

# 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**
- 42% at home
  - 10% at a midwife-led unit
  - 0.1% born before arrival

- Inside the hospital**
- 14% with an autonomous midwife
  - 14% at a midwife-led unit

Referrals to the hospital (19%)



## Freedom of mobility

- Most frequently chosen birth position was All fours: 42% outside the hospital and 43% inside the hospital
- Few women give birth on their back: 9% outside the hospital, 14% inside the hospital

## Monitoring of the baby's heartbeat

Method most applied: intermittent auscultation with handheld Doppler (88% outside the hospital), intermittent auscultation using the CTG machine (59% inside the hospital).



## Waterbirth

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



## Birth of the placenta

	Outside the hospital	Inside the hospital
Physiological birth of the placenta:	84%	76%
Blood loss < 500 ml:	82%	86%

## Perineum

	Outside the hospital	Inside the hospital
No perineal trauma	38%	28%
Episiotomy	1%	1%
3rd and 4th degree perineal trauma	1.1%	2.9%



## Postpartum

No complications for the mother: 95% outside the hospital and 90% inside the hospital.



## Baby

	Outside the hospital	Inside the hospital
1-min APGAR* $\geq$ 7:	94.7%	95%
5-min APGAR $\geq$ 7:	98.6%	98.3%
Need for respirational support:	4%	4%

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

Annual Report 2022

1463 registrations  
(1.56% of all births in Flanders and Brussels)

122 autonomous midwives from Flanders, Brussels and Wallonia



Vlaamse Beroepsorganisatie van Voedvrouwen