

BirthWell Partners Birth Outcomes 2014

In 2014 BirthWell Partners doulas attended births with 60 pregnant clients, for 63 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, all residents ¹	Jefferson County Medicaid ¹	BWP 2014	n
n	3,988,076 (3)	59,532 (5)			63	n
C-Section Rate (%)	32.2 (3)	35.4 (3a)	33.4	31.4	*26.98	63
Epidural Rate (%)			84.2	82.6	66.13	62
average gestational age (weeks)			38.4	38.3	**39.45	63
Average Birth Weight lbs			6.98	6.77	**7.37	59
Pre-Term Births (%) <37wks	9.57 (3)	11.66 (3a)	10.9	12.3	9.52	63
LBW rate (%) <5.5lb 2,500g	8.0 (3)	10.1 (3a)	11.3	14.1	11.67	60
ever BF (%)	82.5 (6)	66.6 (6a)	68.1	57.1	96.77	62
BF at discharge (%)					100.00	39
Skin to skin (%)				84 (*2014 UAB)	98.39	62
induction rate (%)	23.24 (3a)		28.5	26.5	30.65	63

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 five 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 five births that were planned to be c-sections before labor started. With these births excluded, our c-section rate for the remaining 58 births is 22.41%.

With such a small n (63), twin births often skew data significantly due to shorter gestations and smaller birth weights. When we summarize our data excluding the single set of twins, the average gestational age is 39.45 weeks (n=61) and the average birthweight is 7.42 pounds (n=57).

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

1. Jefferson County Dept. of Health outcomes for Medicaid births in 2014, personal communication: Dr. Sinsky, Jefferson County Department of Health
3. Births: Final Data for 2014. National Vital Statistics Reports, Volume 64, Number 12. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, December, 2015.
https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_12.pdf
- 3a. National Vital Statistics Report Vol. 64 Number 12 Births: Final Data 2014, Supplemental Tables https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_12_tables.pdf
5. Vital Statistics at a Glance AL 2014 (AL Center for Health Statistics)
<http://alabamapublichealth.gov/healthstats/assets/GlanceCard2014.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 2014
https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/nis_data/rates-any-exclusive-bf-state-2014.htm
7. UAB Hospital Skin to Skin rates for 2014, personal communication: Sylvia Edwards, IBCLC director of lactation at UAB Hospital.