)	(4,727)
Three months before pregnancy	7%	8%
First trimester	17	14
Second trimester	20	15
Third trimester	20	16

<b>Household Income in 1995</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(555)	(4,393)
Less than \$10,000	14%	15%
\$10,000-\$24,999	26	22
\$25,000 or more	59	63
Total	100%	100%

<b>Months Pregnant When Pregnancy Was Identified</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(585)	(4,691)
One month or less	68%	66%
Two months	26	26
Three months	5	5
Four months or more	2	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Was Pregnancy Planned?</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(576)	(4,637)
Yes	65%	61%
No	35	39
Total	100%	100%

<b>Had a Regular Health Care Provider Before this Pregnancy</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(574)	(4,727)
Yes	76%	81%
No	24	19
Total	100%	100%

(North Central Perinatal Region, continued)

<b>Barriers to Obtaining Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region (588)</b>	<b>State (4,727)</b>
“I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care.”	3%	4%
“I didn’t know I was pregnant early-on.”	2	3
“I didn’t have transportation to prenatal care.”	2	2
“I had problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.”	<1	2
“I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted.”	5	4
“I didn’t think prenatal care was very necessary.”	1	1
“I had trouble finding a babysitter for my other children.”	3	3
Any of these barriers	12%	14%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: Percents shown are weighted percents; that is, the estimated percentage among all Wisconsin women giving birth in the region (or state). Number in parentheses is the number in the unweighted sample for the region (or state); sample size may vary slightly between questions because not all respondents answered every question.

## Northwest Perinatal Region

<b>Source of Payment for Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(73)	(4,567)
Private Insurance	34%	62%
Private Insurance and Self	3	10
Self	3	3
Medical Assistance	58	23
Other	2	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Percent Receiving Medical Assistance By Trimester</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(73)	(4,727)
Three months before pregnancy	12%	8%
First trimester	46	14
Second trimester	40	15
Third trimester	40	16

<b>Household Income in 1995</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(69)	(4,393)
Less than \$10,000	19%	15%
\$10,000-\$24,999	47	22
\$25,000 or more	34	63
Total	100%	100%

<b>Months Pregnant When Pregnancy Was Identified</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(73)	(4,691)
One month or less	70%	66%
Two months	23	26
Three months	5	5
Four months or more	2	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Was Pregnancy Planned?</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(72)	(4,637)
Yes	57%	61%
No	43	39
Total	100%	100%

<b>Had a Regular Health Care Provider Before this Pregnancy</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(71)	(4,727)
Yes	84%	81%
No	16	19
Total	100%	100%

(Northwest Perinatal Region, continued)

<b>Barriers to Obtaining Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region (73)</b>	<b>State (4,727)</b>
“I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care.”	2%	4%
“I didn’t know I was pregnant early-on.”	2	3
“I didn’t have transportation to prenatal care.”	4	2
“I had problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.”	1	2
“I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted.”	6	4
“I didn’t think prenatal care was very necessary.”	--	1
“I had trouble finding a babysitter for my other children.”	7	3
Any of these barriers	16%	14%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: Percents shown are weighted percents; that is, the estimated percentage among all Wisconsin women giving birth in the region (or state). Number in parentheses is the number in the unweighted sample for the region (or state); sample size may vary slightly between questions because not all respondents answered every question.

## Southeast Perinatal Region

<b>Source of Payment for Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(2,124)	(4,567)
Private Insurance	64%	62%
Private Insurance and Self	9	10
Self	3	3
Medical Assistance	22	23
Other	2	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Percent Receiving Medical Assistance By Trimester</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(2,193)	(4,727)
Three months before pregnancy	12%	8%
First trimester	12	14
Second trimester	12	15
Third trimester	13	16

<b>Household Income in 1995</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(2,029)	(4,393)
Less than \$10,000	20%	15%
\$10,000-\$24,999	19	22
\$25,000 or more	61	63
Total	100%	100%

<b>Months Pregnant When Pregnancy Was Identified</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(2,173)	(4,691)
One month or less	64%	66%
Two months	27	26
Three months	6	5
Four months or more	3	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Was Pregnancy Planned?</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(2,153)	(4,637)
Yes	56%	61%
No	44	39
Total	100%	100%

<b>Had a Regular Health Care Provider Before this Pregnancy</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(2,136)	(4,727)
Yes	82%	81%
No	18	19
Total	100%	100%

(Southeast Perinatal Region, continued)

<b>Barriers to Obtaining Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region (2,193)</b>	<b>State (4,727)</b>
“I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care.”	4%	4%
“I didn’t know I was pregnant early-on.”	4	3
“I didn’t have transportation to prenatal care.”	3	2
“I had problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.”	3	2
“I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted.”	5	4
“I didn’t think prenatal care was very necessary.”	<1	1
“I had trouble finding a babysitter for my other children.”	3	3
Any of these barriers	17%	14%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: Percents shown are weighted percents; that is, the estimated percentage among all Wisconsin women giving birth in the region (or state). Number in parentheses is the number in the unweighted sample for the region (or state); sample size may vary slightly between questions because not all respondents answered every question.

