

National- and State-Level Disparities in Prenatal Care Before the 3rd Trimester, United States, 2015

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Background

- Prenatal care is more likely to be effective if women begin receiving it during the first trimester of pregnancy, with regular visits until delivery
- Prenatal care can reduce the risk of complications for both mothers and infants
- We explore prenatal care before the 3rd trimester to identify potential geographic and demographic disparities

Methodology

- Prenatal care before the 3rd trimester was defined as the percentage of live births in which the mother began receiving prenatal care between the 1st and 6th month of pregnancy
- Estimates were calculated for the U.S., 50 states, and the District of Columbia using 2015 CDC WONDER Natality file
- Estimates for age, race/ethnicity, and education level were also calculated
- Records with unknown prenatal care were excluded; estimates with missing data exceeding 15% were considered unreliable and were suppressed
- Data were not available for two states, Connecticut and New Jersey, that implemented the 2003 Revised Birth Certificate after January 1, 2015

Results

Nationally, 94.0% of mothers receive prenatal care before the 3rd trimester in 2015

- Prenatal care before the 3rd trimester **ranges** from 90.1% in New Mexico to 98.4% in Rhode Island (Figure 1)
- Prenatal care before the 3rd trimester is **lowest** among mothers aged 15-19 (89.6%), American Indian/Alaska Native mothers (88.8%), and mothers who did not graduate from high school (88.3%) and is **highest** among white (97.4%) and Asian or Pacific Islander (93.5%) mothers, mothers aged 30-34 (95.4%) and 35-39 (95.3%), and college graduates (96.7%)

Largest variation in prenatal care before the 3rd trimester is by mother's education level

- Nationally, the gap between mothers who did not graduate from high school (88.3%) and mothers who graduated from college (96.7%) is 8 percentage points
- Four states in the top 10 for overall for prenatal care before the 3rd trimester are also in the top 10 across education levels; NM, ranked No. 50, is in the bottom 10 across education levels (Figure 2)
- ME and CA have the smallest gap in prenatal care before the 3rd trimester by mother's education level at 4 percentage points, while AR and AL have the widest gap at ≥ 14 percentage points (Figure 3)

Figure 3: Prenatal care before the 3rd trimester by education level for the 5 states with the largest gap and the 5 states with the smallest gap, 2015

