

## Caesarean section deliveries

Delivering babies by Caesarean section is the most common inpatient surgical procedure in Canada.[74] Caesarean sections are most often performed when vaginal delivery is considered risky for the mother or baby.[75] In some cases, this type of delivery can be life-saving. However, the mother or baby can experience complications as a result of the procedure, so a Caesarean section should only be performed when there is a clear reason for doing so.[75]

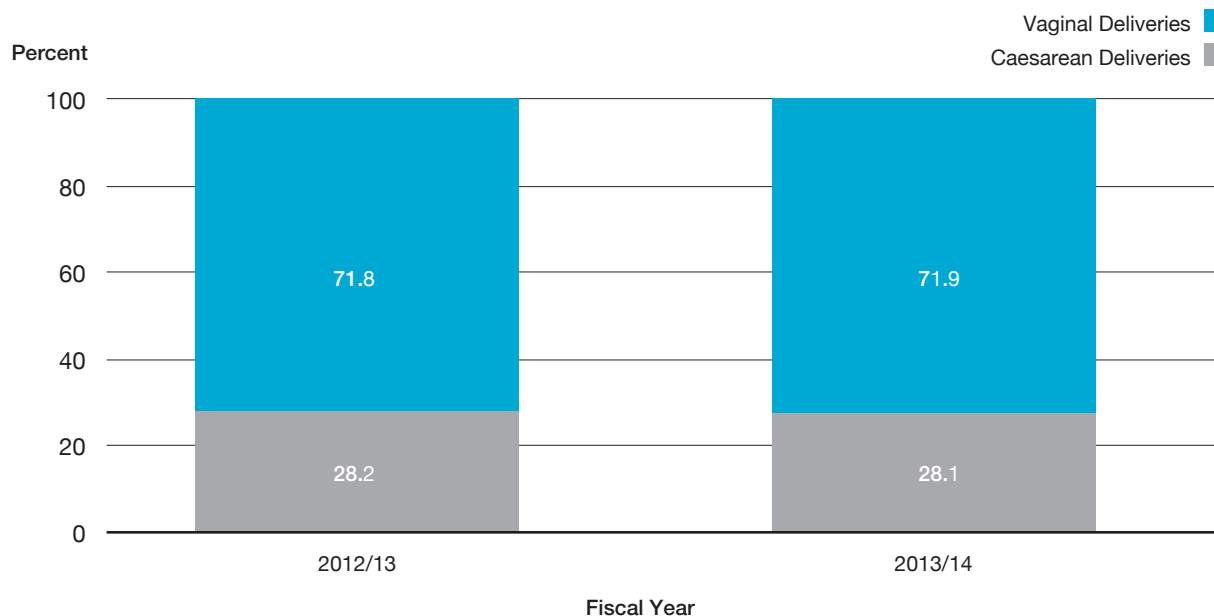
## Findings and variations

Across Canada over the last 20 years, the rate at which women have been having Caesarean section deliveries has increased significantly, to more than 27% of all deliveries in 2013, from 17% in 1995.[76,77] This ongoing rise may be linked to several factors, including women being older the first time they deliver and the increasing body weight of pregnant women.

The data show the proportion of deliveries in Ontario that were Caesarean deliveries remained stable, at around 28%, between 2012/13 and 2013/14 (Figure 6.11).

FIGURE 6.11

### Percentage of deliveries by delivery type, in Ontario, by fiscal year, 2012/13 to 2013/14



Data source: Ontario's Better Outcomes Registry & Network (BORN) Information System, provided by BORN

### **i** Indicator: Caesarean section deliveries

This indicator measures deliveries by Caesarean section, as a percentage of all deliveries.

The proportion of low-risk deliveries that were Caesarean deliveries also remained stable, at around 13%, between 2012/13 and 2013/14 (Figure 6.12). A delivery is considered to be low-risk when a woman who has not had a previous Caesarean section is giving birth to a single, full-term baby who presents head down, without maternal or fetal conditions or complications.

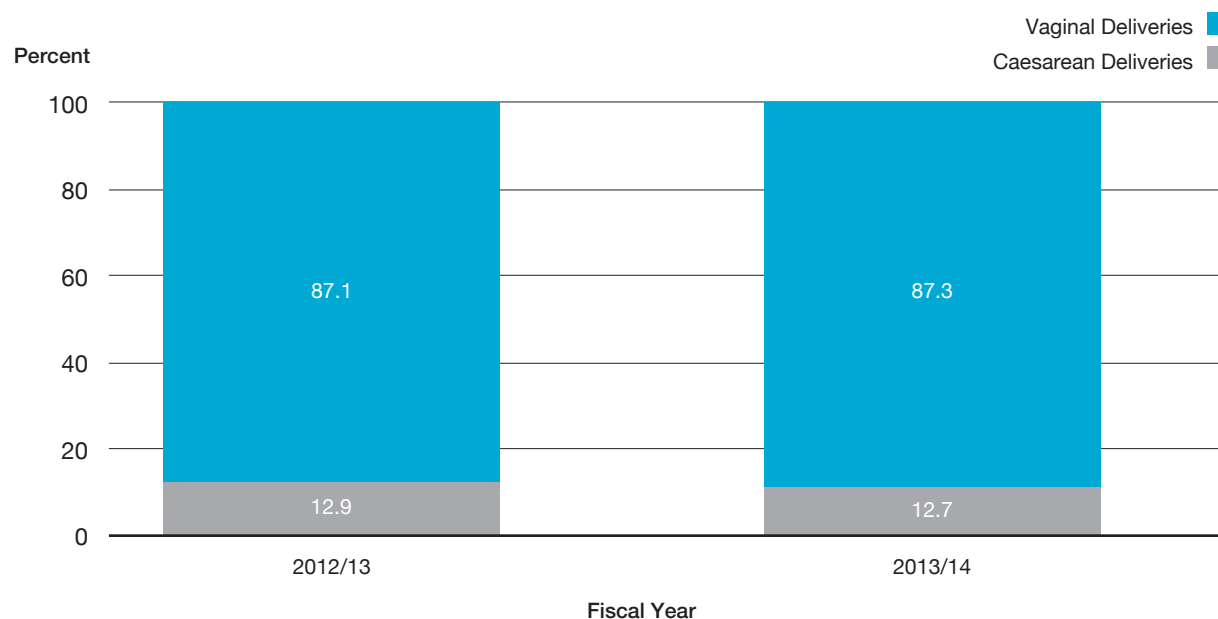
The rate of Caesarean sections among low-risk deliveries did not vary significantly in relation to the neighbourhood income level of the mother, in 2013/14.[78]

## Did you know?

Some of the common reasons women have a Caesarean delivery include abnormal fetal position, size or heart rate, previous Caesarean delivery, problems with the placenta, and the age of the mother.[75]

FIGURE 6.12

### Percentage of low-risk deliveries by delivery type, in Ontario, by fiscal year, 2012/13 to 2013/14



Data source: Ontario's Better Outcomes Registry & Network (BORN) Information System, provided by BORN