

Prenatal Care and Pregnancy Related Deaths in Connecticut

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Issue

This report briefly describes the Connecticut Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) and provides statistics on (1) access to prenatal care and (2) pregnancy related deaths in Connecticut.

Summary

The [Connecticut PRAMS](#) is a surveillance project of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Connecticut PRAMS [questionnaire](#) asks approximately 1,300 to 1,400 new mothers who have had live births during the survey year about their behavior and experiences before, during, and shortly after their pregnancy. The data collected is used to obtain an overall picture of maternal and infant health in the state.

According to the 2017 Connecticut PRAMS questionnaire (the most recent available), approximately 89.8% of mothers surveyed stated that they received prenatal care as early in their pregnancy as they wanted. Mothers who stated that they did not receive prenatal care as early as they wanted were able to select one or more reasons that prevented them from doing so. The most common reasons were not knowing they were pregnant (49.1%) and the inability to get the appointment they wanted (31.4%).

According to DPH, the most recent data indicates that in 2016, 15.9% of mothers received late or no prenatal care. Preliminary data from 2017 indicates that 15.7% of women received late or no prenatal care. This data is not yet published online. Data for previous years can be found [here](#).

DPH's Maternal Mortality Review (MMR) Committee conducts case reviews to determine if a death may be pregnancy-associated or pregnancy-related. According to DPH, there have been eight such deaths in Connecticut from 2011 to 2014. (DPH implemented an MMR program in 2014. In 2018, a new law restructured the program and established it in statute; see [PA 18-150](#).)

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