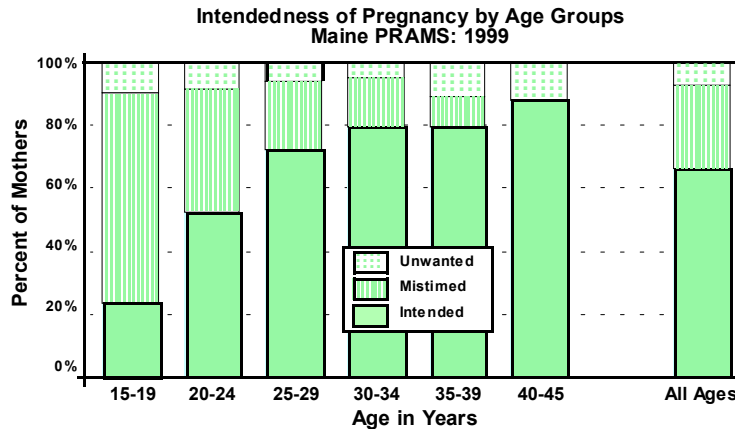


# INTENDEDNESS OF PREGNANCY

Data are from the  
MAINE PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (PRAMS): 1999

- ➔ There were 13,608 live births to Maine women in 1999;<sup>1</sup> a third of those births were from unintended pregnancies. According to PRAMS data, about ¼ of all births were to mothers who would have preferred to have their baby at a later time; an additional 7% reported that they had not wanted to be pregnant then or at any time in the future.
- ➔ Nearly all women who had intended pregnancies (97%) started prenatal care in the 1st trimester; 90% of women with mistimed pregnancies started then as well, but only 75% of women with unwanted pregnancies started care that early.
- ➔ Adolescent mothers (women younger than 20 years old) gave birth to 1,312 babies in 1999.<sup>1</sup> More than ¾ of these births were unintended (mistimed or unwanted).
- ➔ Nearly a quarter of the new mothers who didn't use birth control did not intend to become pregnant; 5% of those mothers said that they did not want to be pregnant at any time.
- ➔ More than half (54%) of the new mothers who were involved in the WIC program (Women, Infants, and Children's Supplemental Nutrition Program) reported that their pregnancy was unintended. In fact, women receiving WIC were more than twice as likely as their non-WIC counterparts to have an unintended pregnancy.
- ➔ Whether a pregnancy was intended or not was correlated with the source of family income during the previous year. Mothers who reported aid (such as AFDC/TANF, welfare, food stamps, etc.) as a source of income were more likely to report having an unintended pregnancy.



| Intended-ness of Pregnancy | Sources of Family Income During the Past 12 Months |                                    |               |                        |                                     |                                       |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                            | Money from job or business                         | Aid (AFDC/TANF, Food Stamps, etc.) | Unemployment* | Child Support/Alimony* | Interest, Fees, Rental Income, etc. | Social Security, Worker's Comp, etc.* |
| Intended                   | 68%                                                | 40%                                | 61%           | 52%                    | 82%                                 | 57%                                   |
| Unintended                 | 32%                                                | 60%                                | 39%           | 48%                    | 18%                                 | 43%                                   |

<sup>1</sup> Counts of births are from the Maine Vital Statistics System, May 2001.

\* These differences were not statistically significant, i.e., they could be accounted for by chance.

For further data on this topic, please contact:  
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