



Oral Health Services Utilization

What moms had to say:

"The dentist that I went to never told me to take a lot of calcium when I was pregnant with my 4 year old. So my teeth fell out. So now at 23 I have false teeth."

Oral Health Services Utilization

“Pregnancy is a time when there is a special need for good oral health care because hormonal changes may exaggerate some dental disorders. Regular preventive care is as important during pregnancy as throughout one’s lifetime to ward off potential problems.”

1999 North Dakota New Mothers’ Survey

REFERENCE TABLE 1.

- One in five respondents said that during their pregnancy they needed to see a dentist for a problem (21.4 percent).
- A slight majority of respondents said they did not go to a dentist or dental clinic during their most recent pregnancy (56.5 percent).
- One in three respondents indicated that a dental or health care worker had talked with them about caring for their teeth and gums during their most recent pregnancy (36.1 percent).
- One in three respondents indicated they had not had their teeth cleaned by a dentist or dental hygienist in more than 12 months (32.3 percent).

Table 1. Dental Care Issues During Pregnancy

	%	95% CI
Mother needed to see a dentist for a problem		
No	78.6	<i>(76.0,81.1)</i>
Yes	21.4	<i>(18.9,24.0)</i>
TOTAL %	100.0	
Mother went to dentist or dental clinic		
No	56.5	<i>(53.3,59.7)</i>
Yes	43.5	<i>(40.3,46.7)</i>
TOTAL %	100.0	
A dental or health care worker talked with mother about caring for teeth and gums		
No	63.9	<i>(60.7,67.1)</i>
Yes	36.1	<i>(32.9,39.3)</i>
TOTAL %	100.0	
Number of months since mother had teeth cleaned by a dentist or dental hygienist		
6 months or less	43.9	<i>(40.6,47.2)</i>
7 to 12 months	23.7	<i>(20.8,26.6)</i>
13 to 18 months	9.8	<i>(7.9,11.7)</i>
19 to 24 months	9.5	<i>(7.5,11.5)</i>
25 to 36 months	5.8	<i>(4.3,7.4)</i>
37 to 48 months	2.9	<i>(1.8,4.0)</i>
49 months or longer	4.3	<i>(3.0,5.6)</i>
TOTAL %	99.9	

REFERENCE TABLES 2-3.

- A higher proportion of Medicaid than non-Medicaid recipients did not go to the dentist during their pregnancy (68.6 percent and 51.7 percent, respectively).
- A higher proportion of WIC than non-WIC recipients did not go to the dentist during their pregnancy (65.8 percent and 51.4 percent, respectively).
- There was very little difference between primiparas and multiparas with respect to going to a dentist or dental clinic during their pregnancy. Slightly more than half of both primiparas and multiparas said they did not go to a dentist or dental clinic during their pregnancy (56.0 percent and 57.1 percent, respectively).
- Respondents who had more education were more likely than those with less education to go to a dentist or dental clinic during their pregnancy. One-half of respondents who went to a dentist or dental clinic during their pregnancy had 16 or more years of education (52.0 percent), while one-third of respondents who went to see a dentist during their pregnancy had 12 years of education (32.7 percent).
- Respondents who were Native American were three times more likely to not go to a dentist or dental clinic during their pregnancy as to go (74.7 percent and 25.3 percent, respectively).
- Respondents who lived in rural areas were more likely to not go to a dentist or dental clinic during their pregnancy than to go (60.5 percent and 39.5 percent, respectively).

Table 2. Medicaid Status, WIC Status, and Gravid Status by Whether Mother Went to a Dentist or Dental Clinic During Pregnancy

Status	Did not go to dentist		Did go to dentist		TOTAL %
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	
Medicaid status					
Medicaid*	68.6	(63.4,73.8)	31.4	(26.2,36.6)	100.0
Non-Medicaid	51.7	(47.7,55.7)	48.3	(44.3,52.3)	100.0
WIC status					
WIC	65.8	(60.7,70.9)	34.2	(29.2,39.3)	100.0
Non-WIC	51.4	(47.3,55.6)	48.6	(44.4,52.7)	100.0
Gravid status					
Primipara	56.0	(51.0,61.1)	44.0	(38.9,49.0)	100.0
Multipara	57.1	(52.9,61.3)	42.9	(38.7,47.1)	100.0

*CDC defines a Medicaid recipient as a woman who reported receiving Medicaid prior to pregnancy or used Medicaid to pay for prenatal care or the delivery.

