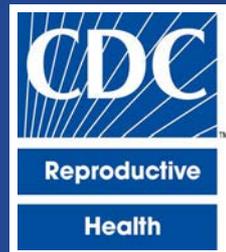


Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System



Background/Relevance

- ❖ Infant mortality rates were no longer declining
- ❖ Incidence of low birth weight infants had changed little
- ❖ Research indicated that maternal behaviors during pregnancy may influence infant birth weight and mortality rates



1987 -

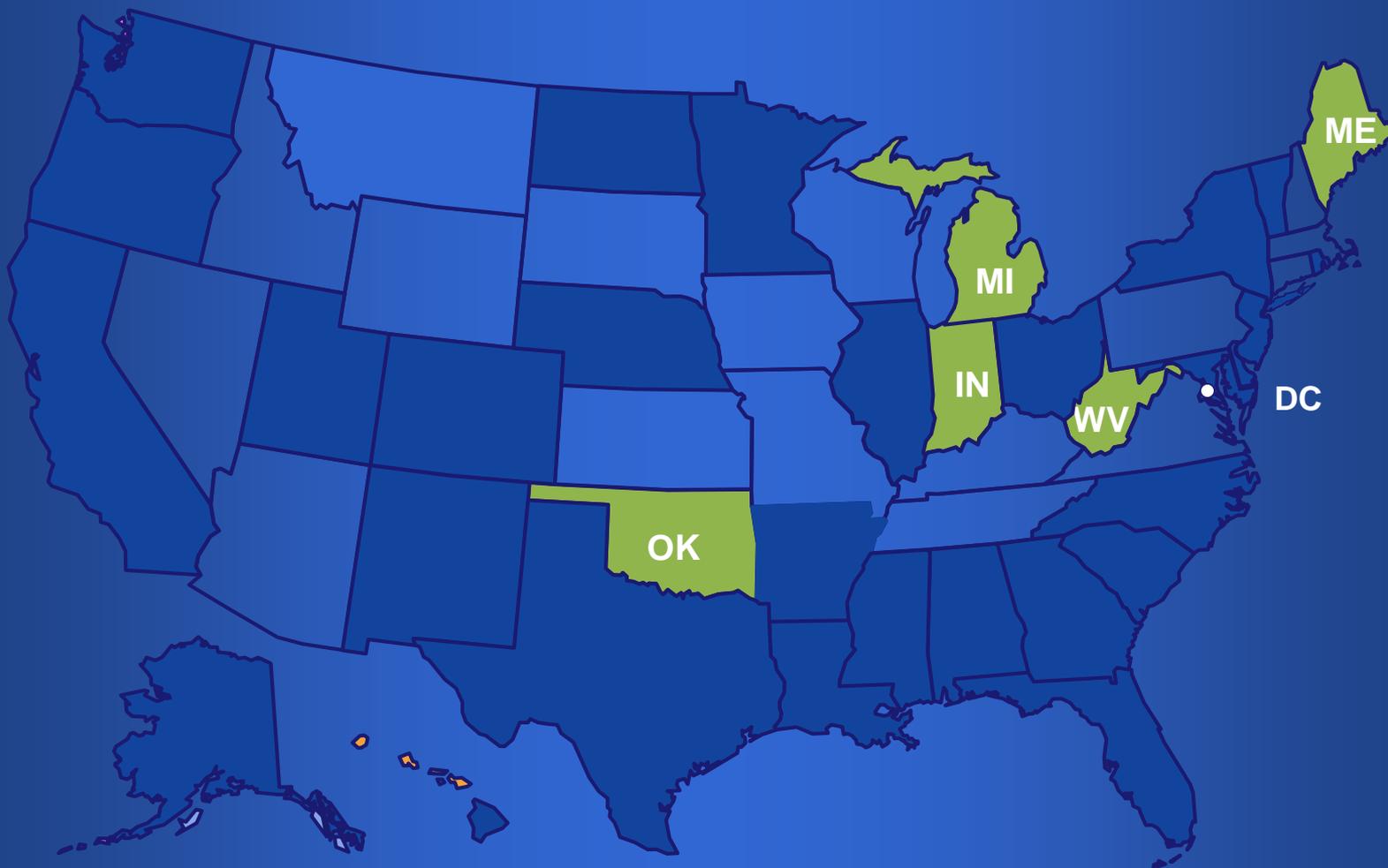
What is PRAMS?

