

Newsletter 27 - September 2023

Autumn on the way



Although this wasn't a particularly dry and sunny summer until the end of August, we hope you managed to get a nice break and make the most of the recent heatwave.

Summer 2023 has been very busy for the UKMidSS team. We have been thinking about new research projects and surveys.

We closed the **AMBeR survey** in June, and are approaching the 7th reporting month for the **Advanced Maternal Age Study**. In this newsletter we have updates about our **Advanced Maternal Age study**, as well as an update about the **Listen2Baby** survey and a save the date for the next **UKMidSS Study Day!**

Finally, a great opportunity for professional development, as Rachel is looking for a midwife to undertake a PhD using UKMidSS data. There is more information on page 4.

Summer Stars

As usual, it is very difficult for us to identify reporters for our awards as we know how much effort everyone puts in to support our studies. UKMidSS really could not work without the help of all of our reporters. This month, the winners of our biscuits are: **Lesley Woods**, from **Cotswold Birth Centre at Chipping Norton Community Hospital**. Lesley is one of our newest reporters to join, and she has already caught up with the reporting and data entry. The second reporter to be awarded some biscuits is **Sam Todd**, from **The Birth Centre at Birmingham Women's Hospital**, for being up to date with all his reporting and data entry, and for prompt communication about issues. And finally, a sweet treat this month also goes to **Fiona Wallis**, from **Sanctuary Birth Centre at Nottingham University Hospital QMC Campus**, for catching up with outstanding reports.

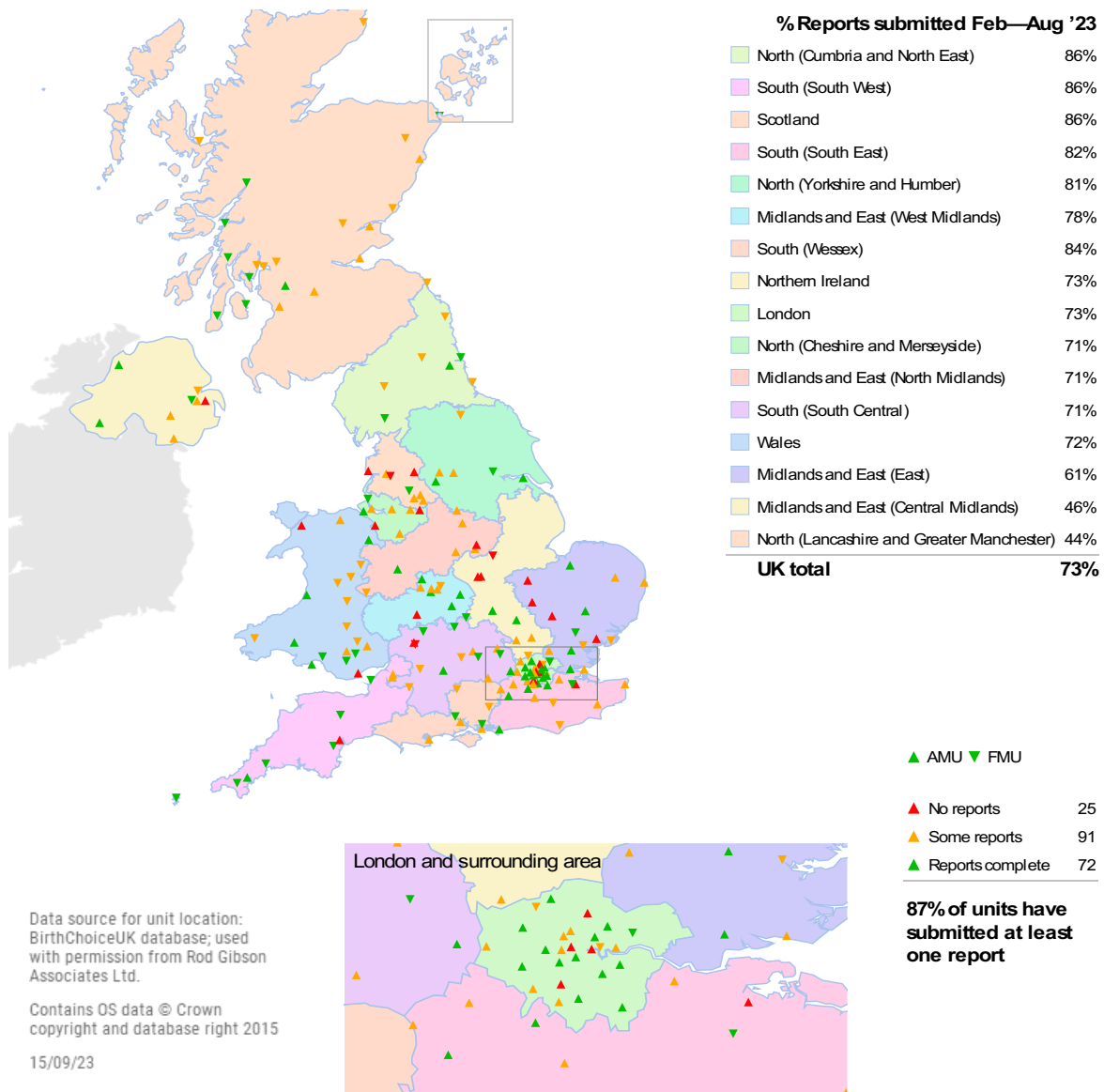


Advanced Maternal Age Study update

We are just over halfway through reporting for the Advanced Maternal Age Study, which started in February 2023. So far, 163 units (87%) have submitted at least one report. That's great, but of those who have reported, only 38% have submitted all their reports. Please remember that even if you don't have any cases, we still need your monthly numbers of admissions and births in the midwifery unit. Also, remember to send us a report if your unit is closed for a whole month. This is really valuable data to us to understand midwifery unit provision nationally.

