



You & Your Baby

A national survey of health and care during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic



Information Leaflet



We'd like to invite you to take part in our research study. Before you decide, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take time to read this information, and discuss it with others if you wish. If there is anything that is not clear, or if you would like more information, please ask us.

What is the purpose of this study?

We are carrying out a survey to find out about mums and babies, their health and wellbeing, and the care they received during the Covid-19 pandemic. We would really appreciate you taking the time to share your experiences and hope that you feel able to help.

Why are you advertising for women to take part?

We would like to know about the experiences of many different mums from across the UK. We are advertising the survey on a wide range of different social media and pregnancy and childbirth websites in order to reach as many women as possible.

Do I have to take part?

No, taking part is entirely voluntary. If you would prefer not to take part, then you do not need to. If you initially decide to take part but then change your mind, you can withdraw from the study at any time. Simply contact us using the details at the end of this leaflet and we will remove you from the study - we will need to know your study ID number, which will be generated when you complete the questionnaire.

Please make a note of your study ID number so that we can identify and delete your questionnaire responses. You do not have to give a reason for stopping and any future care will be unaffected if you decide to take part or not.

What do I have to do if I want to take part in this study?

If you would like to take part, please read the rest of this information leaflet and then return to the survey and click **NEXT QUESTION**. The questionnaire should take about 20-25 minutes to complete. Before starting the survey, we will ask for your postcode. For more details about why we are asking for this information, please see the section 'Why am I being asked for my postcode?'.

Completion of the questionnaire will be taken as indicating your consent to participate. Please complete the questionnaire as soon as possible to ensure we will be able to use the information you provide. The study will close at the end of January 2021.

What if I have already been sent a study invitation?

Some women are also being contacted directly by post. These women have been selected at random by the Office for National Statistics from birth registration records. If you have already been contacted about the survey and you have completed a postal or online questionnaire, you do not need to fill in the questionnaire again. If you have been contacted about the survey but you have not completed the questionnaire and you would like to take part, you can complete it online now or you can use the information in the letter you received to complete it later.

What are the possible benefits and disadvantages of taking part?

Many women welcome the opportunity to share their experiences of having a baby and their views on the care they have received. However, some of the questions and topics covered in the questionnaire might raise issues or concerns for some women in thinking about things they have experienced. If this happens to you, you may like to contact your health visitor or GP for advice.

We are able to offer all respondents the opportunity to be entered into a prize draw for the chance to win one of five £100.00 Love2Shop vouchers in recognition of the time given to share your experiences. We are not able to estimate your chances of winning one of these vouchers because we do not know how many women will take part in the survey. To be entered into the prize draw, we will need to know your email address but this will be kept separately from your questionnaire responses and will be deleted as soon as the prizes have been drawn.

Why am I being asked for my postcode?

We are asking you for your postcode so that we know the region in which you live. This will help us to understand how care might have differed for women in different regions or in different countries within the UK. The research team will not have access to your postcode because it will be changed into a non-identifiable format before the data are made available to the research team. You do not have to tell us your postcode if you do not want to and you will still be able to take part in the survey.

Will my taking part be kept confidential?

Anything you tell us will be completely confidential in accordance with current data protection laws. All participants will be identified by their study ID number only and so there is no way for you to be linked to your questionnaire responses. The information from your questionnaire will be stored securely at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU) at the University of Oxford and the research team working on this study will have access to it.

Responsible members of the University of Oxford may be given access to data for monitoring and/or audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations.

What will happen to any information that I provide?

Data protection regulation requires that we state the legal basis for processing information about you. In the case of research, this is 'a task in the public interest.' The University of Oxford is the data controller and is responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

We will be using information from your questionnaire in order to undertake this study. The only identifiable information we will collect about you is your email address and your postcode (if you wish to provide these). Your email address will be deleted as soon as the prizes have been drawn. Your postcode will be deleted as soon as it has been converted into a non-identifiable format. At the end of the study, the data from this survey may be shared with other bona-fide researchers in the UK who are doing research which is in the public interest. They will need to apply to the Director of the NPEU at the University of Oxford with a clear research plan and will need

to ensure appropriate approvals are in place. The request will be considered by the NPEU data access committee following the NPEU data sharing policy. We will never share anything that could identify you.

We are working with Ciconi, an approved data management company, to help carry out the survey. Staff at Ciconi will manage the online survey and the transfer of data to the research team. Ciconi will also carry out the conversion of postcode data into a non-identifiable format. Ciconi has all relevant security measures in place and has been assessed and approved by the Information Security Team at the University of Oxford. Ciconi will delete all questionnaire data at the end of the study.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The results of this study will be published in scientific journals and a report and infographic summary will be available on our website: www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/maternity-surveys. The results will also be made available to professionals and organisations who support women and their babies during pregnancy and the early months after giving birth.

Who is responsible for carrying out the study?

The study is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care in England. It has been designed by experienced researchers at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU) at the University of Oxford, Old Road Campus, Oxford OX3 7LF.

Who has reviewed the study?

All healthcare research is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect the interests of people taking part in studies. This study has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by the North West - Greater Manchester (GM East Research Ethics Committee (reference: 20/NW/0426).

Where can I get more information?

If you would like more information about the study, please contact us on Freephone 0808 252 4566. The phone line is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm.

What if there is a problem or I have concerns about the study?

The University of Oxford, as sponsor, has insurance in place in the unlikely event that you suffer any harm as a direct consequence of taking part in this study. If you wish to complain about any aspect of the way in which you have been approached or treated during the course of this study, you should contact Dr Siân Harrison:

sian.harrison@npeu.ox.ac.uk

You may also contact the University of Oxford Clinical Trials and Research Governance (CTRG) office:

ctrg@admin.ox.ac.uk

Thank you for reading
about the study

