

# How Can GA PRAMS Help Health Care Providers?

The Georgia Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a Georgia Department of Public Health surveillance project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. PRAMS collects state-specific population-based data on maternal knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy. Each month, a random sample of 100-200 mothers is drawn from birth records. Mothers are contacted by mail or telephone (for non-responders) within two to six months after delivery.

As a health care provider, you can use PRAMS data to determine overall oral health behaviors of Georgia women and common reasons for why women did not go to a dentist when they had a problem (e.g., cannot afford to go or dentist would not see pregnant women). In this fact sheet, we have provided information on oral health among Georgia mothers as well as helpful resources.



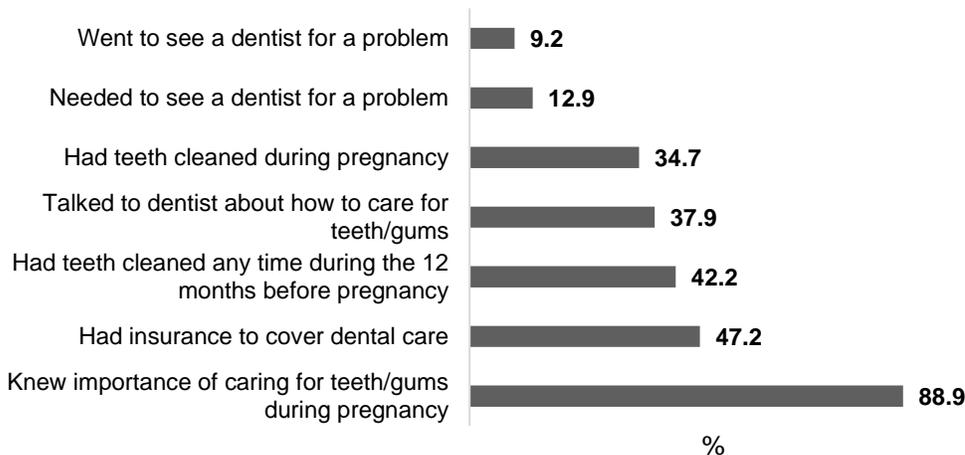
About 1 in 4 moms who reported having a problem with their teeth did not go to a dentist because they could not afford to go.

Source: GA PRAMS 2012 - 2013

## Oral Health During Pregnancy

Hormonal changes during pregnancy can negatively impact a woman's oral health, potentially initiating pregnancy gingivitis, benign oral gingival lesions, tooth mobility, tooth erosion, dental caries and periodontitis<sup>1,2</sup>. Pregnancy provides the opportunity for providers to motivate moms to adopt healthy behaviors, including healthy oral health behaviors. Analysis of Georgia PRAMS data is used to characterize oral health behaviors during pregnancy (Figure 1) and to recognize opportunities for prevention (e.g., conversations with providers during prenatal care and dental visits about the importance of proper oral health during pregnancy).

Figure 1: Oral Health Behaviors Among Georgia PRAMS Respondents (n = 190,672) During Most Recent Pregnancy, 2012-2013



65.3%

of moms reported NOT having their teeth cleaned during pregnancy.

Source: GA PRAMS 2012-2013



62.1%

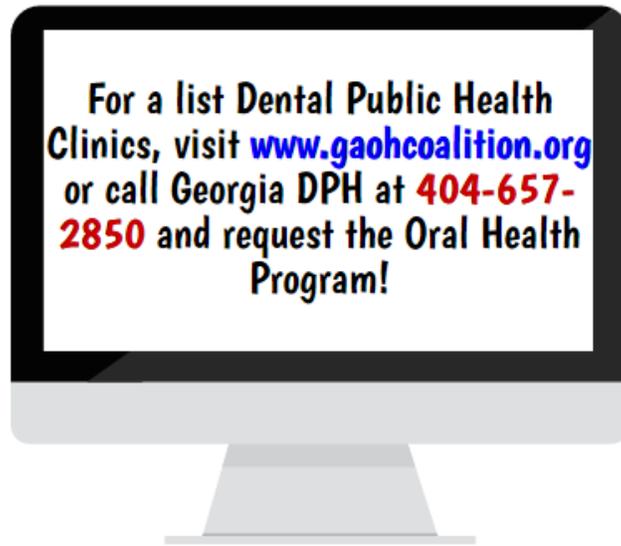
of moms reported NOT talking with their provider about how to care for teeth and gums.

Source: GA PRAMS 2012-2013



## How Can Health Care Providers Help?

- Encourage patients at first prenatal visit to schedule an oral health examination if patient:
  - Has not visited the dentist in the last six months
  - Has a new condition that has developed since last visit
- Encourage patients to adhere to the oral health professional's recommendations regarding appropriate follow-up
- Facilitate treatment by providing written consultation for the oral health referral, when needed



*Health care providers can play a pivotal role in preventing oral disease and promoting optimal oral health behaviors!*

### References:

1. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (2013). Committee Opinion No. 569: oral health care during pregnancy and through the lifespan. *Obstet Gynecol*, 122(2 Pt 1), 417-22.
2. American Dental Association. (2011). Oral health during pregnancy: What to expect when expecting. *The Journal of the American Dental Association*, 142(5), 574.

The Georgia PRAMS *Oral Health Provider Fact Sheet* is published as new data become available by the MCH Epidemiology Section, Epidemiology Program, Division of Health Protection, Georgia Department of Public Health. For data requests, please apply through the Public Health Information Portal in Georgia DPH at [dph.ga.gov/phis-data-request](http://dph.ga.gov/phis-data-request).

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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