

## 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](http://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 or if you would like to complete the questionnaire on paper or over the telephone, please contact us on Freephone 0808 252 4566. The phone line is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm. Further information is also available on our website: [www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/maternity-surveys](http://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/maternity-surveys).

## 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](mailto:sian.harrison@npeu.ox.ac.uk) or 01865 617780

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

[ctrg@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ctrg@admin.ox.ac.uk)

Thank you for reading  
about the study



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 have I been asked to take part?

We would like to know about the experiences of many different mums from across the UK. We have asked the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to randomly select 16,000 names from birth registration records and to send a questionnaire on our behalf. Although your name has been selected, ONS does not share any of your personal details with us. We do not have access to your name or address. There is no way for you to be identified by us from your questionnaire responses.

### How do ONS get birth registration records?

When you register the birth of your child, the General Register Office shares the information with the Office for National Statistics (ONS), with the understanding that personal identifiable information (e.g. name, address, date of birth) will not be shared without the individual's permission. Further details about this can be found at: [gov.uk/government/publications/ips-privacy-policy](http://gov.uk/government/publications/ips-privacy-policy) and in the Statistical Registration and Services Act 2007.

### Do I have to take part?

No, taking part is entirely voluntary. If you would prefer not to take part, please tick the box next to 'I do not wish to take part' on your invitation letter and send it back to us in the Freepost envelope, so that we do not send a second copy to you. 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 can be found on your invitation letter). 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 go to [www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/maternity-surveys](http://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/maternity-surveys) and click on **START SURVEY**. You will be asked for your study ID number and password which you will find on your letter. You can scan the QR code if you have a smartphone or tablet. The questionnaire should take about 20-25 minutes to complete.

Alternatively, you can complete the questionnaire on paper or over the telephone, we have interpreters available if you prefer to speak another language. Please contact us if you require a paper questionnaire or to take part by telephone (Freephone 0808 252 4566).

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.

### 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 a £5.00 Love2Shop voucher in recognition of the time given to share your experiences. To receive your voucher, we will need to know your email address but this will be kept separately from your questionnaire responses and will not be linked in any way. Your email address will be deleted as soon as we have sent out the vouchers.

### 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 the registration of your baby's birth (supplied by the Office for National Statistics) and from your questionnaire in order to undertake this study. The only identifiable information we will collect about you is your email address (if you wish to provide it) and this will be deleted as soon as we have sent you your Love2Shop voucher. 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 paper and electronic questionnaire data entry and transfer of data to the research team. 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 paper and electronic questionnaire data at the end of the study.

