

Zero separation. Together for better care!

Infant and family-centred developmental
care in times of COVID-19 – A global survey
of parents' experiences

Project Report



global alliance
for newborn care



european foundation for
the care of newborn infants

In cooperation with



European Society
for Paediatric Research



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Foreword

Globally, 2020 is a year that will not be forgotten in living memory and no doubt, will go down as a marker in recent history. The COVID-19 pandemic has and is still disrupting societies around the world – socially, economically and politically. It has caused death, devastation and serious sickness for millions, with the full effect of the long-term consequences yet to be seen. At its core has been the focus on healthcare systems and the associated strain on healthcare workers around the world. While the focus has, quite rightly, been on managing the COVID-19 crisis and its fallout, pandemic-related restrictions have also affected quality of care, including infant and family-centred developmental care (IFCDC).

For us, at EFCNI, IFCDC is core to the very ethos of our foundation. When the pandemic hit, we grew increasingly concerned about the impact on the provision of care to preterm born, sick and low birthweight babies in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs). Parents having inadequate access to their child had been voiced as a concern by several of the parent organisations in our network in Europe and across the globe. Taking this perspective as our guiding principle, we carried out a multi-national survey among parents with babies in NICUs around the world during the pandemic, which enabled us to comprehensively share their experiences within this report.

Despite important advances in maternal and newborn care in the last decade, preterm birth remains high across the globe, with one in ten babies being born too soon. This and complications arising from preterm birth remain the leading cause of neonatal death. The United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals include the end of preventable deaths of newborns and children,¹ and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the European Association for Children in Hospital (EACH) both underline the right of children to be close to their parents. Yet, what the report shows is that more often than not, parents were separated from their babies due to restrictions that were quickly implemented as a response to the pandemic in an effort to reduce transmission of the virus. Whilst we most certainly agree that restrictions were necessary to manage the COVID-19 situation, the pace and blanket coverage of these has had negative short, and potentially also long-term effects, on parents of vulnerable newborns.

With this report, we shine light on parents' experiences of the restrictions on IFCDC during the COVID-19 pandemic generally and also in the individual countries. Moreover, we hope to offer insights that can impact how future emergency or unforeseen situations are approached in relation to IFCDC. The evidence produced by this report strengthens our position as we continue to advocate for a zero separation policy of babies from their parents/caregivers in hospitals. And this, ultimately, is in the name of giving all babies the best possible start in life.



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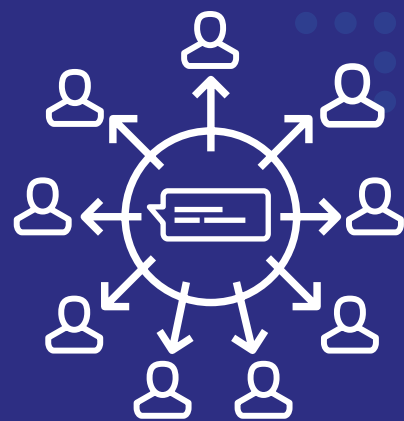


Statement by the EFCNI Parent Advisory Board

When we initially started to become advocates for preterm babies and their families within our national parent organisations, we aimed to make parents equal partners in the care of their preterm or sick newborn infants. Over the years, hard work, joint forces, lobbying and persuasive efforts, as well as international research findings stressing the importance and benefits of an infant and family-centred developmental care approach, have all contributed to better care and improved the situation for many families in Europe and worldwide. Although we knew that we still had a long way to go in terms of zero separation of infants and families in the neonatal unit, the COVID-19 pandemic and implemented restrictions feel like a setback to what has been accomplished to date.

The COVID-19 pandemic poses an unprecedented threat to health professionals who try to stem virus transmission while simultaneously providing best quality care. However, in accordance with the Charter of the European Association for Children in Hospital (EACH) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, quality care for infants must involve parents. Evidence-based cornerstones in neonatal care, for example, the implementation of kangaroo mother care to encourage family-infant bonding, the prioritisation of mother's own milk, as well as the attainment of respectful and supportive care during pregnancy, labour and birth, including the presence of a partner or loved one, have largely been suppressed in times of COVID-19 as this report shows, making parents and their infants the bereaved of this pandemic.

Following the invitation of EFCNI and GLANCE, we were happy to support this global initiative to explore parents' experiences regarding neonatal care during the COVID-19 pandemic. We want to thank all parents who replied to our appeal to participate in the survey and are amazed by the international response. Parents, more than ever, need a voice when their right to be with their baby is undermined and information is lost due to restrictions in place. In line with the WHO Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative and the UNICEF Mother Friendly Hospital Initiative, parents are not visitors and should be welcomed at the neonatal intensive care unit 24/7 to protect breastfeeding, kangaroo mother care and rooming in. They play a key role in the care of their newborns and listening to them is crucial to provide adequate and respectful care in the current but also future public health emergencies. Every newborn has the right to the best start in life, a right that is only met if parents are right by their side.



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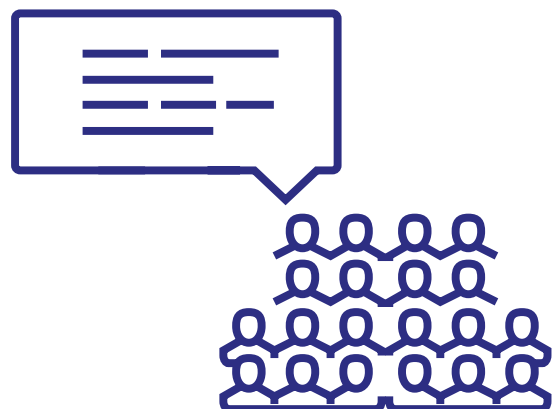
Statement by the GLANCE Chair Committee

In 2019, we joined GLANCE, the Global Alliance for Newborn Care. We, that is a 20-member committee, driven by the vision of giving every newborn the best start in life. It was our aim from the beginning to let our experience as healthcare professionals, researchers, parent representatives, and former preterm infants enrich the agenda setting process for GLANCE. And then 2020 came and made clear that no matter how well you plan, when a global player like a pandemic rewrites the rules, one has to adapt.

At an early stage, we became aware of the concerns of parents of hospitalised newborns worldwide, who were being separated from their babies in the NICU due to COVID-19 safety measures. The “Zero separation. Together for Better Care!” campaign, launched in July 2020, was an immediate reaction to these separation policies. At the same time, neonatal care continued to be compromised by the pandemic. We had to observe a reduction in breastfeeding rates and provision of kangaroo mother care, and even a withdrawal of staff and life-saving equipment. In fact, all the aspects we wanted to protect and promote were suddenly hampered.

The idea of creating a global survey to give parents a stronger voice found us impressed immediately. Now, holding this report in our hands is an incredible feeling. We are grateful for the commitment from the project team and parents all over the world. At the same time, we are also concerned by the findings. Some results are reminiscent of a time when IFCDC had to be vehemently promoted and hard scientific facts had to be used to argue for minimum contact between parents and their sick baby. We had not expected that this point of view would take root again so comprehensively in such a short time.

However, we see this development also as an opportunity to reopen precisely this discourse on putting parents and babies back in the focus. We joined GLANCE not to hope and worry, but to act and to make a difference. Therefore, we speak up for parents, for children and families who went unheeded during this pandemic. We must put their needs back on the agenda, and therefore strongly support the call to action for zero separation.



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Statement by COINN, ESPR, NIDCAP, UENPS

With the mission to provide every newborn worldwide an optimal start in life, we endeavour to continually improve and advance neonatal care through our devoted initiatives. We follow this goal through close and multidisciplinary collaborations and by continuous reflections on the current state of neonatal care from different angles – from a scientific and evidence-based, practitioners' but also and most importantly from a patients' perspective. It is undisputed that the involvement of parents in the care of their beloved child is of paramount importance, and integrating infant and family-centred developmental care (IFCDC) into the core set of standards for neonatal care – in particular for the most vulnerable infants such as preterm, sick and low birthweight babies.

The COVID-19 pandemic poses an unprecedented public health threat, creating the challenge to stem virus transmission while simultaneously maintaining best quality care. The pandemic led to the implementation of a set of measures also applicable in neonatal intensive care units, including a restriction of visitation and parental presence, and leading – too often – to a separation of parents and their newborn.

Following the invitation by EFCNI and GLANCE, we have happily supported this initiative to explore the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to identify parents' experiences regarding neonatal care during these most difficult times. With this report, we take a step back to listen, and acknowledge the parents' essential role in the evidenced-based practice of infant and family-centred developmental care.

We proudly support EFCNI and GLANCE and the call for a zero separation policy to keep parents and their newborn together. Given the pandemic related challenges in neonatal care, we advocate to listen to the parents' experiences and to acknowledge their crucial role in the care of hospitalised newborns worldwide.



Abbreviations

COINN	Council of International Neonatal Nurses
EACH	European Association for Children in Hospital
EFCNI	European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants
ESPR	European Society for Paediatric Research
GLANCE	Global Alliance for Newborn Care
IFCDC	Infant and Family-Centred Developmental Care
KMC	Kangaroo Mother Care
MOM	Mother's Own Milk
NICU	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
NIDCAP	Newborn Individualised Developmental Care and Assessment Program
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UENPS	Union of European Neonatal & Perinatal Societies
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
WHO	World Health Organization



Definition of terms

Family	In this report, family refers to a newborn's biological and/or social parents, legal guardians, primary caregivers and family members
Family-centred care	An approach that places the newborn firmly in the context of the family, acknowledging that the family is the most important and constant influence on the infant's development. At the same time, family-centred care concepts accept that the whole family is affected by what happens to the child
Infant and family-centred developmental care	A term for a framework of newborn care that incorporates the concepts of neurodevelopment, neuro-behaviour, parent-infant interaction, parental involvement, breastfeeding promotion, environmental adaptation, and change of hospital systems
Special/intensive (newborn) care	Key inpatient care (24/7) for preterm, sick, and low birthweight infants provided in a (higher-level) health facility
Low birthweight infant	A newborn who weighs less than 2500 grams at birth irrespective of gestational age
Mother's own milk	Milk used from a breastfeeding mother to nourish her own child
Newborn	An infant or neonate who is in the first 28 days after birth (the term 'newborn' is predominantly used in this report)
COVID-19 pandemic	Also known as coronavirus pandemic, the COVID-19 pandemic is a global outbreak of coronavirus disease in 2019, caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). On 30 January 2020, the WHO declared this outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and on 11 March 2020 as a pandemic
Parents	Individual biological and/or social parents, legal guardians or primary caregivers of a newborn. In this report, the term also refers to persons who represent views on behalf of parents of particularly preterm, sick or low birthweight newborns
Preterm born infant	Infant born before 37 completed weeks of gestation (extremely preterm <28 completed weeks, very preterm 28 to <32 completed weeks, moderate to late preterm 32 to <37 completed weeks)
Sick newborn	A newborn requiring medical care

Parents' voices

"Immediately after birth, the child was taken to a hospital 130 km away, I did not see the child after birth, no one showed it to me, no one could be with me after the caesarean section. When I was registered and wanted to go to the child, the hospital said it was forbidden to visit. I did not see my daughter for 2 months, only a few photos throughout the period, I saw the child for the first time on the day of discharge. That was a nightmare." (Poland)



"It was terrible for my husband not being allowed to see his baby for nearly six weeks. He said he felt totally disconnected from her. I felt the wearing of masks in the unit was inhibiting bonding with my baby. I couldn't kiss her or hold her too close to me as I didn't want her held up against a dirty facemask. Facilities for parents to make a cup of tea and use the toilet were all closed, never felt comfortable in the unit because of this." (Ireland)

"The hospital deprived me of two months and eight days with my child, when he needed me and one cannot do that. He will fill this great wound that I have inside me. To be able to touch him, to be able to see him, to feel me close to him, to be able to get more empowered. They deprived me of my first bath, my first hug, my first kiss. All this was done by many robotic hands and not the warmth of mom or dad. I did not know if this baby they gave me after 2 months was mine or not. Seeing him every day from photos, he had another face (tired, distressed, anxious, asleep). If my own child did not have a mark on his face to know that this is him, I would be very worried if I had taken the right child in my arms. It was a tragic period that will never leave my thoughts, it was a pain and a sorrow that will always remain engraved in my mind and soul." (Cyprus)

"A baby needs both parents to develop and to get well. You should ALWAYS be allowed to be with the child. It's crazy what is being done with the psychological health of a young family at the moment!" (Austria)

"Being separated from my partner in the NICU and wearing masks for the first three months of my daughters' life worry me far greater than COVID." (Australia)

"It was so difficult, especially with a toddler at home. It felt like a daily game of Tetris. We generally knew the rules and had a plan as birth approached but then when my uterus ruptured early, it felt like all the Tetris pieces were falling faster and faster and we could barely keep up with putting them in the right place. It was so much to coordinate for on those daily visits without being able to leave our older daughter with other caregivers due to social distancing. It meant that my spouse missed out on almost all those first weeks in NICU." (Canada)

"The differences per hospital were large. We were lucky with the hospital we received care from." (The Netherlands)



"The treatment was really good and I do not feel that the Corona situation affected the quality of care in any way." (Finland)

"I could see my baby for the first time only one month after his birth. Terrible!!!" (Italy)

"It should be the right of babies and parents to always be together despite the pandemic, of course with the necessary health checks." (Mexico)

"I tested COVID positive and had to deliver the baby at 35 weeks. I could neither see my baby nor hold her. It was the worst three weeks of my life as they took my baby to the NICU and I could only see her once she was discharged after three weeks for the first time." (South Africa)

"I could not be the mother I wanted when I was alone with my twins. I felt mentally bad about not being able to practice kangaroo care as much as I wanted. I was deprived of giving the children the best conditions. It was all about survival." (Sweden)

"My twins received the most outstanding care from the special care unit at the hospital they were birthed. I'm forever grateful for the amazing support and love given to them and to my husband and I." (Australia)

"After day 20, the COVID restrictions started and it was very aggravating, even my milk decreased, they cut off my contact with my babies and the visitation was limited to only ten minutes. Time was definitely not enough because I had twins. We are special families who are already self-conscious, we were taking a lot of precautions and also taking the hospital's precautions. Precautions are good, but the mother and her children need to be together. Even my mental health was broken. Also, just as we mothers, the fathers have rights. Fathers could not enter the ward and my husband was devastated every day as if we were not happy to bring a new baby into the world, but the crime of bringing a sick baby was created in our brain." (Turkey)

"I had a premature baby two years ago. Compared to that time, I feel I'm connecting less with my baby and us as a family are not bonding together as much." (Portugal)

Parents' voices

"We were only allowed one parent to visit at a time. This made parenting very difficult trying to share what we noticed about our baby and our medical conversations for over 2 and a half months. We also got kicked out of morning rounds about our daughter due to social distancing and we truly believe that kept us in the hospital longer because we weren't a part of the medical conversations. We know our baby best and once they finally talked to us that's when improvements were made but we had to fight to get them to listen." (Canada)

"It was very isolating and scary to be caring for a preterm baby in the NICU during Covid. I would visit my baby daily but was worried I was bringing the virus home to my family and two other children every day. I do not feel there was adequate support at the hospital for my mental wellbeing during our stay as I was the only parent allowed to see her." (Canada)

"A very difficult time to have a baby, however, my baby was discharged just as lockdown was starting. I don't think she was really ready to be discharged at the time and we also had to isolate prior to her discharge due to our other daughter having a cough. This was a very tough time but we were glad to get our baby home and she is thankfully doing well now. I feel that the medical staff did do all they could to be supportive in a very uncertain time." (United Kingdom)

"Please ensure that the Ministry of Health allows mothers to reach and touch their babies because mothers need their babies and their babies need their mothers." (Turkey)

Executive summary

Worldwide, the COVID-19 pandemic has created exceptional challenges. Restrictions to stem virus transmission have negatively influenced the provision and quality of healthcare, including infant and family-centred developmental care (IFCDC). Preterm, sick, and low birthweight infants, together with their families, have been severely affected by separation policies with so far unforeseen short- and long-term consequences.

By taking a parent perspective, this research was conducted to explore parents’ experiences with regard to the disruptions and restrictions on different elements of IFCDC during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Parents of newborns in need of special/intensive care shared their experiences regarding prenatal care, parental access, infant nutrition and breastfeeding, health communication, and mental health. With the use of an online-survey, which was disseminated in 23 languages, data were collected between August and November 2020. Overall, 2103 parents from 56 countries participated in the survey. The key findings are alarming:

Prenatal care and birth
42% of all participants were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during prenatal appointments. More than half of the respondents (52%) reported that they were not permitted to have a support person present during birth, leaving them without emotional, informational and practical support.
Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care
Overall, one in five (21%) participants answered that no one was ever permitted to be present with the infant receiving special/intensive care. Only 74% of participants indicated that the mother and 56% that the father/partner was allowed to be present with the hospitalised infant. 28% of mothers and 49% of fathers/partners were not at all involved in the care of their infant by medical staff, leaving them without practical experience before discharge.
Infant nutrition and breastfeeding
18% of the respondents reported that they were not at all encouraged to breastfeed the newborn; breastfeeding support was however mostly maintained during the pandemic in many of the included countries and the respective units.
Communication and health information
A third of respondents lacked adequate information on how to protect themselves and the baby from COVID-19 transmission during the hospital stay and at discharge, leaving them without necessary professional advice.
Mental health and support
More than 75% of the respondents worried because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy and after birth, putting additional stress on the parents in an already challenging situation.

The application of a holistic IFCDC approach urgently needs to be strengthened – worldwide. This is even more important in times of crisis, where restrictions are quickly implemented. The findings of this research have to be acknowledged to end and prevent suffering of vulnerable newborns and their families. IFCDC must be re-installed where it was discontinued, it must be promoted where it was questioned, and it must be protected where it was restricted.

CALL TO ACTION

FOR ZERO SEPARATION AND INFANT AND FAMILY-CENTERED DEVELOPMENTAL CARE (IFCDC)

- Based on the findings of this research initiated by the European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants (EFCNI), and under the umbrella of the Global Alliance for Newborn Care (GLANCE), we request policy-makers, for public health experts and healthcare professionals to:
-  Provide every woman with a safe environment and respectful and supportive care during pregnancy, labour and birth, and allowing support persons to be present during prenatal appointments and birth.
 -  Provide every baby born too soon, too small, or too sick with high-quality care in all settings for the best start in life.
 -  Value, include, and empower parents as key caregivers of their newborns at all times.
 -  Establish a zero separation and family-inclusive policy in hospitals, ensuring parental presence to enable immediate skin-to-skin and Kangaroo Mother Care, and family-infant bonding.
 -  Prioritise mother’s own milk and encourage breastfeeding when possible, emphasising the benefits of adequate infant nutrition for all newborns.
 -  Ensure adequate provision of health information and continuous and respectful communication between healthcare professionals and parents.
 -  Offer and provide access to mental health support to parents and families in need.
 -  Ensure a smooth and holistic application of IFCDC in general and in times of crisis.

ZERO SEPARATION. TOGETHER FOR BETTER CARE!



Infant and family-centred developmental care (IFCDC) in times of COVID-19

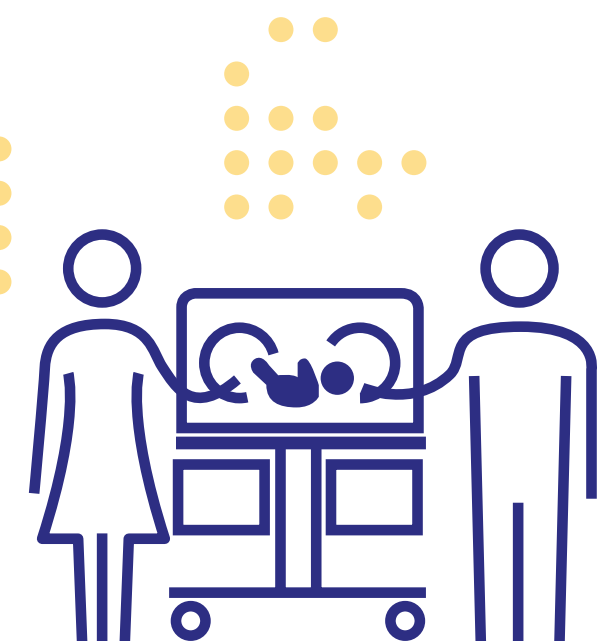
In the last decade, many achievements could be celebrated in the field of maternal and newborn health. However, while important improvements have resulted in reduced maternal and infant mortality rates and better health outcomes of newborns, progress with regards to preterm, sick, and low birthweight infants has been particularly slow.^{1,2} Across the globe, one in ten infants is born preterm every year, with increasing rates in several countries.³ Preterm birth, together with low birthweight, infections, and birth trauma, remain to be the leading cause of neonatal death.⁴⁻⁶ Progress has furthermore been uneven across countries and regions, leaving in particular those behind that are facing poor and under-resourced settings.²

The COVID-19 pandemic has created additional challenges and disrupted healthcare systems all across the globe with substantial implications for the provision of infant- and family-centred developmental care (IFCDC).⁷⁻¹⁰ The observed shortages in the provision of maternal and newborn care have severe consequences for newborns and their families,¹¹ and constitute a real threat to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Development Agenda.⁴

In contrast to international agreements, like the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) or the European Association for Children in Hospital (EACH), which emphasise the right of children to be close to their parents, separation policies have been implemented in many neonatal units worldwide – already before the current COVID-19 pandemic – and increasingly ever since in order to reduce infection rates.¹²⁻¹⁴

While acknowledging the need to tackle the pandemic, some measures, such as the separation of vulnerable newborns from their parents, have severe short- and long-term consequences for infants and their families.¹⁵⁻¹⁸ The negative implications of implemented restrictions on elements of IFCDC are multi-fold, reportedly affecting amongst others skin-to-skin care and Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), initiation of breastfeeding, family bonding, and mental health.^{13,14,19-21} Furthermore, also healthcare professionals had and still have to cope with challenging working conditions, such as staff shortages, lack of protective hygiene equipment e.g. face masks and gloves, missing guidelines and support, which ultimately lead to increased anxiety and stress levels, and put additional pressure on already challenged care provision.^{22,23}

The severe consequences of restrictions and implemented separation policies in neonatal care, together with a lack of scientific evidence on how to respond to crisis situations, have resulted in the initiation of this research. Focusing exclusively on parents' perceptions, this research aimed at exploring their unique experiences regarding care provision and the impact of implemented restrictions around the world on key characteristics of IFCDC – in particular during the ongoing pandemic. Parents play the key role in the care of their newborn and listening to them and their experiences is crucial to provide adequate and respectful care in the current but also future emergency situations, and to finally enable the best start in life for every newborn.





Methodology

2

This report is based on a multi-lingual online-survey which targeted parents of preterm, sick or low birthweight infants born during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic (as of 1 of December 2019) and who were receiving special or intensive care.¹⁰ Throughout the report, the term “parent” covers biological and/or social parents, as well as legal guardians of preterm, sick, and low birthweight infants. The participants of the study had the opportunity to self-define as either “mother”, “father”, or “other parent”. The study was performed in line with the Checklist for Reporting Results of Internet E-Surveys (CHERRIES).²⁴

The questionnaire was developed by the Scientific Affairs Department of EFCNI in close collaboration with the members of the COVID-19 Zero Separation Collaborative Group, which is an interdisciplinary group consisting of experts in the respective medical field and parent representatives. The questionnaire consisted of 52 questions, with pre-defined answers and single or multiple response answer options, and one open question. Enquired were characteristics of core elements of IFCDC covering – next to background and COVID-19 related questions – experiences with regard to prenatal care, presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care, breastfeeding and infant nutrition, health communication, and mental health and support.

The set of questions was critically reviewed and pre-tested among parents (n=8) to ensure a parent-friendly wording and appropriateness of included content. Parent representatives from the EFCNI network translated the survey into 23 languages (Bulgarian, Chinese, Czech, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Macedonian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovakian, Swedish, Spanish, Turkish and Ukrainian). Native medical experts reviewed every single translation for correctness.

Parents across the globe were invited to participate through social media postings, newsletter announcements, and website outreach by EFCNI and GLANCE. In addition, national parent organisations and the collaborating professional healthcare societies (COINN, ESPR, NIDCAP, UENPS) supported the promotion of the survey link in their own networks. A communication toolkit was provided by EFCNI for this purpose.

Data collection occurred between August and November 2020 using an online survey tool (SurveyMonkey®). Data were analysed following an exploratory approach with descriptive statistics (relative frequencies and percentages (n (%)); multiple response questions were analysed as the sum of answers per option), and using SPSS software (IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, version 27.0, IBM Corp, Armonk, New York). For the illustration of the results, the freeware Datawrapper and Microsoft Excel 2019 were used. The open question was analysed qualitatively; results are presented with direct quotes throughout the report.

Data were collected, processed, and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Declaration of Helsinki. The respondents of this study were informed in an introductory text about the survey, data collection process, and privacy. They were made aware that some of the questions might cause distressing reactions considering their very personal experience. By checking a confirmation box, informed consent was confirmed. No financial or other incentives were offered. Data collection occurred anonymously. All respondents had the opportunity to stop participation at any time. The Ethics Committee of Maastricht UMC+, the Netherlands, officially waived the need for ethics approval for this study (METC 2020-1336).





Parents' experiences – Global results

3



In the following, the results of the global survey among parents of hospitalised infants born during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic are presented. This results section is structured into different topic areas, which correspond to core elements of IFCDC. Thereby, the total and regional results which have previously been published as scientific research by Kostenzer et al.¹⁰ are firstly summarised, covering data from all 56 countries included in the survey (*Figure 1; Supplementary Table S1*). Subsequently, 30 countries (with at least 20 respondents per country) were included in the country-specific overview.

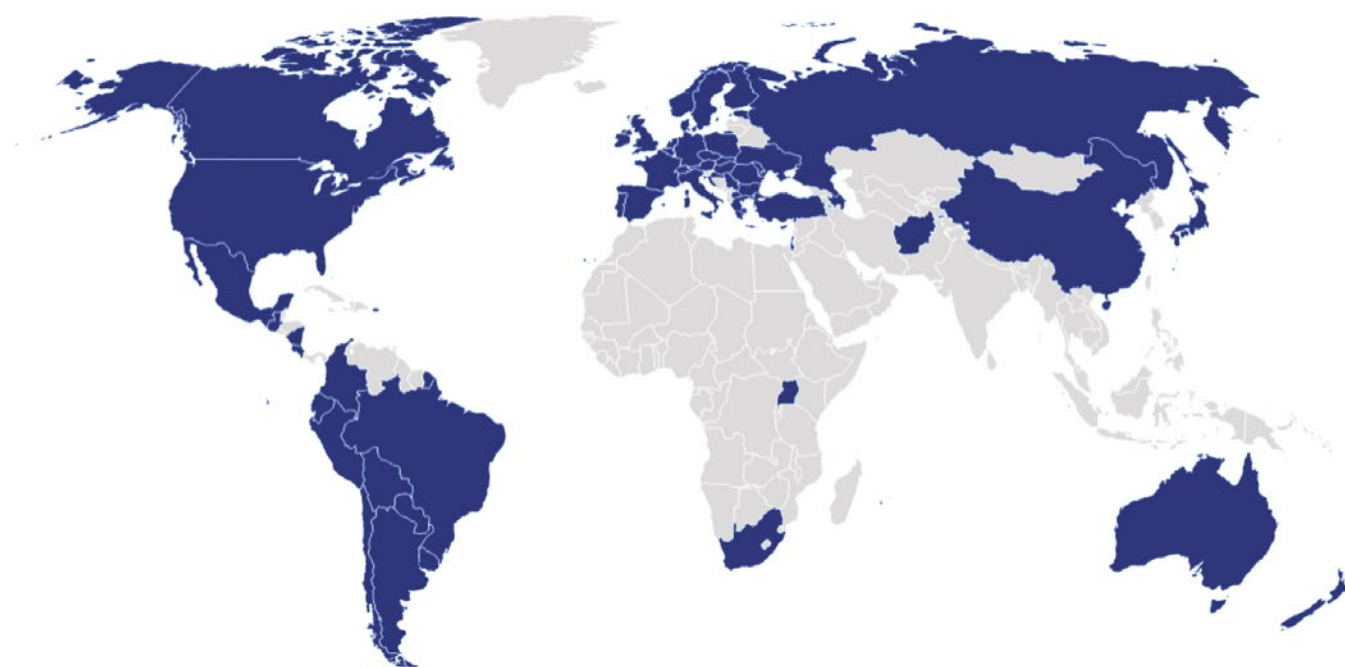


Figure 1. Countries participating in the survey (according to Kostenzer et. al (2021))¹⁰

3.1 Key findings at a glance

PRENATAL CARE AND BIRTH

42%

of all participants were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during prenatal appointments.

More than half of the respondents reported that they were not permitted to have a support person present during birth, leaving them without emotional, informational and practical support.

52%

PRESENCE WITH THE NEWBORN AND SKIN-TO-SKIN CARE

one in five (21%)

! participants answered that no one was ever permitted to be present with the infant receiving special/intensive care.

Only **74%** of participants indicated that the mother and **56%** that the father/partner was allowed to be present with the hospitalised infant.

INFANT NUTRITION AND BREASTFEEDING

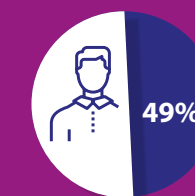


18% of the respondents reported that they were not at all encouraged to breastfeed the newborn; breastfeeding support was however mostly maintained during the pandemic in many of the included countries and the respective units.

28% of mothers and 49% of fathers/partners were not at all involved in the care of their infant by medical staff, leaving them without practical experience before discharge.



MOTHERS



FATHERS

WERE NOT AT ALL INVOLVED IN THE CARE OF THEIR INFANT BY MEDICAL STAFF

COMMUNICATION AND HEALTH INFORMATION

1/3

of respondents lacked adequate information on how to protect themselves and the baby from COVID-19 transmission during the hospital stay and at discharge, leaving them without necessary professional advice.



MENTAL HEALTH AND SUPPORT

More than **75%** of the respondents worried because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy and after birth, putting additional stress on the parents in an already challenging situation.



Zero separation. Together for better care!

3.2 Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

Overall, 2103 participants from 56 different countries participated in the survey. While 2978 parents initially started the questionnaire, few declined participation (n=23), and 852 did not provide necessary details on or did not meet inclusion criteria (Figure 2).

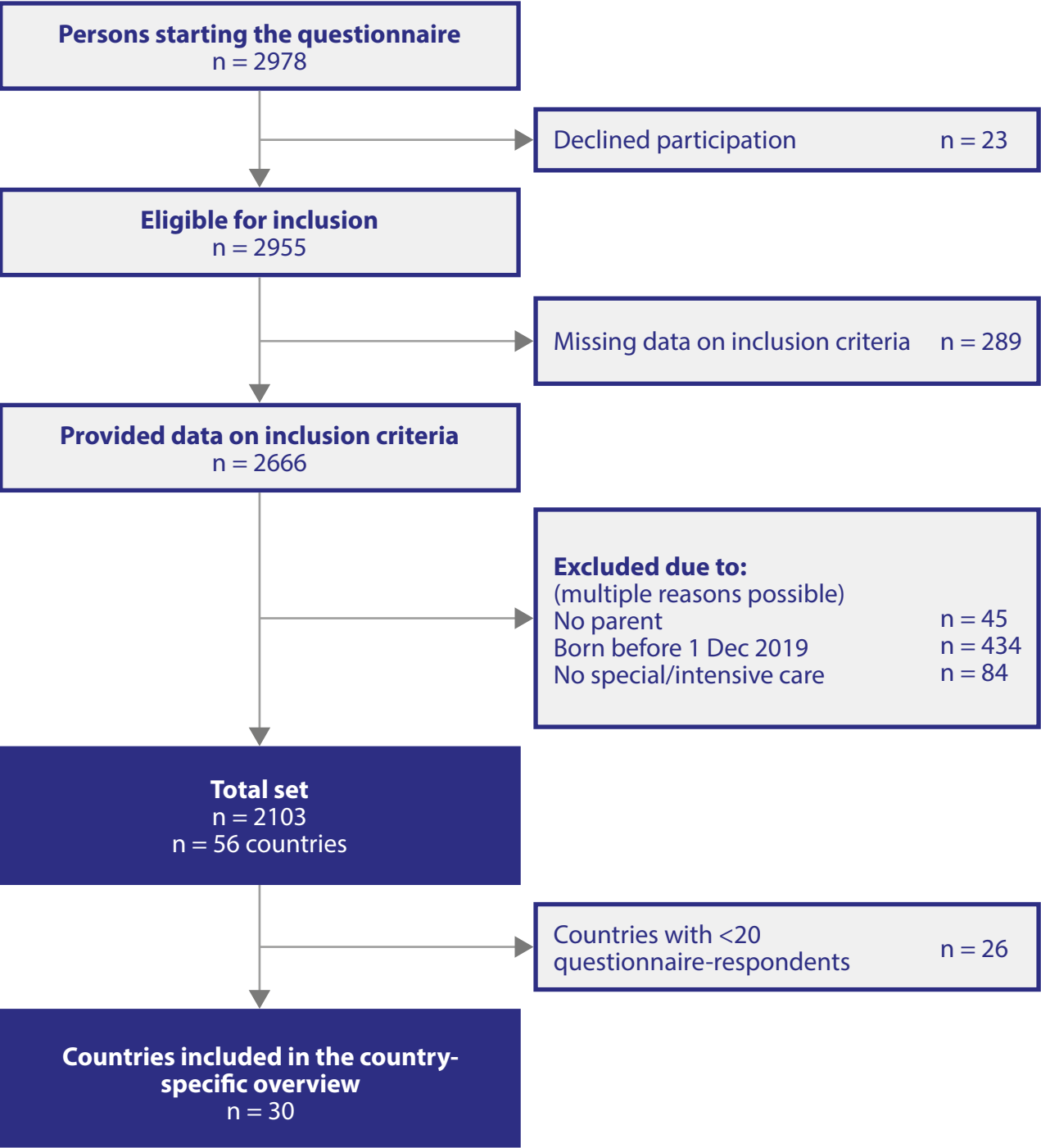


Figure 2. Flow-chart of questionnaire respondents (Kostenzer et al. (2021))¹⁰

As shown in Table G1, more than half of the respondents were between 30 and 39 years old. Caesarean section was the most common birth mode (68%) with only 5% of the infants being born at term. Hospital stays varied and must be interpreted in light of the point of participation, as some parents answered to the questionnaire while their newborn was still hospitalised. Less than 5% of either the participating parents, their newborn or partner have tested COVID-19 positive.



Table G1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Total	Africa	Americas	Europe	Western Pacific
Age of respondent (years)	n = 2097	n = 25	n = 247	n = 1656	n = 161
<20	13 (1%)	0 (0%)	2 (1%)	9 (1%)	2 (1%)
20–29	748 (36%)	8 (32%)	88 (36%)	603 (36%)	45 (28%)
30–39	1200 (57%)	14 (56%)	132 (53%)	949 (57%)	102 (63%)
>40	17 (1%)	3 (12%)	25 (10%)	95 (6%)	12 (7%)
Relation to the child	n = 2103	n = 25	n = 248	n = 1658	n = 162
Mother	2004 (95%)	23 (92%)	240 (97%)	1587 (96%)	144 (89%)
Father	99 (5%)	2 (8%)	8 (3%)	71 (4%)	18 (11%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 2023	n = 23	n = 240	n = 1602	n = 153
Early preterm: <28	381 (24%)	5 (22%)	49 (20%)	374 (23%)	50 (33%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	664 (33%)	7 (30%)	83 (35%)	524 (33%)	48 (31%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	769 (38%)	11 (48%)	99 (41%)	614 (38%)	45 (29%)
Term: 37–42	109 (5%)	0 (0%)	9 (4%)	90 (6%)	10 (7%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 2030	n = 23	n = 239	n = 1607	n = 154
Yes	309 (15%)	2 (9%)	31 (13%)	241 (15%)	33 (21%)
No	1721 (85%)	21 (91%)	208 (87%)	1366 (85%)	121 (79%)
Birth mode	n = 2027	n = 23	n = 240	n = 1605	n = 153
Vaginal birth	632 (31%)	3 (13%)	69 (29%)	504 (31%)	53 (35%)
C-section	1381 (68%)	19 (83%)	168 (70%)	1093 (68%)	98 (64%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	14 (1%)	1 (4%)	3 (1%)	8 (0%)	2 (1%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 2028	n = 23	n = 240	n = 1604	n = 154
<1000	514 (25%)	5 (22%)	54 (23%)	405 (25%)	48 (31%)
1000–1500	621 (31%)	6 (26%)	80 (33%)	481 (30%)	51 (33%)
>1500–2500	698 (34%)	6 (26%)	89 (37%)	562 (35%)	39 (25%)
>2500	193 (10%)	6 (26%)	17 (7%)	154 (10%)	16 (10%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks)	n = 2029	n = 23	n = 241	n = 1604	n = 154
<1	172 (9%)	1 (4%)	27 (11%)	135 (8%)	9 (6%)
1–3	474 (23%)	7 (30%)	50 (21%)	386 (24%)	31 (20%)
>3–5	454 (22%)	4 (17%)	44 (18%)	364 (23%)	40 (26%)
>5	929 (46%)	11 (48%)	120 (50%)	719 (45%)	74 (48%)
Different countries and regions have been addressing the threat of COVID-19 in different ways. Which of the following best describes the situation in your country/region around the time of your baby's birth?	n = 1963	n = 22	n = 235	n = 1555	n = 150
No major concern	83 (4%)	1 (5%)	11 (5%)	57 (4%)	14 (9%)
Precautions	227 (12%)	1 (5%)	23 (10%)	159 (10%)	44 (29%)
Social distancing	550 (28%)	4 (18%)	44 (19%)	468 (30%)	34 (23%)
Lockdown	869 (44%)	10 (46%)	124 (53%)	681 (44%)	53 (35%)
Quarantine	234 (12%)	6 (27%)	33 (14%)	190 (12%)	5 (3%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1990	n = 22	n = 238	n = 1570	n = 153
Yes	55 (3%)	1 (5%)	14 (6%)	39 (2%)	1 (1%)
No					

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

Table G1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics (continued)

	Total	Africa	Americas	Europe	Western Pacific
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1993	n = 22	n = 238	n = 1574	n = 152
Yes	50 (3%)	0 (0%)	17 (7%)	32 (2%)	1 (1%)
No	1907 (96%)	22 (100%)	212 (89%)	1516 (96%)	150 (99%)
Don't know	36 (2%)	0 (0%)	9 (4%)	26 (2%)	1 (1%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1993	n = 22	n = 238	n = 1573	n = 153
Yes	11 (1%)	0 (0%)	3 (1%)	7 (0%)	1 (1%)
No	1901 (95%)	22 (100%)	227 (95%)	1497 (95%)	148 (97%)
Don't know	81 (4%)	0 (0%)	8 (3%)	69 (4%)	4 (3%)

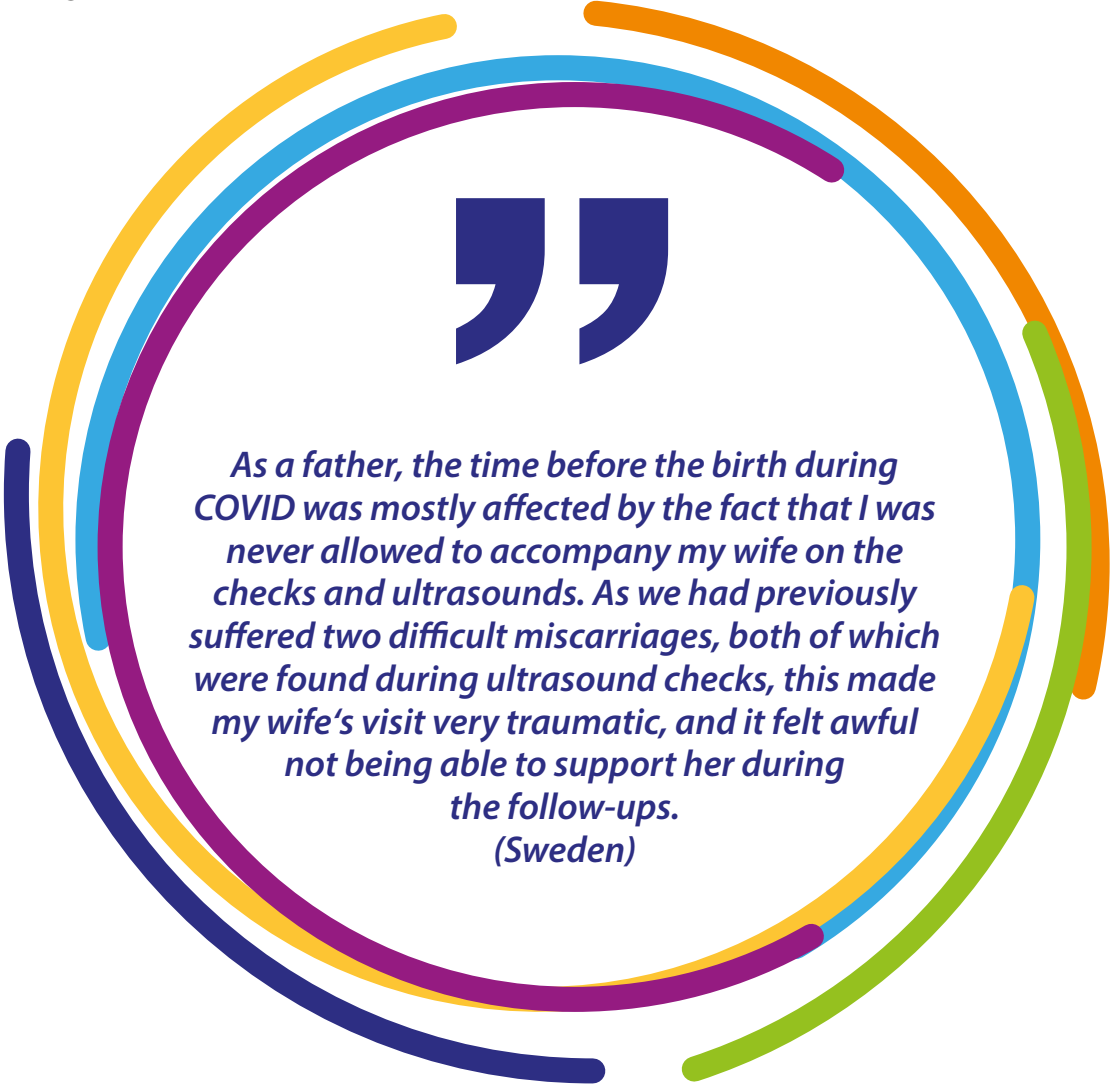
Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

3.3 Prenatal care and birth

The pandemic influenced the timing and frequency of prenatal care appointments. One-third of the respondents indicated that fewer pregnancy-related appointments took place than usual, and in 6% of the cases, even no appointments took place. Only around half of the respondents (49%) indicated, that COVID-19 related measures did not affect the timing of pregnancy-related appointments. Furthermore, also the option to have support persons present in the perinatal phase was strongly influenced.¹⁰



For 42% of the respondents, it was not possible to bring their partner or another support person to pregnancy-related appointments, and for slightly more than half of the respondents (52%), it was not permitted to have another person present during birth.¹⁰



For persons who were permitted to have a companion present during birth, 76% were allowed to stay for the whole duration of labour, whereas 24% could only be present for a part of it (Table G2).

