

C-Sections Among Women in Pakistan

Gallup Pakistan Analysis of National
Institute of Population Studies



PRESS RELEASE

Gallup Pakistan Analysis of National Institute of Population Studies

In 2019, 22.7% more women who had received higher education (45.8%) and 20% more of those in the highest wealth quintile (43.1%) got a C-section than the national average of 23.1%. – C-Sections– National Institute of Population Studies

Islamabad, July 12th, 2024

Gallup Pakistan, as part of its Big Data Analysis initiative, is looking at C-sections statistics among women in Pakistan. This data is part of a dashboard hosted by the ‘National Institute of Population Studies’.

The current edition looks at data from National Institute of Population Studies Dashboard, which can be found [HERE](#))

What is the Big Data Analysis Series by Gallup?

Gallup Pakistan’s Big Data series was started by Bilal I Gilani, Executive Director of Gallup Pakistan. Bilal explains the rationale of the series: “The usual complaint from academics and policy makers is that Pakistan does not have data availability. Our experience negates that. Pakistan has lots of data, but it is not available in a usable form and not widely accessible. At Gallup we plan to bridge this gap in terms of accessibility and use of data. The Gallup Big Data series has earlier worked with data sets such as [PSLM](#), [Labour Force Survey](#), and [Economic Survey reports](#) as well as [National Census Reports](#) and [Election Commission Data sets](#). The current series is using the [National Institute of Population Studies Dashboard](#), which provides a variety of maternal health statistics. We hope that these series are useful, and we welcome both feedback as well as possible collaborations as we create a public good in the form of useful data sets in Pakistan.”

What data points this current edition covers:

This series aims to present the important learnings from the National Institute of Population Studies Dashboard, for policy makers, the public, as well as for marketers in an easy and understandable way. This edition looks at C-section statistics among women. The series’ main aim is to provide data. Implications of these data points for development sector as well as wider socio-political ramifications is something we would like to trigger in relevant circles.

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23.1%

As of 2019, 23.1% of the deliveries in Pakistan happened through C-section.

Provincial Breakdown:



Punjab
30.70%



Sindh
24.70%



KP
6.90%



Balochistan
7.60%

A provincial breakdown reveals that one in three (30.7%) births in Punjab happened through C-sections, which was 7.6% higher than the national average.

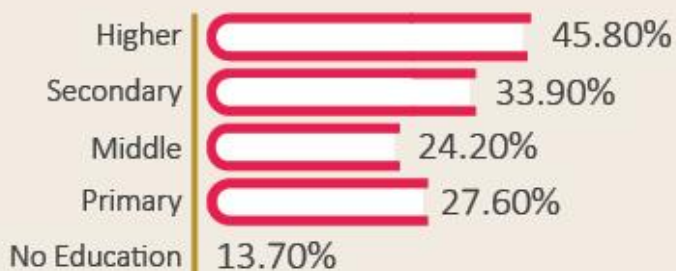
C-section Births by Wealth quintiles:



43.1% of women in the highest wealth quintiles delivered through C-section. This is 20% higher than the national average, and a significant 35.1% higher than C-section births recorded in the lowest wealth quintile.

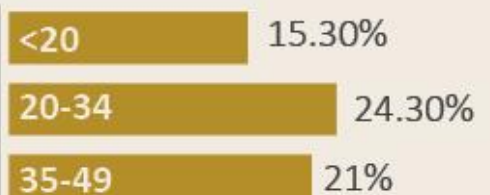
C-section Births by Education:

In 2019, women who had received higher education were 22.7% more likely to get a C-section (at 45.8%) than the national average of 23.1%.



Mother's age at birth:

A quarter woman (24.3%) who gave birth between the ages of 20-34 had their delivery through C-section. This is 9% higher than women who were aged less than 20 at the time of birth.



