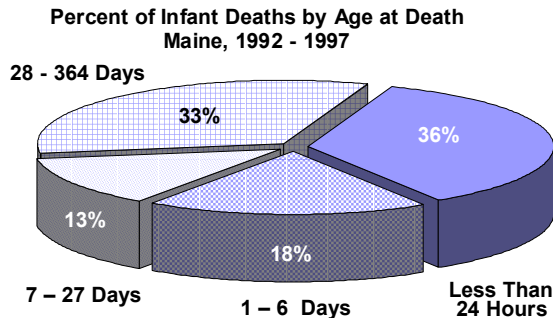


INFANT MORTALITY

Maine Residents: 1992 – 1997

- ➔ An objective of the Healthy Maine 2000 project was to reduce the infant mortality rate in Maine to 6 deaths per 1,000 live births by the year 2000.
- ➔ During the 6 year period 1992 - 1997, 86,761 babies were born to Maine women; 492 of these infants died during their first year of life, an average of 82 deaths each year. This resulted in an infant death rate of 5.7 deaths for every 1,000 births. This compared to the national rate of 6.5 deaths for the same period.
- ➔ Sixty-seven percent of infant deaths occurred in the first 27 days of life; 36% of infant deaths occurred in the first 24 hours.
- ➔ Over half (57%) of infant deaths occurring during the 6 year period were among babies with low birth weight (less than 5 pounds 8 ounces). Low-birth-weight babies were over 25 times as likely to die in the first year as normal-birth-weight infants. Almost all babies born weighing less than 500 grams (less than 1 pound) died, usually in the first day of life (83%).
- ➔ Mothers of babies who died were more likely to have a family income under \$30,000 than women with living infants. Mothers of babies who died were also more likely to have smoked just prior to pregnancy and to have been hospitalized during pregnancy. ¹



CHARACTERISTICS OF MOTHERS/FAMILIES OF INFANTS BY INFANT OUTCOME ¹
MAINE BIRTHS OCCURRING DURING 1992 - 1997

Mothers/Families of Infants Who Died	CHARACTERISTICS OF MOTHER/FAMILY	Mothers/Families of Infants Who Lived
57%	Mother Smoked Just Prior To Pregnancy	34%
41%	Mother Was Hospitalized During Pregnancy	15%
73%	Annual Family Income Was Less Than \$30,000	51%
10%	Annual Family Income Was \$30,000 - \$39,999	22%
17%	Annual Family Income Was \$40,000 Or More	27%

- ➔ Infants born to women who waited until the seventh month or later to start prenatal care or who received no care were 2½ times as likely to die as infants of women who started care in the first trimester.
- ➔ The mortality rate for infants born to unmarried women during 1992 - 1997 (7.4 deaths for every 1,000 live births) was 54% higher than that for infants born to married women (4.8).

Notes: All mortality rates given are per 1,000 resident live births occurring in 1992 - 1997. Such rates are estimated rather than actual, because some births relating to 1992 infant deaths occurred in 1991 and some deaths relating to 1997 births occurred in 1998. Unless noted, differences in rates are not statistically significant, i.e., they could be accounted for by chance alone. National data are for whites only. Full citations are available upon request.

¹ Data are from the Maine Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 1992 - 1997.

For further data on this topic, please contact:

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