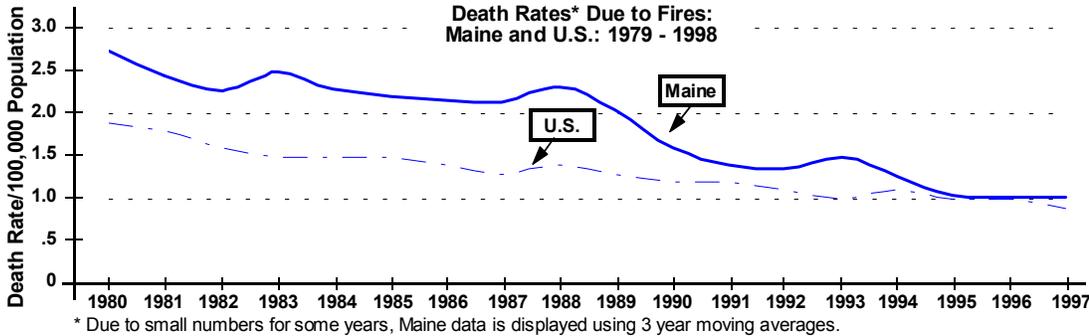


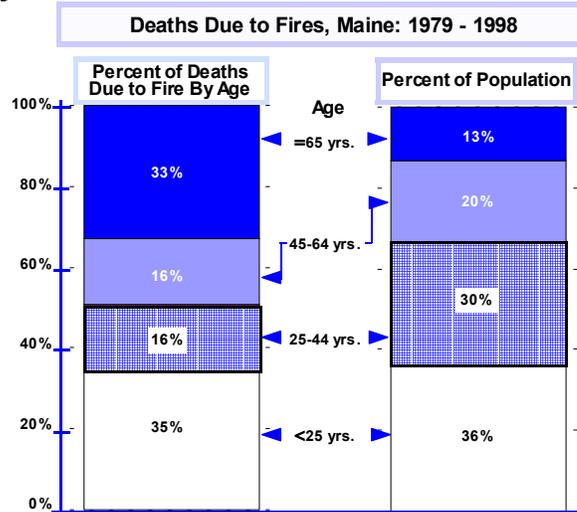
# DEATHS DUE TO FIRES

Maine: 1979 - 1998

- ➔ From 1979 - 1998, nearly 500 Maine residents died as a result of fires. Three hundred and nine of those deaths occurred during 1979 - 1988 (63%). During the second 10 year period, 1989 - 1998, there was a significant decrease in both the number of deaths from fires (a 40% decrease to 182 deaths) and in the death rate due to fires (from 2.3 deaths/100,000 population for the first 10 years, to 1.3 deaths for 1989-1998).
- ➔ At the start of the 20 year period, Maine's death rate due to fire was significantly greater than the national rate. Although both rates declined significantly over that period, the national rate did so at a slower rate. By 1998, there was no difference between the Maine and U.S. rates.



- ➔ Older Maine residents were more likely to die as the result of fires than younger residents. Residents 65 years old and older accounted for 1/3 of all fire deaths over the 20 year period, yet represented only 13% of the state's population. This was comparable to what was observed nationally.



- ➔ In Maine and in the U.S., residents younger than 25 years old represented 36% of the population. In Maine, residents in this age group accounted for 35% of deaths from fire, a significantly greater proportion than what was observed nationally - 29%.
- ➔ Maine males were more likely to die from fires than females, accounting for 60% of all deaths due to fires, and for nearly 75% of fire deaths to residents 25 - 44 years old. This was consistent with what was experienced nationally.

Notes: Fire deaths are deaths attributed to ICD-9 cause of death codes 890.0—899.9. All rates are for underlying cause of death and are age-adjusted to the US 1940 standard population; these are rates that have been standardized to eliminate differences due solely to variations in the age composition of the populations. All national data (national data are for whites only) were obtained from CDC Wonder. Unless noted, differences in rates are not statistically significant, i.e., they could be accounted for by chance alone.

For further data on this topic, please contact:  
 the **Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics**, BUREAU OF HEALTH  
 at 161 Capitol Street, #11 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
 The contact person is: Cathy St. Pierre - (207) 287-5500 287-2070 (TTY)  
 Visit our website at: <http://www.state.me.us/dhs/bohodr/index.HTM>

**For prevention information, please contact: Katharyn Zwicker at 287-5359**

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Governor



Kevin W. Concannon  
Commissioner

DS:FACTSDTH.PUB p1  
DTH.059,  
FIRE98.XLS, 09102002

Number 7

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Series 10

FIRE DEATHS  
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