

C-SECTION RATES IN ARKANSAS

Cesarean section (C-section) is a method of delivering a baby through surgical incisions made in the abdomen and uterus. While C-sections can be necessary and lifesaving procedures, C-section rates both nationally and in Arkansas have risen dramatically in the past few decades while maternal health outcomes have worsened. Healthy People 2030, a federal initiative that identifies public health priorities, has established a national target for first-birth C-section deliveries of 23.6%.

This updated infographic examines C-section rates for first births — full-term (at least 37 weeks), singleton (not twins or multiples), head-down deliveries — across Arkansas occurring from 2021 to 2023, and highlights the five counties with the largest increases and the five counties with the largest decreases compared with rates from 2019 to 2021. It also examines overall C-section rates by county along with the clinical risks and chronic health conditions that can contribute to elevated rates. Rates reflect three-year periods that overlap in 2021. Three-year periods are used to reduce variation in county-level estimates.

FIRST BIRTHS



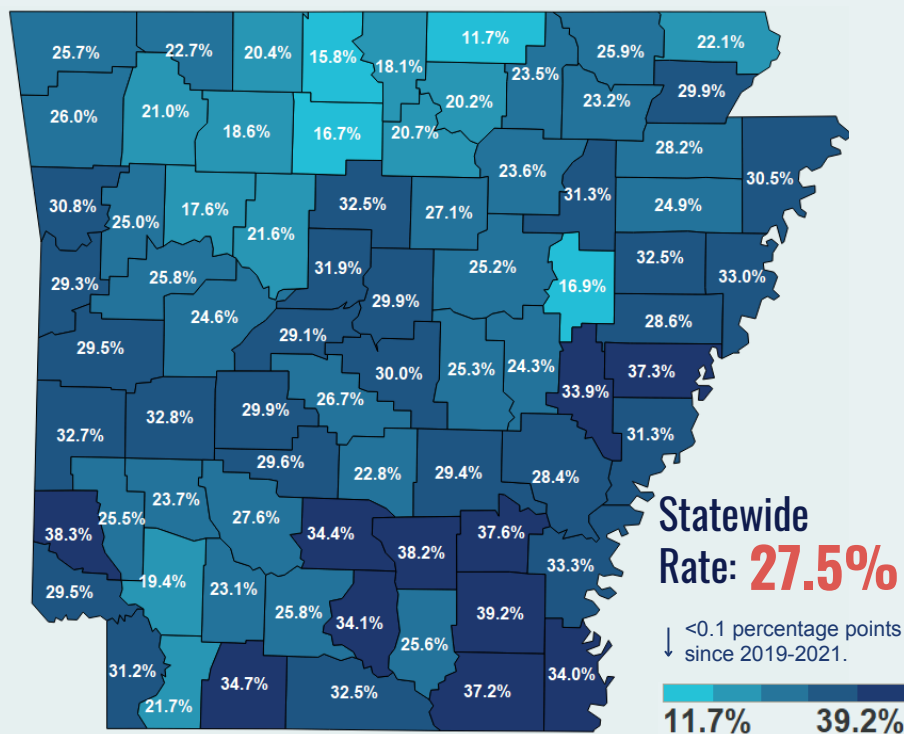
26.6%
of first-birth deliveries in the U.S. were C-section deliveries in 2023.¹

23.6%
is Healthy People 2030's national target for C-sections among first-birth deliveries.¹

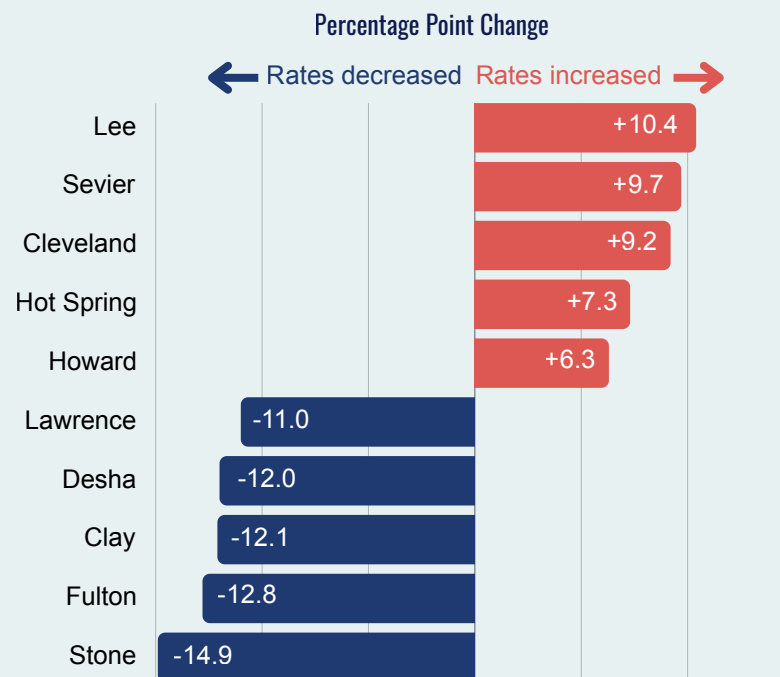


27.5%
of first-birth deliveries in Arkansas were C-section deliveries in 2021-2023.

