

# NEWBORN CHARACTERISTICS

Data are from the

MAINE PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (PRAMS): 1998, and the Maine Vital Statistics System (MVSS) : 1998 preliminary data

➔ In 1998, 13,720 babies were born in Maine. Nearly 800 of those newborns (6% of births) were born with low birth weight (less than 5½ pounds); 130 of them were born with very low birth weight (less than 3½ pounds). Birth weight is the primary predictor of infant survival.<sup>1</sup>

➔ More than half of babies born with low birth weight spent time in the intensive care unit. Less than 10% of normal birth weight babies did.

➔ On average, newborns remained in the hospital for 3.2 days after delivery. This has remained relatively unchanged over the past 5 years.

➔ 4,104 infants were born to women who were not married. These newborns were more likely to have longer hospital stays than infants born to married women.

➔ Forty percent of Maine births were accompanied by complicated labor. The most frequently listed complications - the presence of meconium, premature rupture of the membrane, breech delivery, and dysfunctional labor - accounted for more than half of all complications; physicians reported abnormal conditions for just over 6% of newborns.

➔ In 1998, nearly 60% of new mothers reported placing their infants to sleep on their back, the recommended sleeping position. This was a significant increase over 1996 when 37½% of new mothers reported placing their infants on their back.

➔ More than 10% of the infants born in 1998 were exposed to cigarette smoke on a daily basis; 4½% were exposed for 4 or more hours daily. An additional 6% were exposed for 1 - 3 hours daily.

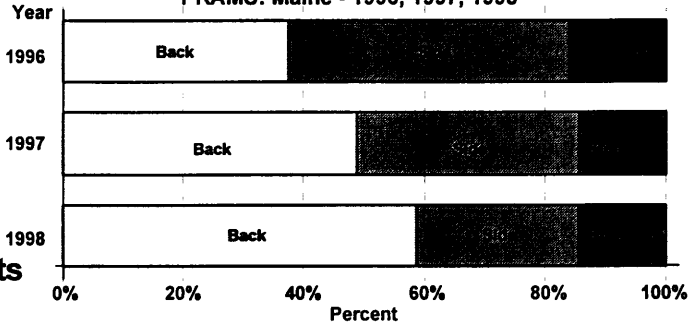
➔ On average, infants who were exposed to smoke were exposed for more than 5 hours each day.

Number and Percent of Infants by Birthweight  
MVSS: Maine - 1998

Birthweight (in grams)	Number	Percent
< 1,500	130	1.0%
1,500-2,499	668	4.9%
2,500-3,499	6,561	47.8%
3,500-4,499	6,018	43.9%
> 4,499	336	2.5%
TOTAL	13,713*	100.0%

\* Excludes births with unknown birthweight

Infant Sleep Position  
PRAMS: Maine - 1996, 1997, 1998



Footnote 1: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Surveillance Summary, Centers for Disease Control (CDC). . A full citation is available upon request.

For further data on this topic, please contact:  
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DS:FACTS1.FRP P22  
PRA.022  
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