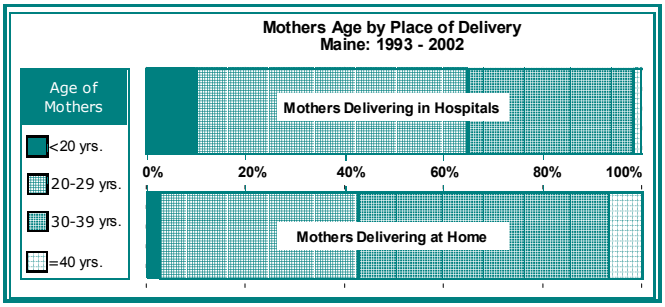
HOME BIRTHS

Data are from the
MAINE VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM: 1993 - 2002 (preliminary)

- **In the 10 year period, 1993 - 2002, there were 1,320 home births in Maine. Each year, 100 to 150 Maine babies are born at home - about 1% of all Maine births - a rate consistent with national trends[1].**
- **On average, woman who delivered their babies at home were older than women who delivered their babies in a hospital. Women 30 years old and older accounted for 57% of all home births, while women in this age group represented 35% of hospital births.**



- **One percent of all Maine women who had babies during 1993 - 2002 delivered their babies at home; however, 3½% of Maine women 40 years old or older delivered at home compared to ½% of women younger than 30.**
- **Mothers of home delivered babies were more likely to be married and to have more education than the mothers of hospital born babies. However, mothers delivering at home were also more likely to have a late start for prenatal care or no prenatal care at all, and fewer overall prenatal care visits.**

SELECTED STATISTICS BY PLACE OF BIRTH: MAINE 1993 - 2002

Characteristic	Place of Birth		Characteristic	Place of Birth	
	Home	Hospital		Home	Hospital
Mother Married	81%	70%	None or Late Prenatal Care	6%	2%
< 12 Years Education	5%	12%	Prenatal Care Start 1st Trimester	74%	89%
12 Years Education	24%	39%	Prenatal Care Start 2nd Trimester	20%	9%
> 12 Years Education	71%	49%	Average # Prenatal Care Visits	10.3 visits	12.4 visits

- **Babies born at home tended to weigh more than those born in hospitals. During 1993 - 2002, on average, babies born at home weighed 8 pounds 1 ounce - a half pound more than those born in hospitals (7 pounds 5 ounces).**
- **Twenty-six percent of the babies born at home weighed 4000 grams (8 pounds 13 ounces) or more. This proportion was significantly greater than for babies born in hospitals (14%).**

Notes: 2001 and 2002 Maine data are preliminary. All Maine data are for resident births only. Births occurring out of state to Maine residents, and all births occurring to Maine residents in a place other than a hospital or a home are excluded from this analysis.

[1] National data were obtained from "National Vital Statistics Reports Volume 52, Number 10, "Births: Final Data for 2002": Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
the **Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics**, BUREAU OF HEALTH
at 161 Capitol Street, #11 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
The contact person is: Brenda Corkum - (207) 287-5500 287-2070 (TTY)
Visit our website at: http://www.maine.gov/dhs/bohodr/index.htm

John Elias Baldacci
Governor

John R. Nicholas
Commissioner

DS:FACTSBIR.PUB p1
BIR.016, 8/5/04 12:48 PM
BIRHOME02.XLS, 08092004

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Number 9
Series 12

FACT SHEET - HOME BIRTHS MAINE: 1993 - 2002