

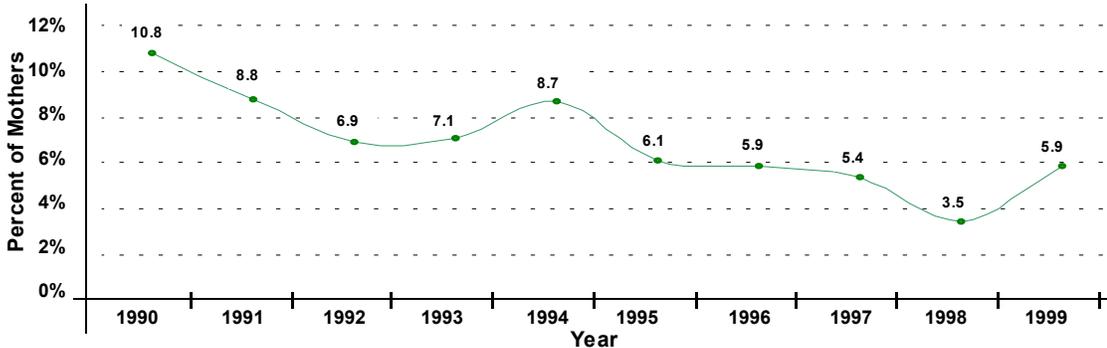
ALCOHOL USE DURING PREGNANCY

Data are from the

MAINE PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (PRAMS): 1999

- ➔ Pregnancy and birth outcome can be jeopardized by maternal alcohol use during pregnancy. The Public Health Service warns that there is no safe level of prenatal alcohol use. In addition to the risk of the infant suffering from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, a severely debilitating outcome, other risks include spontaneous abortion, growth retardation, behavioral abnormalities, and in the worst case, infant death.^{1,2}
- ➔ Between 1990 and 1999, the proportion of mothers who drank during their pregnancy dropped significantly from nearly 11% of pregnant women in 1990 to approximately 6% in 1999; however, in 1999, more than 750 infants were still at risk for alcohol-related problems.

Maternal Drinking During Pregnancy
Maine PRAMS: 1990—1999



- ➔ Married women were more likely to drink alcohol during pregnancy than those who were not married; however, from 1990 to 1999, the proportion of married women who drank during pregnancy decreased significantly, from 12% of married mothers to 7%.

Characteristics of Mothers Who Showed
Significant Changes in Drinking During Pregnancy
Maine PRAMS: 1990 and 1999

Maternal Characteristic	Percent of New Mothers Who Drank Alcohol During Pregnancy	
	1990	1999
All New Mothers	11%	6%
Age 25-34 Yrs.	13%	7%
Married	12%	7%
Income <\$16,000	11%	4%
WIC recipient	7%	2%
Medicaid insured	8%	3%
Birth Weight <2500 grams	9%	3%
Birth Weight =2500 grams	11%	6%

- ➔ In both 1990 and 1999, new mothers who were insured through the Medicaid program or enrolled in the WIC program (Women, Infants, and Children's Supplemental Nutrition Program) were less likely to drink during pregnancy than those who were not enrolled. Additionally, the proportion of these mothers who drank during pregnancy decreased over the 10 year period by 5%, from 7% to 2% for WIC recipients and from 8% to 3% for those who were insured by Medicaid.

¹ Public Health Service. Monthly Vital Statistics Report. National Center for Health Statistics. ² Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: Frequently Asked Questions. National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. Full citations are available upon request.

Differences in proportions noted in this Fact Sheet are statistically significant, i.e., they cannot be accounted for by chance alone.

For further data on this topic, please contact:

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

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