



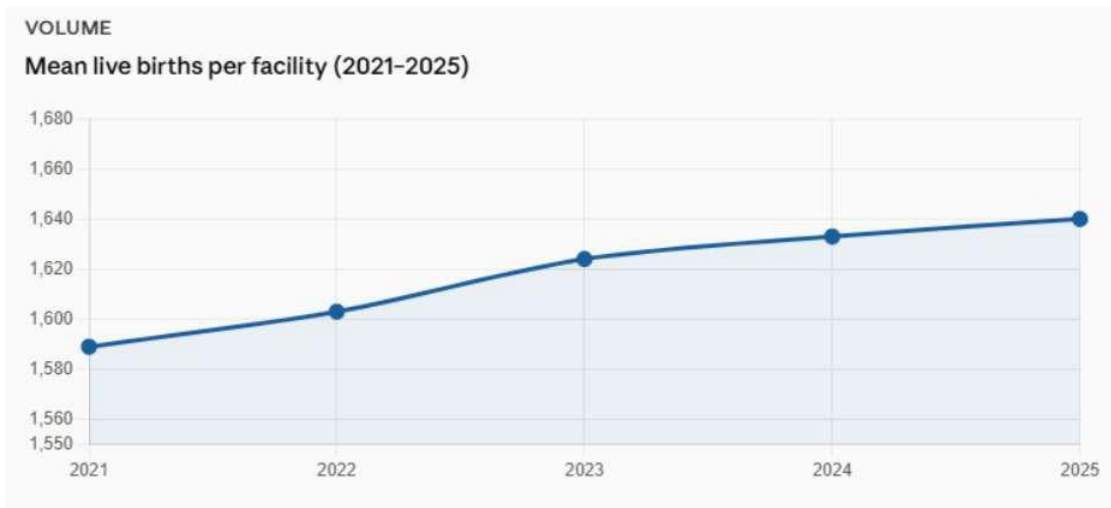
## **The Leapfrog Group's June Market Insights Report**

Safe, high-quality maternity care is essential to protecting the health and well-being of both mothers and babies. The Leapfrog Hospital Survey evaluates hospital performance on a range of evidence-based maternity care measures, including cesarean section rates, episiotomy rates, preventive screening practices, high-risk delivery care, and maternity services that support patients throughout pregnancy and childbirth.

Data from 2021 through 2025 provides insight into how hospitals are performing across these measures and where improvements are occurring. The findings show meaningful progress in several areas, including increased access to doula support, reduced episiotomy rates, and strong performance in preventive care measures. At the same time, persistent challenges remain in reducing unnecessary cesarean deliveries and ensuring hospitals have the capabilities needed to provide the highest quality care for high-risk pregnancies.

For employers, purchasers, health plans, and hospital leaders, these trends offer a valuable view into the state of maternity care nationwide. Understanding where

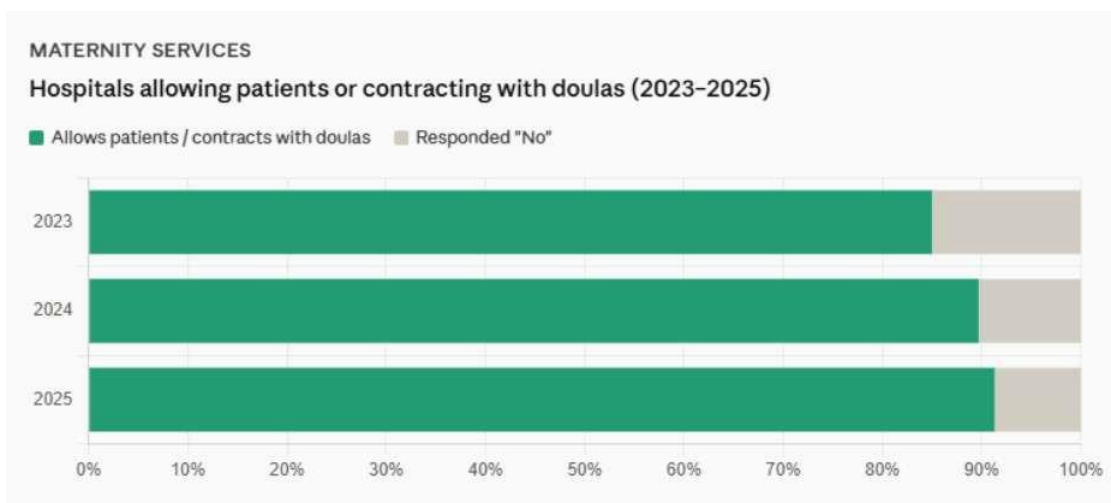
performance is improving and where gaps remain can help inform quality improvement efforts, purchasing decisions, and strategies to support safer care for mothers and babies.