Table G2. Prenatal care and birth

	Total	Africa	Americas	Europe	Western Pacific
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1913	n = 22	n = 224	n = 1513	n = 148
It was done as usual	937 (49%)	11 (50%)	95 (42%)	746 (49%)	81 (55%)
No appointments took place	105 (6%)	3 (14%)	21 (9%)	78 (5%)	2 (1%)
Fewer appointments took place	634 (33%)	6 (27%)	83 (37%)	492 (33%)	53 (36%)
Other	237 (12%)	2 (9%)	25 (11%)	197 (13%)	12 (8%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1911	n = 22	n = 224	n = 1511	n = 148
Yes	396 (21%)	5 (23%)	59 (26%)	286 (19%)	44 (30%)
Not to all appointments	531 (28%)	3 (14%)	55 (25%)	417 (28%)	56 (38%)
No, never	793 (42%)	13 (59%)	87 (39%)	649 (43%)	41 (28%)
Don't know/NA	191 (9%)	1 (5%)	23 (10%)	159 (11%)	7 (5%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

Table G2. Prenatal care and birth (continued)

	Total	Africa	Americas	Europe	Western Pacific
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1914	n = 22	n = 225	n = 1512	n = 149
Yes	926 (48%)	14 (64%)	116 (52%)	689 (46%)	103 (69%)
No	988 (52%)	8 (36%)	109 (48%)	823 (54%)	103 (69%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 975	n = 14	n = 123	n = 733	n = 105
For the entire labour	741 (76%)	14 (100%)	93 (76%)	545 (74%)	89 (85%)
For a part of it (please elaborate):	234 (24%)	0 (0%)	30 (24%)	188 (26%)	16 (15%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

3.4 Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

Implications for being present with the newborn were identified with more than 80% of the participants experiencing severe access restrictions (Table G3). Overall, in 63% of the cases, no more than one person was allowed to be present with the newborn at the same time. Both mothers and fathers/partners were therefore denied access to their infant receiving special/intensive care to varying degrees. Mothers were allowed to be present to 74%, whereas only 56% of the fathers/partners could be with their hospitalised child. In one out of five cases, nobody was allowed to be with the newborn (21%).¹⁰

Furthermore, siblings and other family members were only rarely allowed to be present (3%, 2% respectively), with often very stressful and traumatic experiences for the whole family.



Adding to this, also the duration of parental presence was affected. Only half of the respondents (55%) answered that they could be present with the infant all the time or at least multiple times per day. Unlimited access was possible for 41% of the participants, and 30% could only be present with the newborn for maximum one hour. For about half of the respondents (52%), also no technical alternatives to being present with the infant were offered, such as e.g. photos or videos.¹⁰

Restrictions with regard to parental presence also impacted the provision of skin-to-skin care (including KMC) and thus parent-infant bonding. While 46% of the participants stated that they were able to have skin-to-skin contact during the first week, only 10% indicated that it was initiated immediately after birth. Also, 21% of the respondents answered that skin-to-skin contact was not initiated at all during hospitalisation. Restrictions could furthermore be observed with regards to the frequency of contact. Unrestricted skin-to-skin contact was only reported by 30% of parents. Touching the infant in the bed or incubator was possible for 79% of the participants, however, only 53% of them could do so as often as desired.¹⁰



The majority of the parents felt that the implemented restrictions made it more difficult to be present (71%) or even interactive (62%) with the newborn. While 28% of the respondents indicated that they were not involved in the care of their newborn by medical staff, numbers for their partners were even higher (49%; *Table G3*).¹⁰

Table G3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Total	Africa	Americas	Europe	Western Pacific
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1813	n = 22	n = 219	n = 1421	n = 147
There were no changes	145 (8%)	1 (5%)	10 (5%)	118 (8%)	16 (11%)
Restrictions were implemented	1511 (83%)	21 (95%)	196 (89%)	1177 (83%)	113 (77%)
I don't know if there were changes	157 (9%)	0 (0%)	13 (6%)	126 (9%)	18 (12%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1814	n = 22	n = 219	n = 1422	n = 147
Sum of multiple answers	2856 (157%)	30 (136%)	355 (162%)	2206 (155%)	260 (172%)
Mother	1343 (74%)	16 (73%)	170 (78%)	1048 (74%)	107 (73%)
Father/partner	1020 (56%)	12 (55%)	148 (68%)	757 (53%)	102 (69%)
Sibling/s	52 (3%)	0 (0%)	3 (1%)	41 (3%)	8 (5%)
Other family members	42 (2%)	0 (0%)	5 (2%)	28 (2%)	9 (6%)
Friends	13 (1%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	376 (21%)	2 (9%)	27 (12%)	318 (22%)	27 (18%)
I don't know	10 (1%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	2 (0%)	7 (5%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

Table G3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Total	Africa	Americas	Europe	Western Pacific
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1813	n = 22	n = 219	n = 1421	n = 147
Yes	664 (32%)	4 (18%)	46 (21%)	532 (37%)	81 (55%)
No	1149 (63%)	18 (82%)	173 (79%)	889 (63%)	66 (45%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1812	n = 22	n = 217	n = 1422	n = 147
All the time, (24/7)	668 (37%)	5 (23%)	66 (30%)	522 (37%)	75 (51%)
Multiple times per day	326 (18%)	3 (14%)	37 (17%)	272 (19%)	13 (9%)
Once per day	351 (19%)	10 (45%)	84 (39%)	251 (18%)	5 (3%)
Multiple times per week	76 (4%)	2 (9%)	5 (2%)	66 (5%)	3 (2%)
Once per week	66 (4%)	1 (5%)	5 (2%)	58 (4%)	2 (1%)
Less than once per week	57 (3%)	0 (0%)	5 (2%)	46 (3%)	5 (3%)
Never	268 (15%)	1 (5%)	15 (7%)	207 (15%)	44 (30%)
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1810	n = 22	n = 218	n = 1419	n = 147
Up to an hour	551 (30%)	6 (27%)	84 (39%)	455 (32%)	5 (3%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	133 (7%)	5 (23%)	16 (7%)	101 (7%)	9 (6%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	122 (7%)	5 (23%)	21 (10%)	85 (6%)	11 (7%)
Unlimited	746 (41%)	5 (23%)	84 (39%)	580 (41%)	77 (52%)
Not at all	258 (14%)	1 (5%)	13 (6%)	198 (14%)	45 (31%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1812	n = 22	n = 218	n = 1422	n = 146
Yes	1294 (71%)	20 (91%)	174 (80%)	998 (70%)	99 (68%)
No, not more difficult	372 (21%)	2 (9%)	34 (16%)	307 (22%)	28 (19%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	100 (6%)	0 (0%)	7 (3%)	85 (6%)	8 (5%)
Don't know	46 (3%)	0 (0%)	3 (1%)	32 (2%)	11 (8%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1910	n = 22	n = 225	n = 1510	n = 148
Immediately after birth	183 (10%)	0 (0%)	21 (9%)	145 (10%)	17 (11%)
On the first day	220 (12%)	0 (0%)	10 (4%)	190 (13%)	20 (14%)
After the first day but during the first week	451 (24%)	4 (18%)	52 (23%)	354 (23%)	39 (26%)
After the first week	448 (24%)	8 (36%)	72 (32%)	344 (23%)	23 (16%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	204 (11%)	2 (9%)	15 (7%)	141 (9%)	46 (31%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	404 (21%)	8 (36%)	55 (24%)	336 (22%)	3 (2%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1909	n = 22	n = 223	n = 1511	n = 148
As often as I wanted	578 (30%)	7 (32%)	62 (28%)	471 (31%)	36 (24%)
At least once per day	518 (27%)	5 (23%)	81 (36%)	384 (25%)	47 (32%)
At least once per week	124 (7%)	1 (5%)	19 (9%)	93 (6%)	11 (7%)
Less than once per week	166 (9%)	2 (9%)	21 (9%)	139 (9%)	4 (3%)
Not so far	523 (27%)	7 (32%)	40 (18%)	424 (28%)	50 (34%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1810	n = 22	n = 219	n = 1419	n = 146
Yes	912 (50%)	11 (50%)	93 (42%)	731 (52%)	76 (52%)
No, not more difficult	391 (22%)	9 (41%)	74 (34%)	282 (20%)	25 (17%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	497 (28%)	2 (9%)	52 (24%)	401 (28%)	41 (28%)
Don't know	10 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (0%)	4 (3%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

Table G3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Total	Africa	Americas	Europe	Western Pacific
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1812	n = 22	n = 219	n = 1421	n = 146
Yes, to a high degree	573 (32%)	5 (23%)	58 (26%)	452 (32%)	57 (39%)
Yes, to some degree	311 (17%)	6 (27%)	59 (27%)	212 (15%)	34 (23%)
No, not at all	886 (49%)	11 (50%)	96 (44%)	729 (51%)	47 (32%)
Don't know	24 (1%)	0 (0%)	5 (2%)	14 (1%)	5 (3%)
I don't have a partner	18 (1%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	14 (1%)	3 (2%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1916	n = 22	n = 226	n = 1515	n = 148
Yes	1509 (79%)	18 (82%)	197 (87%)	1191 (79%)	99 (67%)
No	407 (21%)	4 (18%)	29 (13%)	324 (21%)	49 (33%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1916	n = 22	n = 226	n = 1515	n = 148
Yes	1509 (79%)	18 (82%)	197 (87%)	1191 (79%)	99 (67%)
No	407 (21%)	4 (18%)	29 (13%)	324 (21%)	49 (33%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1913	n = 22	n = 226	n = 1512	n = 148
As often as I wanted	1012 (53%)	10 (45%)	116 (51%)	802 (53%)	81 (55%)
At least once per day	372 (19%)	7 (32%)	69 (31%)	282 (19%)	14 (9%)
At least once per week	75 (4%)	1 (5%)	9 (4%)	62 (4%)	3 (2%)
Less than once per week	114 (6%)	2 (9%)	11 (5%)	98 (6%)	2 (1%)
Not so far	340 (18%)	2 (9%)	21 (9%)	268 (18%)	48 (32%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1796	n = 22	n = 218	n = 1408	n = 144
Sum of multiple answers	2136 (119%)	28 (127%)	256 (117%)	1689 (120%)	157 (109%)
Photos	598 (33%)	6 (27%)	53 (24%)	509 (36%)	28 (19%)
Livestream	139 (8%)	1 (5%)	13 (6%)	114 (8%)	10 (7%)
Recorded video	169 (9%)	3 (14%)	16 (7%)	145 (10%)	4 (3%)
Video calls	125 (7%)	2 (9%)	23 (11%)	91 (6%)	8 (6%)
None	932 (52%)	16 (73%)	134 (61%)	691 (49%)	90 (63%)
Other	173 (10%)	0 (0%)	17 (8%)	139 (10%)	17 (12%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

3.5 Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

This research indicated that medical and nursing staff highly or somewhat encouraged the initiation of breastfeeding as reported by 77% (Table G4). More than 85% of the participants' newborns were either exclusively or at least partly breastfed with the mother's own expressed or pumped milk during the first weeks after birth.¹⁰

The initiation of breastfeeding, however, was often challenging for the participating mothers, and infant formula was sometimes prioritised for different reasons, as the feedback provided by some participants shows.



From the findings of this study, breastfeeding and the provision of mother's own milk either took place on the first day or during the first week after birth. A large majority of respondents (over 70%) was allowed to bring expressed milk from home (Table G4).¹⁰

Table G4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Total	Africa	Americas	Europe	Western Pacific
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1880	n = 22	n = 224	n = 1483	n = 146
Yes, highly encouraged	998 (52%)	12 (55%)	129 (58%)	726 (49%)	129 (88%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	471 (25%)	5 (23%)	63 (28%)	392 (26%)	10 (7%)
No, not encouraged at all	331 (18%)	5 (23%)	29 (13%)	293 (20%)	2 (1%)
Don't know	80 (4%)	0 (0%)	3 (1%)	72 (5%)	5 (3%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1879	n = 22	n = 224	n = 1483	n = 145
Yes, exclusively	924 (49%)	13 (59%)	90 (40%)	720 (49%)	98 (68%)
Yes, partly	750 (40%)	8 (36%)	108 (48%)	590 (40%)	43 (30%)
No, not at all	197 (11%)	1 (5%)	25 (11%)	166 (11%)	4 (3%)
Don't know	8 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1881	n = 22	n = 224	n = 1484	n = 146
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	160 (9%)	2 (9%)	18 (8%)	136 (9%)	3 (2%)
On the first day	626 (33%)	10 (45%)	54 (24%)	502 (34%)	59 (40%)
After the first day but during the first week	756 (40%)	8 (36%)	90 (40%)	590 (40%)	67 (46%)
After the first week	280 (15%)	1 (5%)	59 (26%)	206 (14%)	12 (8%)
Don't know	59 (3%)	1 (5%)	3 (1%)	50 (3%)	5 (3%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1879	n = 22	n = 224	n = 1482	n = 146
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	124 (7%)	0 (0%)	9 (4%)	112 (8%)	2 (1%)
Yes	1327 (71%)	19 (86%)	132 (59%)	1035 (70%)	137 (94%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	287 (15%)	3 (14%)	73 (33%)	208 (14%)	3 (2%)
No, other	141 (8%)	0 (0%)	10 (4%)	127 (9%)	4 (3%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

3.6 Communication and health information

Overall, 90% of all respondents indicated “to a high” or “to some degree” that they have received adequate general health information about their newborn. Almost half of the parents were informed at least once per day and almost 70% of the participants were informed about how to protect themselves and their newborn from COVID-19 transmission during the hospital stay. However, 18% of the parents were lacking information and did not feel adequately informed, and 9% did not even receive any kind of information (Table G5).¹⁰



When the infant was being discharged from the hospital, 40% of the parents stated that they had not received any or no adequate information regarding COVID-19 protective measures.

Table G5. Communication and health information

Communication	Total	Africa	Americas	Europe	Western Pacific
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1790	n = 21	n = 212	n = 1408	n = 145
Yes, to a high degree	866 (48%)	8 (38%)	94 (44%)	682 (48%)	80 (55%)
Yes, to some degree	750 (42%)	11 (52%)	93 (44%)	593 (42%)	51 (35%)
No, not at all	142 (8%)	2 (10%)	19 (9%)	113 (8%)	8 (6%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	0 (0%)	2 (1%)	11 (1%)	1 (1%)
I didn't receive any information	18 (1%)	0 (0%)	4 (2%)	9 (1%)	5 (3%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1789	n = 21	n = 212	n = 1406	n = 146
Yes, to a high degree	575 (32%)	10 (48%)	64 (30%)	440 (31%)	60 (41%)
Yes, to some degree	662 (37%)	6 (29%)	86 (41%)	515 (37%)	55 (38%)
No, not at all	322 (18%)	5 (24%)	39 (18%)	268 (19%)	9 (6%)
Don't know	73 (4%)	0 (0%)	6 (3%)	59 (4%)	7 (5%)
I didn't receive any information	157 (9%)	0 (0%)	17 (8%)	124 (9%)	15 (10%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1788	n = 21	n = 212	n = 1405	n = 146
Yes, to a high degree	354 (20%)	5 (24%)	40 (19%)	272 (19%)	36 (25%)
Yes, to some degree	440 (25%)	3 (14%)	62 (29%)	333 (24%)	42 (29%)
No, not at all	447 (25%)	9 (43%)	53 (25%)	367 (26%)	16 (11%)
Don't know	67 (4%)	0 (0%)	7 (3%)	55 (4%)	5 (3%)
I didn't receive any information	271 (15%)	1 (5%)	24 (11%)	228 (16%)	17 (12%)
No discharge yet	209 (12%)	3 (14%)	26 (12%)	150 (11%)	30 (21%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

3.7 Mental health and support

The COVID-19 situation was worrisome for parents especially for those who already found themselves in stressful situations.¹⁰ In total, 78% of all responding parents indicated that they had worried either “to a high degree” or “to some degree” about the pandemic situation during pregnancy. After birth of the infant, even 92% worried about the COVID-19 situation (Table G6).

Adding to this, 45% of the respondents were not offered any mental health support (including support by self-help groups, counselling etc.).

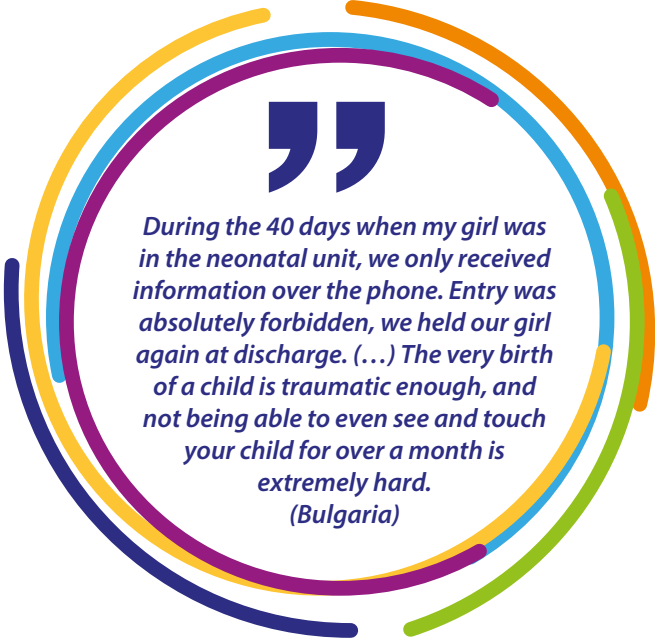
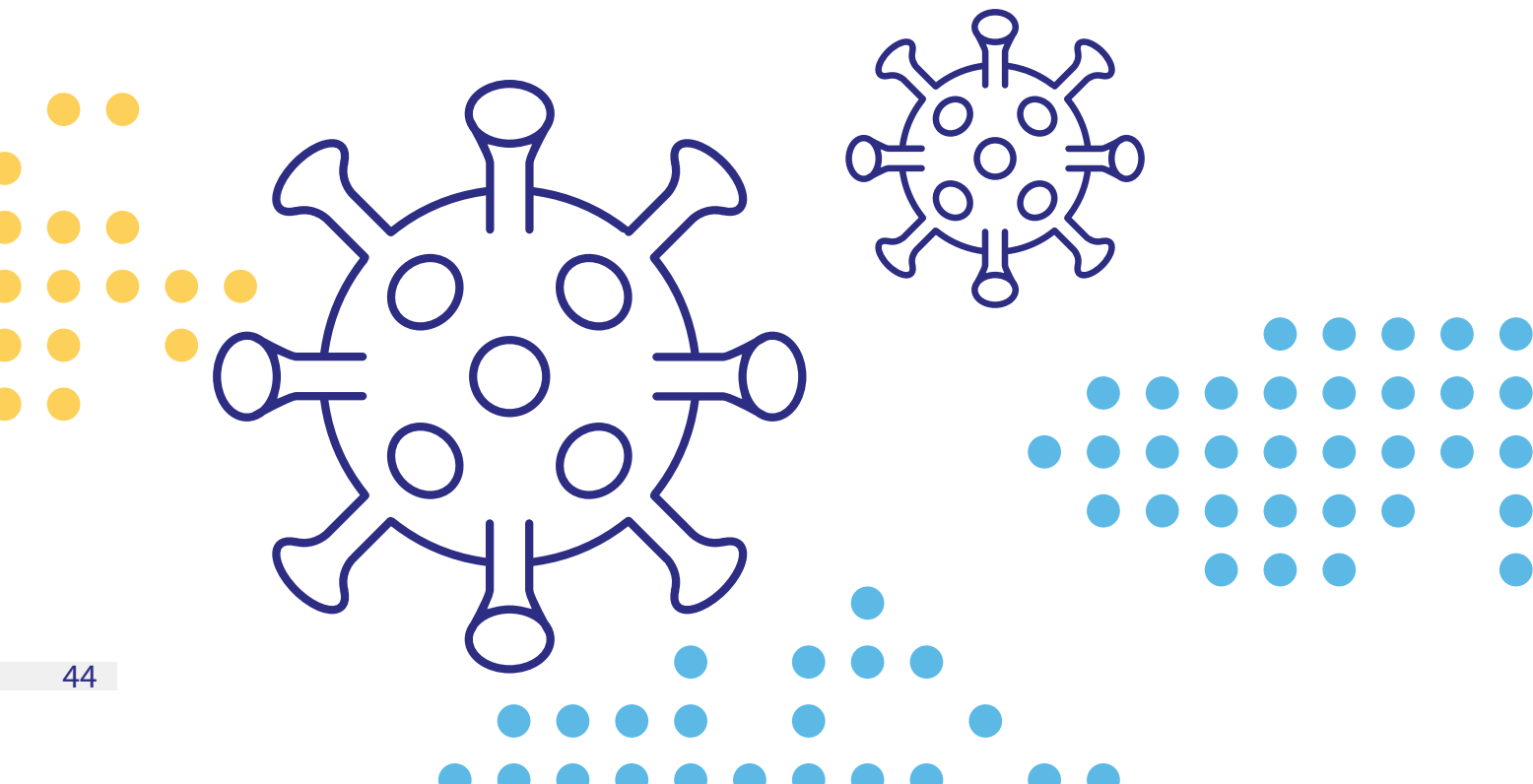


Table G6. Mental health and support

Mental health and support	Total	Africa	Americas	Europe	Western Pacific
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1766	n = 21	n = 207	n = 1391	n = 143
Yes, to a high degree	781 (44%)	12 (57%)	122 (59%)	597 (43%)	50 (35%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (34%)	6 (29%)	49 (24%)	483 (35%)	52 (36%)
No, not at all	194 (11%)	2 (10%)	14 (7%)	150 (11%)	28 (20%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	17 (1%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	181 (10%)	1 (5%)	22 (11%)	144 (10%)	13 (9%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1765	n = 21	n = 207	n = 1390	n = 143
Yes, to a high degree	1032 (59%)	12 (57%)	168 (81%)	790 (57%)	62 (43%)
Yes, to some degree	577 (33%)	8 (38%)	36 (17%)	480 (35%)	49 (34%)
No, not at all	138 (8%)	1 (5%)	2 (1%)	104 (7%)	31 (22%)
Don't know	18 (1%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	16 (1%)	1 (1%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1769	n = 21	n = 207	n = 1393	n = 144
Yes, to a high degree	298 (17%)	4 (19%)	14 (7%)	247 (18%)	32 (22%)
Yes, to some degree	493 (28%)	4 (19%)	56 (27%)	363 (26%)	68 (47%)
No, not at all	690 (39%)	12 (57%)	95 (46%)	557 (40%)	25 (17%)
Don't know	46 (3%)	0 (0%)	3 (1%)	38 (3%)	5 (3%)
There was no mental health support	242 (14%)	1 (5%)	39 (19%)	188 (13%)	14 (10%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1765	n = 21	n = 206	n = 1390	n = 144
Sum of multiple answers	2318 (131%)	25 (119%)	261 (127%)	1801 (130%)	227 (158%)
Psychological counselling	578 (33%)	4 (19%)	46 (22%)	492 (35%)	35 (24%)
Self-help groups	61 (4%)	1 (5%)	7 (3%)	47 (3%)	6 (4%)
Parent groups	233 (13%)	2 (10%)	28 (14%)	154 (11%)	49 (34%)
Peer-to-peer support	169 (10%)	1 (5%)	15 (7%)	122 (9%)	30 (21%)
Social worker	375 (21%)	1 (5%)	46 (22%)	260 (19%)	67 (47%)
None	792 (45%)	15 (71%)	109 (53%)	638 (46%)	29 (20%)
Don't know	64 (4%)	1 (5%)	5 (2%)	49 (4%)	9 (6%)
Other	46 (3%)	0 (0%)	5 (2%)	39 (3%)	2 (1%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding



Parents' experiences – Country specific results

4



Zero separation. Together for better care!

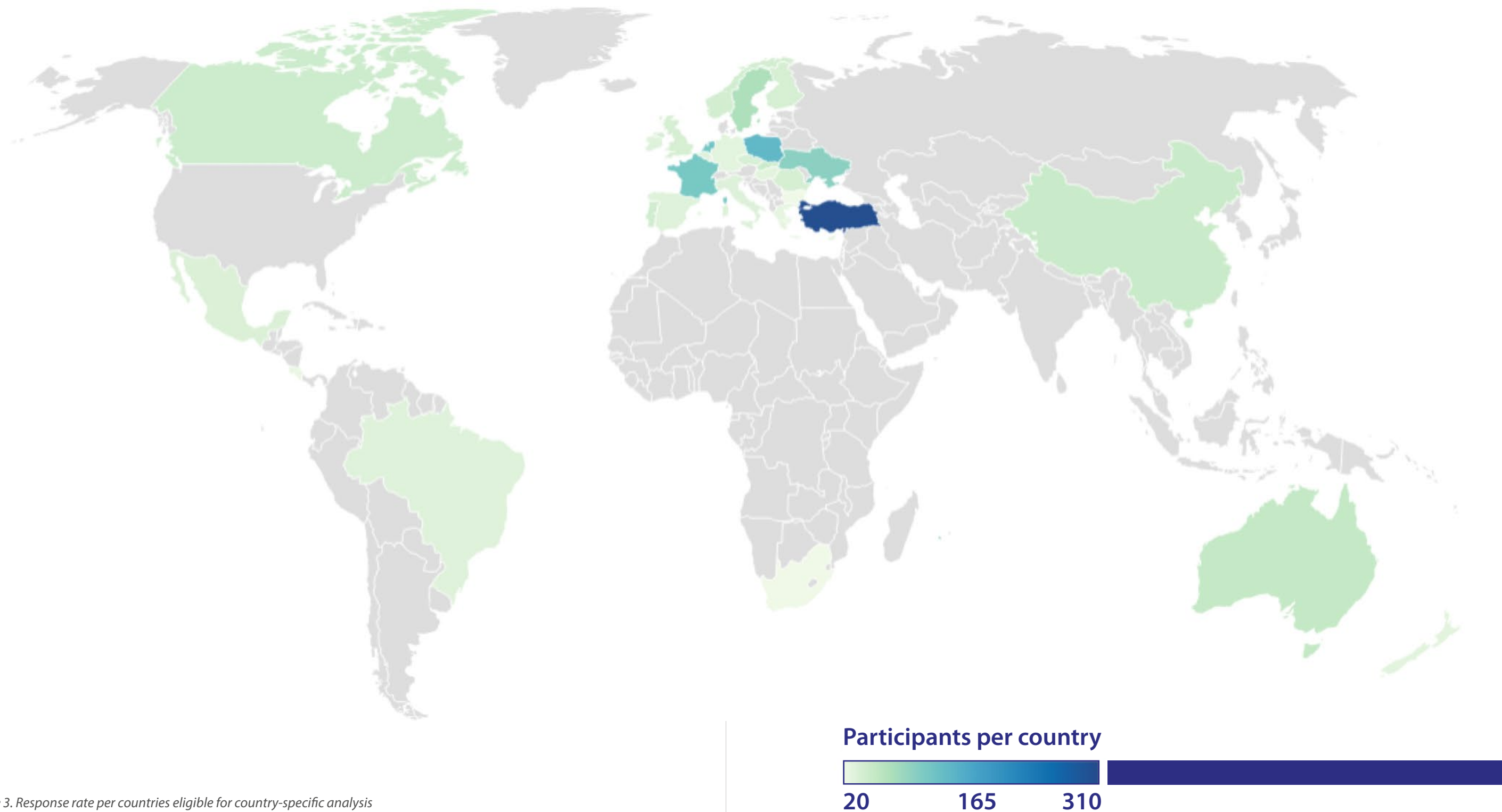


Figure 3. Response rate per countries eligible for country-specific analysis

4.1 Africa



Participants per country



Figure 4. Participation rate per continent and country



South Africa

“

The worst part at our facility was that only one parent was allowed to be there the entire time, which meant my husband only saw his son the day of his birth and then only again when he was discharged after 28 days.
(South Africa)

KEY FACTS SOUTH AFRICA

50% of respondents indicated that no pregnancy-related appointments took place

40% were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth

Less than 20% indicated that skin-to-skin contact was initiated during the first week of life



55% answered that the partner was not involved in the care of their baby by medical staff

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Africa	South Africa
Age of respondent (years)	n = 25	n = 23
<20	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
20–29	8 (32%)	7 (30%)
30–39	14 (56%)	13 (57%)
>40	3 (12%)	3 (13%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 23	n = 21
Early preterm: <28	5 (22%)	4 (19%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	7 (30%)	6 (29%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	11 (48%)	11 (52%)
Term: 37–42	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 23	n = 21
Yes	2 (9%)	1 (5%)
No	21 (91%)	20 (95%)
Birth mode	n = 23	n = 21
Vaginal birth	3 (13%)	1 (5%)
C-section	19 (83%)	19 (90%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	1 (4%)	1 (5%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 23	n = 21
<1000	5 (22%)	3 (14%)
1000–1500	6 (26%)	6 (29%)
>1500–2500	6 (26%)	6 (29%)
>2500	6 (26%)	6 (29%)
Don't know the birth weight	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 23	n = 21
<1	1 (4%)	1 (5%)
1–3	7 (30%)	7 (33%)
>3–5	4 (17%)	3 (14%)
>5	11 (48%)	10 (48%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 22	n = 20
No major concern	1 (5%)	0 (0%)
Precautions	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
Social distancing	4 (18%)	4 (20%)
Lockdown	10 (46%)	9 (45%)
Quarantine	6 (27%)	6 (30%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 22	n = 20
Yes	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
No	21 (95%)	19 (95%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 22	n = 20
Yes	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
No	22 (100%)	20 (100%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 22	n = 20
Yes	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
No	22 (100%)	20 (100%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Africa	South Africa
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 22	n = 20
It was done as usual	11 (50%)	2 (10%)
No appointments took place	3 (14%)	10 (50%)
Fewer appointments took place	6 (27%)	2 (10%)
Other	2 (9%)	6 (30%)
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 22	n = 20
It was done as usual	11 (50%)	2 (10%)
No appointments took place	3 (14%)	10 (50%)
Fewer appointments took place	6 (27%)	2 (10%)
Other	2 (9%)	6 (30%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 22	n = 20
Yes	14 (64%)	12 (60%)
No	8 (36%)	8 (40%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 14	n = 12
For the entire labour	14 (100%)	12 (100%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Africa	South Africa
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 22	n = 20
There were no changes	1 (5%)	0 (0%)
Restrictions were implemented	21 (95%)	20 (100%)
I don't know if there were changes	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 22	n = 20
Sum of multiple answers	30 (136%)	27 (135%)
Mother	16 (73%)	15 (75%)
Father/partner	12 (55%)	10 (50%)
Sibling/s	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Friends	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
No one	2 (9%)	2 (10%)
I don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 22	n = 20
Yes	4 (18%)	2 (10%)
No	18 (82%)	18 (90%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 22	n = 20
All the time, (24/7)	5 (23%)	4 (20%)
Multiple times per day	3 (14%)	2 (10%)
Once per day	10 (45%)	10 (50%)
Multiple times per week	2 (9%)	2 (10%)
Once per week	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
Less than once per week	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Never	1 (5%)	1 (5%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Africa	South Africa
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 22	n = 20
Up to an hour	6 (27%)	5 (25%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	5 (23%)	4 (20%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	5 (23%)	5 (25%)
Unlimited	5 (23%)	5 (25%)
Not at all	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 22	n = 20
Yes	20 (91%)	20 (100%)
No, not more difficult	2 (9%)	0 (0%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 22	n = 20
Immediately after birth	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
On the first day	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
After the first day but during the first week	4 (18%)	4 (20%)
After the first week	8 (36%)	7 (35%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	2 (9%)	2 (10%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	8 (36%)	7 (35%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 22	n = 20
As often as I wanted	7 (32%)	5 (25%)
At least once per day	5 (23%)	5 (25%)
At least once per week	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
Less than once per week	2 (9%)	2 (10%)
Not so far	7 (32%)	7 (35%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 22	n = 20
Yes, to a high degree	11 (50%)	9 (45%)
Yes, to some degree	9 (41%)	9 (45%)
No, not at all	2 (9%)	2 (10%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 22	n = 20
Yes, to a high degree	5 (23%)	4 (20%)
Yes, to some degree	6 (27%)	5 (25%)
No, not at all	11 (50%)	11 (55%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 22	n = 20
Yes	18 (82%)	16 (80%)
No	4 (18%)	4 (20%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 22	n = 20
As often as I wanted	10 (45%)	9 (45%)
At least once per day	7 (32%)	6 (30%)
At least once per week	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
Less than once per week	2 (9%)	2 (10%)
Not so far	2 (9%)	2 (10%)
Which alternatives of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 22	n = 20
Sum of multiple answers	28 (127%)	25 (125%)
Photos	6 (27%)	5 (25%)
Livestream	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
Recorded video	3 (14%)	2 (10%)
Video calls	2 (9%)	2 (10%)
None	16 (73%)	15 (75%)
Other	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Africa	South Africa
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 22	n = 20
Yes, highly encouraged	12 (55%)	11 (55%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	5 (23%)	5 (25%)
No, not encouraged at all	5 (23%)	4 (20%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 22	n = 20
Yes, exclusively	13 (59%)	11 (55%)
Yes, partly	8 (36%)	8 (40%)
No, not at all	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 22	n = 20
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	2 (9%)	2 (10%)
On the first day	10 (45%)	9 (45%)
After the first day but during the first week	8 (36%)	7 (35%)
After the first week	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
Don't know	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 22	n = 20
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Yes	19 (86%)	19 (95%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	3 (14%)	1 (5%)
No, other	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

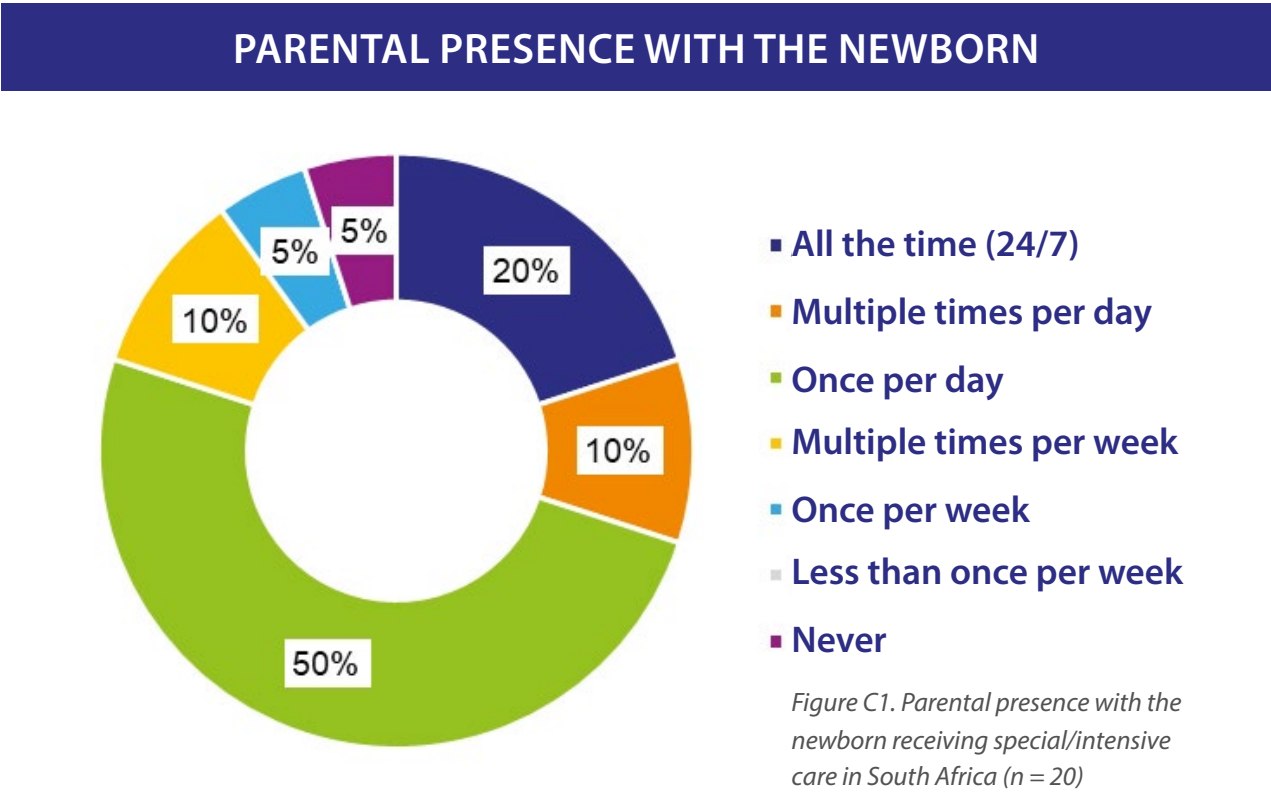
Table C5. Communication and health information

	Africa	South Africa
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 21	n = 19
Yes, to a high degree	8 (38%)	6 (32%)
Yes, to some degree	11 (52%)	11 (58%)
No, not at all	2 (10%)	2 (11%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 21	n = 19
Yes, to a high degree	10 (48%)	9 (47%)
Yes, to some degree	6 (29%)	5 (26%)
No, not at all	5 (24%)	5 (26%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 21	n = 19
Yes, to a high degree	5 (24%)	5 (26%)
Yes, to some degree	3 (14%)	2 (11%)
No, not at all	9 (43%)	9 (47%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	1 (5%)	0 (0%)
No discharge yet	3 (14%)	3 (16%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Africa	South Africa
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 21	n = 19
Yes, to a high degree	12 (57%)	10 (53%)
Yes, to some degree	6 (29%)	6 (32%)
No, not at all	2 (10%)	2 (11%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 21	n = 19
Yes, to a high degree	12 (57%)	10 (53%)
Yes, to some degree	8 (38%)	8 (42%)
No, not at all	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 21	n = 19
Yes, to a high degree	4 (19%)	3 (16%)
Yes, to some degree	4 (19%)	3 (16%)
No, not at all	12 (57%)	12 (63%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
There was no mental health support	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 21	n = 19
Sum of multiple answers	25 (119%)	23 (121%)
Psychological counselling	4 (19%)	3 (16%)
Self-help groups	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
Parent groups	2 (10%)	1 (5%)
Peer-to-peer support	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
Social worker	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
None	15 (71%)	15 (79%)
Don't know	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
Other	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding





4.2 Americas



Figure 6. Participation rate per continent and country

Brazil

“

The father being treated as a visitor leaves a very heavy burden on the mother. In addition to the difficulty of lactation, the mother ends up having to take the baby to breast-feed when the father is finally there. In this situation, the child loses family moments.
(Brazil)

30%

were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth

KEY FACTS BRAZIL

64%

of respondents indicated that no pregnancy-related appointments took place

Less than 30% indicated that skin-to-skin contact was initiated during the first week of life

