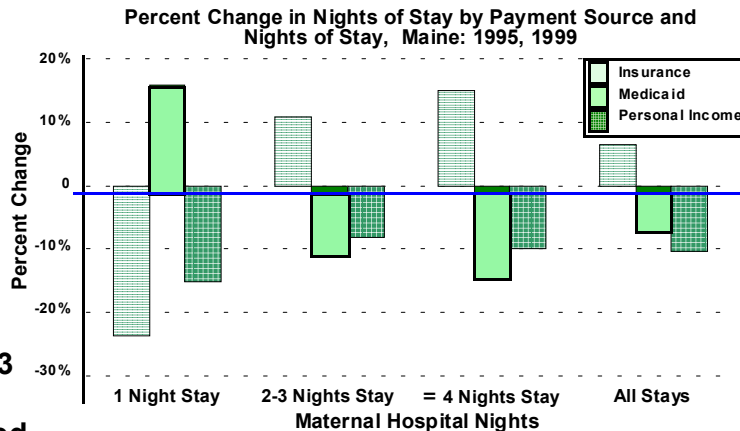


POST PARTUM HOSPITAL STAY

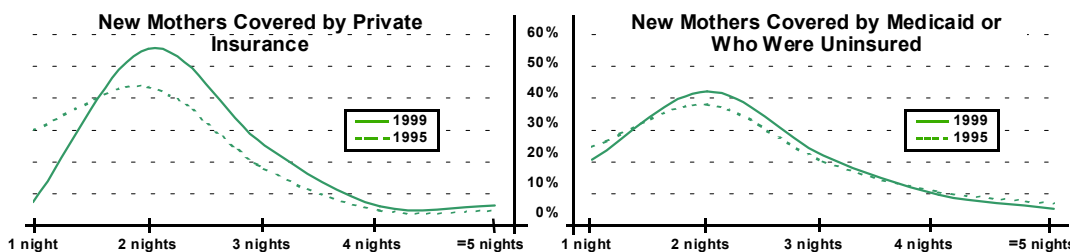
Data are from the
MAINE PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (PRAMS): 1995 – 1999

- ➔ Maine's "48 hour law", enacted as emergency legislation in April 1996, requires health insurance carriers to provide 48 hours of hospital care to mothers who deliver their baby vaginally, and 96 hours to those who deliver by cesarean section. The law permits earlier discharge only when the mother and attending provider agree that it is desirable.
- ➔ In both 1995 and 1999, 2/3 of new mothers had private health insurance when they became pregnant; 13% more were covered by Medicaid.
- ➔ In 1995, 59% of new mothers who spent 2-3 nights in the hospital reported that insurance paid for all or part of their delivery expenses; 22% reported personal income and 38% reported Medicaid. By 1999, 3 years after the legislation passed, the proportion of insured mothers with 2-3 nights of stay had increased by nearly 11%. Mothers with 2-3 nights of stay who used Medicaid dropped 9%; those who used personal income dropped 8%.



- ➔ Over the 5 year period, 1995 – 1999, the number of nights insured women spent in hospitals after delivering a baby changed; the proportion who spent just 1 night in the hospital after giving birth dropped 22% in that time, while those spending 2 nights increased 12% and those spending 3 nights 7%. For uninsured mothers and those using Medicaid, nights spent in the hospital remained fairly constant.

Percent of New Mothers by Length of Hospital Stay and Insurance Status, Maine: 1995, 1999



- ➔ Between 1995 and 1999, the proportion of women staying 2 or 3 nights in the hospital after vaginal delivery increased from 59% to 86% among women who were privately insured; among women using Medicaid, the proportion remained approximately 65%.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
the Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics, BUREAU OF HEALTH
at 35 Anthony Avenue, #11 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
The contact person is: Marty Henson - (207) 624-5445 624-5895 (TTY)

Visit our website at: <http://janus.state.me.us/dhs/bohodr>

Angus S. King, Jr.
Governor



Kevin W. Concannon
Commissioner

DS-FACTSPRA.PUB p1
PRA.024,
07102001