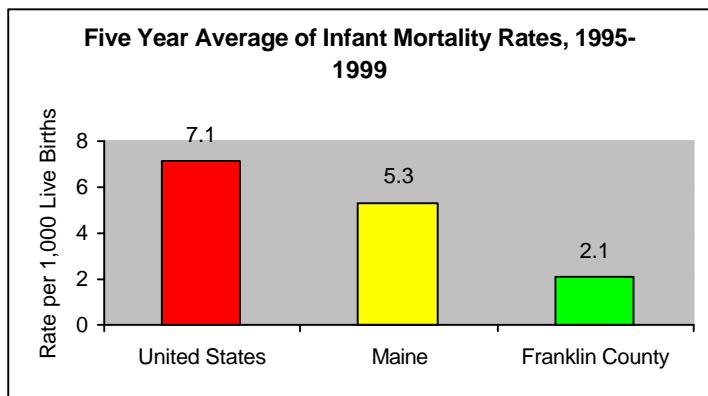


# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

**A** number of indicators indicate that Maine's maternal and child health is better than the rest of the nation, and in several cases Franklin County shows even more improvement than Maine. Franklin County has one of the lowest infant mortality and teen pregnancy rates in the state and in the country. Almost all pregnant women in the County (92%) receive prenatal care in the first trimester. Growing Healthy Families, a collaborative effort between Franklin Memorial Hospital and Franklin County Children's Task Force, has contributed greatly to improving maternal and child health by providing four home visits to all first-time expecting parents in Franklin County. However, a percentage of pregnant women still smoke (18%) and the majority of these women are young, poor and on Medicaid. Another area of concern is the very high percentage of single mothers who are living in poverty. In the County, 54% of single mothers who have children under five are living in poverty. There is also a high incidence of domestic assault in Franklin County even though the rate dropped 9% from 2000 to 2001. Domestic violence is one of the leading causes of injury among Maine women ages 15-44. Another area of concern is the rising incidence in Maine of sexually transmitted diseases, such as chlamydia, gonorrhea and AIDS. Since January 2003, there has been a 35% increase over the 2002 to-date total of reported chlamydia cases, and 70% of these cases have been among women.

Graph 32

## Infant Mortality



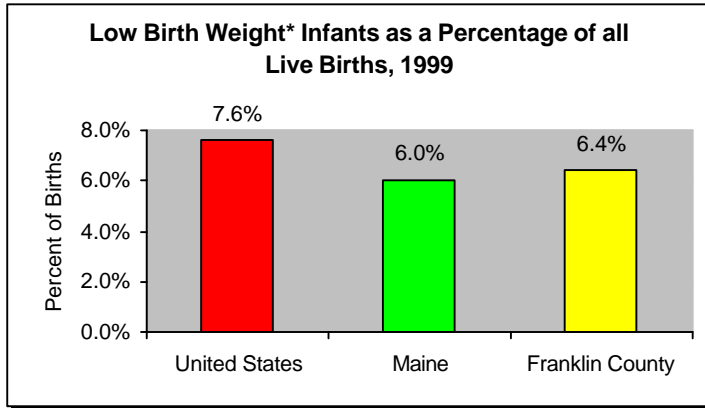
- Franklin County's Infant Mortality Rate is lower than the state and national rates.
- While the state and national rates haven't changed much between 1993 – 1997 and 1995 – 1999, Franklin County has seen a significant drop from 4.6 to 2.1 per 1,000 live births.

❖ Source: Maine Children's Alliance, 2002

# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Graph 33

## Low Birth Weight

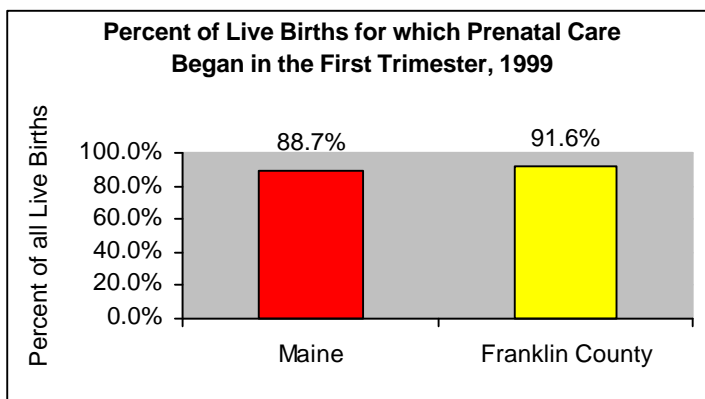


➤ Franklin County's percent of infants who have a low birth weight (< 2500 grams or 5.5 lbs.) is similar to the state percent of 6%, which is lower than 8% for the nation.

❖ Source: Maine Children's Alliance, 2002

Graph 34

## Prenatal Care



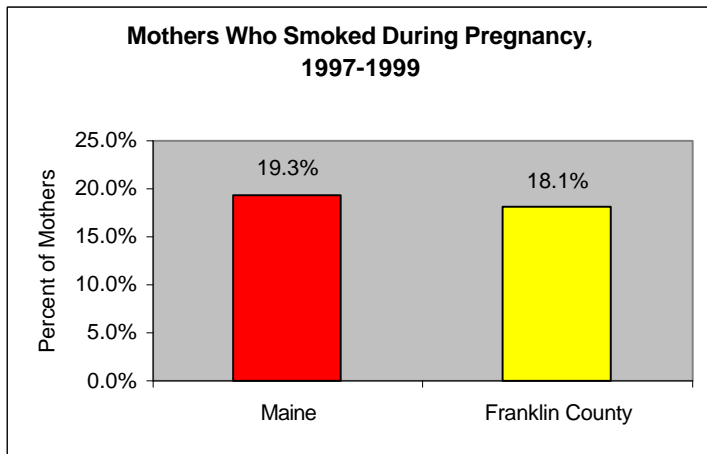
➤ Both Maine and Franklin County do a great job to make sure pregnant women get prenatal care beginning in the first trimester.