- ❖ Ongoing, population-based, state-based surveillance system of women delivering live infants
- ❖ Self-reported data on maternal behaviors and experiences before, during, and after pregnancy

Goal

- ❖ To improve the health of mothers and infants by reducing adverse outcomes such as
 - low birth weight
 - infant morbidity and mortality
 - maternal morbidity

History of PRAMS: 1987



Strengths of PRAMS

- ❖ Strong methodology
 - Standardized protocol
 - Data weighted to reflect population of live births in the state
- ❖ Response rates $\geq 70\%$
 - 90% of states
 - 4 states $\geq 80\%$
- ❖ Unique source of MCH data
 - State-based and population-based

Challenges

- ❖ Overall response rates $\geq 70\%$
 - Mail & phone
- ❖ Racial/ethnic populations
 - Native American
 - African American
 - Hispanic
- ❖ Flexibility
 - May need to change/enhance methodology

❖ Timeliness

- Data timeliness indicated as most significant challenge to policy and program development
- Weighted datasets back to states
 - States and CDC share responsibility
- Frequency of changing questions on survey
- Lack of efficient data management system

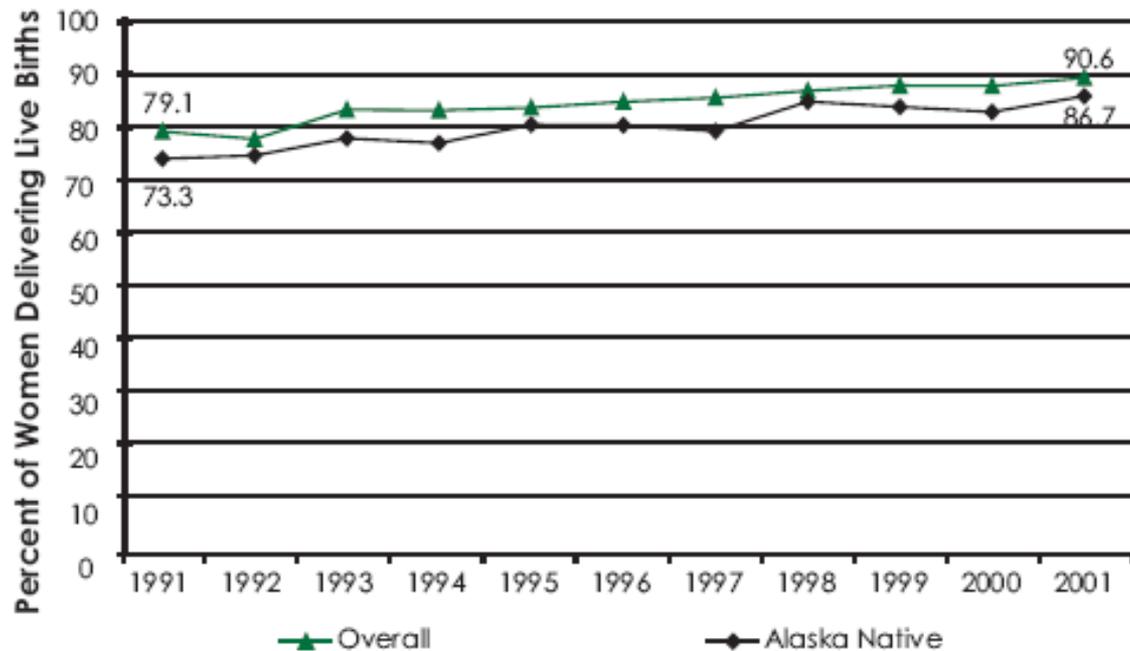
- ❖ Use of PRAMS data to promote public health action
- ❖ 2 examples:
 - Policy/Law
 - Alaska- breastfeeding
 - Program
 - Utah – adequacy of prenatal care
 - Colorado – low birth weight

