

THE PLANNED HOMEBIRTHS IN IRELAND REPORT

The Planned Home Births in Ireland Annual Report published by the HSE in collaboration with the NPEC, presents an overview of the home births service provided by Self Employed Community Midwives (SECMs) and Integrated Hospital Community Midwives (ICHMs) in the Republic of Ireland for the year.

The report draws on information collected from the planned home birth in Ireland audit, offering an informative resource for those clinicians providing guidance to women and for the women themselves to be self-informed in a clear and transparent manner in relation to home birth as an option in Ireland. The content of each report reflects the commitment and hard work of many people involved in the maternity services.

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Perinatal Mortality
National Clinical Audit



Severe Maternal Morbidity
Audit



Planned Homebirths Audit





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NATIONAL
PERINATAL
EPIDEMIOLOGY
CENTRE

PLANNED HOME BIRTHS IN IRELAND AUDIT

Findings from the Audit Report 2021



THE NATIONAL PERINATAL EPIDEMIOLOGY CENTRE

The National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC) is a national clinical audit and research centre based at University College Cork with offices at Cork University Maternity Hospital.

OUR OBJECTIVE

The NPEC's objective is to collaborate with Irish maternity services to translate clinical audit data and epidemiological evidence into improved maternity care for families in Ireland.



COLLABORATE WITH US

At the NPEC, we are always looking to collaborate. Get in touch with us if you are interested in opportunities for students, data requests, or research collaborations.



0.4%
of births occurred
at home in 2021

In Ireland, 0.4% of all births occurred at home in 2021. There were 429 women who registered for a home birth with 248 women giving birth at home.

18%

Almost one fifth of women who began labouring at home were transferred to the maternity hospital in the intrapartum period, the majority during the **first stage of labour** (84%). The mean time for transfer was **33.1 minutes**.

98.4%

On the day of discharge from the home birth service, 98.4% of women were **breastfeeding**.



Analgesia

The most common reason for transfer during labour was maternal request for **medical analgesia**.



1-in-3

One in three women were transferred to a maternity hospital due to complications arising during the antepartum period, the most common reason being post-dates pregnancy.

