

South Carolina Deliveries and Births 2017¹

A FACTSHEET ADDRESSING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT

WHAT IS THE SC BOI?

The South Carolina Birth Outcomes Initiative (SC BOI) is a group of multi-sector stakeholders from across the state who have a shared goal of improving birth outcomes among its residents.

The primary aims of SC BOI are to reduce early elective and unnecessary Cesarean deliveries, increase both the number of Baby-Friendly designated hospitals and the adoption of breastfeeding practices, increase the use of CenteringPregnancy® as a group prenatal care method, address behavioral health during pregnancy, and increase the use of long-acting reversible contraceptives through family planning efforts.²

In 2017, SC BOI marked its 5-year anniversary, [having reached numerous achievements](#) during this initial timespan.³

HOW MANY

HOW MANY SC BIRTHS ARE THERE EACH YEAR?

Each year in SC, there are about 57,000 births to state residents, among a population of over 950,000 women of childbearing age.

- One in every 17 births is to a teen mother.
- Of all births in the state, two-thirds are to White women.
- Of the remaining one-third of all births, nearly all are to Black/African American women.

For more information about births in the state, please see the SC Community Assessment Network.⁴

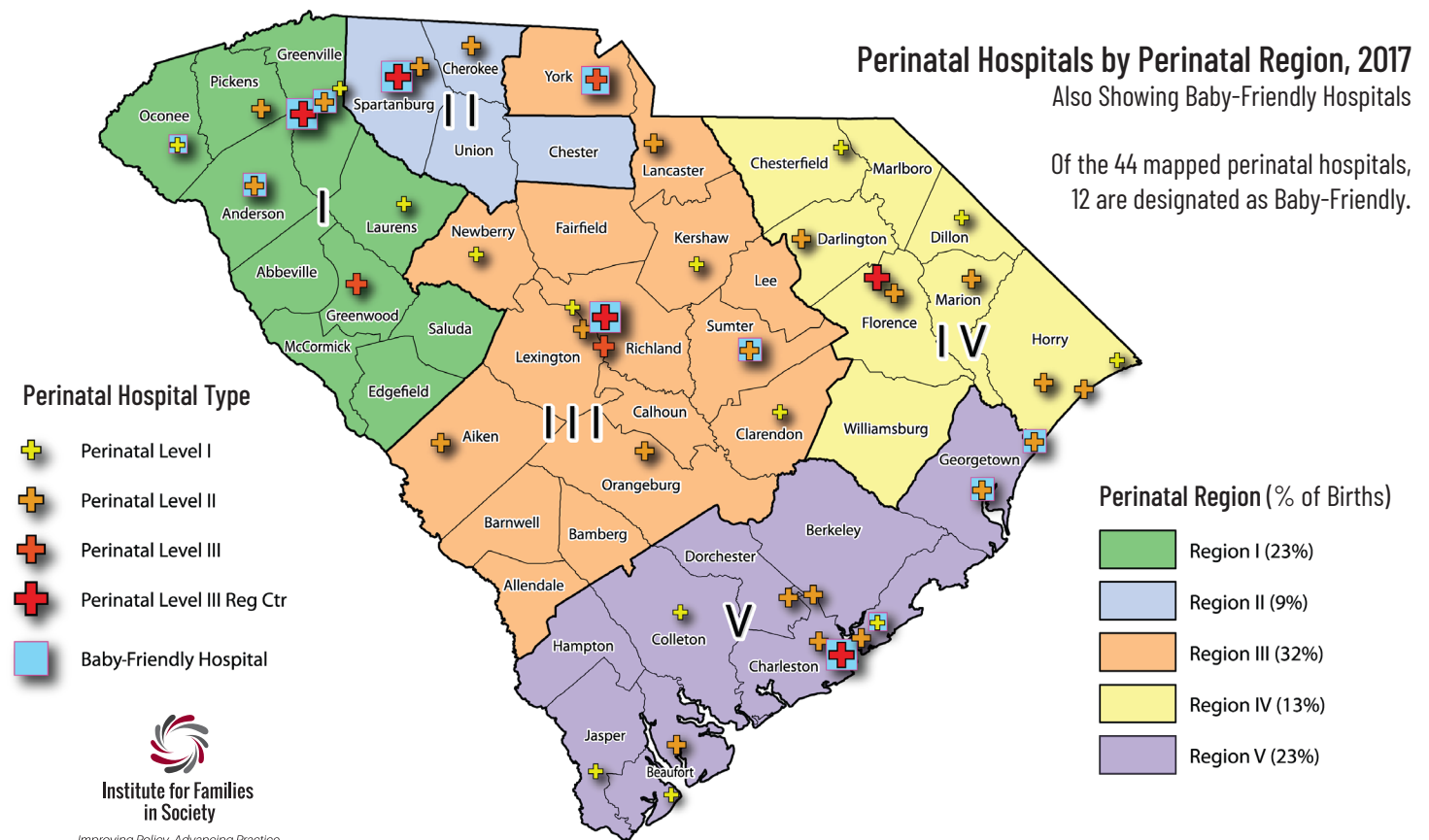
WHERE

WHERE DO BIRTHS OCCUR IN SC?

