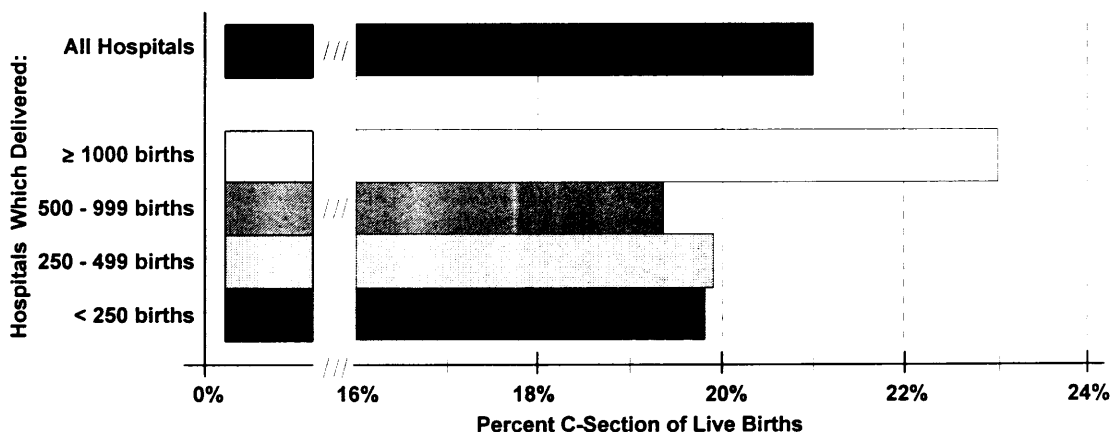


# 1997 MAINE BIRTHS: CESAREAN SECTIONS

Data (preliminary) are from the  
MAINE ELECTRONIC BIRTH CERTIFICATE SYSTEM: 1997

- ➔ The rate of cesarean delivery is considered important because of the greater potential risk to mother and infant during a surgical procedure and because of the higher health care costs for this type of delivery. Nationally, 1 in 5 births is delivered by cesarean section (1995).<sup>1</sup>
- ➔ A Healthy Maine 2000 Objective is to reduce the rate of cesarean births to 15% by the year 2000<sup>2</sup>. Preliminary data from the Maine Electronic Birth Certificate System indicate that 21% of the 13,343 births which occurred in Maine hospitals in 1997 (2,804) were delivered by cesarean section (c-section). This compares to 21.5% in 1990.
- ➔ Sixty-two percent of all c-sections (1,753) were "primary c-sections", c-sections completed on women who were giving birth for the first time or who had not previously given birth using this delivery method. The remaining 1,051 c-sections were "repeat c-sections", or completed on women who had previously had a c-section.
- ➔ Twenty three percent of the deliveries in hospitals which provided the largest volume of birthing services in 1997 (those with 1000 or more births) were c-sections. An average of 19% of deliveries were c-sections in hospitals with fewer than 1000 annual births.

Percent of C-Sections by Hospital Size  
Maine Electronic Birth Certificate System: 1997



- ➔ In 1997, 436 Maine women gave birth to an infant vaginally after having a previous delivery by c-section. This resulted in a rate of 29.3 vaginal births for each 100 women with a previous c-section, a rate comparable to the national rate of 27.5 (1995)<sup>1</sup>.

Footnote 1: *Public Health*, Volume 113, Number 1, January/February 1998. Footnote 2: *Maine Health 1998: A Health Planning Resource*, January 1998. Full citations are available upon request.

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