

Definition/Description:

Proportion of Winnipeg women who have previously had a Caesarean section, who deliver via a vaginal delivery. A higher rate would indicate that women are provided with the opportunity for natural delivery after experiencing a previous caesarean section deliver.

Numerator: Number of **deliveries** where a uterine scar from a previous surgery is coded minus the Number of **Caesarean sections** where uterine scar from previous surgery is coded.

Denominator: Number of **deliveries** where uterine scar from previous surgery is coded.

Source:

Manitoba Health Hospital Abstract file

Findings:

| Vaginal Birth After C-section (VBAC) | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 1998/1999 | 33.0% |
| 1999/2000 | 33.4% |
| 2000/2001 | 33.1% |
| 2001/2002 | 32.1% |
| 2002/2003 | 30.9% |

Regional Comparison:

Vaginal Birth After C-Section – Proportion of Women

| Fiscal Year | Canadian | Manitoba | Winnipeg |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1999/2000 | 33.0% | 33.0% | 34.0% |
| 2000/2001 | 29.9% | 32.7% | 33.7% |
| 2001/2002 ⁽²⁾ | 29.7% | 32.3% | 32.7% |

Source: CIHI 2004 Health Indicators, Health System Performance, internet (Catalogue no. 82-221-XIE)

Highlights:

- Across the five years shown, there has been a 2.1% decrease in VBAC for Winnipeg women.
- More recently, from 1998/1999 to 2002/2003, the rate decreased 6.4% from 33.0% to 30.9% indicating that more women are having caesarean section after having experienced a previous c-section delivery.
- The Winnipeg region typically has a higher proportion of women delivering vaginally after having had a previous caesarean than Manitoba and Canada overall.

Standards/Benchmarks:

The society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) has issued guidelines with recommendations to promote vaginal birth after Caesarean where appropriate.

Guidelines from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba state that 75% of patients who have had a previous c-section can be expected to successfully deliver vaginally.