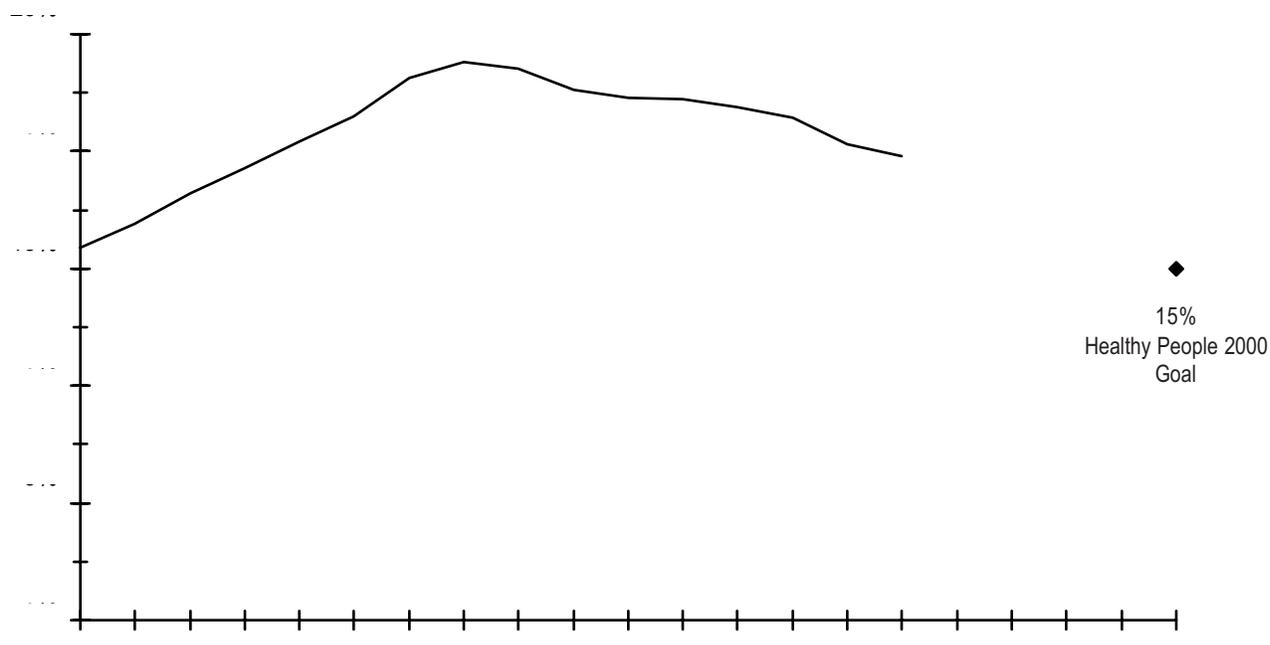

CESAREAN SECTION DELIVERIES

in Pennsylvania, 1995

Pennsylvania C-Section Rates



CESAREAN SECTION DELIVERIES IN PENNSYLVANIA, 1995

Pennsylvania Department of Health
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4)

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Technical Note

CESAREAN SECTION DELIVERIES IN PENNSYLVANIA, 1995 is a joint project of the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4). The principal authors of this report were Patricia W. Potrzebowski, Ph.D., and Linda Ames Mann of the Department of Health; and Joseph Martin, Marc P. Volavka and Jayne L. Jones of PHC4. Layout and Design were provided by Teresa Yencha of PHC4. Additional contributors from PHC4 included Victoria Cook, Yanfen Pei and Marlin Eby, Ph.D.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has the duty and power to protect the health of the people of the Commonwealth. It is responsible for employing the most efficient and effective means for the prevention and suppression of disease and injury. In addition, the Department has the responsibility to ensure the accessibility of high quality care at a reasonable cost. The Department provides the leadership and assistance necessary to plan, coordinate and support a total statewide public health effort.

The Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council was established as an independent state agency by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1986. The Council is mandated to collect, analyze, and publish information about the comparative cost and quality of services in Pennsylvania hospitals in order to stimulate a competitive health care marketplace.

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Key Findings

Hospitals

- ◆ The number of hospital deliveries decreased 5.6% from 1993 to 1995. There were 151,105 babies delivered in Pennsylvania hospitals in 1995, with 30,489 delivered by Cesarean section (C-section) — a rate of 20.2%. This represents a decrease from 21.7% in 1993.
- ◆ Healthy People 2000 — a project of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services — advocates a national objective of a 15% C-section rate by the year 2000. If the C-section rate in Pennsylvania had been 15% in 1995, rather than 20.2%, there would have been approximately 7,800 fewer C-sections, at an estimated reduction of \$28 million in hospital charges and 14,000 fewer days spent in the hospital in 1995.
- ◆ Hospitals in Region 1 (Southwest PA) had the lowest C-section rate at 18.7%, while hospitals in Region 2 (Northeast PA) had the highest C-section rate at 22.1%.
- ◆ The 1995 vaginal birth after a C-section (VBAC) rate in Pennsylvania was 35.1%, reaching the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' national objective of a 35% VBAC rate by the year 2000. This was a substantial increase over the 1993 rate of 29.2%.
- ◆ Pennsylvania hospitals in three regions reached or exceeded the Healthy People 2000 VBAC goal of 35% in 1995: The Region 1 (Southwest PA) rate was 40.2%; Region 9 (Philadelphia) was 38.7%; and Region 8 (suburban Philadelphia) was 35.0%. Hospitals in Region 3 (Altoona-Johnstown-Somerset area) had the lowest VBAC rate in 1995 at 27.4%.
- ◆ The average hospital charge for a C-section delivery in 1995 was about \$7,300, while the average charge for a vaginal delivery was \$3,700. Both figures represent increases since 1993.
- ◆ The average length of a hospital stay in 1995 for a vaginal delivery was 1.7 days and 3.5 days for a C-section delivery. These data represent a decline from 1993 figures.
- ◆ Pennsylvania C-section charges totaled \$209,447,400 in 1995, a decrease of 5.2% from 1993.

Payer Groups

- ◆ Those enrolled in Medicaid Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) plans in 1995 had the lowest C-section rate of all payer groups at 17.2%. In 1993, the Medicaid program also had the lowest C-section rate. Medicaid's traditional fee-for-service plan had the second lowest rate at 18.4%. Blue Cross plans had the highest C-section rates in 1995, with their HMO plans at 21.7% and their fee-for-service plans at 21.6%.
- ◆ In 1995, *all* payer groups exceeded the Healthy People 2000 national VBAC objective of 35%. Medicaid HMOs had the best VBAC rates among all payer groups at 46.8%.
- ◆ While Medicaid HMO recipients were less likely to have a C-section and more likely to have a VBAC, they also had the longest average hospital stay at 3.8 days.

Key Findings (continued)

- ◆ In general, fee-for-service plans (except Medicaid) had slightly shorter lengths of hospitalization than enrollees in HMO plans.
- ◆ Payer groups in Region 1 (Southwest PA) had the lowest C-section rate at 18.5% and the second best VBAC rate at 42.4%. Payer groups in Region 9 (Philadelphia) had the best overall VBAC rate at 44.1%, with Medicaid HMOs leading the region with a 51.7% VBAC rate.
- ◆ Payer groups in Region 9 (Philadelphia) had the longest C-section length of hospitalization at 3.9 days, while payer groups in Region 2 (Northeast PA) had the shortest C-section length of hospitalization at 3.2 days.
- ◆ Medicaid plans represented nearly 40% of all deliveries in each of the following regions: Region 2 (Northeast PA), Region 3 (Altoona-Johnstown-Somerset area) and Region 9 (Philadelphia). Blue Cross plans represented 40% or more of all deliveries in each of the following regions: Region 1 (Southwest PA), Region 3 (Altoona-Johnstown-Somerset area), and Region 6 (Wilkes-Barre-Scranton area). Commercial plans represented 45% of all deliveries in Region 8 (suburban Philadelphia) and more than 30% in Region 4 (Williamsport-Bloomsburg area), Region 5 (Southcentral PA), Region 7 (Allentown-Reading area), and Region 9 (Philadelphia).

County and Community Rates

- ◆ In 1995, C-section rates throughout Pennsylvania showed a wide variation, with rates by county ranging from 36.4% in Fulton County to 10.5% in Pike County. The C-section rates ranged even greater among selected communities, with 36.4% in the Ridgway area to 9.5% in the Honesdale area.
- ◆ In general, residents of rural counties and communities tended to have the highest C-section rates. Of the 23 counties significantly above the statewide rate, 19 can be considered rural.
- ◆ The following counties had C-section rates significantly *above* the statewide rate in both 1992 and 1995: Armstrong County, Bedford County, Bucks County, Carbon County, Clarion County, Clearfield County, Columbia County, Elk County, Franklin County, Fulton County, Jefferson County, Luzerne County, Lycoming County, Mifflin County, Northampton County, Schuylkill County, Snyder County, and Wyoming County.
- ◆ The following communities had C-section rates significantly *above* the statewide rate in both 1992 and 1995: Bedford, Bensalem, Berwick, Chambersburg, DuBois, Easton, Huntingdon, Lewisburg, Lewistown, Kittanning, Philadelphia-Holmesburg, Pottsville, Saint Marys, Tunkhannock, and Wilkes-Barre South.
- ◆ The following counties had C-section rates significantly *below* the statewide rate in both 1992 and 1995: Allegheny County, Chester County, Montgomery County, and York County.
- ◆ The following communities had C-section rates significantly *below* the statewide rate in both 1992 and 1995: Braddock, Bryn Mawr, Monroeville, Paoli, Philadelphia-Fairhill, Philadelphia-Park East, Philadelphia-Spring Garden, Phoenixville, Pittsburgh-Central, Pittsburgh-Oakland, Titusville, Wilkinsburg, Willow Grove, and York.

Reader's Guide

Purpose

This booklet is a joint project of the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, and addresses the issue of Cesarean section (C-section) deliveries in Pennsylvania.

This report is designed to track Pennsylvania's progress in meeting the C-section goals of Healthy People 2000.

Healthy People 2000, a project of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has advocated a national goal of reducing the C-section rate to *15 per 100 deliveries (15%)* by the year 2000, and increasing the number of VBACs to *35 per 100 deliveries (35%)*.

Cesarean Section Deliveries in Pennsylvania can aid group purchasers, policy-makers, and health care providers in identifying opportunities for cost reductions and quality improvement. Given the cost of cesarean delivery compared to vaginal delivery, as well as the increased recovery time and complications associated with C-sections, a reduction in the utilization of C-sections could help to reduce overall health care costs, and improve the quality of care received by maternity patients.

This guide can also help to raise public awareness about the issue of C-sections, and foster a more informed dialogue between consumers and medical providers.

Why a Report About C-Sections?

Over one fifth (20.2%) of all Pennsylvania hospital deliveries in 1995 were through a cesarean section. As the most frequently performed major surgical operation in Pennsylvania, the total hospital charges for C-section in 1995 were \$209,447,400. The average hospital charge for a C-section was \$7,300, compared to \$3,700 for a vaginal delivery. The average length of stay for a C-section was 3.5 days, compared to 1.7 days for a vaginal delivery.

From 1970 to 1987, C-section deliveries in Pennsylvania increased more than four-fold from 5.7% to 24.1%. This fell to 20.2% in 1995. Between 1989 and 1995, the VBAC rate (the percentage of mothers who had a previous cesarean birth who deliver vaginally) rose from 20.5% to 35.1%.

When medically possible, vaginal deliveries are preferable to C-sections for many reasons. Compared to vaginal deliveries, C-sections require a longer hospital stay for mother and baby, a longer recuperation time, carry an increased risk of complications, and cost more.

What is a C-Section?

