

# Maternity Care in Florida

Tuesday, February 20, 2024



# State Summary for Florida



- In 2022, 1 in 10 babies was born preterm in Florida
- In 2022, 1 in 11 babies was low birthweight in Florida
- In Florida in 2020, 1,217 infants died before reaching their first birthdays – an infant death rate of 5.8 per 1,000 live births
- In Florida in 2022, 64.4% of infants were born to women receiving adequate prenatal care, leaving over 1/3 of women with inadequate prenatal care
- When looking at payer source for each data point, about half of the babies are covered by Medicaid with the other half covered by commercial plans



# Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative (USF)



- The Florida Alliance is a partner of FPQC's and Karen van Caulil serves on the steering committee
- Because of the impressive outcomes they have had with reducing C-sections and increasing breastfeeding rates, for example, Florida statute as of last year requires Florida's 105 delivery hospitals to participate in at least two of the FPQC quality initiatives
- We will share the FPQC deck from the steering committee meeting which explains all their initiatives (levels of maternity care, postpartum access and continuity of care, mother-focused care – SDOH, Homeward Bound – NICU, birth certificate data quality training, and their PQI reporting) in the next Weekly Bulletin
- They will be seeking our support to encourage hospitals to fully commit to participation in their current QI efforts and to congratulate the hospitals that have achieved set milestones

# Why Be Concerned about C-section Rates?

- A growing concern is the number of births delivered by C-section, resulting in longer hospital stays and the use of specialty medical services – all for a surgery that might not have been necessary
- According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, potential risks of Cesarean delivery on maternal request include a longer hospital stay, an increased risk of respiratory problems for the infant, and greater complications in subsequent pregnancies, including uterine rupture, placental implementation problems, and the need for a hysterectomy



# Florida C-Section Data



- Leapfrog reports that Florida's primary C-section rate is headed in the right direction, having been at 29.4% of births in 2019 down to 27.1% in 2022, but still above the national average of 25.2% and Leapfrog's standard of 23.6%
- The March of Dimes reports that in 2022 35.9% of live births in Florida were C-section deliveries and primary C-section deliveries were slightly lower than the Leapfrog rate at 26.8% of women who have not had a previous C-section delivery (a slightly different calculation)



# FL Variation in Average Rates of Primary C-Section



- 35.4% for Miami-Dade County
- 31.1% for Broward County
- 26.5% for Palm Beach County
- 24.5% for Brevard County
- 23.8% for Orange County
- 23.4% for Hillsborough County
- 23.3% for Pinellas County

# Why Are C-Sections So Common?



- Many pregnant women elect to have a C-section to allow them to plan around delivery or simply because they would prefer not to deliver vaginally. There are considerations to be made prior to electing to have a C-section that are not well-known to the public – C-sections are a surgery, meaning that all the risks of a standard surgery can happen including infection and complications
- Physicians are generally paid quite a bit more for a C-section than for a vaginal birth. Studies have found that obstetricians perform more C-sections when there are financial incentives to do so.

# Why Employers/Purchasers Need to Get Involved



*“Employers pay for half of US births, and they want the highest quality experience for women and their families. That’s why Leapfrog transparently reports on rates of maternity interventions by hospital, so employers, women, and families have access to this critical information,”* said **Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group.** *“We are gratified to see real progress on early elective deliveries and finally on episiotomy which is a testament to the power of publicly reported data. The same, however, cannot be said about NTSV C-sections, which is seriously concerning.”*





# Leapfrog Criteria



- **NTSV C-Sections:** First-time mothers giving birth to a single baby (nulliparous), at full-term, in the head-down position (vertex) who deliver their babies through a C-section. Hospitals should have a rate of 23.6% or less to achieve the standard.
- **Early Elective Deliveries:** Mothers being scheduled for C-sections or medication inductions prior to 39 weeks gestation without a medical reason. Hospitals should have a rate of 5% or less to meet the standard.
- **Episiotomies:** Mothers having an incision made in the perineum (the birth canal) during childbirth. Hospitals should have a rate of 5% or less to meet the standard.
- **Screening Newborns for Jaundice Before Discharge:** Hospitals should screen at least 90% of babies for jaundice to meet the standards.
- **Preventing Blood Clots in Women Undergoing C-Section:** At least 90% of women undergoing a C-section receive treatment to prevent blood clots to meet the standard.

