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NCT Abstract

Normal delivery - *NHS Maternity Statistics, England: 2005-06*

Normal Delivery - definition and rate for 2005-06¹

2.1.2 Over half of the NHS hospital deliveries are spontaneous; both in onset and actual delivery, but a substantial proportion of women undergo some kind of intervention. In 2005-06 11% of women had an elective caesarean section and 20% were induced (whether surgically or using drugs or both). In total 23% of women had a caesarean section and 11% required an instrumental delivery. During delivery, about 1/3 of women had an epidural, general or spinal anaesthetic; and 14% of women had an episiotomy. Women whose delivery is without such intervention may be defined as having had a “normal delivery” – this occurred in about 47% of all NHS hospital deliveries in England in 2005-06.

2.12.1 An estimated 47% of NHS hospital deliveries were ‘normal deliveries’; this is equivalent to a rate of 51% of all NHS deliveries when home deliveries are included. In this context a normal delivery is one without induction, without the use of instruments, not by caesarean section and without general, spinal or epidural anaesthetic before or during delivery. Excluded are any other procedures not relating to an unassisted delivery except repair of laceration. See para 2.20.8 also below.

2.20.8 Information about normal delivery is reported for 128 units, the majority of rates falling between 37% and 59%. Smaller midwife-led units delivering fewer than 550 women per year reported percentages of between 89% and 100%.

References

1. Richardson A, Mmata C. *NHS Maternity Statistics, England: 2005-06*. London: The Information Centre; 2007.
Available from: <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/hospital-care/maternity/nhs-maternity-statistics-2005-06>

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