

Newsletter 33 - October 2025

Autumn Newsletter



Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter. We hope you enjoyed some time off over the summer months for some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

This edition of the UKMidSS newsletter includes an update of the progress so far with the Induction of Labour Study; information about our upcoming short survey looking at the impact of UKMidSS; a save the date for our next Study Day in 2026; a potential study which you could participate in; and a summary of our final conference appearance of the year.

UKMidSS Stars

As always, a huge thank you to all our reporters for their contributions to UKMidSS. Without you, this work would not be possible.

In this newsletter, special mentions for reporting all monthly figures to date and having complete data entry go to:

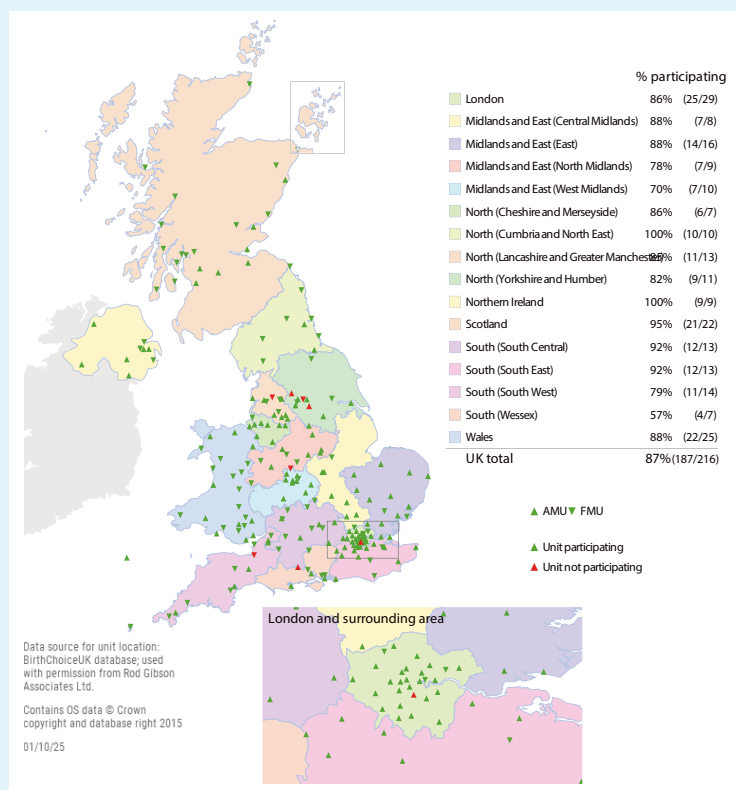
- **Kiera Wedlake** from **The Birthing Unit** at the **Princess Alexandra Hospital**
- **Sarah Roberts** and **Felicity Gruneberg** from the **Waterlily Birth Centre** at the **Queen Elizabeth Hospital**
- **Jane Wilson** from the **Midwife Led Unit** at the **Liverpool Women's Hospital**

Your chocolates should arrive soon!



Induction of Labour Study

Data collection for the Induction of Labour Study began on 1st July, with the first report request going out on 1st August. You should also have received report requests on 1st September and 1st October. The map shows the reporting progress so far. As you can see, 50% of units have submitted at least 1 report which is a great start! We're aware that some reporters are experiencing a delay in obtaining figures and so are a month behind in reporting.



As always, we're striving to achieve 100% of units submitting a report each month to ensure we generate high quality results so please start sending us your monthly reports if you haven't already done so!

In case you're struggling, we've answered some of our frequently asked questions below.



Q

We don't admit women to our midwifery unit following an induction of labour (IOL). Why do I need to submit a report?

A

This information is still hugely important! By telling us that you have zero cases, we can accurately describe how many midwifery units admit women following IOL and calculate the percentage of women being admitted to midwifery units following a component of IOL across the UK.

Q

What counts as a case?

A

Any woman who was admitted for labour care to the midwifery unit after having any component of induction, whether this induction took place elsewhere or in the midwifery unit. Please include women who had artificial rupture of membranes (ARM) as a component of induction. Do NOT include women who only had ARM to augment labour.

Update contact details

Has your unit closed (either temporarily or permanently)? Is one of your reporters leaving? Is the lead midwife for the MLU going on maternity leave? Is your Head of Midwifery taking a sabbatical? If yes, please do let us know. We rely on updated contact details to communicate news as well as collecting data for our studies.

UKMidSS Impact Survey... coming soon!

Next year, UKMidSS will have been running for 10 years! One of the ways we'd like to mark this (see below for more!) is by summarising what a difference we've made. And to do that we need your help! In the coming weeks, UKMidSS reporters and consultant midwives across the UK will be invited to take part in a short survey which will help us understand how UKMidSS evidence has influenced local practice, guidance, and quality improvement activities. We're also keen to know if UKMidSS has contributed to the professional development of midwives.

The survey will be distributed directly to reporters by us here at UKMidSS. Other groups are distributing the survey to consultant midwives in each UK nation. If you haven't received the survey by the end of November but were expecting to, please get in touch! Likewise, if you aren't currently a UKMidSS reporter or a consultant midwife but have thoughts or comments on the impact of UKMidSS, please feel free to contact us directly at ukmidss@npeu.ox.ac.uk.

And we look forward to sharing the results with you next year!

Management of intrapartum emergencies in community settings: a research study

Consultant Midwife and doctoral student Rebecca Parker is investigating midwives' experiences of managing emergencies during labour and birth in community settings. She will be conducting interviews in person or online and will ask about one specific emergency event at a home birth or in a Freestanding Midwifery Unit from the last year.



If you're interested in taking part or just finding out more, please contact Rebecca via email: 19050942@brookes.ac.uk

The UKMidSS Study Day 2026



We're excited to announce that the next UKMidSS Study Day will take place on **Tuesday 5th May 2026** at 'thestudio' in Birmingham. Put the date in your diaries now!

Further details on how to register and opportunities to present will be included in our next newsletter so keep your eyes peeled.

The day promises to be a celebration of midwives and midwifery units, complete with birthday cake to commemorate 10 years of UKMidSS. What better way to celebrate the International Day of the Midwife?!



Conference attendance

International Labour and Birth Research Conference

Rachel was pleased to present 'Changes in the number and proportion of women giving birth in UK midwifery units since 2016: a secondary analysis of data reported to the UK Midwifery Study System (UKMidSS)' at the International Labour and Birth Research Conference in September. Not only that, she was pleased to talk to so many of you about the wider implications of the findings, and about UKMidSS in general.

Our conference appearances throughout 2025 have helped to spread our reach and grow our networks within the midwifery world. It has been excellent to connect with more of you in real life and continue conversations about our work. We look forward to what the future may bring!

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Royal College
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