



The Alabama Department of Public Health
Center for Health Statistics



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Dental Care During Pregnancy in Alabama

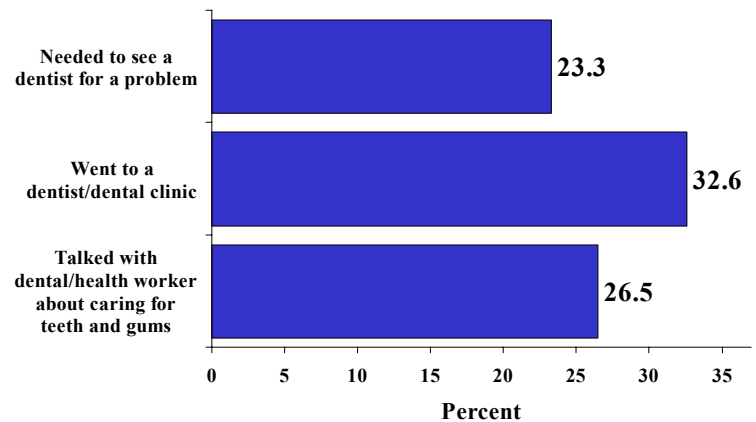
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- The Healthy People 2010 Objective is to increase the proportion of children and adults who use the oral health care system each year to **56%**.
- According to the Alabama PRAMS 2000-2001 survey, **only 32.6%** of Alabama women went to a dentist or dental clinic during their pregnancy.

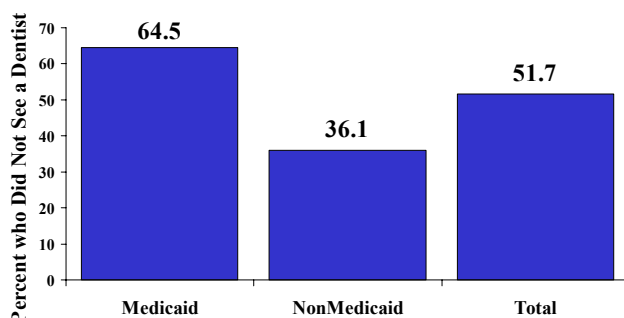
What Alabama Moms Think:

- “Dental care affected me the most since I had no dental insurance. I knew how important it was to take care of my teeth during my pregnancy, but it is too expensive without insurance.”
- “Many companies only [accept] Medicaid for dental care only if there’s an emergency. And I didn’t have any dental insurances to go then or now.”
- “Insurance did not cover cleaning, only pulled tooth.”
- “I wish there was some kind of dental plan for expecting mothers. I had problems with my gums and teeth. The problems still occur.”

Dental Care During Pregnancy, Alabama PRAMS 2000-2001



Women with a Dental Problem who Did Not See a Dentist During Pregnancy, Alabama PRAMS 2000-2001



- **One-quarter of Alabama women needed to see a dentist for a problem during pregnancy (23.3%); however, over half of these women with a dental problem did *not* see a dentist during pregnancy (51.7%).**
- **Only one third of all Alabama women saw a dentist for any reason during their pregnancy in 2000-2001 (32.6%).**
- **Medicaid mothers were almost twice as likely to *not* see a dentist for a problem during pregnancy (64.5%) as NonMedicaid mothers (36.1%).**
- **Women who are 13-24 years old, black, unmarried, with unintended pregnancies, with late prenatal care, Medicaid, and smoked were more likely to have a dental problem and *not* see a dentist during pregnancy.**