LABOUR AND BIRTH IN CANADA

389,912 births a year in Canada

Where women give birth in Canada







BIRTHING CENTRE

The majority of women:

- report that their overall experience of labour and birth was positive
- had their husband or partner with them during labour and birth



6% of women of reproductive age have a **disability**



46% of adult women are overweight or obese



27% of pregnancies are affected by a **chronic illness**



3% of all births are multiple births



20% of all births are among women over 35 years old



8% of infants are born **prematurely**



4% of total births are affected by a **congenital anomaly**

INTERVENTIONS

Epidural rates have **RISEN** from 53.2% in 2006/07 to 57.8% in 2015/16.

Induction rates have **RISEN** from 12.9% in 1991/92 to 21.8% in 2004/05.

Assisted vaginal birth rates have DECLINED from 17.4% in 1991/92 to 13.2% in 2015/16. The rate of vacuum extraction has INCREASED from 6.8% to 9.2% while the rate of forceps-assisted birth has DECLINED from 11.2% to 3.4% over that same period.

Caesarean births have RISEN from 17.6% in 1995/96 to 27.9% in 2015/16.

Vaginal births after caesarean (VBAC) have DECLINED dramatically, with the repeat caesarean birth rate having INCREASED from 64.7% in 1995/96 to 81.0% in 2015/16.

For references consult Chapter 4: Care during Labour and Birth in: Public Health Agency of Canada. Family-Centred Maternity and Newborn Care: National Guidelines. Ottawa (ON): PHAC; 2018.

For more information about the **Family-Centred Maternity and Newborn Care: National Guidelines**, or to download this document, please search "maternity and newborn care" on **CANADA.CA**.

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