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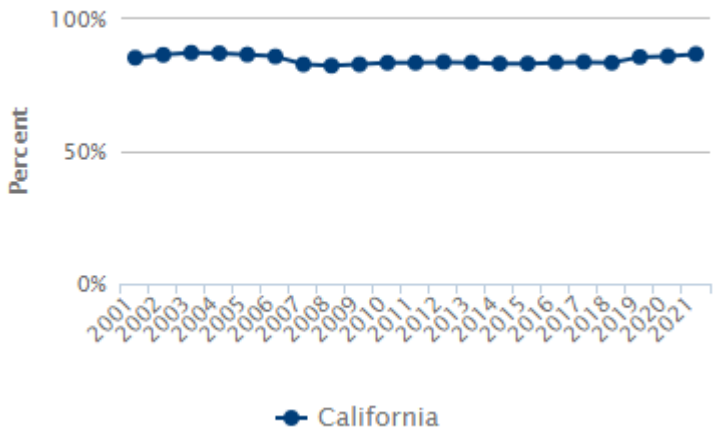
Prenatal Care in California

Infants Born to Mothers Receiving First Trimester Prenatal Care: 2021

Locations	Percent
California	86.8%
Alameda County	89.1%
Contra Costa County	89.9%
Fresno County	85.3%
Kern County	82.1%
Los Angeles County	87.6%
Orange County	88.7%
Riverside County	86.5%
Sacramento County	86.4%
San Bernardino County	83.6%
San Diego County	89.0%
Santa Clara County	90.9%

Definition: Percentage of infants born to mothers who received prenatal care during the first three months of pregnancy (e.g., among births to California mothers in 2021, 86.8% were to mothers who had received first trimester prenatal care).
Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, California Vital Data (Cal-ViDa) Query Tool and Birth Statistical Master Files (Jun. 2022).

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Infants Born to Mothers Receiving First Trimester Prenatal Care, by

What It Is

First trimester prenatal care is health care received during the first three months of pregnancy. Kidsdata.org provides county-level numbers and percentages of infants born to California mothers receiving first trimester prenatal care. Percentages by mother's race/ethnicity also are available for the nation, state, and select counties.

Why This Topic Is Important

High-quality health care before, during, and after pregnancy promotes the long-term health of both parent and child and reduces serious health risks including infant death. Experts increasingly are focused on promoting health before conception, as many pregnancies are unintended and a pregnant person may not realize they are pregnant during the critical first weeks of their baby's development. Preconception care should be part of routine health care and should cover reproductive planning, address medical conditions and pregnancy risk factors such as weight or heart problems, link patients to services for issues such as substance abuse or mental health problems, and provide guidance about important habits in case of pregnancy.

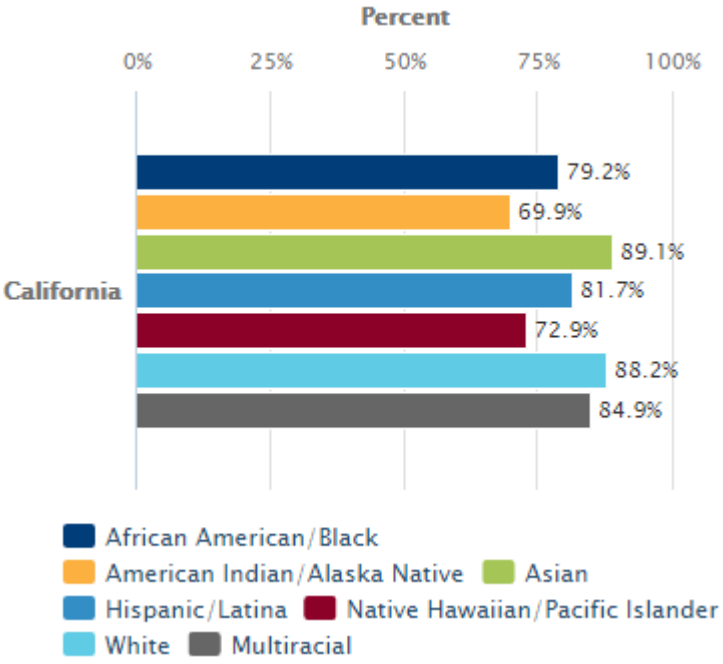
Once a person becomes pregnant, receiving prenatal care in the first trimester is critical as it lowers the risk of adverse birth outcomes. Through prenatal care, health professionals can identify and resolve medical problems, connect patients to services for non-medical issues, and provide general health education. Prenatal care also helps to ensure that the pregnant person receives needed vaccinations, which can protect themselves and their baby from certain infections.

Inequities in access to prenatal care by race/ethnicity and other demographic factors have persisted for decades, with the greatest burden of poor maternal and infant outcomes experienced by African American/black and American Indian/Alaska Native families. Reducing these disparities and improving access to preconception, prenatal, and postpartum care for all people of reproductive age has long been a U.S. public health priority. The federal Healthy People 2030 initiative has set national objectives to improve access to prenatal care and improve health before, during, and after pregnancy.

How Children Are Faring

Among California infants born in 2021, 87% had mothers who received prenatal care during the first three months of pregnancy—the

Mother's Race/Ethnicity: 2020



Definition: Percentage of infants born to mothers who received prenatal care during the first three months of pregnancy, by mother's race/ethnicity (e.g., in 2020, 81.7% of births to California Hispanic/Latina mothers were to mothers who had received first trimester prenatal care).
Data Source: CDC WONDER Online Database, Natality (May 2022).

highest rate recorded since the early 2000s. At the local level, the share of infants born to mothers receiving first trimester prenatal care varies widely; across counties with data for 2021, percentages ranged from less than 60% to more than 90%.

Statewide and nationally, infants born to Asian and white mothers have the highest rates of timely prenatal care among groups with data, whereas infants born to African American/black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander mothers have the lowest. In 2020, fewer than 80% of infants born to California African American/black mothers and fewer than 70% born to American Indian/Alaska Native mothers received first trimester prenatal care; this compared with nearly 90% for their white and Asian counterparts.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:
https://kidsdata.org/topic/59/prenatal-care/summary