

# Planned home birth with the HSE 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.



The average number of **antepartum visits** by the community midwife to women registered for a home birth was six.

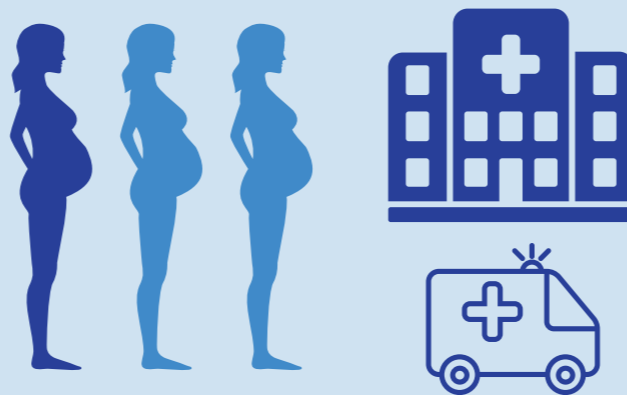


Almost two-thirds of women who registered for a home birth in 2021 had a **previous birth**.

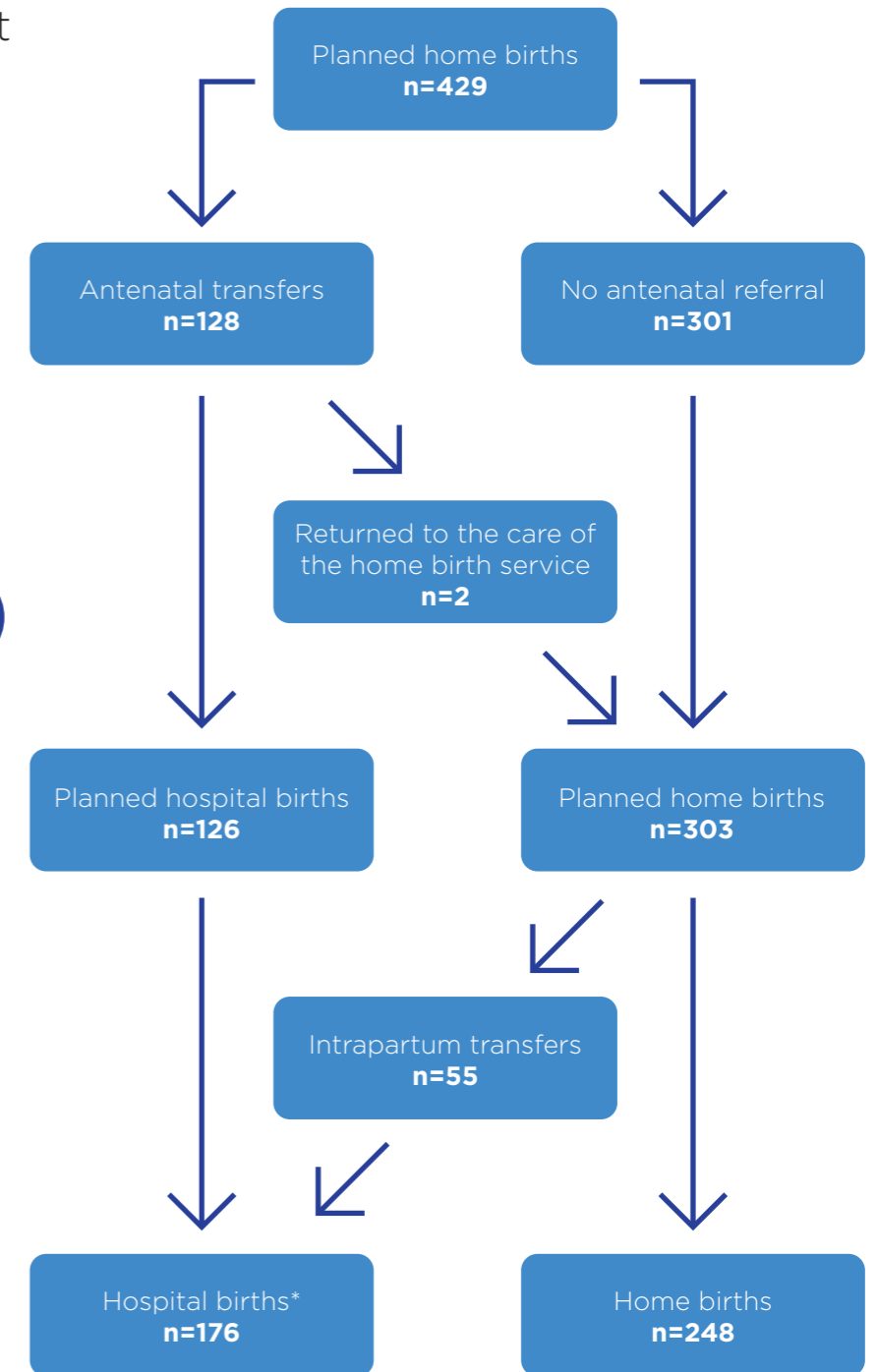
**1-in-3**

**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.

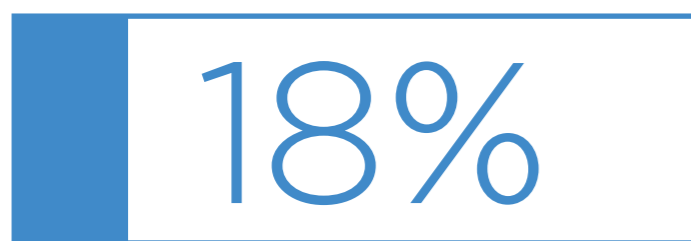


## Flow Diagram for home births 2021

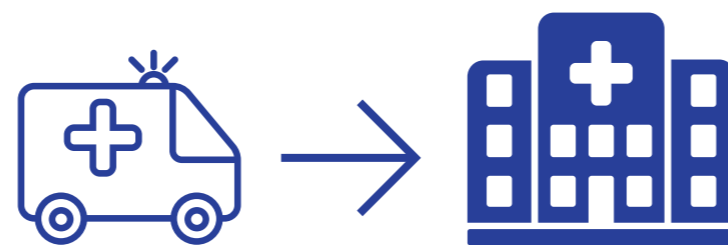


Notes: Not every woman's care follows the flow diagram, this figure is presented to give a general representation of the Home Birth Service in Ireland.  
\*Three women who were registered for a home birth moved residence and were no longer under the care of Home Birth Service in Ireland. Two women who were transferred antenatally gave birth before arrival to the hospital (BBAs)

