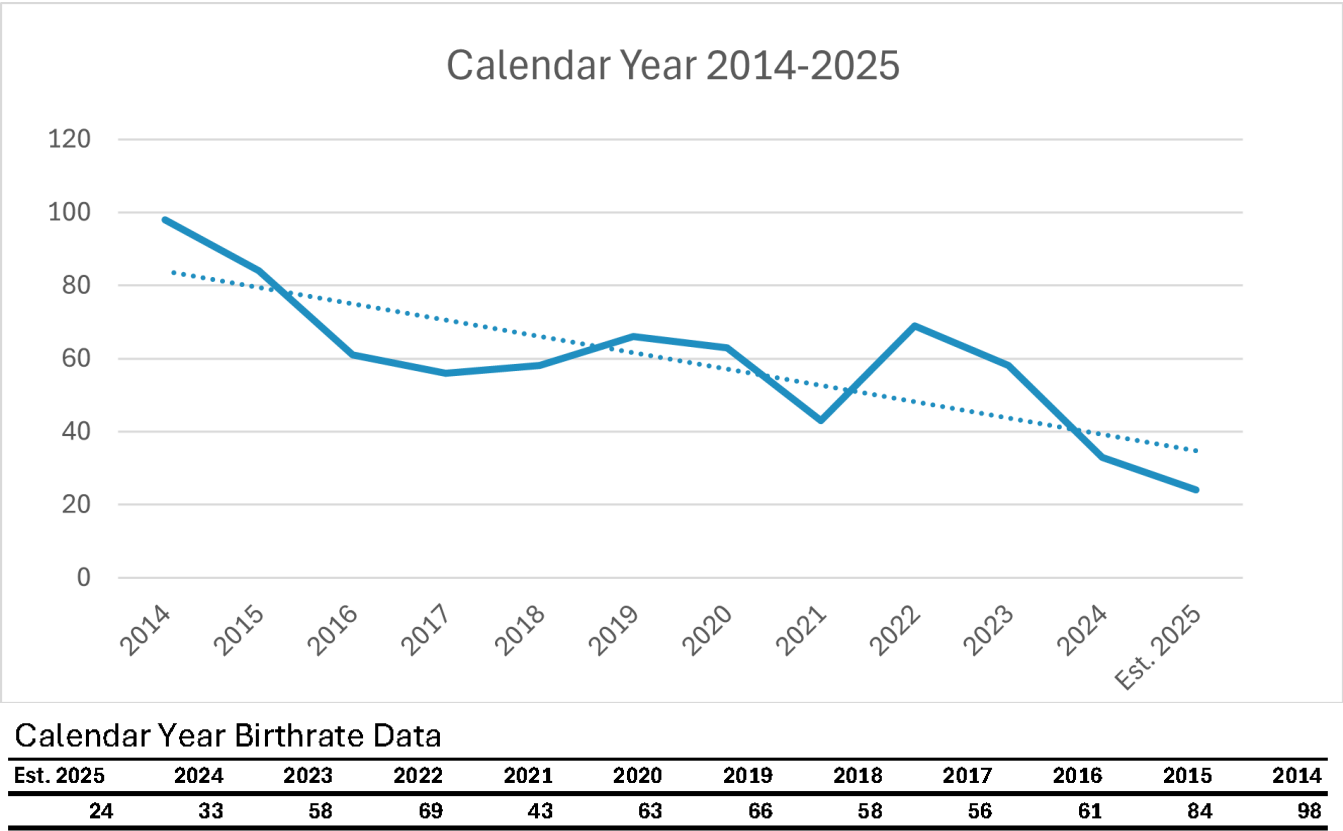


Understanding Our Local Birth Trends: What the Numbers Tell Us

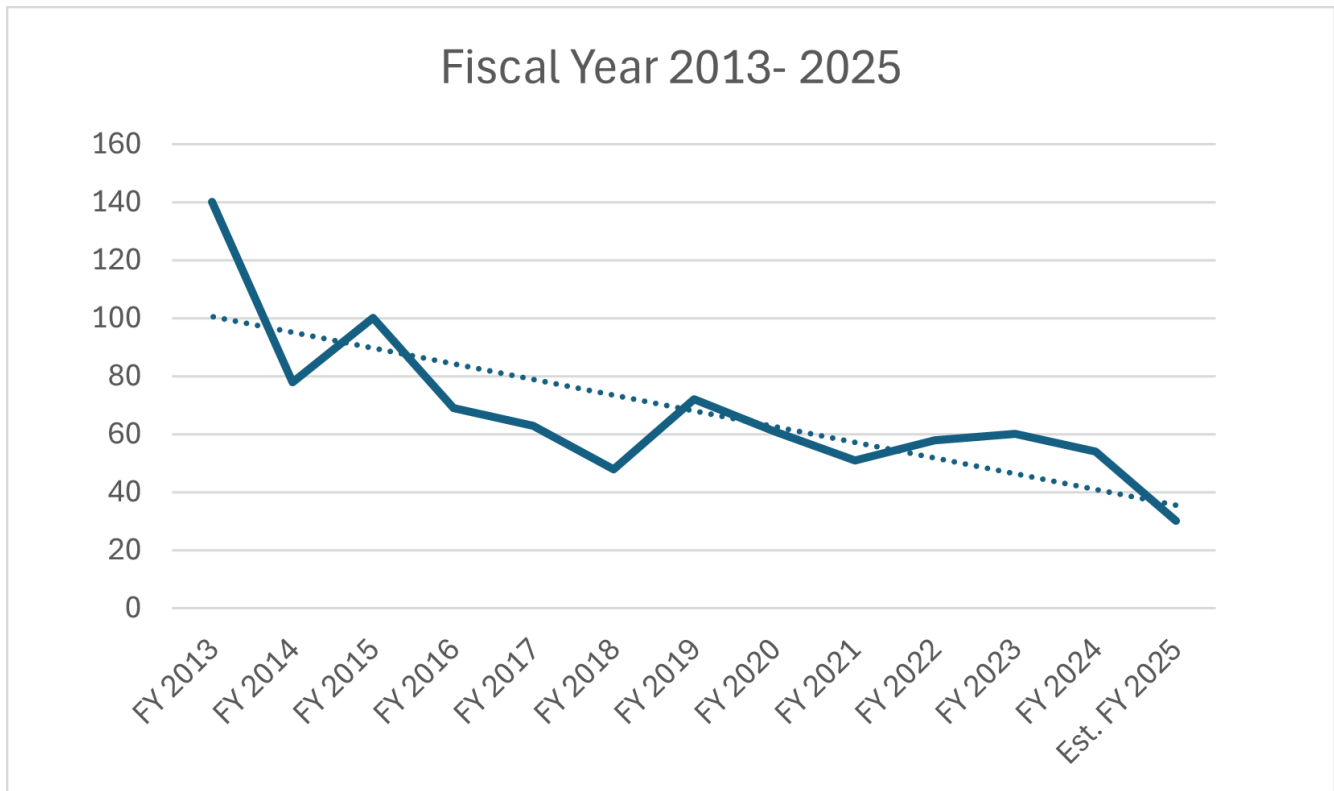
We recently completed a detailed review of our birth data and want to share some key insights with our community.

Calendar vs. Fiscal Year

When we talk about birth numbers, it's important to know whether we're using calendar year or fiscal year data. The calendar year runs from January to December and is used for state comparisons, like those from the Maine CDC. Our hospital's fiscal year runs from May 1 to April 30 and is used for internal planning and annual reporting.



Prompted by thoughtful questions from our community, we also reviewed our fiscal year data and cross-checked it against state sources. That review uncovered two discrepancies in our reporting, both of which have now been corrected:



Fiscal Year Birthrate Data

Est. 2025	FY 2024	FY 2023	FY 2022	FY 2021	FY 2020	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2017	FY 2016	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2013
30	54	60	58	51	61	72	48	63	69	100	78	140

What Was Corrected—and Why?

Birthrate tracking is typically based on admissions and discharges, which can vary slightly when births and hospital stays span fiscal or calendar years. Changes in staffing and system upgrades can also impact how data is entered and reported.

Here's what we corrected:

- **FY23:** We initially reported 88 births—but that number reflected the total number of days newborns spent in our care, not births. The corrected number is 58 births.
