

## OPAS Sample Population

- The statistics within this fact sheet refer to women with a live birth. Analyses were not limited by age range. Respondents self-reported Medicaid coverage for their prenatal care. Women not enrolled in Medicaid include those who had private health insurance, military health care, insurance from the Ohio Health Insurance Marketplace, or were uninsured during their recent pregnancy.
- The 2021 Ohio Pregnancy Assessment Survey (OPAS) collected 4,462 completed surveys from women two to six months following a live birth.
- A majority of women with a live birth in Ohio were between 25 to 34 years old (60%); 70% were non-Hispanic White.

## Health Insurance

- Statewide, 39% of women had Medicaid coverage for their prenatal care. There was not a significant difference between the percentage of women with Medicaid from [Ohio Equity Institute](#) (OEI) counties (40%) and non-OEI counties (38%). Ohio's three largest counties had similar percentages of women who reported Medicaid coverage for prenatal care including Cuyahoga (43%), Franklin (36%), and Hamilton (37%). In other OEI counties, 42% had Medicaid coverage for their prenatal care.

## Pre-Pregnancy Health

- Statewide, 74% of women had a healthcare visit in the 12 months prior to pregnancy. Among women with a healthcare visit in the 12 months before their pregnancy, approximately 80% were asked if they smoked cigarettes.

- Among all women who had a healthcare visit during the 12 months prior to pregnancy, 57% of women with Medicaid had a pre-pregnancy OB/GYN visit, compared with 68% of women not on Medicaid. Also, 25% of women with Medicaid discussed strategies for improving health before pregnancy with their provider, compared to 28% for women not enrolled in Medicaid.
- There was no difference between the percentage of women (43%) residing in non-OEI counties who reported having a pre-pregnancy health condition such as diabetes, hypertension, depression, or anxiety compared to women residing in OEI counties (43%).
- A higher proportion of women enrolled in Medicaid (10%) reported having pre-pregnancy hypertension compared to women not enrolled in Medicaid (4%). A greater proportion of women with Medicaid (37%), reported pre-pregnancy depression and anxiety (47%) compared to women not on Medicaid who reported depression (18%) and anxiety (30%).
- The percentage of women with Medicaid who took multivitamins (36%) was about half that of women not on Medicaid (63%).

## Substance Use

- Women with Medicaid coverage for their prenatal care were much more likely to have smoked during the past two years (31%) compared with women not enrolled in Medicaid (9%).
- The following differences persisted during pregnancy among women who had smoked within the past two years: 56% of women enrolled in Medicaid, and 24% of women not enrolled in Medicaid, smoked during their last trimester.

- Among women who smoked electronic cigarettes during the past two years, 75% smoked electronic cigarettes in the three months prior to pregnancy, and 29% smoked electronic cigarettes in the last three months of pregnancy.
- Non-Hispanic white women were more likely to drink during the past two years (77%) compared with non-Hispanic Black women (55%) and Hispanic women (51%). There was a significant difference by Medicaid status of women who reported drinking alcohol during the past two years. Women not enrolled in Medicaid were more likely to report drinking alcohol during the past two years (79%) compared with women enrolled in Medicaid (58%).

### Pregnancy Intent & Prevention

- Statewide, 24% of women with a live birth reported that their pregnancy was unwanted or they would have preferred a later pregnancy. Additionally, 36% of non-Hispanic Black women reported their pregnancy was wanted later or unwanted, compared to 21% of non-Hispanic white women.

### Prenatal Care

- In 2020, 97% of Ohio women with a live birth received prenatal care at some point during their pregnancy. Of these women, 94% were asked by a healthcare provider if they were smoking cigarettes, 92% were asked if they were drinking alcohol, and 96% were asked if they were taking any prescription medication.

- There was no difference by Medicaid status in the frequency of prenatal care discussions with providers about alcohol use (Medicaid: 93%, non-Medicaid: 92%) and cigarette use (Medicaid: 93%, non-Medicaid: 94%). However, women not enrolled in Medicaid (97%) were talked to more often than women enrolled in Medicaid (94%) about prescription medication use.

- A higher percentage of women with Medicaid (86%) were asked by a provider about drug use compared to women not enrolled in Medicaid (80%). A similar proportion of women enrolled in Medicaid (92%) and women not enrolled in Medicaid (87%) were asked if they intended to breastfeed.

- Among women who received prenatal care, 90% had their first visit for prenatal care in the first trimester, 9% in the second trimester, and 1% in the third trimester. Approximately 87% of women covered by Medicaid had their first prenatal care visit in the first trimester compared with 97% of women covered by private insurance.

- Among women who received prenatal care, non-Hispanic Black women (85%) and non-Hispanic white women (79%) were asked if they were feeling down or depressed. Women with Medicaid (84%) were asked about depression more often than women not enrolled in Medicaid (78%).

- During the 12 months before the delivery of their new baby, 38% of mothers enrolled in Medicaid and 64% of mothers not enrolled in Medicaid received a flu shot.

