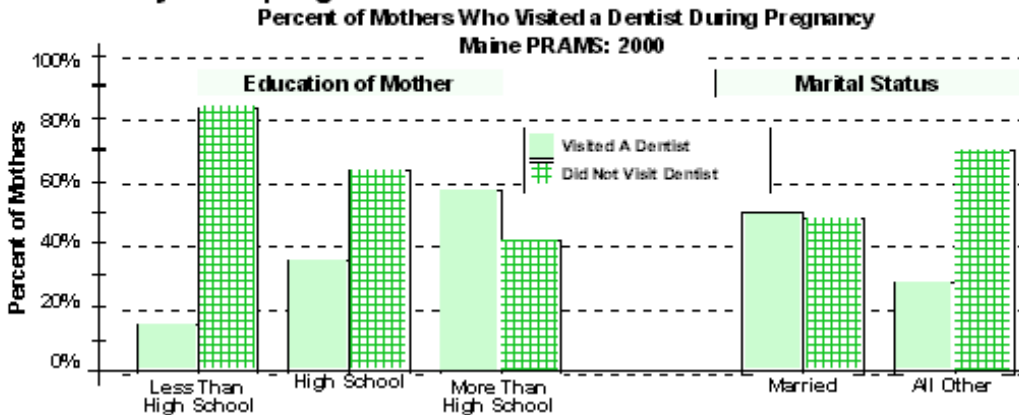


# ORAL HEALTH DURING PREGNANCY

Data are from the  
MAINE PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (PRAMS): 2000

- ➔ Oral health is an important part of prenatal care. Hormones released during pregnancy increase the risk of gum disease to the mother. Studies indicate a correlation between gum disease and pre-term low-birth-weight babies - a serious risk factor for the baby.<sup>1</sup>
- ➔ Nearly half of the women who had a baby in 2000 visited a dentist or dental clinic during their pregnancy. Women 35 years old or older were more likely to see a dentist while they were pregnant than other younger women. Women younger than 25 years old were least likely.
- ➔ Education and marital status were correlated with whether or not a woman went to a dentist during pregnancy. Married women and women educated beyond high school were more likely to see a dentist while they were pregnant than other women.



- ➔ Nearly 20% of new mothers said that they needed to see a dentist for a dental problem during their pregnancies; 35% of those women did not go. Those who did not go were more likely to be 20 - 24 years old, enrolled in the WIC program (Women's, Infants, and Children's Supplemental Nutrition Program), or have incomes less than \$16,000.
- ➔ Women from households with less than \$16,000 in income were twice as likely to need to see a dentist for a problem than those women from households with \$40,000 or more in income.
- ➔ Although more than half of all mothers who had a baby in 2000 reported that they had their teeth cleaned in the past 12 months, a quarter of new mothers had not had their teeth cleaned in 2 or more years.
- ➔ Women insured through MaineCare (formerly Medicaid) and women enrolled in the WIC program were 1½ times less likely to have had their teeth cleaned in the last 12 months than other women.
- ➔ More than a third of women who smoked during pregnancy experienced dental problems - twice as many women as non-smokers.

<sup>1</sup> "Do Women Need To Be More Careful With Their Oral Health?", Academy of General Dentistry. A full citation is available upon request.

For further data on this topic, please contact:  
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