Maternal satisfaction

Women planning a home birth have been found to be better able to deal with their labour. They have also been shown to have higher satisfaction with their birth experience than women planning a hospital birth, although satisfaction is high in both settings. General satisfaction is higher for planned home births, as well as satisfaction women feel specifically about themselves, their partner, the staff and their baby. Women are especially satisfied with their experience if they actually managed to give birth at home. However it has been shown that the support of their midwife even allows women who require transfer into hospital to take this in their stride.

Women choosing a home birth are overwhelmingly positive about their experience. Women who gave birth at home describe enjoying the peace and calm of the home environment and feeling relaxed at home. In particular women appreciated not needing to get themselves to the hospital. They also strongly trusted their midwives skills and knowledge, which helped them to feel empowered, emotionally supported, informed and included in care plans when at home.


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