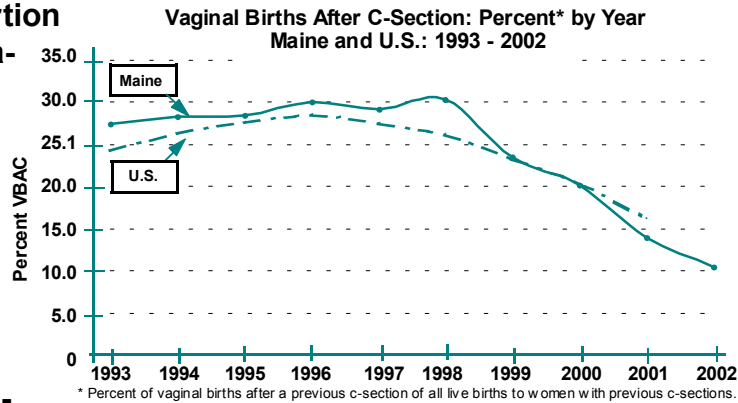


VAGINAL BIRTHS AFTER CESAREAN SECTION

Maine Residents: 1993 - 2002 (preliminary)

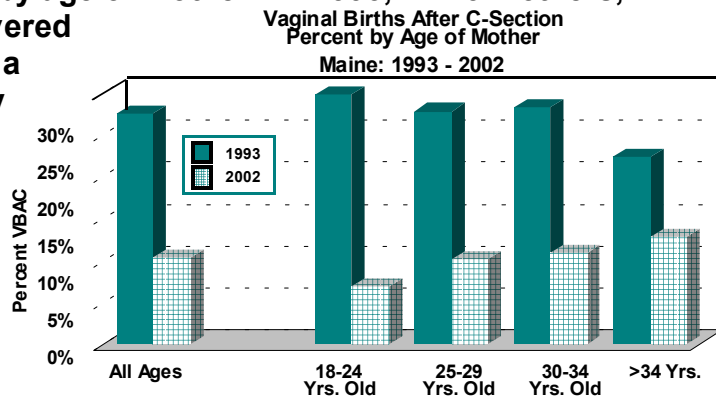
- ➔ During the 10 years, 1993 - 2002, the proportion of babies born by cesarean section (c-section) increased by nearly 25% in Maine. This was due in part to a dramatic decline in the proportion of women having a vaginal birth after delivering a previous baby by c-section (VBAC).
- ➔ The proportion of women having a birth after a c-section was nearly the same in 1993 and 2002 (11% of births); however, the proportion of those births that were vaginal deliveries dropped significantly - by 62%.

- ➔ From 1993 to 1998, the proportion of women having a vaginal delivery after a previous c-section increased from 27% to 30%; however, starting in 1999, the proportion of VBACs declined dramatically, from 30% to 10%. This trend of declining VBACs was experienced nationally as well.



- ➔ Although the percent of Maine women having a vaginal birth after a c-section was significantly higher than the national rate in 1993, by 2001 (the most current national data) Maine's rate was significantly lower.

- ➔ The change in the percent of Maine women having VBACs between 1993 and 2002 varied by age of mother. In 1993, 1 in 3 mothers, younger than 25, delivered vaginally after having a previous c-section; by 2002, 1 in 14 young mothers did. For all age groups, proportionally fewer mothers who had previous c-sections delivered vaginally in 2002 compared to their counterparts in 1993. These changes were statistically significant for all ages except for those women 35 years old or older.



- ➔ In 2001, the percent of Maine women having VBACs was the lowest among the New England states; Maine also ranked among the lowest in the country (37th).

NOTES: All national data were obtained from National Vital Statistics Reports Volume 51, Number 2, "Births: Final Data for 2001", Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National data are for whites only. Unless noted, differences in rates are not statistically significant., i.e., they could be accounted for by chance alone.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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John Elias Baldacci
 Governor



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