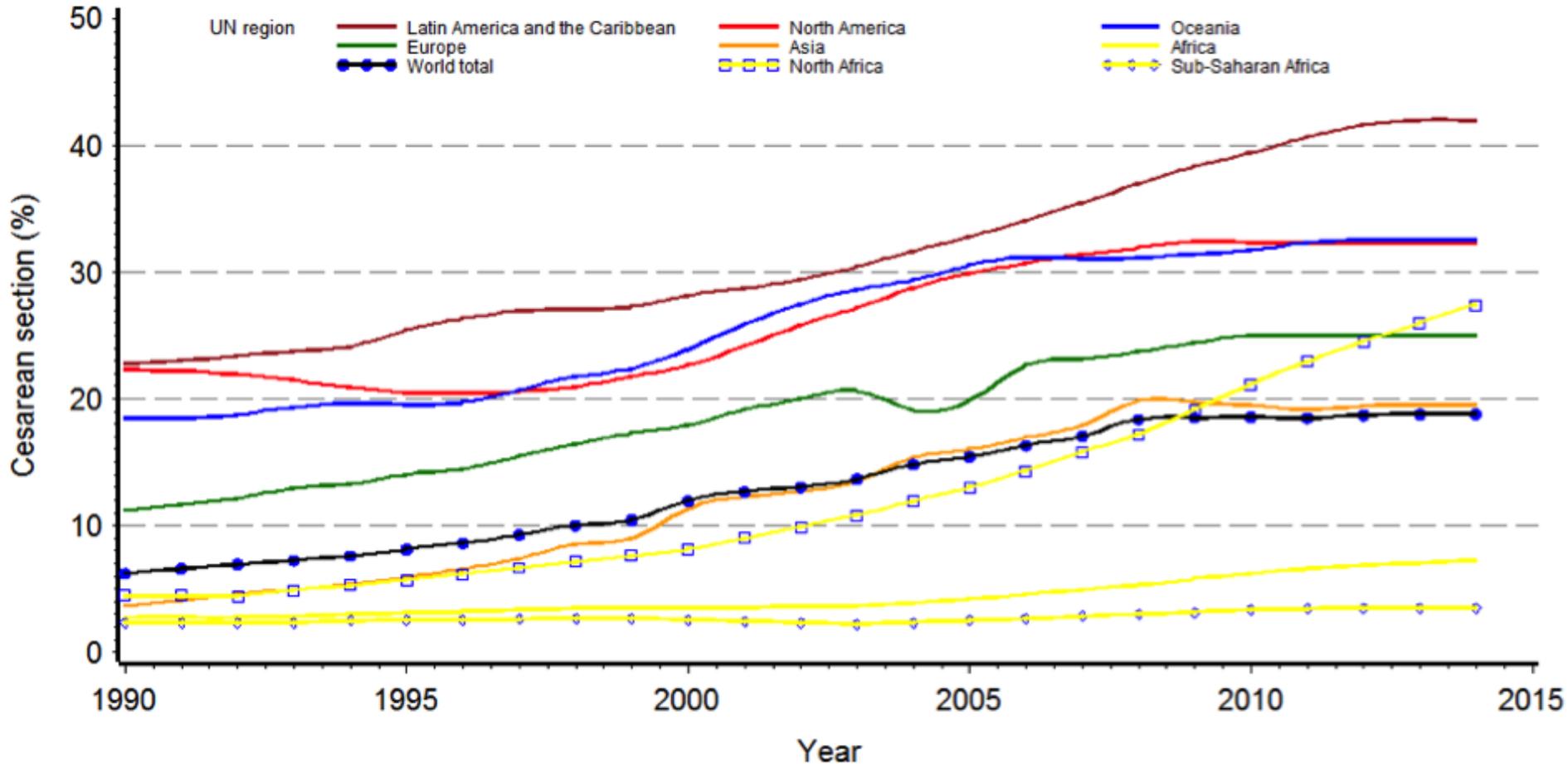


# Why are caesarean birth increasing worldwide?

Ana Pilar Betrán  
Department of Reproductive Health and Research



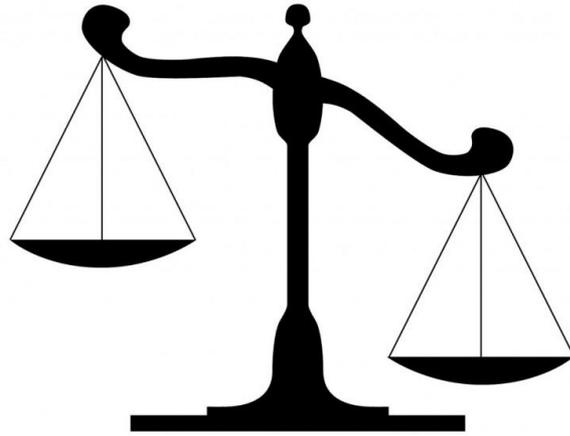
# CS trends worldwide since 1990



Source: Betrán et al: The increasing trend in Caesarean section rates. PLoS ONE 2016

