



Comparing *Listening to Mothers II* and *Listening to Mothers II Postpartum* Results to U.S. National Birth Records

To more accurately reflect the target population, *Listening to Mothers II* and *Listening to Mothers II Postpartum* data were weighted by key demographic variables, as well as by a composite variable known as a propensity score, intended to reflect a respondent's propensity to be online. Additional information about this methodology, which has been validated by Harris Interactive, is available in appendices to the *Listening to Mothers II* and *New Mothers Speak Out* reports, available at www.childbirthconnection.org/listeningtomothers/ The table below compares demographic and childbirth-related results from the weighted data of the two surveys to a comparable national population derived from birth certificate data from 2005, the year when the survey participants gave birth. All three columns describe women 18 to 45 years of age who gave birth to a single baby in a U.S. hospital in 2005.

Data item	<i>Listening to Mothers II</i> (2005) <i>n</i> =1,573	<i>Listening to Mothers II</i> <i>Postpartum</i> (2005) <i>n</i> =903	Singleton hospital births to women 18-45 (2005) <i>n</i> =3,821,309
Birth attendant			
Doctor	92%	92%	92%
Midwife	8%	8%	8%
Mother's race/ethnicity			
White non-Hispanic	63%	66%	55%
Black non-Hispanic	12%	11%	14%
Hispanic	21%	18%	24%
Asian and other	4%	4%	7%
Mother's age			
18-24	28%	25%	34%
25-29	27%	28%	28%
30-34	25%	27%	24%
35-39	14%	15%	12%
40+	6%	6%	3%
Number of times has given birth			
1	33%	39%	39%
2	38%	35%	33%
3+	29%	26%	28%
Mother's education			
High school or less	44%	41%	49%*
Some college	28%	30%	24%*
College and post-graduate	28%	29%	27%*
Method of birth			
Vaginal	68%	69%	71%
Vaginal, vacuum extraction or forceps	6%	7%	7%
Vaginal birth after cesarean	2%	2%	1%*
Cesarean	32%	31%	29%
Primary cesarean	16%	17%	18%*
Repeat cesarean	16%	14%	12%*

*Official national estimate not available. Education and method of birth were measured differently in states that revised their birth certificate (1,141,738 singleton, hospital births to 18 to 45 year olds) compared to states that had not revised their birth certificates (2,640,319 singleton, hospital births to 18 to 45 year olds). Above figures with asterisks represent estimated rates combining revised and unrevised states for education, VBAC, primary and repeat cesareans weighted by population in states with and without revised birth certificates.