

BirthWell Partners Birth Outcomes 2020

In 2020, BirthWell Partners doulas attended births with 65 pregnant clients and babies (there were no twins this year). Due to Covid hospital visitor restrictions, 15 of these clients received only virtual support during labor. Forty-five clients identified as Black, 18 as White, one as Multi-racial, and one as Other. Four of the clients identified as Hispanic. One of BirthWell clients' babies died less three days after birth (neonatal demise). Below are our outcome data, side by side with corresponding data for national, state of Alabama, and Jefferson County outcomes.

Measure	National	Alabama	Jefferson County	BWP 2020	
N	3,613,647 ³	57,647 ³	7,922 ⁴	65	n
C-Section Rate (%)	31.80³	35.0^{3a}	37.06^{4*}	21.54^{**}	65
White	30.80 ³			27.78	18
Black	36.30 ³			19.14	47
Epidural Rate (%)	77.19^{3a}	87.3⁶		55.17	58
average gestational age (weeks)	38.5³			38.99	65
Average Birth Weight lbs				7.01	64
Pre-Term Births (%)	10.09 ³	12.92^{3a}		4.62	65
White	9.1 ^{3a}	11.22 ^{3a}		5.56	18
Black	14.36 ^{3a}	16.80 ^{3a}		4.26	47
LBW rate (%)	8.24³	10.80^{3a}	11.50⁴	6.25	64
White	6.80 ^{3a}	8.20 ^{3a}	7.60 ⁴	5.88	17
Black	14.20 ^{3a}	16.40 ^{3a}	15.80 ⁴	6.38	47
LBW for singletons	6.68³			6.25	64
Any Breastmilk				98.18	56
BF at discharge (%) ^a	84.10³	69.00³		98.04	51
White				100	14
Black				97.30	37
Skin to skin (%) ^a				98.25	57
induction rate (%)	31.39^{3a}	29.8⁶		47.62	63
Augmentation ^b	21.74^{3a}	16.0⁶		46.55	59

In 2020, 47.1% of births in Jefferson County were covered by Medicaid⁵. 90% of BirthWell clients were covered by Medicaid and all were low-income.

*The AL Vital Statistics Report (ref 4), gives rates for each hospital by county. The c-section and Low-Birth-Weight rates in this chart reflects those numbers. Thus, this reflects the rate for all babies BORN in Jefferson County hospitals (Brookwood, Grandview, Princeton, St. Vincent's, UAB West and UAB) rather than the rate for RESIDENTS of Jefferson County.

**Doula support can help reduce the chance of a c-section by providing one-on-one care during labor and birth. Doula support during labor cannot impact decisions made before labor begins. Since our data set is small, the two clients with a planned c-section have an outsized impact on our outcome data. To better reflect the impact of doula support, we calculated our c-section rate again after excluding births that were planned to be a c-section before labor started. The c-section rate for the remaining 63 births is 19.05%.

Due to Covid hospital visitor restrictions, doulas were unable to provide in-person labor support for 15 of our clients. In this group, the C-section rate was 46.67%, compared to the rate for clients receiving in-person services (n=50), which was 14.0%.

^a Breastfeeding and skin to skin outcomes exclude the single stillbirth.

^bAugmentation represents the administration of Pitocin during labor in order to augment contractions.

Note that we are missing some outcome data. We have included the n for each data point so that you can see where data are missing. The n in the far right column represents the total number of clients with complete data on that variable.

Sources of reference data for national, state, and county:

3. Births: Final Data for 2020. National Vital Statistics Reports, Volume 70, Number 17. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, February 7, 2022
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr70/nvsr70-17.pdf>
- 3a. Births: Final Data, 2020, Supplemental Tables, National Vital Statistics Report Vol. 70 Number 17, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, February 7, 2022
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr70/nvsr70-17-tables.pdf>
4. Alabama Vital Statistic Report, 2020 -
<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/healthstats/assets/avs2020.pdf>
5. 2020 County Health Profiles – Alabama Centers for Health Statistics
<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/healthstats/assets/chp2020.pdf>
6. CesareanRates.org, 2016 data - <https://www.cesareanrates.org/epidural-anesthesia-utilization-by-state>
7. CesareanRates.org, 2016 data- <https://www.cesareanrates.org/labor-induction-by-state>