

**Table 7.21**

Dental Visit During Pregnancy by Mother's Race/Ethnicity in Hawai'i, Aggregate 2004-2008.

Race/Ethnicity	Prevalance (%)
Japanese	49.6
Chinese	48.7
White	45.6
Korean	43.8
Black	40.5
Filipino	35.0
Native Hawaiian	33.6
All Others	32.8
Samoan	27.3

**Background:**

“Oral health is an essential and integral component of health throughout life and is associated with increased health care costs, decreased productivity, increased absenteeism, and can result in significant illness, disease, and even death. Regular dental visits provide an opportunity for early diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of oral and associated disease among persons of all ages. Pregnancy is an important time to visit the dentist for continuity of regular professional care and due to the potential increase of adverse birth outcomes associated with poor oral health.”

**PRAMS Definition:**

“This measure of utilization of oral health services was based on a self-reported visit to a dentist or dental clinic during pregnancy.”

**Differences Related to Maternal Race:**

“Samoan, Hawaiian, Filipino, and those in the ‘All Others’ reported the lowest estimates of dental visits during pregnancy.”

**Source:** Hawai'i State, Department of Health, Hawai'i Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS). (Honolulu)