BRAZIL'S C-SECTION EPIDEMIC

Erin Sodawasser
& Julianna Carlson

KEY INDICATORS

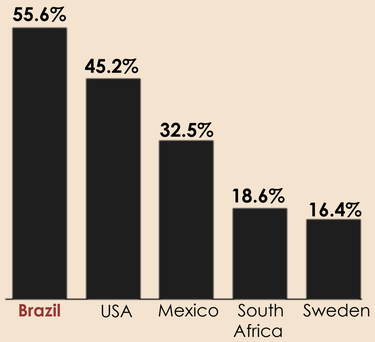
55.6%
C-SECTION RATE IN BRAZIL

87.9%
C-SECTION RATE IN PRIVATE HOSPITALS

42.9%
C-SECTION RATE IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS

- **200.4 million** population of Brazil
- **1.81** births per woman
- **$11,208 USD** GDP per capita
- **$947 USD** healthcare expenditures per capita
- **7.76%** low birth weight babies (<2,500 g)
- **9.24%** preterm birth rate

THE PROBLEM



Brazil has one of the highest C-section rates in the world

960,867 unnecessary C-sections are performed each year

costing an estimated **$226.7 million**

doctors have a FINANCIAL INCENTIVE to perform C-sections – they cost more, but take less time.

1 in 4 women report obstetric violence during their labor and delivery – many feel they are being "punished" by doctors for having a natural birth.

There are widespread beliefs that childbirth is "primitive, ugly, nasty, inconvenient"

According to WHO, C-section rates above 10% have **not** been associated with any reductions in infant or maternal mortality.

UNNECESSARY C-SECTIONS
put women at a greater risk for obstetric complications and death

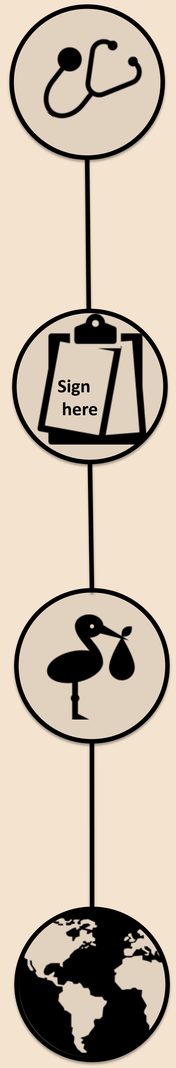
THE SOLUTION

In July 2015, the Brazilian government introduced a new law that requires doctors to inform patients of the risk of a C-section; those who opt for one must **sign a consent form**.

Hospitals must keep complete records of each labor and birth, including **physician justification** for the use of a Cesarean section.

In 2014 Brazil spent $4 billion on **The Stork Network**, a program to educate both mothers and doctors about the benefits of giving birth the "old-fashioned way"

Rallies in multiple countries have taken place that call for **improved treatment** of women during childbirth.



"When mothers survive, children thrive"

"Quando as mães sobreviver, as crianças prosperam"

Resources

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