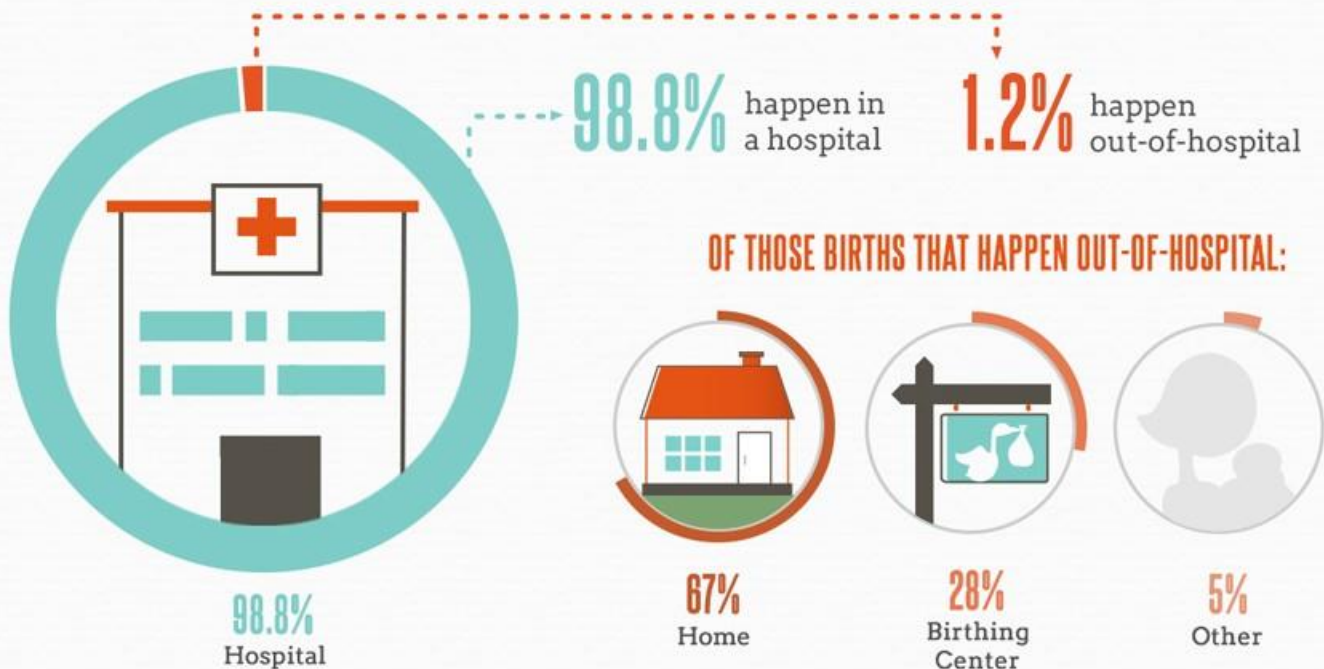


LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION: BIRTH SETTINGS IN THE U.S.

Pregnant women and their families have a decision to make when it comes to where to give birth. While hospitals are the most common choice, many women choose to have their babies outside of traditional hospital settings. What do you know about the options?

WHERE DO PEOPLE GIVE BIRTH?

Nearly 4 million births occur in the United States every year.



HOW COMMON ARE BIRTH CENTERS?

A birth center is a home-like setting—primarily located outside of a hospital—where care providers, usually midwives, provide family-centered care to healthy pregnant women.

THE NUMBER OF BIRTH CENTERS HAS GROWN IN RECENT YEARS



WHAT ARE THE RISK FACTORS?

WHAT MAKES FOR A HIGH-RISK PREGNANCY?

Having a previous premature birth

Pregnancy with twins, triplets or other multiples

Conceiving through in vitro fertilization

Problems with the uterus, cervix or placenta

Smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol
or using illicit drugs

Some infections, particularly of the
amniotic fluid and lower genital tract

Some chronic conditions, such as
high blood pressure and diabetes

Being underweight or overweight
before pregnancy*

Multiple miscarriages or abortions

Unusual shape of the uterus

WHAT COMPLICATIONS CAN OCCUR DURING LABOR?

