

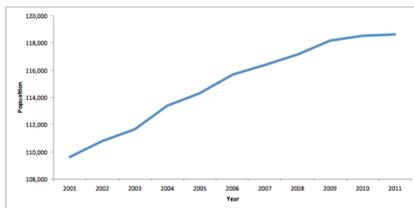
Introduction

- **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.

Background

- The population of Augusta County, including the cities of Staunton and Waynesboro, has been increasing over the past decade.

Graph 1: The population of Augusta County from 2001 to 2011.



- The U.S Department of Health and Human Services' program of nationwide health-promotion and disease prevention goals of *Healthy People 2020* recommends that at least 90% of pregnant women receive prenatal care within the first trimester of pregnancy.
- The Augusta County birth cohort increased from 367 in 2001 to 467 in 2011.

Methods & Results

Methods: Secondary analysis of Augusta County vital statistics records, including the cities of Staunton and Waynesboro.

Results of Analysis:

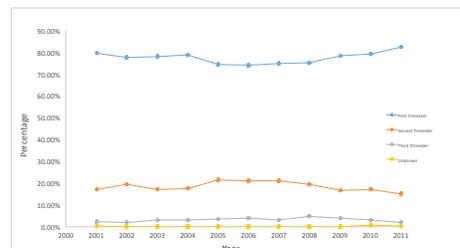
- From 2001 to 2011, the most commonly used source of prenatal care was private physicians.
- Approximately 74% of Augusta County mothers that received prenatal care had it delivered through private physicians.

- The percentage of Augusta County mothers that received prenatal care during their first trimester of pregnancy 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.

Year	First	Second	Third	Unknown
2001	79.60%	16.90%	2.31%	0.30%
2002	77.70%	19.60%	1.80%	0.00%
2003	78.20%	17.20%	3.30%	0.00%
2004	78.90%	17.60%	3.00%	0.08%
2005	74.40%	21.50%	3.70%	0.08%
2006	74.13%	21.12%	4.11%	0.00%
2007	75.06%	20.92%	3.20%	0.08%
2008	75.13%	19.40%	4.92%	0.00%
2009	78.45%	16.76%	4.05%	0.09%
2010	79.42%	17.25%	3.32%	0.55%
2011	82.31%	15.09%	2.10%	0.50%

Table 1. The percentage of Augusta County mothers that received prenatal care during their first, second, and third trimester of pregnancy from 2001 to 2011.

Graph 2. Percentage of Augusta County mothers receiving prenatal care in their first, second, and third trimesters from 2001 through 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

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