

The Wax Paper: Home Birth Science or Propaganda?



Low-Risk PLANNED home or birth center birth	High-Risk Accidental out-of-hospital birth
Midwife or doctor	Taxi driver, cop, fireman, spouse, sibling, no one
Prenatal care	Possibly little or no prenatal care
Pregnancy is low-risk	Pregnancy may be high risk or health status of mother unknown
Babies had outcomes EQUAL to low-risk hospital births	Babies had outcomes WORSE than hospital births

Declerq E, MacDorman M, Menecker F, Stotalnd N. Characteristics of Planned Home Births in 19 States. ACOG 2010; 116: 93-99

Studies, like the Wax Paper, that include high-risk ACCIDENTAL out-of-hospital births are going to show worse outcomes than studies that exclusively evaluate low-risk PLANNED out of hospital births with a skilled midwife. These more relevant studies show **no difference in risk to the baby**.

If someone tells you about a study that shows higher rates of deaths for babies born at home please ask them if they are comparing **apples** to **oranges**.

Specifically:

1. Does the data in this study include ACCIDENTAL out-of-hospital birth?
2. Why should that make me vote against PLANNED out-of-hospital births with midwives?
3. Doesn't this study really mean that I SHOULD vote for this bill, to make sure women PLANNING out-of-hospital births have access to midwives.
4. Why are you trying to trick me by mixing apples and oranges without telling me about the oranges?

Don't be fooled by BAD SCIENCE that
Compares **APPLES** to **ORANGES**