

# ADOLESCENT MOTHERS AND STRESS

Data from the  
**MAINE PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (PRAMS)**  
 Maine Residents: 1989-1994

Number 4

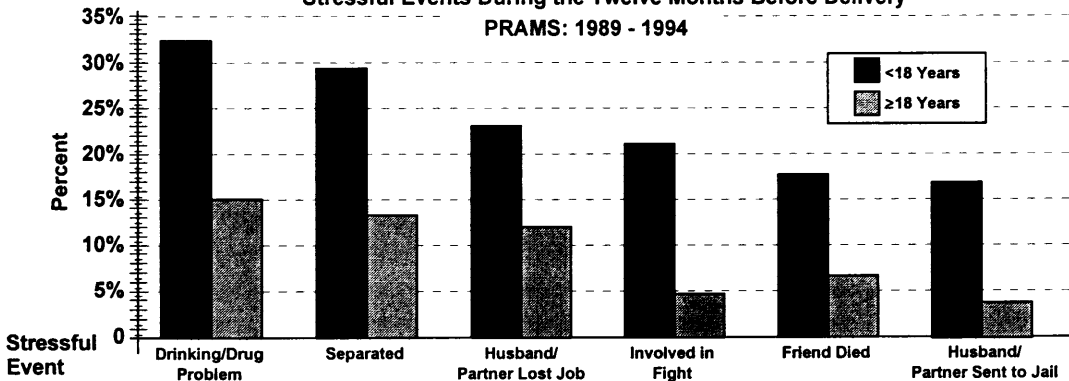
- ➔ During the period 1989 - 1994, the number of births to Maine residents ranged from a high of 17,464 in 1989 to a low of 14,396 in 1994. Births to women less than eighteen years of age averaged 540 per year, approximately 3.3% of all resident births.
- ➔ Mothers under age 18 were far more likely to have unintended births than older mothers; 80% of mothers under 18 reported an unintended pregnancy compared to 34% of mothers 18 years old or older.
- ➔ Younger Maine women experienced significantly more stressful events during the 12 months before delivery than mothers 18 years old or older. They were twice as likely to have someone close to them with a bad drug or alcohol problem, twice as likely to be separated from their husband/partner, and nearly twice as likely to have their husband/partner lose their job.

OFFICE OF DATA, RESEARCH, AND VITAL STATISTICS

FACT SHEET - PRAMS

Series 5

**Stressful Events During the Twelve Months Before Delivery**  
 PRAMS: 1989 - 1994



- ➔ 69% of women less than 18 years old reported four or more stressors in the months preceding delivery, over twice the rate for older mothers (32%).

STRESSFUL EVENTS AMONG WOMEN <18 YEARS OLD	
▪ 65% saw friends less	▪ 41% argued more with their husband/partner
▪ 46% moved	▪ 26% experienced longer partner absences
▪ 42% left school	▪ 26% said husband/partner lost interest in them

- ➔ Mothers younger than 18 years old were two and a half times more likely than mothers 18 years old and older to report that their husband/partner did not want the pregnancy.

NOTES: Stressful events are reported for the 12 months before delivery of the baby.

Differences in data reported for mothers under 18 years of age and mothers 18 years old and older are statistically significantly different whether data for older mothers are displayed or not. This means that these differences cannot be accounted for by chance alone.

For further data on this topic, please contact:

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Angus S. King, Jr.  
 Governor



Kevin W. Concannon  
 Commissioner

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