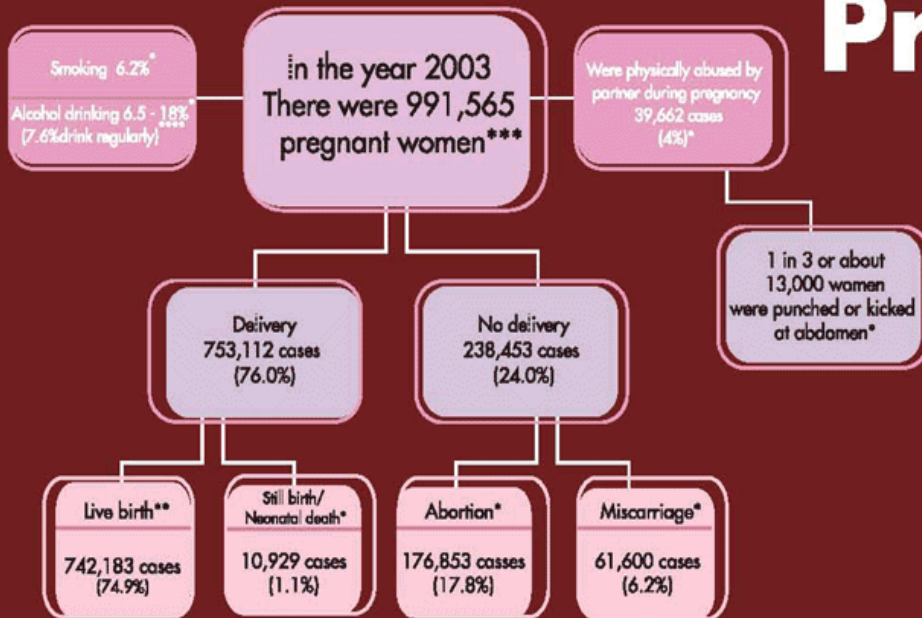


Pregnancy



The number of teenage pregnancies has reduced only slightly, but the number of mothers aged 35 and over has steadily increased. Teenage pregnancies and pregnancies at older ages are both 'risky' for the health of the mother and the baby. But whatever the age of the mother, it is important to attain the goal of 'successful delivery, safe mother'.

The mother's health is important at all stages of the pregnancy. Some problems in pregnancy that are still common are high blood pressure, HIV/AIDS, smoking, alcohol, and domestic violence. Abortion, whether intended or unintended, is also common.

A growing problem is that of cesarean sections. Although these have higher risks than normal deliveries, they are becoming more common, and rates of cesarean section have now exceeded those recommended by the World Health Organization (15%). It is noteworthy that more than half the deliveries in private hospitals are cesarean sections. It seems that private hospitals do not try to perform normal deliveries. Another important issue for Thailand is to promote exclusive breastfeeding for at least four months.

