

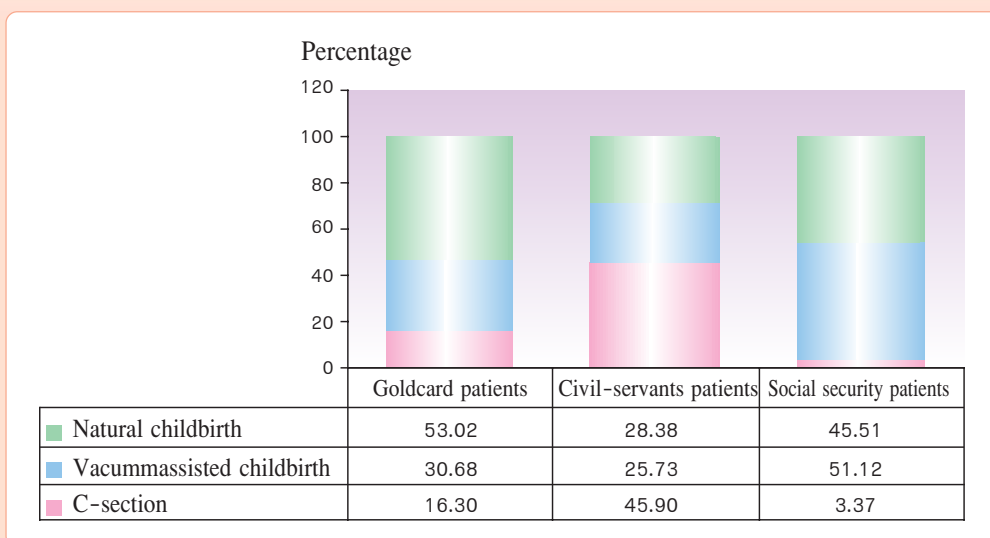
7.2 Equity in Health Services Delivery

Characteristics of services rendered by healthcare providers or health facilities may be different. Some medical treatment procedures have been selected for comparison purposes among patients with different health insurance converges, such as cesarean section and coronary artery surgery among patients under the civil servants medical benefits, universal healthcare and social security schemes, based on the inpatients medical expense claims database for 2004.

The rate of cesarean sections has reflected the joint decision on childbirth method of the obstetrician and the expectant mother. Actually, according to the medical indications, the rate of cesarean sections should not be much different. But the data have shown that the cesarean section rate for civil servants was as high as 46% whereas that for gold-card holders was only 16% and for social security members only 3% (Figure 6.93) .



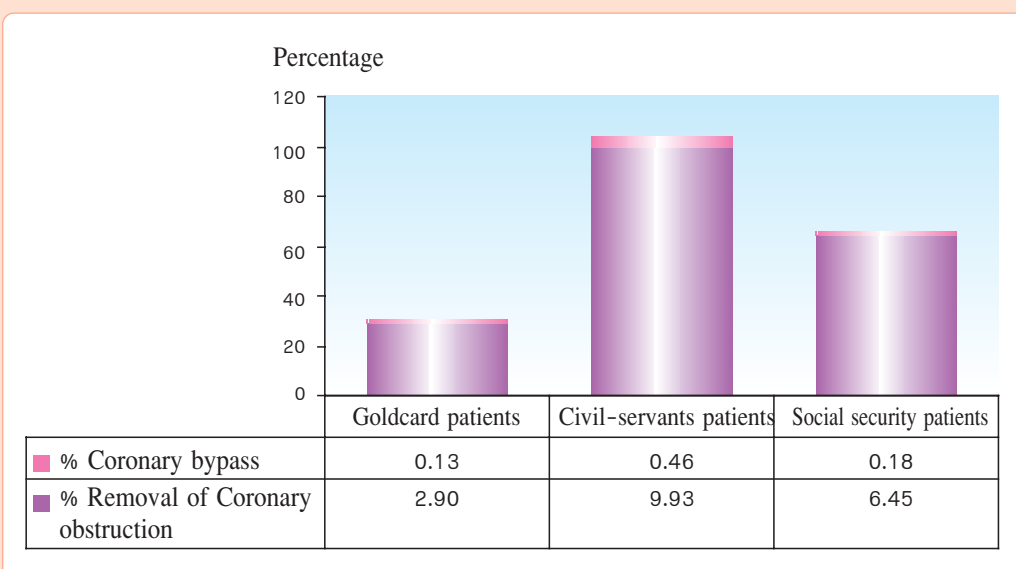
Figure 6.93 Rates of cesarean sections among childbirth givers under three health insurance schemes



Source: Pinij Faramnuayphol. Analysis of inpatient database, 2004. National Health Security Office.

Regarding coronary artery surgery on patients with acute ischemic heart disease, major operations normally performed are coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) and coronary artery balloon dilation for removal of coronary artery obstruction. The data suggest that the rate of operations on patients who were civil servants was highest, followed by patients under the social security and gold-card (universal healthcare) schemes (Figure 6.94), reflecting the differences in opportunities to undergo surgical treatment for patients under different health insurance schemes, especially those who were gold cardholders.

Figure 6.94 Rates of heart surgeries on patients with ischemic heart disease under three health insurance schemes



Source: Pinij Faramnuayphol. Analysis of inpatient data, 2004. National Health Security Office.

