

Prevalence of Cesarean Delivery Among Florida Mothers, 2011



Introduction

The Florida Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is an ongoing surveillance system designed to collect data on maternal behaviors and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy. Every year, approximately 2,500 new mothers in Florida are randomly selected to participate. In 2011, Florida PRAMS had a total of 1,392 respondents who completed the survey. Data presented in this fact sheet are weighted to be representative of new mothers and infants in Florida.

Background

A cesarean section, also known as c-section, is a surgical procedure performed to deliver a baby through an incision in the mother's abdomen and uterus. Cesarean sections are used when the mother is not able to safely deliver vaginally.

Although cesarean sections may be necessary for some mothers and babies who would be in danger during labor, there are risks involved, including:

- Longer hospital stay.
- Infections or blood clots in the mother.
- Babies born with respiratory problems.¹
- Increased risk of problems in future pregnancies.²

There are concerns among health care professionals that too many of the cesarean sections being performed are not medically necessary, exposing mothers and infants to increased risks during delivery.³

Results

- In 2011, 40.1% of new mothers in Florida delivered by cesarean section. Florida had a 22.3% higher rate than the overall United States.
- From 2000 to 2011, the number of births delivered by cesarean section increased by 43.2% throughout the United States. During this same time period, the number of births by cesarean section in Florida increased by 75.9% (Figure 1).
- Among mothers who had not given birth before, 40.3% had a cesarean section. Among mothers who never had a cesarean delivery during a previous pregnancy, 14.9% had a cesarean section. Among mothers who had a previous cesarean section, 91.8% had a cesarean section during their current pregnancy.
- Of those mothers who delivered by cesarean section, 90% self-reported that their health care provider recommended a cesarean section; 10% of new mothers self-reported that they asked for the cesarean section (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Prevalence of Cesarean Delivery Among Florida Mothers, 2000 - 2011

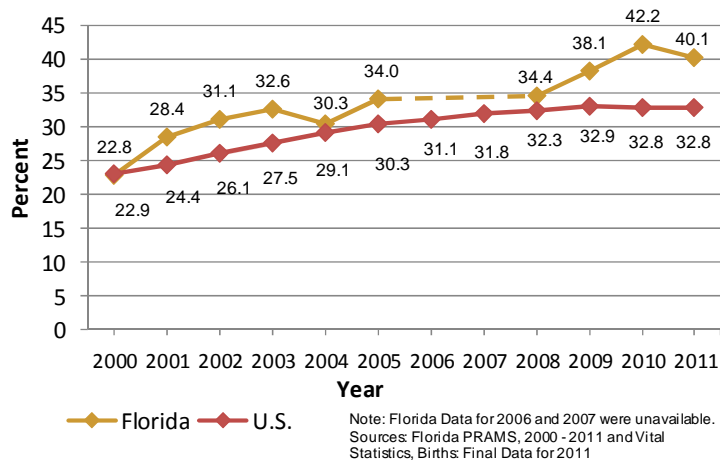
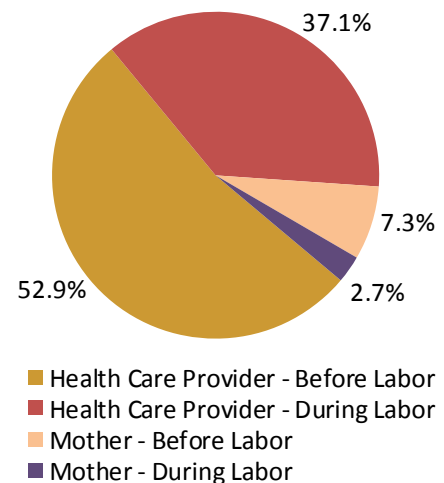


Figure 2: Decision to Perform a Cesarean Delivery Among Florida Mothers, 2011



Source: Florida PRAMS, 2011

Reasons for cesarean delivery among new mothers

(Note: Mothers could choose more than one reason):

- 41.3% said they already had a previous cesarean delivery.
- 17.0% said their health care provider tried to induce labor, but it didn't work.
- 16.4% said the fetal monitor showed that the baby was having problems during labor.
- 14.8% said labor was taking too long.
- 14.6% said their health care provider worried that the baby was too big.
- 14.1% said they had a medical problem that made labor dangerous.
- 12.4% said the baby was in the wrong position.
- 6.4% said they wanted to schedule their delivery.
- 6.4% said they were past their due date.
- 4.6% said that they did not want to deliver the baby vaginally.

