



Native American PRAMS Project
Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System

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July 30, 2012

Dear Colleague:

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has partnered with the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center, and Michigan State University to conduct a **Native American Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) survey**. As most of you are aware, information from PRAMS is used to plan programs that improve the health of mothers and babies.

Unfortunately, the yearly Michigan PRAMS survey does not include enough data on Native infants to provide helpful information for understanding maternal and infant health among American Indians. Therefore, results from this special survey are vital to assist MDCH in knowing what can be done to create better opportunities for good health among Native American women and children in Michigan.

Mothers of all Native infants born in 2012 will receive an invitation to participate in the survey beginning this month and continuing through June 2013. In an effort to reach as many Native families as possible, we are asking for your assistance in sharing information about the survey with your Native American clients. Enclosed is a Frequently Asked Questions document for distribution to your clients. It includes information on why the survey is important, and who to contact with questions.

We ask that you would share this important information with your clients. Please email Elizabeth Kushman with the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan at elizabeth@itcmi.org with any questions.

Thanks in advance for your support.

Alethia Carr, Director
Bureau of Family, Maternal and Child Health
Michigan Department of Community Health



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Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is PRAMS?

The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a research project sponsored by the Michigan Department of Community Health. The purpose of PRAMS is to find out why some babies are born healthy and others are not. This information is then used to plan programs that improve the health of mothers and babies.

Why is there a special Native American PRAMS?

The yearly Michigan PRAMS does not include enough Native infants to provide information that is helpful for understanding maternal and infant health among American Indians in Michigan. As a result, this particular PRAMS project was designed to include only mothers of Native infants. In Michigan, Native babies tend to have poorer health than other babies and are less likely to survive to their first birthday than other babies. This project is interviewing women to find out what can be done to create better opportunities for good health among Native Americans in Michigan. By participating in this project and answering some questions about your recent pregnancy you can help us learn more about how to improve the health of Native babies and mothers.

My baby and I are healthy. Should I still participate?

Yes! We want everyone to participate so we can learn about all factors—both good and bad—that influence health. Every single reply is helpful and important.

Who is conducting this project?

This Native American PRAMS is being conducted by a partnership between the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center, the Michigan Department of Community Health's Practices to Reduce Infant Mortality through Equity (PRIME) project, Michigan PRAMS, and Michigan State University.

How long does the survey take and what is it about?

The survey takes about 30-40 minutes to answer all questions. The survey asks for information about your pregnancy and health. Some questions may be sensitive, such as questions about smoking or drinking during pregnancy. What we learn from the Native American PRAMS will be used to plan programs to help mothers and babies in Michigan.

PRAMS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, Continued

How did you get my name for this project?

We are asking mothers of all Native infants born in 2012 to participate in this survey. We got your name and information from the birth certificate records at the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Is it legal to use my personal information to contact me?

Yes. Michigan's public health code (law) allows the Michigan Department of Community Health to use personal information for surveillance and research that improves the public's health. Your rights are protected under the Public Health Code and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). If you choose to participate in this survey, your name will be removed from your responses and your responses will be grouped with those from other women. The people analyzing the data will not know who you are or what information you provide. The survey booklet has a number so we know when it is returned. Your name will not appear anywhere on the survey booklet. Your name and your child's name will never be used in any reports or information that results from this project. If you have any questions about the law or your rights in the project, please call the Michigan Department of Community Health's Institutional Review Board at (517)-241-1928.

Will I be compensated for participating in this survey?

Yes. All participants will be mailed a \$10 gift card to Wal-Mart after completing the survey.

Do I have to participate in this survey?

No. 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 and you will not lose benefits from IHS, WIC, or other benefits for not participating or answering all questions. If you choose to do the survey, your answers will be kept private and will be used only to help us learn about the health of Native babies in Michigan. If you are currently in jail, your participation in the study will have no effect on parole.

We hope that you will consider participating in the Native American PRAMS survey. Your answers are very important to help understand how to improve health for American Indians in Michigan. If you are interested in learning about work that resulted from other PRAMS projects please visit the website at www.michigan.gov/prams.

**Please feel free to call the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan with any questions:
906-632-6896, extension 120.**