



South Carolina Deliveries and Births 2018¹

Each year in SC, there are about 57,000 births to state residents, among a population of over 970,000 women of childbearing age.

1 in every 16 births is to a teen mother.

2/3 of all births in the state are to White women. Of the remaining 1/3, nearly all are to Black/African American women.

About 1 in 3 of all deliveries in South Carolina are by Cesarean. The rate is 1 in 4 for first-time mothers delivering singleton, full-term babies.

About 1 in 10 newborns in South Carolina is low birth weight (LBW), having a birthweight less than 5.5 pounds. The rate 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).

For more facts, please see the SC Community Assessment Network.²



LOCATION AND FACILITY TYPE

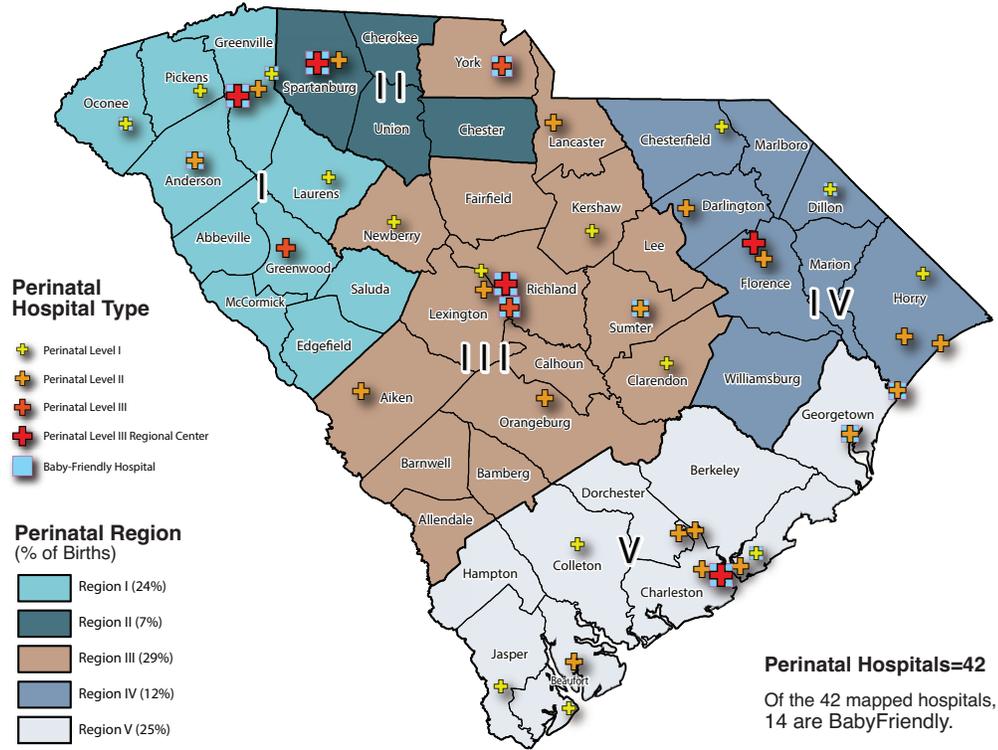
Nearly all (98%) of SC births occur in birthing hospitals within the state. While most occur equally within Perinatal Level II or Level III birthing hospitals, a smaller proportion (14%) are in Level I birthing hospitals.

Over 40% occur within the state's 14 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.³ The geographic distribution of births by perinatal region, as well as location of birthing hospitals and their characteristics, is shown in the map below. More geographic information is available in the **SC BOI Environmental Scan**.⁴

Perinatal Hospitals by Perinatal Region 2018

Also Showing Baby-Friendly Hospitals





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OBSTETRIC PATIENT SAFETY

Nearly 1/3 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 3.7%. National and state initiatives have been implemented to reduce the increasing trend in Cesarean and early elective deliveries.^{5,6,7}

For every 500 deliveries in SC, 8 women experience severe maternal morbidity, which is an unexpected outcome of labor and delivery that results in significant consequences to a woman's health.⁸

SC Medicaid's Healthy Connections pays for more than 60% of all SC births and about 90% of all births to teens.



THE SC BIRTH OUTCOMES INITIATIVE

The South Carolina Birth Outcomes Initiative (SC BOI) is a group of multi-sector stakeholders with a shared goal of improving birth outcomes among SC residents.

Its primary aims are to reduce early elective and unnecessary Cesarean deliveries, increase the number of Baby-Friendly designated hospitals and the adoption of breastfeeding practices, increase the use of CenteringPregnancy®, address behavioral health during pregnancy, and increase the use of long-acting reversible contraceptives through family planning efforts.⁹ With the goal of significantly reducing severe maternal morbidity and mortality, SC BOI will also be participating in the national Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM).

In 2017, SC BOI marked its 5-year anniversary, having reached numerous achievements during this initial timespan.¹⁰



HOW SC MOMS BENEFIT: HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

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

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

Medicaid also supports 24 CenteringPregnancy® sites and 22 milk depots as of December, 2018.

For more about SC Medicaid and its programmatic initiatives, please visit schealthviz.sc.edu, South Carolina's eHealth Medicaid statistics Web site.

NOTES AND RESOURCES

- 1 Data sources: SC DHEC Perinatal Regions and Perinatal Hospital Facilities, accessed September 2019; Baby Friendly USA, accessed June 2019; SFY18 SC DHHS Medicaid claims, CY18 SC DHEC SCAN, & SFY18 SC RFA UB-04 hospital billing claims. 2018 data in this factsheet are current as of March 2019. Medicaid coverage was verified via the Medicaid claims dataset. The map reflects birthing facilities and Baby-Friendly designation as of July 2018.
- 2 South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. SCAN: South Carolina Community Assessment Network. Accessed March 6, 2019, at <http://scangis.dhec.sc.gov/scan/>
- 3 Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. (2013). Reintegration of public health and healthcare: South Carolina's perinatal regionalized system of care: Reducing premature births and infant mortality. Accessed March 6, 2019, at <http://www.astho.org/Presidents-Challenge-2013/SouthCarolina/>
- 4 University of South Carolina Institute for Families in Society. (2014). SC BOI Environmental Scan©. Accessed September 2019 at <http://www.schealthviz.sc.edu/boi-information-products>
- 5 The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (2014). Obstetric care consensus: Safe prevention of the primary cesarean delivery. Accessed March 6, 2019, at <https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Obstetric-Care-Consensus-Series/Safe-Prevention-of-the-Primary-Cesarean-Delivery>
- 6 South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. SC BOI supporting vaginal birth bundle. Accessed March 6, 2019, at <https://www.scdhhs.gov/site-page/supporting-vaginal-birth-bundle>
- 7 Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. (2014). Early elective delivery [Issue Brief]. Accessed March 6, 2019, at <http://www.astho.org/Early-Elective-Delivery-Issue-Brief/>
- 8 American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Kilpatrick, S. K., & Ecker, J. L. (2016). Severe maternal morbidity: Screening and review. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*, 215(3) B17-B22. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2016.07.050>
- 9 South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). South Carolina Birth Outcomes Initiative (SCBOI). Accessed March 6, 2019, at <https://www.scdhhs.gov/sites/default/files/SCBOI%20Brochure%20rev%2010.20.16.pdf>
- 10 University of South Carolina Institute for Families in Society. (2016). Five years and counting, marking key achievements of the SC Birth Outcomes Initiative. Accessed March 6, 2019, at <http://www.schealthviz.sc.edu/Data/Sites/1/media/5yearboiinfographic.pdf>

