



Rock-a-bye Baby: Prenatal Care in Rockingham County And Harrisonburg

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INTRODUCTION

Rockingham County includes Harrisonburg City. The population of the County appears to be increasing while the birth rate is stable. First trimester prenatal care is recommended to ensure the best birth outcomes, yet it is unclear whether mothers and babies are receiving 1st trimester care in Rockingham County. The objective of this research was to determine what stage of pregnancy the women of Rockingham County and Harrisonburg are seeking Prenatal care.

Methods

- Using Virginia Vital Statistics records, several tests were incorporated to discover the trends of population, birth cohorts, and prenatal care services in Rockingham County.
- We explored the relationship of pregnant women receiving prenatal care services in the County and whether they were received in the 1st trimester of pregnancy or later.

REFERENCES

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RESULTS

As the population of the county increased, the number of births taking place decreased.



Figure 1. 2001-2011 Rockingham County population and birth cohort from 2001 to 2011.

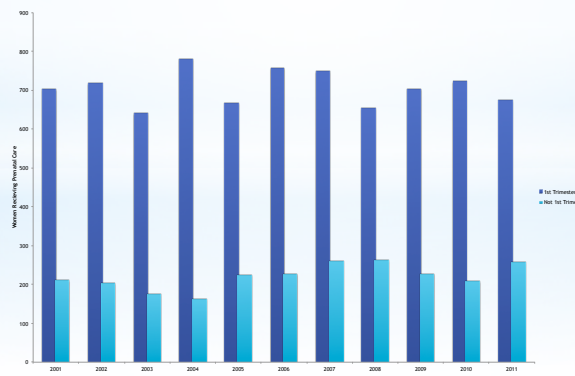


Figure 2. 2001-2011 Rockingham County women receiving pre-natal care in the first trimester

Table 1. The percentage of women who received prenatal care in the first trimester in Rockingham County and Harrisonburg.

Year	1st Trimester	Not 1st Trimester	Total Population	1st Trimester (%)
2001	700	210	910	76.92%
2002	716	202	918	78.00%
2003	639	174	813	78.60%
2004	780	162	942	82.80%
2005	665	223	888	74.89%
2006	755	227	982	76.88%
2007	747	258	1005	74.33%
2008	653	260	913	71.52%
2009	701	225	926	75.70%
2010	722	206	928	77.80%
2011	673	255	928	72.52%

In 2004 and 2010, 10 women did not receive prenatal care. In 2008 and 2009, 13 women did not receive prenatal care. In 2011, six women did not receive prenatal care. We were unable to analyze the number of women who did not receive prenatal in remaining years.

CONCLUSIONS

- The population of Rockingham County, including Harrisonburg City, is growing.
- In 2011, the combined population was at its highest with a total of 126,562 people. In 2002, the combined population was at its lowest with a total of 108,999 people.
- Birth rates remain stable with the average annual birth rate between 2002 and 2011 at approx. 960 births.
- 72-82% of pregnant women received prenatal care in the 1st trimester, leaving 18-28% without appropriate care.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve prenatal care access in the Rockingham County and Harrisonburg area.
- Create incentives to attract skilled providers to the County.