

Ideals vs. Reality in US Births

	WHO Recommendations	CIMS Suggestions	2001 US Stats
Birth Attendants	Midwives for normal pregnancy and birth	Access to professional midwifery care	Physicians 91.4%
Place of Birth	Out-of-Hospital preferred	Where mother prefers	Hospitals 99.1%
Electronic Fetal Monitoring	Not routine	Not routine	84.8%
Drugs in Labor	Not routine	Only for complications	80%*
Induction of Labor	10% or less	10% or less	20.5%
Stimulation of Labor	Not mentioned	10% or less	17.5%
Episiotomies	Systematic use not justified	Goal of 5%	34%**
Cesarean Rate	10-15%	10-15%	24.4%
Breastfeeding After Birth	Immediately	Follow WHO Guidelines	67%***

- *WHO Recommendations* – taken from a report on the *Appropriate Technology for Birth*, published by the World Health Organization in April, 1985.
- *CIMS Suggestions* – taken from *The Mother-Friendly Childbirth Initiative* from the Coalition for Improving Maternity Services (CIMS), 1996, www.motherfriendly.org.
- *2001 US Stats* – most taken from *Births: Final Data for 2001*, National Vital Statistics Report Vol. 51, No. 2, http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr51/nvsr51_02.pdf.

* *Listening to Mothers Report*, October 2002, p. 18

** "1999 National Hospital Discharge Survey: Annual Summary with detailed diagnosis and procedure data," *Vital Health Statistics* 13(151), 2001

*** *Mothering Magazine*, No. 112, May/June 2002