Of the units who have reported cases, 56% of units have also completed their data entry.

If you report a case in error, please contact Alessandra at ukmidss@npeu.ox.ac.uk. She will remove the case for you from our system, so that you won't keep getting reminders!



Data entry reminder

We have several new reporters, so we thought it would be a good idea to remind you about the basics of data entry. If you submit a monthly report including a case, you will be given a case number beginning with AM. We ask for detailed data about these cases, and for one control for each case. You need to enter these data in our database, OpenClinica. The AM id number is the same for both the CASE and the CONTROL.

In OpenClinica you need to enter the data for both the case and the control. You need to click on the magnifying lens symbol for both the case and the control to enter data. Data entry is not 'complete', until both case and control are complete. We send monthly email reminders about any incomplete data. If you have data to enter and are waiting for your OpenClinica login details, please contact Alessandra at ukmidss@npeu.ox.ac.uk. She will chase those for you.

We need your reports!

There are some units who have not yet submitted any monthly reports. We really need you to start reporting for our latest study! In our previous studies we have had close to 100% participation. This helps us make a stronger argument for any changes in policy or practice and raises the profile of research about midwifery units. If you are a reporter or Head of Midwifery from one of the units below we really need to hear from you urgently. Please contact Alessandra on ukmidss@npeu.ox.ac.uk ASAP.

Acorn Birth Centre, Tameside General Hospital	Lotus Birth Centre, Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel
Rosie Birth Centre, The Rosie Hospital	The EGA Birth Centre, University College Hospital, London
The Birth Centre, North Middlesex Hospital	Fylde Coast Birth Centre, Victoria Hospital, Blackpool
The Birth Place, Medway Maritime Hospital, Gillingham	The Home from Home Unit, Ulster Hospital, Belfast
The Birth Unit, Gloucestershire Royal Hospital	The Juno Suite, Colchester General Hospital
Chorley Birth Centre, Chorley and South Ribble Hospital	The Midwife Led Unit, Ysbyty Gwynedd
Community Maternity Unit, Perth Royal Infirmary	The Midwifery Led Birth Unit, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff
The Carmen Suite, St George's Hospital, Tooting	Orchard Birth Centre, Leicester Royal Infirmary
Primrose Midwifery-led Birthing Suite, Hinchingbrooke Hospital, Huntingdon	St Mary's Birth Centre, St Mary's Hospital, Melton Mowbray
Sanctuary Birth Centre, Nottingham University Hospital QMC Campus	Stroud Maternity Unit, Stroud Maternity Hospital
Stockport Birth Centre, Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport	Burnley Birth Centre, Burnley General Hospital
The Exeter Low Risk Birth Unit, Royal Devon and Exeter Wonford Hospital	Meadow Birth Centre, Worcestershire Royal Hospital

Listen2Baby Update

Megan Douthwaite, Researcher and Project Manager on the Listen2Baby study, has given us the following progress update:

“ Since we last reported on this study, we've been busy! We'd like to thank all the UKMidSS reporters who completed the Listen2Baby survey conducted between November 2022 and February 2023. Seventy-nine percent (158) of units we contacted responded, representing 86% (105) of NHS organisations across England and Wales. We had good response rates from both alongside and free standing midwifery units. These data are currently being analysed and written-up and are informing our selection of sites for the next piece of the Listen2Baby research. This next phase involves a more in-depth look at intermittent auscultation (IA) practice across the NHS, with a focus on midwives' experience and practice of IA, including what works and what's challenging with practising in line with national guidance. We're also now near completion of a complementary study that looked at women's experience of IA during a recent pregnancy and are currently writing-up these data. If you'd like to know more about Listen2Baby, please have a look at the Listen2Baby website.

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4th UKMidSS Study Day - Save the date



We're delighted to announce that our 4th UKMidSS Study Day will take place on the 11th March 2024, and this time we are going back to an in-person event! We've really missed the warmth and chat of our usual get-togethers in Birmingham and we hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us. As before, the event will be free to attend, and we're hoping to have some travel bursaries available to help those who might otherwise not be able to come. This is a great opportunity to meet, chat and network with other UKMidSS reporters, researchers and members of the UKMidSS Steering Group; get exclusive early access to some UKMidSS

results and news; hear from some excellent external speakers; and contribute your suggestions for future research studies. We are working behind the scenes to have an exciting programme planned. Keep your eyes peeled for more information and registration details later in the year. We look forward to meeting many of you in person again.



PhD opportunity with UKMidSS

Rachel is currently advertising an opportunity to carry out a PhD, supervised by her, Dr Jennifer MacLellan and Professor Maria Quigley. The project will inform national maternity care policy by providing evidence about the changing landscape of UK midwifery unit provision and utilisation, and the experiences and morale of midwives working in these settings. A mixed-methods project is anticipated, including analysis of data already collected by UKMidSS, primary data collection using UKMidSS, and a qualitative study. There is more information about the project [here](#) and details about how to apply [here](#). Anyone who might be interested should read the application information and contact Rachel by email on rachel.rowe@npeu.ox.ac.uk in the first instance.

CPD certificates

If you need a CPD certificate for your revalidation, please get in touch! Being a UKMidSS reporter means that you are contributing to national audit and research. You can drop us an email ukmidss@npeu.ox.ac.uk



Update contact details

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.

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