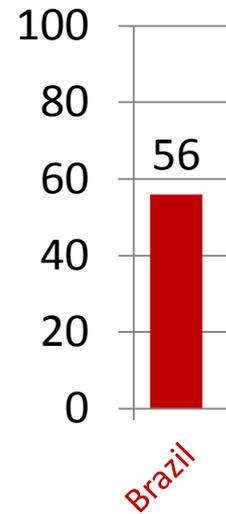
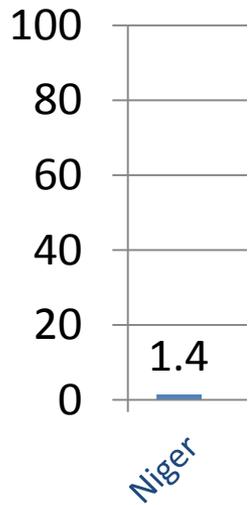


**Almost 1 in 5 women give birth by  
caesarean section**



**Lowest**

**Highest**

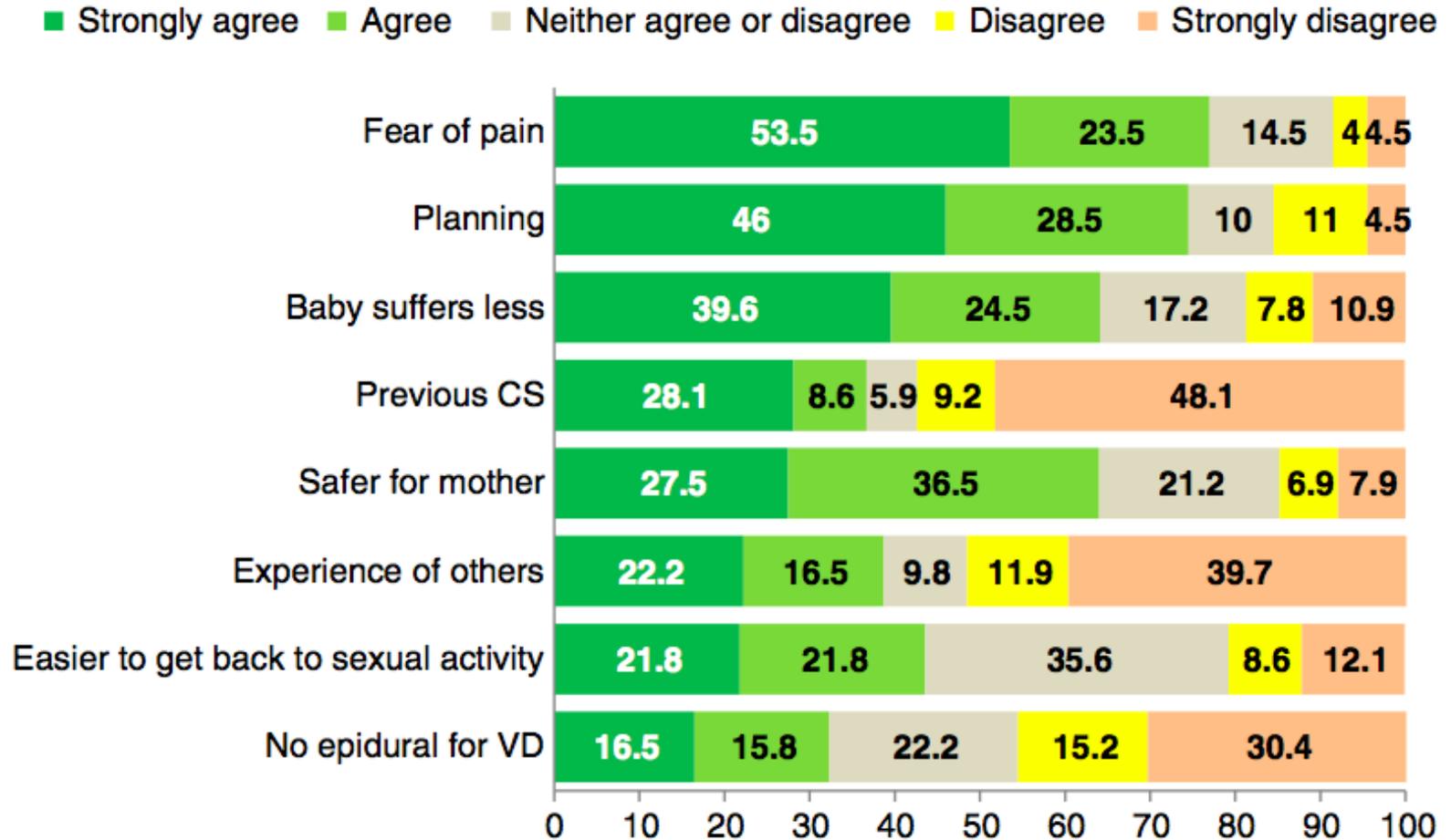




# Why are caesarean section birth increasing worldwide?

- ✓ Women, families, communities
- ✓ Health professionals
- ✓ Healthcare systems, organizational
- ✓ Broader society

# Women's concerns?



Source: Torloni MR et al. Do Italian women prefer caesarean section? Results from a survey on mode of delivery preferences. BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth. 2013.

