



2009-10 Maternity Statistics for Scotland

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Caesarean rate	25.9%	26.1%	26.6%
Elective	10.7%	10.7%	11.3%
Emergency	15.2%	15.4%	15.3%
Instrumental delivery rate	12.8%	13.0%	12.6%
Forceps	9.3%	9.7%	9.7%
Ventouse	3.5%	3.3%	2.9%
Induction rate	21.8%	21.8%	22.5%
Unassisted birth rate	60.8%	60.5%	60.8%
Normal delivery rate	40.8%	39.6%	37.6%

Key Points

The **caesarean rate** has increased from 26.1% in the previous year to 26.6%, with a slight fall in the numbers of emergency caesareans (0.1%) and a larger rise in the rate of elective caesareans (0.6%). This continues an overall trend of increasing caesarean rates.

The **instrumental delivery rate** has fallen by increased by 0.4% to 12.6%, with no change in the forceps rate of 9.7%% and a decrease in the use of ventouse of 0.4%. This reverses the trend of increasing instrumental rates.

The **induction rate** has increased 0.7% to 22.5%. This reverses the downward trend since 1999-2000 from a high of 27.4%.

67.5% of women had a **spontaneous onset of labour** (ie not an induction or an elective caesarean), a decrease of 1.3% from the previous year. This is due to an increase in both induction rates and elective caesarean rates.

60.8% of women gave birth spontaneously, that is, without the assistance of forceps or ventouse and without having a caesarean. This is a increase of 0.3% from the previous year but comes after a downward trend for over 20 years.

The normal birth rate in Scotland is defined as the proportion of live births during which the mother was not induced, was given no general or regional anaesthetic (such as an epidural) and gave birth without having a caesarean, or the use of forceps or ventouse and without having an episiotomy. In 2009-10, the normal birth rate for Scotland was 37.6%, down 2%.

Highs and Lows

There are 3 maternity units (over 500 births) with **caesarean rates** above 30%:

	2008/09	2009/10
Queen Mother's Hospital, Glasgow	32.3%	34.2%
Princess Royal Maternity Hospital, Glasgow	30.7%	32.0%
Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley	30.5%	31.9%

Maternity units (over 500 births) with the lowest caesarean rates are:

	2008/09	2009/10
Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin	17.0%	17.5%
Borders General Hospital, Melrose	20.0%	19.3%
Forth Park Maternity Hospital	22.5%	21.6%