Today's topic is “C-Sections Among Women in Pakistan” from the National Institute of Population Studies Dashboard

Ever-married Pakistani women between the ages 15-49, who had given birth to at least one child, were asked, “*Was (NAME) delivered by caesarean, that is, did they cut your belly open to take the baby out?*¹” for their last and next-to-last birth - Pakistan Demographic Health Survey 2019

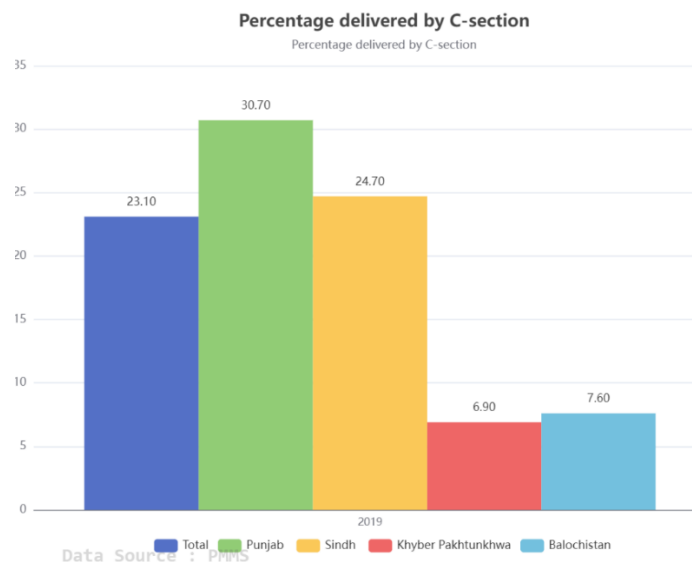
Key Findings:

- 1) **Provincial breakdown:** As of 2019, 23.1% of the deliveries in Pakistan happened through C-section. A provincial breakdown reveals that one in three (30.7%) births in Punjab happened through C-sections, which was 7.6% higher than the national average.
- 2) **Wealth quintiles:** 43.1% of women in the highest wealth quintiles delivered through C-section. This is 20% higher than the national average, and a significant 35.1% higher than C-section births recorded in the lowest wealth quintile.
- 3) **Education level:** In 2019, women who had received higher education were 22.7% more likely to get a C-section (at 45.8%) than the national average of 23.1%.
- 4) **Mother's age at birth:** A quarter woman (24.3%) who gave birth between the ages of 20-34 had their delivery through C-section. This is 9% higher than women who were aged less than 20 at the time of birth (15.3%).
- 5) **Birth order:** Most women got a C-section delivery for the birth of their first child (32.3%), 9.2% higher than the national average.

¹ <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR354/FR354.pdf>

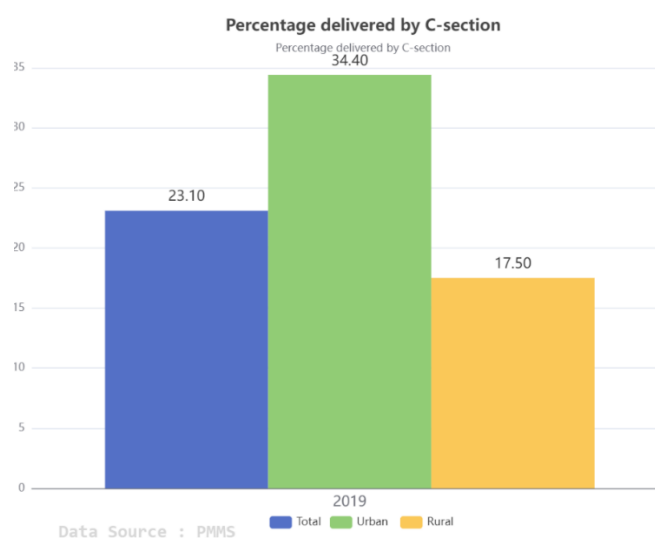
C- Section Delivery by Province

As of 2019, 23.1% of the deliveries in Pakistan happened through C-section, short for Cesarian section, which is a surgical procedure in which the baby is delivered through incisions in the abdomen and uterus². A provincial breakdown reveals that one in three (30.7%) births in Punjab happened through C-sections, which is 7.6% higher than the national average. At 24.7%, C-section deliveries in Sindh were also 1.6% higher than the national average. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (6.9%) and Balochistan (7.6%), on the other hand, a significantly lower percentage of deliveries were done via C-sections.



