



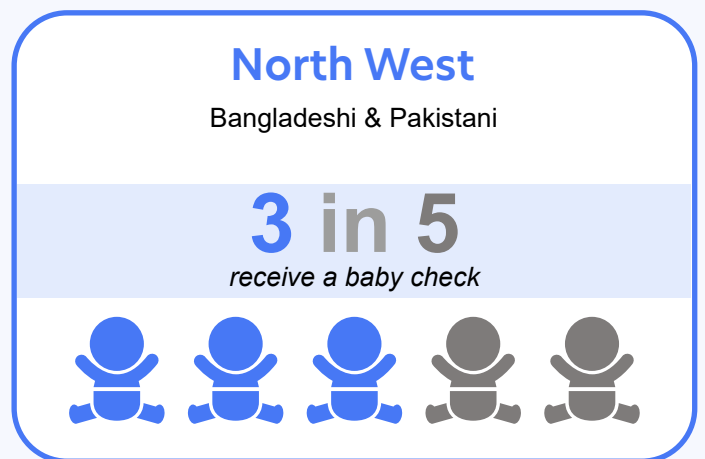
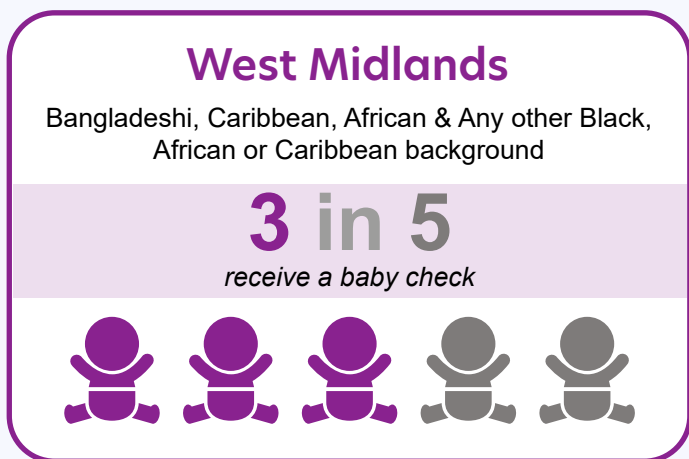
Unequal coverage of 6-8 week baby checks in England

All babies in England should be able to get a 6-8 week baby check at their GP. We used the GP records of around 1.2 million babies between 2006 and 2021 to see how many babies had received a 6-8 baby check in different ethnic groups.

What did we find?

- In some regions of England, baby check coverage is unequal between ethnic groups
- **Unequal coverage hasn't gone away in recent years**
- **Bangladeshi and Caribbean ethnic groups in the West Midlands and the Bangladeshi ethnic group in the North West are most affected**
- Babies who had at least one of their 8 week infant vaccinations and whose mothers had their 6-8 week maternal check were more likely to get their baby checks

In England, 4 in 5 babies receive a baby check



What does this mean?

GPs, primary care networks and commissioners need to work together to figure out the reasons behind unequal coverage. **Parents, caregivers, parents-to-be and the wider community can also speak up and help to create solutions.** You can ask your GP practice:



What are the differences between 6-8 week baby checks, maternal checks, health visitor reviews and infant vaccinations?



Can you give me information in plain English or in my preferred language? Can a female GP do our checks?



It's a stressful time after birth, so can you give me information about 6-8 week checks earlier/later?



Can I talk to someone and ask questions before I decide whether I want to book an appointment?



Can I book a joint maternal and baby check appointment? Do you offer longer appointments so we have time to talk through all of my concerns?



How else can I get involved to help make services more equal and fair for all mums and babies?

