

A TALE OF TWO BIRTHS

IN CALIFORNIA

SARA and **MAYA**, each expecting her first child, have similar low-risk pregnancies. How different can their birth experiences be?

The experiences of pregnant mothers at California hospitals—small or large, urban or rural—can vary dramatically.



LOW-RISK C-SECTION

In low-risk pregnancies, C-sections should be avoided to reduce post-surgical complications.

Lower rate is better.



EPISIOTOMY

While this minor surgical procedure makes more space for the baby's birth, it may lead to complications for the mother.

Lower rate is better.



EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING BEFORE DISCHARGE

Breastfeeding benefits mother and baby.

Higher rate is better.



VAGINAL BIRTH AFTER C-SECTION (VBAC)

Women who have had a C-section do not necessarily need to deliver subsequent babies by C-section.

Higher rate is better.



SARA

GOES TO A HIGH-PERFORMING HOSPITAL.

THE LIKELIHOOD THAT SHE WILL EXPERIENCE THESE PROCEDURES IS:

19%

2%

88%

27%



MAYA

GOES TO A LOW-PERFORMING HOSPITAL.

THE LIKELIHOOD THAT SHE WILL EXPERIENCE THESE PROCEDURES IS:

56%

46%

19%

1%

WHAT IF THIS VARIATION DID NOT EXIST?

If all California hospitals were high performing on maternity measures, it would mean (annually):

14,800

[31%]

FEWER C-SECTIONS

38,900

[84%]

FEWER EPISIOTOMIES

119,900

[41%]

MORE BABIES BREASTFED

12,300

[144%]

MORE VBACS

Learn about the performance of hospitals near you at www.CalHospitalCompare.org.