



**Figure 1. Trends in C-section, hospitalization, and birth rates in Canada, 2017–2023**

As hospitalizations fell at the onset of the pandemic, birth rates declined, while C-section deliveries increased. This visualization suggests that hospitals may have adapted to clinical uncertainty by favoring more controlled and predictable delivery practices through increased C-section procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic, even though lower C-section rates are generally associated with better population health outcomes. All values standardized to 2017-2018 fiscal year for comparability.

*Source:* Canadian Institute for Health Information, *Hospitalization and Childbirth, 1995-1996 to 2023-2024*; Statistics Canada, *Populations Estimates, Quarterly and Live Births, by Month*; author's calculations.