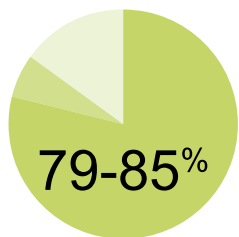
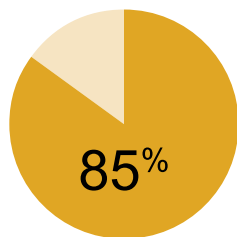


Limits of Screening

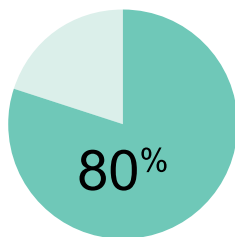
Results are not 100% accurate. This means some birth defects and genetic conditions may be missed. The Iowa Maternal Prenatal Screening Program will find:



pregnancies with
Down syndrome



pregnancies with
open neural tube
defects



pregnancies
with Edwards
syndrome

No test can guarantee a healthy baby. These tests can give you important information about a baby's health and help guide your next steps.

Questions or Need Guidance?

Contact:

Iowa Health and
Human Services
Maternal Prenatal
Screening Program
at 833-496-8040.



Iowa Maternal Prenatal Screening Program



Health and
Human Services

What is Prenatal Screening?

Prenatal screening can tell if there is an increased chance for a baby to have certain birth defects or genetic conditions.

Most pregnancies lead to the birth of a healthy baby, but each pregnancy has a 3-5% chance of a birth defect or genetic condition. Some pregnancies may be at a higher risk due to factors like:

- The age of the egg
- A family history

Women or their partners with a family history of birth defects or genetic conditions may want to consider diagnostic testing instead of screening. Diagnostic tests can confirm whether a baby has a genetic condition.

What Does Prenatal Screening Test For?

- Down syndrome (Trisomy 21)* - (a chromosome condition that can cause some health and learning challenges).
- Open neural tube defects (openings in the spine or skull, such as spina bifida).
- Edwards syndrome (Trisomy 18)* - (a chromosome condition that causes serious health problems and a shortened life expectancy).
- Abdominal wall defects (openings in the belly, such as gastroschisis).

*The Iowa Maternal Prenatal Screening Program cannot perform this screening with twins or multiples gestations.

These tests are more invasive, meaning there is a small chance of risks such as miscarriage. Talk to your healthcare provider about which test is best for you.

Why Consider Prenatal Screening?

- Guides prenatal care, including decisions about the pregnancy or additional testing.
- Connects parents with specialists, genetic counselors or pediatric providers before a baby's birth.
- Allows time to prepare emotionally, financially and medically for a baby's needs.
- Helps parents and the care team plan for a safe delivery and the right support for a baby.

How Can I Get Prenatal Screening?

Speak to your healthcare provider about prenatal screening. This testing is optional. If you are interested in prenatal screening, your healthcare provider will order one of the following tests:

1. Integrated screening: Requires a blood sample to be collected in the first and second trimesters. Screens for Down syndrome, Edwards syndrome and certain birth defects.
2. Quad screening: Requires a blood sample to be collected in the second trimester. Screens for Down syndrome, Edwards syndrome and certain birth defects.
3. Alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) screening: Requires a blood sample to be collected in the second trimester. Screens for certain birth defects, including open neural tube defects and abdominal wall defects.

What Can the Results Show?

Most women get a "normal" or "screen negative" result.

- This means a baby has a low chance of having the condition(s) for which it was screened.

If a result is "abnormal" or "screen positive", this means a baby might have a higher chance of a certain condition.

- This result does not mean a baby definitely has the condition.

- In this case, your healthcare team may recommend more tests, like ultrasound or amniocentesis. Amniocentesis is a test that requires a sample of fluid to be collected from around a baby and can determine if a baby is affected with certain conditions.
- About 2 to 5 out of every 100 tests (2-5%) show an abnormal screening result, even when a baby is healthy. This is called a **"false positive"** result.