At Home or Not at Home
Home Births

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- More maternal hemorrhage/transfusions
- More adverse neonatal outcomes such as mortality, low Apgar scores, seizures and/or neurologic dysfunction
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For nulliparous women, there is some evidence that planning birth at home is associated with a higher risk of an adverse perinatal outcome.
Should Canada follow the US/UK conclusions?

Hmmm... we’ve done some of our own studies lately...
Low-risk births just as safe at home as in hospital: McMaster study

'It does provide some credibility for home as a choice of birth place,' says head researcher

By Samantha Craggs, CBC News  |  Posted: Dec 21, 2015 12:30 PM ET  |  Last Updated: Dec 22, 2015 1:06 PM ET

A McMaster University study suggests there's no increased risk of harm to a baby if the mom gives birth at home. (Shutterstock)

When a birth is low risk and a midwife helps, the chances of harm to the baby is about the same as in a hospital birth, a new study suggests.

Published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ), the study carried out by McMaster University researchers looked at 11,493 planned Ontario home births and an equal number of planned hospital births.

It has long been thought that home births are riskier, said Eileen Hutton, one of the researchers in the department of obstetrics and gynecology and the midwifery education program. But the study results suggest giving birth at home is a valid option.

"You'll never convert those who are the true opponents of home birth," said Hutton, co-author of the study. "But it does provide some credibility for home as a choice of birth place."

'There's a huge stigma around home birth, but I think that's shifting.'
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Women Choosing Home Birth Likely to be Different

10% Chance of Emergency Transfer

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So how should we approach situations in which choices based on comparable risks?

- According to Allstate insurance, between 2013-2015 there was a **Collision Claims Frequency** (per 100 cars) of **6.45%** in Toronto.

- If we assume that every accident is reported, and that there are approximately **1.1 million cars** in Toronto.

- **1.1 million x 6.45/100 cars** = 70,950 collisions between 2013 and 2015. = **65 accidents per day in Toronto** (approximately).

- According to Torontotransforms.com, on average there are **350,000 cars** on the road each day.

- So, **65 accidents/day / 350,000 cars** on the road per day = **0.02% chance of getting into an accident on any given day in Toronto.**

VBAC Risk 1:400?
So how should we approach situations in which choices based on comparable risks may not be considered similarly by families?

- High quality training in obstetrics, midwifery, nursing
- Judicious use of interventions with access when needed
- Collaboration and integration across community and hospital settings tailored to population health needs
- Embedded team-based quality improvement programs