

# THE REGISTERED HOMEBIRTHS IN IRELAND REPORT

The Registered 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.

Read our reports or learn more about our audits and research on our website and social media channels



Perinatal Mortality  
National Clinical Audit



Severe Maternal Morbidity  
Audit



Planned Homebirths Audit





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NATIONAL  
PERINATAL  
EPIDEMIOLOGY  
CENTRE

## REGISTERED HOME BIRTHS IN IRELAND AUDIT

### Findings from the Audit Report 2022



## 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 2022



Almost one quarter 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** (79%). The mean time for transfer was **28.1 minutes**.

94%

On the day of discharge from the home birth service, 94% of women were **breastfeeding** exclusively.



## Intrapartum transfers

The most common reasons for transfer during labour were slow progress and 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.