A cesarean section is a surgical procedure associated with childbirth in which the infant is removed through an incision made in the mother's abdominal and uterine wall. In the past, physicians performed repeat C-sections automatically due to fear that a women's uterus would rupture during labor. However, almost all C-sections done today are performed with a transverse incision (bikini cut) low in the uterus, which greatly reduces the risk of rupture during labor in a later pregnancy.

What is a VBAC?

A VBAC involves a trial of labor which results in a vaginal birth. VBAC rate refers to the proportion of successful vaginal births in women who have had a previous C-section.

In 1982, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Committee on Obstetrics developed guidelines for VBACs. According to the ACOG, 50 to 80 percent of women who have had one or more low transverse cesareans should deliver vaginally unless specific complications arise. This does not apply to all women and is something to be discussed with the doctor.

Still, repeat C-sections in Pennsylvania accounted for more than one-third of all cesarean deliveries; and a previous C-section is cited by obstetricians 35% of the time — more frequently than any other reason — as the reason for a repeat C-section, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

How are C-Section and VBAC Rates Calculated?

The C-section rates in this report are calculated by dividing the number of total C-sections by the number of total deliveries, and multiplying by 100. The VBAC rate is calculated by dividing the number of total VBACs by the sum of the total VBACs and the total repeat C-sections, and multiplying by 100. Note: The VBAC figures in this report include *successful* VBACs only; they do not include *attempted* VBACs, which were not successful.

Sources of the Data

The Pennsylvania Department of Health provided information about total deliveries, C-sections, repeat C-sections, VBACs and level of neonatal care according to hospital. The Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council provided information pertaining to average hospital charges and average lengths of hospital stay, C-section rates by county and selected communities, and delivery information according to payer type. All data are for 1995. Due to the fact that the data are from different sources, the figures from one section may not match figures from another section.

Final Word

This report should be used as a starting point. It is designed to help purchasers, providers, policy-makers and consumers ask more informed questions about a variety of C-section issues. No single factor alone can fully measure the quality of care provided. Yet, reducing the number of unnecessary C-sections is one of the best examples of where the interests of cost containment and good medicine come together.



HOW TO OBTAIN QUALITY CARE AND LOWER COSTS

WHAT GROUP PURCHASERS CAN DO:

- Examine the C-section rates for your employees, members, or participants.
- Provide information to employees, perhaps in health newsletters, about hospitals with low C-section rates, and with information about vaginal births after C-sections.

WHAT INSURERS/HEALTH PLANS CAN DO:

- Select physicians and hospitals with appropriate C-section rates as preferred providers.
- Educate subscribers about the issue of vaginal births after C-sections.
- Compare your subscriber population to those of other insurers and payers.

WHAT MEDICAL PROVIDERS CAN DO:

- Compare your rates, lengths of stay, and charges to other hospitals and identify opportunities for cost reductions and quality improvement.
- Educate patients about the positive aspects of a vaginal birth after a C-section (VBAC).

WHAT POLICY-MAKERS CAN DO:

- Compare public-program populations to other subscriber populations.
- Use small area analysis data to identify geographic areas where C-sections may be over-utilized.

WHAT CONSUMERS CAN DO:

- Establish good communications with your doctor.
- Do not request a C-section without a medical reason or as a matter of routine. **Depend on your doctor's judgment if he or she says the procedure is medically necessary.**
- Ask about the hospital's capabilities in performing immediate C-sections. This would include having an anesthesiologist or anesthesiologist present in the hospital at all times.
- If you are uncomfortable with the hospital your physician recommends, ask about an alternative facility. Physicians often practice at multiple hospitals.
- Research one of the publications available which provide detailed information about preparing for pregnancy and delivery as well as providing additional questions to ask your physician and hospital. Hospitals and physicians often have different policies and approaches regarding childbirth.

DELIVERY INFORMATION BY HOSPITAL, 1995

Delivery Information by Hospital, 1995

Hospitals

The hospitals in this report include Pennsylvania birthing hospitals with 50 or more deliveries in 1995. The hospital names are listed as they were reported in 1995 and may have changed since then. These data do not include Pennsylvania residents who gave birth out of state.

High-Risk Cases and Level of Neonatal Care

Most hospitals in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are prepared for childbirth deliveries, although they may differ in their expertise, approach, policies, and abilities to deal with different kinds of patients, such as high-risk patients. *It is important to note that certain hospitals may have a higher C-section rate because they specialize in high-risk pregnancies.* In these types of pregnancies, it is more likely that a C-section will be medically necessary. One way to identify such hospitals is to look at the level of neonatal unit care located in the first set of tables.

A level of neonatal care is assigned based upon the types of inpatient services available. The levels apply to the hospital's status as of June 30, 1995 only, and may be different today.

Level 1 hospitals are able to care for low-risk patients admitted to the obstetrical service. They can care for the mother after delivery and for healthy babies until discharge. They should have an established system for identifying high-risk patients who should be transferred to a hospital which provides Level 2 or Level 3 care, and for the transfer of unexpectedly small or sick babies.

Level 2 hospitals take low-risk cases as well, but also have expertise in managing high-risk mothers and newborns.

Level 3 hospitals provide comprehensive care for mothers and newborns of all risk categories.

Hospital Charges and Lengths of Stay

The tables related to hospital average charges and length of stay are important in highlighting the cost and resource implications of reducing the rate of C-sections. These figures are case-mix adjusted to account for the fact that not all hospitals treat the same kinds of patients. The adjusted figures allow you to more fairly compare hospitals which treat a greater number of complex (and more costly) cases with those that treat less complicated ones.

The charges reported are for services billed to the patient by the hospital, or to whoever is paying for the patient's care. They do not reflect physician fees, which are billed separately. These figures are derived from hospital billing forms, which list the actual charges for each patient. However, hospitals usually do not receive full reimbursement of their charges, having negotiated discounts with insurance companies or other large purchasers of health services. The amount actually collected by the hospital may differ substantially from the amount billed.

An analogy can be made to the purchase of an automobile. Each automobile has a manufacturer's suggested list price (the charge). But the amount the buyer actually pays depends upon his or her ability to negotiate a discount from that charge. Purchasers of fleet vehicles have greater clout in negotiating discounts than do the buyers of a single vehicle. In the same way, large employers have greater purchasing power when buying insurance or negotiating health care discounts than do privately or self-insured individuals.

The average length of stay is another important measure which illustrates the cost and quality implications of a vaginal delivery compared to a C-section. The average length of hospitalization for a C-section was twice that for a vaginal delivery in Pennsylvania hospitals in 1995. A greater emphasis on reducing unnecessary repeat C-sections would reduce health care costs and enable mothers to return home sooner with their newborns.

Region Definitions

Region 1

Allegheny County
 Armstrong County
 Beaver County
 Fayette County
 Greene County
 Washington County
 Westmoreland County

Region 2

Butler County*
 Cameron County
 Clarion County
 Clearfield County
 Crawford County
 Elk County
 Erie County
 Forest County
 Jefferson County
 Lawrence County
 McKean County
 Mercer County
 Potter County
 Venango County
 Warren County

Region 3

Bedford County
 Blair County
 Cambria County
 Indiana County
 Somerset County

Region 4

Centre County
 Clinton County
 Columbia County
 Lycoming County
 Mifflin County
 Montour County
 Northumberland County
 Snyder County
 Tioga County
 Union County

Region 5

Adams County
 Cumberland County
 Dauphin County
 Franklin County
 Fulton County
 Huntingdon County
 Juniata County
 Lancaster County
 Lebanon County
 Perry County
 York County

Region 6

Bradford County
 Lackawanna County
 Luzerne County
 Monroe County
 Pike County
 Sullivan County
 Susquehanna County
 Wayne County
 Wyoming County

Region 7

Berks County
 Carbon County
 Lehigh County
 Northampton County
 Schuylkill County

Region 8

Bucks County
 Chester County
 Delaware County
 Montgomery County

Region 9

Philadelphia County

* Butler Memorial Hospital is displayed in Region 1 due to the request of the hospital

Delivery Information by Hospital, 1995
Region 1

Hospital	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Neonatal Level
Allegheny General Hospital	1,614	364	22.6	123	60	32.8	3
Allegheny Valley Hospital	585	165	28.2	66	7	9.6	1
Armstrong County Memorial Hospital	524	126	24.0	65	24	27.0	1
Butler Memorial Hospital	1,103	272	24.7	101	28	21.7	1
Citizens General Hospital	304	55	18.1	23	19	45.2	1
Forbes Regional Hospital	1,468	240	16.3	96	83	46.4	2
Frick Hosp & Community Health Center	508	89	17.5	38	14	26.9	1
Jeannette District Memorial Hospital	394	110	27.9	42	11	20.8	1
Latrobe Area Hospital	855	160	18.7	57	45	44.1	2
Magee Womens Hospital	8,580	1,438	16.8	490	485	49.7	3
McKeesport Hospital	397	62	15.6	28	13	31.7	2
Medical Center, Beaver, PA, Inc	1,528	292	19.1	128	68	34.7	2
Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh	1,384	218	15.8	77	57	42.5	3
Monongahela Valley Hospital	554	87	15.7	37	27	42.2	1
Monsour Medical Center	67	23	34.3	11	7	38.9	1
Ohio Valley General Hospital	473	146	30.9	73	9	11.0	1
Passavant Hospital	671	125	18.6	56	33	37.1	2
Saint Clair Memorial Hospital	1,242	278	22.4	131	49	27.2	1
Saint Francis Medical Center	722	122	16.9	50	19	27.5	2
Sewickley Valley Hospital	902	153	17.0	54	31	36.5	1
Shadyside Hospital	678	134	19.8	45	31	40.8	1
Uniontown Hospital	895	125	14.0	50	74	59.7	1
Washington Hospital	1,067	152	14.2	59	46	43.8	1
Western Pennsylvania Hospital	1,849	410	22.2	133	95	41.7	3
Westmoreland Regional Hospital	896	113	12.6	48	62	56.4	2
Region 1, 1995	29,267	5,460	18.7	2,081	1,397	40.2	
Statewide, 1995	151,105	30,489	20.2	11,513	6,234	35.1	

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, 1995

Hospital	Vaginal Deliveries		C-Section Deliveries	
	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge
Allegheny General Hospital	1.7	\$5,100	3.6	\$8,800
Allegheny Valley Hospital	1.8	\$4,800	3.1	\$7,700
Armstrong County Memorial Hospital	1.6	\$2,500	3.1	\$6,000
Butler Memorial Hospital	1.5	\$3,600	2.7	\$6,500
Citizens General Hospital	1.7	\$3,800	3.3	\$6,900
Forbes Regional Hospital	1.7	\$3,800	3.2	\$5,700
Frick Hosp & Community Health Center	1.7	\$3,200	3.3	\$6,000
Jeannette District Memorial Hospital	1.5	\$2,500	3.2	\$7,400
Latrobe Area Hospital	1.5	\$3,200	2.9	\$5,500
Magee Womens Hospital	1.8	\$4,400	3.6	\$7,200
McKeesport Hospital	1.7	\$4,000	2.9	\$6,100
Medical Center, Beaver, PA, Inc	1.5	\$3,000	3.1	\$4,900
Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh	1.6	\$3,100	3.6	\$5,800
Monongahela Valley Hospital	1.7	\$3,300	3.3	\$6,400
Monsour Medical Center	2.0	\$5,200	3.4	\$9,700
Ohio Valley General Hospital	1.6	\$5,400	2.8	\$8,800
Passavant Hospital	1.7	\$1,600	3.3	\$3,400
Saint Clair Memorial Hospital	1.7	\$4,100	3.4	\$6,200
Saint Francis Medical Center	1.5	\$3,100	3.3	\$6,400
Sewickley Valley Hospital	1.5	\$3,900	3.1	\$7,100
Shadyside Hospital	1.6	\$3,700	3.3	\$8,100
Uniontown Hospital	1.7	\$3,200	3.2	\$5,400
Washington Hospital	1.6	\$4,400	2.9	\$8,200
Western Pennsylvania Hospital	1.8	\$6,000	3.8	\$11,000
Westmoreland Regional Hospital	1.6	\$3,500	3.7	\$7,200
Region 1, 1995	1.7	\$4,000	3.4	\$7,100
Statewide, 1995	1.7	\$3,700	3.5	\$7,300

Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

Delivery Information by Hospital, 1995
Region 2

Hospital	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Neonatal Level
Bradford Regional Medical Center	359	75	20.9	28	7	20.0	1
Brookville Hospital	118	40	33.9	20	1	4.8	1
Charles Cole Memorial Hospital	339	58	17.1	29	10	25.6	1
Clarion Hospital	355	116	32.7	38	5	11.6	1
Clearfield Hospital	519	132	25.4	52	5	8.8	1
Corry Memorial Hospital	259	66	25.5	35	14	28.6	1
DuBois Regional Medical Center	716	177	24.7	72	44	37.9	3
Elk County Regional Medical Center	111	48	43.2	20	2	9.1	1
Ellwood City Hospital	308	84	27.3	30	13	30.2	1
Hamot Medical Center	1,494	321	21.5	136	28	17.1	3
Horizon Medical System	617	115	18.6	49	28	36.4	1
Jameson Memorial Hospital	509	103	20.2	43	16	27.1	1
Meadville Medical Center	634	97	15.3	39	21	35.0	1
Metro Health Center	243	51	21.0	27	9	25.0	1
Millcreek Community Hospital	253	62	24.5	25	2	7.4	1
Northwest Medical Center	420	106	25.2	41	21	33.9	1
Punxsutawney Area Hospital	223	67	30.0	22	9	29.0	1
Saint Francis Hospital of New Castle	180	36	20.0	11	10	47.6	1
Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center	351	119	33.9	46	7	13.2	1
Saint Vincent Health Center	1,769	380	21.5	121	65	34.9	2
Sharon Regional Health System	741	114	15.4	44	32	42.1	1
Titusville Area Hospital	325	48	14.8	17	8	32.0	1
United Community Hospital	323	81	25.1	32	21	39.6	1
Warren General Hospital	441	73	16.6	25	3	10.7	1
Region 2, 1995	11,654	2,578	22.1	1,006	384	27.6	
Statewide, 1995	151,105	30,489	20.2	11,513	6,234	35.1	

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, 1995

Hospital	Vaginal Deliveries		C-Section Deliveries	
	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge
Bradford Regional Medical Center	2.1	\$2,500	3.4	\$5,500
Brookville Hospital	1.5	\$1,800	2.9	\$4,600
Charles Cole Memorial Hospital	1.6	\$1,800	2.9	\$4,400
Clarion Hospital	1.6	\$2,200	3.0	\$4,800
Clearfield Hospital	1.6	\$2,000	3.1	\$4,600
Corry Memorial Hospital	1.7	\$2,100	3.3	\$5,800
DuBois Regional Medical Center	1.6	\$2,300	2.8	\$4,600
Elk County Regional Medical Center	1.5	\$1,800	2.7	\$6,600
Ellwood City Hospital	1.5	\$2,200	2.9	\$4,000
Hamot Medical Center	1.8	\$3,700	3.6	\$7,800
Horizon Hospital System	1.4	\$2,500	2.9	\$5,800
Jameson Memorial Hospital	1.6	\$2,600	3.3	\$5,100
Meadville Medical Center	1.6	\$1,800	3.4	\$4,200
Metro Health Center	1.6	\$1,900	2.8	\$4,000
Millcreek Community Hospital	2.0	\$2,800	3.6	\$7,100
Northwest Medical Center	1.5	\$2,200	3.5	\$5,200
Punxsutawney Area Hospital	1.7	\$1,900	3.1	\$3,900
Saint Francis Hospital of New Castle	1.8	\$3,200	3.8	\$5,400
Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center	1.6	\$2,100	2.8	\$4,400
Saint Vincent Health Center	1.8	\$3,200	3.4	\$5,900
Sharon Regional Health System	1.2	\$1,400	2.8	\$4,400
Titusville Area Hospital	1.8	\$2,600	4.2	\$7,100
United Community Hospital	1.9	\$2,100	3.3	\$4,400
Warren General Hospital	1.7	\$2,000	3.8	\$5,900
Region 2, 1995	1.6	\$2,500	3.2	\$5,500
Statewide, 1995	1.7	\$3,700	3.5	\$7,300

Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

Delivery Information by Hospital, 1995
Region 3

Hospital	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Neonatal Level
Altoona Hospital	1,304	268	20.6	112	50	30.9	2
Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital	864	144	16.7	46	23	33.3	3
Good Samaritan Med Ctr/Johnstown	379	92	24.3	31	12	27.9	1
Indiana Hospital	680	66	9.7	33	28	45.9	1
Lee Hospital	413	104	25.2	43	10	18.9	1
Memorial Hospital of Bedford County	298	106	35.6	40	2	4.8	1
Mercy Regional Health System	435	116	26.7	41	11	21.2	2
Nason Hospital	232	60	25.9	25	9	26.5	1
Somerset Hospital Center for Health	461	55	11.9	25	3	10.7	1
Tyrone Hospital	134	22	16.4	7	13	65.0	1
Windber Hospital & Wheeling Clinic	174	55	31.6	27	1	3.6	1
Region 3, 1995	5,375	1,088	20.2	430	162	27.4	
Statewide, 1995	151,105	30,489	20.2	11,513	6,234	35.1	

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, 1995

Hospital	Vaginal Deliveries		C-Section Deliveries	
	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge
Altoona Hospital	1.9	\$3,000	3.3	\$5,300
Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital	1.6	\$3,000	3.1	\$6,600
Good Samaritan Med Ctr/Johnstown	1.9	\$4,400	3.8	\$10,100
Indiana Hospital	1.8	\$3,900	3.3	\$8,000
Lee Hospital	1.8	\$3,100	3.1	\$6,000
Memorial Hospital of Bedford County	2.1	\$2,300	3.2	\$5,100
Mercy Regional Health System	2.2	\$4,600	3.4	\$7,600
Nason Hospital	1.9	\$2,700	3.7	\$6,000
Somerset Hospital Center for Health	1.5	\$1,600	2.6	\$4,200
Tyrone Hospital	1.9	\$2,200	3.4	\$4,000
Windber Hospital & Wheeling Clinic	2.0	\$2,100	3.7	\$5,200
Region 3, 1995	1.8	\$3,100	3.3	\$6,300
Statewide, 1995	1.7	\$3,700	3.5	\$7,300

Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

Delivery Information by Hospital, 1995
Region 4

Hospital	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Neonatal Level
Berwick Hospital Center	255	77	30.2	38	10	20.8	1
Bloomsburg Hospital	602	132	21.9	55	28	33.7	1
Centre Community Hospital	1,180	149	12.6	71	46	39.3	2
Evangelical Community Hospital	763	228	29.9	72	25	25.8	1
Geisinger Medical Center/Danville	1,268	209	16.5	61	88	59.1	3
Lewistown Hospital	751	251	33.4	87	18	17.1	1
Lock Haven Hospital	357	58	16.2	20	6	23.1	1
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital	385	62	16.1	27	17	38.6	1
Sunbury Community Hospital	126	38	30.2	13	6	31.6	1
Williamsport Hospital & Med Center	1,610	383	23.8	155	40	20.5	1
Region 4, 1995	7,298	1,588	21.8	599	284	32.2	
Statewide, 1995	151,105	30,489	20.2	11513	6,234	35.1	

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, 1995

Hospital	Vaginal Deliveries		C-Section Deliveries	
	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge
Berwick Hospital Center	1.7	\$2,200	3.5	\$5,700
Bloomsburg Hospital	1.7	\$2,300	3.1	\$5,100
Centre Community Hospital	1.7	\$2,500	3.4	\$5,900
Evangelical Community Hospital	1.6	\$1,500	3.0	\$3,100
Geisinger Medical Center/Danville	1.5	\$3,000	3.4	\$5,100
Lewistown Hospital	2.1	\$2,700	3.3	\$5,000
Lock Haven Hospital	1.8	\$1,800	3.6	\$4,000
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital	1.7	\$2,000	3.1	\$5,200
Sunbury Community Hospital	2.1	\$1,900	3.0	\$4,400
Williamsport Hospital & Med Center	1.9	\$2,500	3.4	\$5,400
Region 4, 1995	1.7	\$2,400	3.3	\$4,900
Statewide, 1995	1.7	\$3,700	3.5	\$7,300

Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

Delivery Information by Hospital, 1995
Region 5

Hospital	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Neonatal Level
Carlisle Hospital	739	130	17.6	38	25	39.7	1
Chambersburg Hospital	1,117	250	22.4	94	26	21.7	2
Community Hospital of Lancaster	845	206	24.4	95	52	35.4	2
Ephrata Community Hospital	604	119	19.7	50	19	27.5	1
Fulton County Medical Center	79	35	44.3	13	2	13.3	1
Gettysburg Hospital	603	134	22.2	56	14	20.0	1
Good Samaritan Hospital/Lebanon	1,122	243	21.7	89	22	19.8	1
Hanover General Hospital	642	122	19.0	38	23	37.7	1
Harrisburg Hospital	2,927	446	15.2	168	93	35.6	3
Holy Spirit Hospital	475	107	22.5	37	25	40.3	2
J. C. Blair Memorial Hospital	323	67	20.7	28	19	40.4	1
Lancaster General Hospital	2,910	596	20.5	236	126	34.8	3
Memorial Hospital/York	515	78	15.1	29	18	38.3	1
Penn State Univ Hospital/Hershey	1,140	276	24.2	78	50	39.1	3
Polyclinic Medical Center	2,079	392	18.9	160	55	25.6	3
Saint Joseph Hospital Inc./Lancaster	1,092	197	18.0	66	40	37.7	2
Waynesboro Hospital	464	91	19.6	33	17	34.0	1
York Hospital	2,960	493	16.7	169	136	44.6	3
Region 5, 1995	20,676	3,996	19.3	1,484	768	34.1	
Statewide, 1995	151,105	30,489	20.2	11,513	6,234	35.1	

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, 1995

Hospital	Vaginal Deliveries		C-Section Deliveries	
	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge
Carlisle Hospital	1.9	\$2,300	3.6	\$4,800
Chambersburg Hospital	1.6	\$2,700	2.6	\$4,100
Community Hospital of Lancaster	1.4	\$1,800	3.1	\$3,900
Ephrata Community Hospital	1.3	\$1,700	3.2	\$4,200
Fulton County Medical Center	1.6	\$2,800	3.5	\$5,700
Gettysburg Hospital	1.6	\$3,000	3.4	\$6,500
Good Samaritan Hospital/Lebanon	1.8	\$2,400	3.2	\$5,300
Hanover General Hospital	1.6	\$2,000	3.0	\$5,100
Harrisburg Hospital	2.1	\$2,900	3.4	\$6,100
Holy Spirit Hospital	1.7	\$2,600	3.4	\$5,300
J. C. Blair Memorial Hospital	1.9	\$3,600	3.4	\$7,700
Lancaster General Hospital	1.7	\$2,000	3.3	\$3,900
Memorial Hospital/York	1.6	\$3,000	3.4	\$6,000
Penn State Univ Hospital/Hershey	1.9	\$3,100	3.9	\$7,700
Polyclinic Medical Center	1.9	\$3,700	3.4	\$6,500
Saint Joseph Hospital Inc./Lancaster	1.2	\$1,900	3.0	\$3,800
Waynesboro Hospital	1.6	\$2,300	3.5	\$5,000
York Hospital	1.6	\$2,000	3.3	\$3,500
Region 5, 1995	1.7	\$2,500	3.3	\$5,000
Statewide, 1995	1.7	\$3,700	3.5	\$7,300

Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

Delivery Information by Hospital, 1995
Region 6

Hospital	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Neonatal Level
Barnes-Kasson County Hospital	133	29	21.8	12	3	20.0	1
Community Medical Center/Scranton	1,853	422	22.8	172	71	29.2	3
Geisinger Wyoming Valley Med Center	714	147	20.6	63	37	37.0	1
Hazleton Saint Joseph Medical Center	520	117	22.5	61	9	12.9	1
Memorial Hospital Inc./Towanda	297	70	23.6	19	17	47.2	1
Mercy Hospital/Scranton	846	146	17.3	63	31	33.0	1
Mercy Hospital/Wilkes-Barre	363	90	24.8	31	6	16.2	1
Pocono Medical Center	955	232	24.3	111	47	29.7	1
Robert Packer Hospital	835	156	18.7	58	34	37.0	2
Tyler Memorial Hospital	239	64	26.8	30	7	18.9	1
Wayne Memorial Hospital	465	97	20.9	46	21	31.3	1
WVHCS-Hospital, Inc.	1,963	455	23.2	168	69	29.1	1
Region 6, 1995	9,184	2,025	22.0	834	352	29.7	
Statewide, 1995	151,105	30,489	20.2	11,513	6,234	35.1	

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, 1995

Hospital	Vaginal Deliveries		C-Section Deliveries	
	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge
Barnes-Kasson County Hospital	1.8	\$1,600	3.4	\$3,700
Community Medical Center/Scranton	2.2	\$3,800	3.8	\$7,100
Geisinger Wyoming Valley Med Center	1.6	\$2,300	3.2	\$4,700
Hazleton Saint Joseph Medical Center	2.0	\$3,100	3.4	\$7,200
Memorial Hospital Inc./Towanda	1.8	\$2,000	3.6	\$5,500
Mercy Hospital/Scranton	1.9	\$2,700	3.5	\$5,400
Mercy Hospital/Wilkes-Barre	1.9	\$2,500	3.6	\$5,400
Pocono Medical Center	1.7	\$2,300	3.2	\$5,600
Robert Packer Hospital	1.7	\$2,900	3.5	\$5,100
Tyler Memorial Hospital	1.5	\$1,800	3.1	\$5,700
Wayne Memorial Hospital	2.0	*	3.5	*
WVHCS-Hospital, Inc.	2.0	\$3,200	3.3	\$7,000
Region 6, 1995	1.9	\$2,900	3.5	\$6,200
Statewide, 1995	1.7	\$3,700	3.5	\$7,300

* Average charges were excluded from this hospital due to incorrect data submitted by the hospital

Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

Delivery Information by Hospital, 1995
Region 7

Hospital	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Neonatal Level
Allentown Osteopathic Medical Center	504	92	18.3	39	19	32.8	1
Community General Hospital/Reading	652	148	22.7	67	38	36.2	1
Easton Hospital	819	227	27.7	85	24	22.0	2
Gnaden Huetten Memorial Hospital	329	81	24.6	46	8	14.8	1
Good Samaritan Regional Med Center	438	97	22.1	29	16	35.6	1
Lehigh Valley Hospital	3,187	592	18.6	222	165	42.6	3
Palmerton Hospital	191	68	35.6	28	3	9.7	1
Pottsville Hospital & Warne Clinic	461	118	25.6	48	14	22.6	1
Reading Hospital and Medical Center	2,557	444	17.4	148	132	47.1	2
Sacred Heart Hospital/Allentown	579	158	27.3	54	15	21.7	2
Saint Joseph Medical Center	848	149	17.6	70	21	23.1	1
Saint Luke's Hospital of Bethlehem	2,410	582	24.1	214	97	31.2	2
Region 7, 1995	12,987	2,758	21.2	1,050	553	34.5	
Statewide, 1995	151,105	30,489	20.2	11,513	6,234	35.1	

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, 1995

Hospital	Vaginal Deliveries		C-Section Deliveries	
	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge
Allentown Osteopathic Medical Center	1.4	\$3,600	3.3	\$7,100
Community General Hospital/Reading	1.6	\$2,800	3.2	\$7,000
Easton Hospital	1.8	\$2,600	3.6	\$5,600
Gnaden Huetten Memorial Hospital	1.6	\$2,500	3.6	\$6,300
Good Samaritan Regional Med Center	2.0	\$1,900	3.6	\$4,500
Lehigh Valley Hospital	1.5	\$3,300	3.6	\$6,400
Palmerton Hospital	1.8	\$2,000	3.6	\$4,700
Pottsville Hospital & Warne Clinic	2.0	\$2,300	3.5	\$4,900
Reading Hospital and Medical Center	1.9	\$2,100	3.6	\$3,900
Sacred Heart Hospital/Allentown	1.5	\$2,200	3.7	\$5,300
Saint Joseph Medical Center	1.5	\$2,000	3.3	\$5,100
St. Luke's Hospital of Bethlehem	1.7	\$2,700	3.6	\$4,500
Region 7, 1995	1.7	\$2,600	3.5	\$5,300
Statewide, 1995	1.7	\$3,700	3.5	\$7,300

Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

Delivery Information by Hospital, 1995
Region 8

Hospital	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Neonatal Level
Abington Memorial Hospital	3,315	627	18.9	241	137	36.2	3
Brandywine Hospital	774	168	21.7	68	22	24.4	2
Bryn Mawr Hospital	2,037	312	15.3	96	75	43.9	3
Chester County Hospital	2,070	320	15.5	131	90	40.7	2
Crozer-Chester Medical Center	2,649	551	20.8	185	108	36.9	2
Delaware County Memorial Hospital	1,237	259	20.9	102	62	37.8	2
Doylestown Hospital	1,046	214	20.5	92	47	33.8	2
Grand View Hospital	1,117	238	21.3	109	52	32.3	2
Holy Redeemer Hospital & Med Ctr	1,821	372	20.4	178	102	36.4	2
Lankenau Hospital	1,735	408	23.5	155	72	31.7	3
Lower Bucks Hospital	1,410	371	26.3	155	53	25.5	2
Medical College Hosp/Bucks County	251	34	13.5	10	15	60.0	1
Medical College Hosp/Elkins Park	987	234	23.7	94	40	29.9	2
Mercy Catholic Med Center/Fitzgerald	1,391	279	20.1	121	62	33.9	2
Montgomery Hospital	708	149	21.0	52	38	42.2	2
North Penn Hospital	829	197	23.8	77	27	26.0	1
Paoli Memorial Hospital	298	49	16.4	19	7	26.9	1
Phoenixville Hospital	1,289	163	12.6	58	51	46.8	1
Pottstown Memorial Medical Center	780	125	16.0	47	43	47.8	1
Riddle Memorial Hospital	821	181	22.0	86	29	25.2	2
Saint Mary Hospital/Langhorne	1,433	337	23.5	116	57	32.9	2
Suburban General Hospital/Norristown	704	181	25.7	75	31	29.2	1
Region 8, 1995	28,706	5,769	20.1	2,267	1,220	35.0	
Statewide, 1995	151,105	30,489	20.2	11,513	6,234	35.1	

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, 1995

Hospital	Vaginal Deliveries		C-Section Deliveries	
	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge
Abington Memorial Hospital	1.7	\$6,000	3.8	\$11,500
Brandywine Hospital	1.5	\$3,600	3.4	\$7,100
Bryn Mawr Hospital	1.8	\$5,400	3.9	\$10,200
Chester County Hospital	1.8	\$4,400	3.5	\$8,700
Crozer-Chester Medical Center	1.8	\$5,700	3.8	\$12,000
Delaware County Memorial Hospital	1.7	\$5,900	4.0	\$11,700
Doylestown Hospital	1.6	\$3,700	3.6	\$9,600
Grand View Hospital	1.6	\$3,600	3.3	\$7,600
Holy Redeemer Hospital & Med Ctr	1.8	\$5,700	3.6	\$10,200
Lankenau Hospital	2.0	\$5,800	3.7	\$8,900
Lower Bucks Hospital	1.8	\$4,800	3.7	\$8,800
Medical College Hosp/Bucks County	1.6	\$5,300	3.5	\$9,500
Medical College Hosp/Elkins Park	1.7	\$5,300	3.6	\$10,200
Mercy Catholic Med Center/Fitzgerald	1.9	\$4,600	4.0	\$9,800
Montgomery Hospital	1.6	\$4,100	3.6	\$11,300
North Penn Hospital	1.6	\$4,300	3.6	\$8,100
Paoli Memorial Hospital	1.8	\$4,900	3.7	\$10,100
Phoenixville Hospital	1.6	\$3,100	3.6	\$6,500
Pottstown Memorial Medical Center	1.6	\$3,300	3.4	\$9,000
Riddle Memorial Hospital	1.8	\$5,000	3.6	\$11,000
Saint Mary Hospital/Langhorne	1.6	\$6,100	3.3	\$9,800
Suburban General Hospital/Norristown	1.7	\$4,500	3.4	\$9,500
Region 8, 1995	1.7	\$5,000	3.7	\$9,800
Statewide, 1995	1.7	\$3,700	3.5	\$7,300

Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

Delivery Information by Hospital, 1995
Region 9

Hospital	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Neonatal Level
Albert Einstein Medical Center	1,593	255	16.0	82	60	42.3	3
Chestnut Hill Hospital	1,259	257	20.4	96	63	39.6	2
City Avenue Hospital	1,048	189	18.0	69	33	32.4	2
Episcopal Hospital	1,410	158	11.2	60	24	28.6	2
Frankford Hosp of the City of Phila	1,991	449	22.6	188	135	41.8	2
Germantown Hospital & Med Center	510	105	20.6	43	27	38.6	1
Hahnemann University Hospital	1,610	234	14.5	69	74	51.7	3
Hospital of the University of PA	2,397	497	20.7	147	143	49.3	3
Jeanes Hospital	713	203	28.5	66	45	40.5	2
Medical College Hosp/Main Clinical	1,108	248	22.4	76	47	38.2	3
Mercy Catholic Med Ctr/Misericordia	357	56	15.7	11	10	47.6	1
Methodist Hospital	1,357	270	19.9	103	41	28.5	2
Nazareth Hospital	659	171	25.9	72	18	20.0	2
Northeastern Hospital	883	229	25.9	92	12	11.5	1
Parkview Hospital	792	120	15.2	54	44	44.9	1
Pennsylvania Hospital	3,773	893	23.7	266	137	34.0	3
Roxborough Memorial Hospital	280	61	21.8	26	23	46.9	1
Temple University Hospital	1,776	327	18.4	87	82	48.5	3
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital	2,433	505	20.8	155	96	38.2	3
Region 9, 1995	25,958	5,227	20.1	1,762	1,114	38.7	
Statewide, 1995	151,105	30,489	20.2	11,513	6,234	35.1	

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, 1995

Hospital	Vaginal Deliveries		C-Section Deliveries	
	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge	Length of Stay (in days)	Ave Charge
Albert Einstein Medical Center	1.7	\$7,000	4.3	\$13,200
Chestnut Hill Hospital	1.8	\$5,700	3.7	\$11,700
City Avenue Hospital	1.6	\$4,200	4.0	\$8,400
Episcopal Hospital	1.6	\$3,400	3.9	\$7,700
Frankford Hosp of the City of Phila	1.7	\$7,200	3.7	\$12,600
Germantown Hospital & Med Center	1.7	\$6,700	3.7	\$11,600
Hahnemann University Hospital	1.6	\$5,600	4.4	\$12,800
Hospital of the University of PA	1.9	\$6,200	4.6	\$11,800
Jeanes Hospital	1.8	\$5,500	3.9	\$11,800
Medical College Hosp/Main Clinical	1.7	\$6,000	4.4	\$12,300
Mercy Catholic Med Ctr/Misericordia	1.6	\$4,500	3.5	\$9,600
Methodist Hospital	1.6	\$5,100	3.7	\$9,100
Nazareth Hospital	1.6	\$4,000	3.5	\$6,400
Northeastern Hospital	1.4	\$3,900	3.1	\$8,000
Parkview Hospital	1.5	\$3,200	3.2	\$9,200
Pennsylvania Hospital	1.8	\$4,900	3.7	\$8,600
Roxborough Memorial Hospital	1.7	\$3,200	3.6	\$8,600
Temple University Hospital	1.8	\$5,900	3.9	\$13,100
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital	2.0	\$4,800	4.2	\$8,800
Region 9, 1995	1.7	\$5,200	3.9	\$10,200
Statewide, 1995	1.7	\$3,700	3.5	\$7,300

Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

DELIVERY INFORMATION BY PAYER, 1995

Delivery Information by Payer, 1995

The payer section allows for comparisons among C-section rates, VBAC rates, the percentage of C-section admissions, and average length of hospital stay, by the type of insurance plan. The payer categories are aggregate only and not company-specific.

