

APPENDIX D: PRENATAL CARE

Kessner Index

The classification of prenatal care as adequate, intermediate, or inadequate is derived from the Institute of Medicine's Three-Factor Prenatal Care Index.¹ The classes of care are in accordance with recommendations for prenatal care set forth by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the World Health Organization. This classification scheme accounts for length of gestation by requiring fewer prenatal visits for pregnancies with short gestation time. Records with missing information (i.e. last normal menstrual period, gestation weeks, number of visits, or month prenatal care began) are assigned to the inadequate prenatal care category.

The gestation weeks are calculated by subtracting the last menstrual date from the child's birth date. If the last menstrual date is missing from the birth record, the doctor's (or other medical professional's) estimate of gestation is used. The accuracy of the level of prenatal care is as reliable as the information provided by the mother and her caregiver.

The table below shows the Institute of Medicine's Three-Factor Prenatal Care Index.

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| PRENATAL CARE | GESTATION (WEEKS) | NUMBER OF PRENATAL VISITS |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ADEQUATE (includes women who started their first prenatal visits within the first three months of pregnancy) | 13 or less | 1 or more or not stated |
| | 14-17 | 2 or more |
| | 18-21 | 3 or more |
| | 22-25 | 4 or more |
| | 26-29 | 5 or more |
| | 30-31 | 6 or more |
| | 32-33 | 7 or more |
| | 34-35 | 8 or more |
| | 36 or more | 9 or more |
| INADEQUATE (includes women who started care within third trimester) | 14-21 | 0 or unstated |
| | 22-29 | 1 or less or unstated |
| | 30-31 | 2 or less or unstated |
| | 32-33 | 3 or less or unstated |
| | 34 or more | 4 or less or unstated |
| | not stated | |
| INTERMEDIATE | all combinations not stated above | |

1 Kessner, D. "Infant Death: An Analysis by Maternal Risk and Health Care." Institute of Medicine, *Contrasts in Health Status, Volume I*, 1973. National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC, pp 58-60.