March 2023

## Breastfeeding

Among mothers whose baby was alive and living with them or still in the hospital:

- The gap of breastfeeding initiation by race continued to narrow, with 88% of non-Hispanic white women reporting ever breastfeeding their baby and 82% of non-Hispanic Black women reporting ever breastfeeding their baby. A similar percentage of Hispanic women reported ever breastfeeding their new baby (84%).
- Approximately 45% of women were breastfeeding at eight weeks following delivery. Breastfeeding at eight weeks was the same among women not enrolled in Medicaid (45%) and women enrolled in Medicaid (45%).
- The most commonly cited reason for discontinuing breastfeeding was that mothers thought they were not producing enough milk, or their milk had dried up (54%).
- Eighteen percent of women who had breastfed but were no longer breastfeeding reported that they stopped because they went back to work. Non-Hispanic Black women (20%) reported returning to work as a reason for discontinuing breastfeeding more often than non-Hispanic white women (17%), but there was no significant difference by Medicaid status as 19% of women not enrolled in Medicaid, and 16% of women enrolled in Medicaid cited going back to work as the reason they discontinued breastfeeding.

## Safe Sleep

Among mothers whose baby was alive and living with them:

- 85% reported that they most often put their baby to sleep on his or her back (versus on his/her side or on his/her stomach).
- 68% reported that their baby usually slept alone in the past two weeks. Women not enrolled in Medicaid (70%) were more likely than women enrolled in Medicaid (66%) to report that their baby slept alone.
- Most women reported that in the past two weeks their baby slept in a crib (94%) and that their baby did not sleep with toys or cushions (94%). Additionally, 8% reported that their baby slept with bumper pads in the past two weeks.
- A total of 37% of women reported following the ABCs of safe sleep: Placing babies alone (with no objects), on back, and in a crib (not any other surfaces, including car seats or swings).

## Postpartum Care

- Approximately 8% of all women had no postpartum visit. Among women with no postpartum visit, 44% said they felt fine and did not think they needed to have a visit, and 13% said they did not have any transportation to get to the clinic or doctor's office.
- Among the 92% of women who did have a postpartum visit, more than half (52%) said a healthcare professional talked to them about how long to wait before getting pregnant again, and 89% of women said that their healthcare provider talked about the types of birth control they could use.
- Women enrolled in Medicaid (14%) were more likely to report feeling depressed after delivery compared to women not enrolled in Medicaid (7%).

### Postpartum Pregnancy Prevention

- Statewide, 79% of women reported they or their partner were currently doing something to prevent themselves from getting pregnant. There was no variation by geography; however, a higher percentage of mothers not enrolled in Medicaid (81%) reported using birth control currently compared to mothers enrolled in Medicaid (74%). A higher rate of non-Hispanic white women (81%) reported using birth control currently compared with non-Hispanic Black women (73%).
- Among women not using birth control, 22% indicated they wanted to be pregnant. This percentage was similar among mothers enrolled in Medicaid (18%) and not enrolled in Medicaid (24%). The percentage of non-Hispanic white women (25%) who wanted to be pregnant was higher than non-Hispanic Black women (14%).
- Among women who were using postpartum birth control, a higher percentage of mothers enrolled in Medicaid (12%) reported their tubes were tied (tubal ligation) compared to mothers not enrolled in Medicaid (6%). A higher percentage of mothers enrolled in Medicaid (10%) also reported receiving a birth control shot (i.e., Depo-Provera) compared with moms not enrolled in Medicaid (2%).

### COVID-19

- Only 13% of women were told by a healthcare provider that they had COVID-19 during their pregnancy, but many women were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic during pregnancy in other ways. Almost half of women (40%) had more difficulty paying bills and the majority of women experienced more depression and anxiety (51%). Some women had increased difficulty obtaining healthcare for themselves (19%).

- Women enrolled in Medicaid (65%) experienced increased difficulty paying bills due to COVID-19 more than twice as often compared to women not enrolled in Medicaid (25%). Women in OEI counties (42%) had increased difficulties paying bills more often than women in non-OEI counties (38%), and non-Hispanic Black women (59%) and Hispanic women (56%) reported increased difficulty paying bills more often than non-Hispanic White women (35%).
- Women enrolled in Medicaid (22%) experienced increased challenges getting healthcare for themselves more often than women not enrolled in Medicaid (65%). Hispanic women (30%) also reported increased difficulty obtaining healthcare more often than non-Hispanic white women (17%).
- Non-Hispanic white women (53%) reported increased anxiety and depression during pregnancy due to the COVID-19 pandemic more often than non-Hispanic Black women (45%). There were no differences in increased anxiety or depression based on Medicaid status or geography.

### Change Over Time

- The percentage of women with Medicaid who were breastfeeding at eight weeks following delivery increased 15 percentage points from 30% in 2009 to 45% in 2021.
- The percentage of women enrolled in Medicaid who placed their baby on their back to sleep increased 22 percentage points from 67% in 2009 to 88% in 2021.