Table 3. Demographic Characteristics by Whether Mother Went to a Dentist or Dental Clinic During Pregnancy

Demographics	Did not go to dentist		Did go to dentist		TOTAL %
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	
Mother's education					
8 years or less	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
9 to 11 years	60.9	(47.7,74.0)	39.1	(26.0,52.3)	100.0
12 years	67.3	(61.2,73.5)	32.7	(26.5,38.8)	100.0
13 to 15 years	56.2	(50.4,62.0)	43.8	(38.0,49.6)	100.0
16 or more years	48.0	(42.7,53.3)	52.0	(46.7,57.3)	100.0
Mother's race					
White	54.7	(51.3,58.1)	45.3	(41.9,48.7)	100.0
Native American	74.7	(64.4,85.0)	25.3	(15.0,35.6)	100.0
Other	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

Demographics	Did not go to dentist		Did go to dentist		TOTAL %
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	
Urban/rural residence					
Urban	51.8	(47.0,56.5)	48.2	(43.5,53.0)	100.0
Rural	60.5	(56.1,64.9)	39.5	(35.1,43.9)	0.0

NOTE: NR means not reportable due to too few responses.

REFERENCE TABLE 4.

- Respondents whose prenatal care was paid for by Medicaid were twice as likely to not go to a dentist or dental clinic during their pregnancy as to go (69.4 percent and 30.6 percent, respectively). Similarly, respondents who did not have insurance or an HMO were twice as likely to not go to a dentist during their pregnancy as to go (64.9 percent and 35.2 percent, respectively).
- Respondents whose prenatal care was paid for by the Indian Health Service were three times as likely to not go to a dentist or dental clinic during their pregnancy as to go (74.9 percent and 25.1 percent, respectively).

Table 4. Sources of Payment for Prenatal Care by Whether Mother Went to a Dentist or Dental Clinic During Pregnancy

Sources of payment for prenatal care	Did not go to dentist		Did go to dentist		TOTAL %
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	
Medicaid	69.4	(64.0,74.8)	30.6	(25.2,36.0)	100.0
Not Medicaid	52.4	(48.5,56.3)	47.6	(43.7,51.5)	100.0
Personal income	58.9	(52.8,64.9)	41.1	(35.1,47.2)	100.0
Not personal income	55.3	(51.5,59.1)	44.7	(40.9,48.5)	100.0
Insurance or HMO	52.2	(48.1,56.3)	47.8	(43.7,51.9)	100.0
Not insurance or HMO	64.9	(59.6,70.1)	35.2	(29.9,40.4)	100.1
Indian Health Service	74.9	(60.0,89.7)	25.1	(10.3,40.0)	100.0
Not Indian Health Service	55.6	(52.3,58.9)	44.4	(41.1,47.7)	100.0
Military	48.5	(35.2,61.9)	51.5	(38.2,64.9)	100.0
Not military	57.1	(53.8,60.5)	42.9	(39.5,46.2)	100.0
Other	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Not other	56.4	(53.1,59.6)	43.6	(40.4,46.9)	100.0

NOTE: NR means not reportable due to too few responses.

REFERENCE TABLES 5-6.

- Approximately two-thirds of white respondents indicated that discussions about oral care with a dental or health care worker did not take place (62.3 percent). Sixteen percent of Native American respondents reported having had a dental or health care worker talk with them about oral care.
- One-fifth of white respondents reported needing to see a dentist for a problem during their pregnancy, and one-third of Native Americans indicated they needed to see a dentist (36.9 percent).

Table 5. Medicaid Status, WIC Status, Gravid Status and Race by Whether Dental or Health Care Worker Talked About Oral Care

Status/race	Did not talk about oral care		Did talk about oral care		TOTAL %
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	
Medicaid status					
Medicaid*	67.0	(61.7,72.3)	33.0	(27.7,38.3)	100.0
Non-Medicaid	62.8	(58.9,66.7)	37.2	(33.3,41.1)	100.0
WIC status					
WIC	67.4	(62.5,72.3)	32.6	(27.7,37.5)	100.0
Non-WIC	61.9	(57.8,66.0)	38.1	(34.0,42.2)	100.0
Gravid status					
Primipara	64.5	(59.6,69.4)	35.5	(30.6,40.4)	100.0
Multipara	63.7	(59.6,67.9)	36.3	(32.2,40.4)	100.0
Mother's race					
White	62.3	(59.0,65.7)	37.7	(34.3,41.0)	100.0
Native American	84.0	(76.6,91.4)	16.0	(8.6,23.4)	100.0
Other	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

*CDC defines a Medicaid recipient as a woman who reported receiving Medicaid prior to pregnancy or used Medicaid to pay for prenatal care or the delivery.

NOTE: NR means not reportable due to too few responses.

Table 6. Race by Whether Mother Needed to See a Dentist for a Problem During Pregnancy

Mother's race	Yes, needed to see a dentist		No, did not need to see a dentist		TOTAL %
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	
White	20.0	(17.3,22.7)	80.0	(77.3,82.7)	100.0
Native American	36.9	(26.0,47.8)	63.1	(52.2,74.0)	100.0
Other	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

NOTE: NR means not reportable due to too few responses.

REFERENCE TABLES 7-11.