❖ Source: Maine Children's Alliance, 2002

# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Graph 35

## Smoked During Pregnancy

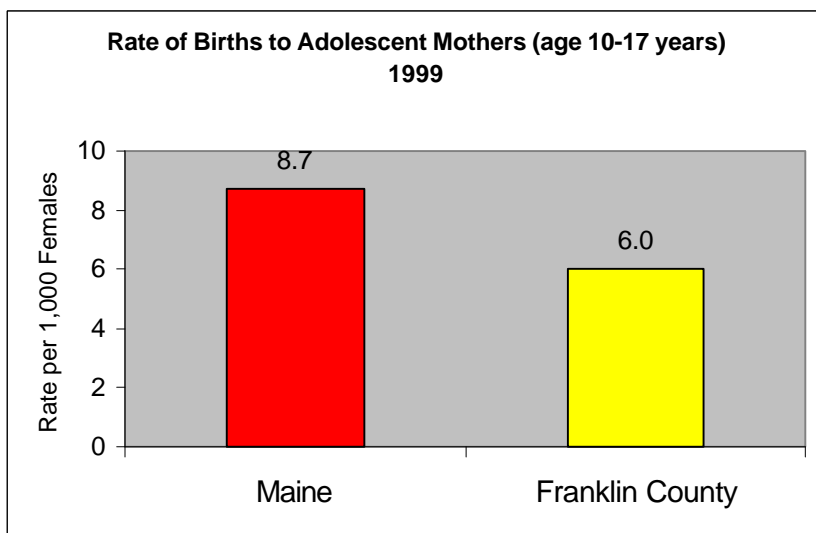


❖ Source: Maine Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System Survey, 1997-1999

- The percent of pregnant mothers who smoke is slightly lower than the state percentage.
- 66% of premature births in Franklin County were to mothers who smoked.
- The percentages of women who smoke *before* pregnancy (35%) and *after* pregnancy (25%) are higher than the state percentages of 32.3% *before* pregnancy and 23.6% *after* pregnancy.

Graph 36

## Adolescent Mothers



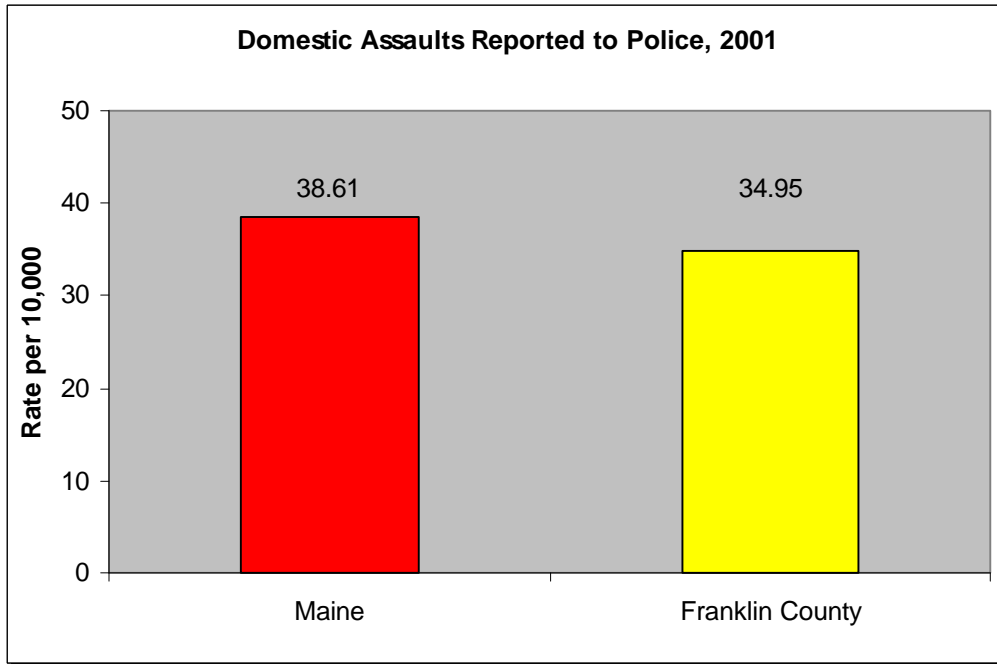
❖ Source: Maine Children's Alliance, 2002

- The rate of Franklin County's births to adolescent mothers (ages 10-17 years) tends to be lower than the state rate.
- Franklin County's teenage pregnancy rate has been one of the lowest in the nation.

# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Graph 37

## Domestic Violence



❖ Source: Main Kids Count, 2002 and 2003 Data Books

- Franklin County's domestic assault rate is lower than the state rate.
- Franklin County's domestic assault rate dropped 9% from 2000 to 2001; whereas, Maine's rate increased 8% during the same period.
- Domestic violence is a leading cause of injury to Maine women ages 14-44.