## South Central Perinatal Region

<b>Source of Payment for Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(801)	(4,567)
Private Insurance	66%	62%
Private Insurance and Self	9	10
Self	3	3
Medical Assistance	20	23
Other	2	2
Total	100%	100%
<b>Percent Receiving Medical Assistance By Trimester</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(825)	(4,727)
Three months before pregnancy	4%	8%
First trimester	13	14
Second trimester	14	15
Third trimester	15	16
<b>Household Income in 1995</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(759)	(4,393)
Less than \$10,000	10%	15%
\$10,000-\$24,999	24	22
\$25,000 or more	67	63
Total	100%	100%
<b>Months Pregnant When Pregnancy Was Identified</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(822)	(4,691)
One month or less	67%	66%
Two months	27	26
Three months	5	5
Four months or more	1	2
Total	100%	100%
<b>Was Pregnancy Planned?</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(809)	(4,637)
Yes	65%	61%
No	35	39
Total	100%	100%
<b>Had a Regular Health Care Provider Before this Pregnancy</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(800)	(4,727)
Yes	82%	81%
No	18	19
Total	100%	100%

(South Central Perinatal Region, continued)

<b>Barriers to Obtaining Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region (825)</b>	<b>State (4,727)</b>
“I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care.”	4%	4%
“I didn’t know I was pregnant early-on.”	2	3
“I didn’t have transportation to prenatal care.”	1	2
“I had problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.”	1	2
“I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted.”	4	4
“I didn’t think prenatal care was very necessary.”	<1	1
“I had trouble finding a babysitter for my other children.”	2	3
Any of these barriers	11%	14%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: Percents shown are weighted percents; that is, the estimated percentage among all Wisconsin women giving birth in the region (or state). Number in parentheses is the number in the unweighted sample for the region (or state); sample size may vary slightly between questions because not all respondents answered every question.

## Western Perinatal Region

<b>Source of Payment for Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(413)	(4,567)
Private Insurance	57%	62%
Private Insurance and Self	10	10
Self	3	3
Medical Assistance	29	23
Other	1	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Percent Receiving Medical Assistance By Trimester</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(431)	(4,727)
Three months before pregnancy	6%	8%
First trimester	18	14
Second trimester	20	15
Third trimester	21	16

<b>Household Income in 1995</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(409)	(4,393)
Less than \$10,000	15%	15%
\$10,000-\$24,999	29	22
\$25,000 or more	56	63
Total	100%	100%

<b>Months Pregnant When Pregnancy Was Identified</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(425)	(4,691)
One month or less	66%	66%
Two months	30	26
Three months	3	5
Four months or more	2	2
Total	100%	100%

<b>Was Pregnancy Planned?</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(422)	(4,637)
Yes	63%	61%
No	37	39
Total	100%	100%

<b>Had a Regular Health Care Provider Before this Pregnancy</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>
	(418)	(4,727)
Yes	73%	81%
No	27	19
Total	100%	100%

(Western Perinatal Region, continued)

<b>Barriers to Obtaining Prenatal Care</b>	<b>Region (431)</b>	<b>State (4,727)</b>
“I didn’t have enough money for prenatal care.”	4%	4%
“I didn’t know I was pregnant early-on.”	1	3
“I didn’t have transportation to prenatal care.”	2	2
“I had problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.”	<1	2
“I couldn’t get an appointment at the time I wanted.”	5	4
“I didn’t think prenatal care was very necessary.”	1	1
“I had trouble finding a babysitter for my other children.”	3	3
Any of these barriers	13%	14%

Source: 1996 Prenatal Care Survey, Wisconsin Bureau of Health Information

Notes: Percents shown are weighted percents; that is, the estimated percentage among all Wisconsin women giving birth in the region (or state). Number in parentheses is the number in the unweighted sample for the region (or state); sample size may vary slightly between questions because not all respondents answered every question.



