

BirthWell Partners Birth Outcomes 2012

In 2012, our first full year of operation, BirthWell Partners doulas attended births with 38 pregnant clients, for 40 babies, including two sets of twins. 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 Medicaid ¹	BWP 2012	n
n	3,952,841 (3)	58,381 (5)	4,030	40	n
C-Section Rate (%)	32.8 (3)	35.8 (4)	31.20	35.89	39
Epidural Rate (%)	62 (2) (2011-2012)		unknown	58.33	36
average gestational age (weeks)			38	38.52	40
Average Birth Weight lbs			6.71	6.73	40
Pre-Term Births (%)	11.55 (3)	14.6 (3a)	unknown	25.00	40
LBW rate (%)	7.99 (3)	10.1 (5)	unknown	13.89	36
ever BF (%)	80.0 (6)	66.6 (6a)	unknown	86.84	38
BF at discharge (%)			51.3	80.00	15
Skin to skin (%)			unknown	39.47	38
induction rate (%)	41 (2) (2011-2012)	26.96 (4)	unknown	31.43	37

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, just 3 clients with planned c-sections has a large impact on our outcome data. To better reflect the impact of doula support, we calculated our c-section rate again after excluding three births that were planned to be c-sections before labor started. With these births excluded, our c-section rate for the remaining 35 births is 28.57%.

With such a small n (40), twin births skew our data significantly due to shorter gestations and smaller birth weights. When we summarize our data excluding the two sets of twins, the average gestational age is 38.75 weeks (n=36), the average birthweight is 6.92 pounds (n=32), the preterm birth rate is 16.67% (n=36) and the rate of low birth weight babies is 9.38% (n=32).

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

1. Jefferson County Dept. of Health outcomes for Medicaid births in 2012, personal communication: Kim Reach, Director, Medicaid Maternity Steps Ahead
2. Listening to Mothers III: Report of the Third National U.S. Survey of Women's Childbearing Experiences. Childbirth Connection, May 2013. data from births 7.2011-6.2012
3. National Vital Statistics Report Vol. 62 Number 9 Births: Final Data 2012
https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_09.pdf
- 3a. National Vital Statistics Report Vol. 62 Number 9 Births: Final Data 2012, Supplemental Tables
https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_09_tables.pdf
4. Selected Maternal and Child Health Statistics, Alabama 2012: A Special Supplement to the Alabama Vital Statistics 2012. Alabama Department of Public Health, January 2014.
<http://adphweb01.adph.org/healthstats/assets/SMCHS2012.pdf>
5. Vital Statistics at a Glance AL 2012 (AL Center for Health Statistics)
http://adph.org/healthstats/assets/VS_Summary_2012_R.pdf
6. CDC National Immunization Survey data re: BF for babies born 2002-2014
https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/nis_data/results.html
- 6a. CDC National Immunization Survey data re: BF for babies born 2012
https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/nis_data/rates-any-exclusive-bf-state-2012.htm