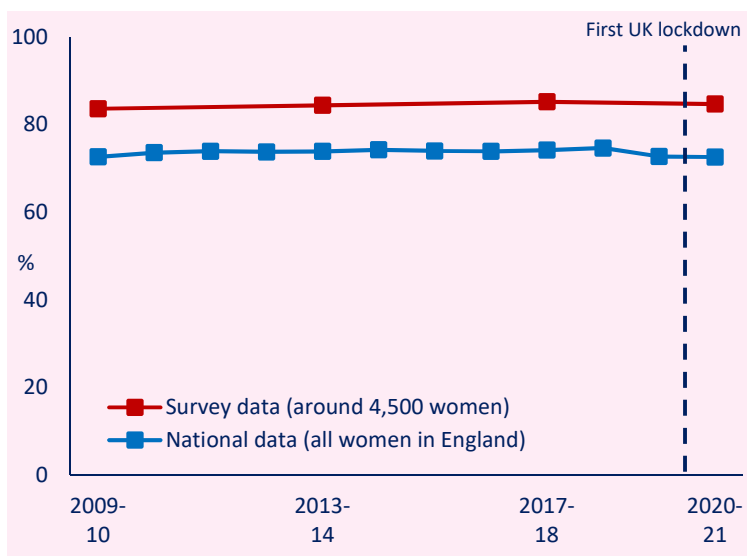




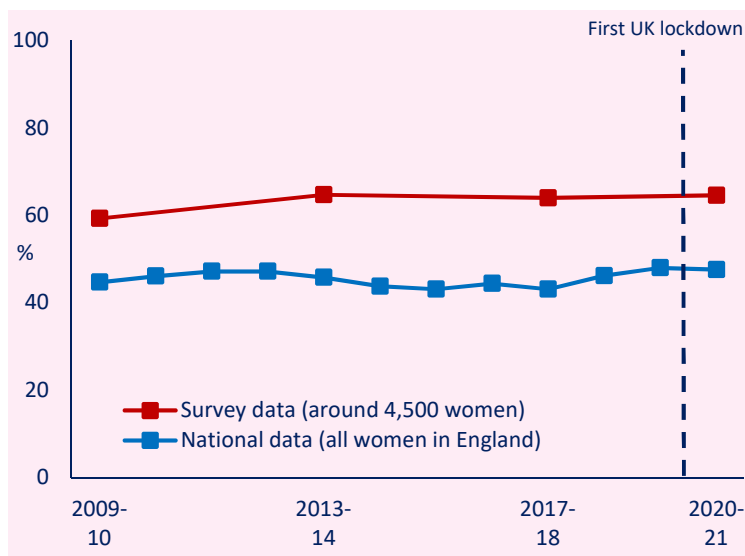
## What was the impact of the pandemic on breastfeeding?

We compared the percentages of women who breastfed\* across four surveys of about 4,500 women who gave birth in England before or during the pandemic. We also compared our findings with national data collected routinely for all women in England (more than half a million women per year).

Percentage of women who breastfed\* their baby at least once, by year



Percentage of women still breastfeeding\* at 6-8 weeks, by year



The graphs show that the percentages of women who breastfed\* their baby at least once (more than 80%) and who were still breastfeeding\* at 6-8 weeks (more than 60%) remained stable during the pandemic. The numbers do not necessarily reflect quality of care or breastfeeding\* experiences more generally.

In our surveys, women were less likely to breastfeed\* their baby if they:

- were younger
- left full-time education earlier
- were living in more socially deprived areas
- were of white British ethnicity
- were born in the UK

These patterns were identical before and during the pandemic.



The full article is available here: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0291907>