

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



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December 20, 2019

Senator Michael Carpenter
Representative Donna Bailey
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
#100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

RE: Marriages to Minors, Maine 2014-2018 Report

Dear Senator Carpenter, Representative Bailey, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Resolves 2019, Chapter 46 directs the Department of Health and Human Services to report data on the incidence of marriages to minors in Maine to the Committee.

I respectfully submit the attached report, "*Marriages to Minors, Maine 2014-2018*". I hope that you find this report helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne M. Lambrew".

Jeanne M. Lambrew, PhD
Commissioner

JML/klv

cc: Nirav Shah, MD JD, Director, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Bethany Beausang, Senior Policy Advisor, Governor's Office

Marriages to Minors

Maine, 2014-2018

Report to the 129th Legislature



Prepared by: Data, Research, and Vital Statistics
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Department of Health and Human Services

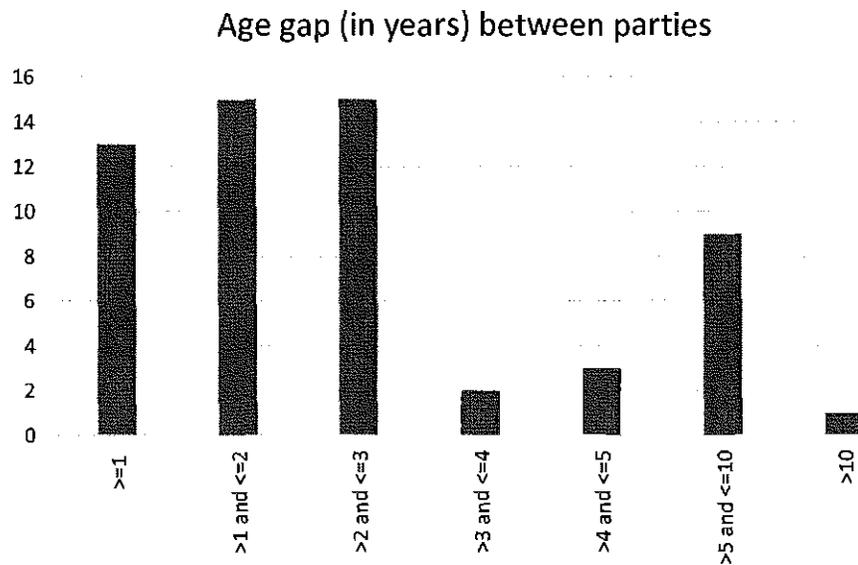
10/10/2019

Summary: In accordance with Chapter 46, “Resolves” the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention through its division of data, research and vital statistics is directed to report by December 4, 2019, to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary about data on the incidence of marriage of minors in the State.

Findings: For the period 2014 to 2018, there were 50,704 marriages in Maine; 58 had at least one party that was younger than 18 years old. This represents 0.1% of the total marriages.

In four marriages, both parties were minors. No parties were younger than 16 years old. Nine individuals were 16 years old.

Half of the marriages were between parties with less than two years difference in age.



The parties in seven of the 10 marriages with an age gap of greater than five years were born outside the United States. There is a wide range of cultural attitudes and norms regarding marriage that may be reflected in these age gaps.

Data Source: Maine vital records. Marriages 2014-2016 were tabulated by staff from the paper-based marriage records. Starting in 2017, marriage records are maintained in the electronic marriage registration system.