

C-Section Rate Rises for the 12th Straight Year

CIMS' new fact sheet documents the risks of cesarean section.

According to [preliminary birth data from the CDC](#) (PDF), the cesarean delivery rate rose for the 12th straight year in 2008 (the most recent data available), to 32.3 percent of all births despite overwhelming evidence that the vast majority of women can safely have normal, vaginal births. Watch [Birth by the Numbers](#), featuring Eugene R. Declercq, PhD, Professor of Maternal and Child Health, Boston University School of Public Health, for more sobering statistics about birth in the U.S. today.

A cesarean can be a life-saving operation, and some babies would not be born vaginally under any circumstances; however, it is still major surgery. Women have a legal right to know the risks associated with their treatment and the right to accept or refuse it. CIMS encourages healthcare providers to give childbearing women complete and accurate information about the risks of cesarean section so they can make informed decisions about how they want to give birth. **Visit the CIMS website to download our new fact sheet, "[The Risks of Cesarean Section](#),"** which now includes a companion resource for consumers, "About The Risks of Cesarean Section: A Check List for Mothers To Read During Pregnancy."