Source: National Institute of Population Studies, 2019

Looking at a regional breakdown reveals that women in urban regions had a significant higher rate of C-section births compared to their rural counterparts. While 34.4% births in urban settings happened through C-section, 11.3% higher than the national average, only 17.5% were recorded in the rural parts of the country. This could have to do with preference, awareness or availability of resources at the time of birth.

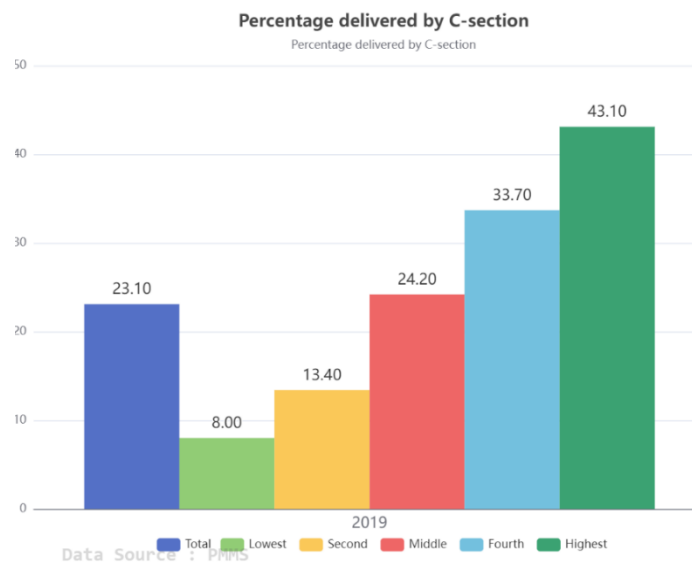


Source: National Institute of Population Studies, 2019

² <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/treatments/7246-cesarean-birth-c-section>

C- Section Delivery by Wealth Quintile

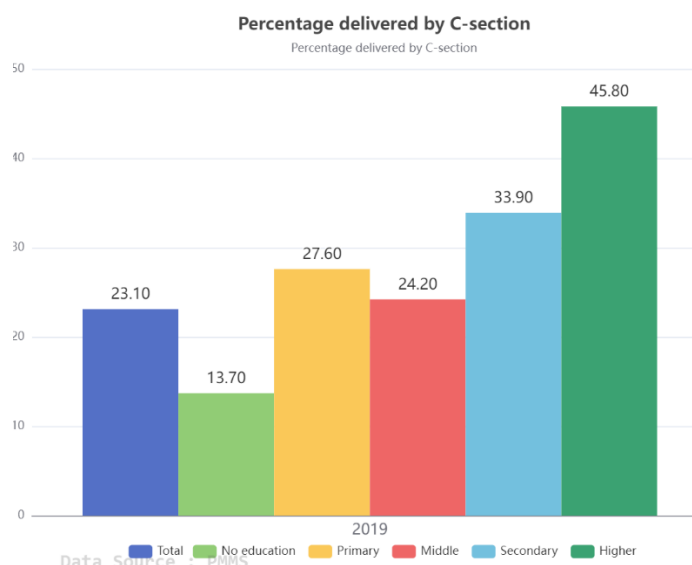
In 2019, as the mother's wealth quintile increased, so did the likelihood of getting a C-section delivery. 43.1% of women in the highest wealth quintiles delivered through C-section. This is 20% higher than the national average, and a significant 35.1% higher than C-section births recorded in the lowest wealth quintile.



