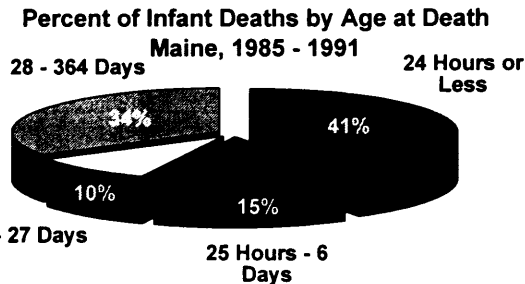


INFANT MORTALITY*: Infant Characteristics

Maine Residents: 1985 - 1991

- An objective of the *Healthy Maine 2000* project is to reduce the infant mortality rate in Maine to 6 deaths per 1,000 live births by the year 2000. This objective is being addressed by focusing on reducing Maine's low birth weight rate from over 5% to 4% of births.
- During the time period, 1985 through 1991, there were 119,048 babies born in Maine; 905 of these babies died during their first year of life, an average of 129 infant deaths in each of the seven years. This resulted in an infant death rate of 7.6 deaths for every 1,000 live births. This compares to the national rate of 8.4 for this same period.
- During 1985 - 1991, 66% of infant deaths occurred in the first 27 days of life. Furthermore, 56% of infant deaths were in the first 6 days after birth; 41% of infant deaths were in the first 24 hours of life.
- Half (51%) of infant deaths occurring during 1985 - 1991 were of low birth weight (less than 5 pounds 8 ounces). Low-birth-weight infants were over 20 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.
- Male infants born during 1985 - 1991 had a 22% higher infant mortality rate than female infants.
- The four leading causes of infant death during 1985 - 1991 (there were 905 infant deaths during that period) for infants less than 28 days old were congenital anomalies (183), disorders related to short gestation and unspecified low birth weight (82), RDS or Respiratory Distress Syndrome (79), and other respiratory conditions of the newborn (36); for infants 28 days and older, the leading causes were SIDS or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (138), congenital anomalies (52), all other causes (20), and other accidental causes and adverse effects (12).



Note: Actual numbers of vital events were obtained from the Maine Vital Statistics system. A full citation is available upon request.

**All mortality rates given are per 1,000 resident live births occurring in 1985-1991. Such rates are estimated rather than actual, because some births relating to 1985 infant deaths occurred in 1984 and some deaths relating to 1991 births occurred in 1992. National rates are for the white population only.*

Full citations are available upon request.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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