Maternity care during COVID-19: What were the experiences of women and maternity care providers?

Want to find out more? Click on this link to read the study publication.

What is this review about?
We wanted to understand the experience of maternity care during COVID-19, from the perspectives of women and maternity care providers.

What evidence did we find?
We brought together information from 48 research studies from around the globe, published by 13 June 2021. Here’s what people said about their experiences of maternity care during COVID-19.

1. Some experiences of maternity care during COVID-19 were positive and people hoped that they could be continued.

“It is a lot quieter, more time to adjust and try to get a hang of breastfeeding without an audience”

“some maternity care providers considered the pandemic as a period of growth as they gained confidence in their role by successfully addressing uncertain situations”


“Everything felt very rushed…. Nobody spent more than 10 minutes with me…. The entire time (in the hospital) I just felt rushed and alone.”

Healthcare providers described wanting “…more compassion and respect from hospital administration… a need to be seen as an individual who is being placed at risk”

3. Some people had concerns about longer term implications on health and wellbeing and maternity care in the future.

“denying my husband, the right to be there, or me the support he provides is a disgusting standard of care which will have lifelong effects”

“I feel management will see the changes made, like shorter inpatient stay, as economically beneficial and it will be difficult to revert back”

What is needed now?

- Longer term postnatal follow-up and care for women.
- Employee organised and funded mental health supports and resilience or debriefing workshops for maternity care providers.