

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



Breastfeeding support in England during the Covid-19 pandemic

We did a survey of 4,611 women who had given birth in England during the Covid-19 pandemic in May 2020. We asked the women who helped or advised them with breastfeeding their baby or with feeding their baby breast milk and how this help was given.



Most women* received breastfeeding support from more than one person:



6 in 10 from a midwife



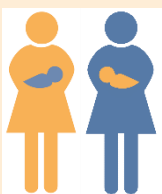
2 in 10 from another health professional e.g. health visitor



3 in 10 from other sources e.g. breastfeeding specialist, support group or peer supporter or other formal support

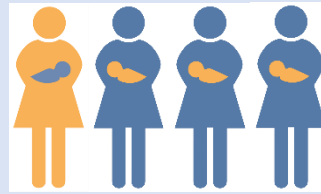


3 in 10 from partners, friends or relatives



1 in 2 women wanted more breastfeeding support from a healthcare professional, especially:

- younger mums (56%)
- first-time mums (60%)
- mums of Pakistani ethnicity (59%)



1 in 4 women did not receive face-to-face support

Instead, they received support via telephone, video call or SMS

A lot of women wanted more help with breastfeeding during the Covid-19 pandemic. This information will help people who plan maternity services and people who plan responses to future pandemics.

The full article is available here: <https://bmcpublikealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-024-20618-2>