

BirthWell Partners Birth Outcomes 2015

In 2015 BirthWell Partners doulas attended births with 51 pregnant clients, for 51 babies (26 white, 25 black). Below are our outcome data, side by side with corresponding data for national, Alabama State, and Jefferson County Medicaid outcomes.

Measure	National	State of Alabama	Jefferson County, all residents (1)	Jefferson County all other payment sources (1)	Jefferson County Medicaid (1)	BWP 2015	
n	3,978,497 (3)	59,651 (5)	8,789 (4)			51	n
C-Section Rate (%)	32.0 (3)	35.2 (3a)	32.34	35.18	28.50	24.00	50
Epidural Rate (%)			89.75	90.15	88.67	48.00	50
average gestational age (weeks)			38.34	38.42	38.24	39.34	51
Average Birth Weight lbs			6.99	7.13	6.79	7.44	49
Pre-Term Births (%)	9.63 (3)	11.74 (3a)	11.36	10.05	13.13	5.88	51
White	8.88 (3)	10.23 (3a)				3.85	26
Black	13.41 (3)	15.44 (3a)				8.33	24
LBW rate (%)	8.07 (3)	10.4 (3)	11.21	9.27	13.83	4.08	49
White	6.93 (3)	8.1 (3a)				0.00	25
Black	13.35 (3)	15.9 (3a)				8.69	23
ever BF (%)	83.2 (6)	68.1 (6)	75.74	83.02	65.85	95.92	49
White	85.9 (6)					100.00	25
Black	69.4 (6)					91.30	23
BF at discharge (%)						92.50	41
Skin to skin (%)		mPINC survey found that in AL 76% of participating hospitals provide initial skin-to-skin contact for at least 30 minutes w/in one hour after vaginal births (7)				95.74	47
induction rate (%)	23.85 (3a)		26.07	26.34	25.7	24.00	50

Note that some of our data are incomplete. Full outcome data were not always reported. We have included the n for each data point so that you can see where data are missing.

Doulas 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 seven clients with planned c-sections have a large impact on our outcome data. To better reflect the impact of doula support, we calculated our c-section rate again after excluding the seven births that were planned to be c-sections before labor started. With these births excluded, our c-section rate for the remaining 43 births is 11.62%.

Note too that the c-section rate reported for Jefferson County (ref 1) is for residents of the County. The AL Vital Statistics Report (ref 4), gives rates for each hospital in our county. According to these data, the section rate for all the hospitals in Jefferson County is 36.3%.

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

1. Jefferson County Dept. of Health outcomes for Medicaid births in 2015, personal communication: Dr. Sinsky, Jefferson County Department of Health
3. Births: Final Data for 2015. National Vital Statistics Reports, Volume 66, Number 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January, 2017.
https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66_01.pdf
- 3a. National Vital Statistics Report Vol. 66 Number 1 Births: Final Data 2015, Supplemental Tables https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66_01_tables.pdf
4. AL Vital Statistics Report 2015
<http://alabamapublichealth.gov/healthstats/assets/AVS2015.pdf>
5. Vital Statistics at a Glance AL 2015 (AL Center for Health Statistics)
http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/healthstats/assets/ataglance_2015.pdf
6. CDC Breastfeeding report card US 2018 (reports BF rates for babies born in 2015)
<https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/reportcard.htm>
7. 2015 mPINC State Reports
<https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/mpinc/state-reports-2015-508.html#AL>