

New Year News!

The festive season arrived and departed in the blink of an eye. As we say farewell to 2023 and welcome 2024, in the UKMidSS office we're wishing for a touch less rain and a tad more sunshine to brighten up our days.

In this newsletter we have updates about our Advanced Maternal Age Study, as well as a reminder of our upcoming Study Day in March. On page 4 Jenny and Jude, Research Advisors at the RCM, give us an overview of their new exciting Research Prioritisation Project, for which they need your help!

Honouring Excellence: A New Year Tribute to Exceptional Reporters!

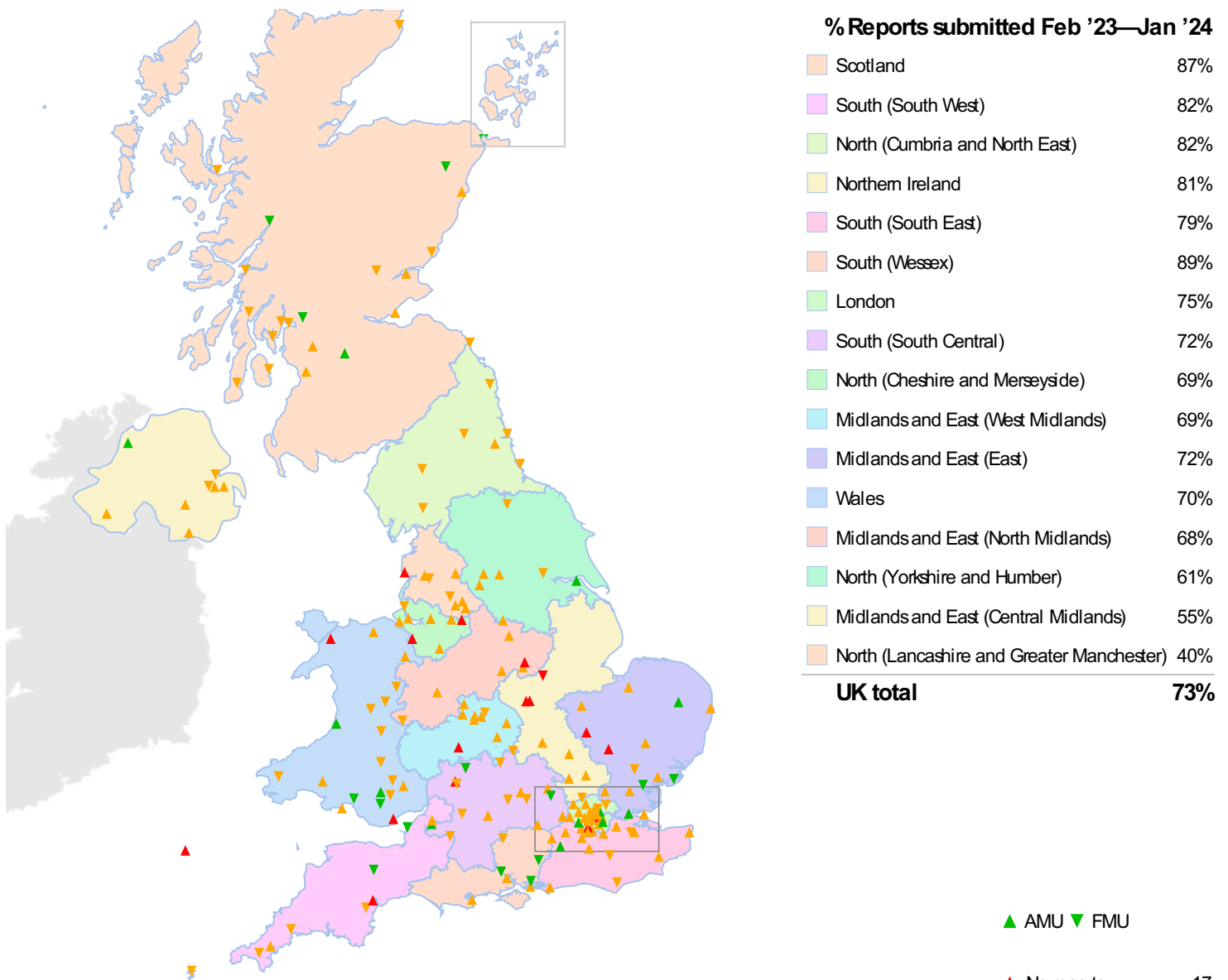
As we step into a new year, it is good to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding contributions of a select group of reporters. We're delighted to announce a delightful treat coming their way – biscuits! These individuals have not only met but surpassed expectations, demonstrating unwavering dedication in their report submission and data entry. This month the first winner of our biscuits is **Fiona Laird**, from **The Birth Centre at North Middlesex Hospital**, for catching up with most of their outstanding reports. We are also sending biscuits to **Beckie White**, from **Lunar Birth Centre at West Middlesex University Hospital**, and **Sarah Ballard**, from **The Home from Home Birth Centre, St Thomas' Hospital**, for being up to date with all their reporting and data entry, and for the overall number of cases reported.



