

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 (611)

- 44% at home
- 11% at a midwife-led unit
- 0.4% born before arrival

Inside the hospital (494)

- 27% with an autonomous midwife
- 18% at a midwife-led unit

Intrapartum transfers to the hospital (22%)



Freedom of mobility

- Most frequently chosen birth position was All fours: 47% outside the hospital and 46% inside the hospital
- Few women give birth on their back: 5% outside the hospital, 11% inside the hospital

Fetal monitoring

Method most applied: intermittent auscultation with handheld Doppler (92% outside the hospital), intermittent auscultation using Doppler and the CTG machine (45% inside the hospital).

Waterbirth

Almost half of the women birth in water (44%): 48% outside the hospital and 38% inside the hospital

Birth of the placenta

	Outside the hospital	Inside the hospital
Physiological birth of the placenta:	91%	75%
Blood loss < 500 ml:	85%	86%

Perineum

	Outside the hospital	Inside the hospital
No perineal trauma	36%	33%
No or mild perineal trauma (Labia, 1st and 2nd degree)	/	/
Episiotomy	1%	3%
3rd and 4th degree perineal trauma	1%	2%

Postpartum

No maternal complications: 95% outside the hospital and 89% inside the hospital

Newborn

	Outside the hospital	Inside the hospital
1-min APGAR* $\geq$ 7:	95%	96%
5-min APGAR $\geq$ 7:	99%	99%
Need for respirational support:	4%	2%

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

Annual Report 2024

1425 registrations of which 1105 autonomously by midwife
124 autonomous midwives from Flanders, Brussels and Wallonia

