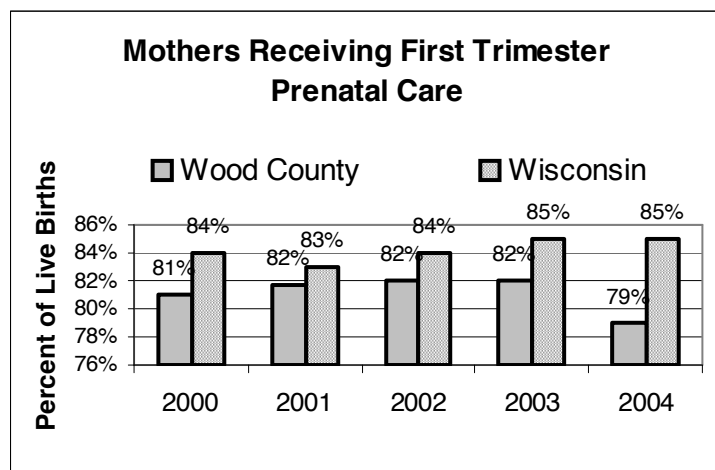


Prenatal Care Recommended Within First Three Months of Pregnancy



Key Facts

- The national and state goal is having at least 90% of pregnant women receiving prenatal care during their first trimester.
- In 2004, only 79% of expecting women in Wood County sought prenatal care in their first trimester.
- Of Wood County Health Department clients seeking prenatal care in 2004, 87.3% did so in the first trimester.

Why is this Information Important?

Prenatal care within the first trimester has been proven beneficial to creating a healthy pregnancy, healthy birth and a healthy baby. Therefore, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists advocates for early prenatal care.

Prenatal Care

Early prenatal care allows health care personnel the opportunity to assess for risk factors, (such as medical conditions, lifestyle factors and environmental hazards,) and provide early intervention to make a difference in the health related outcome of the pregnancy.

Studies have identified the mother's age, income, race and marital status as factors influencing a woman seeking prenatal care in a timely manner.

In addition to increasing the health of mother and baby, prenatal care has also been proven to be cost effective in terms of health care.

Health care providers are responsible for stressing the importance of early prenatal care, and continuing care through the entire pregnancy, to assure a healthy birth.

Sources: Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services; Wood County Health Department