Prolapsed umbilical cord: the umbilical
cord delivers before the baby, which
requires emergency action

Lack of progress in delivery

Hemorrhage

Fetal distress

Umbilical cord wrapped around
baby's neck

*Defined by BMI and specified in the IOM/NRC report *Weight Gain During Pregnancy: Reexamining the Guidelines*



WHAT DOES LABOR AND DELIVERY COST?

The costs incurred for childbirth depend not only on the birth setting, but also on the type of delivery (vaginal or cesarean) and any complications that may arise during labor.

BIRTHING CENTER

\$2,277

HOSPITAL, NO COMPLICATIONS

\$8,920

HOSPITAL, WITH COMPLICATIONS

\$11,410

\$0 \$1K \$2K \$3K \$4K \$5K \$6K \$7K \$8K \$9K \$10K \$11K \$12K

WHY DO PEOPLE CHOOSE OUT-OF-HOSPITAL BIRTHS?



Desire for low-intervention birth



Cultural or religious reasons



Surrounded by family

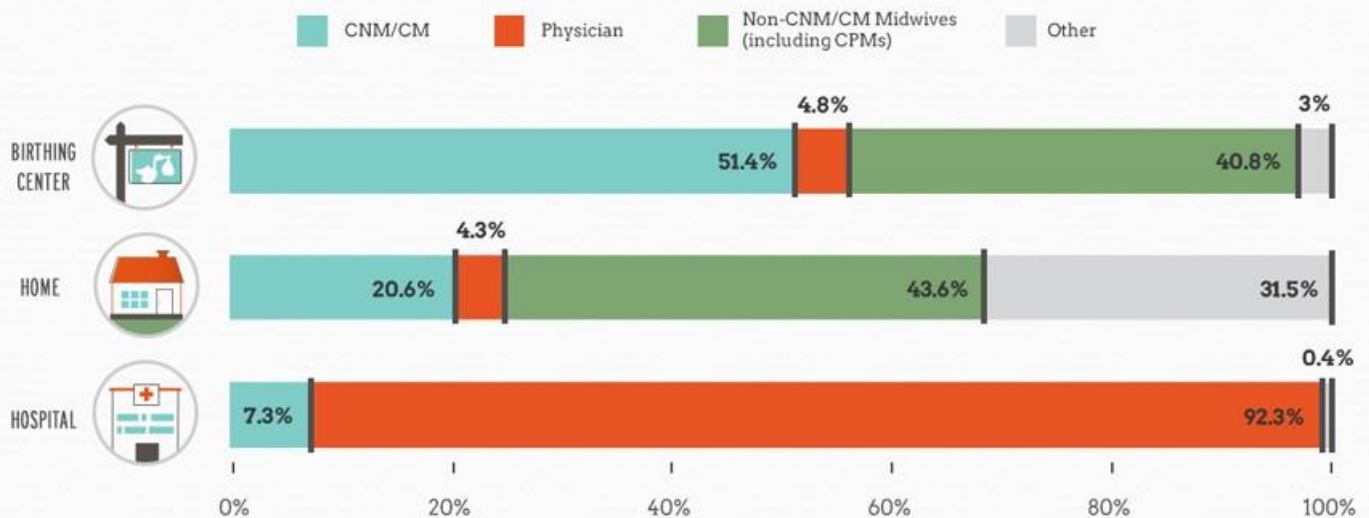


Inability to get to a hospital



Cost

WHO DELIVERS BABIES?



OB/GYN (OBSTETRICIAN/GYNECOLOGIST)

A physician who has received an advanced medical degree, completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology and is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

CNM (CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIFE)

A nurse and midwife who has received an advanced degree and preparation from a nurse-midwifery education program that has been accredited by the American Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) and is certified by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB).

CM (CERTIFIED MIDWIFE)

A midwife who has received an advanced degree and preparation from a midwifery education program that has been accredited by the ACME and is certified by the AMCB.

CPM (CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFE)

A midwife who has been certified by the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM). There is no degree requirement. Some CPMs have completed a midwifery education program accredited by the Midwifery Education Accreditation Council. Others complete a Portfolio Evaluation Process through NARM.

For more information, visit www.iom.edu/birthsettingsWS

SOURCES:

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