97%

worried because of the COVID-19 situation after the baby's birth

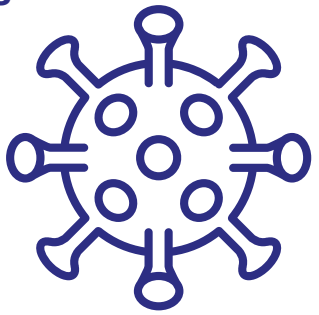


Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Americas	Brazil
Age of respondent (years)	n = 247	n = 38
<20	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	88 (36%)	15 (39%)
30–39	132 (53%)	20 (53%)
>40	25 (10%)	3 (8%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 240	n = 37
Early preterm: <28	49 (20%)	9 (24%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	83 (35%)	16 (43%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	99 (41%)	12 (32%)
Term: 37–42	9 (4%)	0 (0%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 239	n = 37
Yes	31 (13%)	7 (19%)
No	208 (87%)	30 (81%)
Birth mode	n = 240	n = 37
Vaginal birth	69 (29%)	6 (16%)
C-section	168 (70%)	31 (84%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 240	n = 37
<1000	54 (23%)	10 (27%)
1000–1500	80 (33%)	15 (41%)
>1500–2500	89 (37%)	12 (32%)
>2500	17 (7%)	0 (0%)
Don't know the birth weight	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 241	n = 37
<1	27 (11%)	0 (0%)
1–3	50 (21%)	5 (14%)
>3–5	44 (18%)	10 (27%)
>5	120 (50%)	22 (59%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 235	n = 33
No major concern	11 (5%)	3 (9%)
Precautions	23 (10%)	2 (6%)
Social distancing	44 (19%)	8 (24%)
Lockdown	124 (53%)	16 (48%)
Quarantine	33 (14%)	4 (12%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 238	n = 35
Yes	14 (6%)	1 (3%)
No	224 (94%)	34 (97%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 238	n = 35
Yes	17 (7%)	2 (6%)
No	212 (89%)	27 (77%)
Don't know	9 (4%)	6 (17%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 238	n = 35
Yes	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
No	227 (95%)	31 (89%)
Don't know	8 (3%)	4 (11%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Americas	Brazil
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 224	n = 33
It was done as usual	95 (42%)	3 (9%)
No appointments took place	21 (9%)	21 (64%)
Fewer appointments took place	83 (37%)	2 (6%)
Other	25 (11%)	7 (21%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 224	n = 32
Yes	59 (26%)	11 (34%)
Not to all appointments	55 (25%)	8 (25%)
No, never	87 (39%)	7 (22%)
Don't know/NA	23 (10%)	6 (19%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 225	n = 33
Yes	116 (52%)	23 (70%)
No	109 (48%)	10 (30%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 123	n = 24
For the entire labour	93 (76%)	23 (96%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	30 (24%)	1 (4%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Americas	Brazil
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 219	n = 34
There were no changes	10 (5%)	2 (6%)
Restrictions were implemented	196 (89%)	30 (88%)
I don't know if there were changes	13 (6%)	2 (6%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 219	n = 34
Sum of multiple answers	355 (162%)	57 (168%)
Mother	170 (78%)	30 (88%)
Father/partner	148 (68%)	24 (71%)
Sibling/s	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	5 (2%)	2 (6%)
Friends	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
No one	27 (12%)	1 (3%)
I don't know	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 219	n = 34
Yes	46 (21%)	9 (26%)
No	173 (79%)	25 (74%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 217	n = 33
All the time, (24/7)	66 (30%)	14 (42%)
Multiple times per day	37 (17%)	9 (27%)
Once per day	84 (39%)	9 (27%)
Multiple times per week	5 (2%)	1 (3%)
Once per week	5 (2%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	5 (2%)	0 (0%)
Never	15 (7%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Americas	Brazil
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 218	n = 34
Up to an hour	84 (39%)	11 (32%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	16 (7%)	1 (3%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	21 (10%)	5 (15%)
Unlimited	84 (39%)	16 (47%)
Not at all	13 (6%)	1 (3%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 218	n = 34
Yes	174 (80%)	18 (53%)
No, not more difficult	34 (16%)	15 (44%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	7 (3%)	1 (3%)
Don't know	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 225	n = 33
Immediately after birth	21 (9%)	1 (3%)
On the first day	10 (4%)	0 (0%)
After the first day but during the first week	52 (23%)	8 (24%)
After the first week	72 (32%)	21 (64%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	15 (7%)	2 (6%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	55 (24%)	1 (3%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 223	n = 32
As often as I wanted	62 (28%)	14 (44%)
At least once per day	81 (36%)	11 (34%)
At least once per week	19 (9%)	3 (9%)
Less than once per week	21 (9%)	1 (3%)
Not so far	40 (18%)	3 (9%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 219	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	93 (42%)	15 (44%)
Yes, to some degree	74 (34%)	10 (29%)
No, not at all	52 (24%)	9 (26%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 219	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	58 (26%)	4 (12%)
Yes, to some degree	59 (27%)	9 (26%)
No, not at all	96 (44%)	19 (56%)
Don't know	5 (2%)	2 (6%)
I don't have a partner	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 226	n = 33
Yes	197 (87%)	33 (100%)
No	29 (13%)	0 (0%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 226	n = 34
As often as I wanted	116 (51%)	29 (85%)
At least once per day	69 (31%)	5 (15%)
At least once per week	9 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	11 (5%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	21 (9%)	0 (0%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 218	n = 34
Sum of multiple answers	256 (117%)	39 (115%)
Photos	53 (24%)	12 (35%)
Livestream	13 (6%)	1 (3%)
Recorded video	16 (7%)	2 (6%)
Video calls	23 (11%)	2 (6%)
None	134 (61%)	19 (56%)
Other	17 (8%)	3 (9%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Americas	Brazil
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 224	n = 34
Yes, highly encouraged	129 (58%)	23 (68%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	63 (28%)	6 (18%)
No, not encouraged at all	29 (13%)	4 (12%)
Don't know	3 (1%)	1 (3%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 224	n = 34
Yes, exclusively	90 (40%)	14 (41%)
Yes, partly	108 (48%)	17 (50%)
No, not at all	25 (11%)	3 (9%)
Don't know	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 224	n = 34
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	18 (8%)	2 (6%)
On the first day	54 (24%)	5 (15%)
After the first day but during the first week	90 (40%)	18 (53%)
After the first week	59 (26%)	9 (26%)
Don't know	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 224	n = 34
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	9 (4%)	0 (0%)
Yes	132 (59%)	8 (24%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	73 (33%)	24 (71%)
No, other	10 (4%)	2 (6%)

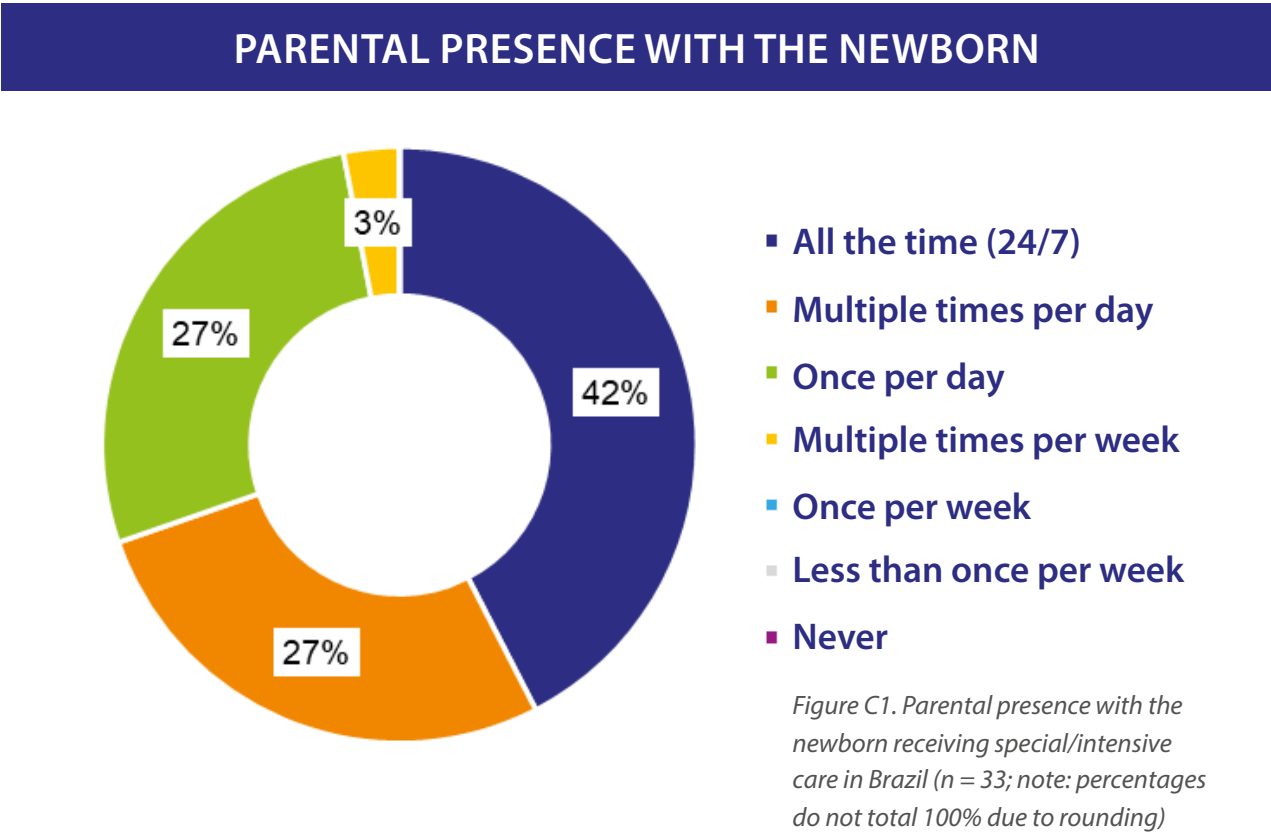
Table C5. Communication and health information

	Americas	Brazil
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 212	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	94 (44%)	18 (53%)
Yes, to some degree	93 (44%)	14 (41%)
No, not at all	19 (9%)	1 (3%)
Don't know	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	4 (2%)	1 (3%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 212	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	64 (30%)	12 (35%)
Yes, to some degree	86 (41%)	14 (41%)
No, not at all	39 (18%)	4 (12%)
Don't know	6 (3%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	17 (8%)	4 (12%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 212	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	40 (19%)	6 (18%)
Yes, to some degree	62 (29%)	14 (41%)
No, not at all	53 (25%)	5 (15%)
Don't know	7 (3%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	24 (11%)	4 (12%)
No discharge yet	26 (12%)	5 (15%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Americas	Brazil
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 207	n = 33
Yes, to a high degree	122 (59%)	17 (52%)
Yes, to some degree	49 (24%)	7 (21%)
No, not at all	14 (7%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	22 (11%)	9 (27%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 207	n = 33
Yes, to a high degree	168 (81%)	31 (94%)
Yes, to some degree	36 (17%)	1 (3%)
No, not at all	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	1 (0%)	1 (3%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 207	n = 33
Yes, to a high degree	14 (7%)	1 (3%)
Yes, to some degree	56 (27%)	9 (27%)
No, not at all	95 (46%)	13 (39%)
Don't know	3 (1%)	1 (3%)
There was no mental health support	39 (19%)	9 (27%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 206	n = 32
Sum of multiple answers	261 (127%)	36 (113%)
Psychological counselling	46 (22%)	11 (34%)
Self-help groups	7 (3%)	0 (0%)
Parent groups	28 (14%)	2 (6%)
Peer-to-peer support	15 (7%)	0 (0%)
Social worker	46 (22%)	2 (6%)
None	109 (53%)	21 (66%)
Don't know	5 (2%)	0 (0%)
Other	5 (2%)	0 (0%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding



Canada

“

We are thankful for the great medical care our baby received. However, we felt that parents had no voice in the NICU and the support that we needed to help us through difficult times was taken from us when Covid hit hard. We were told we were „lucky“ to be allowed to visit our baby. Those words hurt. We felt like parents were taking more precautions than the nurses but parents were being punished with the restrictions and services taken away.
(Canada)

12%
were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth

KEY FACTS CANADA



Skin-to-skin contact was mostly initiated after the first day but during the first week or even earlier

73%

15%
of respondents indicated that pregnancy-related appointments took place as usual

More than 85% indicated that both parents were involved in the care of their baby by medical staff

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Americas	Canada
Age of respondent (years)	n = 247	n = 52
<20	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	88 (36%)	15 (29%)
30–39	132 (53%)	30 (58%)
>40	25 (10%)	7 (13%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 240	n = 49
Early preterm: <28	49 (20%)	15 (31%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	83 (35%)	14 (29%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	99 (41%)	20 (41%)
Term: 37–42	9 (4%)	0 (0%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 239	n = 49
Yes	31 (13%)	6 (12%)
No	208 (87%)	43 (88%)
Birth mode	n = 240	n = 50
Vaginal birth	69 (29%)	22 (44%)
C-section	168 (70%)	28 (56%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 240	n = 50
<1000	54 (23%)	18 (36%)
1000–1500	80 (33%)	11 (22%)
>1500–2500	89 (37%)	15 (30%)
>2500	17 (7%)	6 (12%)
Don't know the birth weight	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 241	n = 50
<1	27 (11%)	5 (10%)
1–3	50 (21%)	11 (22%)
>3–5	44 (18%)	2 (4%)
>5	120 (50%)	32 (64%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 235	n = 49
No major concern	11 (5%)	4 (8%)
Precautions	23 (10%)	4 (8%)
Social distancing	44 (19%)	14 (29%)
Lockdown	124 (53%)	26 (53%)
Quarantine	33 (14%)	1 (2%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 238	n = 50
Yes	14 (6%)	0 (0%)
No	224 (94%)	50 (100%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 238	n = 50
Yes	17 (7%)	0 (0%)
No	212 (89%)	50 (100%)
Don't know	9 (4%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 238	n = 50
Yes	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
No	227 (95%)	50 (100%)
Don't know	8 (3%)	0 (0%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Americas	Canada
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 224	n = 48
It was done as usual	95 (42%)	7 (15%)
No appointments took place	21 (9%)	22 (46%)
Fewer appointments took place	83 (37%)	1 (2%)
Other	25 (11%)	18 (38%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 224	n = 49
Yes	559 (26%)	9 (18%)
Not to all appointments	55 (25%)	15 (31%)
No, never	87 (39%)	21 (43%)
Don't know/NA	23 (10%)	4 (8%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 225	n = 49
Yes	116 (52%)	43 (88%)
No	109 (48%)	6 (12%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 123	n = 44
For the entire labour	93 (76%)	38 (6%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	30 (24%)	6 (14%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Americas	Canada
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 219	n = 49
There were no changes	10 (5%)	2 (4%)
Restrictions were implemented	196 (89%)	44 (90%)
I don't know if there were changes	13 (6%)	3 (6%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 219	n = 49
Sum of multiple answers	355 (162%)	89 (182%)
Mother	170 (78%)	44 (90%)
Father/partner	148 (68%)	42 (86%)
Sibling/s	3 (1%)	1 (2%)
Other family members	5 (2%)	1 (2%)
Friends	1 (0%)	1 (2%)
No one	27 (12%)	0 (0%)
I don't know	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 219	n = 49
Yes	46 (21%)	20 (41%)
No	173 (79%)	29 (59%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 217	n = 48
All the time, (24/7)	66 (30%)	38 (79%)
Multiple times per day	37 (17%)	3 (6%)
Once per day	84 (39%)	7 (15%)
Multiple times per week	5 (2%)	0 (0%)
Once per week	5 (2%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	5 (2%)	0 (0%)
Never	15 (7%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Americas	Canada
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 218	n = 49
Up to an hour	84 (39%)	0 (0%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	16 (7%)	0 (0%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	21 (10%)	2 (4%)
Unlimited	84 (39%)	47 (96%)
Not at all	13 (6%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 218	n = 48
Yes	174 (80%)	37 (77%)
No, not more difficult	34 (16%)	10 (21%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	7 (3%)	1 (2%)
Don't know	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 225	n = 49
Immediately after birth	21 (9%)	8 (16%)
On the first day	10 (4%)	7 (14%)
After the first day but during the first week	52 (23%)	21 (43%)
After the first week	72 (32%)	13 (27%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	15 (7%)	0 (0%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	55 (24%)	0 (0%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 223	n = 49
As often as I wanted	62 (28%)	25 (51%)
At least once per day	81 (36%)	21 (43%)
At least once per week	19 (9%)	2 (4%)
Less than once per week	21 (9%)	1 (2%)
Not so far	40 (18%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 219	n = 49
Yes, to a high degree	93 (42%)	34 (69%)
Yes, to some degree	74 (34%)	15 (31%)
No, not at all	52 (24%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 219	n = 49
Yes, to a high degree	58 (26%)	29 (59%)
Yes, to some degree	59 (27%)	14 (29%)
No, not at all	96 (44%)	6 (12%)
Don't know	5 (2%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 226	n = 49
Yes	197 (87%)	49 (100%)
No	29 (13%)	0 (0%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 226	n = 49
As often as I wanted	116 (51%)	42 (86%)
At least once per day	69 (31%)	7 (14%)
At least once per week	9 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	11 (5%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	21 (9%)	0 (0%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 218	n = 48
Sum of multiple answers	256 (117%)	63 (131%)
Photos	53 (24%)	12 (25%)
Livestream	13 (6%)	5 (10%)
Recorded video	16 (7%)	6 (13%)
Video calls	23 (11%)	9 (19%)
None	134 (61%)	23 (48%)
Other	17 (8%)	8 (17%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Americas	Canada
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 224	n = 49
Yes, highly encouraged	129 (58%)	30 (61%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	63 (28%)	12 (24%)
No, not encouraged at all	29 (13%)	5 (10%)
Don't know	3 (1%)	2 (4%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 224	n = 49
Yes, exclusively	90 (40%)	25 (51%)
Yes, partly	108 (48%)	22 (45%)
No, not at all	25 (11%)	1 (2%)
Don't know	1 (0%)	1 (2%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 224	n = 49
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	18 (8%)	0 (0%)
On the first day	54 (24%)	28 (57%)
After the first day but during the first week	90 (40%)	18 (37%)
After the first week	59 (26%)	2 (4%)
Don't know	3 (1%)	1 (2%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 224	n = 49
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	9 (4%)	0 (0%)
Yes	132 (59%)	46 (94%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	73 (33%)	1 (2%)
No, other	10 (4%)	2 (4%)

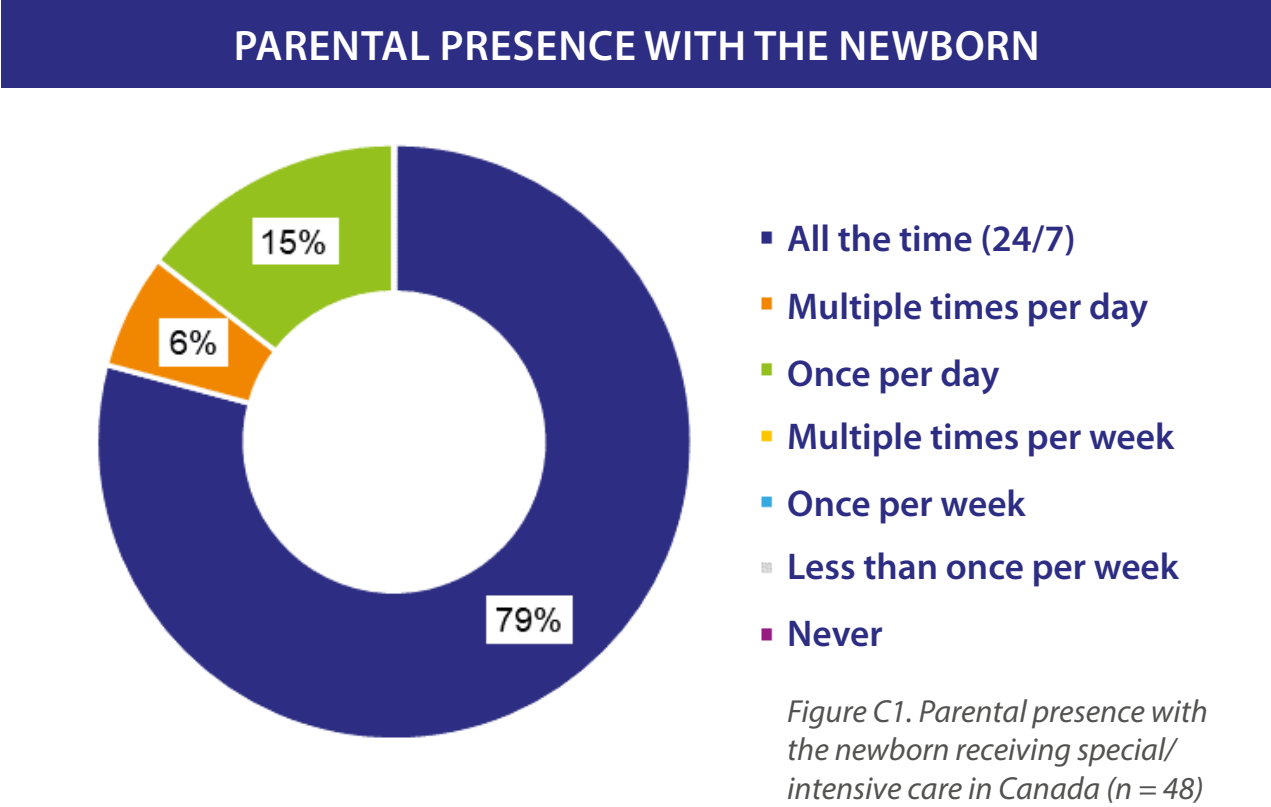
Table C5. Communication and health information

	Americas	Canada
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 212	n = 49
Yes, to a high degree	94 (44%)	29 (59%)
Yes, to some degree	93 (44%)	18 (37%)
No, not at all	19 (9%)	2 (4%)
Don't know	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	4 (2%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 212	n = 49
Yes, to a high degree	64 (30%)	13 (27%)
Yes, to some degree	86 (41%)	22 (45%)
No, not at all	39 (18%)	11 (22%)
Don't know	6 (3%)	1 (2%)
I didn't receive any information	17 (8%)	2 (4%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 212	n = 49
Yes, to a high degree	40 (19%)	5 (10%)
Yes, to some degree	62 (29%)	19 (39%)
No, not at all	53 (25%)	12 (24%)
Don't know	7 (3%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	24 (11%)	6 (12%)
No discharge yet	26 (12%)	7 (14%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Americas	Canada
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 207	n = 48
Yes, to a high degree	122 (59%)	20 (42%)
Yes, to some degree	49 (24%)	19 (40%)
No, not at all	14 (7%)	5 (10%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	22 (11%)	4 (8%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 207	n = 48
Yes, to a high degree	168 (81%)	36 (75%)
Yes, to some degree	36 (17%)	12 (25%)
No, not at all	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 207	n = 48
Yes, to a high degree	14 (7%)	4 (8%)
Yes, to some degree	56 (27%)	20 (42%)
No, not at all	95 (46%)	21 (44%)
Don't know	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
There was no mental health support	39 (19%)	3 (6%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 206	n = 48
Sum of multiple answers	261 (127%)	80 (167%)
Psychological counselling	46 (22%)	10 (21%)
Self-help groups	7 (3%)	4 (8%)
Parent groups	28 (14%)	15 (31%)
Peer-to-peer support	15 (7%)	9 (19%)
Social worker	46 (22%)	27 (56%)
None	109 (53%)	11 (23%)
Don't know	5 (2%)	1 (2%)
Other	5 (2%)	3 (6%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding



Costa Rica

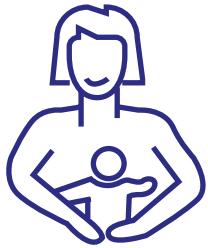
“

I could go in for 30 minutes to see my baby or get expressed milk, one or the other: if I expressed milk I couldn't see it. There was only one pump for all the breasts, which caused me mastitis for not being able to express milk regularly during my hospital stay. Since I was there from 9am to 4pm, I had the right to enter three times (depending on how many mothers were there). I could not practice kangaroo care during the 12 days of hospitalisation. In addition to this, I was hospitalised for 3 weeks before having the baby without visits. It was really difficult.
(Costa Rica)

KEY FACTS COSTA RICA

58% were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth

42% indicated that skin-to-skin contact was not initiated during the time in the hospital



73% of respondents indicated that no pregnancy-related appointments took place

ALL PARTICIPANTS WORRIED BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 SITUATION AFTER THE BABY'S BIRTH

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Americas	Costa Rica
Age of respondent (years)	n = 247	n = 29
<20	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	88 (36%)	7 (24%)
30–39	132 (53%)	19 (66%)
>40	25 (10%)	3 (10%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 240	n = 28
Early preterm: <28	49 (20%)	5 (18%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	83 (35%)	6 (21%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	99 (41%)	16 (57%)
Term: 37–42	9 (4%)	1 (4%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 239	n = 27
Yes	31 (13%)	6 (12%)
No	208 (87%)	43 (88%)
Birth mode	n = 240	n = 27
Vaginal birth	69 (29%)	8 (30%)
C-section	168 (70%)	18 (67%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	3 (1%)	1 (4%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 240	n = 27
<1000	54 (23%)	3 (11%)
1000–1500	80 (33%)	7 (26%)
>1500–2500	89 (37%)	16 (59%)
>2500	17 (7%)	1 (4%)
Don't know the birth weight	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 241	n = 28
<1	27 (11%)	5 (18%)
1–3	50 (21%)	9 (32%)
>3–5	44 (18%)	7 (25%)
>5	120 (50%)	7 (25%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 235	n = 28
No major concern	11 (5%)	0 (0%)
Precautions	23 (10%)	1 (4%)
Social distancing	44 (19%)	1 (4%)
Lockdown	124 (53%)	25 (89%)
Quarantine	33 (14%)	1 (4%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 238	n = 28
Yes	14 (6%)	2 (7%)
No	224 (94%)	26 (93%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 238	n = 28
Yes	17 (7%)	2 (7%)
No	212 (89%)	25 (89%)
Don't know	9 (4%)	1 (4%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 238	n = 28
Yes	3 (1%)	1 (4%)
No	227 (95%)	27 (96%)
Don't know	8 (3%)	0 (0%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Americas	Costa Rica
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 224	n = 26
It was done as usual	95 (42%)	3 (12%)
No appointments took place	21 (9%)	19 (73%)
Fewer appointments took place	83 (37%)	0 (0%)
Other	25 (11%)	4 (15%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 224	n = 26
Yes	59 (26%)	6 (23%)
Not to all appointments	55 (25%)	8 (31%)
No, never	87 (39%)	12 (46%)
Don't know/NA	23 (10%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 225	n = 26
Yes	116 (52%)	11 (42%)
No	109 (48%)	15 (58%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 123	n = 12
For the entire labour	93 (76%)	5 (42%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	30 (24%)	7 (58%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Americas	Costa Rica
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 219	n = 23
There were no changes	10 (5%)	3 (13%)
Restrictions were implemented	196 (89%)	19 (83%)
I don't know if there were changes	13 (6%)	1 (4%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 219	n = 23
Sum of multiple answers	355 (162%)	89 (182%)
Mother	170 (78%)	18 (78%)
Father/partner	148 (68%)	15 (65%)
Sibling/s	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	5 (2%)	1 (4%)
Friends	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
No one	27 (12%)	2 (9%)
I don't know	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 219	n = 23
Yes	46 (21%)	1 (4%)
No	173 (79%)	22 (96%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 217	n = 23
All the time, (24/7)	66 (30%)	3 (13%)
Multiple times per day	37 (17%)	5 (22%)
Once per day	84 (39%)	12 (52%)
Multiple times per week	5 (2%)	2 (9%)
Once per week	5 (2%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	5 (2%)	0 (0%)
Never	15 (7%)	1 (4%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Americas	Costa Rica
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 218	n = 23
Up to an hour	84 (39%)	11 (48%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	16 (7%)	2 (9%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	21 (10%)	6 (26%)
Unlimited	84 (39%)	3 (13%)
Not at all	13 (6%)	1 (4%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 218	n = 23
Yes	174 (80%)	18 (78%)
No, not more difficult	34 (16%)	2 (9%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	7 (3%)	2 (9%)
Don't know	3 (1%)	1 (4%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 225	n = 26
Immediately after birth	21 (9%)	0 (0%)
On the first day	10 (4%)	1 (4%)
After the first day but during the first week	52 (23%)	4 (15%)
After the first week	72 (32%)	7 (27%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	15 (7%)	3 (12%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	55 (24%)	11 (42%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 223	n = 25
As often as I wanted	62 (28%)	4 (16%)
At least once per day	81 (36%)	11 (44%)
At least once per week	19 (9%)	2 (8%)
Less than once per week	21 (9%)	3 (12%)
Not so far	40 (18%)	5 (20%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 219	n = 23
Yes, to a high degree	93 (42%)	8 (35%)
Yes, to some degree	74 (34%)	9 (39%)
No, not at all	52 (24%)	6 (26%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 219	n = 23
Yes, to a high degree	58 (26%)	4 (17%)
Yes, to some degree	59 (27%)	8 (35%)
No, not at all	96 (44%)	11 (48%)
Don't know	5 (2%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 226	n = 26
Yes	197 (87%)	24 (92%)
No	29 (13%)	2 (8%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 226	n = 26
As often as I wanted	116 (51%)	10 (38%)
At least once per day	69 (31%)	12 (46%)
At least once per week	9 (4%)	1 (4%)
Less than once per week	11 (5%)	2 (8%)
Not so far	21 (9%)	1 (4%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 218	n = 23
Sum of multiple answers	256 (117%)	24 (104%)
Photos	53 (24%)	9 (39%)
Livestream	13 (6%)	0 (0%)
Recorded video	16 (7%)	1 (4%)
Video calls	23 (11%)	0 (0%)
None	134 (61%)	13 (57%)
Other	17 (8%)	1 (4%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Americas	Costa Rica
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 224	n = 25
Yes, highly encouraged	129 (58%)	13 (52%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	63 (28%)	8 (32%)
No, not encouraged at all	29 (13%)	4 (16%)
Don't know	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 224	n = 25
Yes, exclusively	90 (40%)	10 (40%)
Yes, partly	108 (48%)	11 (44%)
No, not at all	25 (11%)	4 (16%)
Don't know	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 224	n = 25
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	18 (8%)	2 (8%)
On the first day	54 (24%)	3 (12%)
After the first day but during the first week	90 (40%)	14 (56%)
After the first week	59 (26%)	6 (24%)
Don't know	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 224	n = 25
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	9 (4%)	0 (0%)
Yes	132 (59%)	15 (60%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	73 (33%)	8 (32%)
No, other	10 (4%)	2 (8%)

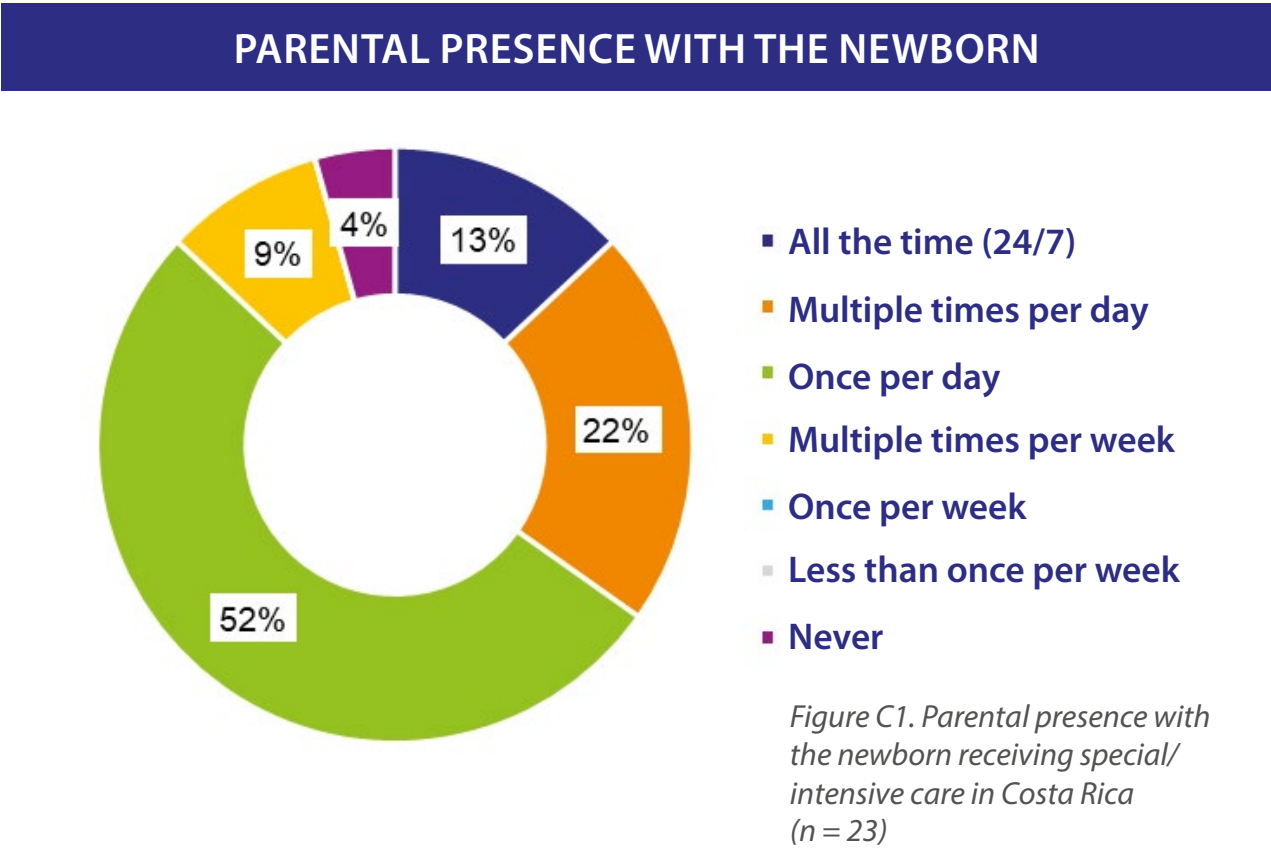
Table C5. Communication and health information

	Americas	Costa Rica
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 212	n = 22
Yes, to a high degree	94 (44%)	7 (32%)
Yes, to some degree	93 (44%)	12 (55%)
No, not at all	19 (9%)	3 (14%)
Don't know	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	4 (2%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 212	n = 22
Yes, to a high degree	64 (30%)	8 (36%)
Yes, to some degree	86 (41%)	7 (32%)
No, not at all	39 (18%)	6 (27%)
Don't know	6 (3%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	17 (8%)	1 (5%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 212	n = 22
Yes, to a high degree	40 (19%)	4 (18%)
Yes, to some degree	62 (29%)	8 (36%)
No, not at all	53 (25%)	6 (27%)
Don't know	7 (3%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	24 (11%)	2 (9%)
No discharge yet	26 (12%)	2 (9%)

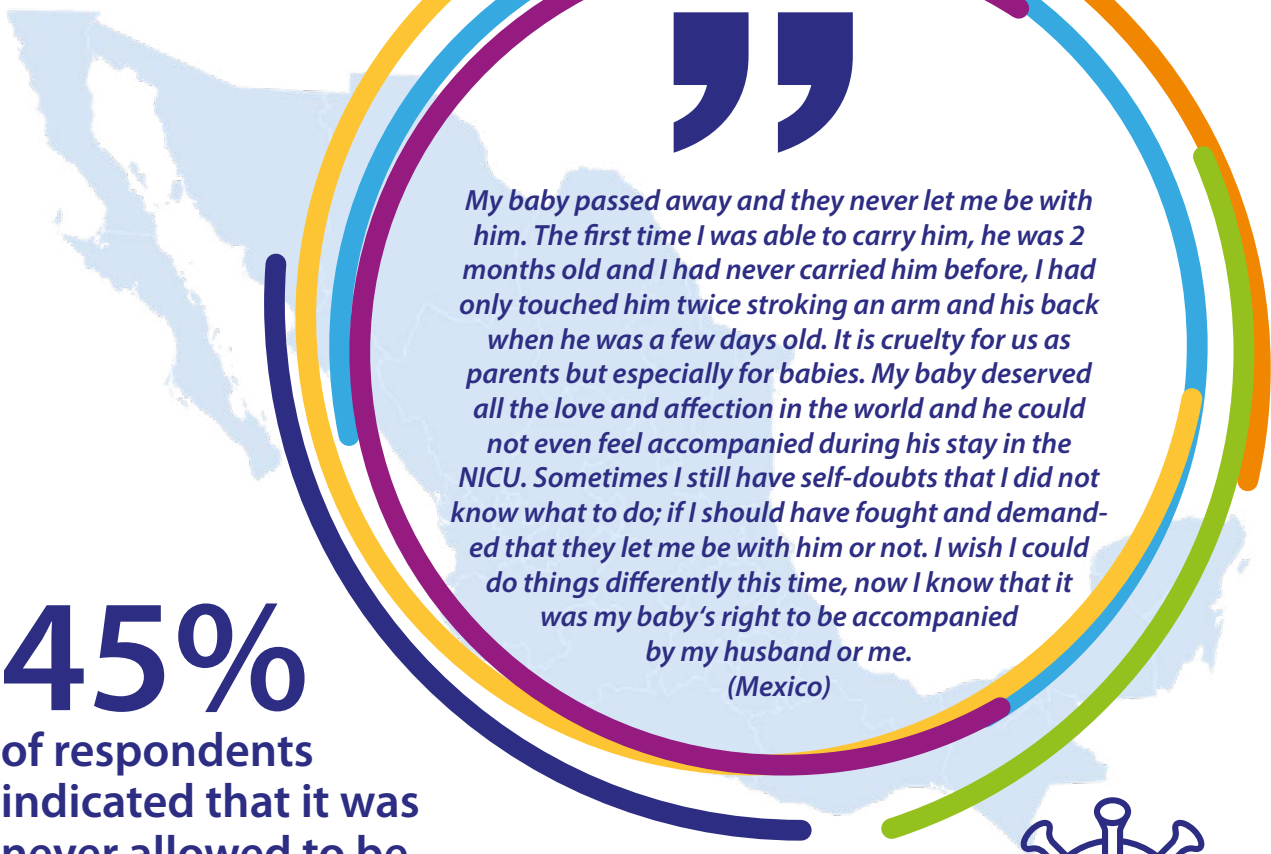
Table C6. Mental health and support

	Americas	Costa Rica
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 207	n = 21
Yes, to a high degree	122 (59%)	15 (71%)
Yes, to some degree	49 (24%)	4 (19%)
No, not at all	14 (7%)	1 (5%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	22 (11%)	1 (5%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 207	n = 21
Yes, to a high degree	168 (81%)	20 (95%)
Yes, to some degree	36 (17%)	1 (5%)
No, not at all	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 207	n = 21
Yes, to a high degree	14 (7%)	0 (0%)
Yes, to some degree	56 (27%)	6 (29%)
No, not at all	95 (46%)	10 (48%)
Don't know	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
There was no mental health support	39 (19%)	5 (24%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 206	n = 21
Sum of multiple answers	261 (127%)	24 (114%)
Psychological counselling	46 (22%)	4 (19%)
Self-help groups	7 (3%)	1 (5%)
Parent groups	28 (14%)	1 (5%)
Peer-to-peer support	15 (7%)	0 (0%)
Social worker	46 (22%)	3 (14%)
None	109 (53%)	13 (62%)
Don't know	5 (2%)	1 (5%)
Other	5 (2%)	1 (5%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding



Mexico



45%
of respondents indicated that it was never allowed to be accompanied by another person to pregnancy-related appointments

14%
indicated that they were never allowed to see their hospitalised baby

KEY FACTS MEXICO

ALL PARTICIPANTS WORRIED BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 SITUATION AFTER THE BABY'S BIRTH

87%
were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth

47%
answered that skin-to-skin contact was not initiated during the time in the hospital

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Americas	Mexico
Age of respondent (years)	n = 247	n = 40
<20	2 (1%)	1 (3%)
20–29	88 (36%)	18 (45%)
30–39	132 (53%)	18 (45%)
>40	25 (10%)	3 (8%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 240	n = 41
Early preterm: <28	49 (20%)	4 (10%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	83 (35%)	20 (49%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	99 (41%)	15 (37%)
Term: 37–42	9 (4%)	2 (5%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 239	n = 41
Yes	31 (13%)	4 (10%)
No	208 (87%)	37 (90%)
Birth mode	n = 240	n = 41
Vaginal birth	69 (29%)	6 (15%)
C-section	168 (70%)	35 (85%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 240	n = 41
<1000	54 (23%)	6 (15%)
1000–1500	80 (33%)	18 (44%)
>1500–2500	89 (37%)	13 (32%)
>2500	17 (7%)	4 (10%)
Don't know the birth weight	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 241	n = 41
<1	27 (11%)	3 (7%)
1–3	50 (21%)	7 (17%)
>3–5	44 (18%)	10 (24%)
>5	120 (50%)	21 (51%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 235	n = 41
No major concern	11 (5%)	2 (5%)
Precautions	23 (10%)	5 (12%)
Social distancing	44 (19%)	7 (17%)
Lockdown	124 (53%)	27 (66%)
Quarantine	33 (14%)	0 (0%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 238	n = 41
Yes	14 (6%)	5 (12%)
No	224 (94%)	36 (88%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 238	n = 41
Yes	17 (7%)	5 (12%)
No	212 (89%)	36 (88%)
Don't know	9 (4%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 238	n = 41
Yes	3 (1%)	1 (2%)
No	227 (95%)	39 (95%)
Don't know	8 (3%)	1 (2%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Americas	Mexico
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 224	n = 38
It was done as usual	95 (42%)	4 (11%)
No appointments took place	21 (9%)	10 (26%)
Fewer appointments took place	83 (37%)	4 (11%)
Other	25 (11%)	20 (53%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 224	n = 38
Yes	59 (26%)	12 (32%)
Not to all appointments	55 (25%)	7 (18%)
No, never	87 (39%)	17 (45%)
Don't know/NA	23 (10%)	2 (5%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 225	n = 38
Yes	116 (52%)	5 (13%)
No	109 (48%)	33 (87%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 123	n = 6
For the entire labour	93 (76%)	1 (17%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	30 (24%)	5 (83%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Americas	Mexico
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 219	n = 37
There were no changes	10 (5%)	2 (5%)
Restrictions were implemented	196 (89%)	34 (92%)
I don't know if there were changes	13 (6%)	1 (3%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 219	n = 37
Sum of multiple answers	355 (162%)	57 (154%)
Mother	170 (78%)	25 (68%)
Father/partner	148 (68%)	23 (62%)
Sibling/s	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	5 (2%)	1 (3%)
Friends	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
No one	27 (12%)	8 (22%)
I don't know	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 219	n = 37
Yes	46 (21%)	2 (5%)
No	173 (79%)	35 (95%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 217	n = 37
All the time, (24/7)	66 (30%)	0 (0%)
Multiple times per day	37 (17%)	4 (11%)
Once per day	84 (39%)	23 (62%)
Multiple times per week	5 (2%)	0 (0%)
Once per week	5 (2%)	3 (8%)
Less than once per week	5 (2%)	2 (5%)
Never	15 (7%)	5 (14%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Americas	Mexico
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 218	n = 37
Up to an hour	84 (39%)	31 (84%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	16 (7%)	1 (3%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	21 (10%)	0 (0%)
Unlimited	84 (39%)	1 (3%)
Not at all	13 (6%)	4 (11%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 218	n = 37
Yes	174 (80%)	35 (95%)
No, not more difficult	34 (16%)	1 (3%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	7 (3%)	1 (3%)
Don't know	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 225	n = 38
Immediately after birth	21 (9%)	0 (0%)
On the first day	10 (4%)	0 (0%)
After the first day but during the first week	52 (23%)	3 (8%)
After the first week	72 (32%)	13 (34%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	15 (7%)	4 (11%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	55 (24%)	18 (47%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 223	n = 38
As often as I wanted	62 (28%)	0 (0%)
At least once per day	81 (36%)	12 (32%)
At least once per week	19 (9%)	4 (11%)
Less than once per week	21 (9%)	7 (18%)
Not so far	40 (18%)	15 (39%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 219	n = 37
Yes, to a high degree	93 (42%)	6 (16%)
Yes, to some degree	74 (34%)	11 (30%)
No, not at all	52 (24%)	20 (54%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 219	n = 37
Yes, to a high degree	58 (26%)	5 (14%)
Yes, to some degree	59 (27%)	6 (16%)
No, not at all	96 (44%)	24 (65%)
Don't know	5 (2%)	1 (3%)
I don't have a partner	1 (0%)	1 (3%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 226	n = 38
Yes	197 (87%)	31 (82%)
No	29 (13%)	7 (18%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 226	n = 38
As often as I wanted	116 (51%)	5 (13%)
At least once per day	69 (31%)	20 (53%)
At least once per week	9 (4%)	3 (8%)
Less than once per week	11 (5%)	3 (8%)
Not so far	21 (9%)	7 (18%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 218	n = 37
Sum of multiple answers	256 (117%)	38 (103%)
Photos	53 (24%)	5 (14%)
Livestream	13 (6%)	1 (3%)
Recorded video	16 (7%)	0 (0%)
Video calls	23 (11%)	1 (3%)
None	134 (61%)	29 (78%)
Other	17 (8%)	2 (5%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Americas	Mexico
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 224	n = 38
Yes, highly encouraged	129 (58%)	20 (53%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	63 (28%)	15 (39%)
No, not encouraged at all	29 (13%)	3 (8%)
Don't know	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 224	n = 38
Yes, exclusively	90 (40%)	9 (24%)
Yes, partly	108 (48%)	24 (63%)
No, not at all	25 (11%)	5 (13%)
Don't know	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 224	n = 38
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	18 (8%)	4 (11%)
On the first day	54 (24%)	1 (3%)
After the first day but during the first week	90 (40%)	13 (34%)
After the first week	59 (26%)	19 (50%)
Don't know	3 (1%)	1 (3%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 224	n = 38
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	9 (4%)	2 (5%)
Yes	132 (59%)	26 (68%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	73 (33%)	8 (21%)
No, other	10 (4%)	2 (5%)

