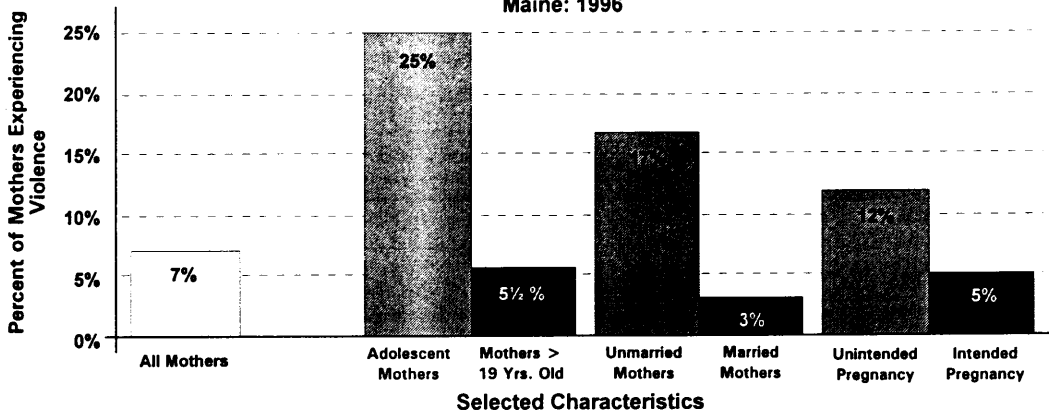


PHYSICAL ABUSE DURING PREGNANCY

Data from the
MAINE PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (PRAMS): 1996

- ➔ Of the Maine women who gave birth in 1996, nearly 950 experienced physical abuse in the 2 years before delivery. This represented 7% of Maine's new mothers that year.
- ➔ Adolescent mothers, Maine mothers younger than 20 years old, reported abuse at more than 4 times the rate of their older counterparts. In fact, 25% of the adolescent mothers giving birth in 1996 said that they were the victims of violence, while approximately 5½% of mothers, 20 years old or older, said that they were. This difference is *statistically significant*.
- ➔ Unmarried mothers reported abuse in their lives at more than 5 times the rate of married mothers. 17% of unmarried mothers said they experienced violence; 3% of married mothers said that they did. This difference is *statistically significant*.
- ➔ Women who reported that their pregnancy was unintentional reported violence at more than 2 times the rate of women who had intentional pregnancies - 12% of mothers compared to 5%. This difference is *statistically significant*.

Percent of Mothers Experiencing Violence by Selected Characteristics
Maine: 1996



- ➔ 35% of mothers who reported physical abuse during their most recent pregnancy said that the level of abuse was about the same or greater while they were pregnant than in the year before becoming pregnant; 36% reported less frequent abuse. However, another 29% reported that although they were not abused in the year before they became pregnant, they were abused during this pregnancy.

NOTES: Physical abuse means pushing, hitting, slapping, kicking, or any other way of physically hurting someone.
Unless noted, differences in rates are not statistically significant, i.e., they could be accounted for by chance alone.
Adolescents are individuals under the age of 20 years.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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