

Home Births Could Increase Fatal Birth Injury Risks for First-Time Mothers

New research indicates to [Hawaii birth injury lawyers](#) that the risk of infant death during a homebirth increases for first-time mothers. According to the study conducted by researchers in the UK, women who have already had a child, and who choose to give birth at home during the subsequent pregnancy, may not have an enhanced risk of fatal or serious birth injury to a child. However, among first-time mothers, home births seem to enhance the risk of a baby fatality.

The researchers investigated more than 64,000 births in England. They investigated a number of adverse outcomes, including upper arm or shoulder injuries, meconium aspiration syndrome, encephalopathy and stillbirth.

Overall, the study found that the risks to a newborn during home births are just the same as the risks during hospital births, when the pregnancy is a low-risk pregnancy. However, with first-time mothers, the risk of adverse outcomes jumped slightly.

Overall, adverse outcomes for a baby including birth injury, oxygen deprivation and stillbirth, accounted about 4.3 births per 1000, regardless of whether the baby was born in a hospital or in a home or midwife-assisted facility. However, when it came to first-time mothers giving birth at home, there was an adverse outcome risk of 9.3 per 1000 births. In hospital births, the risk was about 5.3 per 1000 births, and in a dedicated birth center, the risk was about 4.5 per 1000 births. Generally, women who had pregnancy-related complications did much better when they were in a hospital, than they were in a home setting.

However, the risks of birth injury to the baby dropped dramatically during subsequent pregnancies. In a home setting, the risk was about 2.3 adverse outcomes per 1000 births, while in a hospital, it was about 3.3 adverse outcomes per 1000 births. The researchers have concluded from the study that homebirths may be just as safe as hospital births, provided that the pregnancy is not a high-risk one.