

You & Your Baby

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



NIHR | Policy Research Unit
Maternal and neonatal
health and care



Do childbirth experiences vary for different women?

Why is this important?

- All women and families deserve good quality maternity care.
- We need to know if maternity care varies for women with different backgrounds and circumstances.
- This study compared the childbirth experiences of women with different ethnicity, ages, countries of birth, and education levels, who were living in different areas, with or without partners.

What did we do?

- We carried out a national survey of women who gave birth in England during 2020.
- We asked over 4,500 women about their experiences of childbirth and we compared the answers from different groups of women.

What did we find?

Most women told us that their experiences of childbirth were positive but some women were dissatisfied with their maternity care:



3 in 10 women
said childbirth was worse than expected

But...

- Indian women
- Women who had recently migrated to the UK

... were less likely to say this



1 in 10 women
said they received poor care from staff

And...

- Pakistani women
- Women not living with their baby's other parent

... were more likely to say this



1 in 10 women were
dissatisfied with care during childbirth

And...

- Bangladeshi & Pakistani women
- Women not living with their baby's other parent

... were more likely to say this



The average birth satisfaction
scale score was **8** out of **12**

And...

- Pakistani, Bangladeshi & Black African women
- Women living in less advantaged areas

... were less likely to score highly

The survey shows that childbirth experiences can vary for different groups of women.
We need to ensure positive experiences for all women regardless of their backgrounds and circumstances.

The full article is available here: <https://openresearch.nihr.ac.uk/articles/5-31/v1>