## Technical Notes

### Sampling Methodology

This report presents data from the Wisconsin Prenatal Care Survey, a representative sample of Wisconsin women who gave birth in 1996. The data include 4,727 responses to a mailed questionnaire and information from matched birth certificates. The survey oversampled births to teenagers, non-whites, Hispanics, women who did not graduate from high school, first births, high-parity births, short-birth-interval births (less than 18 months since a previous birth), and births at an inner-city Milwaukee hospital. Sample weights were used to adjust for unequal probabilities of sample selection and stratified response rates. The overall response rate of the Prenatal Care Survey was 59% (weighted response rate 72%).

### Percentages Presented in this Report

Most of the percents in this report are weighted percents; that is, the estimated percentage among all Wisconsin women giving birth in 1996 based on survey data. In a few tables as noted, percentages are not estimates but are based on complete counts of all Wisconsin resident births in 1996.

**Confidence intervals.** The percentages in this report that are based on survey data are the best available single-point estimates, but are best understood as the center of a *confidence interval*, a plus-or-minus range which defines the margin of error for the estimated percentage. That margin of error is *smaller* the larger the sample, and the closer the estimated percentage is to 100% or 0%. Conversely, the margin of error or confidence interval is *larger* for smaller samples and for estimated percentages close to 50%.

The margins of error (rounded to the nearest percent) for percentages based on sources of payment are:

Payment Source	N	Estimated Percentage		
		10 or 90	30 or 70	50
Private insurance	2,558	+/- 1	+/- 2	+/- 2
Private insurance and self	368	3	5	6
Self	162	5	7	9
Medical Assistance	1,386	2	2	3
Other	93	6	9	10

The margins of error (rounded to the nearest percent) for percentages based on race/ethnicity are:

Race/Ethnicity	N	Estimated Percentage		
		10 or 90	30 or 70	50
White	3,582	+/- 1	+/- 1	+/- 2
Black	441	3	4	5
American Indian	67	7	11	13
Hispanic	345	3	5	6
Laotian/Hmong	148	5	7	9
Other	144	5	7	9

### Payment Source Categories

For this report, the categories of payment source (derived from the questionnaire responses of women who gave birth in 1996) were defined in the same way as categories used in the 1990 study. Respondents were asked, “Who paid for your prenatal care?” Based on the responses to this question, sources of payment for prenatal care were categorized into the following groups:

- *Private insurance.* Includes all cases where prenatal care was paid for entirely by private insurance, whether through direct payment to the provider or as full reimbursement of expenses to the insured person. Includes those HMO cases where Medical Assistance (Medicaid) or self-payment was not also checked.
- *Private insurance/Self.* Includes cases in which both private insurance and self-payment were checked.
- *Self.* Cases are included in this category if this was the only response checked.
- *Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.* If this response was checked, the case was included in this category no matter what other responses were checked.
- *Other.* Includes the responses “services were free,” “unable to pay,” and “other,” as well as all combinations of responses not classified above.
- *Unknown.* No payment source was checked.

**Percentage of women with Medical Assistance.** The Prenatal Care Survey estimated percentage of women whose source of payment for prenatal care was Medical Assistance (22%) under-represents the true proportion of pregnant women on Medical Assistance. Based on hospital discharge records, 28 percent of babies born in 1996 had MA listed as the first or second expected source of payment for hospital charges. Among mothers in the Prenatal Care Survey, hospital discharge records indicated 23 percent had MA listed as the first or second expected source of payment (very close to the 22% MA reported by mothers responding to the Prenatal Care Survey). This indicates that the under-representation of MA mothers in the Prenatal Care Survey is the result of lower survey response rates from women on Medical Assistance (not under-reporting of MA status by women who did respond to the survey). This

under-representation occurred even though groups with higher rates of MA utilization (e.g., teens) were oversampled for this survey.

## 1996 PRENATAL CARE SURVEY: Survey Questions

1. How many months pregnant were you when you found out you were pregnant?  
 1 month **or less**  
 2 months  
 3 months  
 4 months **or more**
  
2. Where did you have your test to find out if you were pregnant?  
 Doctor's office  
 Hospital clinic  
 Public health clinic  
 Other clinic  
 Home pregnancy test  
 Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Did not have a pregnancy test
  
3. Did you receive prenatal care (health care for your pregnancy)?  
 Yes (Go to question 4)  
 No (Skip to question 15a)
  
4. How long was it between the day you made your first appointment for prenatal care and the day of your first prenatal visit (**not counting your pregnancy test**)?  
 1 week **or less**  
 2 weeks  
 3 weeks  
 4 weeks **or more**
  
