

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT PRAMS

WHAT IS PRAMS?

Each year in Oregon, more than 45,000 babies are born. Most of these babies are healthy, but some have serious health problems. PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System) is a joint research project between the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Our purpose is to find out why some babies are born healthy and others are not. To do this, our questionnaire asks new mothers questions about their behaviors and experiences around the time of their pregnancy. No matter how your pregnancy went, your answers will help us learn more about ways to improve the chances for future mothers and babies in Oregon.

HOW WAS I CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN PRAMS?

Your name was picked by chance by computer from the Oregon Birth Certificate Registry.

WILL MY ANSWERS BE KEPT PRIVATE?

Yes—your answers will be kept private and your privacy is protected by Oregon law with one exception: child abuse. None of the questions are about child abuse. But, if your added comments suggest child abuse, we are required by law to report this. All answers will be used together to help us learn more about the health of Oregon mothers and babies. No one will be identified by name in study reports.

IS IT REALLY IMPORTANT THAT I ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

Yes! Because of the small number of mothers picked, it is important to have everyone's answers. Every pregnancy is different. To get a better overall picture of the health of mothers and babies in Oregon, we need each mother selected to answer the questions. From the information you give us, we may be able to improve health care for women and children in Oregon. We need to know what went *right* as well as what went wrong during your pregnancy. Your help is really important to the success of our program.

SOME OF THE QUESTIONS DON'T SEEM RELATED TO HEALTH CARE —

WHY ARE THEY ASKED?

Many things in a mother's life may affect her pregnancy. These questions try to get the best picture of the new mother's health care and things that happened to her before, during, and after her pregnancy.

WHAT IF I WANT TO ASK MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT PRAMS?

Please call us toll free at 1-800-723-3638 and we will be happy to answer your questions about PRAMS or services available in your area.

Thank you for helping Oregon mothers, babies, and families

If you complete and return the enclosed survey within 4 weeks, we will send you a

****\$20 VISA Gift Card****

Important Information About PRAMS Please Read Before Starting the Survey

Oregon Public Health Division

IRB Approval Expires

Feb 06 2021

OHA-PHD/MCH

- The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a research project sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Oregon Health Authority.
- The purpose of the study is to find out why some babies are born healthy and others are not.
- We are asking 1 out of every 20 women in Oregon to answer the same questions. All of your names were picked by a computer from recent birth certificates.
- It takes about 20 minutes to answer all questions. Some questions may be sensitive, such as questions about smoking or drinking during pregnancy.
- You are free to do the survey or not. If you don't want to participate at all, or if you don't want to answer a particular question, that's okay. There is no penalty or loss of benefits for not participating or answering all questions.
- Your survey may be combined with information the health department has from other sources.
- If you choose to do the survey, your answers will be kept private to the extent allowed by law and will be used only for research. None of the questions are about child abuse. But, if your comments suggest child abuse, we are required by law to report this. If you are currently in jail, your participation in the study will have no effect on parole.
- Your name will not be on any reports from PRAMS. The booklet has a number so we will know when it is returned.
- If your mail survey is not received after 5 weeks, you may receive a call from our PRAMS contractor to conduct the survey over the phone. That conversation may be recorded for quality assurance and training purposes.
- Your answers will be grouped with those from other women. What we learn from PRAMS will be used to plan programs to help mothers and babies in Oregon.
- If you have any questions about your rights in the project, please call Alayna Nest at 1-971-673-1221.

If you have questions about PRAMS, or if you want to answer the questions by telephone,
please call 1-800-723-3638. The call is free.