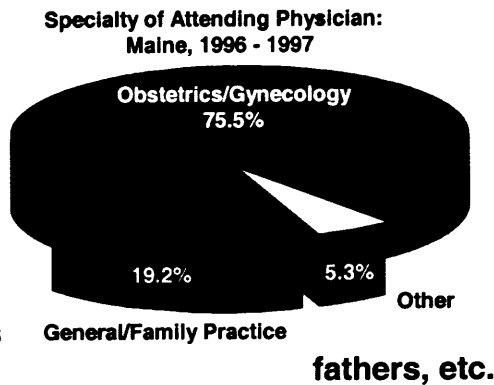


SPECIALTY OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

Data are from the
MAINE PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (PRAMS): 1996 - 1997

➔ During the two year period, 1996 - 1997, more than 25,000 babies were born in Maine to Maine women.

➔ Three fourths of these babies were delivered by physicians who reported a primary specialty of obstetrics/gynecology (OB/GYN). The majority of the remaining births were attended by family/general practice physicians (FP/GPs). Slightly more than 5% of attendants were physicians reporting other specialties, midwives, fathers, etc.



➔ Maine women who were attended by an OB/GYN during delivery were more likely to have incomes of \$20,000 or more and to have post high school education than those who were attended by FP/GPs. In fact, more than half of the women attended by OB/GYNs (53%) had post high school education compared to 40% of those attended by FP/GPs.

➔ Having complicated deliveries, giving birth prematurely, and giving birth to a baby with low birth weight were all more likely with women attended by OB/GYNs; 35% of these mothers stayed 3 or more nights in the hospital following delivery compared to 24% of all other mothers.

➔ Mothers attended by OB/GYNs were less likely to receive WIC benefits during pregnancy and to pay for their delivery with Medicaid.

➔ During prenatal care visits, providers of all specialties were equally likely to discuss some topics such as tobacco and alcohol use; however, women who were attended by FP/GPs were less likely to receive counseling on the safe use of prescription medicines than women who were attended by OB/GYNs, and more likely to receive counseling on HIV prevention and spousal abuse.

Likelihood of Topics Being Discussed at Prenatal Visits
 By Attendant Specialty*: Maine, 1996-1997

Pregnancy Diet	Equal	Equal	HIV Blood Test	Equal	Equal
Fetal Development	Equal	Equal	Post Pregnancy Birth Control	Equal	Equal
Breast-Feeding	Equal	Equal	Smoking Effects on Baby	Equal	Equal
Alcohol Use	Equal	Equal	Spousal Abuse	< Likely	> Likely
Seatbelt Use	Equal	Equal	Illegal Drug Use	Equal	Equal
Safe Medications	> Likely	< Likely	Early Labor	Equal	Equal
HIV Prevention	< Likely	> Likely			

* Attendants with "other" specialties were excluded from this table.

Note: All differences noted in this Fact Sheet are statistically significant, that is, they could not be accounted for by chance alone.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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 The contact person is: Marty Henson - (207) 624-5445 624-5512 (TTY)

Angus S. King, Jr.
 Governor



Kevin W. Concannon
 Commissioner

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