

# US methods of delivery, a snapshot

More than 3.7 million births were registered in the United States in 2019, with the general fertility rate at 58.3 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44. The mean age of mothers at first birth was 27 years. Cesarean delivery rates in 2019 continued to be higher among older women (aged 40 and older, 47.4%) compared with younger women (under age 20, 19.3%).

## US Women, 2019



Vaginal delivery  
**69.3%**



Cesarean delivery  
**31.7%**



Low-risk  
cesarean delivery rate<sup>a</sup>  
**25.6%**



Primary cesarean  
delivery rate<sup>b</sup>  
**21.6%**



Vaginal birth after  
cesarean delivery rate  
**13.8%**

<sup>a</sup>Cesarean deliveries among nulliparous, term, singleton, and cephalic births.

<sup>b</sup>Cesarean deliveries among women who have not had a previous cesarean delivery.

Source: Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Osterman MJK, et al. Births: final data for 2019. National Vital Statistics Reports; vol 70 no 2. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics; 2021. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:100472>.