

Background

Every year approximately 500,000 babies are born in California,¹ and childbirth is the number one reason for hospitalization in the U.S. and California.² For mothers, overuse of cesarean sections (c-sections)³ can result in higher rates of complications like hemorrhage, transfusions, infection, and blood clots. The surgery also brings risks for babies, including higher rates of infection, respiratory complications, neonatal intensive care unit stays, and lower breastfeeding rates.

In 2015, the California Health and Human Services Agency began recognizing hospitals that meet the 23.9% statewide target of c-sections for low-risk births through its Maternity Honor Roll. This year's award reflects calendar year 2019 hospital discharge and birth certificate data from 211 California hospitals that offer maternity services and participate in the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative's Maternal Data Center (CMQCC's MDC).

- The 2020 Maternity Honor Roll recognizes 141 hospitals that met or surpassed the statewide target aimed at reducing births via c-section in first-time mothers with low-risk pregnancies.
- The 141 hospitals represent more than 65% of all 211 hospitals that offer maternity services and participate in CMQCC's MDC. The number of hospitals earning Honor Roll status has increased each year since 2015: 134 earned the Honor Roll in 2019; 122 in 2018; 111 in 2017; 104 in 2016. The increasing number of hospitals making the Honor Roll demonstrates that collaborative action can lead to positive change.
- Reducing c-section rates starts with the culture of the hospital, involving changes to physician practice patterns, education of nurses, support staff and families, and implementation of new policies within the facility. Collaboration and communication among members of the clinical team are essential.
- Of the 141 hospitals recognized in 2020, 52 have achieved Honor Roll status five years running.
- Over the past six years, California hospitals have made steady improvement in low-risk c-section rates. As a result, an estimated 24,000 low risk c-sections were avoided during the six-year period from 2013 to 2019.
- Of note, there continues to be substantial variation among individual hospital rates of low-risk, first-birth c-sections. In California, these rates range from less than 10% to more than 40%, indicating potential for further improvement
- CMQCC, released a [toolkit](#) in 2016 to assist hospitals and clinicians in promoting vaginal birth and reducing unnecessary c-sections. In addition, CMQCC has worked with California hospitals and their clinical teams to implement this toolkit through an 18-month [Supporting Vaginal Birth](#) quality improvement collaborative.

About the 2020 California Maternity Honor Roll

- Aligning payment and purchaser requirements to support clinical teams in providing only medically necessary c-section is also important. Smart Care California developed a [menu of payment and contracting options](#) that gives payers specific strategies to align payment with desired outcomes.
- Consumer education is also critical to the above efforts. As part of efforts to advance improvements in health care, CMQCC, Consumer Reports and the California Health Care Foundation partnered to launch [My Birth Matters](#), a statewide campaign designed to educate expectant mothers about c-section deliveries and encourage conversations between them, their doctor, and their care team. The campaign offers free educational materials in multiple languages, including print materials and four, short, animated videos that educate women about c-sections and encourage them to share their birth preferences.

¹ [National Center for Health Statistics: State & Territorial Data. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mar. 2017. Accessed Nov. 2019.](#)

² [Reducing Unnecessary C-Sections in California. California Health Care Foundation, Jul. 10, 2018. Accessed Nov. 2019.](#)

³ [C-section rates for low-risk, first births is defined by the Joint Commission as nulliparous women with a term, singleton baby in a vertex position delivered by cesarean birth](#)

2020 Maternity Honor Roll Hospitals

Hospital Name	City
Adventist Health Bakersfield	Bakersfield
Adventist Health Clear Lake	Clearlake
Adventist Health Lodi Memorial	Lodi
Adventist Health Rideout Memorial Hospital	Marysville
Adventist Health Ukiah Valley	Ukiah
Alta Bates Summit Medical Center - Alta Bates Campus	Berkeley
Anaheim Global Medical Center	Anaheim
Arrowhead Regional Medical Center	Colton
Bakersfield Memorial Hospital	Bakersfield
Banner Lassen Medical Center	Susanville
Barstow Community Hospital	Barstow
Barton Memorial Hospital	South Lake Tahoe
California Hospital Medical Center	Los Angeles
California Pacific Medical Center - Mission Bernal Campus	San Francisco
California Pacific Medical Center - Van Ness Campus	San Francisco
Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula	Monterey
Community Memorial Hospital	Ventura
Contra Costa Regional Medical Center	Martinez
Corona Regional Medical Center	Corona
Desert Regional Medical Center	Palm Springs
Desert Valley Hospital	Victorville
Doctors Medical Center of Modesto	Modesto
Eden Medical Center	Castro Valley
El Camino Hospital Los Gatos	Los Gatos
Emanuel Medical Center	Turlock
Enloe Medical Center - Esplanade Campus	Chico
Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center	Fountain Valley
Garfield Medical Center	Monterey Park
Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center	Glendale
Greater El Monte Community Hospital	So. El Monte
Harbor - UCLA Medical Center	Torrance
Hemet Valley Medical Center	Hemet
Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital	Valencia
Hi-Desert Medical Center	Joshua Tree
Highland Hospital	Oakland
Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center	Los Angeles
Huntington Hospital	Pasadena
Kaiser Permanente Antioch Medical Center	Antioch
Kaiser Permanente Baldwin Park Medical Center	Baldwin Park
Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center	Downey
Kaiser Permanente Fontana Medical Center	Fontana
Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center	Los Angeles
Kaiser Permanente Modesto Medical Center	Modesto
Kaiser Permanente Moreno Valley Medical Center	Moreno Valley