5. Whom did you see for your prenatal care? (Please  $\checkmark$  all who provided care.)  
 Doctor  
 Nurse in doctor's office  
 Lay or Nurse Midwife  
 Physician Assistant (PA)  
 Nurse practitioner  
 Nutritionist  
 Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. Where did you get your prenatal care? (Please  $\checkmark$  all that apply.)  
 Doctor's office  
 Hospital clinic  
 Public health clinic  
 Other clinic  
 Community Health Center  
 Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

7. Did you need to make any of the following arrangements to get prenatal care? (Please  $\checkmark$  all that apply.)
- Take time off from work or school
  - Get a babysitter
  - Ask someone to help with transportation
  - Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Was it hard for you to make your **first** prenatal care visit for any of the following reasons? (Please  $\checkmark$  all that apply.)
- I had to try more than one office before I got a prenatal care appointment.
  - It took a long time to get my first prenatal care appointment.
  - I wasn't sure where to go for prenatal care.
  - I wasn't sure I would have the baby.
  - I had no difficulty making my first visit.
9. Did you find it hard to get prenatal care for any of the following reasons? (Please  $\checkmark$  all that apply.)
- I didn't have enough money for prenatal care.
  - I didn't know I was pregnant early-on.
  - I didn't have transportation to prenatal care.
  - I had problems finding a doctor who would take Medical Assistance or Healthy Start.
  - I couldn't get an appointment at the time I wanted.
  - I didn't think prenatal care was very necessary.
  - I had trouble finding a baby-sitter for my other children.
  - I didn't find it hard to get prenatal care.
10. **As part of your prenatal care**, did your health care provider talk with you about the following? (Please  $\checkmark$  all that apply.)
- Danger signs during pregnancy (early labor, bleeding, etc.)
  - What to do about early contractions, vaginal discharge, illness
  - Discomfort from pregnancy (swelling, backache, etc.)
  - Diet and nutrition
  - Avoiding drugs
  - Drinking alcohol
  - Smoking
  - Attending childbirth classes
  - What happens during labor and delivery
  - Care of your baby after birth
- 11a. While you were pregnant, did your health care provider ever ask you to sign a consent form for a blood test for HIV (the virus that causes AIDS)?
- Yes, and I accepted testing (Skip to question 12)
  - Yes, but I declined testing (Skip to question 12)
  - No, I don't remember being asked for consent
  - Don't know/not sure
  - Do not want to say (Skip to question 12)

- 11b. If your health care provider had asked you to have a blood test for HIV, would you have given your consent?
- Yes  
 No  
 Don't know/not sure  
 Do not want to say
12. Who paid for your prenatal care? (Please  all that apply.)
- Medical Assistance or Healthy Start  
 Included in HMO (health maintenance organization)  
 Private Insurance (such as Blue Cross, WPS)  
 Self (even if you were paid back later)  
 Services were free  
 Unable to pay  
 Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
13. Did you have to pay money up-front before prenatal care could begin?
- Yes  No
14. If you had health insurance, did you have to pay for **any** of the cost of your prenatal care?
- Yes  
 No  
 Did not have health insurance.
- 15a. Were you receiving Medical Assistance or Healthy Start at any time: (Please  all that apply.)
- During the 3 months **before** this pregnancy  
 During the **first 3 months** of this pregnancy  
 During the **second 3 months**  
 During the **last 3 months**  
 I did not receive Medical Assistance or Healthy Start at any of these times.
- 15b. If you applied for Medical Assistance or Healthy Start, when did you apply?
- Before this pregnancy  
 1st to 3rd month of pregnancy  
 4th to 6th month of pregnancy  
 7th to 9th month of pregnancy  
 After the baby was born  
 I did not apply.
16. At the time you became pregnant, had you been planning to become pregnant?
- Yes  No
17. Did you have a regular health care provider before this pregnancy?
- Yes  No

18. After your baby was born, was the amount of time you stayed in the hospital...  
 about right?  
 too long?  
 too short?  
 I didn't stay in a hospital when my baby was born.
19. Were you employed during your pregnancy? (Please  $\checkmark$  all that apply.)  
 Full time: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of months  
 Part time: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of months  
 Not employed: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of months
20. What was your household income in 1995?  
 Less than \$10,000  
 \$10,000-14,999  
 \$15,000-19,999  
 \$20,000-24,999  
 \$25,000-34,999  
 \$35,000 or more
21. During most of your pregnancy, how many people lived in your household?  
 Adults  
 Children (under age 18)

