

Abstract Details

Session title: French - Perinatal care (+Three-minute thesis)

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Abstract title:

Four years of systematic retrospective epidemiological analysis of programmed and assisted home births in France

Biography

Floriane Stauffer is an independent midwife in France and co-president of the professional association for home birth. After campaigning for the legalization and deployment of birth centers in her country, she turned to defending homebirths, in particular through the epidemiological analysis of births accompanied by the midwives. She is self-taught.

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Description of research or innovation

Since four years, the Professional Association for Accompanied Home Childbirth (APAAD) published, in France, an annual report on the activity of midwives assisting at home births. Epidemiological data from the 4.811 births attended by the association's midwives was used and give rise to annual retrospective analyses. This data is unique in our country in terms of sample size and precision of the indicators. The interest of this study is its systematic nature, it concerns all homebirths accompanied by APAAD midwives and it is updated each year.

Among our main results we find that the perpartum transfer rate is 12.8%, the maternal postpartum rate is 1.5% and the neonatal postpartum rate is 1.4%. Our rate of severe postpartum hemorrhage is 2% despite the fact that 97.5% of women chose physiological management of the third stage of labor, that of perineal lesions of 34%, of which only 0.4% episiotomy. 99.9% of children were born alive and 0.5% of them had an Apgar of less than 7.

Significance to midwifery

In France, the perinatal policy has led to less than a hundred midwives still accompanying homebirths. Homebirth is not part of the care offer in France and is not recognized by the authorities. United within the APAAD, the midwives use these reports to demonstrate to the authorities the quality and professionalism of their service. This allowed them to relaunch negotiations for the recognition of midwifery practice outside the hospital.

Moreover the results presented in this report show us the necessity and the relevance of the home birth offer, but also the necessity for interdisciplinary organization, particularly around the management of rare but serious risks.

Keywords:

Quality care

Association strengthening

Midwife led care