# Women's concerns?



## China:

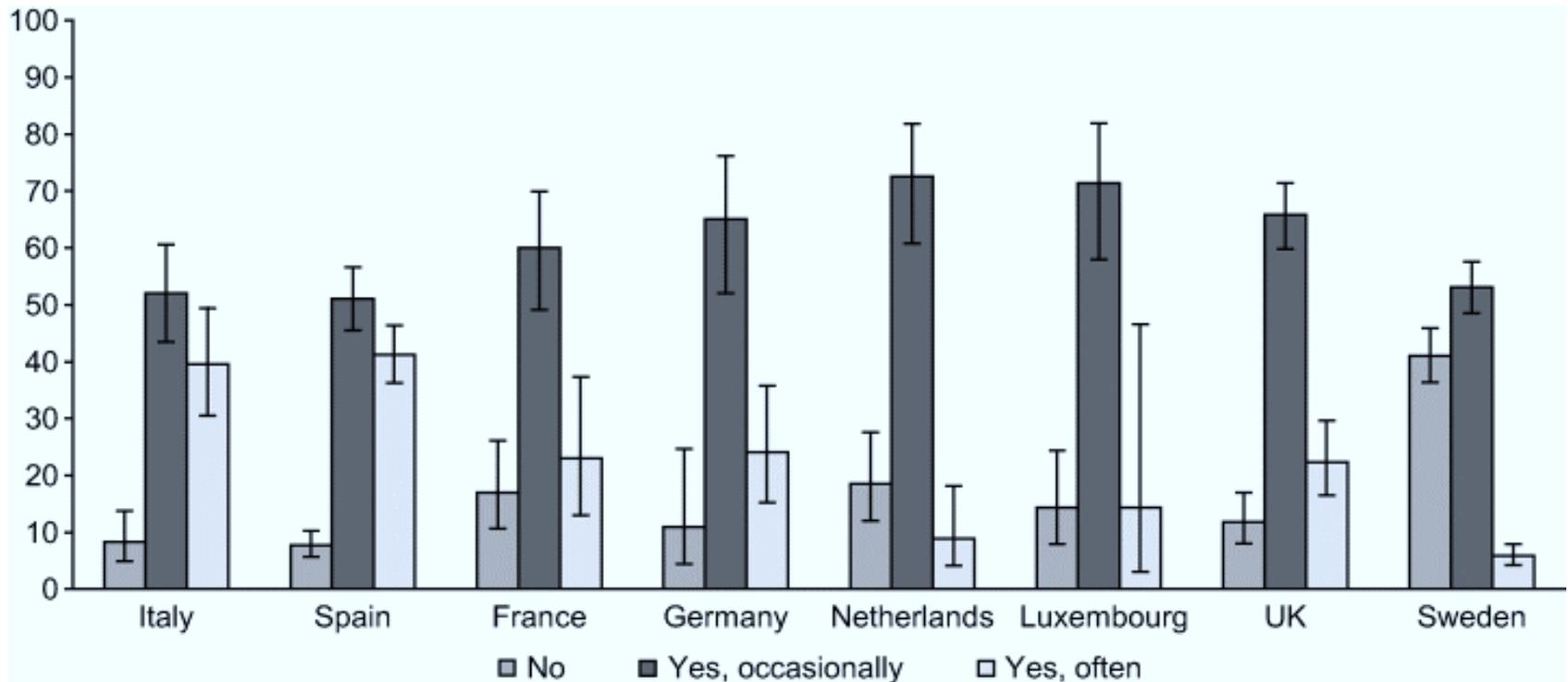
- Afraid unable to endure (labor) pain: 27.5%
- Safer for the baby: 7.5%
- Convenient to schedule and select auspicious date: 3.5%

Source: Zhang QP et al. Investigation on delivery modes and willingness of pregnant women in Jiangxi province. *Maternal and Child Health Care of China* 2016; 31(2):357-359

# Health professionals' concerns?

- ✓ Different perspectives to management of labour among health professionals
- ✓ Differences in compliance with hypothetical women's request without medical indication
- ✓ Fear of litigation resulting in “defensive medicine”

# Proportion of physicians feeling that their personal medical practice is influenced by fear of litigation



Source: Habiba et al. Caesarean section on request: a comparison of obstetricians' attitudes in eight European countries.. BJOG. 2006, Jun;113(6):647-56.

# Healthcare systems and organizations limitations

- ✓ Organizational differences in units/hospitals
- ✓ Insufficient training and skills for vaginal delivery and potential complications → fear of disturbing senior staff
- ✓ Perceived reduced quality of care during labour and vaginal delivery – lack of trust in the system
- ✓ Women-health professional relationship
- ✓ Low-resource setting, unskilled health professionals at primary care → delay referral

# Broader society and cultural factors

- ✓ Intolerance to imperfection
- ✓ Lifestyle
- ✓ Society of pleasure
- ✓ Cult to the body
- ✓ Right to choose



