

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**
 - 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

Intrapartum transfers 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

Fetal monitoring

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 birth in water: 44% 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 maternal complications: 95% outside the hospital and 90% inside the hospital.



Newborn

	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