Hospitals reporting to Leapfrog continue to care for a growing number of mothers and newborns. Birth volume can influence staffing needs, resource allocation, and the systems hospitals use to support safe, high-quality maternity care.

Between 2021 and 2025, the average number of live births reported per facility increased from 1,589 to 1,640. While the annual increases were modest, the trend reflects a steady rise in maternity volume across reporting hospitals.

These findings suggest maternity volumes have remained stable or increased for many reporting hospitals during the five-year period. As birth volumes continue to grow, the data provide additional context for understanding performance across other maternity care measures.



Hospitals are increasingly reporting access to doula support during childbirth, either by allowing patients to bring their own doula or by directly employing or contracting with doulas. Leapfrog began collecting this data in 2023, providing a new view into how hospitals are incorporating labor support services into maternity care.

Since 2023, the percentage of hospitals reporting access to doulas increased from 85.0% to 91.3%. At the same time, the percentage of hospitals reporting no access to doulas declined from 15.0% to 8.7%.

The increase suggests doula support is becoming a more common component of maternity services among reporting hospitals. These data provide insight into how maternity care offerings are evolving and where hospitals may be expanding support services for expectant families.

### **Progress and Persistent Challenges in Reducing Unnecessary Interventions**

Reducing unnecessary interventions during childbirth remains an important focus of maternity care quality measurement. Leapfrog evaluates both NTSV cesarean section rates and episiotomy rates because they provide insight into hospital performance on evidence-based maternity care practices.

Hospitals continue to make meaningful progress in reducing episiotomy use. Performance on episiotomy rates improved substantially between 2021 and 2025. The percentage of hospitals meeting Leapfrog's standard increased from 64.5% in 2021 to 86.9% in 2025, while the average episiotomy rate declined from 5.2% to 2.9%.

In contrast, cesarean section performance remained relatively unchanged. In 2025, 40.9% of hospitals met Leapfrog's NTSV cesarean section standard, while the average rate remained above the benchmark at 25.2%.

The data suggest progress has been uneven across measures designed to reduce unnecessary interventions during childbirth. While episiotomy performance improved steadily during the reporting period, cesarean section rates showed little movement over the same timeframe.