Source: National Institute of Population Studies, 2019

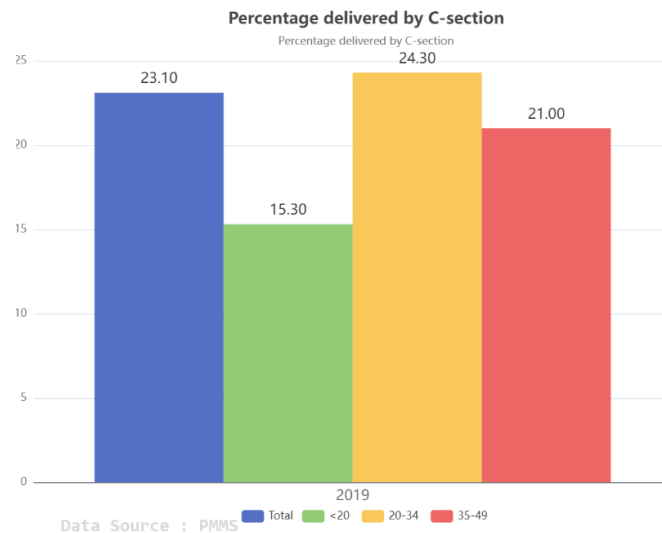
Education and Age

In 2019, women who had received higher education were 22.7% more likely to get a C-section (at 45.8%) than the national average of 23.1%. Only 13.7% of those with no education got C-sections, while 33.9% of women with up to secondary level education did so.



Source: National Institute of Population Studies, 2019

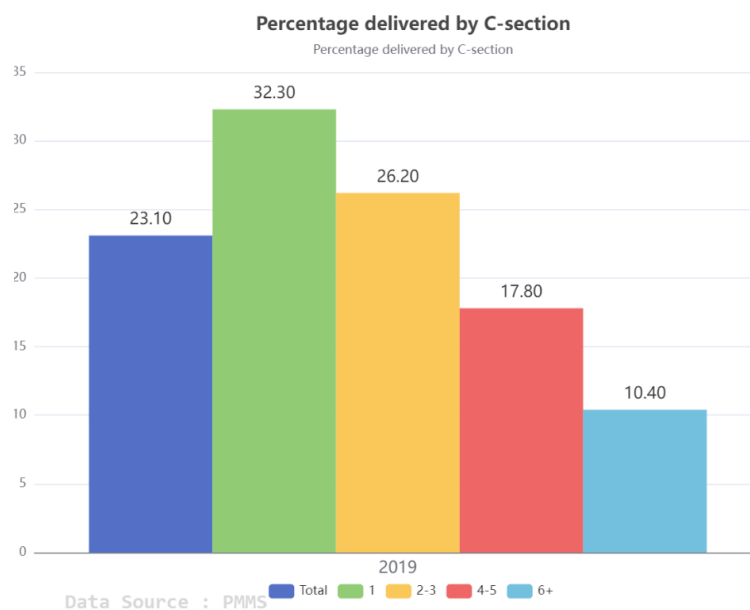
A quarter woman (24.3%) who gave birth between the ages of 20-34 had their delivery through C-section. This is 9% higher than women who were aged less than 20 at the time of birth (15.3%).



Source: National Institute of Population Studies

Order of Birth

It is also interesting to note that most women got a C-section delivery for the birth of their first child (32.3%), 9.2% higher than the national average. As the birth order increases, percentage of women giving birth via C-section seems to fall significantly, with only 10.4% getting C-sections for their sixth child onwards.



Source: National Institute of Population Studies

Wish to Contribute to Gallup Big Data Analysis?

Gallup Pakistan is looking for collaboration with researchers to expand both the Big Data Analysis project as well as this study of Maternal Health in Pakistan. If you have any ideas, please write to Bilal I Gilani, Project Director, Big Data Analysis at Gallup Pakistan.

Wish to know more about the National Institute of Population Studies Dashboard?

NIPS is a premier research organization established by the Government of Pakistan since 1986 and currently, it is working under umbrella of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination (NHSR&C). The NIPS has been mandated to act as a technical arm of the Government for undertaking high quality research and to produce evidence-based data, information for utilization by the Public sector and others agencies for policy formulation, strategic planning and making reference in the spheres of demography, population & development and health.

You can find more information on the Provincial Census Report Punjab, and complete tables, on <https://nips.org.pk/>

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