

Technical Notes

Collection of Data

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Division of Health Data and Policy collected the 2018 Illinois Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) data. Illinois uses the standardized data collection methods developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). These methods are used in a total of 50 sites that include 47 states, New York City, Washington DC, and Puerto Rico. Data are collected through mailed surveys with telephone follow-up for non-respondents. A systematic stratified random sample of approximately 200 mothers is selected monthly from a frame of eligible birth certificates. At two to six months after delivery, the PRAMS program mails an introductory letter and survey to each sampled mother. The program follows up with those who do not initially respond, sending them a reminder letter and two additional survey mailings. PRAMS interviewers telephone mothers who do not respond to any of the mailed surveys to administer the survey by telephone. Surveys are available in English and Spanish, and telephone interviews are conducted in both languages.

In 2018, a total of 2,175 women were selected to participate in the study; 1,306 women completed the survey. Data were weighted and are representative of the 12-month PRAMS-eligible population of 137,049 recent mothers. Data collection during 2018 marks the third year of using the Phase 8 PRAMS survey.

Sampling Design

A systematic stratified random sampling design is used to oversample low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams) births. The sample is stratified by low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams) and normal birthweight (2,500 grams or greater). The 2018 overall weighted response rate is 61%. The weighted response rates by birth weight are 56% for low birth weight and 62% for normal birth weight.

Weighting and Interpretation of Results

Statistics are based on weighted data. The weights were developed by CDC to adjust for sample design, non-response patterns, and omissions from the sampling frame. The final sampling weight used in the analysis of the survey data is the product of these three elements. Weighting is necessary to give unbiased estimates of population parameters.

The percentages, 95 percent confidence intervals, and total estimated population affected were calculated using Survey Data Analysis (SUDAAN®*) software. Estimates for response categories with small sample size (i.e., fewer than 30 respondents in the denominator or 6 respondents in the numerator) are not reported due to possible imprecision.

PRAMS data are representative of Illinois resident women, age 14 years or older, who gave birth in Illinois to live infants. The sampling design is valid at the state level and not intended or developed to represent sub-state geographies or their populations without further evaluation. The data are not applicable to all pregnant women. At the direction of IDPH legal counsel, women younger than 18 years of age were not asked questions about physical abuse.

Acknowledgements

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Please call 1-866-643-7194 with any questions about Illinois PRAMS or email us at dph.pramtrac@illinois.gov.

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