



## TALKING POINTS in Support of Birth Options and Access

Share your own stories of any barriers to access. Use this data if helpful during delegate visits.

Maryland Cesarean and VBAC facts	State of Maternal Care in Maryland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maryland’s Cesarean rate is higher than the National Average. MD’s 2014 total cesarean rate was <b>34.9%</b>,<sup>1</sup> vs. the nation’s @ 32.2%<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Maryland has a high rate of low risk cesareans (29.8%), ranking 46th in the nation (Health of Women and Children Report, 2016)</li> <li>The WHO’s upper threshold cesarean rate: <b>15%</b></li> <li>Maryland’s 2014 VBAC rate was only 13.2%,<sup>3</sup> although statistically 60-80% of women who attempt a VBAC are successful<sup>4</sup></li> <li>46% of Maryland Counties have NO hospitals that allow VBAC (DHMH &amp; MD Hospital Association)</li> <li>VBAC is a “safe and appropriate choice for most women who have had a prior cesarean delivery” ~ ACOG<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only 68% of Maryland’s acute care hospitals provide maternity care<sup>6</sup></li> <li>Maternal Mortality Rate in Maryland- 25.5 deaths per 100,000 live births (DHMH, 2014); MD ranks 38th in the nation (Health of Women and Children Report, 2016)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2020 MMR target is 11.4/100,000</li> </ul> </li> <li>Infant Mortality Rate- often used as an indicator of health and wellbeing               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2015 IMR= 6.7/1,000 births in MD and 5.9/1,000 in entire US</li> </ul> </li> <li>Racial disparities data               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infant Mortality Rate for black babies is more than twice that of white babies</li> <li>Maternal Mortality: 40.4/100,000 for Black and 12.1/100,000 for White (CDC, 2011-2013)</li> <li>Discriminatory health care treatment is a major contributing factor to racial disparities (Benkert et al. 2009).                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Institute of Medicine has shown that substantial disparities in quality of care for minorities persist even after accounting for income and insurance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.theunnecesarean.com/6-maryland/#sthash.DlhoL7RP.dpuf>, [www.cesareanrates.com](http://www.cesareanrates.com)

<sup>2</sup> CDC’s NCHS Data Brief 2016

<sup>3</sup> CDC NCHS data. Retrieved by [www.cesareanrates.com](http://www.cesareanrates.com)

<sup>4</sup> Baltimore Washington Medical Center, <http://www.mybwmc.org/library/14/000150>

<sup>5</sup> American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (2010). Practice Bulletin No. 115: Vaginal Birth After Previous Cesarean Delivery. *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 116 (2), 450-463.

<sup>6</sup> DHMH’s Maryland Health Care Commission 2017

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