

MULTIPLE BIRTHS

Maine Residents: 1989 – 1998 (preliminary)

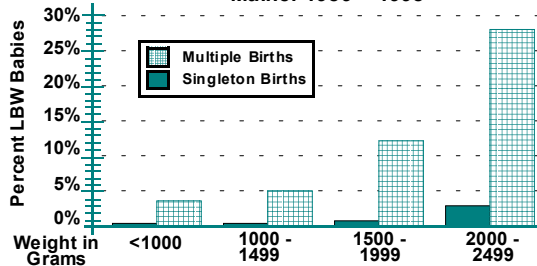
- ➔ During the 10 year period, 1989 – 1998, 3,912 infants were born in Maine who were part of a multiple birth set – twins, triplets, or quadruplets.
- ➔ Over that time, there has been a significant increase in the number of multiple birth babies born each year in Maine. In 1998, 13,723 babies were born to Maine women; 1 of every 32 of these infants (432) were twins or triplets. This was a significant increase over 1989 when 1 of every 46 Maine infants (382) was from a multiple birth pregnancy and is consistent with what was experienced nationwide.¹

Number of Sets of Multiple Births: 1989 – 1998*										
Sets	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Twins	190	193	207	197	175	168	181	187	192	205
Triplet	1	3	4	3	2	3	8	3	8	8
Quadruplets								1		

* Pregnancies that involve more than 1 fetus are coded as multiple births even when not all fetuses survive.

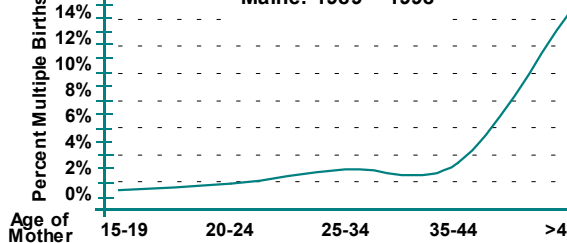
- ➔ Babies who were members of multiple birth sets were more likely to be born with low birth weight (less than 5½ pounds) than babies who were the result of singleton births; although less than 5% of singleton babies were born with low birth weight, nearly 50% of babies from multiple births were.

Percent of Low Birth Weight (LBW) Babies by Plurality of Birth and Birth Weight
Maine: 1989 – 1998



- ➔ Ninety five percent of women who were pregnant with more than 1 baby started prenatal care as early as they wanted – 85% of women with singleton pregnancies started as early as they wanted.²
- ➔ Increased age and multiple births were positively correlated. Women 45 and older were 10 times more likely to have a multiple birth than women 15 to 19 years old.
- ➔ Women who experienced multiple births were more likely to have complications during labor than women with singleton births; in fact, 55% of multiple birth pregnancies resulted in complications of labor compared to 40% of mothers who had singleton births. Breech deliveries were 7 times more prevalent in multiple birth deliveries.

Percent Multiple Births by Age of Mother
Maine: 1989 – 1998



¹ National Vital Statistics Reports Volume 47, Number 24, "Trends in Twin and Triplet Births: 1980 – 1997, and Volume 48, Number 3, "Births: Final Data for 1998", Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National data are for whites only.

² Maine Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 1997 – 1998. The differences noted are statistically significant.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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