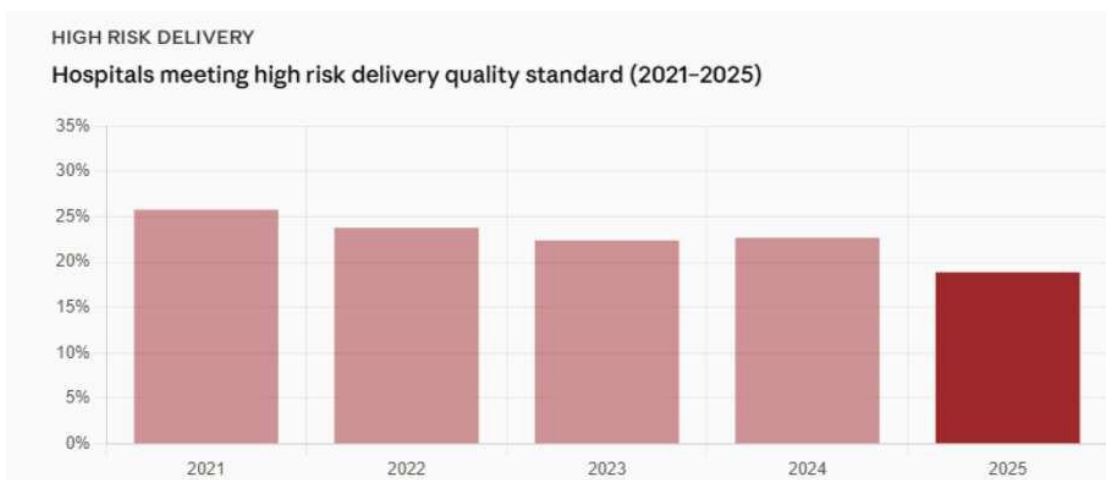
### **Strong Performance on Preventive Care Measures**

Preventive screening and safety practices play an important role in protecting mothers and newborns from avoidable complications. Leapfrog evaluates hospitals

on measures such as bilirubin screening and deep vein thrombosis (DVT) prevention to assess whether key safeguards are consistently in place.

In 2025, 99.2% of hospitals met Leapfrog's bilirubin screening standard, and 89.8% met the DVT prevention standard. Both measures reached their highest levels of performance during the five-year reporting period.

The consistently high performance rates suggest these preventive practices are well established among reporting hospitals. The findings indicate strong performance on measures designed to identify potential complications and support safer maternity care.



Hospitals caring for high-risk pregnancies require specialized capabilities and resources to support mothers and newborns facing elevated risks during childbirth. Leapfrog's High-Risk Delivery Quality measure evaluates whether hospitals meet standards associated with providing appropriate care for these patients.

The percentage of hospitals meeting the standard declined from 25.8% in 2021 to 18.9% in 2025, reaching its lowest level during the reporting period. Performance decreased in each year of the five-year trend.

Unlike several other maternity care measures that improved during the reporting period, High-Risk Delivery Quality showed a consistent decline. The findings provide insight into an area where performance trends differed substantially from other measures included in the Leapfrog Hospital Survey.

### **Key Takeaways**

These trends provide a valuable snapshot of maternity care quality across hospitals participating in the Leapfrog Hospital Survey. While performance improved on

several measures during the reporting period, the findings also reveal meaningful variation across key areas of maternity care

For stakeholders seeking to better understand maternity care quality, these data offer insights into both strengths and areas that may warrant closer attention. As maternity care continues to evolve, tracking performance over time can help illuminate emerging trends and opportunities to better understand differences in care delivery across hospitals.

## **Explore Full Results**

To view the complete 2025 Leapfrog Hospital Survey results, visit Leapfrog's ratings website:

[Leapfrog Ratings Website](#)

[Contact Leapfrog](#) for information about licensing this data, which will be available starting in July.

## **New Tools to Navigate Leapfrog Data**

We've launched new features to make exploring Leapfrog data even easier.

The [Measure Search](#) function is a comprehensive tool that allows users to search measures across the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, the Hospital Survey, and the ASC Survey. Filter by facility type, patient type, dataset, or search for specific measures directly.

Our [Use Cases](#) illustrate how healthcare organizations, researchers, employers, and payors are applying Leapfrog data in the real world—from benchmarking safety performance to informing purchasing decisions and driving quality improvement. Each example shows how data-driven insights can translate into better care, smarter strategies, and meaningful results.

Visit the Hopper to explore these features and discover more ways to apply Leapfrog data:

[The Hopper](#)

# New features on the Hopper!

**The HOPPER**  
Where Leapfrog Data Comes Alive

**THE LEAPFROG GROUP**  
Giant Leaps for Patient Safety

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The Leapfrog Group, 1775 K Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, District of Columbia 20006, United States, 2022926713

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