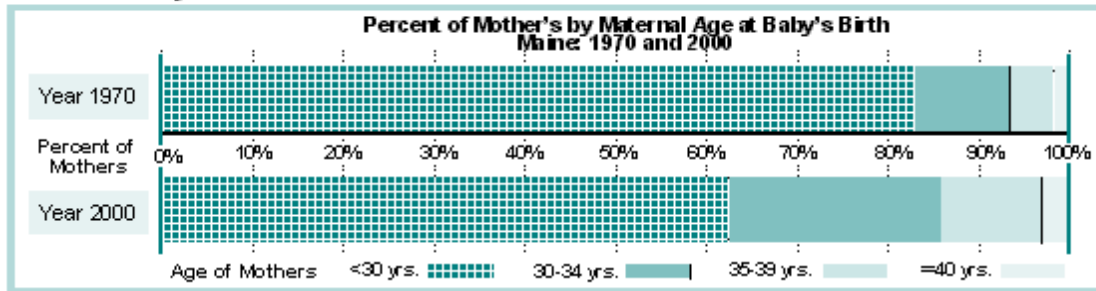


INCREASED MATERNAL AGE

Data are from the
MAINE VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM: 1970 - 2000 (preliminary)

- ➔ There is a trend in Maine, and in the country, for women to delay child-birth. In 1970, there were 17,837 births in Maine; 1,120 of those births (6.3%) were to women 35 years old or older. In 2000, the total number of Maine births had declined to 13,590; however, the number of births to older mothers had increased to 1,875 babies (13.8%).
- ➔ Over that 30 year period, the proportion of births to Maine women younger than 35 declined by 8% while the proportion of births to women 35 years old or older more than doubled.



- ➔ In Maine, the average age of mothers increased by 3.1 years between 1970 and 2000, from 24.6 years old to 27.7. Nationally, the increase was 2.6 years, from 24.6 years old in 1970 to 27.2 in 2000.
- ➔ During that time, the age increases were even greater for 1st time mothers. The age of 1st time mothers grew by more than 4 years in Maine, from 21.2 years old to 25.3. Nationally, the age of 1st time mothers increased by 3.5 years, from 21.4 years old to nearly 25 years old.
- ➔ When compared to other New England states, Maine ranked 5th for increase in the average age of 1st time mothers; nationally, Maine ranked 9th.

State	1970	1980	1990	2000	Amount of Change in Years
United States	21.4	22.7	24.2	24.9	+3.5
Massachusetts	22.5	24.1	26.2	27.8	+5.3
New Hampshire	21.6	23.6	25.7	26.7	+5.1
Connecticut	22.5	24.1	26.3	27.2	+4.7
Vermont	21.7	23.4	25.4	26.3	+4.6
MAINE	21.2	22.6	24.4	25.3	+4.1
Rhode Island	22.1	23.4	25.1	25.9	+3.8

- ➔ In 2000, more than 5% of births to Maine mothers 35 years old or older were multiple births - twins, triplets, or quadruplets - a proportion nearly twice as high as that for younger mothers.

- ➔ In 1970, 1 in every 32 babies born to an older mother was part of a multiple birth set; in 2000, 1 in every 19 babies was.

Year 2000 data are preliminary. All Maine data are for resident births only. National data were obtained from "National Vital Statistics Reports Volume 51, Number 1, "Mean Age of Mother, 1970-2000": Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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John Elias Baskacci
 Governor

