

BirthWell Partners Birth Outcomes 2013

In 2013 BirthWell Partners doulas attended births with 58 pregnant clients, for 61 babies, including three 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 2013	
n	3,932,181 (3)	58,162 (2) 54,912 (4)	4034	61	n
C-Section Rate (%)	32.7 (3)	35.8 (3a)	34.60	31.15	61
Epidural Rate (%)			unknown	56.67	60
average gestational age (weeks)			38	38.22	61
Average Birth Weight lbs			6.75	6.78	61
Pre-Term Births (%)	11.39 (3)	15.10 (3a)		13.11	61
LBW rate (%)	8.02 (3)	10.0 (3a)		14.75	61
ever BF (%) BF initiation (%) (4)	81.1 (5)	67.6 (5) 73.4 (4)		89.66	58
BF at discharge (%)			51.9	84.84	33
Skin to skin (%)			unknown	84.48	58
induction rate (%)	26.02 (3a)	24.14 (2)	23.54 (2) perinatal region 3- including but not limited to JeffCo	28.07	60

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 54 births is 22.22%.

With such a small n (61), twin births skew our data significantly due to shorter gestations and smaller birth weights. When we summarize our data excluding the three sets of twins, the average gestational

age is 38.98 weeks (n=55), the average birthweight is 7.10 pounds (n=55), the preterm birth rate is 7.27% (n=55) and the rate of low birth weight babies is 7.27% (n=55).

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

1. Jefferson County Dept. of Health outcomes for Medicaid births in 2013, personal communication: Kim Reach, Director, Medicaid Maternity Steps Ahead
2. Selected Maternal and Child Health Statistics, Alabama 2013: A Special Supplement to the Alabama Vital Statistics 2013. Alabama Department of Public Health, December 2014.
http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/healthstats/assets/MCH_book_Final_13.pdf
3. Births: Final Data for 2013. National Vital Statistics Reports, Volume 64, Number 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 15, 2015.
https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_01.pdf
- 3a. National Vital Statistics Report Vol. 64 Number 1 Births: Final Data 2013, Supplemental Tables
https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_01_tables.pdf
4. 2013 Surveillance Report AL PRAMS
<http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/healthstats/assets/PRAMS2013.pdf>
5. Breastfeeding Report Card – United States 2016. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016. (based on 2013 data)
<https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/pdf/2016breastfeedingreportcard.pdf>