

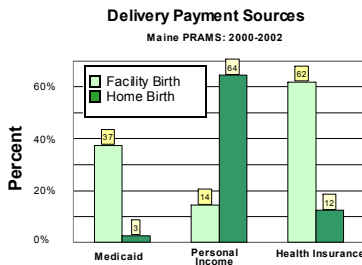
# BIRTHS AT FACILITIES AND AT HOME

Data are from the  
**MAINE VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM: 1993-2002 (Preliminary Data) and the  
 PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (PRAMS): 2000-2002**

Number 3

- During the 10 year period 1993-2002, 1,320 babies were born at home in Maine; this was 1% of live births— a rate consistent with what was observed nationally<sup>1</sup>.
- 69% of women who delivered at home had had a previous live birth. 57% of mothers delivering in a birthing facility had already had a baby.
- Women who went to birthing facilities were more likely to have delivered a premature infant before their current birth than mothers who delivered their babies at home.
- 69% of mothers with facility births went to a doctor or HMO for their prenatal care. Other sources of prenatal care were hospital clinics (10%), family practice residency programs (8%), rural health centers (4%) and other sources (9%). Women who had their babies at home were more likely to use other prenatal care sources such as midwives or women's health centers.
- Women who delivered in birthing facilities were more likely to experience stresses during pregnancy than mothers with home births.
- More women who delivered at home had heard about the benefits of taking folic acid to prevent birth defects than mothers with deliveries at birthing facilities.
- 78% of mothers delivering in birthing facilities were talked with by health professionals during prenatal care about drinking alcohol during pregnancy. Women who delivered at home were 26% less likely to hear about the risks of alcohol use during pregnancy.
- 64% of mothers delivering at home reported personal income as a payment source for delivery. Health insurance or Medicaid/ MaineCare were cited as more likely payment sources for women delivering in facilities.

PLACE OF BIRTH		STRESSES
HOME	OTHER	
7%	24%	More arguments with husband/partner
2%	8%	Mom got separated or divorced
1%	5%	Mom or partner went to jail
1%	10%	Mom lost her job
1%	4%	Mom was in a physical fight



- 98% of women delivering at home breastfed their infants. Mothers who had their babies in birthing facilities were nearly 25% less likely to breastfeed than mothers with home births.

Notes: Premature birth is one born before 37 weeks gestation. Birthing facilities include hospitals with maternity/newborn services or non-hospital health facilities such as a birthing center. Differences in rates and percentages are statistically significant unless noted, i.e., they could not be accounted for by chance alone. <sup>1</sup>National Vital Statistics Reports, December 17, 2003. 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.maine.gov/dhs/bohodr/prams.htm>

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 Commissioner

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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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