



Transfer rates from a home birth to hospital

Studies have shown a wide variation in the rate of transfer. Women having their first baby are more likely to transfer into hospital from a home birth. The table shows rates of transfer during labour or immediately after birth from a planned home birth.

Study	Overall transfer rate from home	Women expecting first baby	Women expecting second or more baby
Amelink-Verburg et al (2008)	29.4% [3.4% were urgent]	48.9% [4.8% were urgent]	14.7% [2.5% were urgent]
Hutton et al (2009)	21.4% [5.4% urgent via ambulance]	40.5% [8.2% urgent via ambulance]	11.4% [3.9% urgent via ambulance]
Brocklehurst et al (2011)	21%	45%	12%

In the study by Amelink-Verburg et al (2008) 42.1% of urgent transfers took place immediately after the birth (for example due to more maternal bleeding than normal).

Amelink-Verburg, MP; Verloove-Vanhorick, SP; Hakkenberg, RMA et al (2008). Evaluation of 280 000 cases in Dutch midwifery practices: a descriptive study. *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, 115(5), 570–578.

Available from:

<http://www2.cfpc.ca/local/user/files/%7B36401833-1E82-4DD6-9A8C-F55A35C64548%7D/Dutch%20Midwifery.pdf>

Hutton, EK; Reitsma, AH and Kaufman, K (2009). Outcomes Associated with Planned Home and Planned Hospital Births in Low-Risk Women Attended by Midwives in Ontario, Canada, 2003–2006: A Retrospective Cohort Study. *Birth*, 36(3), 180-189.

Abstract available from:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1523-536X.2009.00322.x/abstract;jsessionid=320E3DF9A281A15485CF4A91B8D93976.d04t03?deniedAccessCustomisedMessage=&userIsAuthenticated=false>

Brocklehurst, P; Hardy, P; Hollowell, J et al (2011). Perinatal and maternal outcomes by planned place of birth for healthy women with low risk pregnancies: the Birthplace in England national prospective cohort study. *BMJ (British Medical Journal)*, 343, d7400.

Available from:

http://wrap.warwick.ac.uk/46562/1/WRAP_Petrou_bmj.d7400.full.pdf