

BIRTHWELL PARTNERS BIRTH OUTCOMES 2021

In 2021, BirthWell Partners doulas attended 38 births for 38 babies. Of these clients, 11 identified as White, 26 identified as Black, and 1 identified as Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. Below are our outcome data, side by side with corresponding data for national, state of Alabama and Jefferson County outcomes.

Measure	National	State of Alabama	Jefferson County	BWP	
Number	3,664, 292 ³	58,054 ³	8,040 ⁴	31	n
C-Section Rate (%)	32.1 ³	35.1 ^{3a}	36.04 ^{4*}	8.33	36
White	31.0 ³	34.6 ^{3a}		0.00	11
Black	36.8 ³	39.4 ^{3a}		12.50	26
Epidural Rate (%)		87.3 ⁶ (2016 data)		51.61	31
Average gestational age (weeks)				39.24	38
Average Birth Weight lbs				7.24	33
Pre-Term Births <37 weeks gestation(%)	10.49 ³	13.11 ^{3a}		10.53	38
White	9.5% ³	11.67 ^{3a}		9.09	11
Black	14.75% ³	16.90 ^{3a}		11.54	26
Low Birth Weight (%)	8.52% ³	10.43 ^{3a}	11.2 ⁴	9.38	32
White	7.03 ³	8.06 ^{3a}	7.4 ⁴	0.00	9
Black	14.66 ³	16.10 ^{3a}	15.7 ⁴	13.64	22
Breastfeeding Initiation Rate (%)				96.77	31
White				100.00	10
Black				94.24	21
BF at discharge	83.3 ³			96.43	28
White	84.8 ³			100.00	10
Black	72.9 ³			94.12	17
Skin to skin (%)				96.43	28
induction rate (%)	32.1 ³			48.48	33
Augmentation ^a	21.68 ^{3a}			36.66	30

Note that we are missing some outcome data. We have included the n for each data point so that you can see where data are missing. The n in the far right column represents the total number of clients with complete data on that variable.

*Note that the AL Vital Statistics Report (ref 4), gives rates for each hospital in our county. The c-section rate in this chart reflects those numbers. Thus, we report the rate for all babies BORN in Jefferson County, rather than the rate for RESIDENTS of Jefferson County.

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 two clients with planned c-sections have an outsized impact on our outcome data. To better reflect the impact of doula support, we calculated our c-section rate again after excluding the two births that were planned to be c-sections before labor started. With these births excluded, our c-section rate for the remaining 35 clients is **5.71%.

^a Augmentation represents the administration of Pitocin during labor in order to augment contractions.

Sources of Reference Data for National, State and County:

3. Births: Final Data for 2021. National Vital Statistics Report, Volume 72, Number 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 31, 2023

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs//data/nvsr/nvsr72/nvsr72-01.pdf>

3a. Births: Final Data for 2021. Supplemental Tables, National Vital Statistics Report, Volume 72, Number 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 31, 2023

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr72/nvsr72-01-tables.pdf>

4. Alabama Vital Statistics, 2021

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/healthstats/assets/avs2021.pdf>

6. CesareanRates.org, Epidural Use By State, 2016

<https://www.cesareanrates.org/epidural-anesthesia-utilization-by-state>