- Respondents who were non-Medicaid recipients were more likely than Medicaid recipients to have had their teeth cleaned within the last 12 months (71.0 percent and 59.1 percent, respectively).
- Respondents who were non-WIC recipients were more likely than WIC recipients to have had their teeth cleaned within the last 12 months (71.3 percent and 60.6 percent, respectively).
- Proportions of primiparas and multiparas who reported having had their teeth cleaned within the last 12 months were similar (66.4 percent and 68.3 percent, respectively).
- Respondents who were white were more likely than respondents who were Native American to have had their teeth cleaned within the last 12 months (68.2 percent and 57.5 percent, respectively).
- Respondents who lived in urban areas were more likely than respondents who lived in rural areas to have had their teeth cleaned in the last 12 months (71.8 percent and 63.8 percent, respectively).

Table 7. Medicaid Status by Number of Months Since Mother Last Had Her Teeth Cleaned

Number of months since mother last had her teeth cleaned	Medicaid*		Non-Medicaid	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
6 months or less	38.9	(33.3,44.6)	45.8	(41.7,49.8)
7 to 12 months	20.2	(15.4,25.0)	25.2	(21.6,28.7)
13 to 18 months	10.2	(6.8,13.6)	9.6	(7.3,12.0)
19 to 24 months	12.4	(8.3,16.4)	8.5	(6.2,10.8)
25 to 36 months	7.3	(5.9,8.6)	5.4	(3.5,7.3)
37 to 48 months	4.2	(2.0,6.4)	2.4	(1.2,3.6)
49 months or more	6.9	(3.9,10.0)	3.1	(1.7,4.5)
TOTAL %	100.1		100.0	

*CDC defines a Medicaid recipient as a woman who reported receiving Medicaid prior to pregnancy or used Medicaid to pay for prenatal care or the delivery.

Table 8. WIC Status by Number of Months Since Mother Last Had Her Teeth Cleaned

Number of months since mother last had her teeth cleaned	WIC		Non-WIC	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
6 months or less	37.8	(32.5,43.1)	46.9	(42.7,51.1)
7 to 12 months	22.8	(18.1,27.5)	24.4	(20.7,28.0)
13 to 18 months	10.9	(7.6,14.1)	9.3	(6.9,11.7)
19 to 24 months	10.9	(7.5,14.4)	8.6	(6.2,11.1)
25 to 36 months	7.2	(5.9,8.6)	5.1	(3.2,7.1)
37 to 48 months	3.3	(1.5,5.0)	2.7	(1.4,4.1)
49 months or more	7.1	(4.3,9.8)	2.9	(1.5,4.3)
TOTAL %	100.0		99.9	

Table 9. Gravid Status by Number of Months Since Mother Last Had Her Teeth Cleaned

Number of months since mother last had her teeth cleaned	Primiparas		Multiparas	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
6 months or less	41.2	(36.1,46.3)	45.7	(41.4,50.1)
7 to 12 months	25.2	(20.5,29.8)	22.6	(19.0,26.3)
13 to 18 months	10.7	(7.6,13.8)	9.2	(6.7,11.7)
19 to 24 months	10.3	(7.1,13.5)	9.0	(6.4,11.6)
25 to 36 months	6.6	(4.1,9.1)	5.3	(4.0,6.7)
37 to 48 months	2.0	(0.7,3.2)	3.6	(2.0,5.2)
49 months or more	4.1	(2.2,6.1)	4.5	(2.7,6.3)
TOTAL %	100.1		99.9	

Table 10. Race by Number of Months Since Mother Last Had Her Teeth Cleaned

Number of months since mother last had her teeth cleaned	White		Native American		Other	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
6 months or less	45.3	(41.8,48.8)	24.1	(13.8,34.4)	NR	NR
7 to 12 months	22.9	(19.9,25.9)	33.4	(21.8,45.0)	NR	NR
13 to 18 months	10.1	(8.0,12.1)	6.8	(1.1,12.4)	NR	NR
19 to 24 months	9.1	(7.1,11.2)	16.6	(6.4,26.9)	NR	NR
25 to 36 months	5.3	(3.8,6.9)	13.0	(11.6,14.3)	NR	NR
37 to 48 months	3.1	(2.0,4.3)	1.0	(0.0,2.8)	NR	NR
49 months or more	4.2	(2.8,5.5)	5.1	(0.2,10.0)	NR	NR
TOTAL %	100.0		100.0		NR	

NOTE: NR means not reportable due to too few responses.

Table 11. Urban/Rural Residence by Number of Months Since Mother Last Had Her Teeth Cleaned

Number of months since mother last had her teeth cleaned	Urban		Rural	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
6 months or less	47.9	(43.1,52.8)	40.3	(35.8,44.9)
7 to 12 months	23.9	(19.7,28.0)	23.5	(19.5,27.5)
13 to 18 months	8.5	(5.9,11.1)	11.0	(8.2,13.8)
19 to 24 months	7.8	(5.1,10.5)	11.1	(8.2,14.0)
25 to 36 months	5.8	(3.6,7.9)	5.9	(4.5,7.3)
37 to 48 months	2.1	(0.8,3.3)	3.7	(2.0,5.3)
49 months or more	4.1	(2.2,6.1)	4.5	(2.7,6.3)
TOTAL %	100.1		100.0	