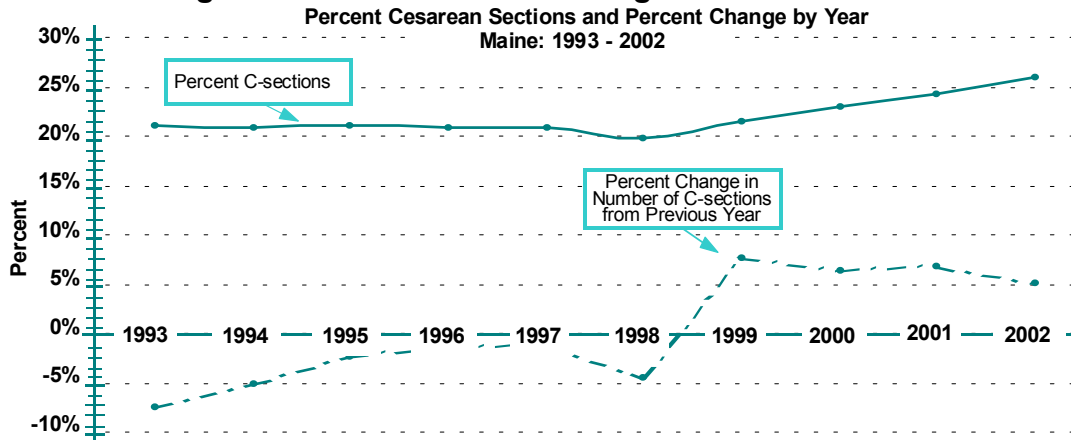


CESAREAN SECTIONS

Data are from the
MAINE VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM: 1993 - 2002 (preliminary)

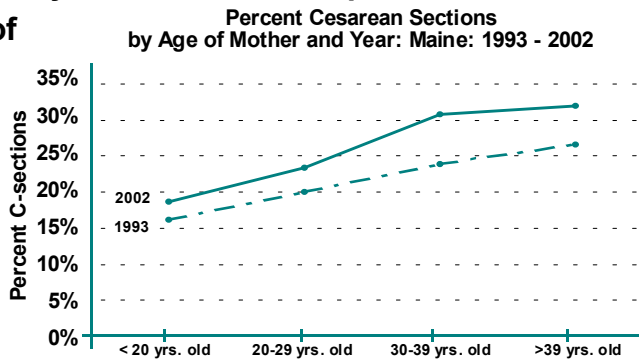
- ➔ In 2002, 13,549 babies were born to Maine residents. More than 3,500 of these babies were delivered by cesarean section (c-section) - 1 of every 4 births - a rate similar to what was experienced nationally. This was the highest c-section rate ever reported in Maine, and the highest rate ever reported nationally.
- ➔ For the 1st half of the 10 year period, 1993 - 2002, c-section rates were relatively stable at about 21% of all deliveries; however, in 1999, rates started rising and continued to rise through 2002 to reach 26%.



- ➔ Contributing to this increase was a sharp decline in the number of women who delivered babies vaginally after having a previous c-section; this went from 2.9% of births in 1993 to 1.2% of births in 2002. Another contributing factor was a 7% increase in the incidence of primary c-section deliveries.
- ➔ While the number of births to Maine resident women decreased by 10% between 1993 and 2002, the number of c-sections increased by 11%. Also, during that period, vaginal deliveries to women who previously had c-sections declined to nearly 1/3 of what was reported in 1993.
- ➔ C-section rates rose as age of

mother rose. With more women delaying childbirth than ever before, c-section rates would be expected to rise for that reason alone; however, c-section rates rose for all ages of mothers. Increases in rates were significantly greater for those

women younger than 30 as well as for those 30 years old and older.



2001 and 2002 Maine data are preliminary. All Maine data are for resident births only.

National data were obtained from "National Vital Statistics Reports Volume 51, Numbers 2 "Mean Age of Mother, 1970 - 2000", and 11, "Births: Preliminary Data for 2002": Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
the Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics, BUREAU OF HEALTH
at 161 Capitol Street, #11 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
The contact person is: Cathy St. Pierre - (207) 287-5500 287-2070 (TTY)

Visit our website at: <http://www.maine.gov/dhs/bohodr/index.htm>

John Elias Baldacci
Governor



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