Alaska - Breastfeeding

❖ Initiation

- 1991 – 79.1%
- 2001 – 90.6%

Breastfeeding Initiation by Race and Year of Birth
Alaska, 1991-2001



Please see Back Page, TURNAWAIN

Ellis measure stands behind breast-feeding

By LISA DEMER
Daily News reporter

Breast-feeding mothers in Alaska often are hassled when they try to nourish their babies in public. They have been asked to leave shopping malls, restaurants, and at least once, a parking lot, because someone was offended. Extreme as it sounds, some worry that mothers could be charged with indecent exposure for nursing in public.

No more, if a bill moving through the Alaska Legislature becomes law.

Sen. Johnny Ellis, an Anchorage Democrat who often takes up social issues, is sponsoring a measure that would prohibit interference with breast-feeding. Anyone who tried to stop a woman from breast-feeding in a public place could be charged with a violation of state law and face a fine. And, under the legislation, breast-feeding could not be considered indecent exposure or lewd conduct.

Studies have long shown that babies who breast-feed are healthier than those nourished with formula. They also bond better with their mothers. New research shows they are smarter, too. And mothers who



"We're trying to get the word out that breast-feeding is a good thing," Sen. Johnny Ellis said.



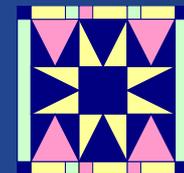
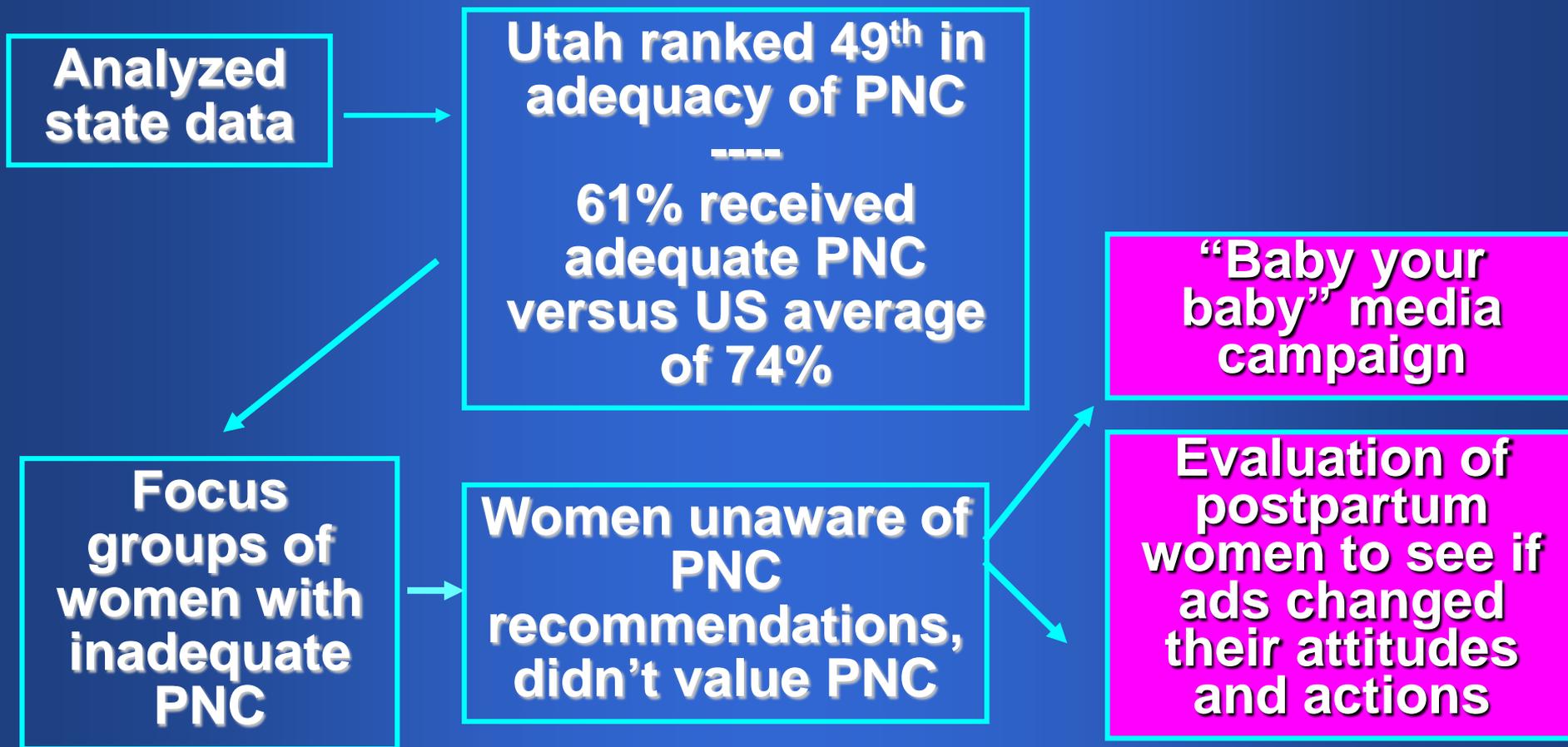
Alaska Senate Bill 297 signed into law June 8, 1998 states:

A woman may breastfeed her child in a public place.

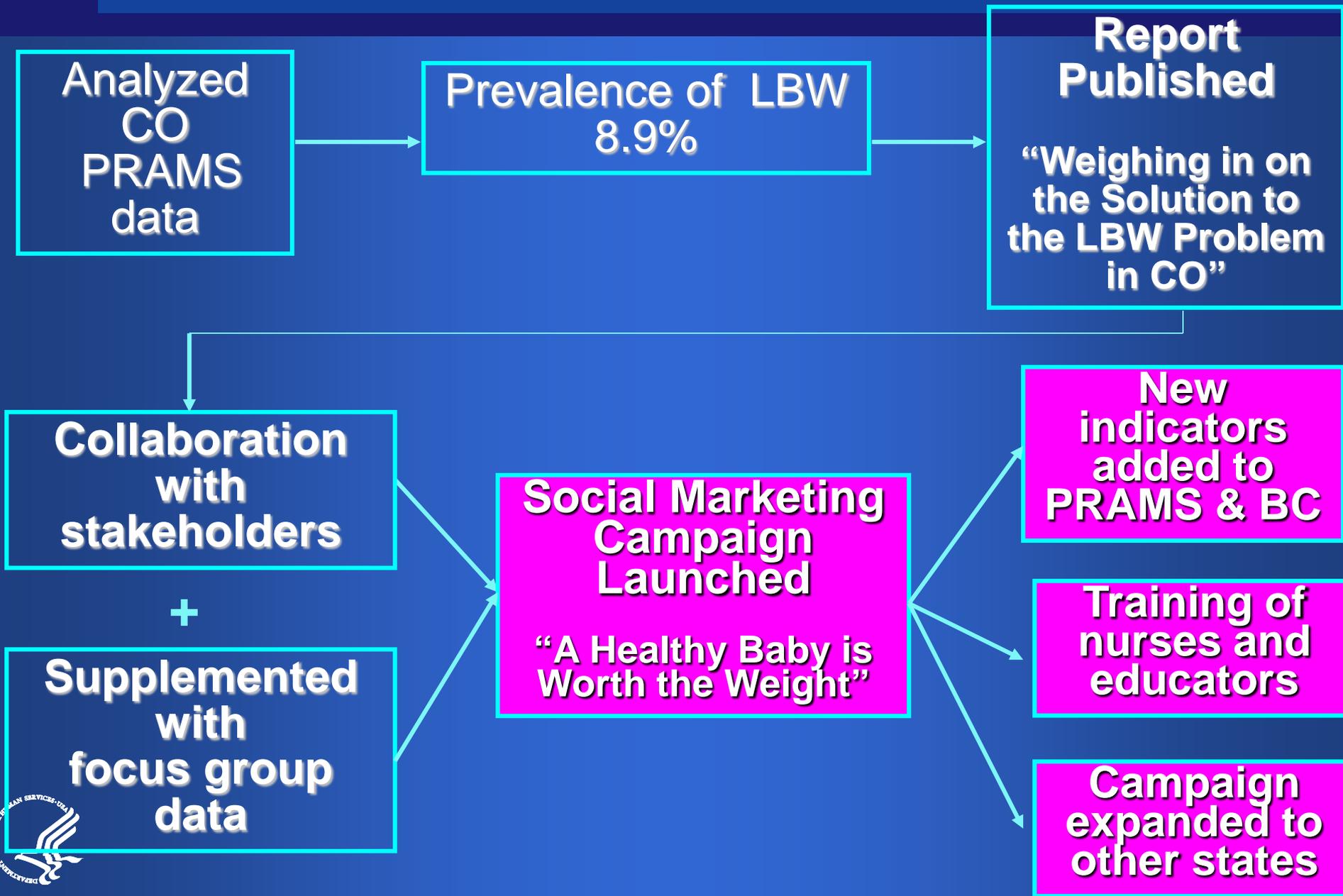
Provided by Alaska Breastfeeding Coalition and Alaska Department of Health and Social Services WIC Program in support of breastfeeding mothers and children.