- **FY22:** we reported 66 births based on discharges, but the actual number was 60 births.

We've now validated all birth data back to 2013. All other years are accurate within a ± 1 margin.

What Are the Bigger Trends?

A hospital with fewer than 35 births a year is considered very low volume and often unsustainable. Our current and projected numbers place us in that category. In fact, our birthrate is now the lowest of any labor and delivery unit in Maine, and our decline in birthrate follows state trends:



As of 2023, Hancock County has the **state's lowest birthrate**—just 6.78 births per 1,000 people, according to the Maine CDC:

County	Population (2023)	Births (2023)	Births/1000 population
Androscoggin	113,765	1,111	9.77
Cumberland	310,230	2,781	8.96
Somerset	51,302	457	8.91
Washington	31,555	273	8.65
Aroostook	67,351	577	8.57
York	218,586	1,820	8.33
Oxford	59,905	489	8.16
Kennebec	127,259	1,028	8.08
Lincoln	36,507	284	7.78
Penobscot	155,312	1,201	7.73
Waldo	40,620	301	7.41
Sagadahoc	37,513	275	7.33
Piscataquis	17,486	128	7.32
Franklin	30,828	221	7.17
Knox	40,977	285	6.96
Hancock	56,526	383	6.78
(Unknown)		7	
Statewide	1,395,722	11,621	8.33

Why This Matters

Understanding these trends helps us have honest conversations about the future of maternity care in our region. Fewer births don't just affect hospitals—they reflect broader changes in our community, like aging populations, lack of affordable housing, and economic, lifestyle, and family planning shifts.

We remain committed to serving our community with transparency and care. Thank you for helping us keep our records accurate and our conversations informed.