



# ADULT HEALTH BULLETIN



APRIL 2023

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## THIS MONTH'S TOPIC:

# APRIL IS CESAREAN AWARENESS MONTH



**E**very April, the International Cesarean Awareness Network, supported by the World Health Organization, recognizes Cesarean Awareness Month. Cesarean section, C-section, or Cesarean birth, is the surgical delivery of a baby through a cut (incision) made in the mother's abdomen and uterus.

Cesarean Awareness Month aims to raise awareness and educate people about cesareans in two ways: it wants a reduction in the number of cesareans in mothers who do not really need or who will not benefit from this procedure, and it wants to raise awareness of the need for cesareans in certain circumstances to decrease the risks to either mother or baby.

**For example, a mother may need a cesarean section when:**

- A baby is in a feet-first position (breech position),
- The mother has gone into premature labor,

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***Even if you do not plan to have a C-section, knowing what to expect can help you prepare in case your situation changes.***



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- The labor does not progress in a normal manner,
- There is a viral infection (such as hepatitis C or HIV),
- The mother has placenta previa, a condition in which the placenta is low lying and covers part or all of the entrance to the womb, or
- Health-care providers have recommended a Cesarean delivery for other reasons.

Over time, the rate of cesareans in the United States has risen significantly. Currently, about 1 in 3 births are cesareans. Cesarean deliveries also come with risks, because they are an invasive abdominal surgery. For this reason, major health organizations discourage elective cesarean deliveries as they can lead to complications such as infections and blood clots.

The Healthy People 2030 Report identified 22 measures to prevent pregnancy complications and maternal deaths and improve women's health before, during, and after pregnancy. One

identified measure is to reduce cesarean births among low-risk women with no prior births.

If you are pregnant, it is important to talk to your health-care provider about birthing options, and the benefits and risks of each of your choices, including a cesarean delivery. The potential need for a first-time C-section may not be clear until after labor starts, so even if you do not plan to have a cesarean, knowing what to expect during and after a C-section can help you prepare in case your situation changes.

**REFERENCES:**

- <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/pregnancy-and-childbirth/reduce-cesarean-births-among-low-risk-women-no-prior-births-mich-06>
- <https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/c-section/about/pac-20393655>

**ADULT**  
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**Written by:**  
Katherine Jury, MS  
**Edited by:** Alyssa Simms  
**Designed by:** Rusty Manseau  
**Stock images:**  
123RF.com