Why is payer information included in this report?

The health care industry is experiencing enormous change. Part of this movement involves a shift in traditional roles, especially as it relates to the management of health care. Payers are evolving from the traditional approach of financing the delivery of health care to one of influencing the organization of the delivery system. While it is important to remember that patients are not treated by payers, it is increasingly the case that in today's market, payers directly or indirectly influence the delivery of care. This takes the form of quality improvement efforts, re-certification, utilization management, promulgation of physician practice guidelines, development of select physician and hospital networks, financial incentives — the increasing “management” of care. Many payers place an emphasis on educating their participants and providers about the appropriate use of health care services. This is particularly important in the case of C-sections, where information about the cost and quality implications of C-sections and VBACs can make a big difference.

As these newly emerging and evolving health systems work to achieve positive outcomes for those belonging to their health plans in the most cost-efficient manner, it is important to monitor and report on these issues. This section contributes to that process, one which will be continued and sharpened in future reports.

Cautions And Limitations

It is important to recognize that efforts to compare payer groups are still in their infancy. These data should be interpreted cautiously. This is just a

starting point; useful as a basis for identifying differences among payers, asking why such differences exist, and for further study. Please keep in mind the following limitations:

1. This report includes data from only one year, a snapshot of what occurred during a limited period of time.
2. The data are from 1995. The marketplace, especially with the market penetration of managed care companies, has changed dramatically. The same categories examined today might show different results.
3. Marked differences in payer populations in terms of social, economic, and behavioral characteristics might put some groups at higher risk of complications leading to C-sections. These data do not adjust for those risks.
4. While payers are exerting an increasing influence upon the delivery of care, it is hospitals and doctors who ultimately provide health care for patients.

What do we mean by payer?

This report includes aggregate information by region according to the following categories: Blue Cross-related fee-for-service plans, Blue Cross-related Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs), Commercial fee-for-service plans, Commercial HMOs, Medicaid fee-for-service, Medicaid HMOs and a category called Other. The subscribers or participants in these programs are aggregated according to the region in which the hospital where they were admitted is located.

What is an HMO?

An HMO provides its subscribers, through a network of selected physicians and hospitals, a basic and supplemental health insurance and treatment package in exchange for a prepaid premium. There are generally no deductibles, small co-payments, and no claims to file. Patient care is managed by a primary care physician, often called a “gatekeeper,” who is responsible for monitoring a patient’s care and deciding when specialized care or tests are needed.

Payer Category Definitions

Blue Cross FFS plans include indemnity fee-for-service Blue Cross subscribers. Due to inter-regional transfers, these data do not refer to a specific Blue Cross plan. This category was not intended to include participants in Blue Cross-related HMO plans. It may include preferred provider and point of service products or options offered by the four Blue Cross plans operating in Pennsylvania.

Blue Cross HMOs include subscribers in those Blue Cross-related plans that are licensed as HMOs with the Pennsylvania Department of Health. It is not intended to include preferred provider and point-of-service products.

Commercial FFS plans include indemnity subscribers to commercial fee-for-service health plans (for example, Aetna, Prudential, Cigna, etc.) Due to inter-regional transfers, these data do not refer to specific commercial health plans. This category was not intended to include participants in commercial insurer-related HMO plans. It may include preferred provider and point-of-service products or options offered by commercial (non Blue Cross-related) plans operating in Pennsylvania.

Commercial HMOs include participants in HMO plans that are licensed as commercial (non Blue Cross) HMOs with the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Due to inter-regional transfers, these data do not refer to specific HMO plans.

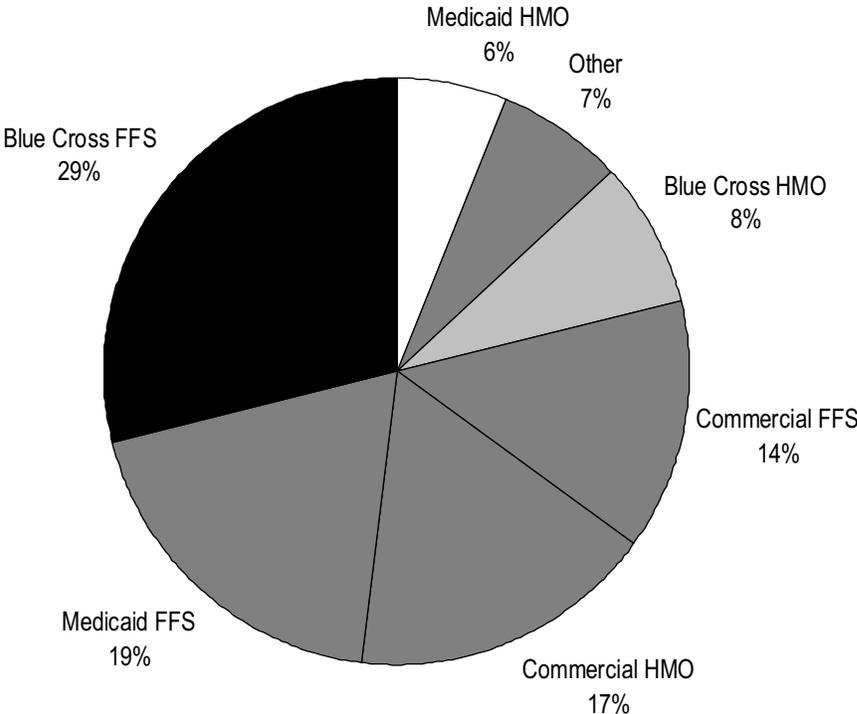
Medicaid FFS plans include recipients in the traditional fee-for-service Medicaid program.

Medicaid HMOs include Medicaid recipients who are enrolled in health maintenance organizations that have contracted with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

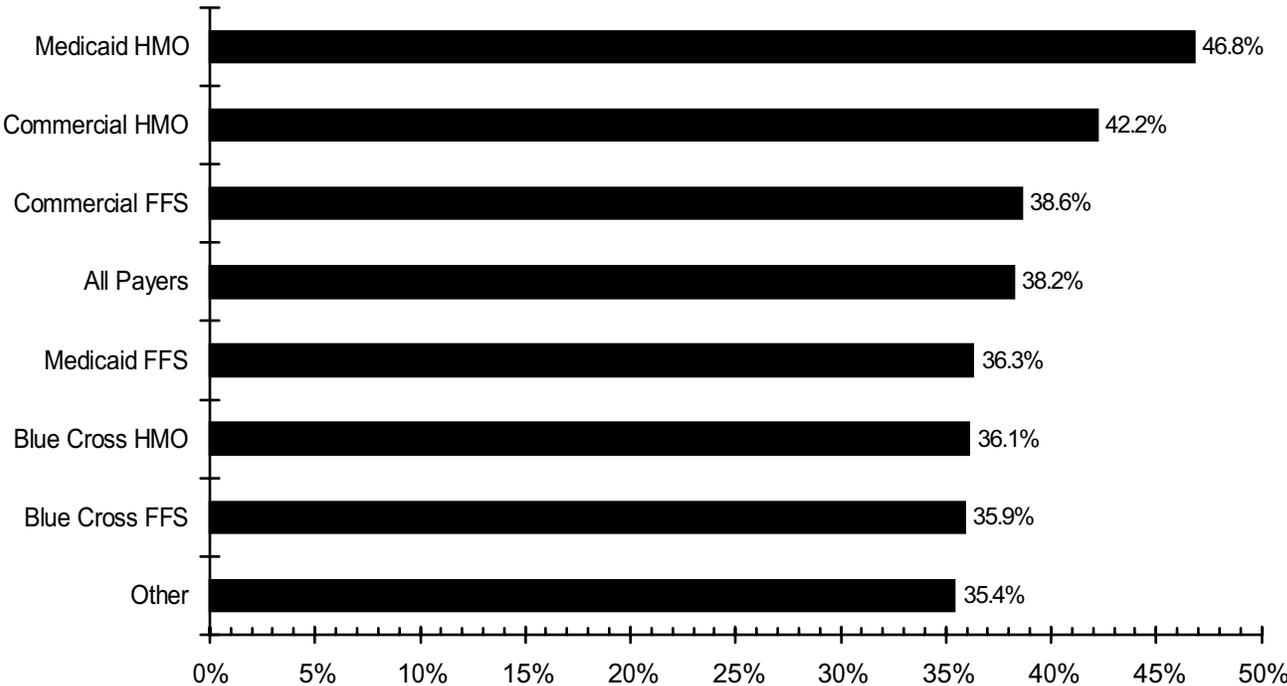
Other includes patients who were covered under Workers’ Compensation, government programs other than Medicaid (for example, CHAMPUS), some self-insured employers and health and welfare funds, associations, self-paying patients or patients without insurance.