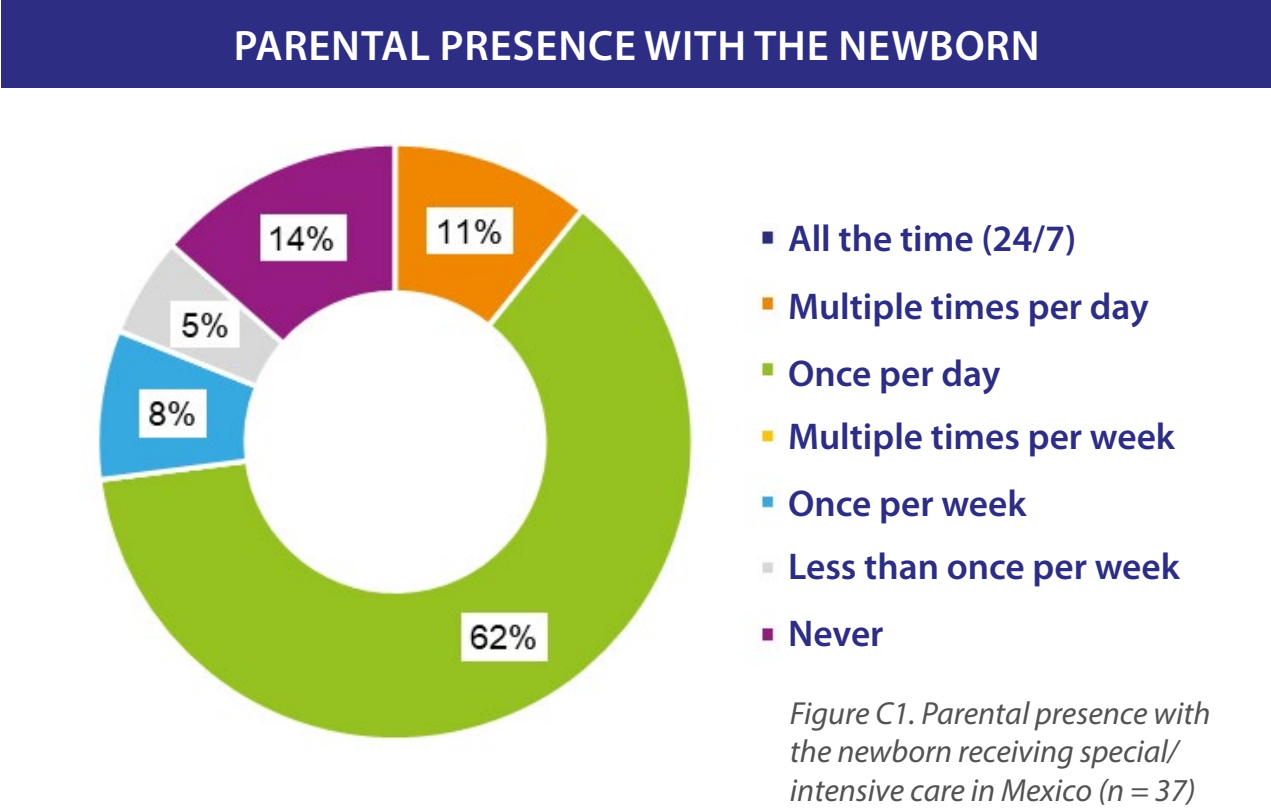
Table C5. Communication and health information

	Americas	Mexico
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 212	n = 35
Yes, to a high degree	94 (44%)	13 (37%)
Yes, to some degree	93 (44%)	16 (46%)
No, not at all	19 (9%)	5 (14%)
Don't know	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	4 (2%)	1 (3%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 212	n = 35
Yes, to a high degree	64 (30%)	12 (34%)
Yes, to some degree	86 (41%)	15 (43%)
No, not at all	39 (18%)	5 (14%)
Don't know	6 (3%)	2 (6%)
I didn't receive any information	17 (8%)	1 (3%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 212	n = 35
Yes, to a high degree	40 (19%)	6 (17%)
Yes, to some degree	62 (29%)	9 (26%)
No, not at all	53 (25%)	10 (29%)
Don't know	7 (3%)	2 (6%)
I didn't receive any information	24 (11%)	4 (11%)
No discharge yet	26 (12%)	4 (11%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Americas	Mexico
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 207	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	122 (59%)	24 (71%)
Yes, to some degree	49 (24%)	6 (18%)
No, not at all	14 (7%)	1 (3%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	22 (11%)	3 (9%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 207	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	168 (81%)	27 (79%)
Yes, to some degree	36 (17%)	6 (18%)
No, not at all	2 (1%)	1 (3%)
Don't know	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 207	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	14 (7%)	2 (6%)
Yes, to some degree	56 (27%)	5 (15%)
No, not at all	95 (46%)	17 (50%)
Don't know	3 (1%)	1 (3%)
There was no mental health support	39 (19%)	9 (26%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 206	n = 34
Sum of multiple answers	261 (127%)	38 (112%)
Psychological counselling	46 (22%)	5 (15%)
Self-help groups	7 (3%)	1 (3%)
Parent groups	28 (14%)	2 (6%)
Peer-to-peer support	15 (7%)	2 (6%)
Social worker	46 (22%)	5 (15%)
None	109 (53%)	21 (62%)
Don't know	5 (2%)	2 (6%)
Other	5 (2%)	0 (0%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding



4.3 Europe

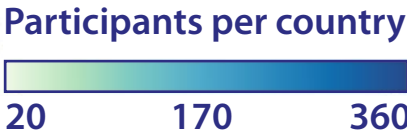
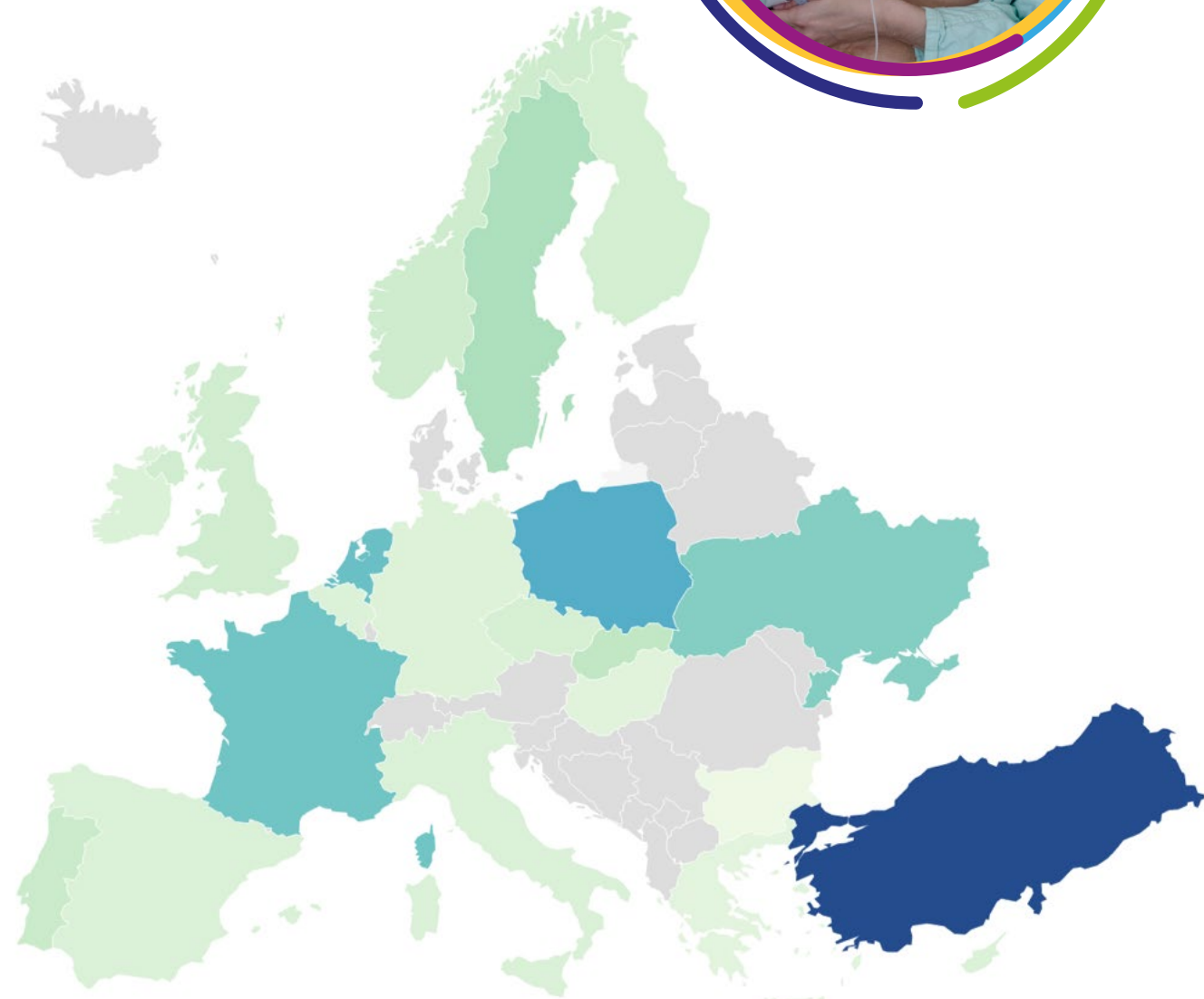


Figure 7. Participation rate per continent and country



Belgium

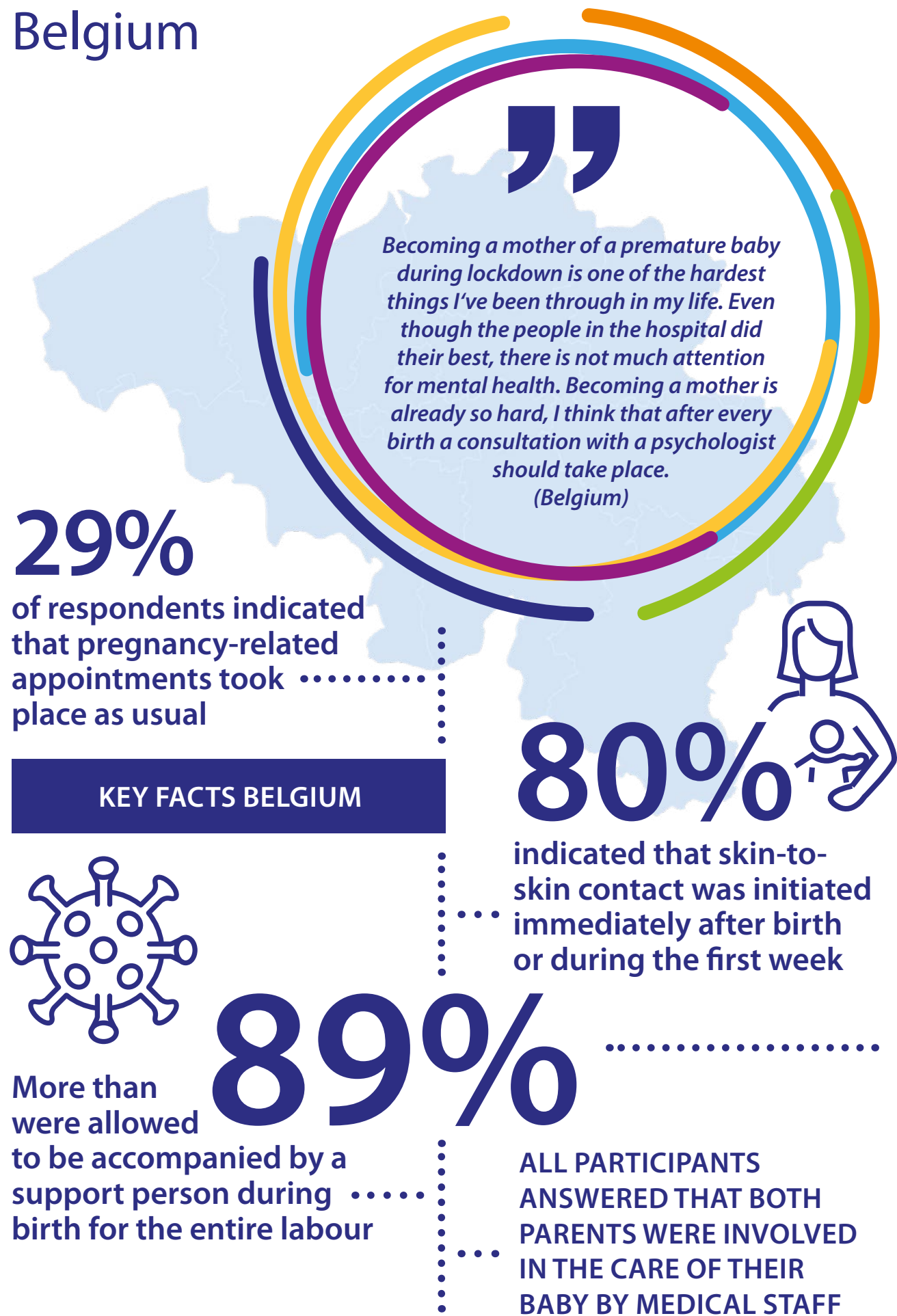


Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Belgium
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 37
<20	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	603 (36%)	18 (49%)
30–39	949 (57%)	19 (51%)
>40	95 (6%)	0 (0%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 36
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	11 (31%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	7 (19%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	12 (33%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	6 (17%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 36
Yes	241 (15%)	4 (11%)
No	1366 (85%)	32 (89%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 36
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	18 (50%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	18 (50%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 36
<1000	405 (25%)	11 (31%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	10 (28%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	8 (22%)
>2500	154 (10%)	7 (19%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 35
<1	135 (8%)	1 (3%)
1–3	386 (24%)	8 (23%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	6 (17%)
>5	719 (45%)	20 (57%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 35
No major concern	57 (4%)	5 (14%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	3 (9%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	7 (20%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	17 (49%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	3 (9%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 35
Yes	39 (2%)	1 (3%)
No	1531 (98%)	34 (97%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 35
Yes	32 (2%)	1 (3%)
No	1516 (96%)	34 (97%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 35
Yes	7 (0%)	1 (3%)
No	1497 (95%)	32 (91%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	2 (6%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Belgium
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 35
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	10 (29%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	16 (46%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	0 (0%)
Other	197 (13%)	9 (26%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 35
Yes	286 (19%)	5 (14%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	12 (34%)
No, never	649 (43%)	12 (34%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	6 (17%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 35
Yes	689 (46%)	31 (89%)
No	823 (54%)	4 (11%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 34
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	32 (94%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	2 (6%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Belgium
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 34
There were no changes	118 (8%)	4 (12%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	28 (82%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	2 (6%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 34
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	78 (229%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	33 (97%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	32 (94%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	5 (15%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	5 (15%)
Friends	12 (1%)	2 (6%)
No one	318 (22%)	1 (3%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 34
Yes	532 (37%)	27 (79%)
No	889 (63%)	7 (21%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 34
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	30 (88%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	1 (3%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	3 (9%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	0 (0%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	0 (0%)
Never	207 (15%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Belgium
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 34
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	2 (6%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	0 (0%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	1 (3%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	31 (91%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 34
Yes	998 (70%)	15 (44%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	14 (41%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	5 (15%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 35
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	12 (34%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	7 (20%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	9 (26%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	7 (20%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	0 (0%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	0 (0%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 35
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	26 (74%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	6 (17%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	3 (9%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	29 (85%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	5 (15%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	25 (74%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	7 (21%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	2 (6%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 35
Yes	1191 (79%)	35 (100%)
No	324 (21%)	0 (0%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 35
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	33 (94%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	2 (6%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	0 (0%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 34
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	41 (121%)
Photos	509 (36%)	14 (41%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	1 (3%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	1 (3%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	4 (12%)
None	691 (49%)	17 (50%)
Other	139 (10%)	4 (12%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Belgium
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 35
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	25 (71%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	5 (14%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	4 (11%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	1 (3%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 35
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	22 (63%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	7 (20%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	6 (17%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 35
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	6 (17%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	14 (40%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	9 (26%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	6 (17%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	0 (0%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 35
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	6 (17%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	27 (77%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	1 (3%)
No, other	127 (9%)	1 (3%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Belgium
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 33
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	17 (52%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	14 (42%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	2 (6%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 33
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	8 (24%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	15 (45%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	9 (27%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	1 (3%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 33
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	3 (9%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	16 (48%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	3 (9%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	3 (9%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	6 (18%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	2 (6%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Belgium
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 33
Yes, to a high degree	122 (59%)	15 (71%)
Yes, to some degree	49 (24%)	4 (19%)
No, not at all	14 (7%)	1 (5%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	22 (11%)	1 (5%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 33
Yes, to a high degree	168 (81%)	20 (95%)
Yes, to some degree	36 (17%)	1 (5%)
No, not at all	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 33
Yes, to a high degree	14 (7%)	0 (0%)
Yes, to some degree	56 (27%)	6 (29%)
No, not at all	95 (46%)	10 (48%)
Don't know	3 (1%)	0 (0%)
There was no mental health support	39 (19%)	5 (24%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 33
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	51 (155%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	23 (70%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	1 (3%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	6 (18%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	0 (0%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	11 (33%)
None	638 (46%)	6 (18%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	2 (6%)
Other	39 (3%)	2 (6%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

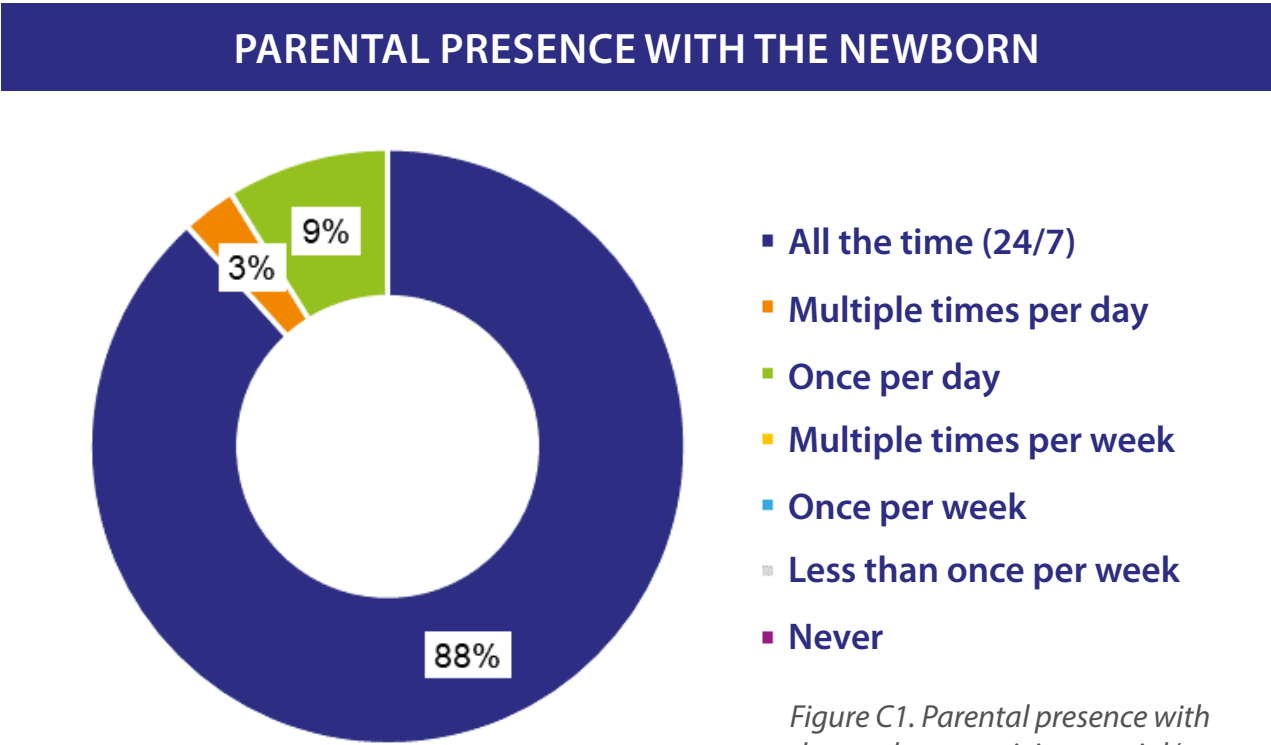


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in Belgium (n = 34)

Bulgaria

“
Restricting visits to our children, I believe, has made it difficult for them to recover. And the trauma for parents is huge and will remain for a very long time.
(Bulgaria)

67%

answered that skin-to-skin contact was not initiated during the time ... in the hospital

42%

were never allowed to see their hospitalised baby



95%

were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth

KEY FACTS BULGARIA

71% of respondents indicated that no pregnancy-related appointments took place

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Bulgaria
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 23
<20	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	603 (36%)	10 (43%)
30–39	949 (57%)	11 (48%)
>40	95 (6%)	2 (9%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 22
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	3 (14%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	11 (50%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	8 (36%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	0 (0%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 22
Yes	241 (15%)	3 (14%)
No	1366 (85%)	19 (86%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 22
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	4 (18%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	18 (82%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 22
<1000	405 (25%)	3 (14%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	13 (59%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	6 (27%)
>2500	154 (10%)	0 (0%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 22
<1	135 (8%)	1 (5%)
1–3	386 (24%)	3 (14%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	9 (41%)
>5	719 (45%)	9 (41%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 22
No major concern	57 (4%)	0 (0%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	4 (18%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	7 (32%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	10 (45%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	1 (5%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 22
Yes	39 (2%)	0 (0%)
No	1531 (98%)	22 (100%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 22
Yes	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
No	1516 (96%)	20 (91%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	2 (9%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 21
Yes	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
No	1497 (95%)	18 (86%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	3 (14%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Bulgaria
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 21
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	2 (10%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	15 (71%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	1 (5%)
Other	197 (13%)	3 (14%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 21
Yes	286 (19%)	3 (14%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	6 (29%)
No, never	649 (43%)	9 (43%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	3 (14%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 21
Yes	689 (46%)	1 (5%)
No	823 (54%)	20 (95%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 1
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	1 (100%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Bulgaria
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 19
There were no changes	118 (8%)	1 (5%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	18 (95%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	0 (0%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 19
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	22 (116%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	8 (42%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	3 (16%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	0 (0%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	11 (58%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 19
Yes	532 (37%)	6 (32%)
No	889 (63%)	13 (68%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 19
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	0 (0%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	2 (11%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	2 (11%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	3 (16%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	3 (16%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	1 (5%)
Never	207 (15%)	8 (42%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Bulgaria
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 19
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	10 (53%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	0 (0%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	0 (0%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	1 (5%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	8 (42%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 19
Yes	998 (70%)	17 (89%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	2 (11%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 21
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	2 (10%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	0 (0%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	1 (5%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	2 (10%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	2 (10%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	14 (67%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 21
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	0 (0%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	1 (5%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	6 (29%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	14 (67%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 19
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	4 (21%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	3 (16%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	12 (63%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 19
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	1 (5%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	0 (0%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	17 (89%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	1 (5%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 21
Yes	1191 (79%)	11 (52%)
No	324 (21%)	10 (48%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 20
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	1 (5%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	3 (15%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	4 (20%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	3 (15%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	9 (45%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 19
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	25 (132%)
Photos	509 (36%)	7 (37%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	0 (0%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	3 (16%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	5 (26%)
None	691 (49%)	6 (32%)
Other	139 (10%)	4 (21%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Bulgaria
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 20
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	3 (15%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	3 (15%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	14 (70%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	0 (0%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 20
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	1 (5%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	5 (25%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	13 (65%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	1 (5%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 20
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	11 (55%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	1 (5%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	1 (5%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	6 (30%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	1 (5%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 20
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	7 (35%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	5 (25%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	1 (5%)
No, other	127 (9%)	7 (35%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Bulgaria
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 19
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	7 (37%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	10 (53%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	2 (11%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 19
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	6 (32%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	8 (42%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	2 (11%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	1 (5%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	2 (11%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 19
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	2 (11%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	6 (32%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	7 (37%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	4 (21%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	0 (0%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Bulgaria
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 19
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	6 (32%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	7 (37%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	4 (21%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	2 (11%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 19
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	8 (42%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	9 (47%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	2 (11%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 19
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	1 (5%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	4 (21%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	10 (53%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	2 (11%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	2 (11%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 19
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	26 (137%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	4 (21%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	2 (11%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	3 (16%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	4 (21%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	0 (0%)
None	638 (46%)	10 (53%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	1 (5%)
Other	39 (3%)	2 (11%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

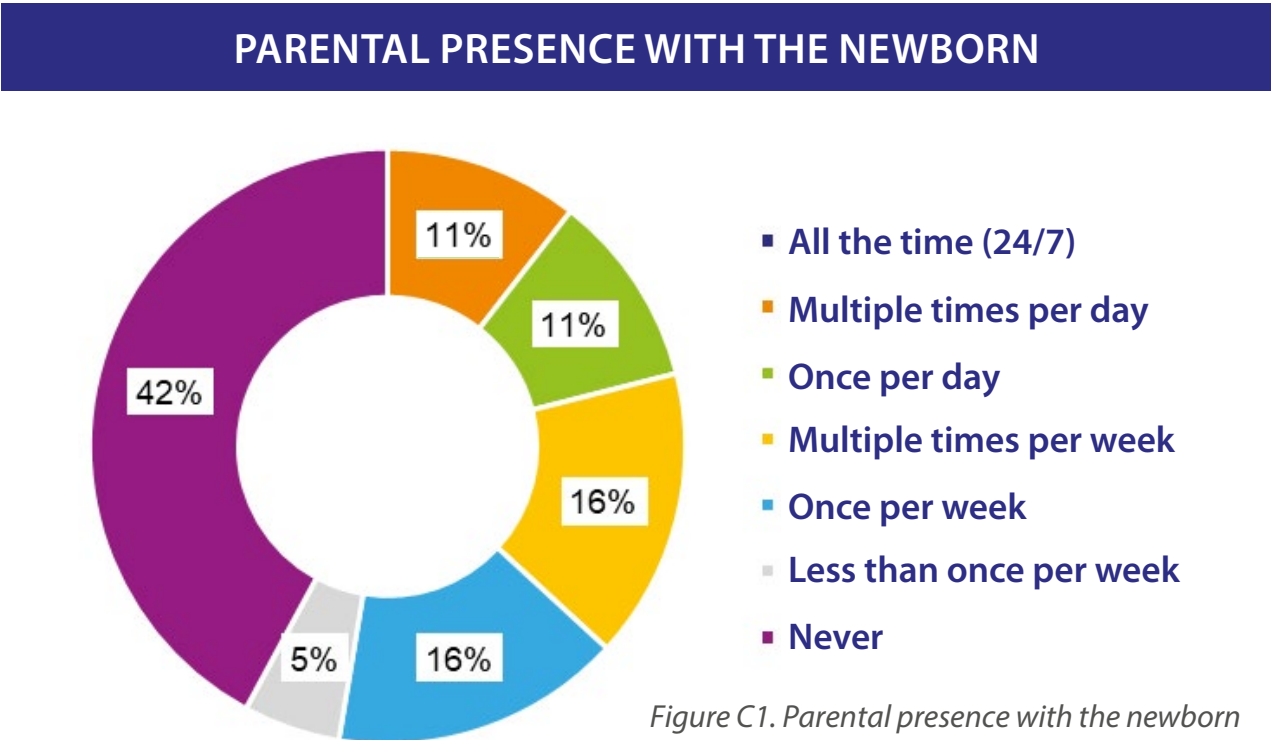


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in Bulgaria (n = 19; note: percentages do not total 100% due to rounding)

Cyprus

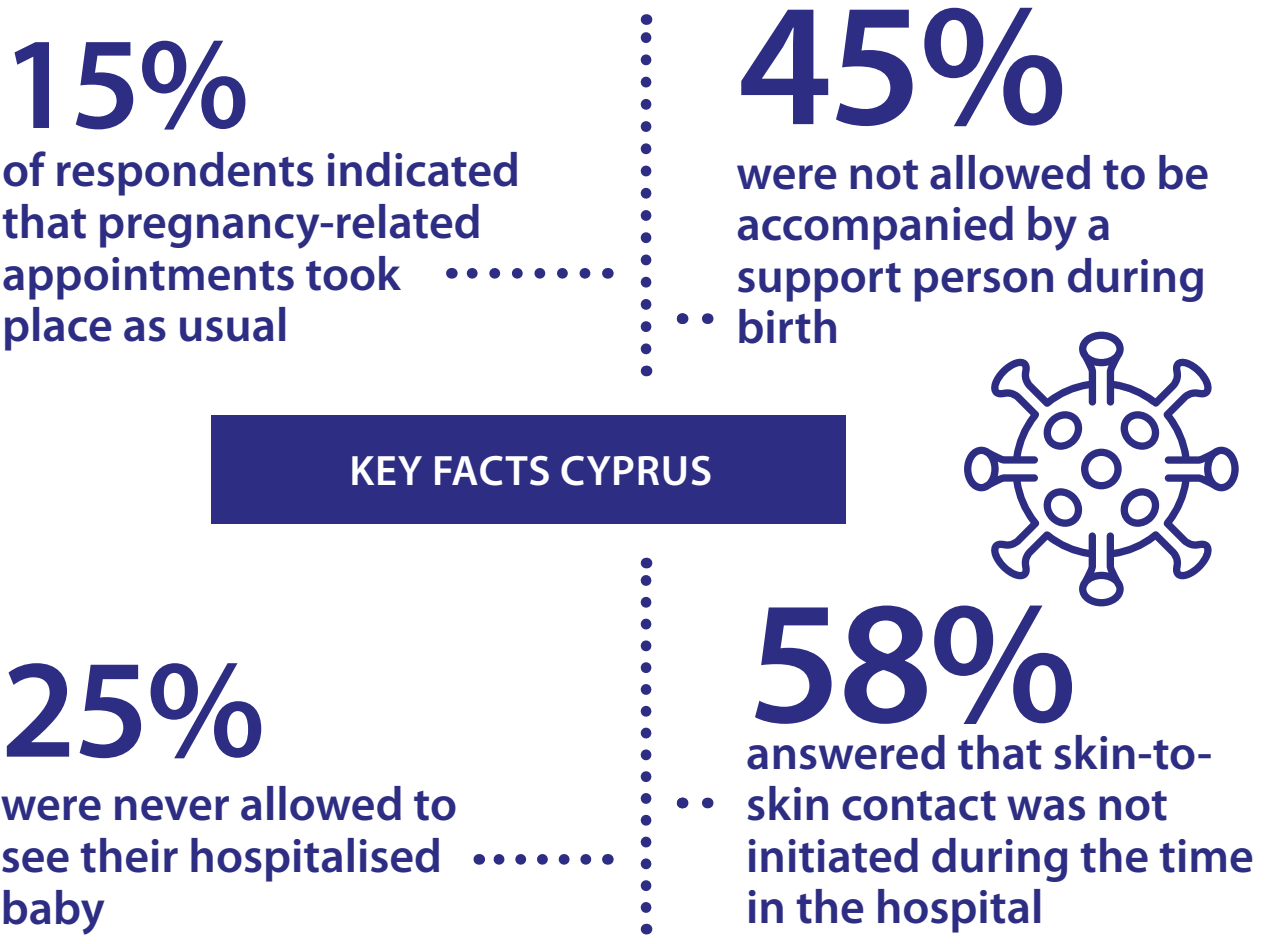


Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Cyprus
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 37
<20	9 (1%)	1 (3%)
20–29	603 (36%)	7 (19%)
30–39	949 (57%)	26 (70%)
>40	95 (6%)	3 (8%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 35
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	8 (23%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	9 (26%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	14 (40%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	4 (11%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 35
Yes	241 (15%)	11 (31%)
No	1366 (85%)	24 (69%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 35
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	7 (20%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	27 (77%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	1 (3%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 35
<1000	405 (25%)	8 (23%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	8 (23%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	14 (40%)
>2500	154 (10%)	5 (14%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 35
<1	135 (8%)	3 (9%)
1–3	386 (24%)	10 (29%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	6 (17%)
>5	719 (45%)	16 (46%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 34
No major concern	57 (4%)	1 (3%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	10 (29%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	8 (24%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	5 (15%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	10 (29%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 35
Yes	39 (2%)	0 (0%)
No	1531 (98%)	35 (100%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 35
Yes	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
No	1516 (96%)	35 (100%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 35
Yes	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
No	1497 (95%)	35 (100%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	0 (0%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Cyprus
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 33
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	5 (15%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	13 (39%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	6 (18%)
Other	197 (13%)	9 (27%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 33
Yes	286 (19%)	6 (18%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	14 (42%)
No, never	649 (43%)	9 (27%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	4 (12%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 33
Yes	689 (46%)	18 (55%)
No	823 (54%)	15 (45%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 17
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	15 (88%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	2 (12%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Cyprus
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 28
There were no changes	118 (8%)	0 (0%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	27 (96%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	1 (4%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 28
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	37 (132%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	11 (39%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	13 (46%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	0 (0%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	13 (46%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 28
Yes	532 (37%)	11 (39%)
No	889 (63%)	17 (61%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 28
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	0 (0%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	0 (0%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	19 (68%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	1 (4%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	1 (4%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	0 (0%)
Never	207 (15%)	7 (25%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Cyprus
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 28
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	22 (79%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	0 (0%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	0 (0%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	0 (0%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	6 (21%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 28
Yes	998 (70%)	26 (93%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	0 (0%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	1 (4%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	1 (4%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 33
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	1 (3%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	0 (0%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	3 (9%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	5 (15%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	5 (15%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	19 (58%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 33
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	3 (9%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	9 (27%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	1 (3%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	7 (21%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	13 (39%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 28
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	16 (57%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	5 (18%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	6 (21%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	1 (4%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 28
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	4 (14%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	11 (39%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	13 (46%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 33
Yes	1191 (79%)	25 (76%)
No	324 (21%)	8 (24%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 33
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	9 (27%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	18 (55%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	2 (6%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	4 (12%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 28
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	40 (143%)
Photos	509 (36%)	15 (54%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	1 (4%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	7 (25%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	2 (7%)
None	691 (49%)	12 (43%)
Other	139 (10%)	3 (11%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Cyprus
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 31
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	7 (23%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	11 (35%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	10 (32%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	3 (10%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 31
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	11 (35%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	12 (39%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	8 (26%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 31
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	6 (19%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	8 (26%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	10 (32%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	6 (19%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	1 (3%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 31
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	5 (16%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	25 (81%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	0 (0%)
No, other	127 (9%)	1 (3%)

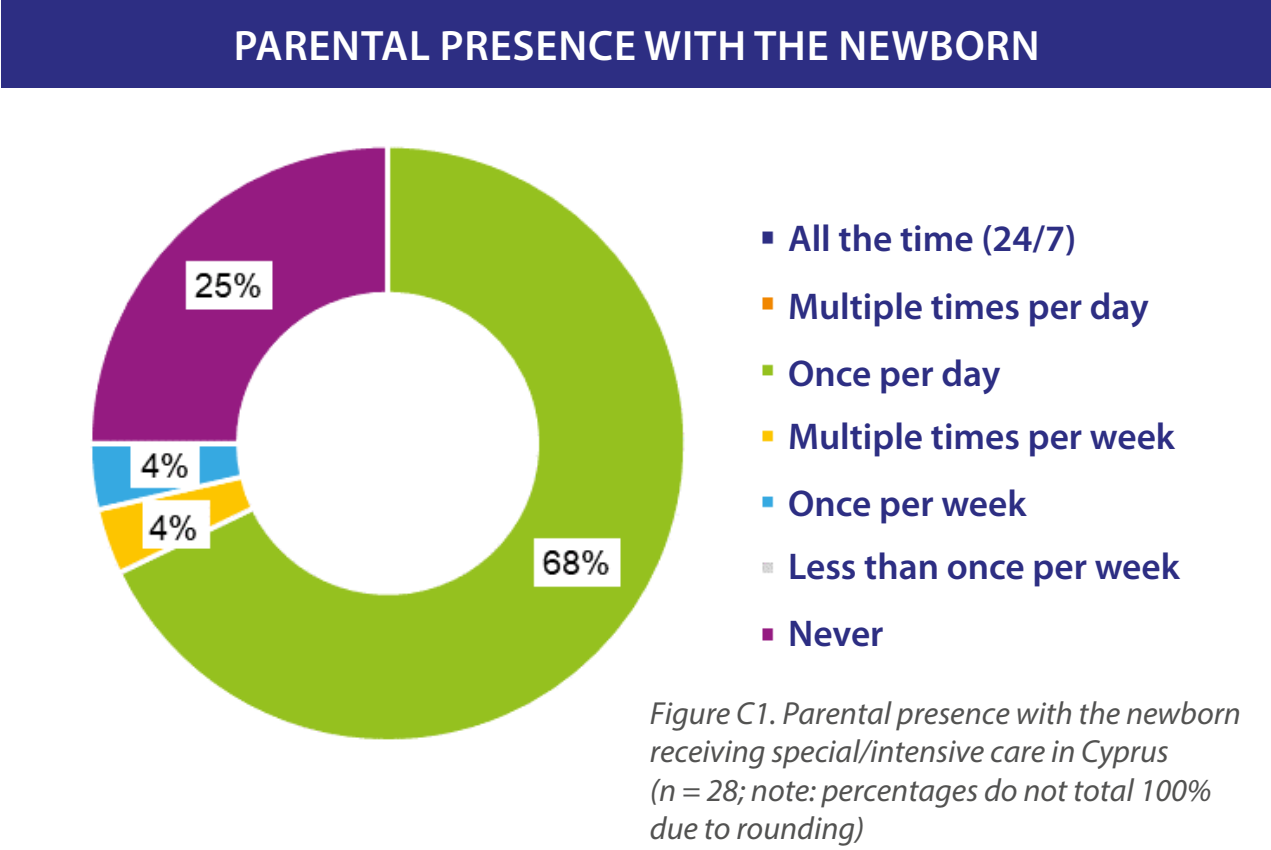
Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Cyprus
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 28
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	10 (36%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	16 (57%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	2 (7%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 28
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	9 (32%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	14 (50%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	4 (14%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	1 (4%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 28
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	5 (18%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	10 (36%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	10 (36%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	2 (7%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	1 (4%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Cyprus
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 28
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	14 (50%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	8 (29%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	3 (11%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	3 (11%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 28
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	25 (89%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	3 (11%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 28
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	0 (0%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	3 (11%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	20 (71%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	1 (4%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	4 (14%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 28
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	28 (100%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	3 (11%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	0 (0%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	0 (0%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	0 (0%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	0 (0%)
None	638 (46%)	23 (82%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	1 (4%)
Other	39 (3%)	1 (4%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding



Czech Republic



56%
were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth

KEY FACTS CZECH REPUBLIC

85%
of respondents indicated that no pregnancy-related appointments took place

More than **75%** answered that they were allowed to see their hospitalised baby multiple times per day to all the time

 Less than **50%** indicated that skin-to-skin contact was initiated during the first week of life