Advanced Maternal Age Study Update

As you will know, we finished active reporting and data collection for the Advanced Maternal Age Study on 1st February 2024. This means that **there is not much time left to catch up with reporting and data entry!** We will be starting new studies in 2024 so we now need one last push to complete this study.

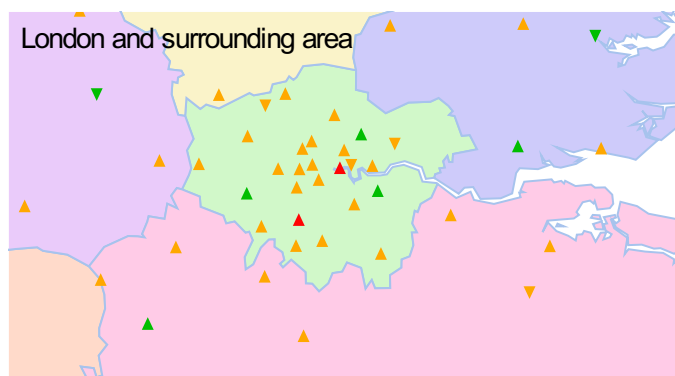
So far, 172 units (91%) have submitted at least one report and 66% of units who have reported cases have completed data entry. If you have data to enter and are waiting for your OpenClinica login details, please contact Alessandra at ukmidss@npeu.ox.ac.uk. She will give you access to the database. If you have **reported cases in error**, please let Alessandra know so that she can delete those cases from the database and stop chasing you.



Data source for unit location: BirthChoiceUK database; used with permission from Rod Gibson Associates Ltd.

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02/02/24



▲ AMU ▼ FMU	
▲ No reports	17
▲ Some reports	145
▲ Reports complete	27

91% of units have submitted at least one report

Units we need your reports!

There are 17 units who have not yet reported for this study. If you are from one of those units, please get in touch! We want to hear from you. Equally, if your unit is currently closed, please do let us know so that we can update our system. This is really important information that helps us track the provision of midwifery unit care across the country and helps make sure that we have reliable data for our studies.

The Exeter Low Risk Birth Unit, Royal Devon and Exeter Wonford Hospital	Sanctuary Birth Centre, Nottingham University Hospital City Campus
The Birth Unit, Gloucestershire Royal Hospital	The Nest, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital
The Carmen Suite, St George's Hospital, Tooting	Orchard Birth Centre, Leicester Royal Infirmary
Fylde Coast Birth Centre, Victoria Hospital, Blackpool	Primrose Midwifery-led Birthing Suite, Hinchingbrooke Hospital
Lotus Birth Centre, Royal London Hospital	St Mary's Birth Centre, St Mary's Hospital, Melton Mowbray
Meadow Birth Centre, Worcestershire Royal Hospital	Stockport Birth Centre, Stepping Hill Hospital
Midwifery-led Unit, Countess of Chester Hospital	The Midwife Led Unit, Ysbyty Gwynedd
The Midwifery Led Birth Unit, University Hospital of Wales	Rosie Birth Centre, The Rosie Hospital
Meadows Birth Centre, Leicester General Hospital	

UKMidSS Study Day - registration now open!

