

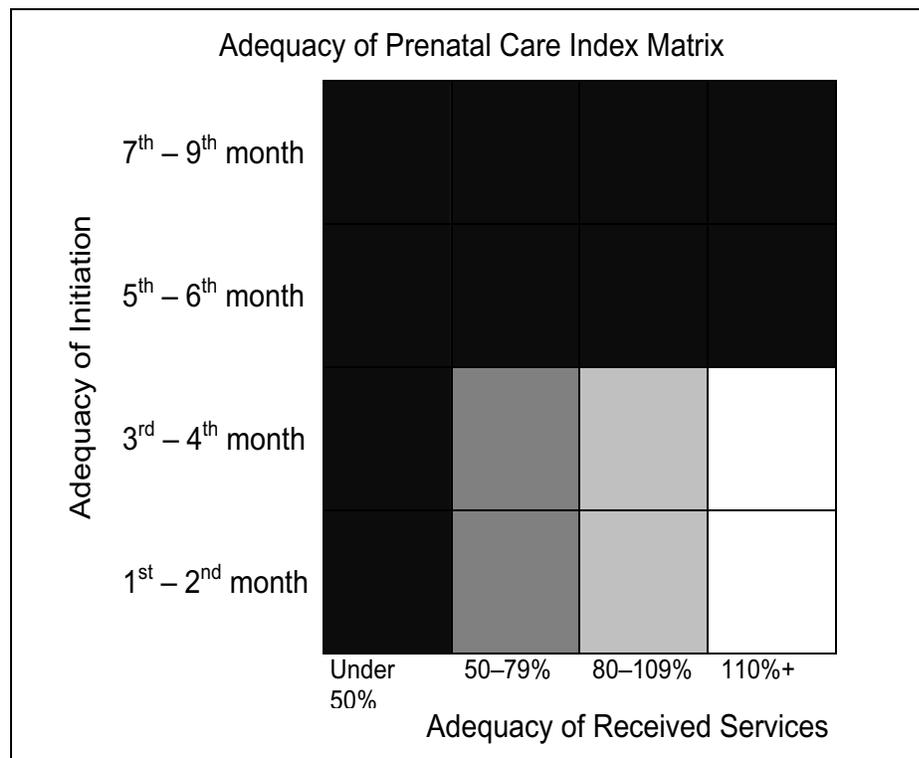
APPENDIX D: PRENATAL CARE

APNCU INDEX

The APNCU index makes use of two types of prenatal care information obtained from birth certificate data: when prenatal care began (adequacy of initiation) and the number of prenatal visits from when prenatal care began until delivery (adequacy of received services). The APNCU index classifies the adequacy of initiation as follows: pregnancy months 1 and 2, months 3 and 4, months 5 and 6, and months 7 to 9. To classify the adequacy of received services, the number of prenatal visits is compared to the expected number of visits for the period between when care began and the delivery date. The expected number of visits is based on the American

College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists prenatal care standards for uncomplicated pregnancies and is adjusted for the gestational age when care began and for the gestational age at delivery. A ratio of observed to expected visits is calculated and grouped into four categories—Inadequate (received less than 50% of expected visits), Intermediate (50%–79%), Adequate (80%–109%), and Adequate Plus (110%). The final APNCU index measure combines these two dimensions into a single summary score. The chart below summarizes the two dimensions of the APNCU index.

TABLE D.1



Summary Index

