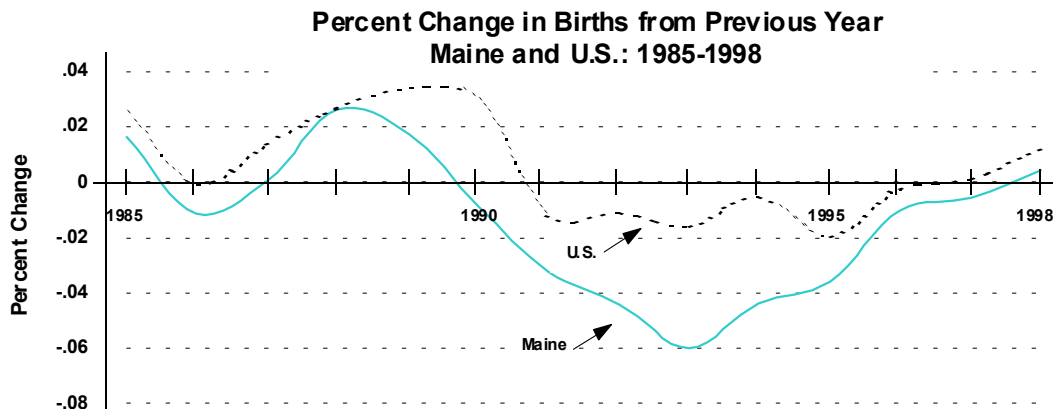


# BIRTHS IN MAINE

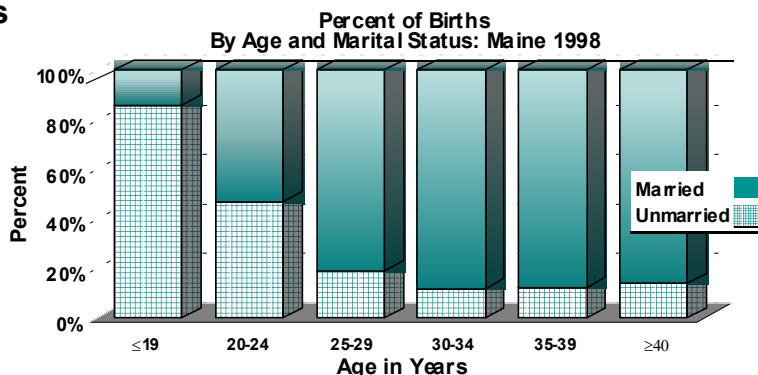
Maine Residents: 1998 (preliminary)

- ➔ Preliminary data indicate that 13,720 babies were born in Maine in 1998. This reflects an increase of 63 births over the previous year. This increase in the number of births is consistent with what was observed nationally, and is the first increase in births in Maine since 1989.



- ➔ More than 4,100 babies were born to unmarried Maine women in 1998 – 30% of all births. This was the same as the previous year, but represented a near doubling over the past 15 years from 16% in 1984.

- ➔ Approximately 1,340 babies were born to adolescent mothers (women younger than 20 years old) - 10% of all births in Maine. Eighty five percent of adolescent mothers were unmarried.



- ➔ Nearly 20% of the women who had babies in 1998 reported on their child's birth certificate that they smoked during pregnancy. These smoking mothers smoked an average of 13 cigarettes per day.
- ➔ On average, Maine women who had a baby in 1998 gained 31 pounds during their pregnancy.
- ➔ Almost 800 babies were born with low birth weight - a weight of less than 2500 grams (5½ pounds) - in 1998. Of those babies, 130 babies were born with very low birth weight – a weight of less than 1500 grams (approximately 3½ pounds).
- ➔ Twenty percent of babies born in 1998 were delivered by cesarean section, approximately the same proportion as 10 years earlier, in 1989.
- ➔ One percent of Maine births (136) occurred at home.

For further data on this topic, please contact:

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