# Planned home birth with the HSE 2021

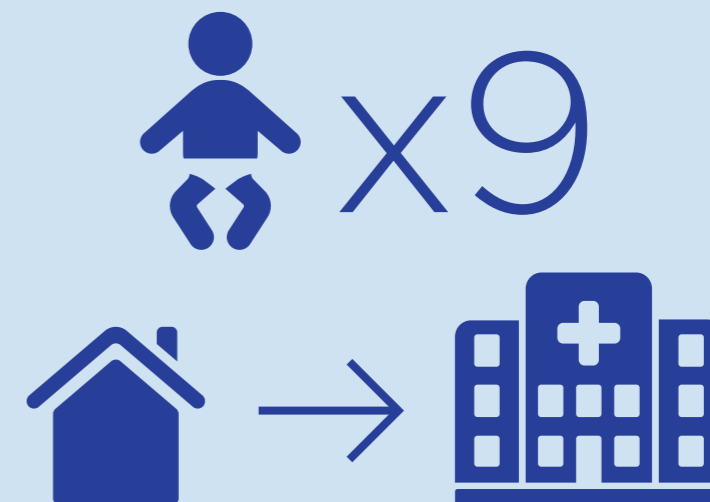


**Almost one fifth of women** who began labouring at home were transferred to the maternity hospital in the intrapartum period, the majority during the **first stage of labour** (84%). The mean time for transfer was **33.1 minutes**.



transfers (x4)

First time mothers were **four times** more likely to transfer during labour than women who had a previous birth (47% versus 7.3%).



**Nine of all infants**

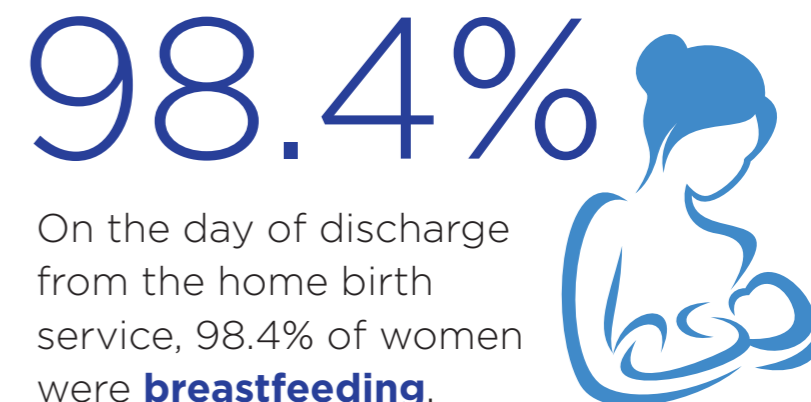
who were born at home were transferred to a maternity hospital. The most common reason was to accompany their mother who required transfer.



On average, the women received **five postpartum visits** from the community midwife with the average day of **discharge on day 13**.



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



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