

WHY WE NEED A **QUALITY STANDARD** FOR

Vaginal Birth After Caesarean in Ontario

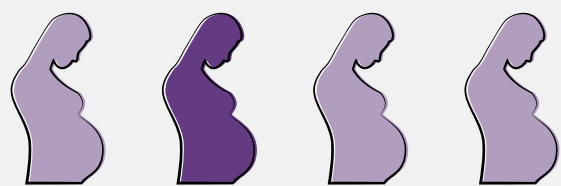
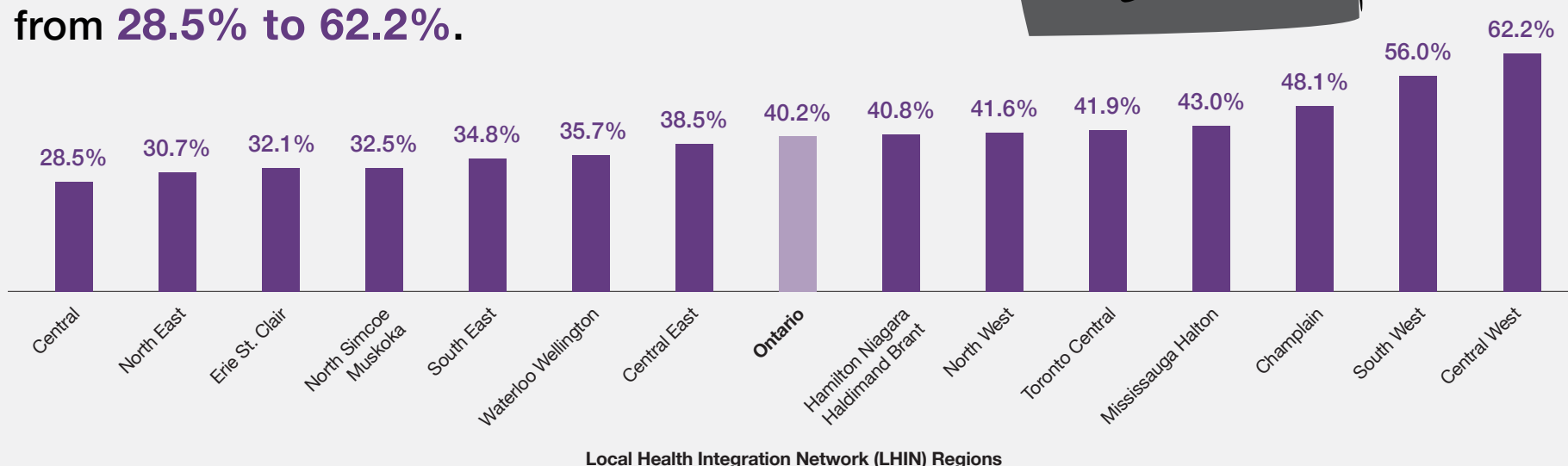
Quality Standards



Most **pregnant people** who have had a Caesarean birth can safely have a subsequent **vaginal birth**.^{1,2}

But only about **4 in 10 eligible people** in Ontario planned a vaginal birth after Caesarean (VBAC) in 2015/16.

This varied a lot by region, ranging from **28.5% to 62.2%**.



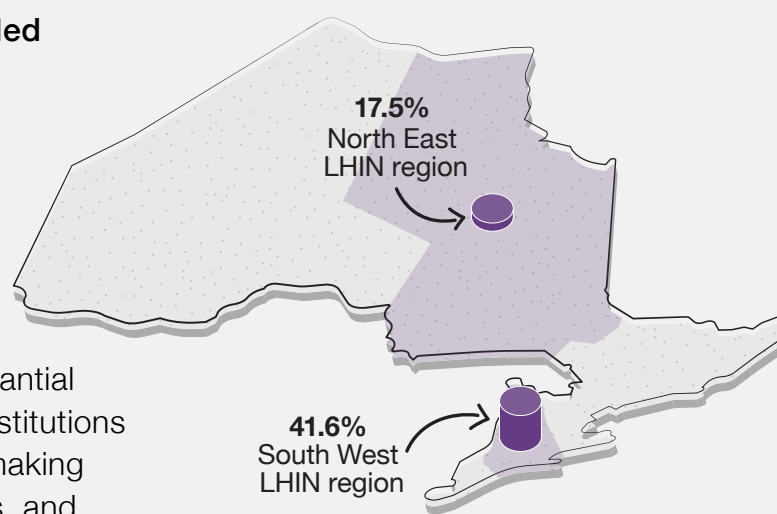
Only about **1 in 4 eligible pregnancies** in Ontario ended up being a VBAC:

26.2% in 2015/16

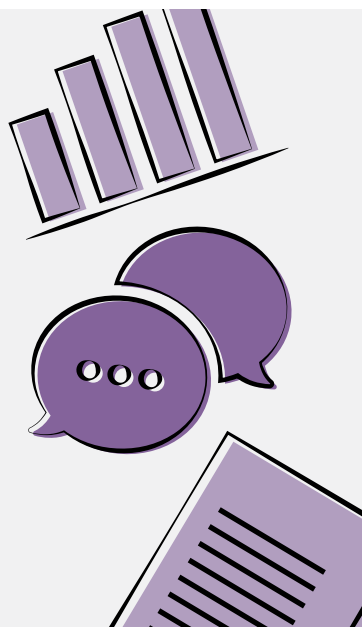
Eligible pregnancies that ended up being VBAC also varied widely by region in Ontario.

This variation may be related to differences in the resources available, or social, financial, or cultural factors.³

Research has also found substantial variation among regions and institutions in the use of shared decision-making between doctors and midwives, and people who are planning their next birth.⁴



These variations indicate a need to promote **shared decision-making** and to ensure that families have access to the **information and support** they need to make an informed choice that is consistent with their values and preferences.



Together we can improve the quality of care for people who have had a Caesarean birth and are planning their next birth.

That's why Health Quality Ontario—in partnership with the Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health, and in collaboration with clinical experts, people who have had a Caesarean birth, and their families—has developed this **quality standard** outlining what quality care looks like.

hqontario.ca/qualitystandards

¹ Association of Ontario Midwives, Bennett S, Bourret K, Meuser A. Clinical practice guideline no. 14: vaginal birth after previous low-segment caesarean section [Internet]. Toronto (ON): The Organization; 2011 [cited 2016 Dec]. Available from: http://www.ontariomidwives.ca/images/uploads/guidelines/No14CPG_VBAC_Final_November_2011.pdf

² Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada. SOGC clinical practice guidelines. Guidelines for vaginal birth after previous caesarean birth. Number 155. Int J Gynaecol Obstet. 2005;89(3):319-31.

³ Grzybowski S, Kornelsen J, Barclay L. Closing rural maternity services: is it worth the risk? Can J Rural Med. 2016;21(1):17-9.

⁴ Munro S. Policy brief: access to maternity services: vaginal birth after caesarean [Internet]. Vancouver (BC): Sarah Munro; 2016 [cited 2016 Dec]. Available from: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/555a1a87e4b07ba26dc3faf4/t/5769a1c203596e8>