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Czech Republic
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 42
<20	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	603 (36%)	20 (48%)
30–39	949 (57%)	22 (52%)
>40	95 (6%)	0 (0%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 41
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	14 (34%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	9 (22%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	17 (41%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	1 (2%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 41
Yes	241 (15%)	4 (10%)
No	1366 (85%)	37 (90%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 41
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	20 (49%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	21 (51%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 41
<1000	405 (25%)	15 (37%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	9 (22%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	15 (37%)
>2500	154 (10%)	2 (5%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 41
<1	135 (8%)	3 (7%)
1–3	386 (24%)	9 (22%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	12 (29%)
>5	719 (45%)	17 (41%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 41
No major concern	57 (4%)	1 (2%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	4 (10%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	14 (34%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	21 (51%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	1 (2%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 41
Yes	39 (2%)	1 (2%)
No	1531 (98%)	40 (98%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 41
Yes	32 (2%)	1 (2%)
No	1516 (96%)	37 (90%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	3 (7%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 41
Yes	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
No	1497 (95%)	36 (88%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	5 (12%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Czech Republic
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 41
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	1 (2%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	35 (85%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	1 (2%)
Other	197 (13%)	4 (10%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 41
Yes	286 (19%)	7 (17%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	14 (34%)
No, never	649 (43%)	12 (29%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	8 (20%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 41
Yes	689 (46%)	18 (44%)
No	823 (54%)	23 (56%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 16
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	11 (69%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	5 (31%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Czech Republic
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 39
There were no changes	118 (8%)	0 (0%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	32 (82%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	7 (18%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 39
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	63 (162%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	36 (92%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	23 (59%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	1 (3%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	2 (5%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	1 (3%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 39
Yes	532 (37%)	22 (56%)
No	889 (63%)	17 (44%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 39
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	15 (38%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	15 (38%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	7 (18%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	1 (3%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	1 (3%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	0 (0%)
Never	207 (15%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Czech Republic
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 39
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	7 (18%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	12 (31%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	4 (10%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	16 (41%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 39
Yes	998 (70%)	25 (64%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	11 (28%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	3 (8%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 41
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	3 (7%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	2 (5%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	15 (37%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	15 (37%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	1 (2%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	5 (12%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 41
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	12 (29%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	20 (49%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	1 (2%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	4 (10%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	4 (10%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 39
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	28 (72%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	9 (23%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	2 (5%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 39
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	8 (21%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	7 (18%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	24 (62%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 41
Yes	1191 (79%)	40 (98%)
No	324 (21%)	1 (2%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 41
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	30 (73%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	10 (24%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	1 (2%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 38
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	43 (113%)
Photos	509 (36%)	10 (26%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	5 (13%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	3 (8%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	0 (0%)
None	691 (49%)	25 (66%)
Other	139 (10%)	0 (0%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Czech Republic
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 40
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	23 (58%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	11 (28%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	4 (10%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	2 (5%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 40
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	18 (45%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	17 (43%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	5 (13%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 40
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	3 (8%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	8 (20%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	18 (45%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	8 (20%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	3 (8%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 40
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	2 (5%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	27 (68%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	6 (15%)
No, other	127 (9%)	5 (13%)

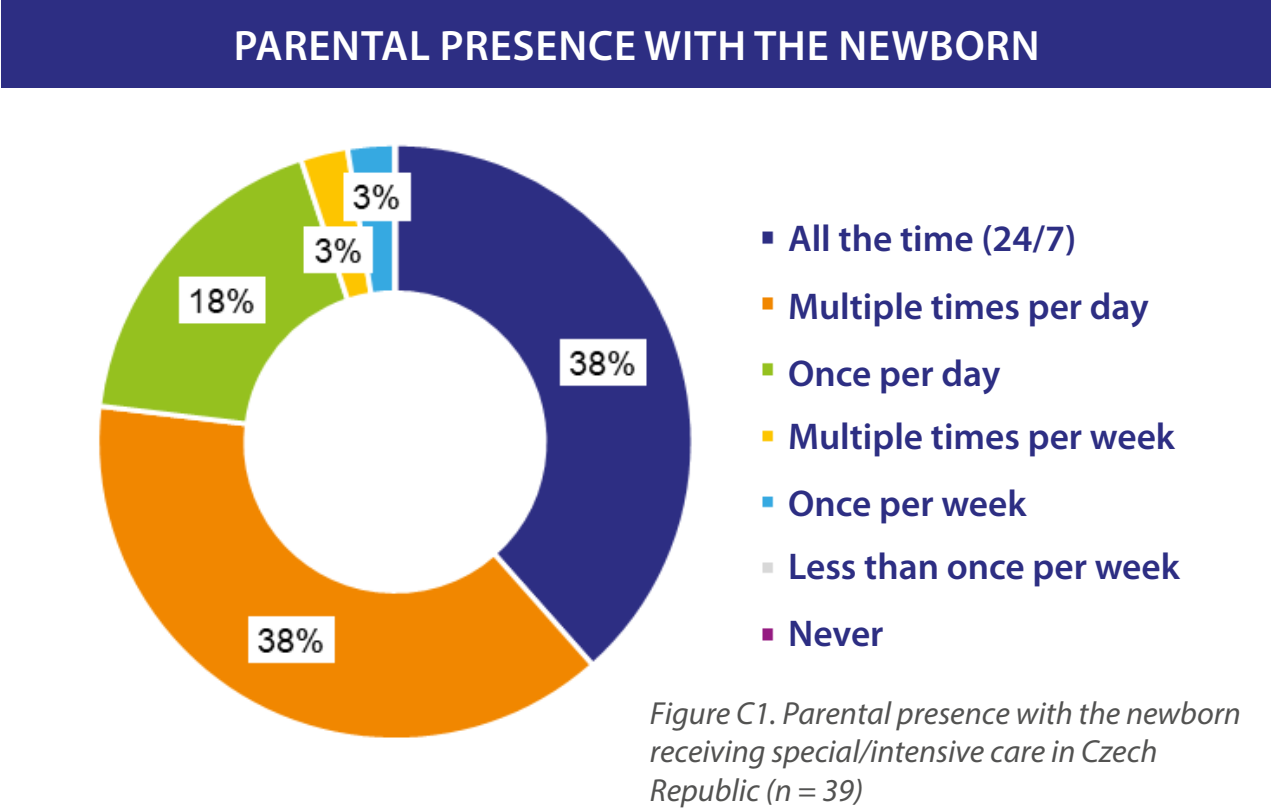
Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Czech Republic
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 39
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	24 (62%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	15 (38%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 39
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	12 (31%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	14 (36%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	5 (13%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	5 (13%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	3 (8%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 39
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	6 (15%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	7 (18%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	16 (41%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	3 (8%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	4 (10%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	3 (8%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Czech Republic
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 39
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	9 (23%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	14 (36%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	9 (23%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	2 (5%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	5 (13%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 39
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	12 (31%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	19 (49%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	7 (18%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	1 (3%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 39
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	9 (23%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	8 (21%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	17 (44%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	4 (10%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	1 (3%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 39
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	56 (144%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	14 (36%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	7 (18%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	5 (13%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	4 (10%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	6 (15%)
None	638 (46%)	17 (44%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	2 (5%)
Other	39 (3%)	1 (3%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding



Finland

“

It seemed awkward and heavy to have a restriction during which only one parent was allowed to be with the baby at a time, i.e. the most important and closest support was missing. We did not get to admire and care for the baby together during the first five weeks. Yes, this has negatively affected our own mind and endurance.
(Finland)

Skin-to-skin contact was mostly initiated during the first week

66%



74%

were allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth

79% of respondents indicated that no pregnancy-related appointments took place

NEARLY ALL PARTICIPANTS ANSWERED THAT BOTH PARENTS WERE INVOLVED IN THE CARE OF THEIR BABY BY MEDICAL STAFF

KEY FACTS FINLAND

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Finland
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 44
<20	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	603 (36%)	13 (30%)
30–39	949 (57%)	29 (66%)
>40	95 (6%)	2 (5%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 43
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	13 (30%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	11 (26%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	18 (42%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	1 (2%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 43
Yes	241 (15%)	4 (9%)
No	1366 (85%)	39 (91%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 43
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	18 (42%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	24 (56%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	1 (2%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 43
<1000	405 (25%)	14 (33%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	10 (23%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	16 (37%)
>2500	154 (10%)	3 (7%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 43
<1	135 (8%)	8 (19%)
1–3	386 (24%)	11 (26%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	5 (12%)
>5	719 (45%)	19 (44%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 43
No major concern	57 (4%)	5 (12%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	7 (16%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	13 (30%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	18 (42%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	0 (0%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 43
Yes	39 (2%)	0 (0%)
No	1531 (98%)	43 (100%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 43
Yes	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
No	1516 (96%)	43 (100%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 43
Yes	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
No	1497 (95%)	42 (98%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	1 (2%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Finland
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 42
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	5 (12%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	33 (79%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	0 (0%)
Other	197 (13%)	4 (10%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 42
Yes	286 (19%)	11 (26%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	22 (52%)
No, never	649 (43%)	8 (19%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	1 (2%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 42
Yes	689 (46%)	31 (74%)
No	823 (54%)	11 (26%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 33
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	28 (85%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	5 (15%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Finland
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 41
There were no changes	118 (8%)	0 (0%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	27 (96%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	1 (4%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 41
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	89 (217%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	11 (39%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	13 (46%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	0 (0%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	13 (46%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 41
Yes	532 (37%)	11 (39%)
No	889 (63%)	17 (61%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 41
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	38 (93%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	3 (7%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	0 (0%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	0 (0%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	0 (0%)
Never	207 (15%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Finland
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 41
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	0 (0%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	0 (0%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	1 (2%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	40 (98%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 41
Yes	998 (70%)	19 (46%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	14 (34%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	6 (15%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	2 (5%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 42
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	1 (2%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	11 (26%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	16 (38%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	12 (29%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	1 (2%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	1 (2%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 42
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	21 (50%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	15 (36%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	3 (7%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	2 (5%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	1 (2%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 41
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	34 (83%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	7 (17%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 41
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	34 (83%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	5 (12%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	1 (2%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	1 (2%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 42
Yes	1191 (79%)	42 (100%)
No	324 (21%)	0 (0%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 42
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	36 (86%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	6 (14%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	0 (0%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 37
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	45 (122%)
Photos	509 (36%)	111 (30%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	1 (3%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	3 (8%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	4 (11%)
None	691 (49%)	19 (51%)
Other	139 (10%)	7 (19%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Finland
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 42
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	29 (69%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	8 (19%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	4 (10%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	1 (2%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 42
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	31 (74%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	9 (21%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	2 (5%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 41
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	2 (5%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	19 (46%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	15 (37%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	5 (12%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	0 (0%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 42
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	2 (5%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	31 (74%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	7 (17%)
No, other	127 (9%)	2 (5%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Finland
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 41
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	34 (83%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	6 (15%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	1 (2%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 40
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	20 (50%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	12 (30%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	2 (5%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	1 (3%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	5 (13%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 40
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	7 (18%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	11 (28%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	6 (15%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	11 (28%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	5 (13%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Finland
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 41
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	8 (20%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	14 (34%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	5 (12%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	14 (34%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 41
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	14 (34%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	25 (61%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	2 (5%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 41
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	20 (49%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	12 (29%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	8 (20%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	0 (0%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	1 (2%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 41
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	84 (205%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	33 (80%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	0 (0%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	8 (20%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	8 (20%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	31 (76%)
None	638 (46%)	2 (5%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	1 (2%)
Other	39 (3%)	1 (2%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

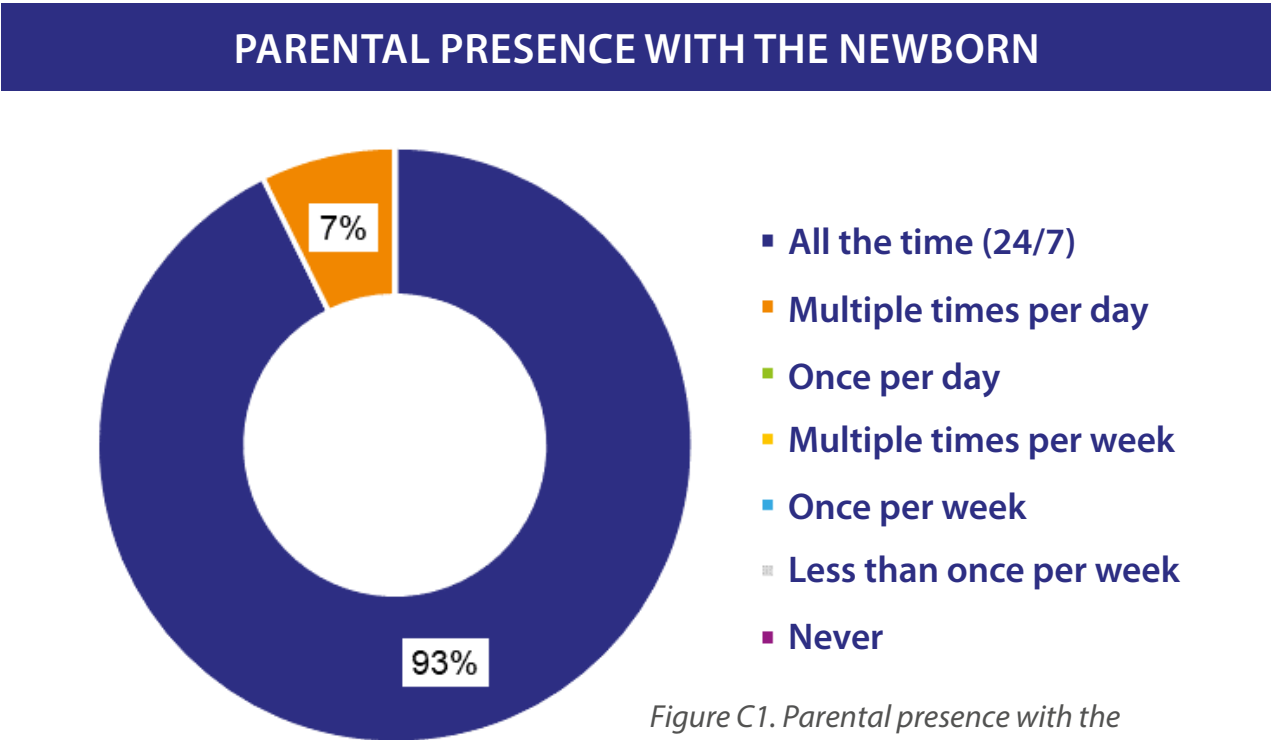


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in Finland (n = 41)

France

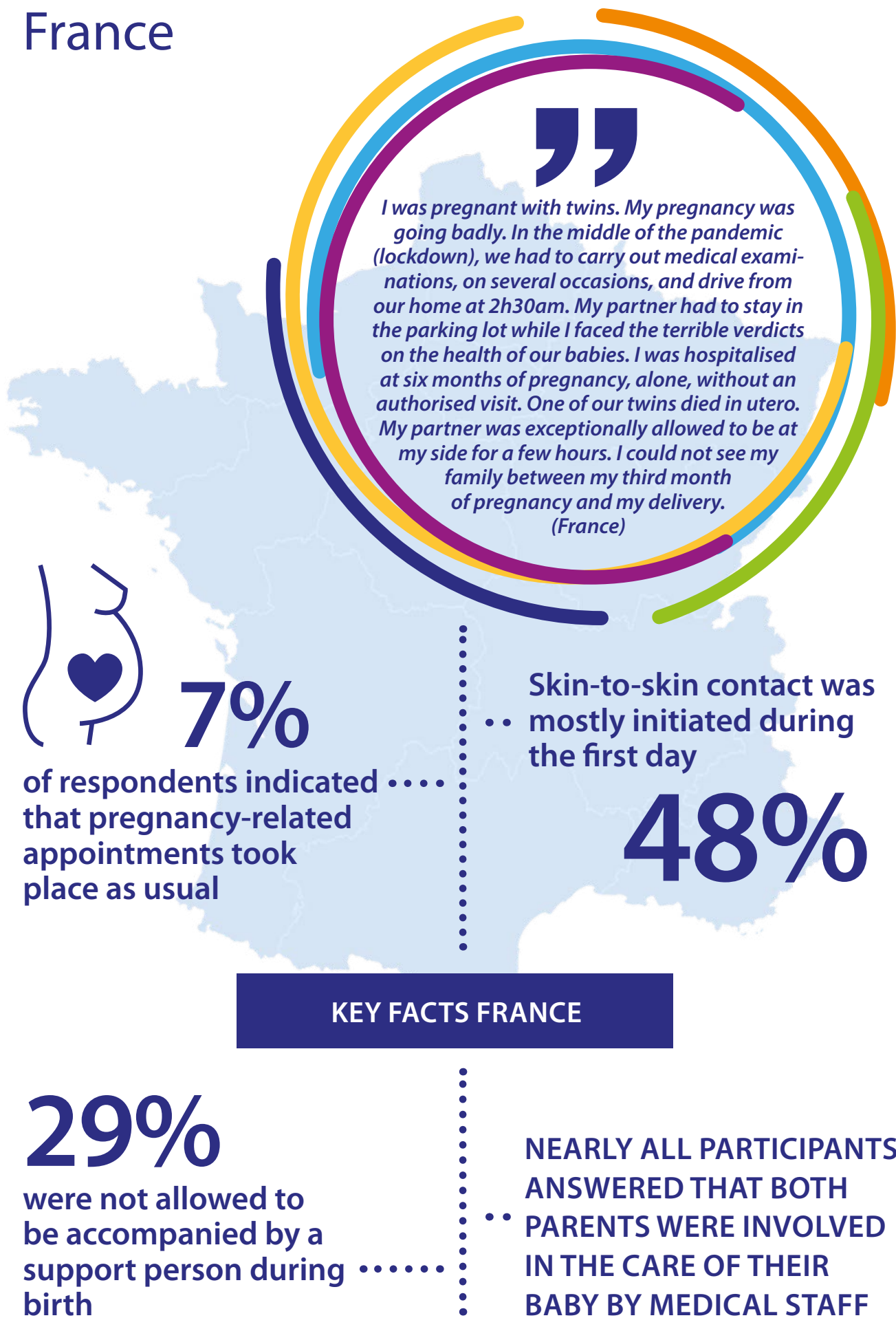


Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	France
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 125
<20	9 (1%)	1 (1%)
20–29	603 (36%)	40 (32%)
30–39	949 (57%)	78 (62%)
>40	95 (6%)	6 (5%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 123
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	40 (33%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	36 (29%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	43 (35%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	4 (3%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 124
Yes	241 (15%)	14 (11%)
No	1366 (85%)	110 (89%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 124
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	62 (50%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	62 (50%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 124
<1000	405 (25%)	45 (36%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	28 (23%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	45 (36%)
>2500	154 (10%)	6 (5%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 124
<1	135 (8%)	4 (3%)
1–3	386 (24%)	24 (19%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	61 (49%)
>5	719 (45%)	35 (28%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 118
No major concern	57 (4%)	6 (5%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	12 (10%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	38 (32%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	16 (14%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	46 (39%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 121
Yes	39 (2%)	1 (1%)
No	1531 (98%)	120 (99%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 121
Yes	32 (2%)	1 (1%)
No	1516 (96%)	117 (97%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	3 (2%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 121
Yes	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
No	1497 (95%)	113 (93%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	8 (7%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	France
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 118
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	8 (7%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	70 (59%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	10 (8%)
Other	197 (13%)	30 (25%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 118
Yes	286 (19%)	14 (12%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	42 (36%)
No, never	649 (43%)	47 (40%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	15 (13%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 118
Yes	689 (46%)	84 (71%)
No	823 (54%)	34 (29%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 85
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	67 (79%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	18 (21%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	France
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 110
There were no changes	118 (8%)	12 (11%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	94 (85%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	4 (4%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 110
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	215 (195%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	101 (92%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	106 (96%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	6 (5%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	0 (0%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	2 (2%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 110
Yes	532 (37%)	70 (64%)
No	889 (63%)	40 (36%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 110
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	80 (73%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	6 (5%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	22 (20%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	0 (0%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	1 (1%)
Never	207 (15%)	1 (1%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	France
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 109
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	0 (0%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	5 (5%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	15 (14%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	88 (81%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	1 (1%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 110
Yes	998 (70%)	61 (55%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	42 (38%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	4 (4%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	3 (3%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 117
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	13 (11%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	43 (37%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	45 (38%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	14 (12%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	1 (1%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	1 (1%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 118
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	99 (84%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	15 (13%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	2 (2%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	1 (1%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	1 (1%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 110
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	102 (93%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	7 (6%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	1 (1%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 110
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	87 (79%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	15 (14%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	6 (5%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	2 (2%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 118
Yes	1191 (79%)	116 (98%)
No	324 (21%)	2 (2%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 118
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	110 (93%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	6 (5%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	2 (2%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 109
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	123 (113%)
Photos	509 (36%)	28 (26%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	1 (1%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	3 (3%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	6 (6%)
None	691 (49%)	64 (59%)
Other	139 (10%)	21 (19%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	France
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 115
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	78 (68%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	24 (21%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	10 (9%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	3 (3%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 114
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	53 (46%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	46 (40%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	14 (12%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	1 (1%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 115
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	12 (10%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	60 (52%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	10 (9%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	26 (23%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	7 (6%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 115
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	12 (10%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	79 (69%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	16 (14%)
No, other	127 (9%)	8 (7%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	France
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 110
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	62 (56%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	37 (34%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	9 (8%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	1 (1%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	1 (1%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 110
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	43 (39%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	38 (35%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	18 (16%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	2 (2%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	9 (8%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 110
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	29 (26%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	21 (19%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	29 (26%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	3 (3%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	15 (14%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	13 (12%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	France
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 107
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	35 (33%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	44 (41%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	11 (10%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	3 (3%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	14 (13%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 106
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	60 (57%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	35 (33%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	11 (10%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 107
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	39 (36%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	41 (38%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	22 (21%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	2 (2%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	3 (3%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 107
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	150 (140%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	87 (81%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	3 (3%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	8 (7%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	0 (0%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	33 (31%)
None	638 (46%)	13 (12%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	2 (2%)
Other	39 (3%)	4 (4%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

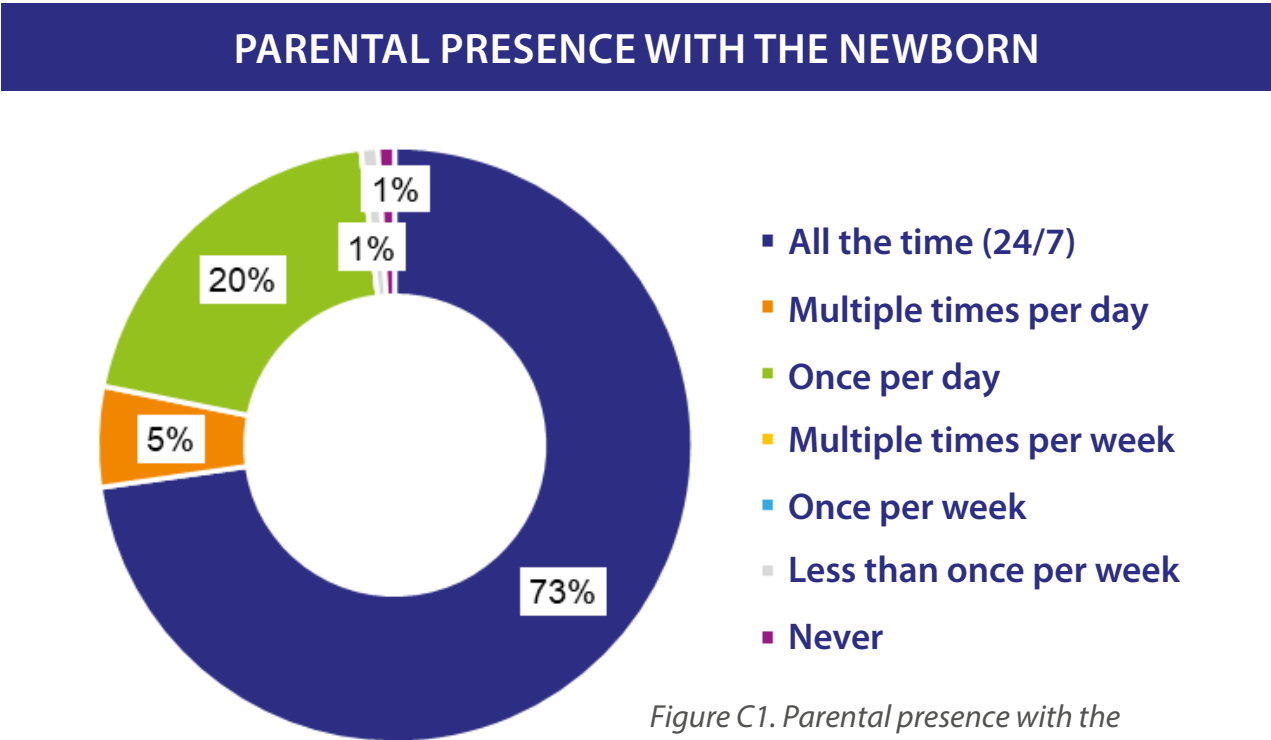


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in France (n = 110)

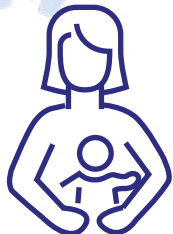
Germany

“

It was terrible. (...) We didn't feel like parents or family, we were annoying visitors. The rules were illogical and incomprehensible, even for the nurses. Why couldn't we be with a child together? The doctors were also five at a time in the room for the rounds. (...) It was arbitrariness and at times malice at work.
(Germany)

77%

of respondents indicated that no pregnancy-related appointments took place



... Skin-to-skin contact was mostly initiated after the first day but during the first week or even earlier

KEY FACTS GERMANY

Around

90%

worried because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy after the baby's birth

75%

32%

... were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Germany
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 35
<20	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	603 (36%)	6 (17%)
30–39	949 (57%)	25 (71%)
>40	95 (6%)	4 (11%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 34
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	12 (35%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	8 (24%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	12 (35%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	2 (6%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 34
Yes	241 (15%)	4 (12%)
No	1366 (85%)	30 (88%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 34
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	7 (21%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	27 (79%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 34
<1000	405 (25%)	17 (50%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	8 (24%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	8 (24%)
>2500	154 (10%)	1 (3%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 34
<1	135 (8%)	3 (9%)
1–3	386 (24%)	8 (24%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	7 (21%)
>5	719 (45%)	16 (47%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 31
No major concern	57 (4%)	1 (3%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	3 (10%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	10 (32%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	17 (55%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	0 (0%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 32
Yes	39 (2%)	0 (0%)
No	1531 (98%)	32 (100%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 32
Yes	32 (2%)	1 (3%)
No	1516 (96%)	31 (97%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 32
Yes	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
No	1497 (95%)	31 (97%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	1 (3%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Germany
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 31
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	5 (16%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	24 (77%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	0 (0%)
Other	197 (13%)	2 (6%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 31
Yes	286 (19%)	2 (6%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	5 (16%)
No, never	649 (43%)	19 (61%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	5 (16%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 31
Yes	689 (46%)	21 (68%)
No	823 (54%)	10 (32%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 21
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	18 (86%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	3 (14%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Germany
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 30
There were no changes	118 (8%)	2 (7%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	26 (87%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	2 (7%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 30
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	54 (180%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	29 (97%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	24 (80%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	0 (0%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	1 (3%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 30
Yes	532 (37%)	10 (33%)
No	889 (63%)	20 (67%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 30
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	12 (40%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	12 (40%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	4 (13%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	0 (0%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	1 (3%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	1 (3%)
Never	207 (15%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Germany
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 30
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	1 (3%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	7 (23%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	5 (17%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	17 (57%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 30
Yes	998 (70%)	26 (87%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	3 (10%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	1 (3%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 31
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	8 (26%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	3 (10%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	12 (39%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	7 (23%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	1 (3%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	0 (0%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 31
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	8 (26%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	18 (58%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	2 (6%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	2 (6%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	1 (3%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	22 (73%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	8 (27%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 29
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	17 (59%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	7 (24%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	5 (17%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 31
Yes	1191 (79%)	30 (97%)
No	324 (21%)	1 (3%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 31
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	23 (74%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	8 (26%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	0 (0%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 30
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	35 (117%)
Photos	509 (36%)	9 (30%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	0 (0%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	4 (13%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	1 (3%)
None	691 (49%)	19 (63%)
Other	139 (10%)	2 (7%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Germany
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 30
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	18 (60%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	8 (27%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	3 (10%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	1 (3%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 30
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	13 (43%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	15 (50%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	2 (7%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 30
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	1 (3%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	11 (37%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	16 (53%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	2 (7%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	0 (0%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 30
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	0 (0%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	29 (97%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	1 (3%)
No, other	127 (9%)	0 (0%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Germany
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	17 (57%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	12 (40%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	1 (3%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	7 (23%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	16 (53%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	4 (13%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	3 (10%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	4 (13%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	13 (43%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	6 (20%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	1 (3%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	3 (10%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	3 (10%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Germany
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	10 (33%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	10 (33%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	2 (7%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	8 (27%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	16 (53%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	11 (37%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	3 (10%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	7 (23%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	11 (37%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	9 (30%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	1 (3%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	2 (7%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 30
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	54 (180%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	22 (73%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	2 (7%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	6 (20%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	8 (27%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	10 (33%)
None	638 (46%)	6 (20%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	0 (0%)
Other	39 (3%)	0 (0%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

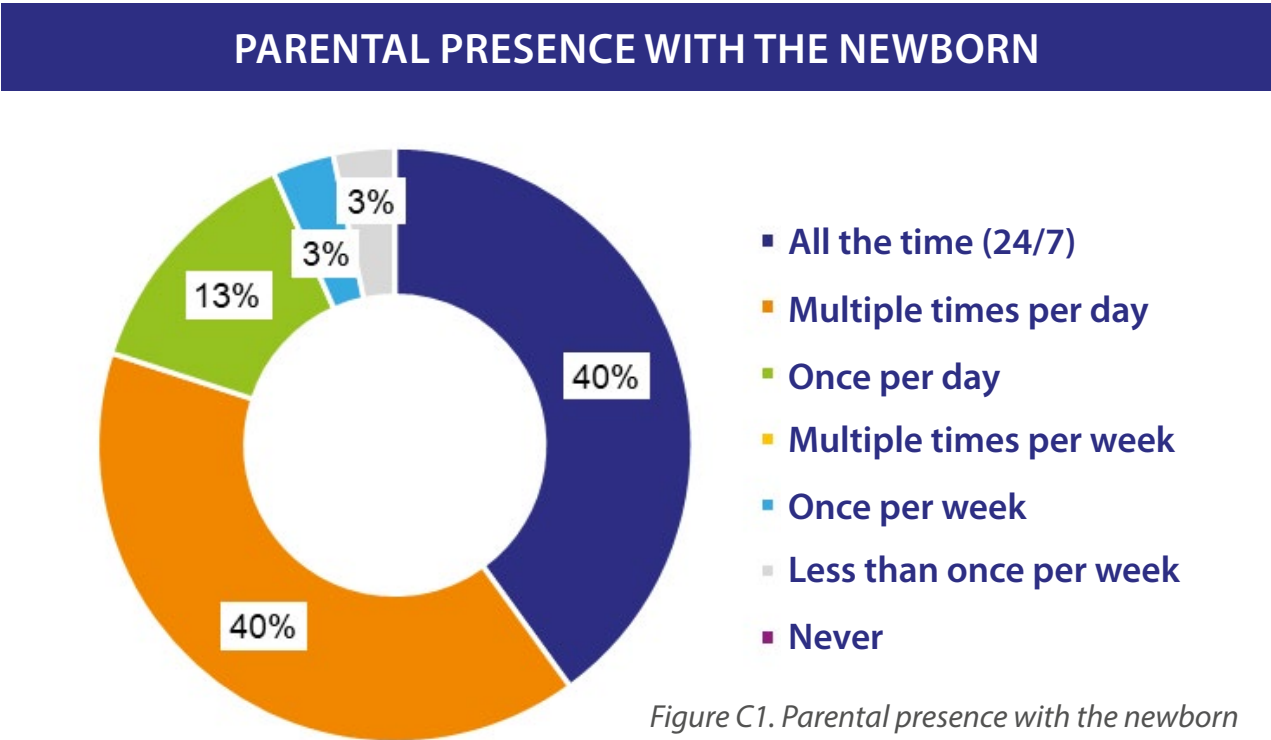


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in Germany (n = 30; note: percentages do not total 100% due to rounding)

Greece

“

As a mother who waited for two whole months to touch her twins for the first time, the fear is huge and you want to touch them but you are also afraid that despite you paying attention you may then pass something bad to your already weak children. I wish I had not experienced this.
(Greece)

3%

of respondents indicated that pregnancy-related appointments took place as usual

26%

were never allowed to see their hospitalised baby

69%

were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth

KEY FACTS GREECE

55%

answered that skin-to-skin contact was not initiated during the time in the hospital

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Greece
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 31
<20	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	603 (36%)	4 (13%)
30–39	949 (57%)	23 (74%)
>40	95 (6%)	4 (13%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 30
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	6 (20%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	11 (37%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	10 (33%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	3 (10%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 30
Yes	241 (15%)	10 (33%)
No	1366 (85%)	20 (67%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 29
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	4 (14%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	25 (86%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 30
<1000	405 (25%)	5 (17%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	12 (40%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	11 (37%)
>2500	154 (10%)	2 (7%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 30
<1	135 (8%)	2 (7%)
1–3	386 (24%)	5 (17%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	6 (20%)
>5	719 (45%)	17 (57%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 30
No major concern	57 (4%)	4 (13%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	3 (10%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	9 (30%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	5 (17%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	9 (30%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 30
Yes	39 (2%)	2 (7%)
No	1531 (98%)	28 (93%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 30
Yes	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
No	1516 (96%)	30 (100%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 30
Yes	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
No	1497 (95%)	29 (97%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	1 (3%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Greece
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 29
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	1 (3%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	13 (45%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	6 (21%)
Other	197 (13%)	9 (31%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 29
Yes	286 (19%)	6 (21%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	10 (34%)
No, never	649 (43%)	11 (38%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	2 (7%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 29
Yes	689 (46%)	9 (31%)
No	823 (54%)	20 (69%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 8
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	7 (88%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	1 (13%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Greece
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 27
There were no changes	118 (8%)	0 (0%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	26 (96%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	1 (4%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 27
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	33 (122%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	9 (33%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	10 (37%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	0 (0%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	14 (52%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 27
Yes	532 (37%)	5 (19%)
No	889 (63%)	22 (81%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 27
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	0 (0%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	2 (7%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	9 (33%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	2 (7%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	6 (22%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	1 (4%)
Never	207 (15%)	7 (26%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Greece
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 27
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	21 (78%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	0 (0%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	0 (0%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	0 (0%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	6 (22%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 27
Yes	998 (70%)	25 (93%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	1 (4%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	1 (4%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 29
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	0 (0%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	0 (0%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	1 (3%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	7 (24%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	5 (17%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	16 (55%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 29
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	0 (0%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	2 (7%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	7 (24%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	5 (17%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	15 (52%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 26
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	4 (15%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	5 (19%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	17 (65%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 27
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	0 (0%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	3 (11%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	24 (89%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 29
Yes	1191 (79%)	14 (48%)
No	324 (21%)	15 (52%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 29
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	1 (3%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	5 (17%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	6 (21%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	6 (21%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	11 (38%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 27
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	27 (100%)
Photos	509 (36%)	10 (37%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	0 (0%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	0 (0%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	0 (0%)
None	691 (49%)	16 (59%)
Other	139 (10%)	1 (4%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Greece
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 29
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	9 (31%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	8 (28%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	9 (31%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	3 (10%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 29
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	14 (48%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	12 (41%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	3 (10%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 29
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	3 (10%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	10 (34%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	12 (41%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	3 (10%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	1 (3%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 29
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	3 (10%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	23 (79%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	1 (3%)
No, other	127 (9%)	2 (7%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Greece
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 27
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	10 (37%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	17 (63%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 27
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	6 (22%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	13 (48%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	6 (22%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	2 (7%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 27
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	2 (7%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	9 (33%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	12 (44%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	2 (7%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	2 (7%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Greece
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 27
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	11 (41%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	10 (37%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	5 (19%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	1 (4%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 27
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	13 (48%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	14 (52%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 27
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	5 (19%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	0 (0%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	17 (63%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	0 (0%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	5 (19%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 27
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	28 (104%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	2 (7%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	1 (4%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	3 (11%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	0 (0%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	0 (0%)
None	638 (46%)	22 (81%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	0 (0%)
Other	39 (3%)	0 (0%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

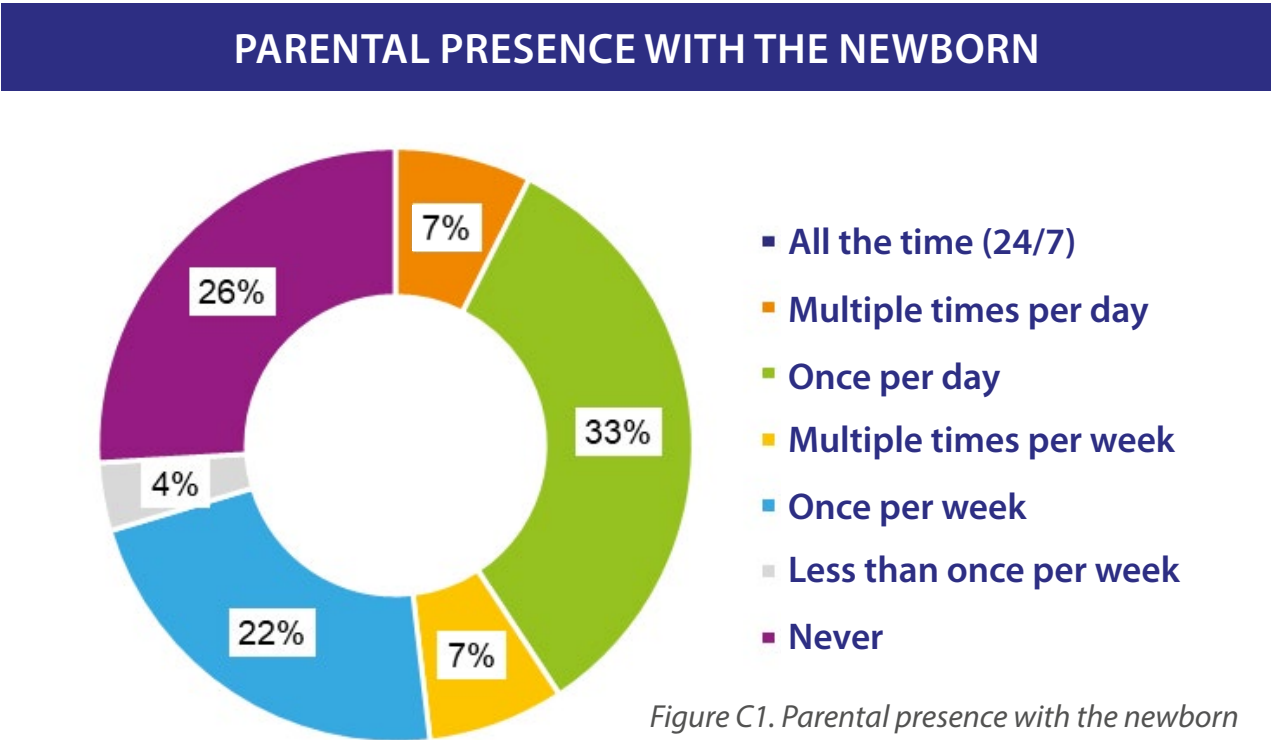


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in Greece (n = 27; note: percentages do not total 100% due to rounding)

Hungary



10%
of respondents indicated that pregnancy-related appointments took place as usual

KEY FACTS HUNGARY

20%
were not involved in the care of their baby by medical staff

58%
were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth



... Skin-to-skin contact was mostly initiated during the first week
52%

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Hungary
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 33
<20	9 (1%)	1 (3%)
20–29	603 (36%)	6 (18%)
30–39	949 (57%)	26 (79%)
>40	95 (6%)	0 (0%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 32
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	18 (56%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	10 (31%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	4 (13%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	0 (0%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 32
Yes	241 (15%)	4 (13%)
No	1366 (85%)	28 (88%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 32
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	7 (22%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	25 (78%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 32
<1000	405 (25%)	17 (53%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	7 (22%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	6 (19%)
>2500	154 (10%)	2 (6%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 32
<1	135 (8%)	1 (3%)
1–3	386 (24%)	5 (16%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	5 (16%)
>5	719 (45%)	21 (66%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 32
No major concern	57 (4%)	1 (3%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	2 (6%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	3 (9%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	22 (69%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	4 (13%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 32
Yes	39 (2%)	1 (3%)
No	1531 (98%)	31 (97%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 32
Yes	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
No	1516 (96%)	32 (100%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 32
Yes	7 (0%)	1 (3%)
No	1497 (95%)	31 (97%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	0 (0%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Hungary
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 31
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	3 (10%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	13 (42%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	1 (3%)
Other	197 (13%)	14 (45%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 31
Yes	286 (19%)	6 (19%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	12 (39%)
No, never	649 (43%)	9 (29%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	4 (13%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 31
Yes	689 (46%)	13 (42%)
No	823 (54%)	18 (58%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 15
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	10 (67%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	5 (33%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Hungary
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 30
There were no changes	118 (8%)	2 (7%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	27 (90%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	1 (3%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 30
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	36 (120%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	28 (93%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	7 (23%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	0 (0%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	1 (3%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 30
Yes	532 (37%)	3 (10%)
No	889 (63%)	27 (90%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 30
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	16 (53%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	11 (37%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	2 (7%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	0 (0%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	1 (3%)
Never	207 (15%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Hungary
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 30
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	21 (78%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	0 (0%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	0 (0%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	0 (0%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	6 (22%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 30
Yes	998 (70%)	25 (93%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	1 (4%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	1 (4%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 31
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	0 (0%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	0 (0%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	1 (3%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	7 (24%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	5 (17%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	16 (55%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 31
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	0 (0%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	2 (7%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	7 (24%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	5 (17%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	15 (52%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	4 (15%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	5 (19%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	17 (65%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	0 (0%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	3 (11%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	24 (89%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 31
Yes	1191 (79%)	14 (48%)
No	324 (21%)	15 (52%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 31
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	1 (3%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	5 (17%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	6 (21%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	6 (21%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	11 (38%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 29
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	38 (131%)
Photos	509 (36%)	10 (37%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	0 (0%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	0 (0%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	0 (0%)
None	691 (49%)	16 (59%)
Other	139 (10%)	1 (4%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Hungary
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 30
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	20 (67%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	10 (33%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	0 (0%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 30
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	20 (67%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	10 (33%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 30
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	0 (0%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	12 (40%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	14 (47%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	3 (10%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	1 (3%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 30
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	0 (0%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	9 (30%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	20 (67%)
No, other	127 (9%)	1 (3%)

