

APPENDIX II

KESSNER INDEX

ADEQUACY OF PRENATAL CARE DEFINED IN TERMS OF TIMING  
AND QUANTITY OF PRENATAL VISITS, ADJUSTED FOR  
GESTATION LENGTH

Adequacy of Prenatal Care	Gestation <sup>d</sup> (Weeks)	Number of Prenatal Visits
Adequate <sup>a</sup>	13 or less	1 or more or not stated
14-17	and	2 or more
18-21	and	3 or more
22-25	and	4 or more
26-29	and	5 or more
30-31	and	6 or more
32-33	and	7 or more
34-35	and	8 or more
36 or more	and	9 or more
Inadequate <sup>b</sup>	14-21 <sup>c</sup>	0 or not stated
22-29	and	1 or less or not stated
30-31	and	2 or less or not stated
32-33	and	3 or less or not stated
34 or more	and	4 or less or not stated
Intermediate	Combinations other than those specified above or those specified as having no care	
No care	Both number of prenatal visits and month care began indicate no prenatal care	

<sup>a</sup> In addition to the specific number of visits indicated for adequate care, the interval to the first prenatal visit had to be 13 weeks or less (first trimester).

<sup>b</sup> In addition to the specific number of visits indicated for inadequate care, all women who started their care during the third trimester (28 weeks or later) were considered to have received inadequate care.

<sup>c</sup> For this gestation group, care was considered inadequate if the time of the first visit was not stated.

<sup>d</sup> When month and year are specified but day is missing, impute 15 for day.

Source: Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences: Infant Deaths, An Analysis by Maternal Risk and Health Care. In: Contrasts in Health Status, Vol. I, 1973. Based on: The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: Standards for Obstetric-Gynecologic Services. Chicago, 1974. Internal modifications have been made to differentiate those having "no care" from those having "inadequate" or "intermediate care."