Pennsylvania Statewide Distribution of Total C-Section Admissions

Total Statewide C-Section Admissions = 29,537

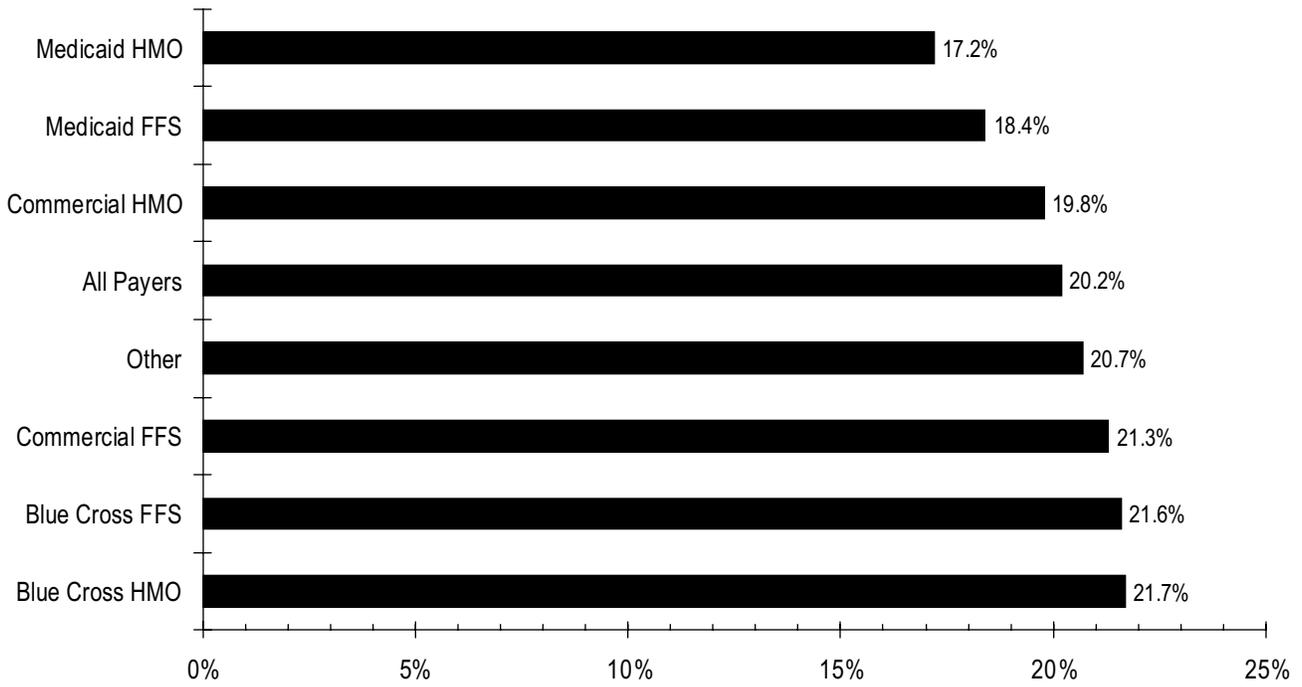


Pennsylvania Statewide VBAC Rates

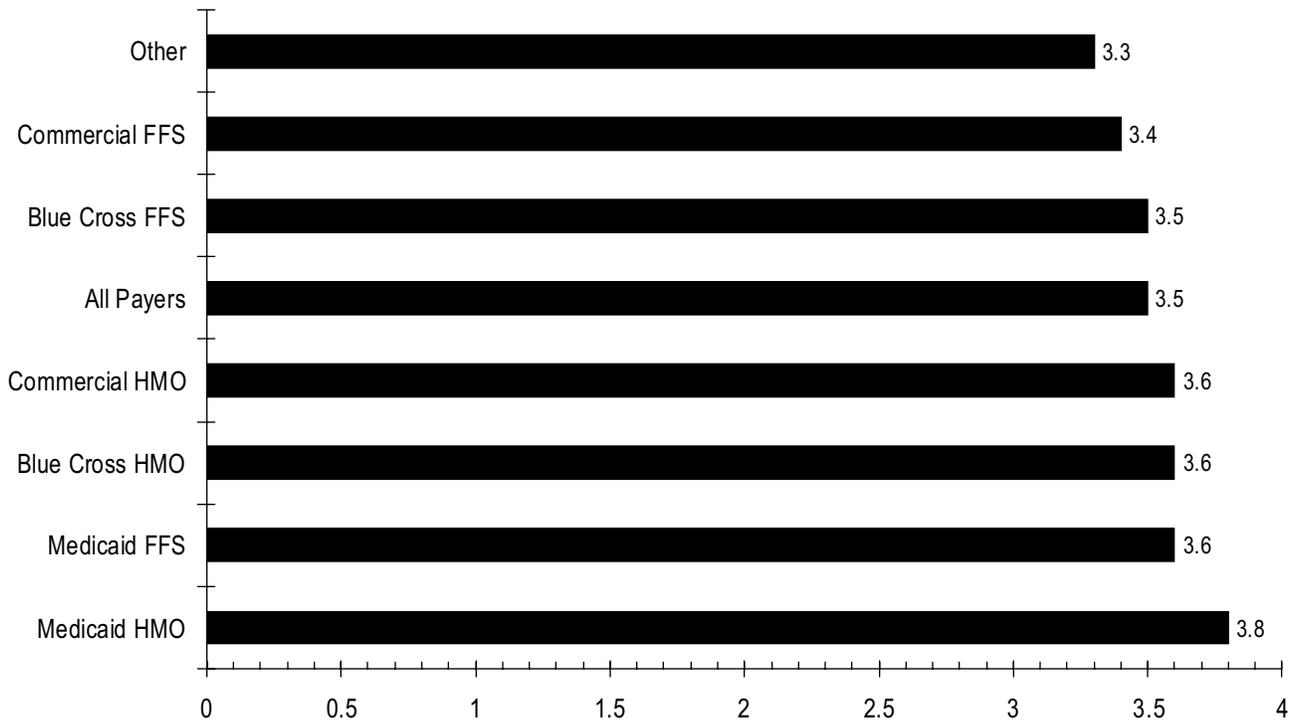


Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

Pennsylvania Statewide C-Section Rates



Pennsylvania Statewide C-Section Length of Stay (in days)



Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

Region Definitions

Region 1

Allegheny County
 Armstrong County
 Beaver County
 Fayette County
 Greene County
 Washington County
 Westmoreland County

Region 2

Butler County*
 Cameron County
 Clarion County
 Clearfield County
 Crawford County
 Elk County
 Erie County
 Forest County
 Jefferson County
 Lawrence County
 McKean County
 Mercer County
 Potter County
 Venango County
 Warren County

Region 3

Bedford County
 Blair County
 Cambria County
 Indiana County
 Somerset County

Region 4

Centre County
 Clinton County
 Columbia County
 Lycoming County
 Mifflin County
 Montour County
 Northumberland County
 Snyder County
 Tioga County
 Union County

Region 5

Adams County
 Cumberland County
 Dauphin County
 Franklin County
 Fulton County
 Huntingdon County
 Juniata County
 Lancaster County
 Lebanon County
 Perry County
 York County

Region 6

Bradford County
 Lackawanna County
 Luzerne County
 Monroe County
 Pike County
 Sullivan County
 Susquehanna County
 Wayne County
 Wyoming County

Region 7

Berks County
 Carbon County
 Lehigh County
 Northampton County
 Schuylkill County

Region 8

Bucks County
 Chester County
 Delaware County
 Montgomery County

Region 9

Philadelphia County

* Payer data from Butler Memorial Hospital is displayed in Region 1 due to the request of the hospital

Delivery Information by Payer, 1995
Region 1

Payer	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Length of Stay Vaginal	C-Section
Blue Cross FFS	10,210	2,005	19.6	782	528	40.3	1.8	3.3
Blue Cross HMO	1,309	237	18.1	97	81	45.5	1.8	3.3
Commercial FFS	3,672	764	20.8	264	202	43.3	1.7	3.3
Commercial HMO	4,424	779	17.6	246	217	46.9	1.6	3.4
Medicaid FFS	6,661	1,052	15.8	341	290	46.0	1.7	3.5
Medicaid HMO	1,103	178	16.1	74	45	37.8	1.5	3.2
Other	1,390	317	22.8	113	49	30.2	1.5	2.9
Region 1, 1995	28,769	5,332	18.5	1,917	1,412	42.4	1.7	3.4
Statewide, 1995	146,974	29,627	20.2	10,646	6,568	38.2	1.7	3.5

Region 2

Payer	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Length of Stay Vaginal	C-Section
Blue Cross FFS	3,701	835	22.6	310	131	29.7	1.7	3.3
Blue Cross HMO	367	89	24.3	36	20	35.7	1.6	3.0
Commercial FFS	1,203	271	22.5	100	51	33.8	1.6	3.2
Commercial HMO	360	95	26.4	43	10	18.9	1.7	3.3
Medicaid FFS	4,007	822	20.5	298	109	26.8	1.6	3.3
Medicaid HMO	267	56	21.0	23	8	25.8	1.6	3.5
Other	871	203	23.3	90	25	21.7	1.6	2.9
Region 2, 1995	10,776	2,371	22.0	900	354	28.2	1.6	3.2
Statewide, 1995	146,974	29,627	20.2	10,646	6,568	38.2	1.7	3.5

Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

Delivery Information by Payer, 1995
Region 3

Payer	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Length of Stay Vaginal	C-Section
Blue Cross FFS	2,135	444	20.8	170	76	30.9	1.8	3.3
Blue Cross HMO	96	23	24.0	10	1	9.1	1.8	3.0
Commercial FFS	524	120	22.9	51	23	31.1	1.8	3.1
Commercial HMO	65	10	15.4	5	4	44.4	1.7	2.5
Medicaid FFS	2,037	388	19.0	120	46	27.7	1.9	3.4
Medicaid HMO	45	8	17.8	0	1	100.0	2.2	3.6
Other	319	62	19.4	19	10	34.5	1.5	3.2
Region 3, 1995	5,221	1,055	20.2	375	161	30.0	1.8	3.3
Statewide, 1995	146,974	29,627	20.2	10,646	6,568	38.2	1.7	3.5

Region 4

Payer	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Length of Stay Vaginal	C-Section
Blue Cross FFS	1,713	429	25.0	139	57	29.1	1.9	3.3
Blue Cross HMO	389	107	27.5	40	12	23.1	2.0	3.4
Commercial FFS	757	161	21.3	67	23	25.6	1.7	3.3
Commercial HMO	1,696	280	16.5	108	89	45.2	1.6	3.3
Medicaid FFS	2,214	474	21.4	164	81	33.1	1.8	3.4
Medicaid HMO	1	0	0.0	0	0	N/A	1.1	N/A
Other	448	121	27.0	45	11	19.6	1.6	3.1
Region 4, 1995	7,218	1,572	21.8	563	273	32.7	1.7	3.3
Statewide, 1995	146,974	29,627	20.2	10,646	6,568	38.2	1.7	3.5

Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

Delivery Information by Payer, 1995
Region 5

Payer	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Length of Stay	
							Vaginal	C-Section
Blue Cross FFS	5,039	1,064	21.1	381	181	32.2	1.8	3.3
Blue Cross HMO	1,873	392	20.9	148	57	27.8	1.8	3.4
Commercial FFS	4,255	896	21.1	327	182	35.8	1.7	3.3
Commercial HMO	1,920	364	19.0	130	90	40.9	1.8	3.4
Medicaid FFS	4,558	794	17.4	280	164	36.9	1.7	3.4
Medicaid HMO	441	70	15.9	25	19	43.2	1.6	3.2
Other	1,953	354	18.1	133	105	44.1	1.5	3.1
Region 5, 1995	20,039	3,934	19.6	1,424	798	35.9	1.7	3.3
Statewide, 1995	146,974	29,627	20.2	10,646	6,568	38.2	1.7	3.5

Region 6

Payer	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Length of Stay	
							Vaginal	C-Section
Blue Cross FFS	2,862	679	23.7	263	94	26.3	2.0	3.5
Blue Cross HMO	1,039	214	20.6	76	27	26.2	2.1	3.5
Commercial FFS	851	185	21.7	69	30	30.3	1.8	3.3
Commercial HMO	607	122	20.1	44	31	41.3	1.7	3.3
Medicaid FFS	2,953	635	21.5	259	79	23.4	1.9	3.5
Medicaid HMO	5	2	40.0	1	1	50.0	2.1	3.3
Other	677	159	23.5	68	14	17.1	1.7	3.2
Region 6, 1995	8,994	1,996	22.2	780	276	26.1	1.9	3.5
Statewide, 1995	146,974	29,627	20.2	10,646	6,568	38.2	1.7	3.5

Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

Delivery Information by Payer, 1995
Region 7

Payer	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Length of Stay Vaginal	C-Section
Blue Cross FFS	4,519	947	21.0	348	247	41.5	1.8	3.5
Blue Cross HMO	349	85	24.4	25	22	46.8	1.8	3.4
Commercial FFS	2,271	528	23.2	194	129	39.9	1.6	3.4
Commercial HMO	1,712	395	23.1	138	93	40.3	1.5	3.5
Medicaid FFS	2,973	572	19.2	206	122	37.2	1.6	3.7
Medicaid HMO	341	55	16.1	23	21	47.7	1.5	3.3
Other	610	105	17.2	39	28	41.8	1.6	3.4
Region 7, 1995	12,775	2,687	21.0	973	662	40.5	1.7	3.5
Statewide, 1995	146,974	29,627	20.2	10,646	6,568	38.2	1.7	3.5

