

Background

Every year approximately 420,250 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 statewide target of c-sections for low-risk births through its Maternity Honor Roll. Starting this year, CHC changed the NTSV C-section rate threshold for honor roll hospitals from 23.9% to 23.6% to align with the [Healthy People 2030 goals](#).

This year's award reflects calendar year 2021 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 2022 Maternity Honor Roll recognizes 108 hospitals that met or surpassed the statewide target aimed at reducing births via c-section in first-time mothers with low-risk pregnancies.
- The 108 hospitals represent 1/2 of all 211 hospitals that offer maternity services and participate in CMQCC's MDC.
- 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 108 hospitals recognized in 2022, 32 have achieved Honor Roll status seven years running.
- Over the past eight years, California hospitals have made steady improvement in low-risk c-section rates. As a result of this improvement, an estimated 34,888 low-risk C-sections were avoided during this eight-year period, from 2014 to 2021.
- 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 12% to over 35% 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 2022 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](#)

2022 Maternity Honor Roll Hospitals

Hospital Name	City
Adventist Health Bakersfield	Bakersfield
Adventist Health Clear Lake	Clearlake
Adventist Health Simi Valley	Simi Valley
Adventist Health Tulare	Tulare
Adventist Health Ukiah Valley	Ukiah
AHMC Anaheim Regional Medical Center	Anaheim
Alta Bates Summit Medical Center	Berkeley
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 Pacific Medical Center-Van Ness Campus	San Francisco
Centinela Hospital Medical Center	Inglewood
Community Memorial Hospital	Ventura
Contra Costa Regional Medical Center	Martinez
Corona Regional Medical Center	Corona
Desert Valley Hospital	Victorville
Dignity Health Dominican Hospital	Santa Cruz
Doctors Hospital of Manteca	Manteca
Doctors Medical Center of Modesto	Modesto
Eden Medical Center	Castro Valley
El Camino Health - Los Gatos	Los Gatos
Emanate Health Queen of the Valley Hospital	West Covina
Emanuel Medical Center	Turlock
Enloe Medical Center-Esplanade Campus	Chico
Fairchild Medical Center	Yreka
Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital	Valencia
HHS Saint Louise Regional Hospital	Gilroy
HHS Santa Clara Valley Medical Center	Santa Clara
Hi-Desert Medical Center	Joshua Tree
Highland Hospital	Alameda
Kaiser Permanente Baldwin Park Medical Center	Baldwin Park
Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center	Downey
Kaiser Permanente Modesto Medical Center	Modesto
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 Medical Center	San Diego
Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Medical Center	San Francisco
Kaiser Permanente San Leandro Medical Center	San Leandro

2022 Maternity Honor Roll Hospitals

Hospital Name	City
Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara Medical Center	Santa Clara
Kaiser Permanente South Sacramento Medical Center	South Sacramento
Kaiser Permanente Vacaville Medical Center	Vacaville
Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles Medical Center	Los Angeles
Kaiser Permanente Woodland Hills Medical Center	Woodland Hills
Loma Linda University Children's Hospital	Loma Linda
Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford	Palo Alto
Mad River Community Hospital	Arcata
Madera Community Hospital	Madera
MarinHealth Medical Center	Greenbrae
Marshall Medical Center	Placerville
Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital	Los Angeles
Memorial Medical Center, Modesto	Modesto
Memorialcare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach	Long Beach
Mercy Hospital of Folsom	Folsom
Mercy Hospital Southwest	Bakersfield
Mercy Medical Center-Redding	Redding
Mills-Peninsula Medical Center	Burlingame
Mission Hospital	Mission Viejo
Montclair Hospital Medical Center	Montclair
Natividad Medical Center	Salinas
Northern Inyo Hospital	Bishop
Orange Coast Medical Center	Fountain Valley
Palomar Medical Center Escondido	Escondido
PIH Health Good Samaritan Hospital	Los Angeles
PIH Health Hospital-Whittier	Whittier
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center	Pomona
Providence Saint John's Health Center	Santa Monica
Queen of the Valley Medical Center-Napa	Napa
Rancho Springs Medical Center	Murrieta
Redlands Community Hospital	Redlands
Riverside University Health System-Medical Center	Riverside
San Gabriel Valley Medical Center	San Gabriel
San Joaquin General Hospital	San Joaquin
Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital	Santa Barbara
Santa Paula Hospital	Santa Paula
Scripps Memorial Hospital Encinitas	Encinitas
Scripps Mercy Hospital Chula Vista	Chula Vista
Scripps Mercy Hospital San Diego	San Diego
Sharp Grossmont Hospital	La Mesa
Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital	Grass Valley
St. Bernardine Medical Center	San Bernadino

2022 Maternity Honor Roll Hospitals

Hospital Name	City
St. Elizabeth Community Hospital	Red Bluff
St. Joseph Hospital, Orange	Orange
St. Jude Medical Center	Fullerton
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 Medical Center	Sacramento
Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital	Santa Rosa
Tahoe Forest Hospital District	Truckee
Torrance Memorial Medical Center	Torrance
Tri-City Medical Center	Oceanside
Twin Cities Community Hospital	Templeton
UC Irvine Health	Irvine
UC San Diego Health	San Diego
UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica	Santa Monica
USC Verdugo Hills Hospital	Glendale
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