

Maternity Survey 2015

For care to be truly person centred, both users of services and healthcare professionals need to take an active role in decision making.

More than 20,000 women responded to the 2015 NHS Maternity Survey, which is the biggest source of data on people's experiences of maternity care in the UK. The results show that most mothers report good experiences of many aspects of maternity care. Despite this, women using maternity services too often say that they are not fully involved in decisions about their care and treatment – and first time mothers were often less positive about the care they received.

Antenatal

53% of women giving birth for the first time were definitely given enough information from a midwife or doctor about **where to have their baby**,



Women giving birth for the first time

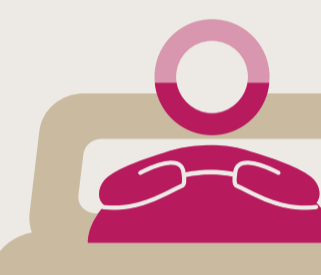


Women who have given birth previously

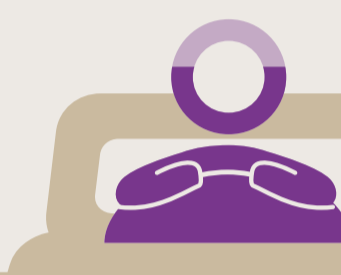
compared to **63%** of women who have given birth previously.

Labour

72% of women giving birth for the first time felt they were always **involved enough in decisions about their care** during labour and birth,



Women giving birth for the first time

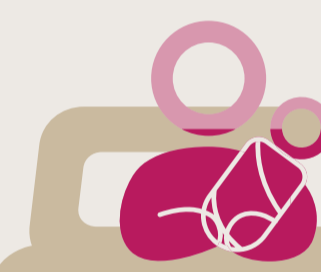


Women who have given birth previously

compared to **79%** of women who have given birth previously.

After the birth

Of the care received in hospital after the birth of their baby, **55%** of women giving birth for the first time felt they were always **given the information or explanations they needed**,



Women giving birth for the first time

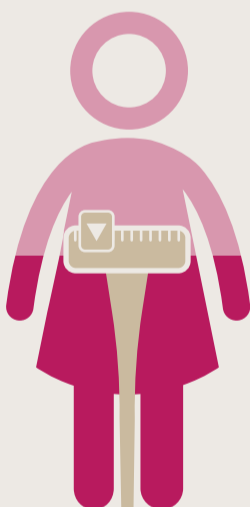


Women who have given birth previously

compared to **69%** of women who have given birth previously.

Postnatal

Only **51%** of women giving birth for the first time were definitely **given enough information about their own physical recovery after the birth**,



Women giving birth for the first time



Women who have given birth previously

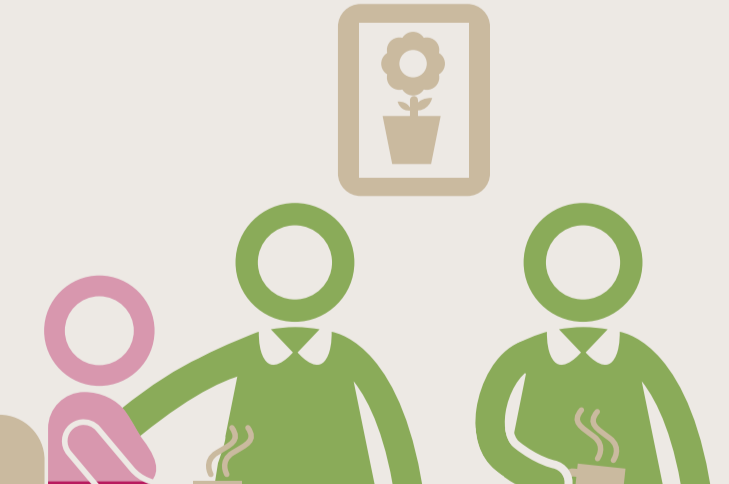
compared to **63%** of women who have given birth previously.

Postnatal

Regarding **emotional changes which may be experienced** after the birth, just **54%** of women giving birth for the first time felt they were definitely **given enough information**,



Women giving birth for the first time



Women who have given birth previously

compared to **61%** of women who have given birth previously.

