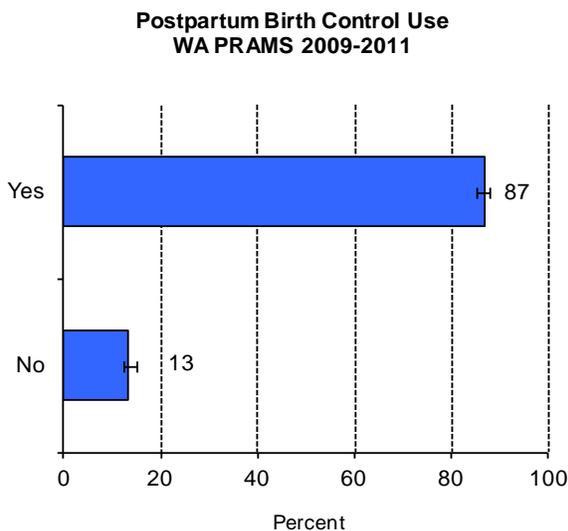


# Postpartum Birth Control Use

## Key Findings:

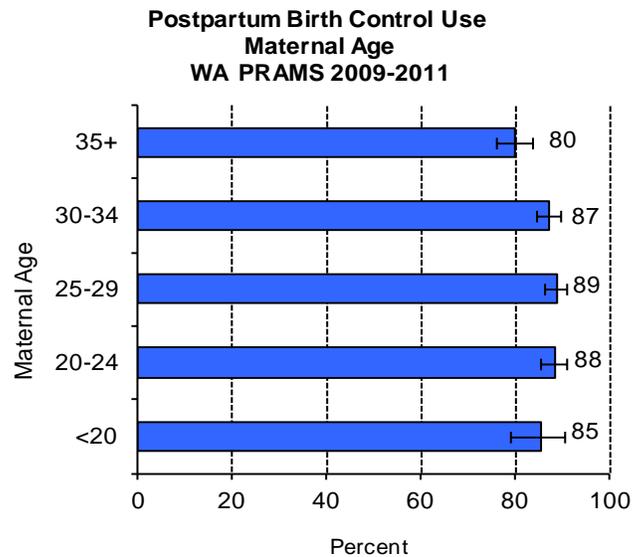
- In 2009-2011, about 87 percent of mothers reported using birth control when surveyed 2-6 months after birth.<sup>1</sup>
- Women in the Undocumented and Pregnancy Medical Medicaid eligibility group were more likely to use postpartum birth control than non-Medicaid or women enrolled in TANF.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Women older than 35 years of age were less likely to use post partum birth control than were women of other ages.<sup>1</sup>
- Asian and Pacific Islander women were less likely to use post partum birth control than women of other races/ethnicities. Hispanic women reported the highest rate of post partum birth control of any race/ethnicity.<sup>1</sup>
- The main identified reasons women gave for not using postpartum birth control were not having sex (about 37 percent), did not want to use birth control (about 31 percent), and wanted to get pregnant (about 19 percent). Few women (about 4%) reported inability to pay as a reason.<sup>1</sup>

## Overall<sup>1</sup>

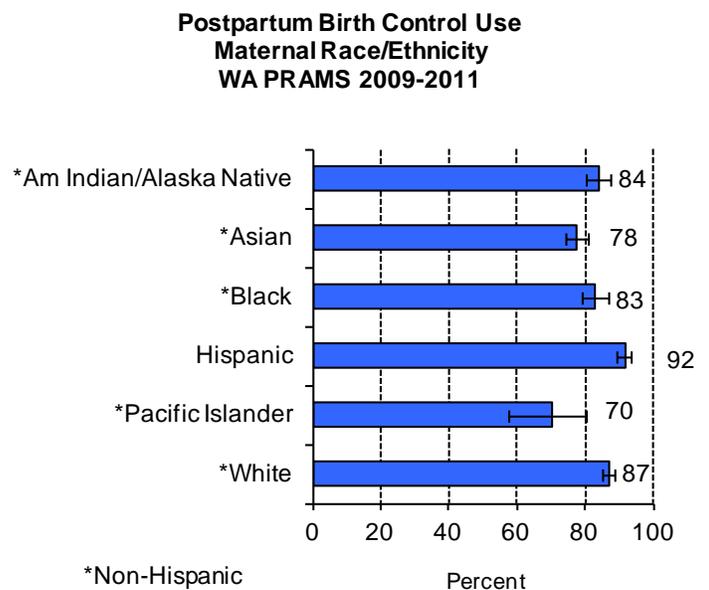


**Definition:** Postpartum birth control is defined as a respondent reporting if at the time of the interview (2-6 months postpartum) that "she or her husband/partner were doing anything to keep from getting pregnant."<sup>a b</sup>

