**PRAMS COVID Supplement - Overview**

**What is PRAMS and the COVID-19 Supplement?** The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) was designed as an epidemiologic surveillance system of selected maternal behaviors and experiences to supplement data from vital records and to generate data for planning and assessing perinatal health programs within states. Periodically, supplemental questions specific to current health trends will be added into the PRAMS questionnaire to determine how current trends are impacting the health and access to healthcare for pregnant people. The COVID-19 supplemental questions were added from May 2020 until December 2020 to determine how COVID-19 had an impact on wellbeing of the respondents’ lives.

**What preventative measures were taken by respondents?**

- **64%** of respondents reported as always avoiding gathering of more than 10 people
- **86%** of respondents reported as always wearing a mask or face covering when in public
- **37%** of respondents reported having trouble getting disinfectant for their homes

**Education and testing** are key elements in the fight against COVID-19.

- Only 34% of responding mothers were given information in the hospital about how to protect their baby from infection while breastfeeding.
- 10% of babies were tested for COVID-19 while in the hospital*

*Data from 507 survey respondents

**How was the impact of COVID-19 different among population groups?**

- This survey found that 82% of Black respondents and 81% of Asian respondents reported that they avoided groups of ten or more, compared to only 56% of White respondents.
- Only 55% of White respondents reported as always staying six feet apart from other people in public while 93% of Black respondents, 82% of Asian respondents, and 82% of other respondents reported as always following the six feet rule.
- Black respondents had a higher rate of job loss: 54% of Black respondents reported losing employment, compared to 30% of White respondents.
- Black respondents also had a higher rate of reporting more time spent than usual caring for children or other family members: 57% of Black respondents versus only 33% of Asian and 35% of white respondents reported spending more time than usual caring for children or family members.

**Methodology:** The COVID-19 Supplement added 11 questions to PA PRAMS Questionnaire from May 2020 until December 2020. The COVID-19 supplement included topics such as access to medical appointments, potential risk factors and prevention methods. A total of 568 mothers responded to the COVID-19 supplement.

**Please note:** Respondents may choose to not respond to all questions. Additionally, some questions include skip patterns and therefore may not be answered by all individuals, while other questions allow for multiple response options.

***For more information, please contact PA PRAMS by email: paprams@pa.gov or by phone: 717-346-3000***
How did COVID-19 impact routine medical appointments?
Due to COVID-19, there was a greater risk of having necessary prenatal and postpartum medical appointments cancelled. Respondents reported preferring in-person visits for both prenatal and postpartum care. Of those responding to the survey, 69% reported preferring in-person prenatal care, although only 54% were able to receive in-person only prenatal care, while 69% of mothers were able to receive in-person only postpartum care.

How did the COVID-19 pandemic impact birthing people? Based on the responses from 556 birthing people, the COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on many aspects of the family’s daily lives.