

C-Section Rates Hold Steady, While Episiotomy Rates Drop in New National Maternity Care Report from The Leapfrog Group

New Data Suggests Black Women Are More Likely to Have C-sections in Some Hospitals

WASHINGTON, DC – March 25, 2025 – The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit calling for better and safer patient care, today released its [2025 Maternity Care Report](#). The report provides a comprehensive analysis of unique national data from hospitals representing 80% of inpatient beds in the United States—data not available from any other source. Leapfrog reports on key aspects of maternity care, including C-sections, episiotomies and early elective deliveries, as well as the availability of patient-requested services such as doula support, certified midwives and more. As the only organization that publicly reports this vital data by individual hospital nationwide, Leapfrog’s latest findings highlight key national and state-level trends in maternity care.

The [2025 Leapfrog Maternity Care Report](#) reveals that while Nulliparous, Term, Singleton, Vertex (NTSV) C-section rates remain high at 25.3% nationally, episiotomy rates have dropped significantly — declining by 73% since Leapfrog began reporting on this measure in 2012. Today, episiotomy rates average 3.4%.

For the first time, the analysis includes hospital-reported disparities in C-section rates by race and ethnicity, finding one in five hospitals report disparities between non-Hispanic Black and non-Hispanic White patients. “We applaud the hospitals that voluntarily make this data available to the public through Leapfrog. Transparency takes courage, and it is the critical first step on the path to real change,” said Leah Binder, Leapfrog President & CEO. “We congratulate hospitals on reducing episiotomy rates, which has made a difference for thousands of women and babies. However, we urge renewed efforts to lower C-section rates and continue improving maternity care for all patients.”

Other findings include:

- States with the highest NTSV C-section rates are Mississippi (28.9%), New York (28.3%) and Massachusetts (27.8%).
- States with the lowest NTSV C-section rates are Nebraska (18.8%), Utah (19.7%) and Idaho (20.0%).
- Most hospitals, 85.9%, have policies in place to prevent early elective deliveries.
- The majority of hospitals provide evidence-based maternity care services including:
 - 96.1% of hospitals offer lactation consultants
 - 89.7% of hospitals allow doulas in labor and delivery
 - 84.1% of hospitals allow vaginal birth after a C-section (VBAC)
 - 81.6% of hospitals offer postpartum tubal ligation
 - 61.0% of hospitals offer certified midwives in labor and delivery



More information on these trends, including state C-section rates and availability of the above maternity services by state, are available on the [report webpage](#).

The report uses hospital data from more than 2,400 hospitals that report to the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, representing 80% of U.S. hospital beds. Of those hospitals, 1,700 offer and report on their maternity care. Leapfrog is the only organization that publicly reports this maternity data by hospital. To learn more about Leapfrog's maternity care measures and search individual hospitals, visit [Leapfrog's website](#).

About The Leapfrog Group

Founded in 2000 by large employers and other purchasers, [The Leapfrog Group](#) is a national nonprofit organization driving a movement for giant leaps for patient safety. The flagship [Leapfrog Hospital Survey](#) and [Leapfrog Ambulatory Surgery Center \(ASC\) Survey](#) collect and [transparently report](#) hospital and ASC performance, empowering purchasers to find the highest-value care and giving consumers the lifesaving information they need to make informed decisions. The [Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade](#), Leapfrog's other main initiative, assigns letter grades to hospitals based on their record of patient safety, helping consumers protect themselves and their families from errors, injuries, accidents, and infections. For more, [follow us on](#) LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter/X and Facebook, and sign up for our newsletter.

About Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value

The Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value, a nonprofit research and education organization and Florida's business coalition on health, represents over 80 public and private sector employer/healthcare purchasers with lives in Florida, across the United States, and abroad. Our organizational strategy relies on committed community partnerships to drive quality improvement while reducing the cost of health care. The Florida Alliance is The Leapfrog Group regional leader for Florida. For more information, please visit the [website](#) and follow the organization on [LinkedIn](#).