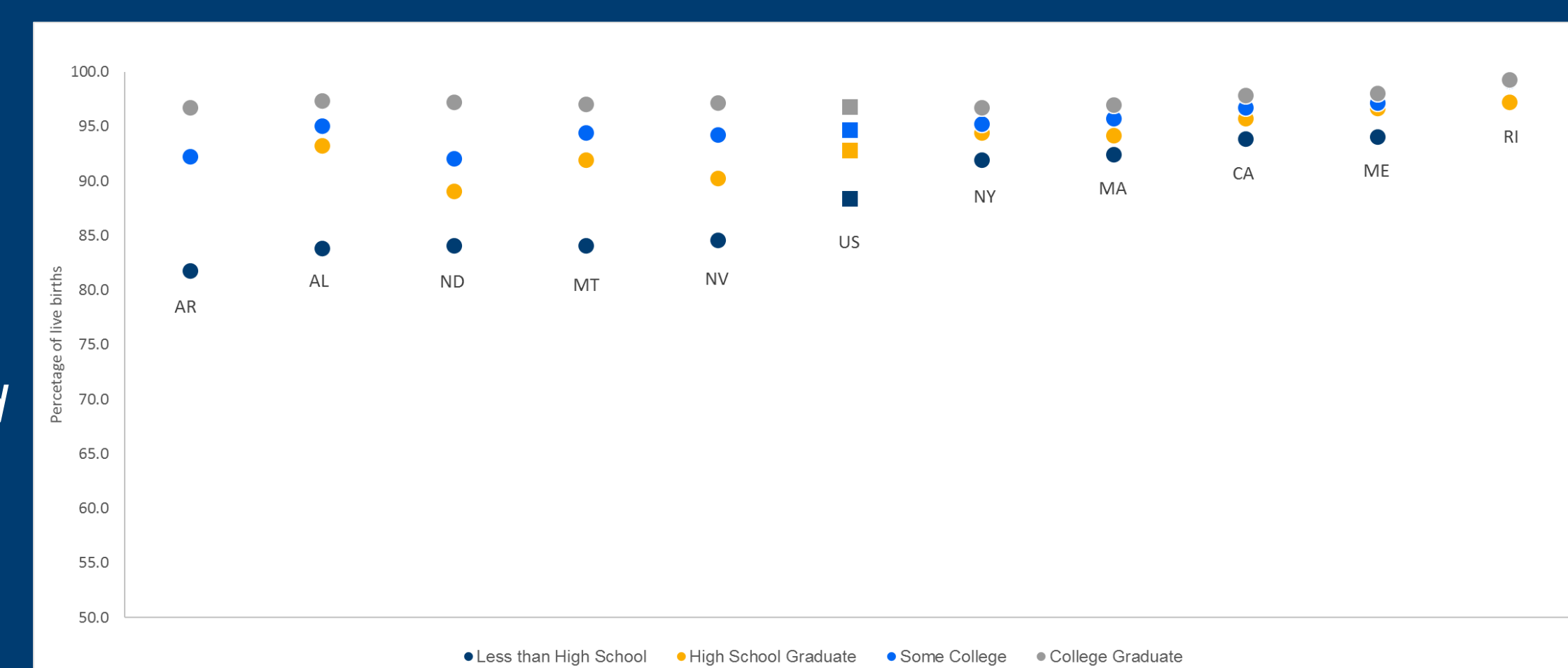


Figure 1: Percentage of live births in which the mother received prenatal care before the 3rd trimester by state, 2015

