



CHILD HEALTH  
NETWORK  
for the Greater  
Toronto Area

## Fact Sheet

### Niday Perinatal Database for the Greater Toronto Area FIRST ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT 2003/2004

---

#### About the CHN

- The **Child Health Network for the Greater Toronto Area** (CHN, “the Network”) is a partnership of community and hospital providers who are committed to building a regionalized health system for mothers, newborns and children across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).
- The Network is one of the largest voluntary health networks in Ontario, comprised of eighteen (18) acute care hospitals, one (1) children’s tertiary level rehabilitation and complex continuing care centre, nine (9) Community Care Access Centres (CCACs), and an array of health service providers including nursing and allied professionals, physician specialists, sub-specialists, researchers and educators.
- The goal of the CHN is to develop a high-quality, accessible, family-centered *regional health care delivery system* for mothers, newborns, children and youth.

#### About the Niday Database

- The *Niday Perinatal Database* is a regional, internet-based, real-time surveillance system that collects information on variables related to maternal, newborn and perinatal care characteristics, including information related to details of births and obstetrical interventions.
- Although the *Niday Perinatal Database* is not the only source of information on births, it provides more timely, complete and comprehensive data on virtually all birth events, about both the newborn and mother, than other sources of perinatal data.
- Data presented in the report are based on women who gave birth between April 1, 2003 and March 31, 2004 at the 24 participating CHN member hospital sites that represent all birthing hospitals in the Toronto/GTA.
- The report profiles the benefits and utility of the Niday database in contributing to planning, continuous quality improvement, benchmarking, and evaluation initiatives in both the hospital and public health sectors.
- Further enhancements to the database are currently being developed with the creation of new screens incorporating more detailed perinatal indicators and a new neonatal component.

180 Dundas Street West  
Suite 1700  
Toronto Ontario  
Canada M5G 1Z8

(416) 813-6137 phone  
(416) 813-8309 fax  
[www.childhealthnetwork.com](http://www.childhealthnetwork.com)

### **Births in the GTA**

- During the April 2003 – March 2004 study period:
  - 65,519 births occurred in CHN hospitals (these births represent 41% of the province's total and 20% of total births in the country).<sup>1</sup>
  - The still birth rate for the GTA was 6.5 per 1,000 births.
  - 1,976 multiples (twins, triplets and quadruplets etc.) were born in the GTA.
  - Almost 5,000 babies were born prematurely (<37 weeks gestation) with 450 of these born at less 30 weeks gestation.

### **Maternal Characteristics**

- During the April 2003 – March 2004 study period:
  - Approximately 46% of the women who gave birth were first time mothers. Just over 2.5% had their fifth baby.
  - 23.6% of the births were by women over 35 years of age. (In 2000, the Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System reported an incidence of just under 15% of births for mothers>35 years in the rest of Canada, outside of Ontario.)

### **Obstetrical Care**

- During the April 2003 – March 2004 study period:
  - 88.6% of births were attended by obstetricians, followed by 8% by family physicians and 2.6% by midwives. (In contrast, the B.C. *Perinatal Database Registry Annual Report 2003* reported births attended by obstetricians to be 47.8%, family physicians at 44.6% and midwives at 3.4%.)
  - The Cesarean Sections (C/S) rate was 26% (compared with the national rate of 21.2%)
  - Approximately one in four <32 weeks gestation newborns were not born at the “optimal” hospital site for care (i.e., appropriate level of care facility).<sup>2</sup> Issues related to capacity, resources, compliance with level of care designations and/or availability of appropriate transport may be some of the factors interfering with facilitating safe, quality level of care for maternal/newborns at the “optimal” site for care.

---

<sup>1</sup> Based on 2002-03 Statistics Canada estimate of 131,291 births in Ontario Statistics Canada. (2002-2003). See birth and birth rates, by provinces and territories. CANSIM, table 051-0004 and catalogue no. 91-213-XIB. Available at [www.statcan.ca/english/Pgdb/demo04a.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/Pgdb/demo04a.htm).

<sup>2</sup> In 2001, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care assigned “level of care” designations (associated with specific scope of services) to CHN hospitals delivering maternal, newborn and paediatric services.