



AHRQ Report: Task Force on Research in Pregnant and Lactating Women (TFRPLW)

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Mission

Produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used

How AHRQ Makes a Difference

- **AHRQ invests in research and evidence** to understand how to make health care safer and improve quality
- **AHRQ creates materials to teach and train** health care systems and professionals to **catalyze improvements** in care
- **AHRQ generates measures and data** used to track and improve performance and evaluate progress of the U.S. health system

Research and Evidence

- TFRPLW-relevant topics addressed
 - ▶ Utilization of medication (pharmaceutical or vaccine, e.g.) by women during pregnancy
 - ▶ Safety for the woman or the fetus of using medication (pharmaceutical or vaccine, e.g.) during pregnancy
 - ▶ Safety for the woman or the fetus of not treating a disorder, during pregnancy, with medication

Research and Evidence

- Selected Investigator-initiated Research
 - ▶ “Specific birth defects and asthma medications in pregnancy: Demonstration project” (R18), (9/30/09-7/31/15)
 - ▶ “Comparative Effectiveness and Safety of Depression Treatments during Pregnancy” (R01), (9/30/09-7/31/15)
 - ▶ “Pregnancy outcomes and asthma medications in pregnancy: a Demonstration Project” (R18), (9/30/09-7/31/15)
 - ▶ “Pre-existing Diabetes and Pregnancy” (R36), (8/1/13-7/31/14)
 - ▶ “Improving Safety and Quality with Integrated Technology” (R01), (9/30/04-8/31/09)

Research and Evidence

- AHRQ Intramural Research
 - ▶ Research Findings #32: Health Care Expenditures for Uncomplicated Pregnancies, 2009
 - ▶ Data source: MEPS (Medical Expenditure Panel Survey)
 - ▶ Provides estimates in 2009 dollars of the expenses associated with an uncomplicated pregnancy, including both the prenatal care and the inpatient delivery, overall and by groups defined by the insurance status of the mother. The prenatal-care expenses are broken out by type, including those for the office-based visits, those for the **prescription medicines**, and those for all other medical care.
 - ▶ https://meps.ahrq.gov/data_files/publications/rf32/rf32.shtml

Research and Evidence

Guidance on Health Impacts of Therapies for PLW:

- Recent Published Recommendations from U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF):
 - ▶ [Primary Care Interventions to Support Breastfeeding](#) (2016) – Grade “B”
 - ▶ [Screening for Depression in Adults](#) (2016) – Grade “B”
 - ▶ [Screening for Hepatitis B in Pregnant Women](#) (2009) – Grade “A”
 - ▶ [Iron Deficiency Anemia in Pregnant Women, Screening and Supplementation](#) (2015) – Grade “I”
 - ▶ [Low-Dose Aspirin Use for the Prevention for Morbidity and Mortality from Preeclampsia: Preventive Medication](#) (2014) – Grade “B”
 - ▶ [Screening for Lead Levels in Childhood and Pregnancy](#) (In progress)
 - ▶ [Screening for Syphilis Infection in Pregnancy](#) (In progress)

Other Activities

- **Communications**
 - ▶ Focused on providers and health service organizations
 - ▶ Infographics available to describe public health related information and statistics
- **Collaborative Efforts**
 - ▶ AHRQ participates in the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics



Questions?

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