Utah: Prenatal care adequacy



Colorado – Low Birth Weight



- ❖ Characteristics of states able to use data for public health action
 - Staff to analyze data
 - Strong collaborations
 - Within health department
 - MCH community
 - Skilled in working with program staff and policy makers
 - Champion
- ❖ Provide TA to states to strengthen these skills

MCH Data Linkage Project

Goal: To promote collaboration between MCH and chronic disease/health promotion professionals by:

- Increasing awareness of the value of PRAMS data with Chronic Disease/Health Promotion Directors
- Identifying issues of mutual concern in PRAMS
- Working together to address those issues





- ❖ **CDC PRAMS DRH** (Division of Reproductive Health)
- ❖ **NACDD** (National Association for Chronic Disease Directors)
- ❖ **AMCHP** (Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs)
- ❖ **State MCH/PRAMS and chronic disease/health promotion professionals**

Why Link?



- ❖ **Preconception care is important, especially for women with chronic diseases**
 - **Risk factors and conditions can be identified and addressed**
- ❖ **Pregnancy can unmask a potential for disease**
- ❖ **Pregnancy is an entry point into health care and an opportunity for primary prevention**

Example: Tobacco Prevention and Control Programs

- ❖ Utah persuaded Medicaid clinics to cover counseling and cessation costs
- ❖ Designed media campaign and Quit Line strategies to target this population
- ❖ Use maternal smoking and second-hand smoke exposure data to design, implement and evaluate programs

- ❖ Data collection in 9 new states
- ❖ Questionnaire evaluation/revision
 - Phase 5 (2004-2008)
 - Phase 6 (2009+)
- ❖ Overhaul of PRAMS data management systems
- ❖ Methods to increase response rates in hard to reach populations

Future Directions

- ❖ Increased dissemination of data
 - State accessed query system
 - Public use query system
- ❖ Increased utilization of data for public health action
- ❖ Expand Chronic Disease Linkage Project