We are really looking forward to meeting you in person at our UKMidSS Study Day in Birmingham on 11th March. Spaces are filling up quickly for our exciting programme which includes updates and results from UKMidSS studies, as well as from other high-profile national studies with an impact on midwifery practice. As well as the UKMidSS team, other speakers include Jenny Cunningham and Jude Field, Research Advisors at the RCM; Claire Litchfield, Consultant Midwife from Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust; and Julia Sanders, Professor of Clinical Nursing & Midwifery at Cardiff University.

We know it can be tough to get time out of work at the moment, but this is a unique opportunity to meet and learn from other birth centre midwives from across the UK, hear about nationally relevant research, and return refreshed and inspired! We're also planning interactive sessions and drop-in advice about developing your own research ideas and projects, so get your thinking caps on. What are the questions or issues that are puzzling you in practice and you can't find the answer for? No question or issue is too small, too trivial or too difficult. We'll have experts on hand to help you think about research question design, research methods, patient and public involvement and much more!

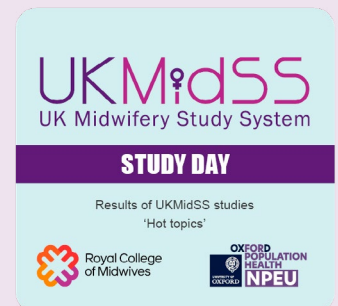
When: 11th March 2024. 9:30am until 16:00pm with registration starting at 8:30am

Where: The Studio, 7 Cannon Street, Birmingham B2 5EP

Other: Lunch and refreshments provided

The Study Day is free to attend and we also have a limited number of travel bursaries available to those who may otherwise be unable to fund their travel, available on a first come, first serve basis.

You should have now received a link to register for the Study Day. We recommend that you use Chrome or Firefox to access the booking website, as some reporters are experiencing problems with Explorer! If you haven't received an email with the link to the Study Day booking page, please get in touch with us by emailing UKMidSS_events@ndph.ox.ac.uk



What's next for UKMidSS?

We've got lots of plans for the next few years and we'll tell you more at the Study Day, but look out for information about our next UKMidSS Survey and Study to follow about induction of labour – coming over the next few weeks and months.

RCM's Research Prioritisation Project – Your voice matters



Jenny and Jude, Research Advisors at the RCM present the Prioritisation project below:



Dr Jude Field and Jenny Cunningham, co-leads and RCM Research Advisors

“ We have just launched a big national project, which we hope will influence the future of midwifery and maternity research. We are working with an organisation called the **James Lind Alliance (JLA)** to find the top 10 priorities for midwifery practice and maternity care research. We want to hear from midwives, midwifery students, maternity support workers as well as women and birthing people, together with their families, friends and supporters. Together we will work to build a consensus of what the priorities will be, and we will be following the JLA method to do this. This work is needed as midwifery practice and maternity care research is not well funded compared to other areas of healthcare. The RCM feels it is vital that we push midwifery and maternity research up the agenda, which will ultimately mean better care for women, their babies and families.

We have a Review Group of three UK professors - Professors Helen Cheyne, Vanora Hundley and Julia Sanders - who advise us and ensure academic rigour. We also have a strong Steering Group of 17 individuals which consists of midwives, MSWs, a midwifery student and women and representatives of service user organisations. This group, together with our JLA advisor, ensures that the project has the right focus and follows a systematic and accountable process. You can see more on our project webpage [here](#) and on the JLA website [here](#).

Our survey went live on Monday 7 January 2024 and is open until midnight on Sunday 7 April - link is [here](#). We want as many midwives as possible to respond to the survey and have their say. We know that the UKMidSS network of midwives is in a particularly informed group of professionals. You work in clinical practice but are also involved in data collection and have knowledge of current midwifery studies. The areas you might suggest as research priorities do not have to be clinically focused, they can address issues such as for education and learning, workforce issues, management and research. Anything of relevance to midwives as defined by the Nursing and Midwifery Council **Standards of Proficiency for Midwives** is relevant to this project.



We would also like you to share the survey amongst your colleagues, friends and family. If you are a member of any maternity related organisation (local or national), please consider introducing them to us at reseachpriorities@rcm.org.uk as they may wish to become project partners. ”

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