

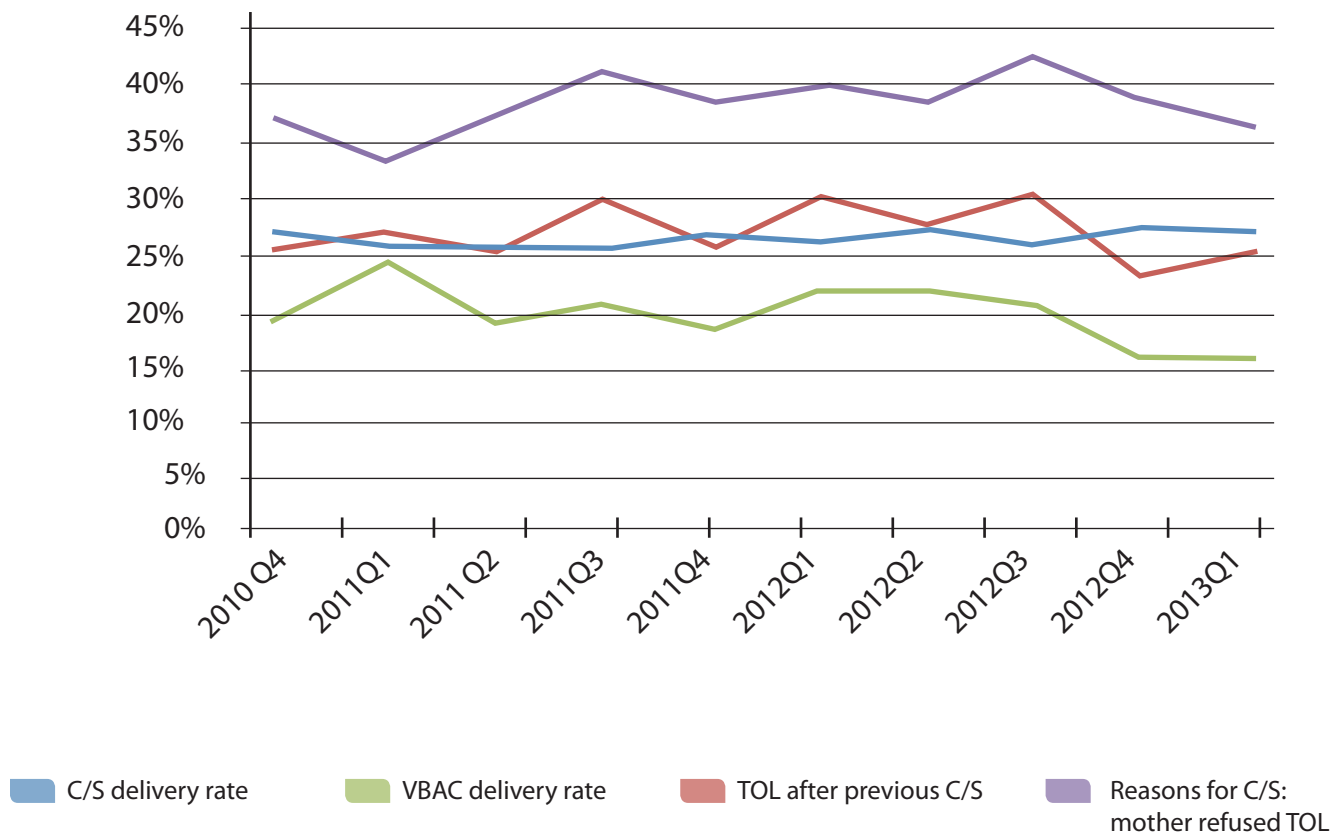
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## Cesarean Birth in Wisconsin



The following is a report of Cesarean births in Wisconsin for two and a half years, from 2010 quarter four through 2013 quarter one. The data sources for this report are PeriData.Net® aggregate reports. The report includes data from **127,058** deliveries (mothers giving birth) in 66 Wisconsin birth hospitals. Data are reported in such a manner to prevent identification of patients and hospitals.

**Cesarean birth rate, Wisconsin, October 2010 to March 2013**



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The report demonstrates the following:

1. The Cesarean delivery rate (percent of mothers delivering one or more babies born via Cesarean delivery in the index pregnancy) in Wisconsin remained stable throughout the 10 quarter period (average 25.9%, range 25.3-26.6%)  
The National Center for Health Statistics reports the preliminary Cesarean delivery rates of 31.3% among singleton births from 2009-2011 (NCHS Data Brief, No. 124, June 2013) and 32.8% for 2012 (National Vital Statistics Reports: Vol.63, No.9, December 30, 2013.)
2. The percent of deliveries in which a trial of labor was attempted after a previous Cesarean delivery increased to 29.7% in the 3rd quarter of 2012. The percent of deliveries in which a trial of labor was attempted decreased in the 4th quarter of 2012 (23.0%), but increased slightly in the first quarter of 2013 (24.8%).
3. The percent of women refusing a trial of labor after a previous Cesarean delivery decreased to 35.7% in the first quarter of 2013.
4. The VBAC rates were relatively stable until the 4th quarter of 2012 and the 1st quarter of 2013, when they decreased to 15.5% and 15.3%, respectively.

**Interpretation:** The Wisconsin rate for Cesarean birth was 26.1% in 2010. The data presented here suggest that in Wisconsin, the Cesarean birth rate has remained relatively constant over the 10 quarters presented. Overall, from the 4th quarter of 2010 to the 1st quarter of 2013, there have been no significant changes in rates of trial of labor after Cesarean and rates of maternal refusal of trial of labor. There has been a trend toward decreasing VBAC delivery rates.

**Data to decision:** The goal of this report is to establish a baseline for future comparisons to measure Wisconsin's efforts to reduce primary Cesarean deliveries and subsequent repeat Cesarean births. The current data have policy, practice, and research implications.

**Policy:** PeriData.Net® provides the most current data to measure the effectiveness of programs.

**Practice:** There remains a need to provide decision support tools and to educate consumers and providers about: a) reducing the rate of primary Cesarean deliveries, and b) raising awareness of the risks and benefits to mothers and infants associated with repeat Cesarean deliveries. Examples of such tools include the [WAPC Cesarean Reduction Toolkit](#) and resources from AWHONN, March of Dimes, and Wisconsin Hospital Association.

**Research:** Current aggregate data are useful in assessing the rate of and possible contributing factors to Cesarean births in Wisconsin. Further, PeriData.Net® gives hospitals access to their own data in real time, offering them the ability to make immediate changes in the quality improvement cycle.

PeriData.Net® is a joint initiative of the Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care (WAPC), the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee/Center for Urban Population Health, and Wisconsin birth hospitals. Formed in 1970, WAPC provides leadership and education for improved perinatal health outcomes of women, infants, and families. If you have questions about hospital owned data, or are interested in participating in PeriData.Net®, please contact [wapc@perinatalweb.org](mailto:wapc@perinatalweb.org) or 608-285-5858.



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