

The following article mentions some noteworthy celebrities who opted for traditional and trendy birthing options. Choose one birth option and identify the pros and cons of this selection. Think about it... Is it safe? Risky? A Fad? Affordable? Complete the attached assignment.

Celebrity Birthing Trends

by Lucinda Loveless



Ever wonder how your birthing choices compare to those made by celebrities?

We know that celebrities are people just like you and I, but they do have better access to certain opportunities. Birthing options are no exception.

While most Americans are having babies in sterile hospital rooms, celebrities have been seen researching their options and exploring ways to make pregnancy and [birth](#) less painful.

Their methods are even affordable for us "common folk"! Which method are you planning to use?

Home Birth

Would you like to birth naturally with your choice of attendants in a comfortable, familiar setting. Move your birthing experience to the home front.

Demi Moore, Cindy Crawford, Pamela Anderson and Meryl Streep gave birth at home. Between 2004 and 2009, home births increased 29%. If Hollywood's influence isn't enough motivation, price might be. The cost of a [home birth](#) with a licensed midwife is usually about half the total cost of a vaginal hospital birth. [Editor's note: Will your insurance cover home birth? The out-of-pocket cost after insurance payments makes hospital birth more affordable for most women.]

Water Birth

Brazilian supermodel Gisele Bundchen is one of a growing number of women embracing water birth, said to be a gentler way to bring a baby into the world. "Nature's epidural," warm water, can ease the discomfort of labor by helping a woman relax while the birthing tub counters the effect of gravity on her contracting muscles. In 1995 only three hospitals in the country offered water-assisted labor. Now it's offered in 15% of all U.S. hospitals.

Other celebrity moms who've chosen water births include Ricki Lake, Jennifer Connelly and Mayim Bialik.

Hospital Births

Would you prefer birthing with full medical services at hand? Personalize your experience with your doula in a homey hospital birthing area. Check and see if your hospital allows soothing music, aromatherapy, acupuncture or hypnosis.

Celebrities who've chosen a hospital birth include Halle Berry and Nicole Richie.

Hypnosis for Childbirth

Jessica Alba looked to [hypnosis](#) to create a peaceful, relaxing and more comfortable pregnancy and an easier, much more comfortable birthing when she welcomed her second baby.

Angelina Jolie and Busy Phillips also chose hypnobirthing.

Silent Birth

The silent-birth is mandatory within Scientology. This doctrine encourages a quiet birthing environment without any sounds from the mother, or even the audible exchange of information among hospital personnel.

Katie Holmes and Kelly Preston opted for a silent birth.

Emergency C-Section

Although unplanned, Tiffani Thiessen and Billie Piper's babies entered the world through an emergency Cesarean birth. Just like you and I, even celebrities have life emergencies.

Elective C-Section

Other celebrities are choosing the opposite approach -- scheduled, elective Cesarean sections. This birthing method is growing in popularity amongst celebrity moms-to-be because it is supposed to obviate some of the abdominal stretching that arises during pregnancy. "Too Posh to

Push" celebrities are said to include Britney Spears, Madonna and Christine Aguilera. Victoria Beckham says all her c-sections were under doctor's order.

Vaginal Birth After Cesarean

Kate Winslet's first child was an emergency Cesarean; her second a VBAC. She says that it was an incredible birth. It was really triumphant. Other celebrity VBAC'ers include Kate Hudson and Michelle Duggar.

Which would you prefer? Bringing your new baby right into your home surrounded by friends and family, or the professional help of doctors and nurses?

Birth Option: Home Birth

Pro	Con
More uninterrupted bonding time with newborn	Inability to reach hospital in time if emergency occurs
Lower overall cost	Insurance may not cover cost
More freedom and control: can choose own labor position, use aromatherapy, eat or drink	Fewer options to control labor pain
Being surrounded by all loved ones	Not having enough medical staff or equipment in case of emergency
In a familiar environment	Can be messy
Avoid unnecessary medical interventions and medications	VS monitored periodically, not continuously
Can practice own religion/culture	Not safe for high risk pregnancies

From your research, would you recommend this birthing style? Why?

I would only recommend this birthing style for those mothers who have a low risk pregnancy, are against all the unnecessary medical interventions that are typically thrown at you in the hospital setting, live close to a hospital, and have a well-certified midwife or doctor that can be very trusted. Pregnancy and the birthing process are wonderful experiences that we all hope go smoothly without complications, but complications are not always foreseen or predictable. It is very important to have an emergency plan incase something goes wrong with a home birth. It might be worth the newborns life to take the safe route of a hospital birth instead of a home birth in the event of an emergency where there is help immediately instead of having to drive to the nearest hospital. Time is life