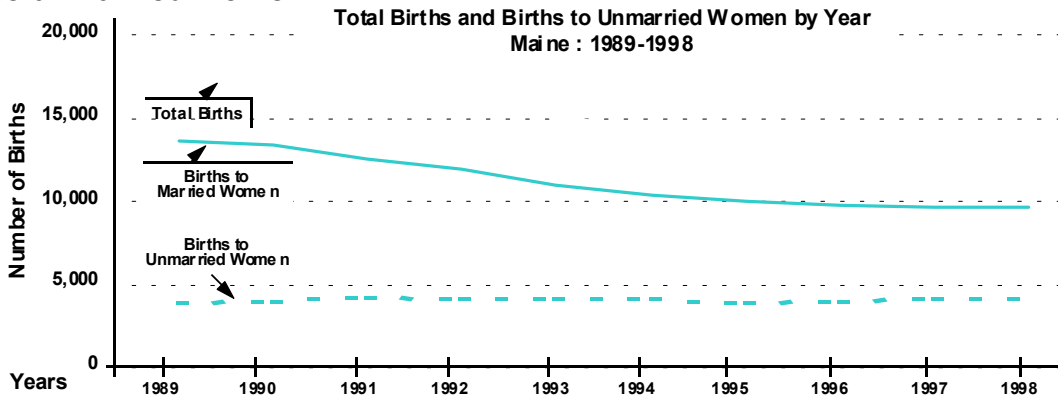


BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED WOMEN

Maine Residents: 1998 (preliminary)

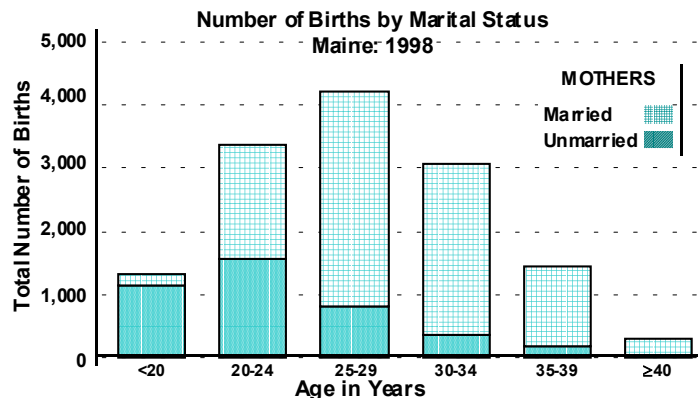
- ➔ In 1998, there were 13,720 live births to Maine women; 30% of these births (4,104) were to unmarried women. This represented a 21% decrease in live births in the past 10 years, and an 8% increase in births to unmarried women.



- ➔ The proportion of births to unmarried Maine women (30%) was greater than what was experienced nationwide (26%); it was also greater than what was observed in all but one New England state (Rhode Island). The differences in these proportions were statistically significant.

- ➔ Adolescent mothers represented a smaller proportion of the births to unmarried mothers in 1998 than they did 10 years earlier in 1989. In 1998 adolescent mothers represented 28% of all births to unmarried mothers; in 1989, the proportion was 35%.

- ➔ In 1998, 86% of adolescent mothers were unmarried; 47% of mothers 20 – 24 years old were unmarried women.



- ➔ More than a quarter (26%) of unmarried women who had low birth weight babies in Maine in 1998 were adolescents; 3% of married women with low birth weight babies were adolescents.

- ➔ In 1998, unmarried mothers accounted for¹...

- ... 52% of unintended pregnancies ... 16% of intended pregnancies
- ... 60% of new mothers on Medicaid before, during, or after pregnancy ... 57% of women on WIC (a federal supplemental nutrition program) during pregnancy

- ➔ Forty two percent of births to unmarried women were to women who had at least one other child.

Note: Unless noted, differences in rates are not statistically significant, i.e., they could be accounted for by chance alone. National data are for whites only.

¹ Maine Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 1998.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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