

Midwifery-led care during labour and birth

- Midwife-led continuity of care models lead to good maternal and neonatal outcomes.
- Midwives safeguard the physiology of labour and birth.



Birth environment

- Outside the hospital**
 - 47% at home
 - 12% at a midwife-led unit
 - 0.1% born before arrival
 - Inside the hospital**
 - 19% with an autonomous midwife
 - 22% at a midwife-led unit
- Intrapartum transfers to the hospital (24%)



Freedom of mobility

- Most frequently chosen birth position was All fours: 48% outside the hospital and 48% inside the hospital
- Few women give birth on their back: 7% outside the hospital, 10% inside the hospital

Fetal monitoring

Method most applied: intermittent auscultation with handheld Doppler (79% outside the hospital), intermittent auscultation using Doppler and the CTG machine (63% inside the hospital).

Waterbirth

Almost half of the women birth in water: 46% outside the hospital and 45% inside the hospital

Birth of the placenta

| Physiological birth of the placenta: | 86% | 84% |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Blood loss < 500 ml: | 77% | 84% |

Perineum

| | 86% | 89% |
|--|-------|-------|
| No perineal trauma | 35% | 25% |
| No or mild perineal trauma (Labia, 1st and 2nd degree) | 97.7% | 94.4% |
| Episiotomy | 1% | 1.1% |
| 3rd and 4th degree perineal trauma | 1.2% | 2.9% |

Postpartum

No maternal complications: 86% outside the hospital (9% unknown) and 89% inside the hospital (2% unknown)

Newborn

| | 94.6% | 92% |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|
| 1-min APGAR* \geq 7: | 94.6% | 92% |
| 5-min APGAR \geq 7: | 99.6% | 98.7% |
| Need for respirational support: | 4% | 6% |

(*) Appearance, Pulse, Grimace, Activity, and Respiration

Annual Report 2023

1228 registrations

98 autonomous midwives from Flanders, Brussels and Wallonia



Vlaamse Beroepsorganisatie van Voedvrouwen