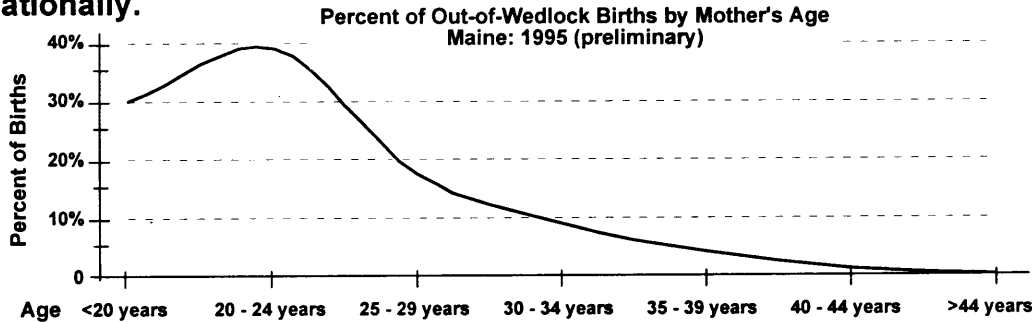


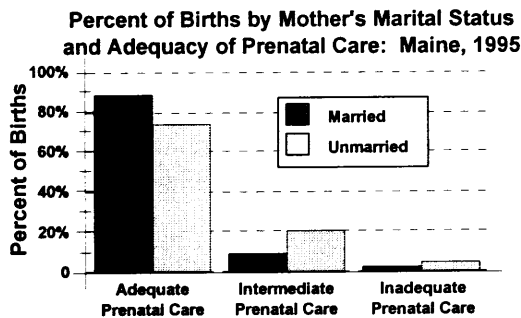
OUT-OF-WEDLOCK BIRTHS: MAINE 1995

(Preliminary Data)

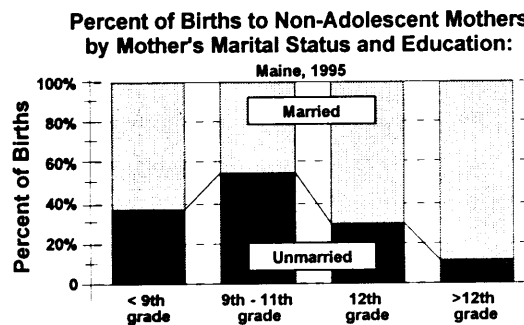
- ➔ In 1995 there were 13,875 births in Maine; 3,848 (28%) of those births were out of wedlock.
- ➔ Although adolescent mothers (women younger than 20 years old) represented 10% of all births, they represented 30% of out-of-wedlock births; unmarried women in their twenties accounted for an additional 56%. These proportions are consistent with what was observed nationally.¹



- ➔ Fewer unmarried mothers received adequate prenatal care² during their pregnancy than did married mothers - slightly less than 75%, compared to almost 90% of married mothers.
- ➔ Approximately 6% of all births in 1995 were low birth weight (less than 5½ pounds); however, 7½% of births to unmarried mothers were low birth weight - a statistically significant difference. Low birth weight is a leading indicator of infant distress and disease.



- ➔ Babies born out of wedlock had a statistically greater risk of being born prematurely than did babies born in wedlock: 8¾% of out-of-wedlock births were premature compared to 7½% of in-wedlock births.



- ➔ Education and wedlock status were correlated. While 52% of births to non-adolescent women (women 20 years old or older) with less than 12 years education were out of wedlock, only 19% of births to non-adolescent women with at least 12 years of education were.

Note: Unless noted, differences are not statistically significant, i.e., they could be accounted for by chance alone.

Footnotes: 1. Public Health Service. *Executive Summary: Report to Congress on Out-of-Wedlock Childbearing*, September, 1995.

2. Adequacy of prenatal care is measured through use of the Kessner Index. Full citations are available upon request.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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