

Midwifery-led care during labour and birth

- Midwife-led continuity of care models lead to good outcomes for mother and child.
- Midwives safeguard the natural course 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
- Referrals 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

Monitoring of the baby's heartbeat

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 give birth in water: 46% outside the hospital and 45% inside the hospital

Birth of the placenta

	Outside the hospital	Inside the hospital
Physiological birth of the placenta:	78%	77%
Blood loss < 500 ml:	77%	84%

Perineum

	Outside the hospital	Inside the hospital
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 complications for the mother: 86% outside the hospital (9% unknown) and 89% inside the hospital (2% unknown)

Baby

	Outside the hospital	Inside the hospital
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