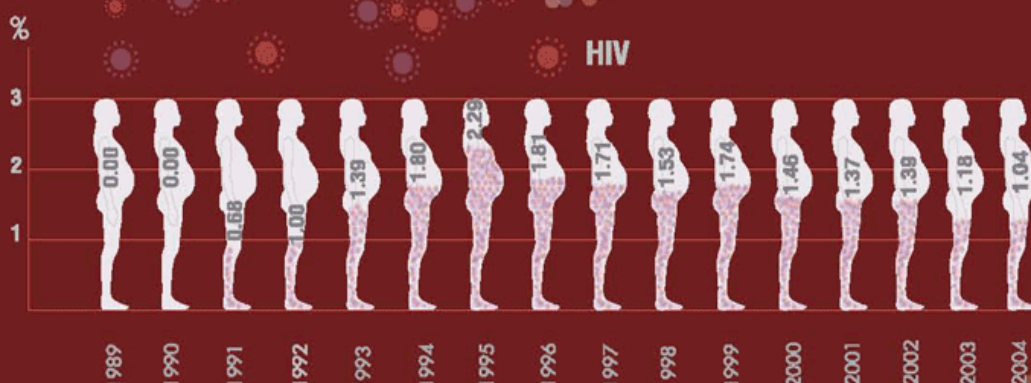
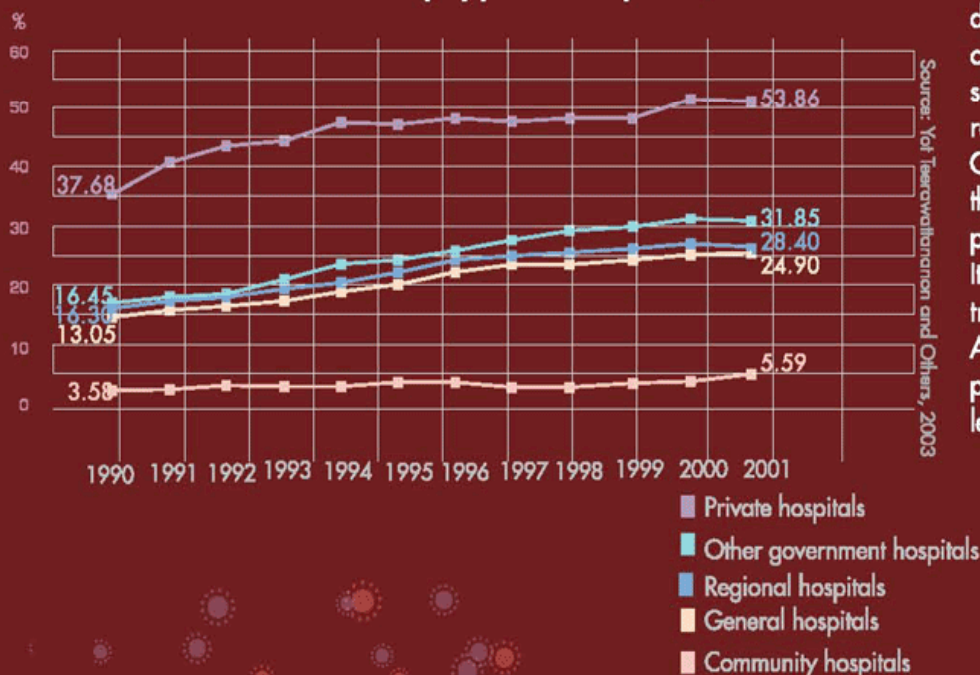
Source: *Kritaya Arvanitchkul and others, 2003 (based on household survey of women aged 15-49 years, N=2,861 cases)

** Number of live birth from Public Health Statistics, 2003

*** Percentage of pregnant women in the year 2003 was back calculated using the number of live birth in 2003 and the percentage of pregnancy results from Kritaya and others, 2003

**** Survey Report of Smoking and Drinking Behaviors of the population, 2001

Caesarean section by type of hospitals, 1990-2001

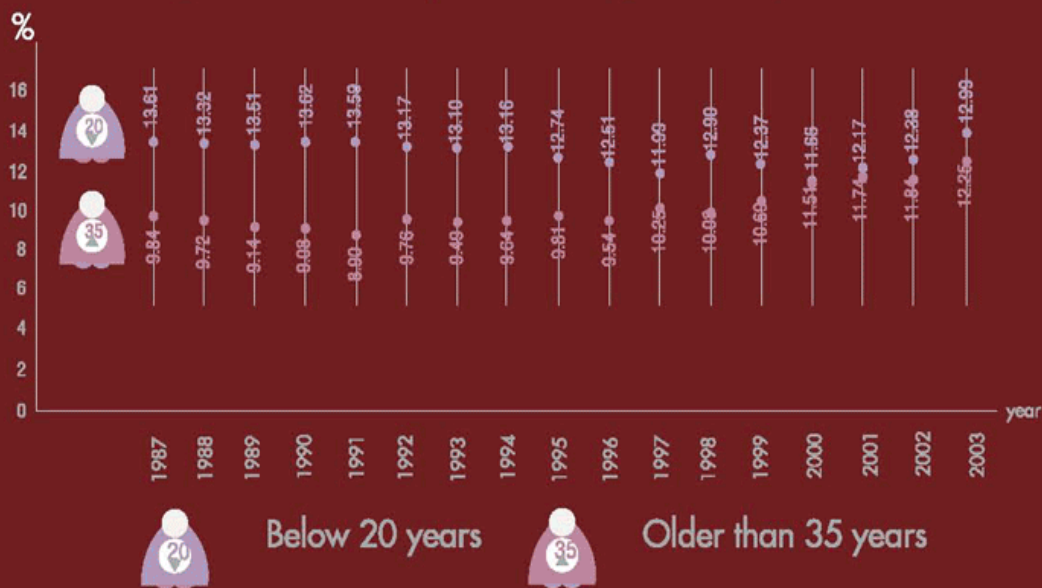


Pregnant women with HIV infection, 1989-2004

In 2003, about one million Thai women became pregnant. Of these, some needed medical care.