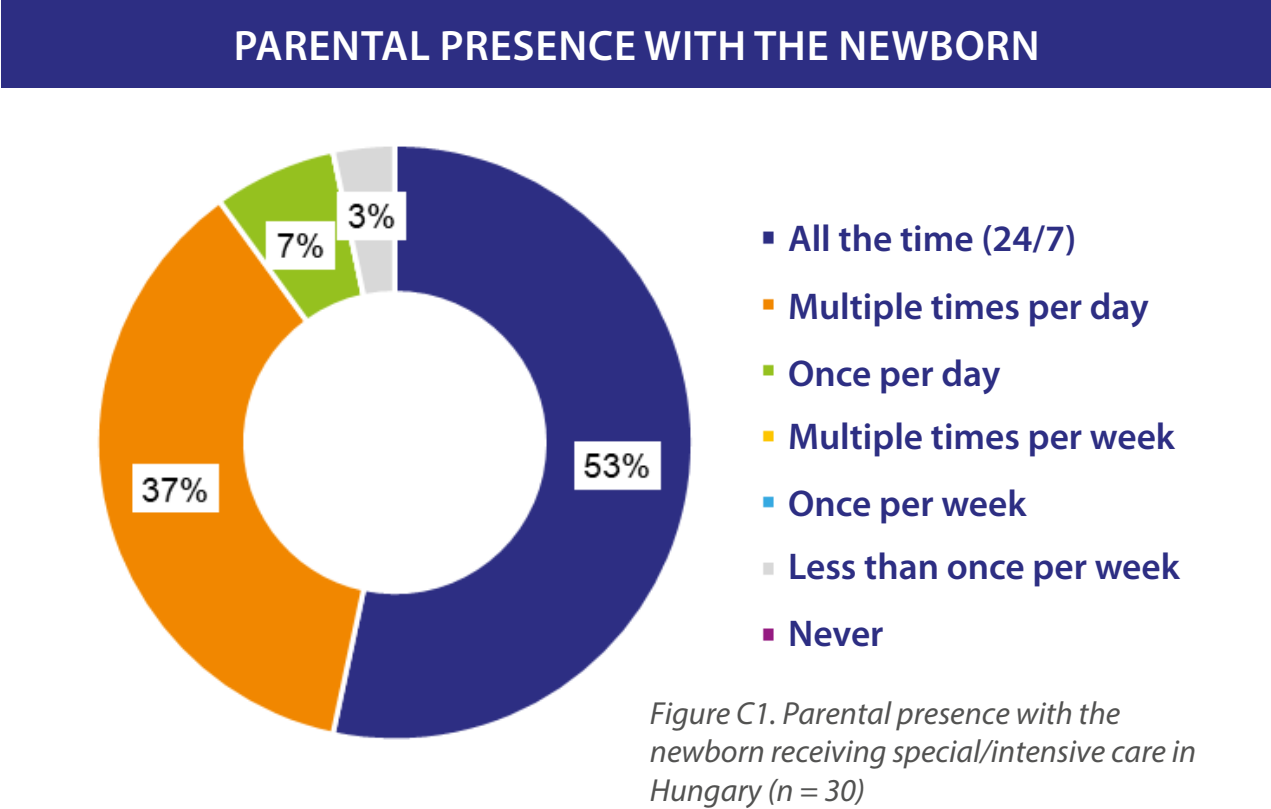
Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Hungary
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	18 (60%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	11 (37%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	1 (3%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	15 (50%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	9 (30%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	5 (17%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	1 (3%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	12 (40%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	7 (23%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	6 (20%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	1 (3%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	3 (10%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	1 (3%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Hungary
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	5 (17%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	15 (50%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	5 (17%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	5 (17%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	8 (27%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	18 (60%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	3 (10%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	1 (3%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	9 (30%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	11 (37%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	9 (30%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	0 (0%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	1 (3%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 30
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	53 (177%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	20 (67%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	3 (10%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	12 (40%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	8 (27%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	3 (10%)
None	638 (46%)	7 (23%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	0 (0%)
Other	39 (3%)	0 (0%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding



Ireland

“

I feel the restrictions severely impacted my bond with my baby and my ability to exclusively breastfeed. Our daughter was eight days old before her daddy got to hold her. My husband got to visit our daughter three times in 23 days. Considering the fact that I went in to her daily and I was sharing the same bed as my husband, I struggle to see why he was kept away from our daughter. I personally feel the way my husband was treated would be considered a form of torture in some minds.
(Ireland)

21%

of respondents indicated that pregnancy-related appointments took place as usual

12%

were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth

KEY FACTS IRELAND

NEARLY ALL PARTICIPANTS WORRIED BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 SITUATION DURING PREGNANCY AND AFTER THE BABY'S BIRTH

Skin-to-skin contact was mostly initiated during the first week

62%



Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Ireland
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 37
<20	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	603 (36%)	4 (11%)
30–39	949 (57%)	29 (78%)
>40	95 (6%)	4 (11%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 36
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	7 (19%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	13 (36%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	12 (33%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	4 (11%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 36
Yes	241 (15%)	6 (17%)
No	1366 (85%)	30 (83%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 36
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	9 (25%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	27 (75%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 36
<1000	405 (25%)	5 (14%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	10 (28%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	15 (42%)
>2500	154 (10%)	6 (17%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 36
<1	135 (8%)	3 (8%)
1–3	386 (24%)	5 (14%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	9 (25%)
>5	719 (45%)	19 (53%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 33
No major concern	57 (4%)	0 (0%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	1 (3%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	6 (18%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	25 (76%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	1 (3%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 35
Yes	39 (2%)	1 (3%)
No	1531 (98%)	34 (97%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 35
Yes	32 (2%)	1 (3%)
No	1516 (96%)	34 (97%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 35
Yes	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
No	1497 (95%)	35 (100%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	0 (0%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Ireland
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 34
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	7 (21%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	17 (50%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	2 (6%)
Other	197 (13%)	8 (24%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 34
Yes	286 (19%)	3 (9%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	7 (21%)
No, never	649 (43%)	22 (65%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	2 (6%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 34
Yes	689 (46%)	30 (88%)
No	823 (54%)	4 (12%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 30
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	14 (47%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	16 (53%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Ireland
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 34
There were no changes	118 (8%)	1 (3%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	32 (94%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	1 (3%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 34
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	45 (132%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	32 (94%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	12 (35%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	0 (0%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	1 (3%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 34
Yes	532 (37%)	6 (18%)
No	889 (63%)	28 (82%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 34
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	7 (21%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	14 (41%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	12 (35%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	1 (3%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	0 (0%)
Never	207 (15%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Ireland
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 34
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	13 (38%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	3 (9%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	5 (15%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	13 (38%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 34
Yes	998 (70%)	28 (82%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	4 (12%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	1 (3%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	1 (3%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 34
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	1 (3%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	6 (18%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	14 (41%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	11 (32%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	0 (0%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	2 (6%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 34
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	7 (21%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	16 (47%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	8 (24%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	1 (3%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	2 (6%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	20 (59%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	11 (32%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	3 (9%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	9 (26%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	9 (26%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	16 (47%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 34
Yes	1191 (79%)	32 (94%)
No	324 (21%)	2 (6%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 34
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	20 (59%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	11 (32%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	2 (6%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	1 (3%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	0 (0%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 34
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	48 (141%)
Photos	509 (36%)	13 (38%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	6 (18%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	9 (26%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	4 (12%)
None	691 (49%)	13 (38%)
Other	139 (10%)	3 (9%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Ireland
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 34
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	19 (56%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	12 (35%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	3 (9%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	0 (0%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 34
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	20 (59%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	9 (26%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	5 (15%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 34
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	5 (15%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	16 (47%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	13 (38%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	0 (0%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 34
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	4 (12%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	28 (82%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	2 (6%)
No, other	127 (9%)	0 (0%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Ireland
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	17 (50%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	16 (47%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	1 (3%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	14 (41%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	13 (38%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	3 (9%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	4 (12%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	8 (24%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	10 (29%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	6 (18%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	2 (6%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	6 (18%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	2 (6%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Ireland
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	22 (65%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	8 (24%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	2 (6%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	2 (6%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	24 (71%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	10 (29%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	7 (21%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	7 (21%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	15 (44%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	0 (0%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	5 (15%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 33
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	42 (127%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	6 (18%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	1 (3%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	2 (6%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	2 (6%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	10 (30%)
None	638 (46%)	16 (48%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	2 (6%)
Other	39 (3%)	3 (9%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

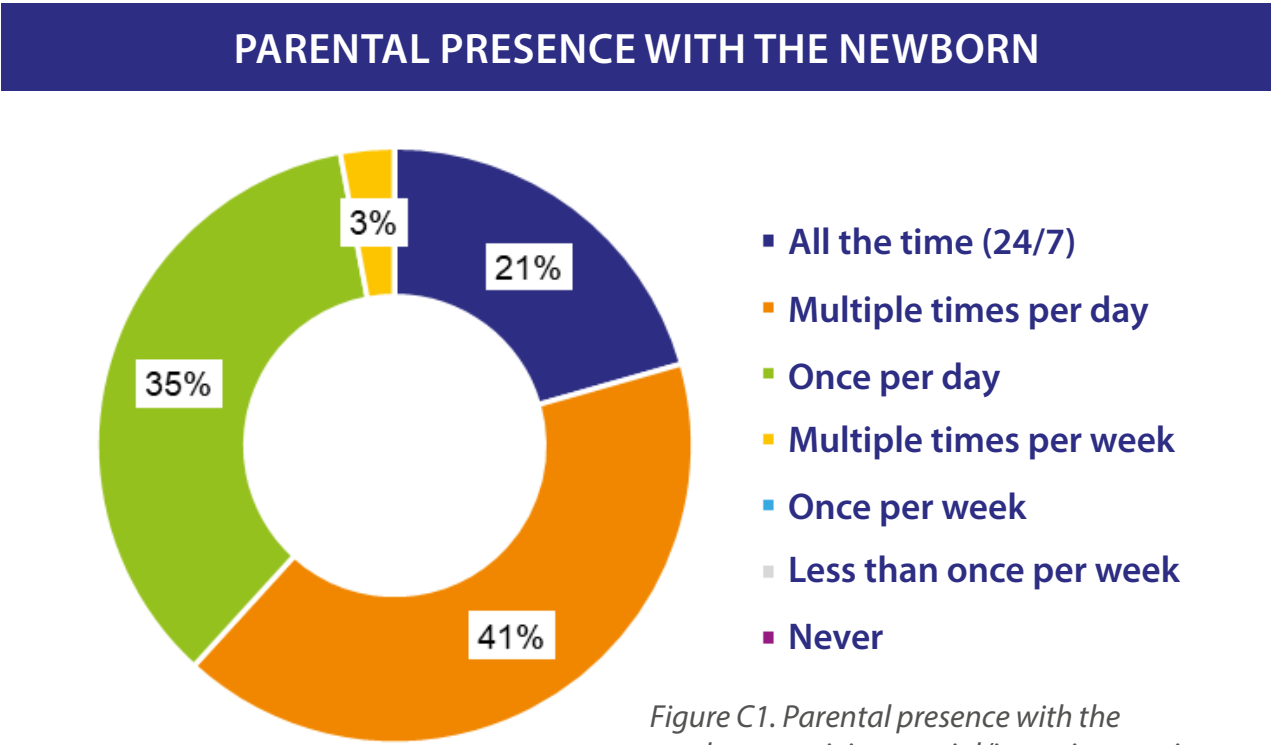


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in Ireland (n = 34)

Italy

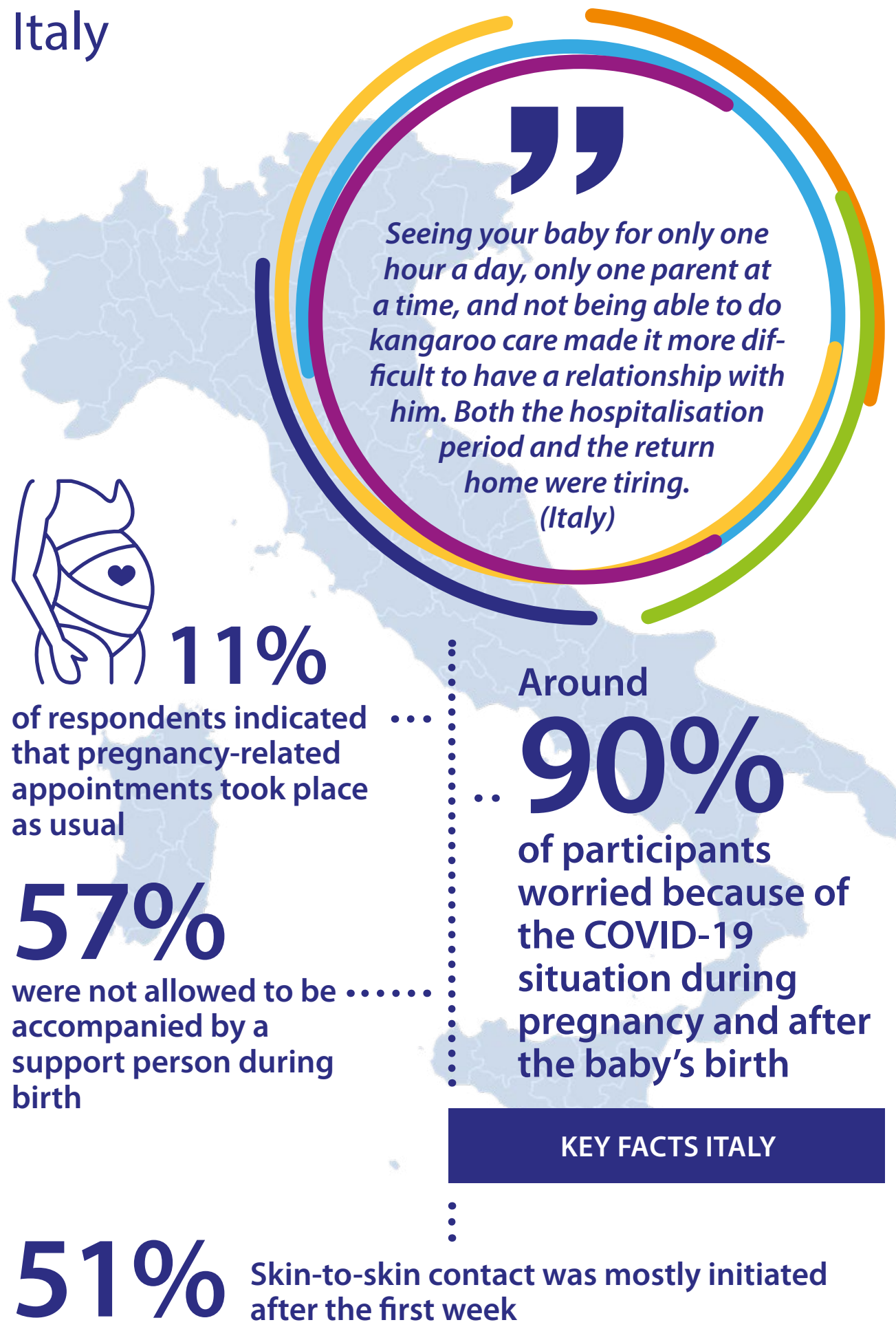


Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Italy
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 38
<20	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	603 (36%)	2 (5%)
30–39	949 (57%)	30 (79%)
>40	95 (6%)	6 (16%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 36
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	9 (25%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	10 (28%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	15 (42%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	2 (6%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 36
Yes	241 (15%)	5 (14%)
No	1366 (85%)	31 (86%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 36
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	14 (39%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	21 (58%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	1 (3%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 36
<1000	405 (25%)	14 (39%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	5 (14%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	16 (44%)
>2500	154 (10%)	1 (3%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 36
<1	135 (8%)	4 (11%)
1–3	386 (24%)	11 (31%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	3 (8%)
>5	719 (45%)	18 (50%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 35
No major concern	57 (4%)	1 (3%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	2 (6%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	9 (26%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	16 (46%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	7 (20%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 35
Yes	39 (2%)	1 (3%)
No	1531 (98%)	34 (97%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 36
Yes	32 (2%)	1 (3%)
No	1516 (96%)	35 (97%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 36
Yes	7 (0%)	1 (3%)
No	1497 (95%)	35 (97%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	0 (0%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Italy
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 35
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	4 (11%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	20 (57%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	1 (3%)
Other	197 (13%)	10 (29%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 35
Yes	286 (19%)	5 (14%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	10 (29%)
No, never	649 (43%)	19 (54%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	1 (3%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 35
Yes	689 (46%)	15 (43%)
No	823 (54%)	20 (57%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 18
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	7 (39%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	11 (61%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Italy
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 34
There were no changes	118 (8%)	4 (12%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	27 (79%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	3 (9%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 34
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	59 (174%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	30 (88%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	27 (79%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	0 (0%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	2 (6%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 34
Yes	532 (37%)	2 (6%)
No	889 (63%)	32 (94%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 34
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	12 (35%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	7 (21%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	11 (32%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	2 (6%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	0 (0%)
Never	207 (15%)	2 (6%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Italy
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 34
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	11 (32%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	3 (9%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	3 (9%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	15 (44%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	2 (6%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 34
Yes	998 (70%)	19 (56%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	14 (41%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	1 (3%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 35
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	1 (3%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	1 (3%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	8 (23%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	18 (51%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	0 (0%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	7 (20%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 34
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	8 (24%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	13 (38%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	3 (9%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	4 (12%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	6 (18%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	22 (65%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	10 (29%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	2 (6%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	19 (56%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	8 (24%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	6 (18%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	1 (3%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 35
Yes	1191 (79%)	32 (91%)
No	324 (21%)	3 (9%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 35
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	20 (57%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	11 (31%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	2 (6%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	2 (6%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 34
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	35 (103%)
Photos	509 (36%)	10 (29%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	0 (0%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	1 (3%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	1 (3%)
None	691 (49%)	20 (59%)
Other	139 (10%)	3 (9%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Italy
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 34
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	13 (38%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	9 (26%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	11 (32%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	1 (3%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 34
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	15 (44%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	16 (47%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	3 (9%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 34
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	2 (6%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	10 (29%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	14 (41%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	7 (21%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	1 (3%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 34
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	1 (3%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	30 (88%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	3 (9%)
No, other	127 (9%)	0 (0%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Italy
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	18 (53%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	15 (44%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	1 (3%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	21 (62%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	8 (24%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	3 (9%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	1 (3%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	1 (3%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	14 (41%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	10 (29%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	6 (18%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	2 (6%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	2 (6%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Italy
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	13 (38%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	17 (50%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	1 (3%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	1 (3%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	2 (6%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	14 (41%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	16 (47%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	3 (9%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	1 (3%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 34
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	6 (18%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	10 (29%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	13 (38%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	0 (0%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	5 (15%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 34
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	41 (121%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	15 (44%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	2 (6%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	3 (9%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	2 (6%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	1 (3%)
None	638 (46%)	17 (50%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	0 (0%)
Other	39 (3%)	1 (3%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

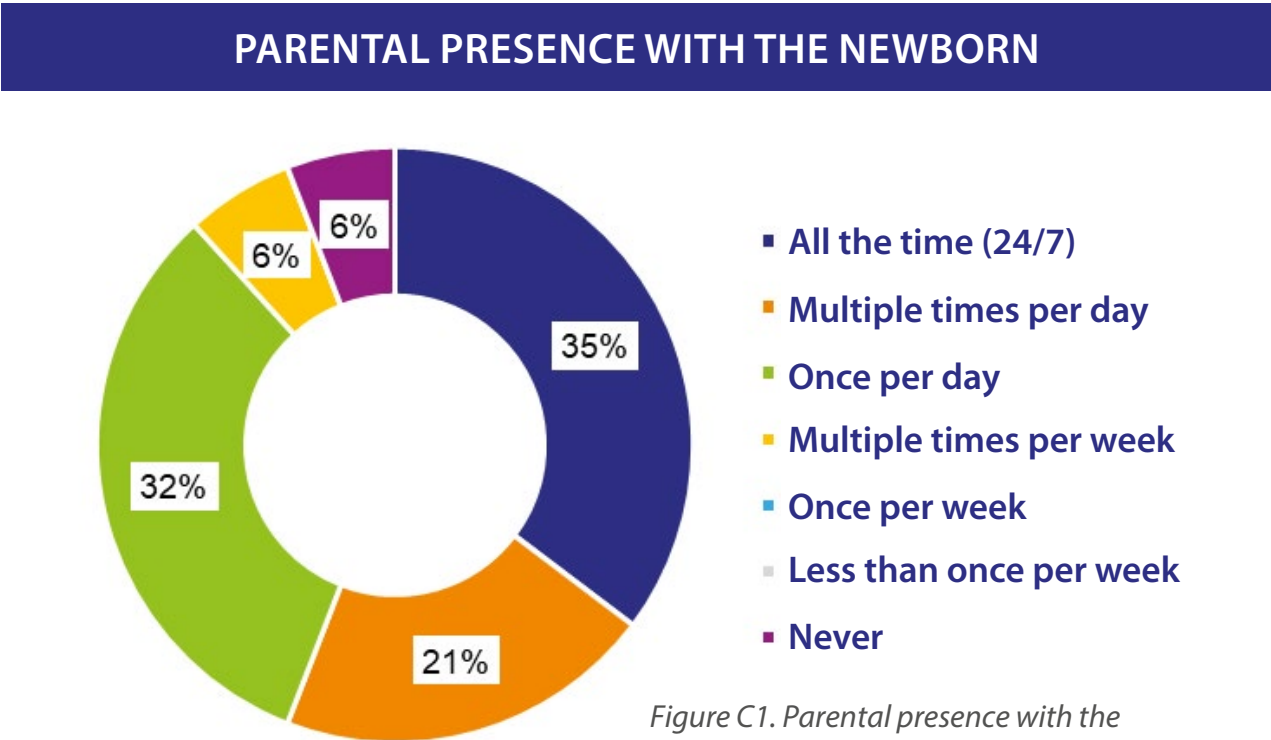


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in Italy (n = 34)

Netherlands

“

It is intense that you cannot be together as a partner with your critically ill child. And that sisters and brothers are not allowed to see their newborn brother or sister for weeks. That has such an impact. My stepdaughter still grieves about that after months. It's just been traumatic with the Corona measures.
(Netherlands)

29%

of respondents indicated that pregnancy-related appointments took place as usual

KEY FACTS NETHERLANDS

Skin-to-skin contact was mostly initiated immediately after birth or on the first day

68%



ALL PARTICIPANTS ANSWERED THAT BOTH PARENTS WERE INVOLVED IN THE CARE OF THEIR BABY BY MEDICAL STAFF

12%

were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Netherlands
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 133
<20	9 (1%)	2 (2%)
20–29	603 (36%)	46 (35%)
30–39	949 (57%)	82 (62%)
>40	95 (6%)	3 (2%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 132
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	22 (17%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	37 (28%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	60 (45%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	13 (10%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 132
Yes	241 (15%)	13 (10%)
No	1366 (85%)	119 (90%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 132
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	72 (55%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	59 (45%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	1 (1%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 132
<1000	405 (25%)	21 (16%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	33 (25%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	49 (37%)
>2500	154 (10%)	29 (22%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 132
<1	135 (8%)	14 (11%)
1–3	386 (24%)	31 (23%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	21 (16%)
>5	719 (45%)	66 (50%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 129
No major concern	57 (4%)	3 (2%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	11 (9%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	44 (34%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	71 (55%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	0 (0%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 129
Yes	39 (2%)	3 (2%)
No	1531 (98%)	126 (98%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 129
Yes	32 (2%)	1 (1%)
No	1516 (96%)	127 (98%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	1 (1%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 129
Yes	7 (0%)	1 (1%)
No	1497 (95%)	128 (99%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	0 (0%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Netherlands
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 120
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	35 (29%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	25 (21%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	8 (7%)
Other	197 (13%)	52 (43%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 120
Yes	286 (19%)	17 (14%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	61 (51%)
No, never	649 (43%)	34 (28%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	8 (7%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 121
Yes	689 (46%)	106 (88%)
No	823 (54%)	15 (12%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 113
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	104 (92%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	9 (8%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Netherlands
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 116
There were no changes	118 (8%)	22 (19%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	81 (70%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	13 (11%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 116
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	251 (216%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	104 (90%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	114 (98%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	13 (11%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	14 (12%)
Friends	12 (1%)	6 (5%)
No one	318 (22%)	0 (0%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 116
Yes	532 (37%)	102 (88%)
No	889 (63%)	14 (12%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 116
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	91 (78%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	21 (18%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	4 (3%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	0 (0%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	0 (0%)
Never	207 (15%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Netherlands
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 116
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	2 (2%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	15 (13%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	3 (3%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	96 (83%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 116
Yes	998 (70%)	43 (37%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	53 (46%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	20 (17%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 121
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	38 (31%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	45 (37%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	30 (25%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	8 (7%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	0 (0%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	0 (0%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 122
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	54 (44%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	66 (54%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	1 (1%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	1 (1%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 116
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	101 (87%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	15 (13%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 116
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	88 (76%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	26 (22%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	2 (2%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 122
Yes	1191 (79%)	122 (100%)
No	324 (21%)	0 (0%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 122
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	108 (89%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	14 (11%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	0 (0%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 116
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	151 (130%)
Photos	509 (36%)	29 (25%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	58 (50%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	6 (5%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	5 (4%)
None	691 (49%)	38 (33%)
Other	139 (10%)	15 (13%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Netherlands
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 121
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	93 (77%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	20 (17%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	6 (5%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	2 (2%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 121
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	65 (54%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	42 (35%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	13 (11%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	1 (1%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 121
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	12 (10%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	67 (55%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	41 (34%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	1 (1%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 121
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	14 (12%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	93 (77%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	5 (4%)
No, other	127 (9%)	9 (7%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Netherlands
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 113
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	67 (59%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	43 (38%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	3 (3%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 112
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	19 (17%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	53 (47%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	20 (18%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	6 (5%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	14 (13%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 112
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	11 (10%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	28 (25%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	31 (28%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	9 (8%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	28 (25%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	5 (4%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Netherlands
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 112
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	30 (27%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	57 (51%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	16 (14%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	1 (1%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	8 (7%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 112
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	42 (38%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	53 (47%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	17 (15%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 112
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	34 (30%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	44 (39%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	28 (25%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	2 (2%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	4 (4%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 112
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	160 (143%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	147 (42%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	0 (0%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	10 (9%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	3 (3%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	78 (70%)
None	638 (46%)	19 (17%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	1 (1%)
Other	39 (3%)	2 (2%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

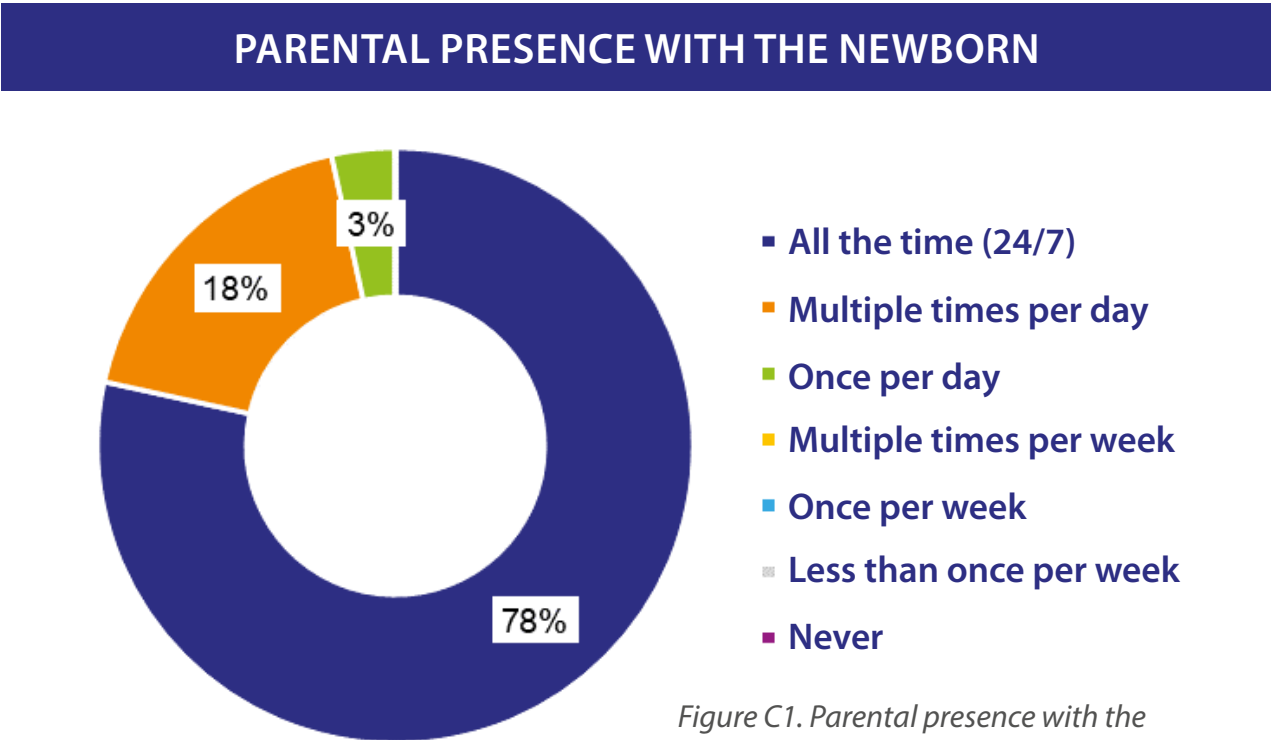
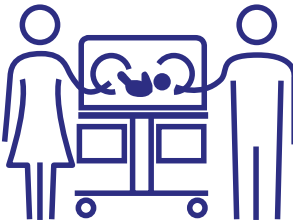


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in the Netherlands (n = 116; note: percentages do not total 100% due to rounding)

Norway

24/7



86%

answered that there were no time limits with regards to being present with the hospitalised baby

KEY FACTS NORWAY

SKIN-TO-SKIN CONTACT WAS MOSTLY INITIATED DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF LIFE

94%

“

The way the management of the hospital closed down the ward was very poorly thought through. For some of us who had already been hospitalised for months, and still had several weeks left, this became an extreme strain. The way the fathers were shut out, how much pressure was placed on the mother who had to do everything alone was all very bad. The way this was done, and how bad the hospital management was at listening to us parents is some of the worst I have experienced.
We were not heard!
(Norway)



17%

of respondents indicated that pregnancy-related appointments took place as usual

26%

were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Norway
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 49
<20	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	603 (36%)	18 (37%)
30–39	949 (57%)	30 (61%)
>40	95 (6%)	1 (2%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 47
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	11 (23%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	20 (43%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	14 (30%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	2 (4%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 47
Yes	241 (15%)	3 (6%)
No	1366 (85%)	44 (94%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 47
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	25 (53%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	22 (47%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 47
<1000	405 (25%)	12 (26%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	14 (30%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	16 (34%)
>2500	154 (10%)	5 (11%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 47
<1	135 (8%)	0 (0%)
1–3	386 (24%)	10 (21%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	9 (19%)
>5	719 (45%)	28 (60%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 46
No major concern	57 (4%)	1 (2%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	3 (7%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	12 (26%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	26 (57%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	4 (9%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 46
Yes	39 (2%)	0 (0%)
No	1531 (98%)	46 (100%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 47
Yes	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
No	1516 (96%)	47 (100%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 47
Yes	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
No	1497 (95%)	47 (100%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	0 (0%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Norway
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 47
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	8 (17%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	26 (55%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	0 (0%)
Other	197 (13%)	13 (28%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 47
Yes	286 (19%)	7 (15%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	7 (15%)
No, never	649 (43%)	25 (53%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	8 (17%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 47
Yes	689 (46%)	35 (74%)
No	823 (54%)	12 (26%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 36
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	22 (61%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	14 (39%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Norway
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 42
There were no changes	118 (8%)	3 (7%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	38 (90%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	1 (2%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 42
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	66 (157%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	41 (98%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	22 (52%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	1 (2%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	1 (2%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	1 (2%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 42
Yes	532 (37%)	11 (26%)
No	889 (63%)	31 (74%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 42
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	33 (79%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	7 (17%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	0 (0%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	2 (5%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	0 (0%)
Never	207 (15%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Norway
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 42
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	0 (0%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	2 (5%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	4 (10%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	36 (86%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 42
Yes	998 (70%)	21 (50%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	11 (26%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	9 (21%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	1 (2%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 45
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	7 (16%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	18 (40%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	17 (38%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	3 (7%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	0 (0%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	0 (0%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 46
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	33 (72%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	11 (24%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	2 (4%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 42
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	34 (81%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	8 (19%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 42
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	15 (36%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	15 (36%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	12 (29%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 46
Yes	1191 (79%)	46 (100%)
No	324 (21%)	0 (0%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 46
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	43 (93%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	3 (7%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	0 (0%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 42
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	53 (126%)
Photos	509 (36%)	14 (33%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	3 (7%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	1 (2%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	10 (24%)
None	691 (49%)	19 (45%)
Other	139 (10%)	6 (14%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Norway
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 45
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	31 (69%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	9 (20%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	5 (11%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	0 (0%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 45
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	21 (47%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	22 (49%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	2 (4%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 45
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	4 (9%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	17 (38%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	21 (47%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	2 (4%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	1 (2%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 45
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	5 (11%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	19 (42%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	16 (36%)
No, other	127 (9%)	5 (11%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Norway
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 40
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	26 (65%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	12 (30%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	2 (5%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 40
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	13 (33%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	24 (60%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	2 (5%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	1 (3%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 40
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	9 (23%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	11 (28%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	11 (28%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	1 (3%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	2 (5%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	6 (15%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Norway
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 40
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	7 (18%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	21 (53%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	6 (15%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	6 (15%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 40
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	17 (43%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	21 (53%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	2 (5%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 40
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	8 (20%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	13 (33%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	17 (43%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	0 (0%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	2 (5%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 39
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	52 (133%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	19 (49%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	0 (0%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	2 (5%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	0 (0%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	15 (38%)
None	638 (46%)	12 (31%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	2 (5%)
Other	39 (3%)	2 (5%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

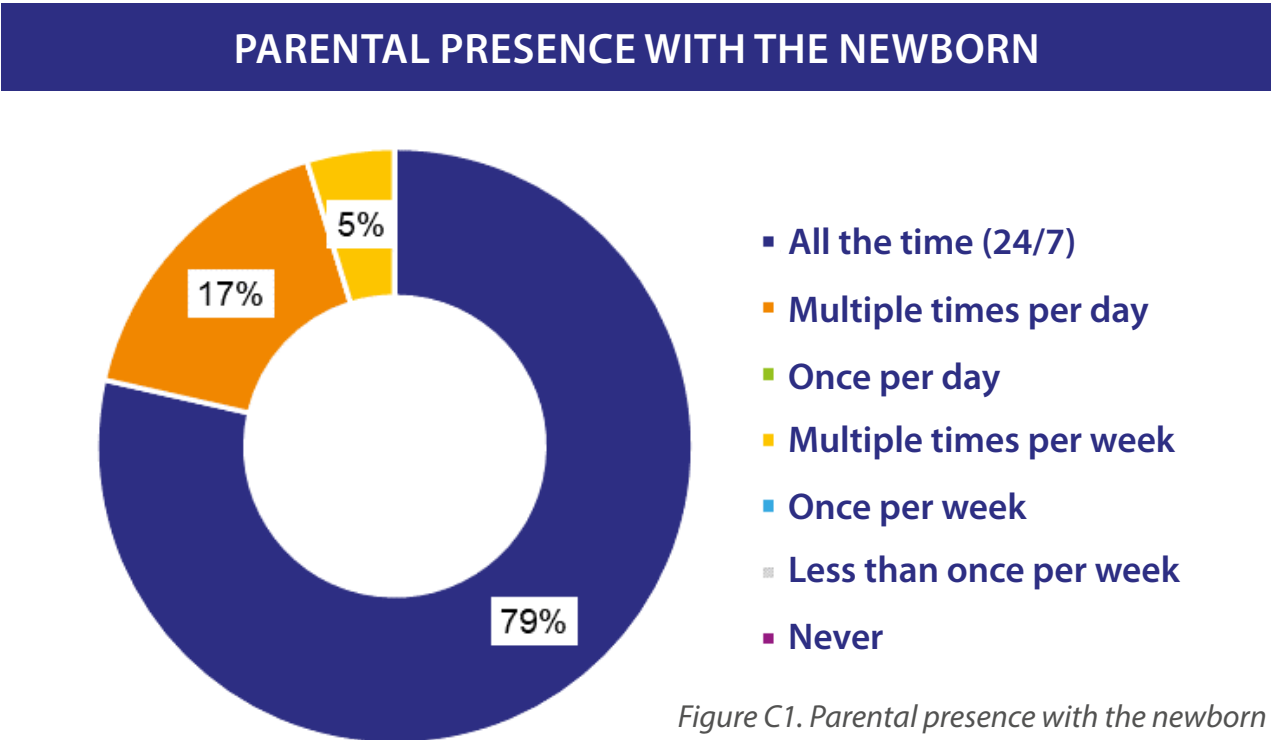


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in Norway (n = 42; note: percentages do not total 100% due to rounding)

Poland

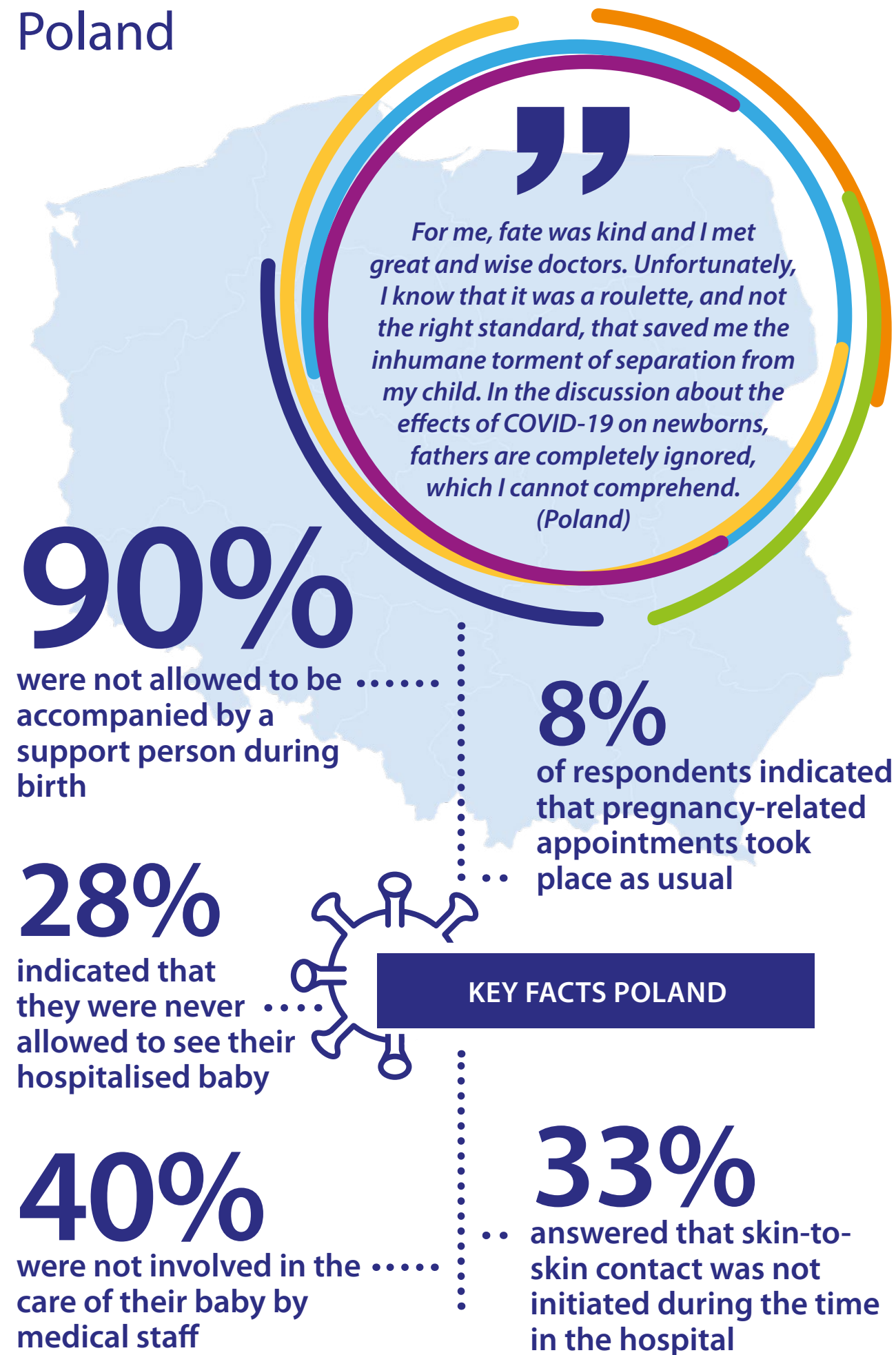


Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Poland
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 160
<20	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	603 (36%)	70 (44%)
30–39	949 (57%)	84 (53%)
>40	95 (6%)	6 (4%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 154
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	40 (26%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	48 (31%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	64 (42%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	2 (1%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 154
Yes	241 (15%)	14 (9%)
No	1366 (85%)	140 (91%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 153
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	42 (27%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	111 (73%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 154
<1000	405 (25%)	35 (23%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	57 (37%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	53 (34%)
>2500	154 (10%)	9 (6%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 154
<1	135 (8%)	10 (6%)
1–3	386 (24%)	29 (19%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	43 (28%)
>5	719 (45%)	72 (47%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 151
No major concern	57 (4%)	1 (1%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	12 (8%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	48 (32%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	73 (48%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	17 (11%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 150
Yes	39 (2%)	1 (1%)
No	1531 (98%)	149 (99%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 152
Yes	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
No	1516 (96%)	147 (97%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	5 (3%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 152
Yes	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
No	1497 (95%)	145 (95%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	7 (5%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Poland
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 147
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	12 (8%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	75 (51%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	9 (6%)
Other	197 (13%)	51 (35%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 147
Yes	286 (19%)	7 (5%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	25 (17%)
No, never	649 (43%)	98 (67%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	17 (12%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 147
Yes	689 (46%)	14 (10%)
No	823 (54%)	133 (90%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 14
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	9 (64%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	5 (36%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Poland
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 132
There were no changes	118 (8%)	4 (3%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	118 (89%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	10 (8%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 132
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	155 (117%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	84 (64%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	19 (14%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	0 (0%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	52 (39%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 130
Yes	532 (37%)	5 (4%)
No	889 (63%)	125 (96%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 132
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	17 (13%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	23 (17%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	21 (16%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	13 (10%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	9 (7%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	12 (9%)
Never	207 (15%)	37 (28%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Poland
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 131
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	44 (34%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	22 (17%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	4 (3%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	27 (21%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	34 (26%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 132
Yes	998 (70%)	112 (85%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	17 (13%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	2 (2%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	1 (1%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 146
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	7 (5%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	4 (3%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	36 (25%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	32 (22%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	19 (13%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	48 (33%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 146
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	12 (8%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	31 (21%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	17 (12%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	24 (16%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	62 (42%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 131
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	48 (37%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	29 (22%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	53 (40%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	1 (1%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 131
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	2 (2%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	10 (8%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	114 (87%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	4 (3%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	1 (1%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 147
Yes	1191 (79%)	119 (81%)
No	324 (21%)	28 (19%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 146
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	54 (37%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	33 (23%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	15 (10%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	22 (15%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	22 (15%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 130
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	155 (119%)
Photos	509 (36%)	169 (53%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	16 (12%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	16 (12%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	5 (4%)
None	691 (49%)	35 (27%)
Other	139 (10%)	14 (11%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Poland
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 140
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	52 (37%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	41 (29%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	39 (28%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	8 (6%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 141
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	67 (48%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	54 (38%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	18 (13%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	2 (1%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 141
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	19 (13%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	39 (28%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	64 (45%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	13 (9%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	6 (4%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 141
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	7 (5%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	99 (70%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	11 (8%)
No, other	127 (9%)	24 (17%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Poland
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 132
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	50 (38%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	60 (45%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	21 (16%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	1 (1%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 132
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	30 (23%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	37 (28%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	29 (22%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	15 (11%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	21 (16%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 132
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	22 (17%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	15 (11%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	20 (15%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	8 (6%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	50 (38%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	17 (13%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Poland
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 132
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	66 (50%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	39 (30%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	11 (8%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	5 (4%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	11 (8%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 132
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	85 (64%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	30 (23%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	11 (8%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	6 (5%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 132
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	14 (11%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	23 (17%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	49 (37%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	1 (1%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	45 (34%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 132
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	149 (113%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	46 (35%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	4 (3%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	12 (9%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	11 (8%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	0 (0%)
None	638 (46%)	72 (55%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	3 (2%)
Other	39 (3%)	1 (1%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