# Hospitals in FL Meeting All 5 Criteria








- AdventHealth Fish Memorial (Orange City)
- AdventHealth Wesley Chapel
- Broward Health Medical Center – Fort Lauderdale
- Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital
- Cleveland Clinic Martin North Hospital
- Cleveland Clinic Tradition Hospital
- Jackson South Medical Center (Miami)
- Lakewood Ranch Medical Center
- Naval Hospital Jacksonville
- Orlando Health South Lake Hospital (Clermont)
- Parrish Medical Center (Titusville)
- Rockledge Regional Medical Center
- South Florida Baptist Hospital (Plant City)
- St. Joseph's Hospital – North (Lutz)
- UF Health Jacksonville
- UF Health North (Jacksonville)

**THERE ARE 105 HOSPITALS IN FL THAT DELIVER BABIES!**

# https://ratings.leapfroggroup.org/ Hospitals that participate in Leapfrog









## Maternity Care

Measure name	Leapfrog's Standard	Hospital's Progress
High-Risk Deliveries	Hospitals should deliver at least 50 very-low birth weight babies per year OR the hospital must maintain a lower-than-average morbidity/mortality rate for very-low birth weight babies.	 <p>ACHIEVED THE STANDARD</p> <p>▼ SHOW MORE ON THIS HOSPITAL'S PERFORMANCE ▼</p>
Cesarean Sections	This is defined as first-time mothers giving birth to a single baby, at full-term, in the head-down position who deliver their babies through a C-section. Hospitals should have a rate of C-sections of 23.6% or less.	 <p>LIMITED ACHIEVEMENT</p> <p>▼ SHOW MORE ON THIS HOSPITAL'S PERFORMANCE ▼</p>
Early Elective Deliveries	This is defined as mothers being scheduled for cesarean sections or medication inductions prior to 39 weeks gestation without a medical reason. Hospitals should have a rate of early elective deliveries of 5% or less.	 <p>ACHIEVED THE STANDARD</p> <p>▼ SHOW MORE ON THIS HOSPITAL'S PERFORMANCE ▼</p>
Episiotomies	This is defined as mothers having an incision made in the perineum (the birth canal) during childbirth. Hospitals should have a rate of episiotomies of 5% or less.	 <p>ACHIEVED THE STANDARD</p> <p>▼ SHOW MORE ON THIS HOSPITAL'S PERFORMANCE ▼</p>
Screening Newborns for Jaundice Before Discharge	Hospitals should screen at least 90% of babies for jaundice.	 <p>ACHIEVED THE STANDARD</p>

# HCA and other hospitals that do not participate in LF

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Cesarean Sections	This is defined as first-time mothers giving birth to a single baby, at full-term, in the head-down position who deliver their babies through a C-section. Hospitals should have a rate of C-sections of 23.6% or less.	 <b>DECLINED TO RESPOND</b>
Early Elective Deliveries	This is defined as mothers being scheduled for cesarean sections or medication inductions prior to 39 weeks gestation without a medical reason. Hospitals should have a rate of early elective deliveries of 5% or less.	 <b>DECLINED TO RESPOND</b>
Episiotomies	This is defined as mothers having an incision made in the perineum (the birth canal) during childbirth. Hospitals should have a rate of episiotomies of 5% or less.	 <b>DECLINED TO RESPOND</b>
Screening Newborns for Jaundice Before Discharge	Hospitals should screen at least 90% of babies for jaundice.	 <b>DECLINED TO RESPOND</b>
Preventing Blood Clots in Women Undergoing Cesarean Section	At least 90% of women undergoing a cesarean section receive treatment to prevent blood clots.	 <b>DECLINED TO RESPOND</b>

# Maternity Care Services



In addition to the measures that Leapfrog scores and publicly reports, they believe that additional information about the maternity care that the hospital offers may be helpful for patient decision-making. They also report on whether the hospital:

- **Has certified nurse-midwives and/or certified midwives deliver newborns**
- **Uses doulas for labor and delivery**
- **Offers breastfeeding/lactation consultants**
- **Follows the WHO/UNICEF Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (i.e., the 10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding)**
- **Routinely offers vaginal birth after C-section (VBAC)**
- **Offers postpartum tubal ligation during the labor and delivery admission**



# Discussion Time!

- Reactions?
- Concerns?
- Next Steps?