C-SECTION RATE FOR FIRST-BIRTH DELIVERY BY COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, 2021-2023



COUNTIES WITH THE LARGEST INCREASES AND DECREASES IN FIRST-BIRTH C-SECTION RATES, 2019-2021 TO 2021-2023



Sources: Arkansas Department of Health birth records; for Miller, Lafayette, and Little River counties only, the Arkansas Healthcare Transparency Initiative's All-Payer Claims Database. For references: achi.net/publications/c-section-rates-2021-2023

C-SECTION RATES IN ARKANSAS

OVERALL BIRTHS

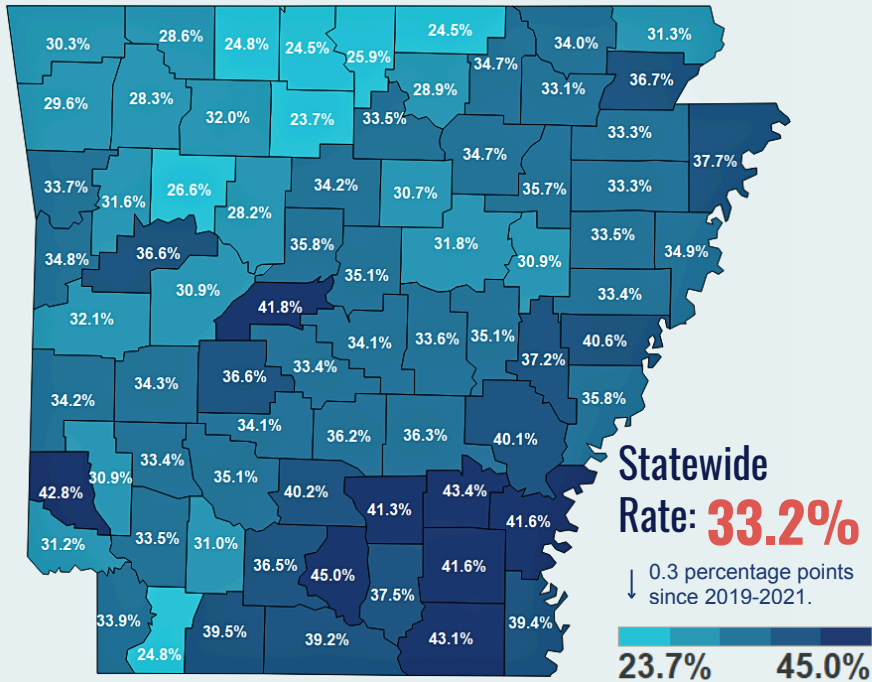


32.3%
of live births in the U.S. were C-section deliveries in 2023.²

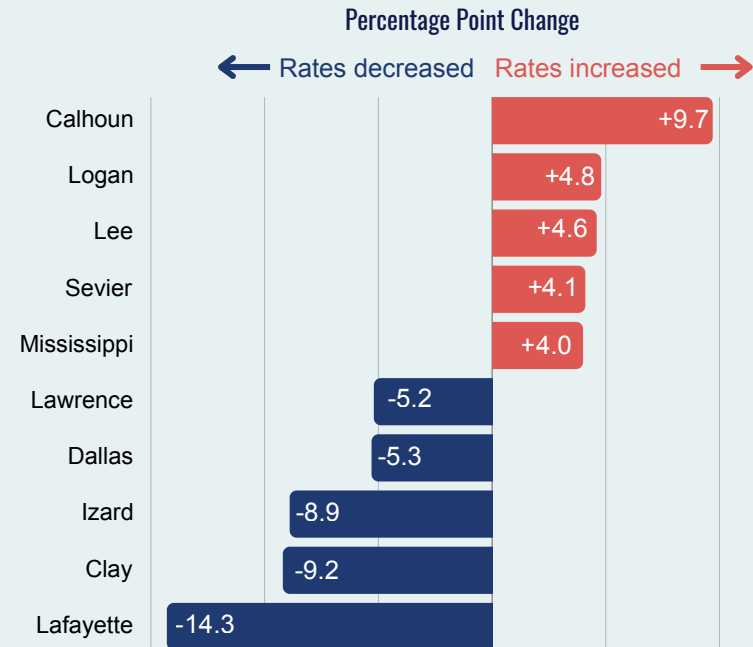


33.2%
of live births in Arkansas were C-section deliveries in 2021-2023.

OVERALL C-SECTION RATE BY COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, 2021-2023



COUNTIES WITH THE LARGEST INCREASES AND DECREASES IN OVERALL C-SECTION RATES, 2019-2021 TO 2021-2023



C-SECTION RISKS³



MOTHERS

- Infection
- Blood loss/clots
- Injury to organs



CHILDREN

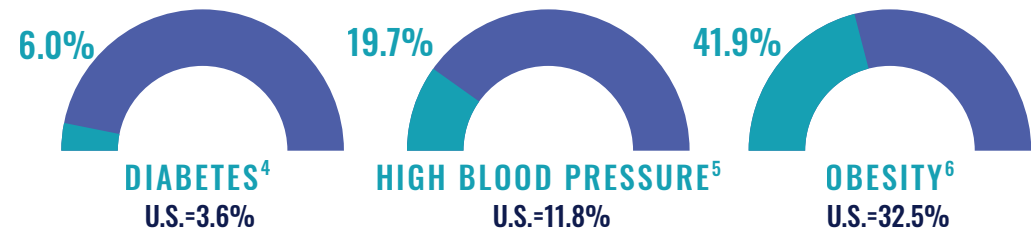
- Asthma/allergies
- Obesity
- Increased infection risk



FUTURE PREGNANCIES

- Additional C-sections
- Uterine rupture
- Placenta issues

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVALENCE, WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE (18-44) IN ARKANSAS



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