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Midwives' attitudes towards supporting normal labour and birth – a cross-sectional study in south Germany

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Objective: Supporting healthy and normal physiological birth is part of the global maternity care agenda. Rising rates of interventions have been attributed to several factors, including characteristics, attitudes and preferences of childbearing women and their care providers.

In this paper, the application of a scale that measures midwives' attitudes towards supporting normal labour and birth is described as well as factors that are associated with favourable attitudes, such as general self-efficacy, years in midwifery practise, and primary practise setting.

Designs: In this cross-sectional study an online questionnaire was sent out via e-mail to midwives in two regions of South Germany. The questionnaire contained a validated general self-efficacy scale, a 38-item instrument that measures attitudes towards supporting normal birth among German midwives and questions about midwives' practise experiences and educational preparation.

Findings: On average, participants ($n = 188$) were 39 years old ($SD=10.3$), and had 12 years of experience caring for women during labour and birth ($SD=9.6$). Multivariate modelling

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