Introduction

- **Purpose:** Assess the utilization and commencement of prenatal care services by pregnant women in Augusta County.
- Prenatal care gives health care professionals the potential to reduce the incidence of perinatal morbidity and mortality through treating medical conditions, identifying and reducing potential health risks, and helping women to address behavioral factors that contribute to poor health outcomes.
- In order to achieve the aforementioned, prenatal care should start during the first trimester.

Methods & Results

- **Methods:** Secondary analysis of Augusta County vital statistics records, including the cities of Staunton and Waynesboro.
- **Results of Analysis:**
  - From 2001 to 2011, the most commonly used source of prenatal care was private physicians.
  - Approximately 74% of Augusta County mothers that received prenatal care had it delivered through private physicians.
  - The percentage of Augusta County mothers that received prenatal care during their first trimester increased from 79.6% in 2001 to 82.3% in 2011.
  - The percentage of mothers that received prenatal care in their first trimester fluctuated on a year to year basis.
  - Overall, the percentage of mothers that received prenatal care in their first trimester increased from 79.6% in 2001 to 82.3% in 2011.

Conclusions

- Research recommends that women seek prenatal care and be examined every four weeks for the first 28 weeks of pregnancy, every two to three weeks until 36 weeks, and weekly thereafter.
- Prenatal care is most effective if it is started during the first trimester and continued throughout the duration of the pregnancy.
- Only 80% of Augusta County pregnant women obtained prenatal care during their first trimester.

Recommendations

- Increase prenatal care in the first trimester in Augusta County by 10% to meet national standards.
- Conduct further research in Augusta County to identify barriers to prenatal care.

References

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, (540) 568-6211