The prevalence of cesarean delivery among Florida PRAMS participants:

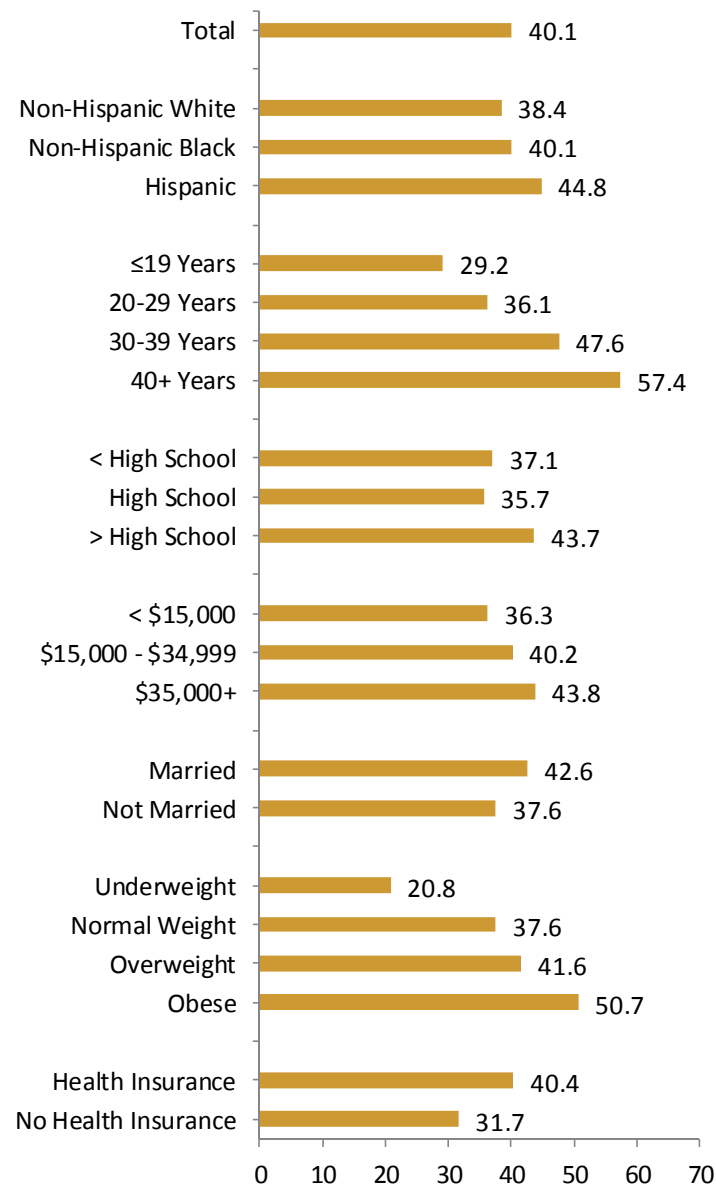
- Increased as the mother's age increased. It was significantly higher among mothers 30 years old and older compared to mothers 19 years old and younger.
- Increased as the mother's Body Mass Index (BMI) level increased. It was significantly higher among mothers who had a pre-pregnancy BMI status of obese compared to mothers who had a pre-pregnancy BMI of normal or underweight (Figure 3).

Nearly one out of every 11 babies born in Florida was premature; 57.4% of them were born by cesarean section. In addition, 57.7% of low birth weight and 76.9% of very low birth weight babies were born by cesarean section.

Summary

- In 2011, 40.1% of new mothers in Florida delivered their baby by cesarean section. This was 22.3% higher than the 2011 U.S. rate. From 2000 to 2011, the prevalence rate in Florida increased by 75.9%.
- The prevalence of cesarean section deliveries was significantly higher among mothers 30 years old and older and mothers with a pre-pregnancy BMI status of obese.
- Among mothers who had a cesarean section, 90% reported that it was their health care provider's recommendation. The most common reason for a cesarean section was having had a cesarean section during a previous pregnancy.

Figure 3: Prevalence of Cesarean Delivery Among Florida Mothers, by Demographic Characteristics, 2011



Source: Florida PRAMS, 2011



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Selected Citations

- 1) American Pregnancy Association. (2013). *Risks of a Cesarean Procedure*. Retrieved from <http://americanpregnancy.org/labornbirth/cesareanrisks.html>.
- 2) Mayo Clinic. (2012). *C-section*. Retrieved from <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/c-section/MY00214/DSECTION=risk>.
- 3) WebMD. (2006). *Elective Cesarean: Babies On Demand*. Retrieved from <http://www.webmd.com/baby/features/elective-cesarean-babies-on-demand>.

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