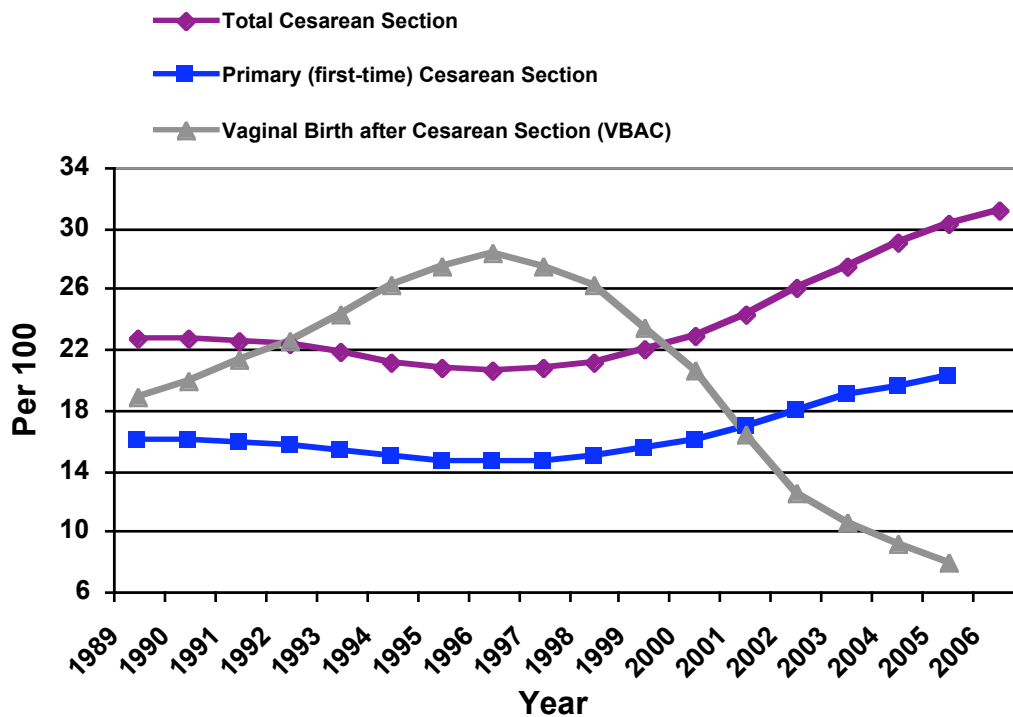


Rates for Total Cesarean Section, Primary Cesarean Section and Vaginal Birth After Cesarean Section (VBAC), United States, 1989-2006

In December 2007, the National Center for Health Statistics released the preliminary U.S. national cesarean rate for 2006: 31.1%. This rate has increased by 50% over the past decade, reaching a record level every year in this century, as shown in the chart below. The most common operating room procedure in U.S. hospitals, cesarean section involves considerable morbidity in women and babies and considerable expense for private payers/employers and Medicaid/taxpayers.



Source: U.S. National Center for Health Statistics (Note: for comparability, 2004 and 2005 primary cesarean section and VBAC rates are limited to 37 jurisdictions with unrevised birth certificates, encompassing 69% of 2005 births; 2006 total cesarean section rate is preliminary)

Updated January 2008