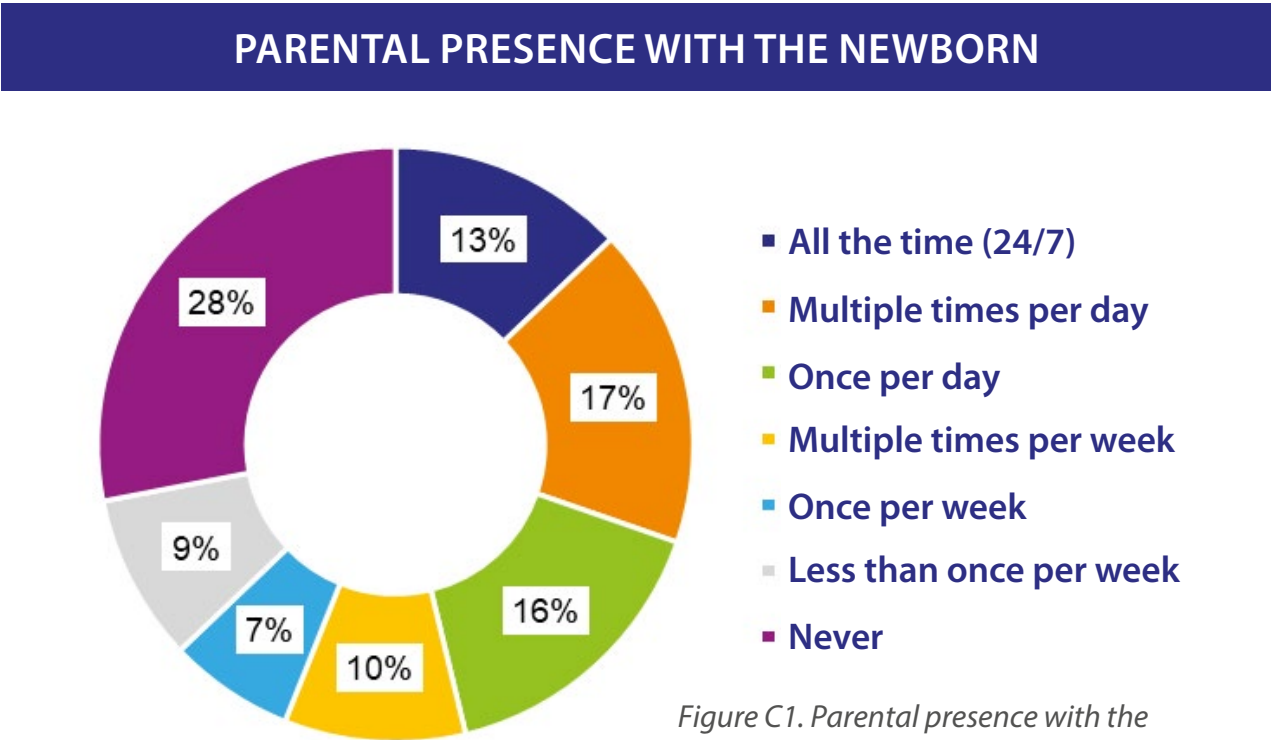
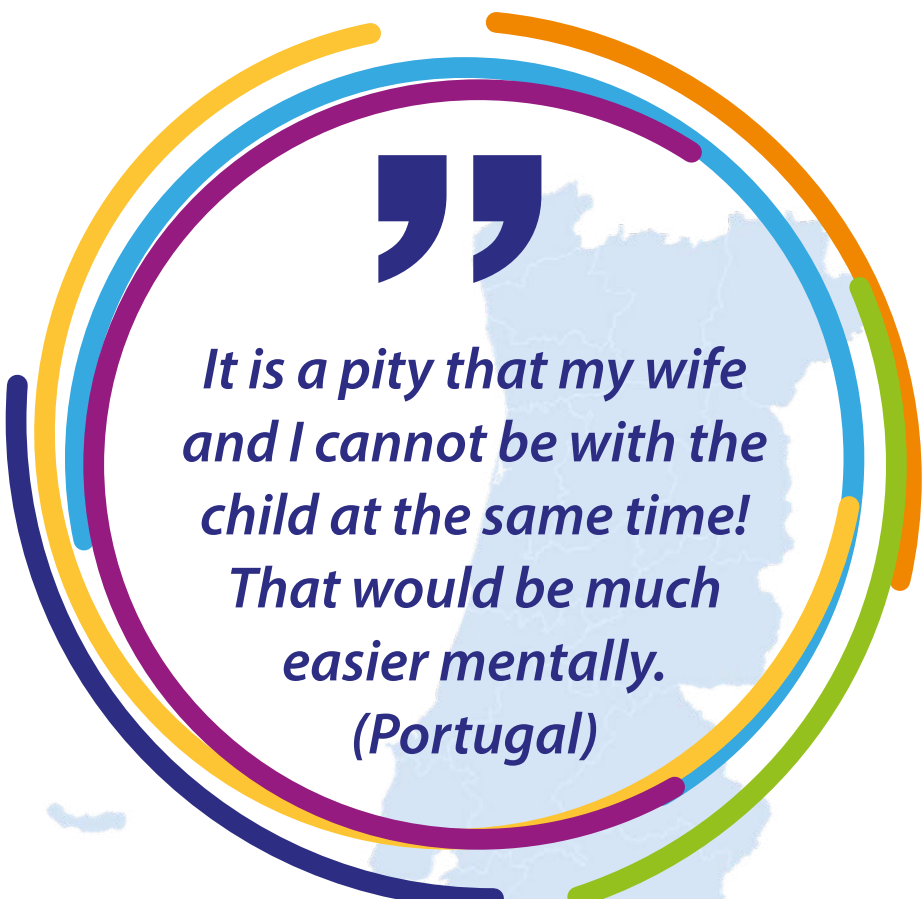


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in Poland (n = 132)

Portugal



62%
of respondents indicated
that no pregnancy-
related appointments
took place

Skin-to-skin contact was
mostly initiated after the
first week of life

34%

79% were not allowed to be accompanied by a
support person during birth

Around
90%
worried because of the
COVID-19 situation
during pregnancy and
after the baby's birth

KEY FACTS PORTUGAL

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Portugal
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 52
<20	9 (1%)	2 (4%)
20–29	603 (36%)	5 (10%)
30–39	949 (57%)	40 (77%)
>40	95 (6%)	5 (10%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 50
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	16 (32%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	15 (30%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	16 (32%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	3 (6%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 50
Yes	241 (15%)	5 (10%)
No	1366 (85%)	45 (90%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 50
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	20 (40%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	29 (58%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	1 (2%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 50
<1000	405 (25%)	19 (38%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	10 (20%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	18 (36%)
>2500	154 (10%)	3 (6%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 50
<1	135 (8%)	4 (8%)
1–3	386 (24%)	13 (26%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	7 (14%)
>5	719 (45%)	26 (52%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 48
No major concern	57 (4%)	1 (2%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	6 (13%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	9 (19%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	28 (58%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	4 (8%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 48
Yes	39 (2%)	1 (2%)
No	1531 (98%)	47 (98%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 48
Yes	32 (2%)	1 (2%)
No	1516 (96%)	44 (92%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	3 (6%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 48
Yes	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
No	1497 (95%)	41 (85%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	7 (15%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Portugal
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 47
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	0 (0%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	29 (62%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	4 (9%)
Other	197 (13%)	14 (30%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 47
Yes	286 (19%)	2 (4%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	11 (23%)
No, never	649 (43%)	31 (66%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	3 (6%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 47
Yes	689 (46%)	10 (21%)
No	823 (54%)	37 (79%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 12
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	7 (58%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	5 (42%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Portugal
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 44
There were no changes	118 (8%)	4 (9%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	37 (84%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	3 (7%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 44
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	72 (164%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	40 (91%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	31 (70%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	0 (0%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	1 (2%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 44
Yes	532 (37%)	9 (20%)
No	889 (63%)	35 (80%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 44
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	10 (23%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	25 (57%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	7 (16%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	2 (5%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	0 (0%)
Never	207 (15%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Portugal
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 43
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	2 (5%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	6 (14%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	21 (49%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	14 (33%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 44
Yes	998 (70%)	35 (80%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	9 (20%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 47
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	4 (9%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	4 (9%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	11 (23%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	16 (34%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	6 (13%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	6 (13%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 47
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	13 (28%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	14 (30%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	7 (15%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	4 (9%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	9 (19%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 44
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	30 (68%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	13 (30%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	1 (2%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 44
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	22 (50%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	10 (23%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	9 (20%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	2 (5%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	1 (2%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 47
Yes	1191 (79%)	46 (98%)
No	324 (21%)	1 (2%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 47
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	36 (77%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	9 (19%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	1 (2%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	1 (2%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 44
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	56 (127%)
Photos	509 (36%)	26 (59%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	0 (0%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	7 (16%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	5 (11%)
None	691 (49%)	15 (34%)
Other	139 (10%)	3 (7%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Portugal
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 46
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	32 (70%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	7 (15%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	6 (13%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	1 (2%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 46
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	25 (54%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	18 (39%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	3 (7%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 46
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	6 (13%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	13 (28%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	21 (46%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	5 (11%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	1 (2%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 46
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	2 (4%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	33 (72%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	8 (17%)
No, other	127 (9%)	3 (7%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Portugal
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 44
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	29 (66%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	12 (27%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	1 (2%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	1 (2%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	1 (2%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 44
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	25 (57%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	15 (34%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	2 (5%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	2 (5%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 44
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	17 (39%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	15 (34%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	4 (9%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	4 (9%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	4 (9%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Portugal
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 43
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	24 (56%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	13 (30%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	2 (5%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	1 (2%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	3 (7%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 43
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	33 (77%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	9 (21%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	1 (2%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 43
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	13 (30%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	16 (37%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	12 (28%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	0 (0%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	2 (5%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 43
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	52 (121%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	25 (58%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	1 (2%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	8 (19%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	1 (2%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	1 (2%)
None	638 (46%)	11 (26%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	2 (5%)
Other	39 (3%)	3 (7%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

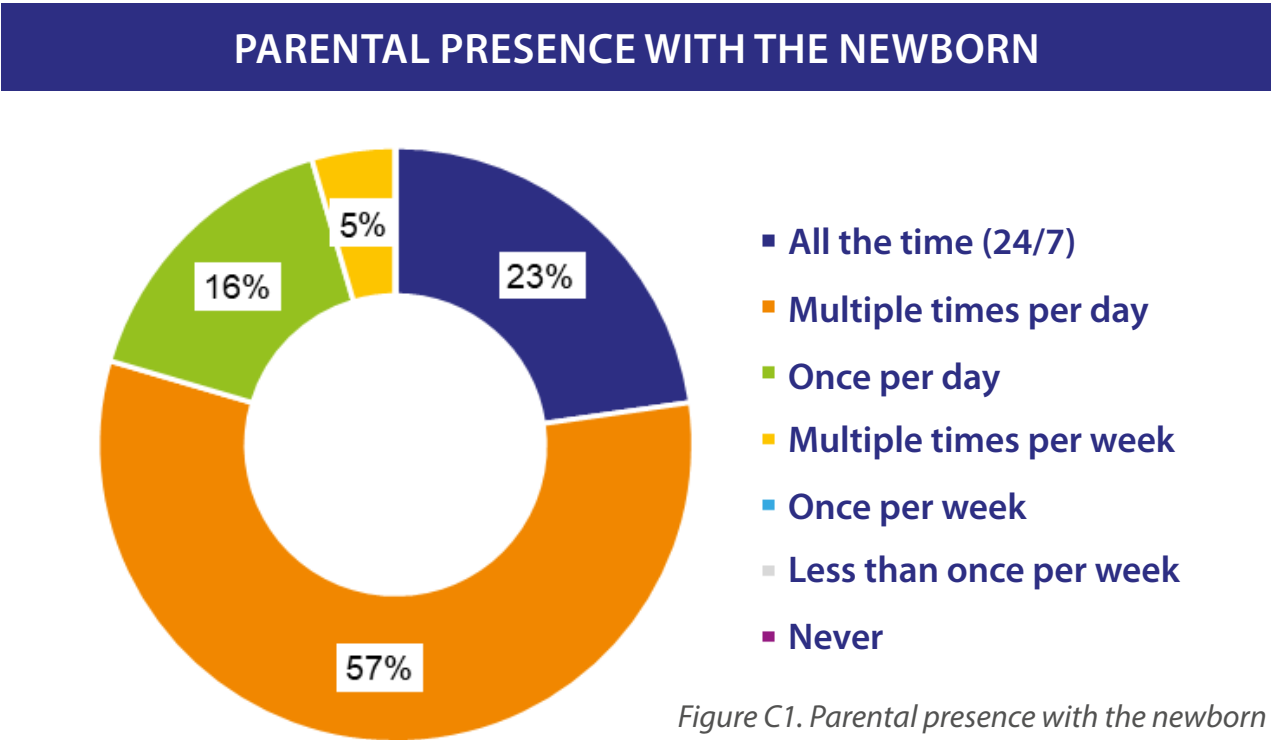
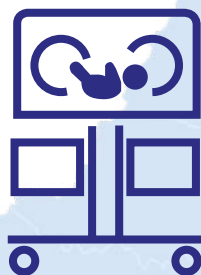


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in Portugal (n = 44; note: percentages do not total 100% due to rounding)

Romania



15%

indicated that they never were allowed to see their hospitalised baby

NO ONE WAS ALLOWED TO BE ACCOMPANIED ... BY A SUPPORT PERSON DURING BIRTH

KEY FACTS ROMANIA

5%

answered that the father was allowed to see the hospitalised baby

“

The biggest impact was the restriction of the visit to the baby and the fact that he was no longer fed with breast milk. It was awful to leave the hospital and leave the baby there for one month, and during this time to receive information only by phone, from time to time, that there was no rule to inform the parents. It's sad what can happen today with mothers and babies. I hope the situation gets back to normal as soon as possible.
(Romania)

7%

of respondents indicated that pregnancy-related appointments took place as usual

35%

indicated that skin-to-skin contact was not initiated during the time in the hospital

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Romania
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 48
<20	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	603 (36%)	15 (31%)
30–39	949 (57%)	28 (58%)
>40	95 (6%)	5 (10%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 46
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	7 (15%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	12 (26%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	26 (57%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	1 (2%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 46
Yes	241 (15%)	9 (20%)
No	1366 (85%)	37 (80%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 46
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	12 (26%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	34 (74%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 46
<1000	405 (25%)	11 (24%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	9 (20%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	18 (39%)
>2500	154 (10%)	8 (17%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 46
<1	135 (8%)	9 (20%)
1–3	386 (24%)	14 (30%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	9 (20%)
>5	719 (45%)	14 (30%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 46
No major concern	57 (4%)	1 (2%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	5 (11%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	7 (15%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	11 (24%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	22 (48%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 46
Yes	39 (2%)	4 (9%)
No	1531 (98%)	42 (91%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 46
Yes	32 (2%)	2 (4%)
No	1516 (96%)	44 (96%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 46
Yes	7 (0%)	1 (2%)
No	1497 (95%)	43 (93%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	2 (4%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Romania
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 43
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	3 (7%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	14 (33%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	4 (9%)
Other	197 (13%)	22 (51%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 43
Yes	286 (19%)	2 (5%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	8 (19%)
No, never	649 (43%)	30 (70%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	3 (7%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 43
Yes	689 (46%)	0 (0%)
No	823 (54%)	43 (100%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 0
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	0 (0%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Romania
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 41
There were no changes	118 (8%)	2 (5%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	33 (80%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	6 (15%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 41
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	43 (105%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	22 (54%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	2 (5%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	0 (0%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	18 (44%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	1 (2%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 41
Yes	532 (37%)	4 (10%)
No	889 (63%)	37 (90%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 41
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	1 (2%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	20 (49%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	9 (22%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	1 (2%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	2 (5%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	2 (5%)
Never	207 (15%)	6 (15%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Romania
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 41
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	33 (80%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	0 (0%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	0 (0%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	0 (0%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	8 (20%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 41
Yes	998 (70%)	39 (95%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	1 (2%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	1 (2%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 43
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	1 (2%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	2 (5%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	6 (14%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	12 (28%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	7 (16%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	15 (35%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 43
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	2 (5%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	6 (14%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	1 (2%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	16 (37%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	18 (42%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 41
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	6 (15%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	9 (22%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	26 (63%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 41
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	1 (2%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	1 (2%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	39 (95%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 43
Yes	1191 (79%)	25 (58%)
No	324 (21%)	18 (42%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 43
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	5 (12%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	12 (28%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	7 (16%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	9 (21%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	10 (23%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 41
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	44 (107%)
Photos	509 (36%)	17 (41%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	0 (0%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	1 (2%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	2 (5%)
None	691 (49%)	20 (49%)
Other	139 (10%)	4 (10%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Romania
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 43
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	16 (37%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	13 (30%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	12 (28%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	2 (5%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 43
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	14 (33%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	19 (44%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	10 (23%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 43
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	4 (9%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	4 (9%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	22 (51%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	12 (28%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	1 (2%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 43
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	4 (9%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	2 (5%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	33 (77%)
No, other	127 (9%)	4 (9%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Romania
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 40
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	9 (23%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	20 (50%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	11 (28%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 40
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	6 (15%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	22 (55%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	11 (28%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	1 (3%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 40
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	3 (8%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	13 (33%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	18 (45%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	3 (8%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	3 (8%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Romania
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 39
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	20 (51%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	14 (36%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	4 (10%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	1 (3%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 39
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	24 (62%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	13 (33%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	2 (5%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 39
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	0 (0%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	8 (21%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	27 (69%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	0 (0%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	4 (10%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 39
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	40 (103%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	6 (15%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	1 (3%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	1 (3%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	0 (0%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	1 (3%)
None	638 (46%)	26 (67%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	3 (8%)
Other	39 (3%)	2 (5%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

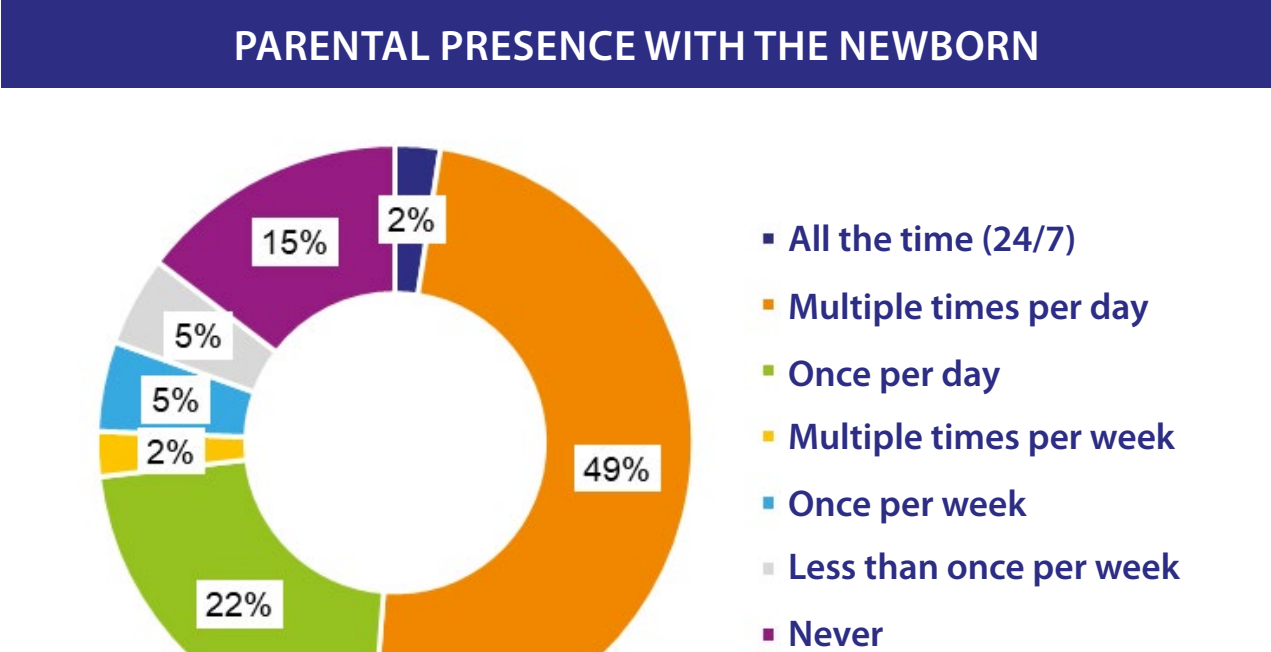


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in Romania (n = 41)

Slovakia



“
*I think it is stupid to
forbid visits by mothers
of their premature
babies... they should
make an exception.*
(Slovakia)

56%

indicated that they did
either not received any
or adequate information
about COVID-19 when
discharged from the
hospital

73%

were not allowed to
be accompanied by a
support person during
birth

81%

of respondents
indicated that no
pregnancy-related
appointments took
place

KEY FACTS SLOVAKIA

Skin-to-skin contact was mostly initiated
after the first week

56%

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Slovakia
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 60
<20	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	603 (36%)	29 (48%)
30–39	949 (57%)	30 (50%)
>40	95 (6%)	1 (2%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 57
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	8 (14%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	19 (33%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	29 (51%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	1 (2%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 57
Yes	241 (15%)	8 (14%)
No	1366 (85%)	49 (86%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 57
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	17 (30%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	40 (70%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 57
<1000	405 (25%)	9 (16%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	18 (32%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	27 (47%)
>2500	154 (10%)	3 (5%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 57
<1	135 (8%)	2 (4%)
1–3	386 (24%)	19 (33%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	14 (25%)
>5	719 (45%)	22 (39%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 53
No major concern	57 (4%)	2 (4%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	3 (6%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	25 (47%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	22 (42%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	1 (2%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 56
Yes	39 (2%)	1 (2%)
No	1531 (98%)	55 (98%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 56
Yes	32 (2%)	1 (2%)
No	1516 (96%)	55 (98%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 56
Yes	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
No	1497 (95%)	54 (96%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	2 (4%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Slovakia
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 52
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	2 (4%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	42 (81%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	3 (6%)
Other	197 (13%)	5 (10%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 51
Yes	286 (19%)	6 (12%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	19 (37%)
No, never	649 (43%)	18 (35%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	8 (16%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 52
Yes	689 (46%)	14 (27%)
No	823 (54%)	38 (73%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 15
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	9 (60%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	6 (40%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Slovakia
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 47
There were no changes	118 (8%)	0 (0%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	41 (87%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	6 (13%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 48
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	74 (154%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	43 (90%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	26 (54%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	0 (0%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	5 (10%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 48
Yes	532 (37%)	24 (50%)
No	889 (63%)	24 (50%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 47
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	3 (6%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	20 (43%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	19 (40%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	0 (0%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	1 (2%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	0 (0%)
Never	207 (15%)	4 (9%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Slovakia
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 48
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	28 (58%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	10 (21%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	4 (8%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	2 (4%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	4 (8%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 48
Yes	998 (70%)	37 (77%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	7 (15%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	1 (2%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	3 (6%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 52
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	1 (2%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	0 (0%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	5 (10%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	29 (56%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	4 (8%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	13 (25%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 51
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	5 (10%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	18 (35%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	4 (8%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	9 (18%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	15 (29%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 48
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	20 (42%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	19 (40%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	9 (19%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 48
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	4 (8%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	10 (21%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	34 (71%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 52
Yes	1191 (79%)	45 (87%)
No	324 (21%)	7 (13%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 52
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	19 (37%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	20 (38%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	3 (6%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	5 (10%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	5 (10%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 47
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	54 (115%)
Photos	509 (36%)	19 (40%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	4 (9%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	7 (15%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	1 (2%)
None	691 (49%)	21 (45%)
Other	139 (10%)	2 (4%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Slovakia
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 52
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	23 (44%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	16 (31%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	9 (17%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	4 (8%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 52
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	30 (58%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	18 (35%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	4 (8%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 52
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	3 (6%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	1 (2%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	40 (77%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	7 (13%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	1 (2%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 51
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	0 (0%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	36 (71%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	10 (20%)
No, other	127 (9%)	5 (10%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Slovakia
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 48
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	25 (52%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	17 (35%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	5 (10%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	1 (2%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 48
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	18 (38%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	14 (29%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	9 (19%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	2 (4%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	5 (10%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 48
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	12 (25%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	4 (8%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	14 (29%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	3 (6%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	13 (27%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	2 (4%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Slovakia
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 48
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	13 (27%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	25 (52%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	6 (13%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	1 (2%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	3 (6%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 48
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	20 (42%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	25 (52%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	1 (2%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	2 (4%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 48
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	8 (17%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	11 (23%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	20 (42%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	3 (6%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	6 (13%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 48
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	62 (129%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	12 (25%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	4 (8%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	9 (19%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	11 (23%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	1 (2%)
None	638 (46%)	22 (46%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	3 (6%)
Other	39 (3%)	0 (0%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

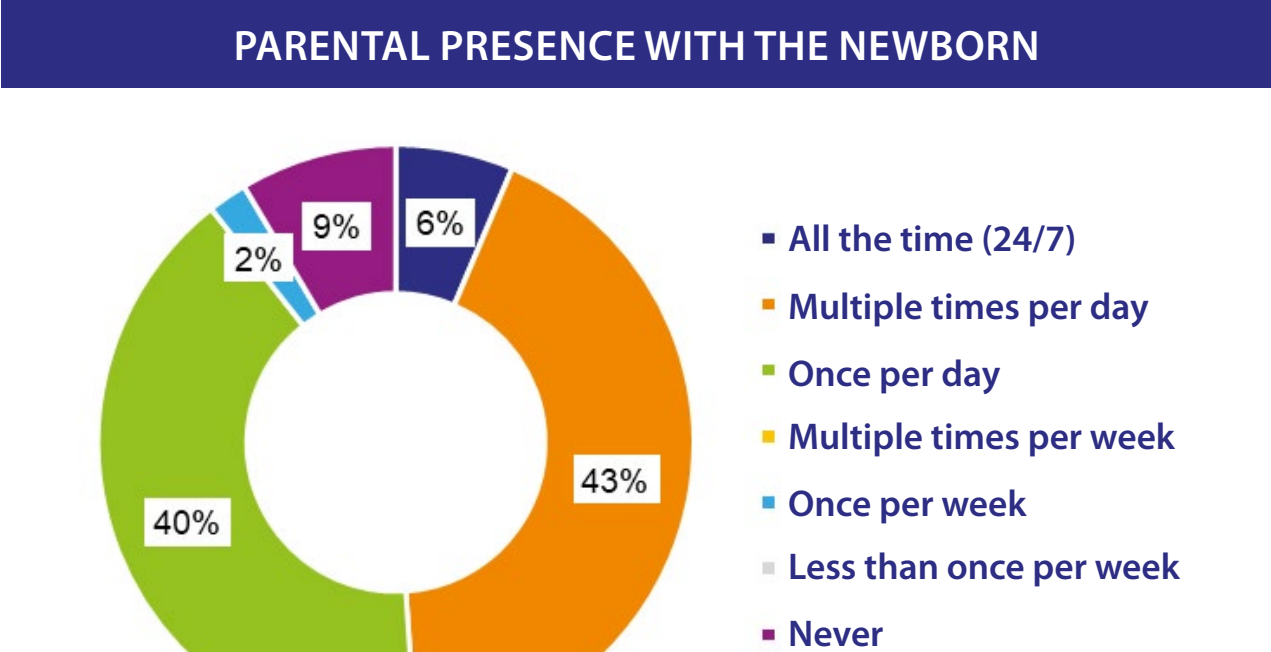


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in Slovakia (n = 47)

Spain

“
Skin-to-skin was suspended at the onset of the alarm state. We couldn’t hold the baby for about ten days, which was until discharge. We were not allowed to use the bathroom at the neonatal unit, so we had to go in and out of the section. We were only allowed to be present one by one, Mom or Dad.
(Spain)

9%
respondents indicated that pregnancy-related appointments took place as usual

KEY FACTS SPAIN

45%
indicated that they did not receive adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital

52%
were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth



79%
indicated that skin-to-skin contact was initiated immediately after birth or during the first week

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Spain
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 37
<20	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	603 (36%)	5 (14%)
30–39	949 (57%)	24 (65%)
>40	95 (6%)	8 (22%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 36
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	3 (8%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	12 (33%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	15 (42%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	6 (17%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 37
Yes	241 (15%)	6 (16%)
No	1366 (85%)	31 (84%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 37
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	13 (35%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	24 (65%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 37
<1000	405 (25%)	7 (19%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	11 (30%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	12 (32%)
>2500	154 (10%)	7 (19%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 37
<1	135 (8%)	6 (16%)
1–3	386 (24%)	11 (30%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	7 (19%)
>5	719 (45%)	13 (35%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 37
No major concern	57 (4%)	4 (11%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	3 (8%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	4 (11%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	18 (49%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	8 (22%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 37
Yes	39 (2%)	2 (5%)
No	1531 (98%)	35 (95%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 37
Yes	32 (2%)	3 (8%)
No	1516 (96%)	34 (92%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 37
Yes	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
No	1497 (95%)	37 (100%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	0 (0%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Spain
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 33
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	3 (9%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	13 (39%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	1 (3%)
Other	197 (13%)	16 (48%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 33
Yes	286 (19%)	2 (6%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	10 (30%)
No, never	649 (43%)	14 (42%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	7 (21%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 33
Yes	689 (46%)	16 (48%)
No	823 (54%)	17 (52%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 21
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	14 (67%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	7 (33%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Spain
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 33
There were no changes	118 (8%)	2 (6%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	29 (88%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	2 (6%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 33
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	61 (185%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	32 (97%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	29 (88%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	0 (0%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	0 (0%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 33
Yes	532 (37%)	12 (36%)
No	889 (63%)	21 (64%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 33
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	23 (70%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	6 (18%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	4 (12%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	0 (0%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	0 (0%)
Never	207 (15%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Spain
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 33
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	4 (12%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	4 (12%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	1 (3%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	24 (73%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 33
Yes	998 (70%)	21 (64%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	9 (27%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	2 (6%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	1 (3%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 34
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	11 (32%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	5 (15%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	11 (32%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	7 (21%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	0 (0%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	0 (0%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 34
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	21 (62%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	8 (24%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	2 (6%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	2 (6%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	1 (3%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 33
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	17 (52%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	14 (42%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	2 (6%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 33
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	14 (42%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	12 (36%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	6 (18%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	1 (3%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 34
Yes	1191 (79%)	32 (94%)
No	324 (21%)	2 (6%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 34
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	25 (74%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	9 (26%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	0 (0%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 33
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	44 (133%)
Photos	509 (36%)	9 (27%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	3 (9%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	6 (18%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	2 (6%)
None	691 (49%)	21 (64%)
Other	139 (10%)	3 (9%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Spain
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 33
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	16 (48%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	13 (39%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	4 (12%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	0 (0%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 33
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	13 (39%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	13 (39%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	6 (18%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	1 (3%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 33
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	6 (18%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	10 (30%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	13 (39%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	4 (12%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	0 (0%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 33
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	4 (12%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	25 (76%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	2 (6%)
No, other	127 (9%)	2 (6%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Spain
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 33
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	15 (45%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	14 (42%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	4 (12%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 33
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	12 (36%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	12 (36%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	8 (24%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	1 (3%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 33
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	8 (24%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	7 (21%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	15 (45%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	1 (3%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	1 (3%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	1 (3%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Spain
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 33
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	19 (58%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	7 (21%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	2 (6%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	5 (15%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 33
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	24 (73%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	7 (21%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	2 (6%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 33
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	4 (12%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	8 (24%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	16 (48%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	1 (3%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	4 (12%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 33
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	38 (115%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	10 (30%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	0 (0%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	1 (3%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	3 (9%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	2 (6%)
None	638 (46%)	19 (58%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	0 (0%)
Other	39 (3%)	3 (9%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

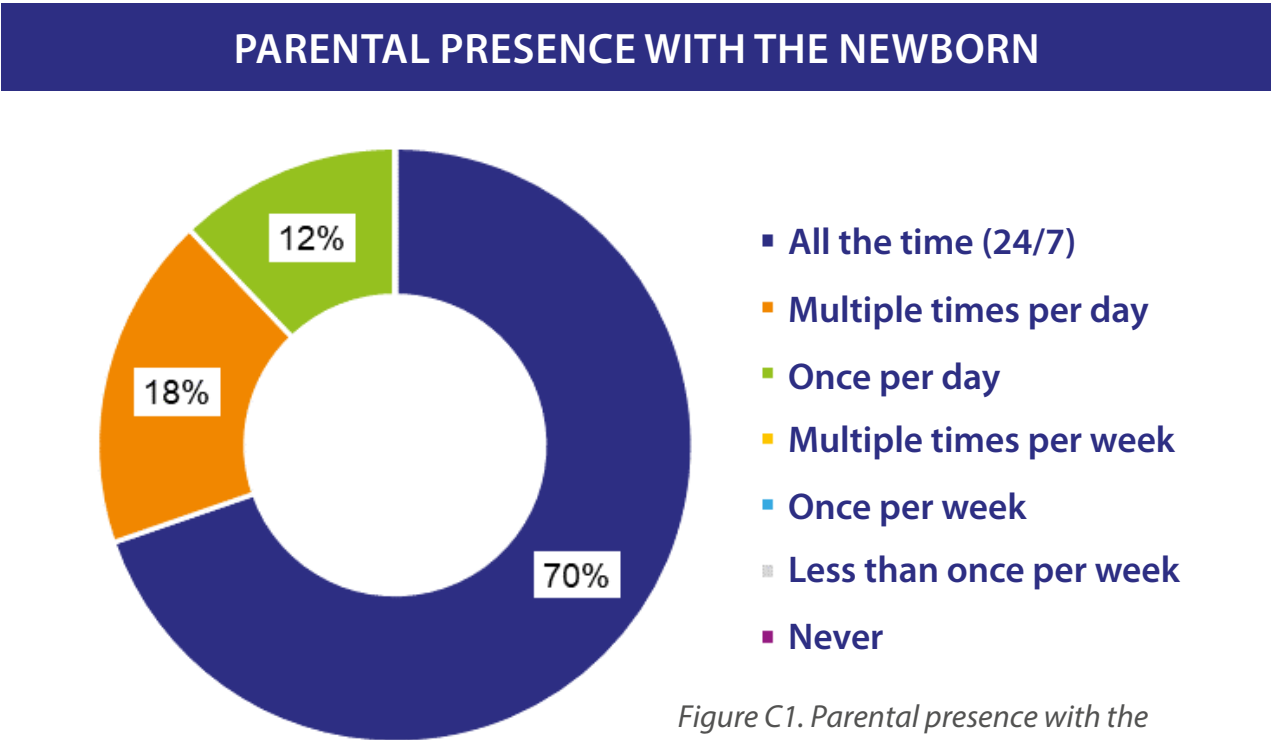
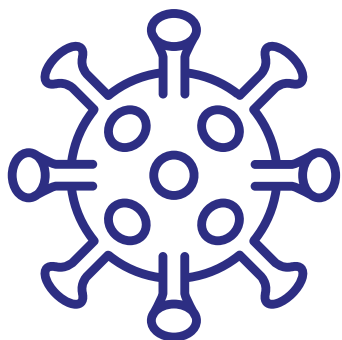


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in Spain (n = 33)

Sweden



“
At the hospital we were at, both
parents could be there all the
time and that made the care pe-
riod when we were in the neo-
natal unit with our child easier.
I would have never been able to
manage it without the
support of my partner.
(Sweden)

91%

were allowed to be ac-
companied by a
support person during
birth

32%

of respondents indicated
that pregnancy-related
appointments took
place as usual

KEY FACTS SWEDEN

NEARLY ALL
PARTICIPANTS ANSWERED ••
THAT BOTH PARENTS
WERE INVOLVED IN THE
CARE OF THEIR BABY BY
MEDICAL STAFF

Skin-to-skin contact was
mostly initiated during
the first week

87%

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Sweden
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 78
<20	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	603 (36%)	5 (14%)
30–39	949 (57%)	24 (65%)
>40	95 (6%)	8 (22%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 75
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	3 (8%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	12 (33%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	15 (42%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	6 (17%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 75
Yes	241 (15%)	6 (16%)
No	1366 (85%)	31 (84%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 75
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	13 (35%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	24 (65%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 75
<1000	405 (25%)	7 (19%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	11 (30%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	12 (32%)
>2500	154 (10%)	7 (19%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 75
<1	135 (8%)	6 (16%)
1–3	386 (24%)	11 (30%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	7 (19%)
>5	719 (45%)	13 (35%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 75
No major concern	57 (4%)	4 (11%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	3 (8%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	4 (11%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	18 (49%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	8 (22%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 75
Yes	39 (2%)	2 (5%)
No	1531 (98%)	35 (95%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 75
Yes	32 (2%)	3 (8%)
No	1516 (96%)	34 (92%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 75
Yes	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
No	1497 (95%)	37 (100%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	0 (0%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Sweden
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 75
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	24 (32%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	30 (40%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	3 (4%)
Other	197 (13%)	18 (24%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 75
Yes	286 (19%)	6 (8%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	13 (17%)
No, never	649 (43%)	51 (68%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	5 (7%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 75
Yes	689 (46%)	68 (91%)
No	823 (54%)	7 (9%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 71
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	59 (83%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	12 (17%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Sweden
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 73
There were no changes	118 (8%)	23 (32%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	44 (60%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	6 (8%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 73
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	145 (199%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	60 (82%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	68 (93%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	12 (16%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	3 (4%)
Friends	12 (1%)	1 (1%)
No one	318 (22%)	1 (1%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 74
Yes	532 (37%)	62 (84%)
No	889 (63%)	12 (16%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 74
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	70 (95%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	3 (4%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	0 (0%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	0 (0%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	0 (0%)
Never	207 (15%)	1 (1%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Sweden
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 73
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	0 (0%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	0 (0%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	2 (3%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	70 (96%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	1 (1%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 74
Yes	998 (70%)	14 (19%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	46 (62%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	11 (15%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	3 (4%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 75
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	11 (15%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	19 (25%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	35 (47%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	10 (13%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	0 (0%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	0 (0%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 75
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	63 (84%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	9 (12%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	3 (4%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 74
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	67 (91%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	7 (9%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 74
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	63 (85%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	7 (9%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	3 (4%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	1 (1%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 74
Yes	1191 (79%)	74 (99%)
No	324 (21%)	1 (1%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 74
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	72 (97%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	2 (3%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	0 (0%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 72
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	100 (139%)
Photos	509 (36%)	22 (31%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	6 (8%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	12 (17%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	14 (19%)
None	691 (49%)	30 (42%)
Other	139 (10%)	16 (22%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Sweden
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 75
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	35 (47%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	31 (41%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	9 (12%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	0 (0%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 75
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	24 (32%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	45 (60%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	6 (8%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 75
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	3 (4%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	23 (31%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	41 (55%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	7 (9%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	1 (1%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 74
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	4 (5%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	46 (62%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	15 (20%)
No, other	127 (9%)	9 (12%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Sweden
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 74
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	57 (77%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	14 (19%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	3 (4%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 74
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	31 (42%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	23 (31%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	14 (19%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	5 (7%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	1 (1%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 74
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	18 (24%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	16 (22%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	20 (27%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	2 (3%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	8 (11%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	10 (14%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Sweden
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 71
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	25 (35%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	27 (38%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	14 (20%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	5 (7%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 71
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	33 (46%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	29 (41%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	8 (11%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	1 (1%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 72
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	26 (36%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	23 (32%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	18 (25%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	2 (3%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	3 (4%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 72
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	97 (135%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	29 (40%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	1 (1%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	5 (7%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	1 (1%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	44 (61%)
None	638 (46%)	11 (15%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	2 (3%)
Other	39 (3%)	4 (6%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