Percentage of live birth by mother's age at birth, 1987-2003

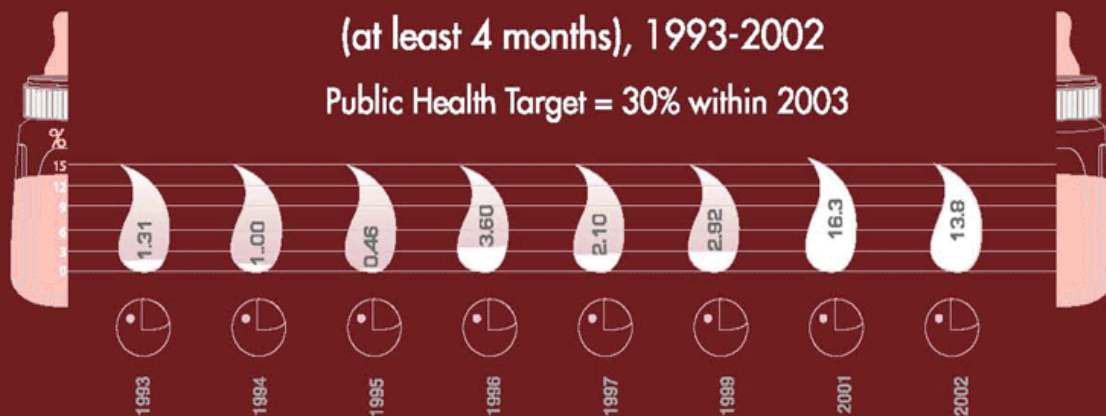
Even though the health of Thais is improving quickly, attention still needs to be paid to pregnancy, given that half of all deliveries in private hospitals were cesarean sections. Thailand now has higher rates of cesarean section than is recommended by the World Health Organization.



Source: Public Health Statistics, 1987-2003

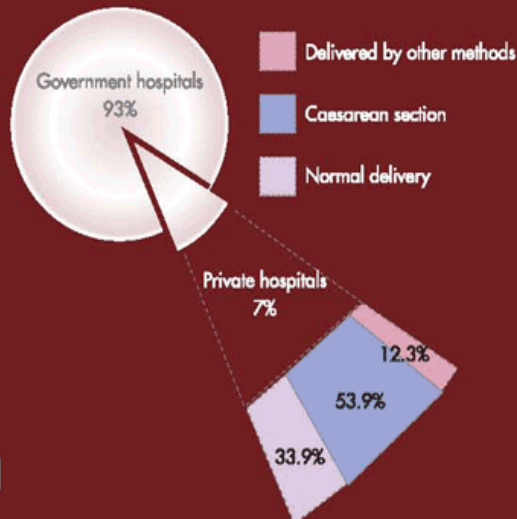
Percentage of mothers given exclusive breastfeeding (at least 4 months), 1993-2002

Public Health Target = 30% within 2003

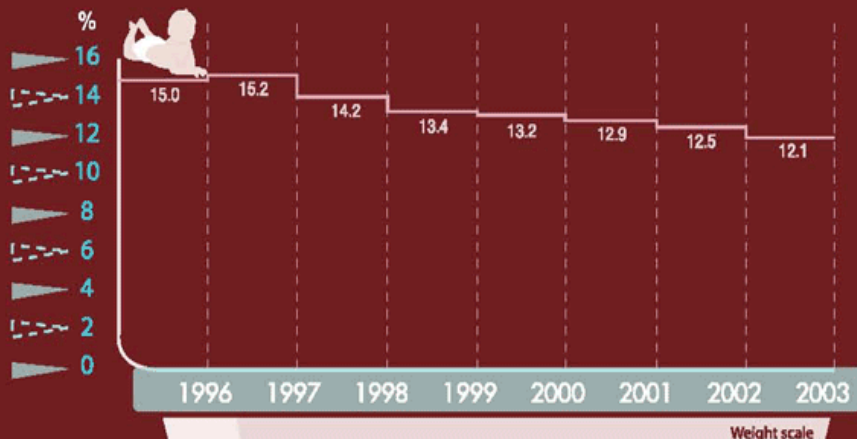


Source: Health Department except for the year 1997 from Mahidol University, cited in Jintana and Sansanee, 2004. Figures used by the Health Promotion Office used different data collection

Place of Delivery, 2001



Source: Yot Teerawattananon and Others, 2003



Percentage of newborns with low birth weight (lower than 2,500 gram), 1996-2003

Source: Public Health Statistics, 1996-2003