About 90% of births occur in birthing hospitals within the state. While most occur equally within Perinatal Level II or Level III birthing hospitals, a smaller proportion (11%) are in Level I birthing hospitals.

Nearly half (41%) occur within the state's 12 Baby-Friendly hospitals, and 4 in every 5 newborns are breastfed in the hospital. Perinatal regions were established in SC to ensure risk-appropriate care for pregnant women and newborns, and SC is recognized as a national leader for development of this cooperative.⁵

The geographic distribution of births by perinatal region, as well as location of birthing hospitals and their characteristics, are shown in the map below. More geographic information is available in the [SC BOI Environmental Scan](#).⁶



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WHAT ARE SOUTH CAROLINA'S PREGNANCY AND BIRTH OUTCOMES?

BY THE NUMBERS

- About 30% of all deliveries in South Carolina are by Cesarean.
- Approximately 1 in 4 singleton babies born to first-time mothers at term are delivered by Cesarean.
- About 1 in every 10 newborns in South Carolina is low birth weight (LBW), defined as having a birthweight less than 5.5 pounds.
- The rate of LBW among White mothers is 7%, compared to 15% among Black/African American mothers.
- About 1 in every 9 babies is born prematurely (less than 37 weeks gestation).

EARLY ELECTIVE INDUCTIONS

About one-fourth (27%) of all near-term deliveries (37-38 weeks gestation) are by early elective inductions at 37-38 weeks. This percentage reflects changes in the definition of this measure after the implementation of ICD-10. The prior ICD-9 definition results in a value of only 2%. National and state initiatives are being implemented to reduce the increasing trend in Cesarean and early elective deliveries.^{7,8} It is too soon to compare these differences as the definition of this measure is expected to change again.

How do moms and babies benefit from the SC Department of Health and Human Services Healthy Connections Medicaid Program?

Medicaid pays for more than half (56%) of all births in South Carolina and pays for about 90% of all births to teens.

Since 2011, the agency's support has been instrumental in the development and sustainability of all SC BOI initiatives.

Nearly 12,000 women of childbearing age annually receive Medicaid-supported screening or brief intervention for behavioral health, with that number expected to increase in the years ahead.

Medicaid also supports 16 CenteringPregnancy[®] sites and 16 milk depots.

To explore more about SC Medicaid and its range of programmatic initiatives, please visit shealthviz.sc.edu, South Carolina's eHealth Medicaid statistics Web site.⁹

If you have questions concerning this content, please contact:

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Notes and Resources

- ¹ Data sources: SFY17 SC DHHS Medicaid claims, CY17 SC DHEC SCAN, & SFY17 SC RFA UB-04 hospital billing claims. 2017 data in this factsheet is current as of March 2019. Medicaid coverage was verified via the Medicaid claims dataset. Data for 2018 will be available in 2019 and, when available, will be incorporated into this factsheet.
- ² South Carolina Birth Outcomes Initiative (SCBOI). <https://www.scdhhs.gov/sites/default/files/SCBOI%20Brochure%20rev%2010.20.16.pdf>, accessed on March 6, 2019.
- ³ University of South Carolina Institute for Families in Society: Five Years and Counting, marking key achievements of the SC Birth Outcomes Initiative. <http://www.shealthviz.sc.edu/Data/Sites/1/media/5yearboiinfographic.pdf>, accessed on March 6, 2019.
- ⁴ South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control: SCAN, South Carolina Community Assessment Network. <http://scangis.dhec.sc.gov/scan/>, accessed on March 6, 2019.
- ⁵ Association of State and Territorial Health Officials: Reintegration of Public Health and Healthcare: South Carolina's Perinatal Regionalized System of Care: Reducing Premature Births and Infant Mortality. <http://www.astho.org/Presidents-Challenge-2013/SouthCarolina/>, accessed on March 6, 2019.
- ⁶ University of South Carolina Institute for Families in Society. SC BOI Environmental Scan. <http://www.shealthviz.sc.edu/boi-information-products>, accessed on March 6, 2019.
- ⁷ The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: Obstetric Care Consensus. <https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Obstetric-Care-Consensus-Series/Safe-Prevention-of-the-Primary-Cesarean-Delivery>, accessed on March 6, 2019. SC BOI Supporting Vaginal Birth Bundle. <https://www.scdhhs.gov/site-page/supporting-vaginal-birth-bundle>, accessed on March 6, 2019.
- ⁸ Association of State and Territorial Health Officials: Issue Brief: Early Elective Delivery. <http://www.astho.org/Early-Elective-Delivery-Issue-Brief/>, accessed on March 6, 2019.
- ⁹ University of South Carolina Institute for Families in Society: SC HealthViz, South Carolina eHealth Medicaid Statistics. <http://www.shealthviz.sc.edu/home>, accessed on March 6, 2019.