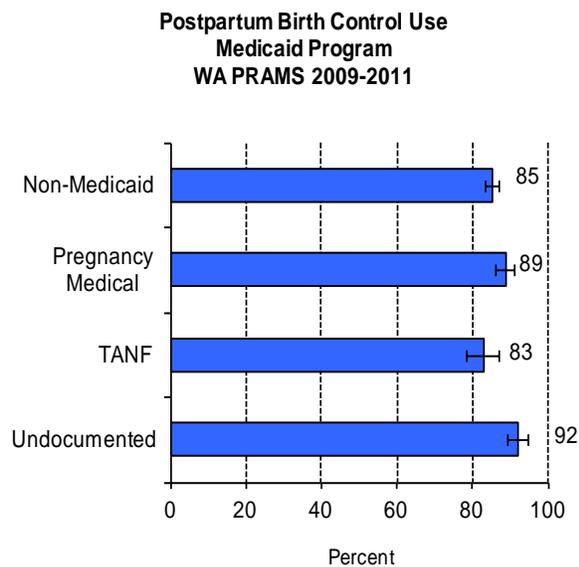
## Maternal Age<sup>1</sup>



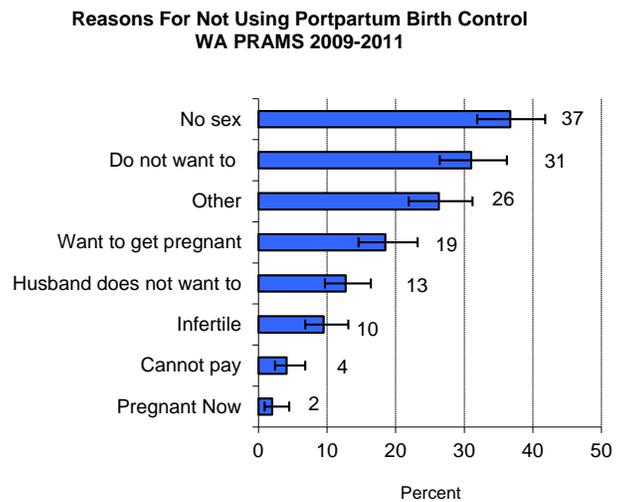
## Race and Ethnicity<sup>1</sup>



## Medicaid Status<sup>1,2,a</sup>



## Reasons for No Birth Control Postpartum<sup>1\*</sup>



\*Respondents could select all responses that applied, so proportions will not add to 100

### Data Sources

1. *Washington Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) Phase 6m (2009-2011)*[Data file]. (2013, September). Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Health..
2. *First Steps Database 2012* [Data file]. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Research and Data Analysis Division.

### Endnotes

- a. Medicaid women received maternity care paid for by Medicaid. Medicaid recipients were divided into three major subgroups (from highest to lowest socioeconomic status) based on program eligibility. **Pregnancy Medical** were women eligible for the pregnancy medical assistance “S” program. These women were U.S. citizens or legal US residents, and were eligible to receive Medicaid because they were pregnant and had incomes at or below 185% the federal poverty line; **TANF** were women enrolled in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. These women were very low income (generally < 50% the federal poverty level) and received cash assistance (TANF) in addition to Medicaid; and **Undocumented**: were women who were not legally admitted for permanent residence, lack temporary residence status, or were not lawfully present in the U.S. They were eligible to receive Medicaid because they were pregnant and had incomes at or below 185% the federal poverty level. Undocumented women were not eligible for TANF although their incomes were often lower than women on TANF. All three Medicaid groups had incomes below most non-Medicaid women. Note that Medicaid eligibility status for pregnant legal residents who were not US Citizens changed in Spring 2009. Prior to Spring 2009, legal residents who were not US Citizens were grouped with Undocumented women (and called Non-Citizens).
- b. Phase 6 PRAMS Question: “Are you or your husband or partner doing anything *now* to keep from getting pregnant?”

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