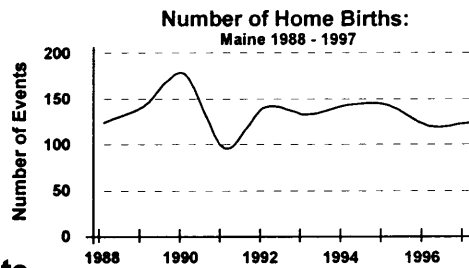
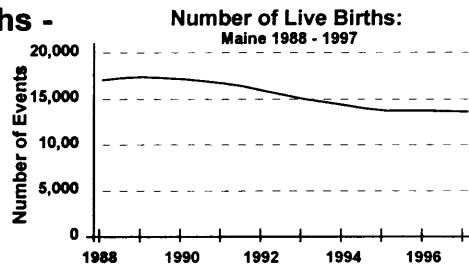


# HOME BIRTHS: CHARACTERISTICS OF MOTHER

Data are from the  
MAINE VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM: 1988 - 1997 (Preliminary Data)

- ➔ During the 10 year period, 1988 - 1997, 1,336 babies were born at home in Maine; this was nearly 1% of live births - a rate consistent with what was observed nationally.
- ➔ Although the number of live births steadily declined during the period with a total drop of more than 20%, the number of home births fluctuated from a high of 177 in 1990 to a low of 95 the following year; however, the 10 year period ended as it began with 123 home births in both 1988 and 1997.
- ➔ More than ¼ of the mothers who delivered at home (27.5%) received no prenatal care or started prenatal care late (after the 1st trimester). This was more than twice the proportion of mothers who delivered in birthing facilities.
- ➔ Less than half (46%) of the women who delivered their babies at home had 11 or more prenatal care visits; this compared to 68% of mothers who delivered in birthing facilities.
- ➔ Mothers who delivered their baby at home were more likely to be older than 25 years old, married, and have post high school education.



Characteristic	Place of Birth		Characteristic	Place of Birth	
	Home	Other		Home	Other
Mother's Age Older Than 25	81%	56%	Father With Post High School Education	68%	44%
Mother Married	84%	75%	Physician Birth Attendant	8%	93%
Mother With Post High School Education	68%	44%	Midwife/Certified Midwife Birth Attendant	77%	7%

- ➔ Although most infants born at home were delivered by a midwife, only 7% of those midwives were certified. Of the infants born in birthing facilities who were delivered by midwives, 98% were certified.
- ➔ Mothers who delivered at home had a greater number of previous births than other mothers. On average, women who delivered at home had 1½ previous births for each previous birth of women who delivered in other places.

Notes: For this analysis, home births are defined as all births which did not occur in a birthing facility. Tabulations exclude births which had unknown data for 1 or more of the variables being analyzed. All differences in rates are statistically significant, i.e., they could not be accounted for by chance alone.

For further data on this topic, please contact:  
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