Region 8

Payer	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Length of Stay Vaginal	C-Section
Blue Cross FFS	6,126	1,305	21.3	521	304	36.8	1.9	3.7
Blue Cross HMO	3,891	799	20.5	287	181	38.7	1.8	3.7
Commercial FFS	3,879	750	19.3	282	187	39.9	1.7	3.6
Commercial HMO	8,784	1,723	19.6	631	456	42.0	1.6	3.6
Medicaid FFS	2,275	401	17.6	125	84	40.2	1.7	3.8
Medicaid HMO	1,518	278	18.3	117	76	39.4	1.8	3.8
Other	1,522	326	21.4	118	55	31.8	1.8	3.5
Region 8, 1995	27,995	5,582	19.9	2,081	1,343	39.2	1.7	3.7
Statewide, 1995	146,974	29,627	20.2	10,646	6,568	38.2	1.7	3.5

Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

Delivery Information by Payer, 1995
Region 9

Payer	Total Deliveries	Total C-Sections	C-Section Rate	Repeat C-Sections	Total VBACs	VBAC Rate	Length of Stay	
							Vaginal	C-Section
Blue Cross FFS	3,467	847	24.4	289	173	37.4	1.9	3.9
Blue Cross HMO	2,073	516	24.9	160	96	37.5	1.8	3.8
Commercial FFS	2,002	452	22.6	145	117	44.7	1.8	3.8
Commercial HMO	5,811	1,252	21.5	433	308	41.6	1.6	3.8
Medicaid FFS	3,653	609	16.7	175	146	45.5	1.7	4.3
Medicaid HMO	6,156	1,045	17.0	321	343	51.7	1.7	4.0
Other	2,025	377	18.6	110	106	49.1	1.7	3.9
Region 9, 1995	25,187	5,098	20.2	1,633	1,289	44.1	1.7	3.9
Statewide, 1995	146,974	29,627	20.2	10,646	6,568	38.2	1.7	3.5

Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

**C-SECTION RATES BY COUNTY AND SELECTED
COMMUNITIES, 1995**

C-Section Rates by County and Community, 1995

This information allows you to compare the differences in the C-section rates among the residents of various counties and communities. It may provide a broader picture of physician practice patterns and demographic characteristics in selected communities than can be seen by examining the rates by hospital alone. Community and socioeconomic factors — residents' health status, geographic access to medical facilities, median income, age and other factors — have been demonstrated to have an effect on C-section rates.

To establish community-sized areas, the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council uses a system that groups zip codes and reports a C-section rate for the residents of those areas. These areas are approximations of communities but do not strictly follow municipal lines.

In this section, C-section rates are based on patients' county and community of residence, irrespective of where they were hospitalized. For example, if a resident of Allegheny County is hospitalized for a C-section in Philadelphia, that patient will count towards Allegheny's hospitalization rate, not Philadelphia's rate.

What information does this section include?

In this section, each Pennsylvania county's rate is compared to the statewide rate. In other words, the data show whether a county is above or below the state rate and whether the difference is statistically significant. The same formula is applied to community-size areas, although only significant differences are shown. It is important to note that communities are defined by zip codes. They do not follow minor civil division lines precisely and may include zip codes from nearby communities or surrounding areas. A full listing of zip codes and corresponding communities is available from the Council upon request.

These data are age adjusted, according to the state rate, meaning that differences among geographic areas are not attributable to age. The data include

only Pennsylvania residents admitted to Pennsylvania hospitals.

Why is this information according to County/Communities important?

These data point out differences in C-section rates, according to where patients live. *These variations provide a broader picture of the utilization of C-section procedures than can be seen by examining only hospital-specific rates.* They can help to raise important questions about the differences among communities. By identifying differences in population-based rates, the possible reasons for those differences can be analyzed.

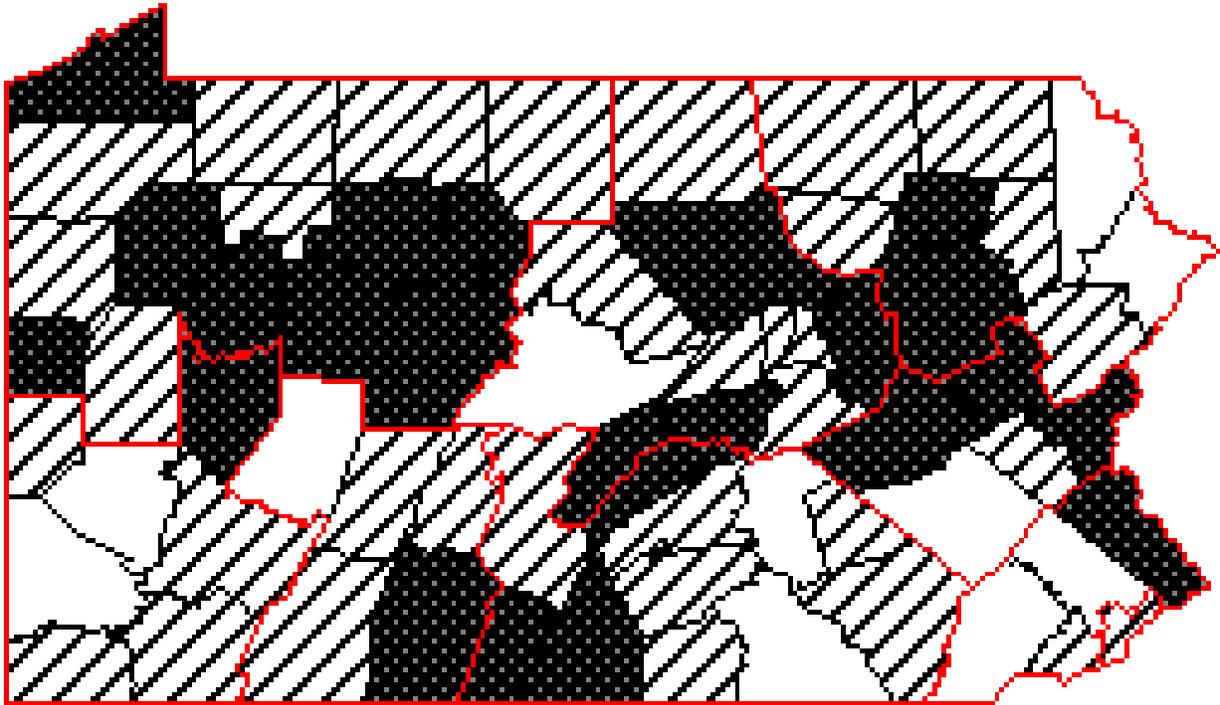
Why do these differences exist?

There are well-documented risk factors which may contribute to variation in admission and complication rates. Socioeconomic factors, such as accessibility to medical care, type of insurance coverage, income level and the level of education, may impact C-section rates. The variations may also be related to physician practice patterns.

For example, suppose the residents of a given community have a C-section rate that is significantly greater than the state rate. Is that due to the health status of the community, which may be related to socioeconomic or other factors? If so, can prevention and health education efforts be better targeted or increased in this area? Is the rate influenced by the effectiveness of the health care system in treating patients? Is it due to provider practice patterns or patient preferences which could be changed with appropriate educational programs?

The usefulness of these type of data is to provide a broad descriptive picture, and to serve as a point of departure for more in-depth data collection, analysis and planning.

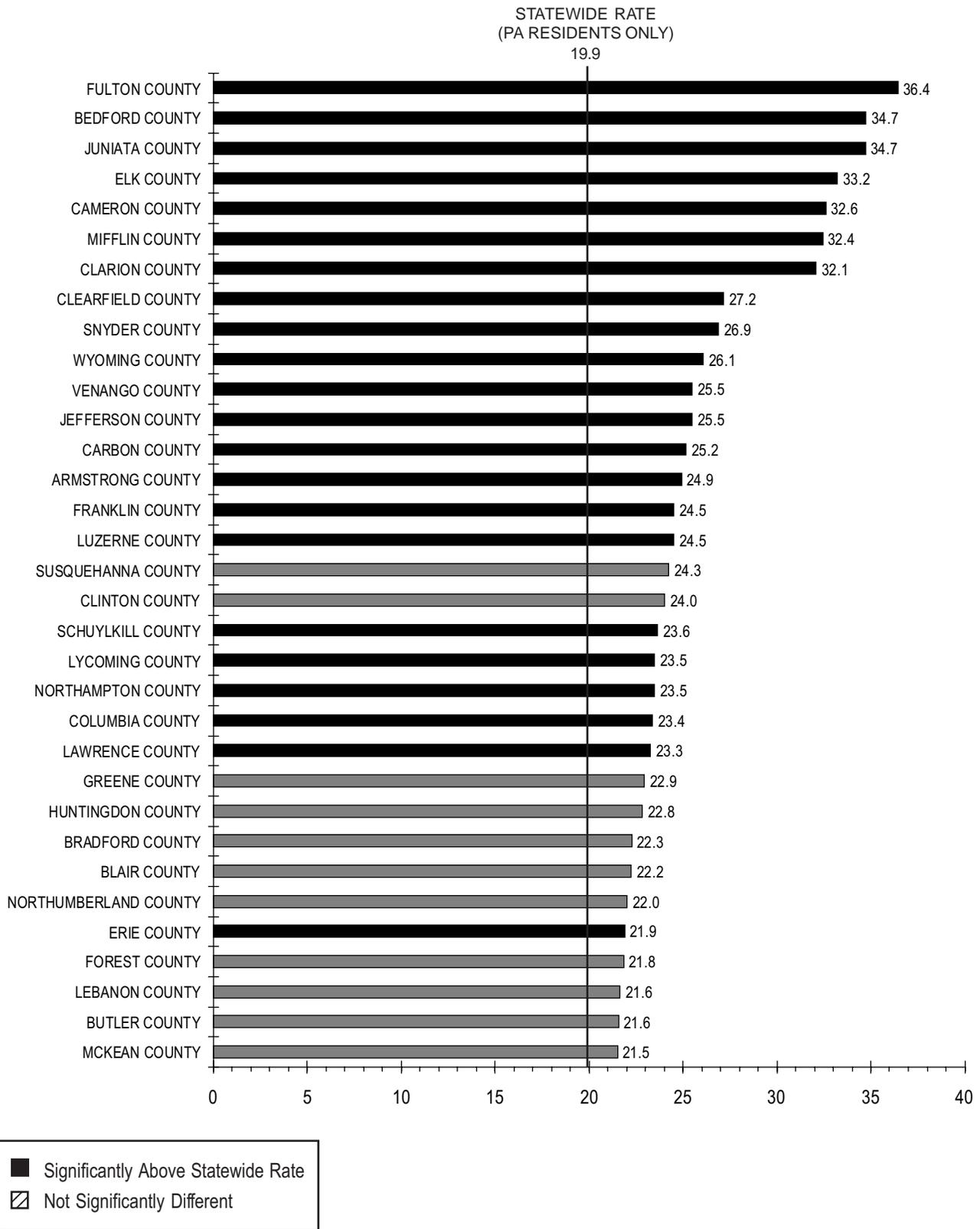
C-Section Rates by County, 1995



- Significantly Above Statewide Rate
- ▨ Not Significantly Different
- Significantly Below Statewide Rate

