

MOTHERS WHO DRINK ALCOHOL

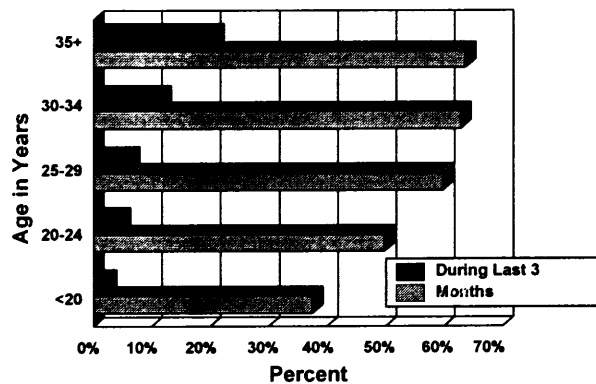
Data from the
MAINE PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (PRAMS)
 Maine Residents: 1993-1994

➔ Pregnancy and birth outcome can be jeopardized by maternal alcohol use during pregnancy. In addition to the risk of the infant suffering from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, a severely debilitating outcome, data show a distinct pattern of elevated risk of low birthweight (a leading factor in infant death and disease) among births to mothers reporting alcohol use¹; in Maine, 8% of pregnant women drink during the last 3 months of pregnancy.

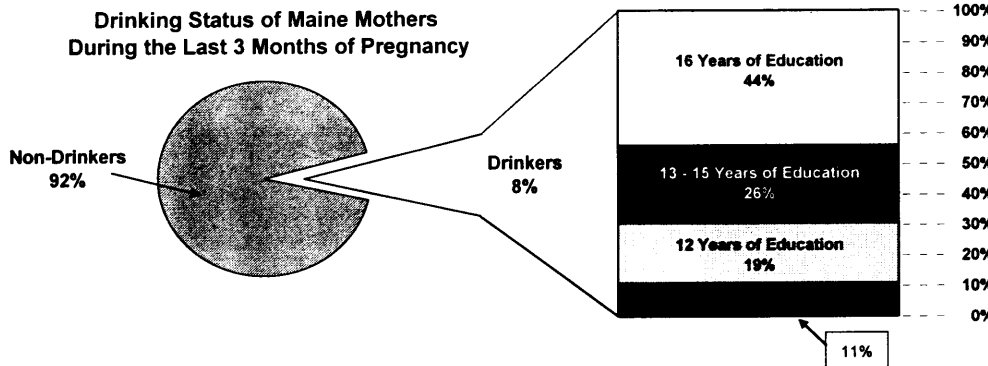
➔ Although the majority of women who drink before becoming pregnant do not drink while pregnant, women 20 years old and older are four times more likely to drink during pregnancy than women younger than 20. Women 35 years old and older are ten times more likely to drink during pregnancy than those younger than 20.

➔ Women with college degrees are 4½ times more likely to drink during the last 3 months of pregnancy than those with a high school diploma.

Women Who Drink by Pregnancy Status and Age



Education Level of Women Who Consume Alcohol During the Last 3 Months of Pregnancy



➔ More than a quarter of the mothers who drink alcohol during the last 3 months of pregnancy are not counselled at any point during their prenatal care about the effects of drinking on their babies.

Note: Unless otherwise specified, "during pregnancy" means the last three months of pregnancy.

Footnote 1: Public Health Service. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 44, No. 11 Supplement*. National Center for Health Statistics, June 24, 1996. A full citation is available upon request.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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