

## Health

### Caesarean births

From 1980 to 1998, information on Caesarean births was garnered from the ongoing and exhaustive survey of State birth records, performed by ISTAT ever since 1926. From 1980, this survey has also allowed for a survey of Caesarean births.

The survey forms (ISTAT D1 and D2, relating to male and female births respectively) were composed of three sections containing information on Civil status and Personal details, health information taken from the birth certificate - that parents were required to present as proof of birth when making a declaration of birth - and socio-demographic information (parents' level of education, professional condition, sector of economic activity, etc.) collected by Civil records officials directly from the applicant. The forms were compiled according to the Civil status records in the Municipality in which the event took place.

The survey was interrupted due to Law no. 127 (May 17, 1997) on the Simplification of Administration and the subsequent regulations implementing the measure. In fact, this law states that health information on births should no longer pass through municipal offices. Furthermore, at the time of birth, parents may declare the event directly at the healthcare office in the hospital where the birth took place.

From 1999 figures on Caesarean births were calculated by processing Hospital discharge records (SDO). The SDO, established by the Ministry of Health by ministerial decree dated 28<sup>th</sup> December 1991, represents the ordinary tool used for collecting information relating to each patient discharged from public and private institutions in the entire national territory and is an integral part of the medical file. The SDO contains both personal and clinical information relating to the entire period of in-patient care up until discharge.

The information on the patient's clinical profile is codified, using ICD-9-CM classification for diagnosis (International classification of diseases, IX revision, clinical modification). The information on diagnosis is used by the DRG (Diagnosis related groups) system which is at the basis of the financing method for sanatoria, based on specific tariffs associated with individual classes. The codes in the DRG system are, in turn, linked to 25 Major Diagnostic Categories (MDC), which group diseases and complaints associated with a single organ or system, following the subdivision into sectors used by the international classification of diseases.

Caesarean birth is selected using DRG 370 (Caesarean section with complications) and 371 (Caesarean section without complications) codes from MDC category 14 (pregnancy, birth and postnatal period). The entire range of births is identified with DRG codes 370-375. Only acute cases included in the ordinary care regime are included.

Figures on Caesarean births are available both in the Ministry of Health "Annual reports on in-patient care" and in the above mentioned ISTAT national information system on healthcare "[Health for all - Italia](#)".