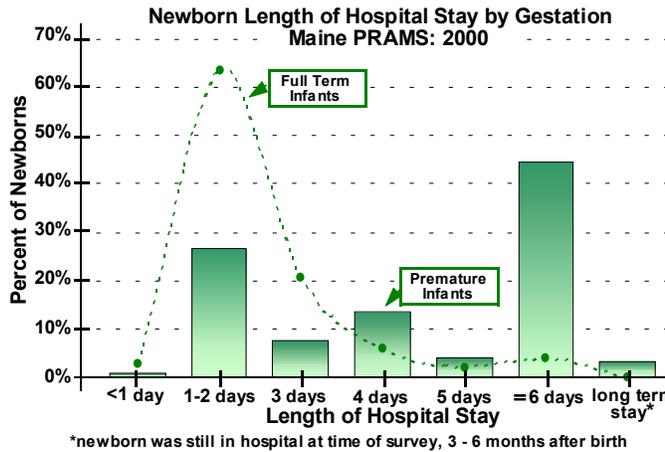


CHARACTERISTICS OF PREMATURE BIRTHS

Data are from the MAINE PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (PRAMS): 2000

- ➔ Compared to infants born full term (37 weeks or more gestation), infants born early present a much greater risk of morbidity, disability and death. Nationwide, approximately 75% of infants who died during the 1st month of life were born prematurely.¹
- ➔ In 2000, there were more than 1,100 premature babies born in Maine, representing more than 8% of all Maine births. Nationally, premature births represented 11% of all births².
- ➔ Maine PRAMS data show that premature babies were 7 times more likely to die in the first few months of life than full-term babies.
- ➔ Nearly 50% of Maine's premature babies were born with low birth weight* (nationwide, 41% of premature babies were low birth weight²) compared to 2% of full term Maine babies.



- ➔ Forty-five percent of premature babies remained in the hospital for 6 or more days (full term babies were 11 times less likely to stay this long) and 3% were still in the hospital 3 - 6 months after delivery.
- ➔ Premature babies were also 9 times more likely to be placed in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) than full-term babies; more than half of the babies born prematurely in Maine in 2000 were placed in NICUs.

- ➔ Babies born as part of a multiple birth set were 10 times more likely to be born prematurely and 12 times more likely to be born with low birth weight than singleton births.

Mothers Who Experienced Problems During Pregnancy by Length of Gestation: Maine PRAMS: 2000		
Problems During Pregnancy	Percent of Mothers Reporting Problem	
	Premature Birth	Full Term Birth
Early Labor Pains	62%	20%
Premature Rupture of Membrane	46%	2%
High Blood Pressure	38%	21%
Nausea, Vomiting, Dehydration	37%	24%
Vaginal Bleeding	29%	17%
Placenta Problems	13%	6%

- ➔ The mothers of premature babies were more likely to report a number of problems during pregnancy than women with full term pregnancies; these included early labor pains, high blood pressure, and vaginal bleeding.

* Low birth weight is a weight less than 2,500 grams (5½ pounds).

¹ Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology 2001, 15 (Suppl. 2). ² National Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 50, #5. Data are for whites only. Full citations are available upon request.

For further data on this topic, please contact:

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Visit the PRAMS website at: <http://www.state.me.us/dhs/bohodr/prams.htm>

John Elias Baldacci
Governor