2020 Maternity Honor Roll Hospitals

Hospital Name	City
Kaiser Permanente Oakland Medical Center	Oakland
Kaiser Permanente Ontario Vineyard Medical Center	Ontario
Kaiser Permanente Orange County - Anaheim Medical Center	Anaheim
Kaiser Permanente Panorama City Medical Center	Panorama City
Kaiser Permanente Redwood City Medical Center	Redwood City
Kaiser Permanente Riverside Medical Center	Riverside
Kaiser Permanente Roseville Medical Center	Roseville
Kaiser Permanente San Diego	San Diego
Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Medical Center	San Francisco
Kaiser Permanente San Jose Medical Center	San Jose
Kaiser Permanente San Leandro Medical Center	San leandro
Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara Medical Center	Santa Clara
Kaiser Permanente Santa Rosa Medical Center	Santa Rosa
Kaiser Permanente South Bay Medical Center	Harbor City
Kaiser Permanente South Sacramento Medical Center	Sacramento
Kaiser Permanente Vacaville Medical Center	Vacaville
Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center	Vallejo
Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Medical Center	Walnut Creek
Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles Medical Center	Los Angeles
Kern Medical	Bakersfield
LAC+USC Medical Center	Los Angeles
Loma Linda University Children's Hospital	Loma Linda
Loma Linda University Medical Center - Murrieta	Murrieta
Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford	Palo Alto
Mad River Community Hospital	Arcata
Madera Community Hospital	Madera
Marin General Hospital	Greenbrae
Marshall Medical Center	Placerville
Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital	Los Angeles
Memorial Hospital Los Banos	Los Banos
Memorial Medical Center	Modesto
MemorialCare Miller Children's and Women's Hospital	Long Beach
MemorialCare Saddleback Medical Center	Laguna Hills
Mercy Hospital of Folsom	Folsom
Mercy Medical Center Merced	Merced
Mercy Medical Center Mount Shasta	Mount Shasta
Mercy Medical Center Redding	Redding
Mills-Peninsula Medical Center	Burlingame
Mission Hospital - Mission Viejo	Mission Viejo
Natividad Medical Center	Salinas
Northern Inyo Hospital	Bishop
Northridge Hospital Medical Center	Northridge
Olive View - UCLA Medical Center	Sylmar
Palomar Medical Center - Poway-Pomerado Hospital	Poway

2020 Maternity Honor Roll Hospitals

Hospital Name	City
Palomar Medical Center Escondido	Escondido
Parkview Community Hospital Medical Center	Riverside
Petaluma Valley Hospital	Petaluma
PIH Health Hospital - Whittier	Whittier
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center	Pomona
Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center San Pedro	San Pedro
Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance	Torrance
Providence Saint John's Health Center	Santa Monica
Rancho Springs Medical Center	Murrieta
Redlands Community Hospital	Redlands
Riverside University Health Systems	Moreno Valley
Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System	Salinas
San Antonio Regional Hospital	Upland
San Joaquin General Hospital	French Camp
Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital	Santa Barbara
Santa Clara Valley Medical Center	San Jose
Santa Paula Hospital	Santa Paula
Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital	Santa Rosa
Scripps Memorial Hospital - Encinitas	Encinitas
Scripps Mercy Hospital	San Diego
Scripps Mercy Hospital - Chula Vista	Chula Vista
Sequoia Hospital	Redwood City
St. Bernardine Medical Center	San Bernardino
St. Joseph Hospital, Eureka	Eureka
St. Joseph's Medical Center - Stockton	Stockton
St. Jude Medical Center	Fullerton
St. Louise Regional Hospital	Gilroy
St. Mary Medical Center - Apple Valley	Apple Valley
St. Mary Medical Center Long Beach	Long Beach
Sutter Coast Hospital	Crescent City
Sutter Davis Hospital	Davis
Sutter Delta Medical Center	Antioch
Sutter Lakeside Hospital	Lakeport
Sutter Maternity & Surgery Center of Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz
Sutter Medical Center - Sacramento	Sacramento
Sutter Roseville Medical Center	Roseville
Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital	Santa Rosa
Sutter Solano Medical Center	Vallejo
Sutter Tracy Community Hospital	Tracy
Torrance Memorial Medical Center	Torrance
Tri-City Medical Center	Oceanside
Twin Cities Community Hospital	Templeton
UC Irvine Health	Orange
UC San Diego Health - Hillcrest, UC San Diego Medical Center	San Diego

2020 Maternity Honor Roll Hospitals

Hospital Name	City
UC San Diego Health - LA Jolla, Jacobs Medical Center and Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center	La Jolla
UCLA Health	Santa Monica
UCSF Mission Bay/ Betty Irene Moore Women's Hospital	San Francisco
Valley Presbyterian Hospital	Van Nuys
Ventura County Medical Center	Ventura
Washington Hospital Healthcare System	Fremont
Watsonville Community Hospital	Watsonville
Woodland Healthcare	Woodland
Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center	San Francisco