

NEWS RELEASE

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State Health Department Plans Survey of New Mothers

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) has started to mail a Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) survey statewide to a randomly selected group of new mothers. The survey collects information about women’s experiences before, during and immediately after pregnancy. The PRAMS survey will provide data on these critical periods regarding issues such as access to prenatal care, safe sleep practices, barriers to breastfeeding and other challenges that new mothers in the state may be facing.

“Since only a small group of new mothers will be randomly selected to participate, it is very important that any woman who receives the survey complete it,” said Grace Njau, ND PRAMS program director. “The data collected from the survey is kept completely private. And, the information these mothers provide will be used to guide the development of maternal and child health programs and policies for North Dakota.”

North Dakota’s pregnant women and infants fare very well in certain health behaviors and outcomes, but the state still faces particular challenges, such as disparities in infant mortality among the state’s American Indian population. North Dakota State University (NDSU) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will assist the NDDoH with the survey and will make recommendations about programs based on survey results concerning the health of mothers and children.

For more information about the PRAMS survey, contact Grace Njau at 701.328.3209 for visit www.ndhealth.gov/prams.

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