

About the Data – Delivery Methods

Indicator Description

The delivery method is the final route of delivery. Cesarean delivery includes primary (first) and repeat cesarean births. Low-risk cesarean delivery is defined as cesarean delivery among nulliparous (first birth), term (37 or more completed weeks of gestation based on the obstetric estimate), singleton (one fetus), and vertex or cephalic (headfirst) births (also known as NTSV). Vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC) includes vaginal births among those with previous cesarean delivery.

Data Source

California Department of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master File, 2007–2017: Compiled from information on birth certificates, including demographic information related to the infant and parents, as well as medical data related to the birth.

California Department of Public Health, California Comprehensive Master Birth File, 2018–2021: Compiled from information on birth certificates, including demographic information related to the infant and parents, as well as medical data related to the birth. Beginning in 2018, the California Comprehensive Master Birth File replaced the Birth Statistical Master File.

Data Analysis

The cesarean delivery rates shown in these dashboards are the numbers of cesarean births per 100 live births, stratified by selected birth and maternal characteristics. The low-risk cesarean delivery rates are the numbers of full-term, singleton, and vertex births with cesarean delivery method per 100 women/parents giving birth for the first time with full-term, singleton, vertex births. The VBAC delivery rates are the numbers of VBAC births per 100 live births with previous cesarean delivery method. The 95% confidence interval presented in the tooltips indicates there is a 95% chance that the range contains the true prevalence or rate in the population. Rates or percentages with wide confidence intervals should be interpreted with caution. The state dashboard uses single year data; the county dashboard uses three-year aggregated data.

Denominators include all live births to California resident mothers/parents giving birth. Records with missing or unknown delivery method were excluded. See Category and Subcategory Definitions below for additional inclusion/exclusion criteria.

Data Suppression

The numerator, rate, and confidence interval are not shown when the numerator is less than 10.

Category and Subcategory Definitions

Age: Age of mother/parent giving birth at time of delivery. Excludes records with unknown age.

Delivery method: Final route of delivery. Cesarean delivery includes primary and repeat cesarean births. Vaginal delivery includes vaginal birth after previous cesarean birth. Excludes records with unknown delivery method. Vaginal delivery is not shown on the dashboards but is available in the downloadable data table.

Delivery payment source: Expected principal source of payment for delivery. Other includes Indian Health Service, CHAMPUS/TRICARE, other non-Medi-Cal government programs (federal, state or local), self-insured/self-funded plans or payments from local organized charities. Excludes records with unknown payment source and medically unattended births.

Education: Highest level of education attained by the mother/parent giving birth at time of delivery. High school graduate includes GED; some college includes college credit either without a degree or with an associate's degree; and college graduate includes bachelor's degree or higher. Excludes records with unknown education level.

Geography: State or county of patient's residence at time of hospitalization. Excludes records with unknown county.

Gestational age: Obstetric estimate of gestation at time of delivery, in completed weeks. Excludes records with unknown gestational age or values less than 17 weeks or greater than 47 weeks.

Race/ethnicity: Hispanic includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race, including Other and Unknown race. Multi-Race includes those of non-Hispanic origin who reported more than one race. The remaining groups are of non-Hispanic origin who reported a single race: American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN), Asian, Black, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (Pacific Islander), White, Other or Unknown. Other and Unknown race are not shown on the dashboards but are available in the downloadable data table.

Suggested Citation

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go.cdph.ca.gov/Delivery-Methods-Dashboard