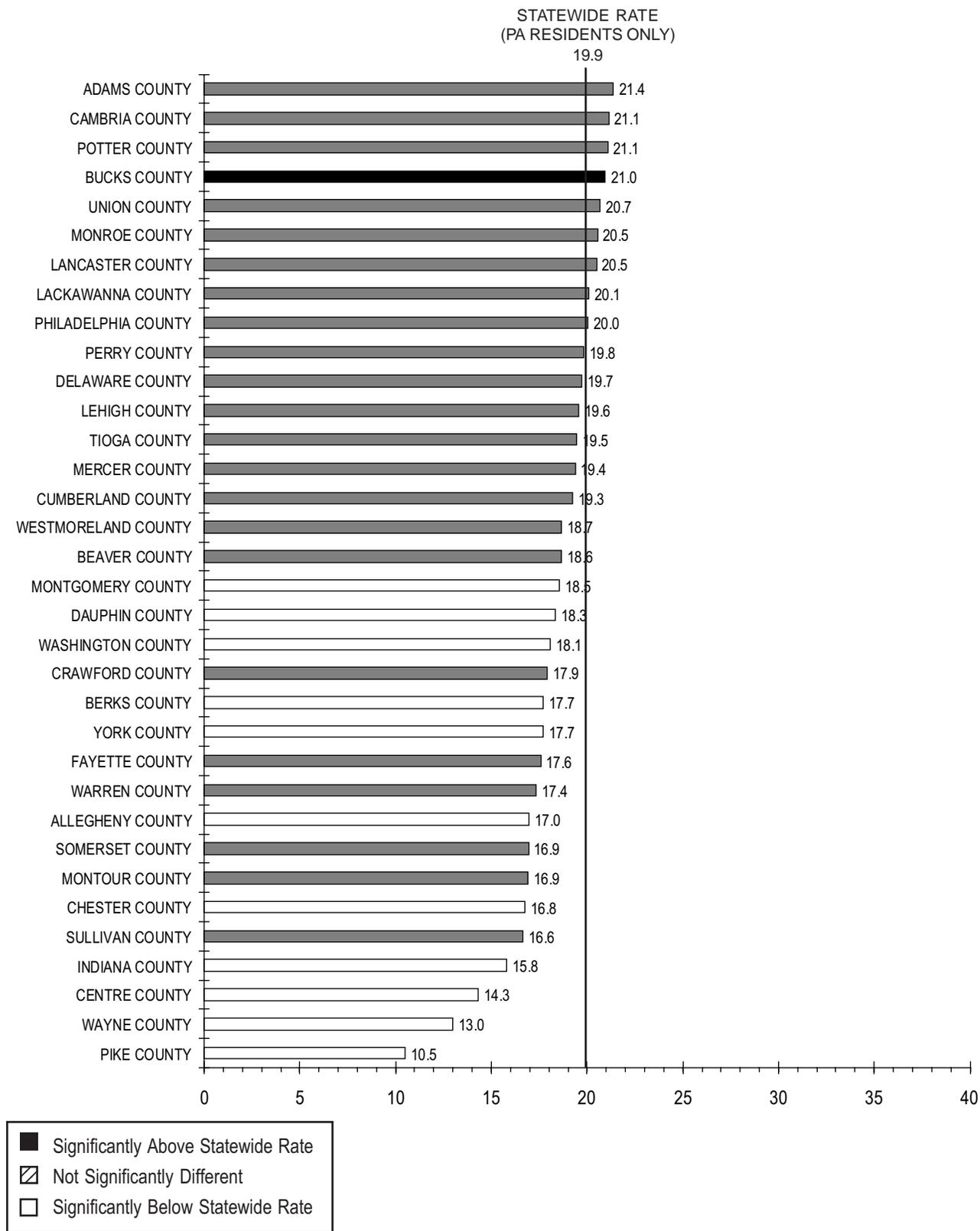
A Note About Statistical Significance: The county and community-specific data to follow are displayed according to whether their C-section rates are significantly above or below the state rate. A statistical test, known as a Chi-Square Test, is performed to determine statistical significance. In the graphs to follow, however, there may appear to be some discrepancies in the way counties and communities are listed according to their difference from the statewide rate. This has to do with the way the statistics are calculated. For example, Bucks County's rate is listed as significantly above the statewide rate, yet has a lower rate than Greene County which is listed as not significantly different. This is because there are significantly more cases in Bucks County, therefore, we can assert with greater confidence that Bucks' rate is significantly higher than the state rate. With Greene County and others, we cannot predict with confidence that their rates are significantly different, due to small numbers.

C-Section Rates by County, Pennsylvania Residents, 1995



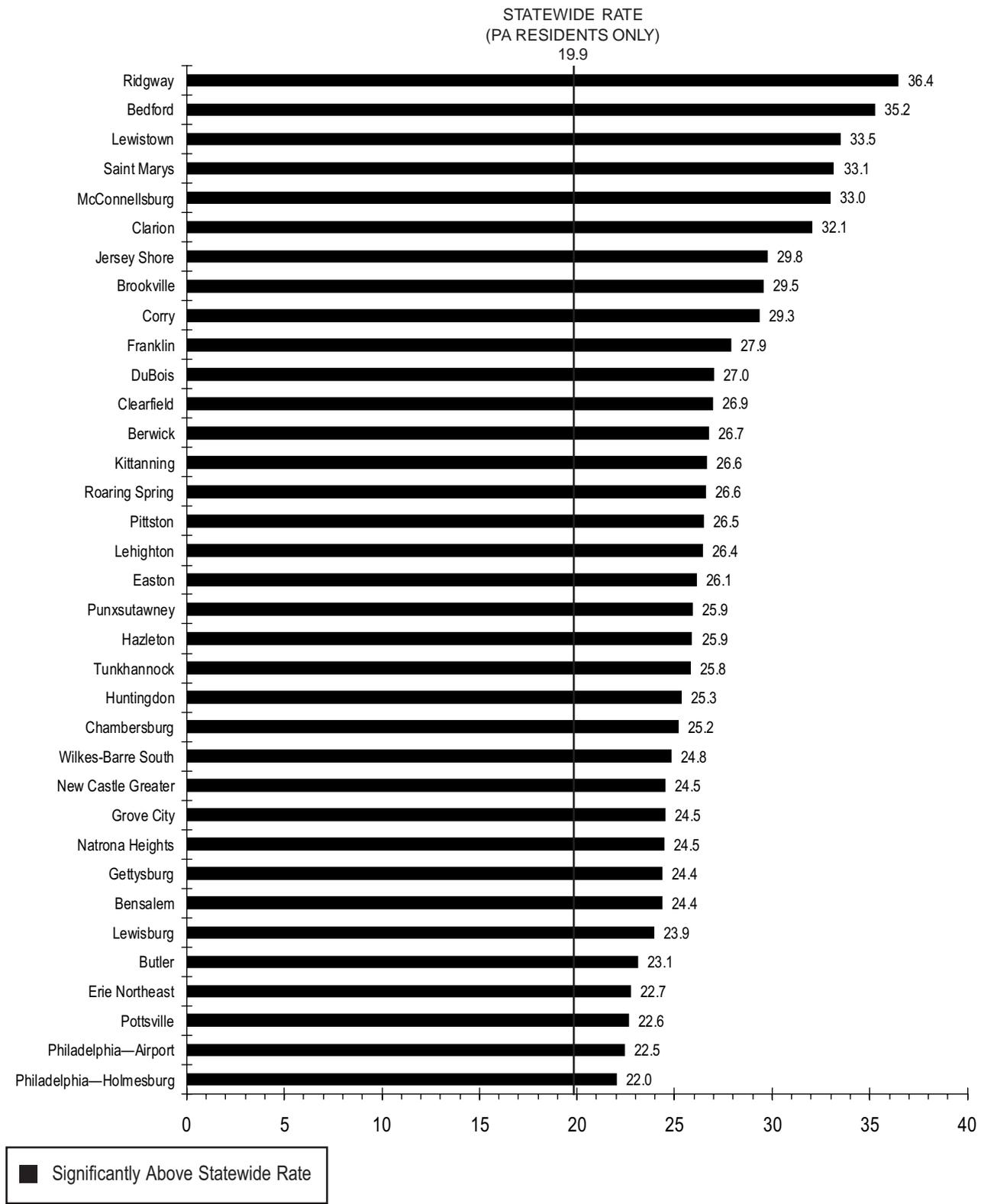
Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

C-Section Rates by County, Pennsylvania Residents, 1995



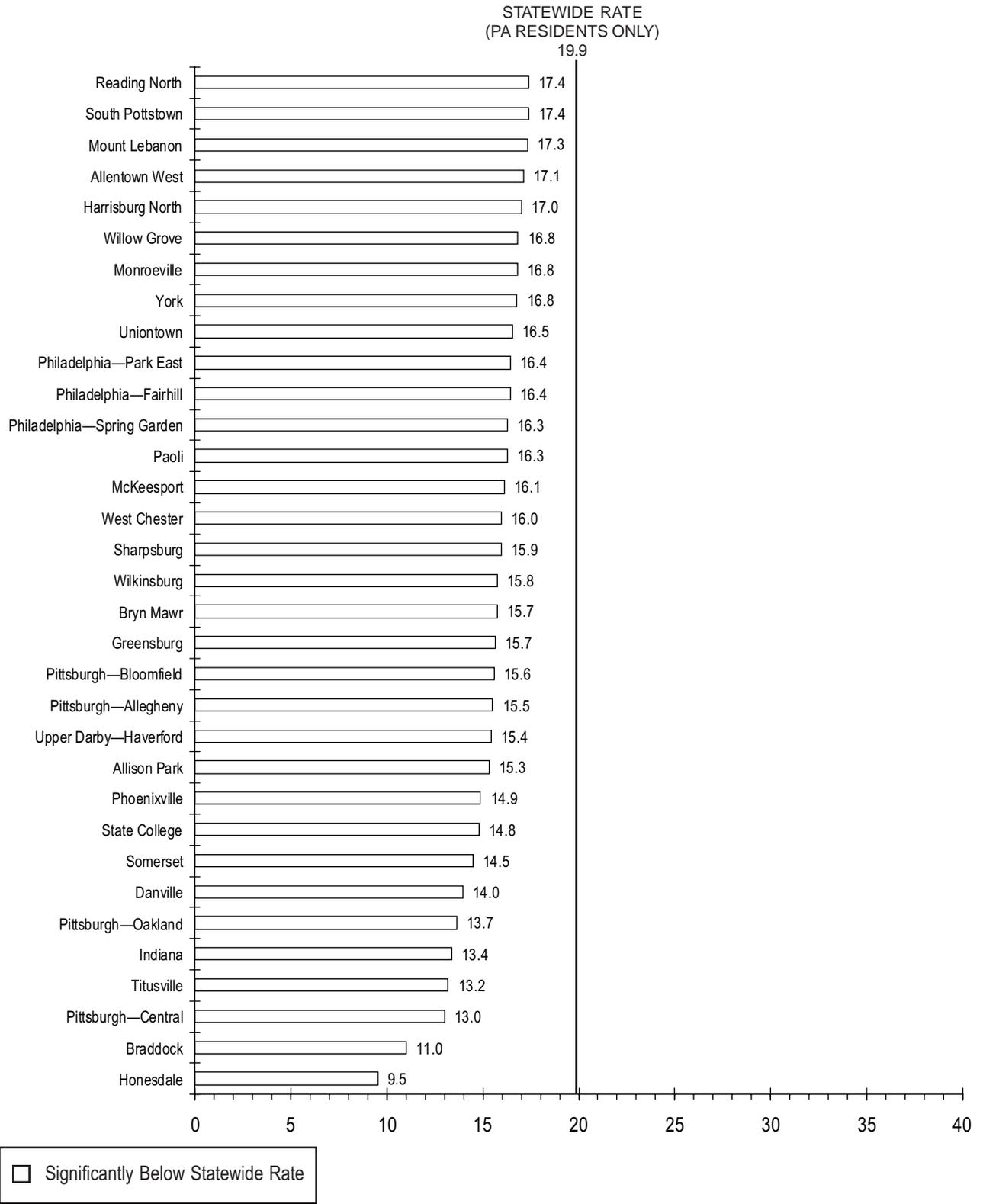
Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

C-Section Rates by Selected Communities, Pennsylvania Residents, 1995



Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995

C-Section Rates by Selected Communities, Pennsylvania Residents, 1995



Source: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 1995



Tom Ridge, Governor
Daniel F. Hoffmann, Secretary of Health

Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council

Donald L. Zimmerman, Ph.D., Executive Director