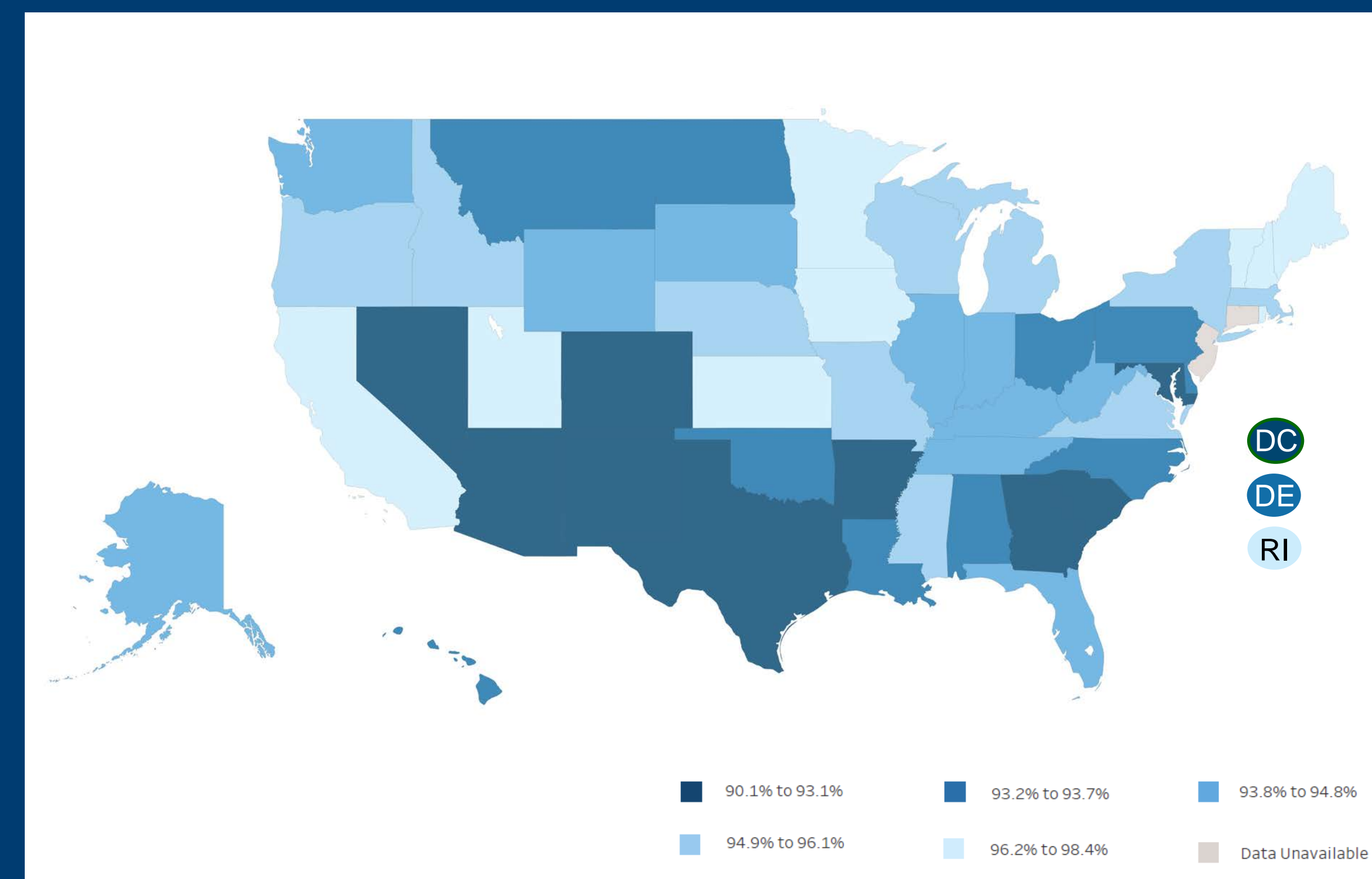


Figure 2: Overall prenatal care before the 3rd trimester by state and education level, sorted by overall prenatal care before the 3rd trimester, 2015

	Overall	Less Than High School	High School Graduate	Some College	College Graduate
RI	98.4		97.2	99.1	99.2
VT	97.9	93.3	97.7	97.5	98.8
UT	97.4	92.8	96.6	97.8	98.8
ME	97.1	94.0	96.6	97.1	98.0
KS	96.5	91.0	95.1	96.6	98.9
CA	96.3	93.8	95.7	96.7	97.8
MN	96.3	90.2	94.6	96.5	98.0
NH	96.3	91.6	95.4	95.8	97.4
IA	96.2	93.3	94.8	96.5	98.3
WI	96.1	93.2	95.2	96.4	98.2
MA	95.8	92.4	94.1	95.7	96.9
OR	95.8	91.6	94.1	95.8	98.2
VA	95.8	90.4		95.0	97.7
MS	95.3	90.9	94.4	95.6	98.2
ID	95.2	90.8	94.4	96.2	96.8
MI	95.1	88.4	93.6	96.0	97.7
NY	95.1	91.9	94.4	95.2	96.7
MO	94.9	87.2	92.7	95.5	98.3
NE	94.9	88.0	92.5	95.1	97.5
KY	94.8	88.3	93.9	95.2	97.9
IL	94.7	89.2	92.7	94.7	97.2
SD	94.6	88.2	93.1	94.3	98.0
WV	94.6	88.4	94.9	95.0	96.9
IN	94.3	87.9	93.4	95.1	97.1
AK	94.1	87.0	92.4	94.6	97.0
TN	94.1	87.6	93.0	95.0	97.1
WY	94.0	88.8	92.2	94.2	96.7
WA	93.9	88.9	92.7	94.2	96.0
FL	93.8	87.8	93.0	94.6	96.2
HI	93.5	87.5	94.3	93.4	95.7
MT	93.5	84.0	91.9	94.4	97.0
AL	93.4	83.8	93.2	95.0	97.1
NC	93.4	88.3	91.4	93.6	96.3
OH	93.4	86.3	92.4	93.9	96.4
PA	93.4	86.6	92.2	92.9	96.2
LA	93.3	87.0	92.4	94.2	97.1
OK	93.3	88.3	92.1	93.8	96.8
DE	93.2	86.8	91.5	94.5	96.6
ND	93.2	84.0	89.0	92.0	97.2
SC	92.7	87.0	91.4	93.0	95.9
CO	92.5	86.3	90.7	92.8	94.8
AZ	91.9	84.9	90.8	94.1	95.6
GA	91.9	84.3	90.7	93.3	
MD	91.7	85.6	89.7	92.6	93.9
NV	91.7	84.5	90.2	94.2	97.1
TX	90.3	84.5	89.0	91.9	93.9
AR	90.2	81.7		92.2	96.7
NM	90.1	83.2	89.5	92.0	93.8

Shaded cells = Data may be unreliable and were suppressed; Data not available for CT or NJ

Conclusions

- Almost 95% of mothers in the U.S. receive prenatal care before the 3rd trimester
 - In all states, the percentage of mothers receiving prenatal care before the 3rd trimester is above 90%
 - Mothers who did not graduate from high school have the lowest percentage of prenatal care before the 3rd trimester of subpopulations examined
 - The largest gap in prenatal care before the 3rd trimester is by education level with mothers who did not graduate from high school experiencing the widest variation across states
 - Despite state-level variability in the gap between highest and lowest education levels, four states in the top 10 for prenatal care before the 3rd trimester are also in the top 10 at each education level
- ## Recommendations
- Addressing barriers to starting prenatal care early in pregnancy for mothers who did not graduate from high school should be a priority, particularly in states with large disparities by education level
 - Although prenatal care before the 3rd trimester is an important measure of prenatal care, further analysis of disparities at the state level should include adequacy and access

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