A comparison of out of hospital births and hospital births in low risk pregnancies

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During pregnancy, women are faced with multiple choices they have to make when it comes to the birth of their baby, including where they want to give birth, who they want present, and what medical interventions they do or do not want to be performed during the delivery. Women need to be informed on the statistics surrounding out of hospital births and hospital births related to medical interventions and safety.

**Background**
Nurses have the responsibility to inform pregnant women on the different options they have for their birth plan. Research was done on why women choose a hospital or out of hospital setting to give birth, and the medical interventions that are performed with each.

**Methods**
- Used CINAHL
- Researched peer reviewed articles
- Searched terms midwife, out of hospital birth, hospital births
- Narrowed years between 2008 to 2015

**Sample**
- 5 research articles published between 2009 and 2014
- Sample sizes ranged from 214 to 3,999,386
- Sample included 4 international articles and 1 article published in the United States

**Purpose & Aims**
- Purpose: to educate women on their choices for delivery related to where they want to give birth, who they want present, and what medical interventions they do or do not want performed during the delivery
- Aim: to evaluate the statistics behind hospital versus out of hospital births, the attendance of a midwife or physician, and the prevalence of medical interventions in each setting

**Results**

![Graph showing percentage of births occurring out-of-hospital in the United States, 1990-2012.](image)

**Discussion**
- Deciding on a birth place is a vital and important part of a woman’s birth plan.
- Medical interventions were less likely used with a midwife present.
- Home and birth center deliveries are becoming more prevalent due to education.

**Next Steps**
- More research
  - Evaluate the education women receive related to the options about where to give birth
- Change the type of study
- Larger sample

**Limitations**
- Research bias
- Type of study
- Lack of research on the emotional component

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