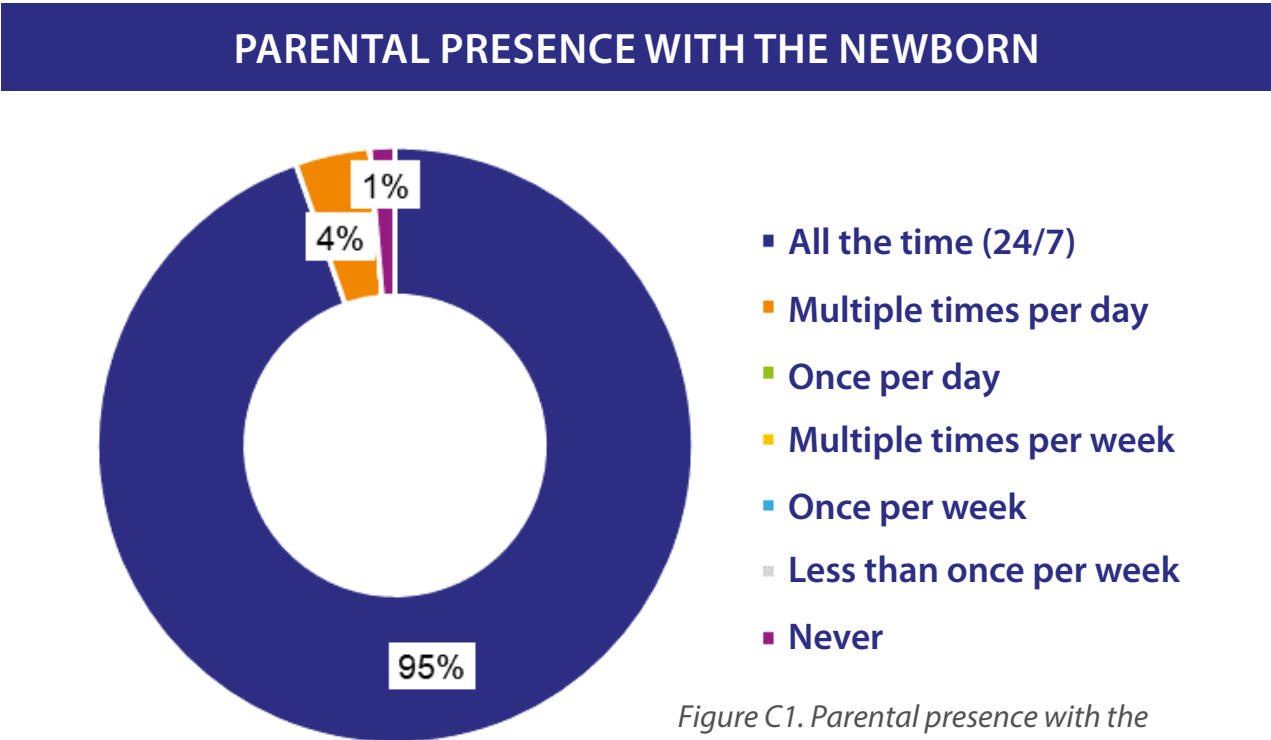
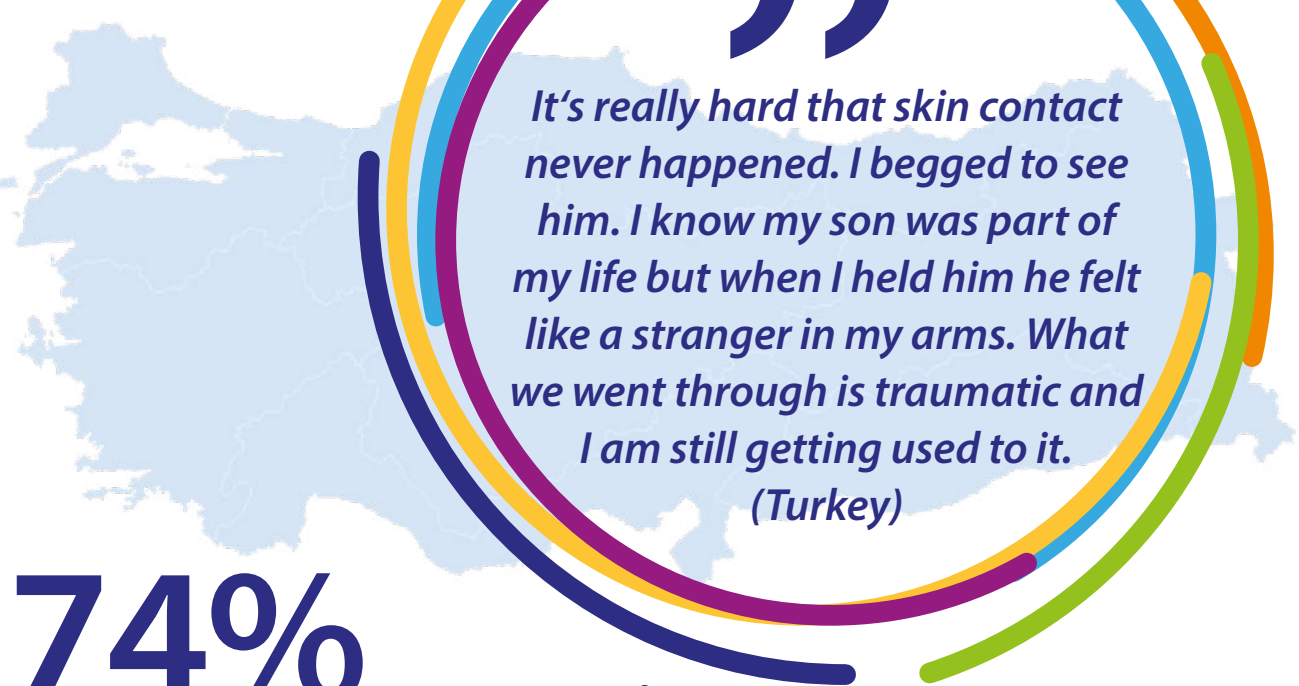


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in Sweden (n = 74)

Turkey



74%

were not involved in the care of their baby by medical staff

13%

of respondents indicated that pregnancy-related appointments took place as usual



49%

indicated that skin-to-skin contact was not initiated during the time in the hospital

36%

were never allowed to see their hospitalised baby

75%

were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth

KEY FACTS TURKEY

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Turkey
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 357
<20	9 (1%)	1 (0%)
20–29	603 (36%)	205 (57%)
30–39	949 (57%)	136 (38%)
>40	95 (6%)	15 (4%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 344
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	67 (19%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	140 (41%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	131 (38%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	6 (2%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 344
Yes	241 (15%)	65 (19%)
No	1366 (85%)	279 (81%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 344
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	38 (11%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	304 (88%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	2 (1%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 342
<1000	405 (25%)	78 (23%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	130 (38%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	120 (35%)
>2500	154 (10%)	14 (4%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 344
<1	135 (8%)	13 (4%)
1–3	386 (24%)	73 (21%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	83 (24%)
>5	719 (45%)	175 (51%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 322
No major concern	57 (4%)	14 (4%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	44 (14%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	80 (25%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	147 (46%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	37 (11%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 326
Yes	39 (2%)	8 (2%)
No	1531 (98%)	318 (98%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 326
Yes	32 (2%)	8 (2%)
No	1516 (96%)	312 (96%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	6 (2%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 326
Yes	7 (0%)	1 (0%)
No	1497 (95%)	303 (93%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	22 (7%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Turkey
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 308
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	40 (13%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	147 (48%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	8 (3%)
Other	197 (13%)	113 (37%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 308
Yes	286 (19%)	142 (46%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	58 (19%)
No, never	649 (43%)	82 (27%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	26 (8%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 308
Yes	689 (46%)	77 (25%)
No	823 (54%)	231 (75%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 96
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	60 (63%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	36 (38%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Turkey
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 288
There were no changes	118 (8%)	10 (3%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	241 (84%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	37 (13%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 288
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	368 (128%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	142 (49%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	84 (29%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	0 (0%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	141 (49%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	1 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 288
Yes	532 (37%)	66 (23%)
No	889 (63%)	222 (77%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 288
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	3 (1%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	16 (6%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	73 (25%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	35 (12%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	33 (11%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	25 (9%)
Never	207 (15%)	103 (36%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Turkey
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 288
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	186 (65%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	2 (1%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	1 (0%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	2 (1%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	97 (34%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 288
Yes	998 (70%)	263 (91%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	11 (4%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	3 (1%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	11 (4%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 308
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	4 (1%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	4 (1%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	17 (6%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	60 (19%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	72 (23%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	151 (49%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 308
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	11 (4%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	43 (14%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	18 (6%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	29 (9%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	207 (67%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 287
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	22 (8%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	53 (18%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	211 (74%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	1 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 288
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	4 (1%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	18 (6%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	263 (91%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	1 (0%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	2 (1%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 308
Yes	1191 (79%)	124 (40%)
No	324 (21%)	184 (60%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 308
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	20 (6%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	57 (19%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	24 (8%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	37 (12%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	170 (55%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 287
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	318 (111%)
Photos	509 (36%)	114 (40%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	0 (0%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	24 (8%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	5 (2%)
None	691 (49%)	159 (55%)
Other	139 (10%)	16 (6%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Turkey
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 299
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	95 (32%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	82 (27%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	89 (30%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	33 (11%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 299
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	178 (60%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	116 (39%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	4 (1%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	1 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 300
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	1 (0%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	112 (37%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	125 (42%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	45 (15%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	17 (6%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 299
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	3 (1%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	282 (94%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	7 (2%)
No, other	127 (9%)	7 (2%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Turkey
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 283
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	96 (34%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	156 (55%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	24 (8%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	3 (1%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	4 (1%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 283
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	73 (26%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	92 (33%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	80 (28%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	9 (3%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	29 (10%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 282
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	51 (18%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	62 (22%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	77 (27%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	8 (3%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	34 (12%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	50 (18%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Turkey
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 278
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	157 (56%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	66 (24%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	23 (8%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	3 (1%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	29 (10%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 279
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	194 (70%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	63 (23%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	18 (6%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	4 (1%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 279
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	11 (4%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	47 (17%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	165 (59%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	11 (4%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	45 (16%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 278
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	313 (113%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	26 (9%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	7 (3%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	17 (6%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	30 (11%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	4 (1%)
None	638 (46%)	213 (77%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	14 (5%)
Other	39 (3%)	2 (1%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

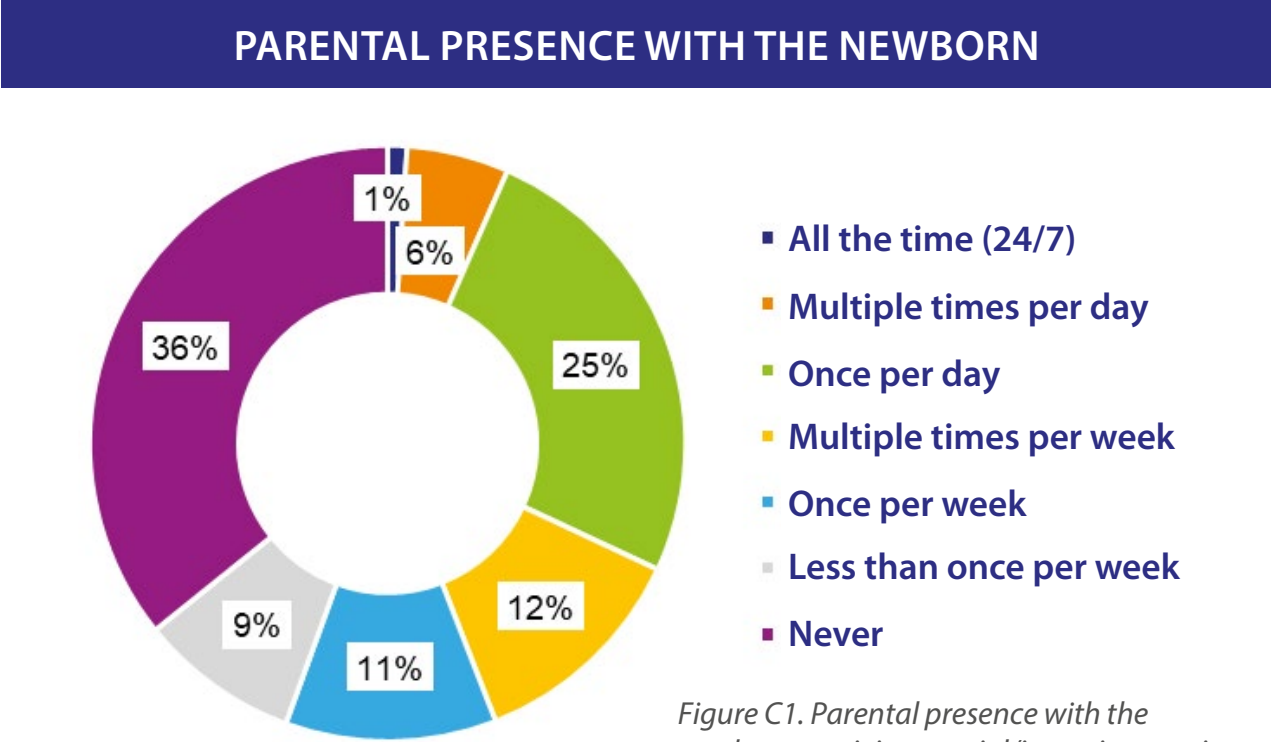


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in Turkey (n = 288)

Ukraine



5%
of respondents indicated that pregnancy-related appointments took place as usual

KEY FACTS UKRAINE

14%
answered that the father was allowed to see the hospitalised baby

39%
indicated that skin-to-skin ... contact was initiated after the first week

15%
indicated that they never were allowed to see their hospitalised baby

78%
were not allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	Ukraine
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 109
<20	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	603 (36%)	34 (31%)
30–39	949 (57%)	74 (68%)
>40	95 (6%)	1 (1%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 106
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	17 (16%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	32 (30%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	52 (49%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	5 (5%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 109
Yes	241 (15%)	16 (15%)
No	1366 (85%)	93 (85%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 109
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	35 (32%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	73 (67%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	1 (1%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 108
<1000	405 (25%)	14 (13%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	42 (39%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	45 (42%)
>2500	154 (10%)	6 (6%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	1 (1%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 108
<1	135 (8%)	29 (27%)
1–3	386 (24%)	41 (38%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	14 (13%)
>5	719 (45%)	24 (22%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 107
No major concern	57 (4%)	3 (3%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	10 (9%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	22 (21%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	67 (63%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	5 (5%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 109
Yes	39 (2%)	5 (5%)
No	1531 (98%)	104 (95%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 109
Yes	32 (2%)	6 (6%)
No	1516 (96%)	101 (93%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	2 (2%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 109
Yes	7 (0%)	1 (1%)
No	1497 (95%)	107 (98%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	1 (1%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	Ukraine
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 105
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	5 (5%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	40 (38%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	7 (7%)
Other	197 (13%)	53 (50%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 104
Yes	286 (19%)	16 (15%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	23 (22%)
No, never	649 (43%)	51 (49%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	14 (13%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 103
Yes	689 (46%)	23 (22%)
No	823 (54%)	80 (78%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 23
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	15 (65%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	8 (35%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	Ukraine
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 96
There were no changes	118 (8%)	5 (5%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	79 (82%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	12 (13%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 96
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	111 (116%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	66 (69%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	13 (14%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	1 (1%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	0 (0%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	31 (32%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 96
Yes	532 (37%)	16 (17%)
No	889 (63%)	80 (83%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 96
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	16 (17%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	50 (52%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	12 (13%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	2 (2%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	1 (1%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	1 (1%)
Never	207 (15%)	14 (15%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	Ukraine
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 96
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	52 (54%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	1 (1%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	9 (9%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	20 (21%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	14 (15%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 96
Yes	998 (70%)	75 (78%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	9 (9%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	8 (8%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	4 (4%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 104
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	6 (6%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	2 (2%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	26 (25%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	41 (39%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	13 (13%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	16 (15%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 104
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	36 (35%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	27 (26%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	3 (3%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	8 (8%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	30 (29%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 96
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	47 (49%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	21 (22%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	27 (28%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	1 (1%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 96
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	5 (5%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	6 (6%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	81 (84%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	3 (3%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	1 (1%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 105
Yes	1191 (79%)	86 (82%)
No	324 (21%)	19 (18%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 105
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	62 (59%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	22 (21%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	7 (7%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	14 (13%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 96
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	105 (109%)
Photos	509 (36%)	13 (14%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	2 (2%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	7 (7%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	1 (1%)
None	691 (49%)	78 (81%)
Other	139 (10%)	4 (4%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	Ukraine
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 103
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	48 (47%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	35 (34%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	18 (17%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	2 (2%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 103
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	30 (29%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	55 (53%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	18 (17%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 103
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	10 (10%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	16 (16%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	42 (41%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	32 (31%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	3 (3%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 103
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	10 (10%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	38 (37%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	33 (32%)
No, other	127 (9%)	22 (21%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	Ukraine
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 95
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	32 (34%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	47 (49%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	10 (11%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	4 (4%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	2 (2%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 95
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	27 (28%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	35 (37%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	15 (16%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	7 (7%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	11 (12%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 95
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	17 (18%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	19 (20%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	23 (24%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	8 (8%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	17 (18%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	11 (12%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	Ukraine
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 94
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	57 (61%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	28 (30%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	6 (6%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	3 (3%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 94
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	62 (66%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	30 (32%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	2 (2%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 94
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	5 (5%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	27 (29%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	25 (27%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	5 (5%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	32 (34%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 94
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	116 (123%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	18 (19%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	2 (2%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	20 (21%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	16 (17%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	1 (1%)
None	638 (46%)	57 (61%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	1 (1%)
Other	39 (3%)	1 (1%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

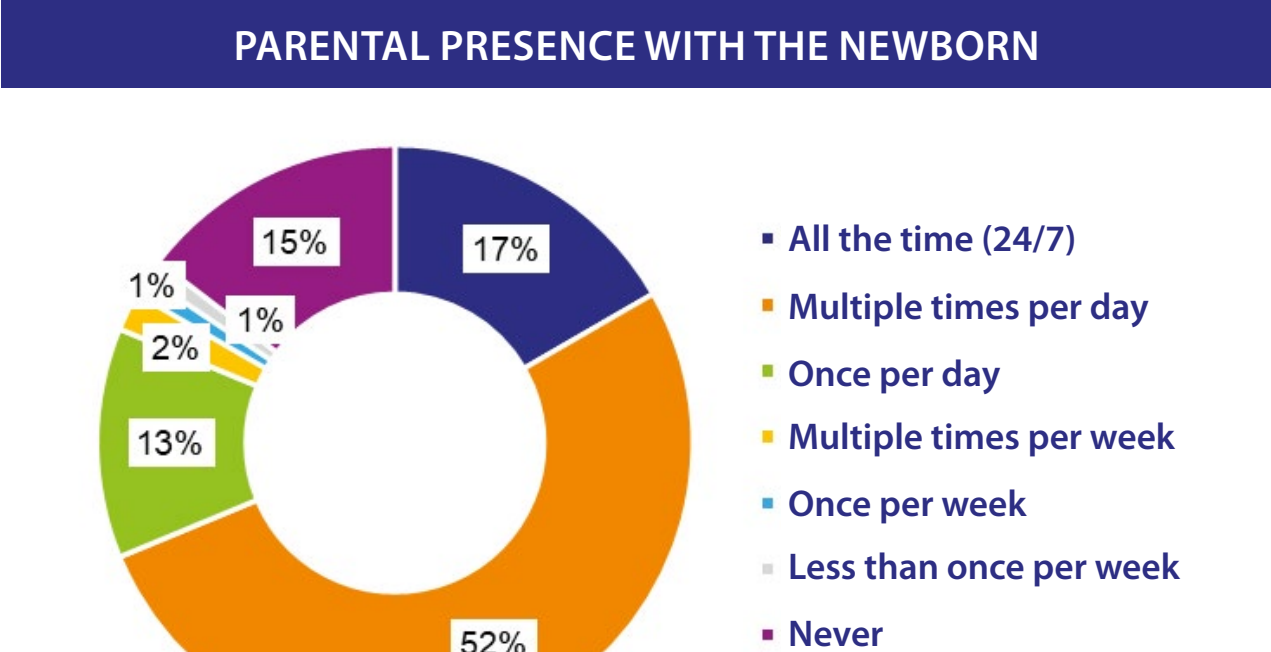
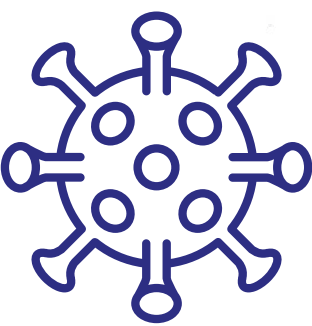


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in the Ukraine (n = 96; note: percentages do not total 100% due to rounding)

United Kingdom



16%

of respondents indicated that pregnancy-related appointments took place as usual

More than 80%

answered that both parents were involved in the care of their baby by medical staff

“

I think it was wrong not to allow partners to visit whilst we were in the hospital. It added pressure and stress and loneliness to me and meant my partner couldn't bond with the baby.

(United Kingdom)

95%

WERE ALLOWED TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SUPPORT PERSON DURING BIRTH

KEY FACTS UNITED KINGDOM

Skin-to-skin contact was mostly initiated during the first week

75%

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Europe	United Kingdom
Age of respondent (years)	n = 1656	n = 47
<20	9 (1%)	1 (2%)
20–29	603 (36%)	9 (19%)
30–39	949 (57%)	29 (62%)
>40	95 (6%)	8 (17%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 1602	n = 44
Early preterm: <28	374 (23%)	8 (18%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	524 (33%)	11 (25%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	614 (38%)	11 (25%)
Term: 37–42	90 (6%)	14 (32%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 1607	n = 44
Yes	241 (15%)	7 (16%)
No	1366 (85%)	37 (84%)
Birth mode	n = 1605	n = 44
Vaginal birth	504 (31%)	21 (48%)
C-section	1093 (68%)	23 (52%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	8 (0%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 1604	n = 44
<1000	405 (25%)	6 (14%)
1000–1500	481 (30%)	10 (23%)
>1500–2500	562 (35%)	9 (20%)
>2500	154 (10%)	19 (43%)
Don't know the birth weight	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 1604	n = 43
<1	135 (8%)	8 (19%)
1–3	386 (24%)	15 (35%)
>3–5	364 (23%)	8 (19%)
>5	719 (45%)	12 (28%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 1555	n = 44
No major concern	57 (4%)	1 (2%)
Precautions	159 (10%)	2 (5%)
Social distancing	468 (30%)	10 (23%)
Lockdown	681 (44%)	29 (66%)
Quarantine	190 (12%)	2 (5%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1570	n = 44
Yes	39 (2%)	1 (2%)
No	1531 (98%)	43 (98%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1574	n = 44
Yes	32 (2%)	1 (2%)
No	1516 (96%)	43 (98%)
Don't know	26 (2%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 1573	n = 44
Yes	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
No	1497 (95%)	42 (95%)
Don't know	69 (4%)	2 (5%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Europe	United Kingdom
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 1513	n = 43
It was done as usual	746 (49%)	7 (16%)
No appointments took place	78 (5%)	17 (40%)
Fewer appointments took place	492 (33%)	1 (2%)
Other	197 (13%)	18 (42%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 1511	n = 43
Yes	286 (19%)	5 (12%)
Not to all appointments	417 (28%)	17 (40%)
No, never	649 (43%)	16 (37%)
Don't know/NA	159 (11%)	5 (12%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 1512	n = 43
Yes	689 (46%)	41 (95%)
No	823 (54%)	2 (5%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 733	n = 41
For the entire labour	545 (74%)	24 (59%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	188 (26%)	17 (42%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Europe	United Kingdom
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1421	n = 41
There were no changes	118 (8%)	4 (10%)
Restrictions were implemented	1177 (83%)	34 (83%)
I don't know if there were changes	126 (9%)	3 (7%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1422	n = 41
Sum of multiple answers	2206 (155%)	69 (168%)
Mother	1048 (74%)	36 (88%)
Father/partner	757 (53%)	32 (78%)
Sibling/s	41 (3%)	0 (0%)
Other family members	28 (2%)	0 (0%)
Friends	12 (1%)	0 (0%)
No one	318 (22%)	1 (2%)
I don't know	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 1421	n = 41
Yes	532 (37%)	11 (27%)
No	889 (63%)	30 (73%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1422	n = 41
All the time, (24/7)	522 (37%)	31 (76%)
Multiple times per day	272 (19%)	5 (12%)
Once per day	251 (18%)	5 (12%)
Multiple times per week	66 (5%)	0 (0%)
Once per week	58 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	46 (3%)	0 (0%)
Never	207 (15%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Europe	United Kingdom
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 1419	n = 41
Up to an hour	455 (32%)	1 (2%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	101 (7%)	2 (5%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	85 (6%)	1 (2%)
Unlimited	580 (41%)	37 (90%)
Not at all	198 (14%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 1422	n = 41
Yes	998 (70%)	24 (59%)
No, not more difficult	307 (22%)	15 (37%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	85 (6%)	2 (5%)
Don't know	32 (2%)	0 (0%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 1510	n = 43
Immediately after birth	145 (10%)	9 (21%)
On the first day	190 (13%)	8 (19%)
After the first day but during the first week	354 (23%)	15 (35%)
After the first week	344 (23%)	8 (19%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	141 (9%)	1 (2%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	336 (22%)	2 (5%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 1511	n = 43
As often as I wanted	471 (31%)	19 (44%)
At least once per day	384 (25%)	12 (28%)
At least once per week	93 (6%)	3 (7%)
Less than once per week	139 (9%)	6 (14%)
Not so far	424 (28%)	3 (7%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 1419	n = 41
Yes, to a high degree	731 (52%)	28 (68%)
Yes, to some degree	282 (20%)	11 (27%)
No, not at all	401 (28%)	2 (5%)
Don't know	5 (0%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 1421	n = 42
Yes, to a high degree	452 (32%)	16 (38%)
Yes, to some degree	212 (15%)	18 (43%)
No, not at all	729 (51%)	8 (19%)
Don't know	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	14 (1%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1515	n = 43
Yes	1191 (79%)	41 (95%)
No	324 (21%)	2 (5%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 1512	n = 43
As often as I wanted	802 (53%)	40 (93%)
At least once per day	282 (19%)	2 (5%)
At least once per week	62 (4%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	98 (6%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	268 (18%)	1 (2%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1408	n = 40
Sum of multiple answers	1689 (120%)	61 (153%)
Photos	509 (36%)	19 (48%)
Livestream	114 (8%)	5 (13%)
Recorded video	145 (10%)	10 (25%)
Video calls	91 (6%)	10 (25%)
None	691 (49%)	15 (38%)
Other	139 (10%)	2 (5%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Europe	United Kingdom
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 1483	n = 43
Yes, highly encouraged	726 (49%)	28 (65%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	392 (26%)	10 (23%)
No, not encouraged at all	293 (20%)	4 (9%)
Don't know	72 (5%)	1 (2%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 1483	n = 43
Yes, exclusively	720 (49%)	20 (47%)
Yes, partly	590 (40%)	18 (42%)
No, not at all	166 (11%)	5 (12%)
Don't know	7 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 1484	n = 43
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	136 (9%)	5 (12%)
On the first day	502 (34%)	20 (47%)
After the first day but during the first week	590 (40%)	13 (30%)
After the first week	206 (14%)	3 (7%)
Don't know	50 (3%)	2 (5%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 1482	n = 43
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	112 (8%)	5 (12%)
Yes	1035 (70%)	31 (72%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	208 (14%)	3 (7%)
No, other	127 (9%)	4 (9%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Europe	United Kingdom
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 1408	n = 41
Yes, to a high degree	682 (48%)	24 (59%)
Yes, to some degree	593 (42%)	15 (37%)
No, not at all	113 (8%)	1 (2%)
Don't know	11 (1%)	1 (2%)
I didn't receive any information	9 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 1406	n = 41
Yes, to a high degree	440 (31%)	16 (39%)
Yes, to some degree	515 (37%)	13 (32%)
No, not at all	268 (19%)	6 (15%)
Don't know	59 (4%)	1 (2%)
I didn't receive any information	124 (9%)	5 (12%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 1405	n = 41
Yes, to a high degree	272 (19%)	6 (15%)
Yes, to some degree	333 (24%)	12 (29%)
No, not at all	367 (26%)	13 (32%)
Don't know	55 (4%)	1 (2%)
I didn't receive any information	228 (16%)	6 (15%)
No discharge yet	150 (11%)	3 (7%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Europe	United Kingdom
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 1391	n = 40
Yes, to a high degree	597 (43%)	21 (53%)
Yes, to some degree	483 (35%)	12 (30%)
No, not at all	150 (11%)	2 (5%)
Don't know	17 (1%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	144 (10%)	5 (13%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 1390	n = 39
Yes, to a high degree	790 (57%)	23 (59%)
Yes, to some degree	480 (35%)	13 (33%)
No, not at all	104 (7%)	3 (8%)
Don't know	16 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 1393	n = 40
Yes, to a high degree	247 (18%)	9 (23%)
Yes, to some degree	363 (26%)	11 (28%)
No, not at all	557 (40%)	11 (28%)
Don't know	38 (3%)	2 (5%)
There was no mental health support	188 (13%)	7 (18%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 1390	n = 40
Sum of multiple answers	1801 (130%)	57 (143%)
Psychological counselling	492 (35%)	12 (30%)
Self-help groups	47 (3%)	5 (13%)
Parent groups	154 (11%)	8 (20%)
Peer-to-peer support	122 (9%)	4 (10%)
Social worker	260 (19%)	5 (13%)
None	638 (46%)	15 (38%)
Don't know	49 (4%)	6 (15%)
Other	39 (3%)	2 (5%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

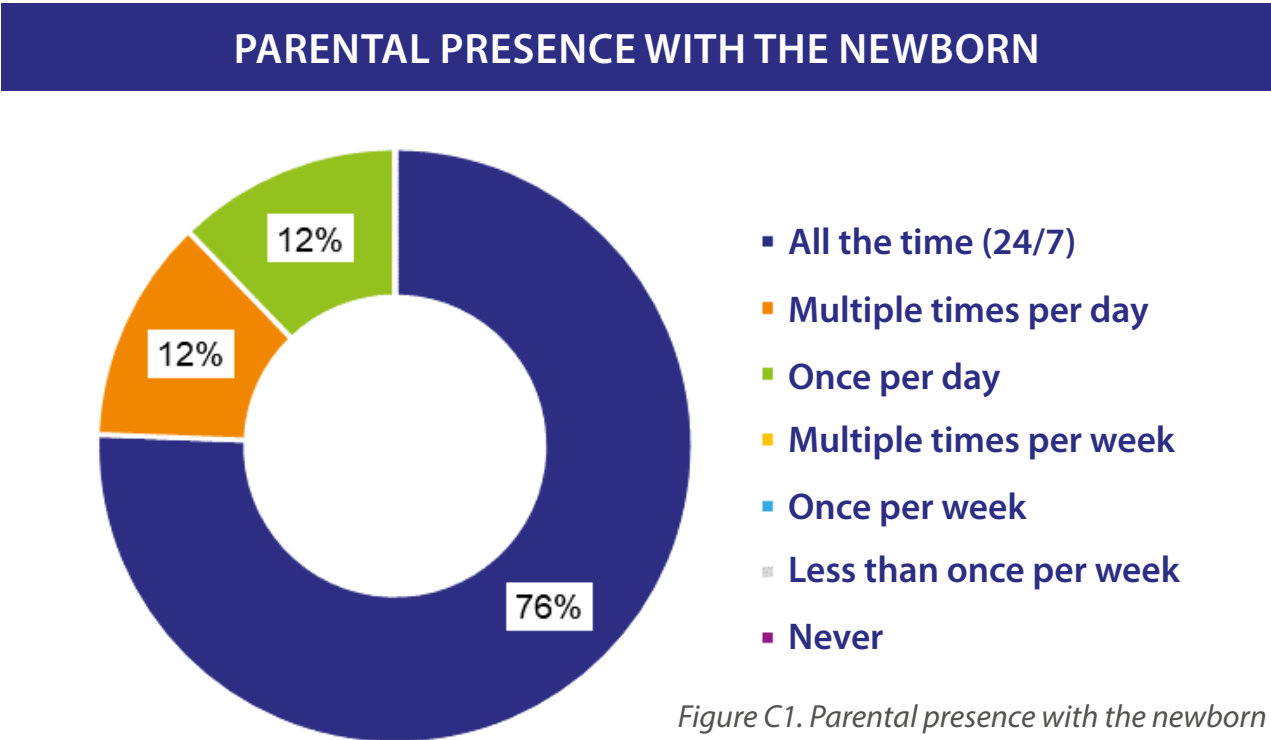


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in the United Kingdom (n = 41)



4.4 Western Pacific



Figure 8. Participation rate per continent and country

Australia

“

I found it sad that they didn't let parents be present with their babies when the doctors did rounds. It was extremely hard to then get the correct information first hand.
(Australia)

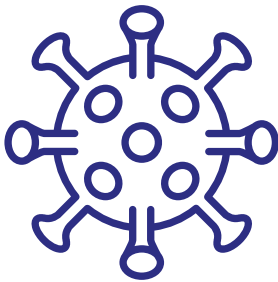
13%

of respondents indicated that pregnancy-related appointments took place as usual

KEY FACTS AUSTRALIA

93%

were allowed to be accompanied by a support person during birth



Skin-to-skin contact was mostly initiated during the first week

79%

MORE THAN

95%

ANSWERED THAT BOTH PARENTS WERE INVOLVED IN THE CARE OF THEIR BABY BY MEDICAL STAFF

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Western Pacific	Australia
Age of respondent (years)	n = 161	n = 58
<20	2 (1%)	1 (2%)
20–29	45 (28%)	14 (24%)
30–39	102 (63%)	39 (67%)
>40	12 (7%)	4 (7%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 153	n = 58
Early preterm: <28	50 (33%)	22 (38%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	48 (31%)	10 (17%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	45 (29%)	20 (34%)
Term: 37–42	10 (7%)	6 (10%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 154	n = 58
Yes	33 (21%)	12 (21%)
No	121 (79%)	46 (79%)
Birth mode	n = 153	n = 58
Vaginal birth	53 (35%)	18 (31%)
C-section	98 (64%)	39 (67%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	2 (1%)	1 (2%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 154	n = 58
<1000	48 (31%)	20 (34%)
1000–1500	51 (33%)	14 (24%)
>1500–2500	39 (25%)	16 (28%)
>2500	16 (10%)	8 (14%)
Don't know the birth weight	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 154	n = 58
<1	9 (6%)	3 (5%)
1–3	31 (20%)	10 (17%)
>3–5	40 (26%)	12 (21%)
>5	74 (48%)	33 (57%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 150	n = 58
No major concern	14 (9%)	0 (0%)
Precautions	44 (29%)	6 (10%)
Social distancing	34 (23%)	17 (29%)
Lockdown	53 (35%)	31 (53%)
Quarantine	5 (3%)	4 (7%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 153	n = 58
Yes	1 (1%)	1 (2%)
No	152 (99%)	57 (98%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 152	n = 57
Yes	1 (1%)	1 (2%)
No	150 (99%)	56 (98%)
Don't know	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 153	n = 58
Yes	1 (1%)	1 (2%)
No	148 (97%)	57 (98%)
Don't know	4 (3%)	0 (0%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Western Pacific	Australia
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 148	n = 56
It was done as usual	81 (55%)	7 (13%)
No appointments took place	2 (1%)	23 (41%)
Fewer appointments took place	53 (36%)	0 (0%)
Other	12 (8%)	26 (46%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 148	n = 56
Yes	44 (30%)	14 (25%)
Not to all appointments	56 (38%)	28 (50%)
No, never	41 (28%)	11 (20%)
Don't know/NA	7 (5%)	3 (5%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 149	n = 56
Yes	103 (69%)	52 (93%)
No	46 (31%)	4 (7%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 105	n = 51
For the entire labour	89 (85%)	46 (90%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	16 (15%)	5 (10%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Western Pacific	Australia
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 147	n = 55
There were no changes	16 (11%)	7 (13%)
Restrictions were implemented	113 (77%)	44 (80%)
I don't know if there were changes	18 (12%)	4 (7%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 147	n = 55
Sum of multiple answers	260 (172%)	112 (204%)
Mother	107 (73%)	52 (95%)
Father/partner	102 (69%)	54 (98%)
Sibling/s	8 (5%)	3 (5%)
Other family members	9 (6%)	3 (5%)
Friends	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
No one	27 (18%)	0 (0%)
I don't know	7 (5%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 147	n = 55
Yes	81 (55%)	31 (56%)
No	66 (45%)	24 (44%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 147	n = 55
All the time, (24/7)	75 (51%)	48 (87%)
Multiple times per day	13 (9%)	7 (13%)
Once per day	5 (3%)	0 (0%)
Multiple times per week	3 (2%)	0 (0%)
Once per week	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	5 (3%)	0 (0%)
Never	44 (30%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Western Pacific	Australia
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 147	n = 55
Up to an hour	5 (3%)	1 (2%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	9 (6%)	2 (4%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	11 (7%)	5 (9%)
Unlimited	77 (52%)	47 (85%)
Not at all	45 (31%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 146	n = 55
Yes	99 (68%)	33 (60%)
No, not more difficult	28 (19%)	17 (31%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	8 (5%)	4 (7%)
Don't know	11 (8%)	1 (2%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 148	n = 56
Immediately after birth	17 (11%)	7 (13%)
On the first day	20 (14%)	14 (25%)
After the first day but during the first week	39 (26%)	23 (41%)
After the first week	23 (16%)	11 (20%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	46 (31%)	1 (2%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	3 (2%)	0 (0%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 148	n = 56
As often as I wanted	36 (24%)	18 (32%)
At least once per day	47 (32%)	31 (55%)
At least once per week	11 (7%)	6 (11%)
Less than once per week	4 (3%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	50 (34%)	1 (2%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 146	n = 55
Yes, to a high degree	76 (52%)	44 (80%)
Yes, to some degree	25 (17%)	10 (18%)
No, not at all	41 (28%)	1 (2%)
Don't know	4 (3%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 146	n = 55
Yes, to a high degree	57 (39%)	35 (64%)
Yes, to some degree	34 (23%)	18 (33%)
No, not at all	47 (32%)	1 (2%)
Don't know	5 (3%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	3 (2%)	1 (2%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 148	n = 56
Yes	99 (67%)	55 (98%)
No	49 (33%)	1 (2%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 148	n = 56
As often as I wanted	81 (55%)	46 (82%)
At least once per day	14 (9%)	9 (16%)
At least once per week	3 (2%)	1 (2%)
Less than once per week	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	48 (32%)	0 (0%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 144	n = 55
Sum of multiple answers	157 (109%)	57 (104%)
Photos	28 (19%)	6 (11%)
Livestream	10 (7%)	6 (11%)
Recorded video	4 (3%)	0 (0%)
Video calls	8 (6%)	2 (4%)
None	90 (63%)	39 (71%)
Other	17 (12%)	4 (7%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Western Pacific	Australia
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 146	n = 55
Yes, highly encouraged	129 (88%)	48 (87%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	10 (7%)	5 (9%)
No, not encouraged at all	2 (1%)	1 (2%)
Don't know	5 (3%)	1 (2%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 145	n = 55
Yes, exclusively	98 (68%)	38 (69%)
Yes, partly	43 (30%)	16 (29%)
No, not at all	4 (3%)	1 (2%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 146	n = 55
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	3 (2%)	1 (2%)
On the first day	59 (40%)	29 (53%)
After the first day but during the first week	67 (46%)	21 (38%)
After the first week	12 (8%)	4 (7%)
Don't know	5 (3%)	0 (0%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 146	n = 55
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	2 (1%)	1 (2%)
Yes	137 (94%)	52 (95%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	3 (2%)	1 (2%)
No, other	4 (3%)	1 (2%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Western Pacific	Australia
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 145	n = 55
Yes, to a high degree	80 (55%)	36 (65%)
Yes, to some degree	51 (35%)	15 (27%)
No, not at all	8 (6%)	4 (7%)
Don't know	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	5 (3%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 146	n = 55
Yes, to a high degree	60 (41%)	22 (40%)
Yes, to some degree	55 (38%)	23 (42%)
No, not at all	9 (6%)	3 (5%)
Don't know	7 (5%)	2 (4%)
I didn't receive any information	15 (10%)	5 (9%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 146	n = 55
Yes, to a high degree	36 (25%)	14 (25%)
Yes, to some degree	42 (29%)	16 (29%)
No, not at all	16 (11%)	7 (13%)
Don't know	5 (3%)	1 (2%)
I didn't receive any information	17 (12%)	10 (18%)
No discharge yet	30 (21%)	7 (13%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Western Pacific	Australia
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 143	n = 55
Yes, to a high degree	50 (35%)	25 (45%)
Yes, to some degree	52 (36%)	19 (35%)
No, not at all	28 (20%)	5 (9%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	13 (9%)	6 (11%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 143	n = 55
Yes, to a high degree	62 (43%)	33 (60%)
Yes, to some degree	49 (34%)	18 (33%)
No, not at all	31 (22%)	4 (7%)
Don't know	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 144	n = 55
Yes, to a high degree	32 (22%)	13 (24%)
Yes, to some degree	68 (47%)	30 (55%)
No, not at all	25 (17%)	11 (20%)
Don't know	5 (3%)	0 (0%)
There was no mental health support	14 (10%)	1 (2%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 144	n = 55
Sum of multiple answers	227 (158%)	94 (171%)
Psychological counselling	35 (24%)	18 (33%)
Self-help groups	6 (4%)	2 (4%)
Parent groups	49 (34%)	18 (33%)
Peer-to-peer support	30 (21%)	4 (7%)
Social worker	67 (47%)	42 (76%)
None	29 (20%)	9 (16%)
Don't know	9 (6%)	1 (2%)
Other	2 (1%)	0 (0%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

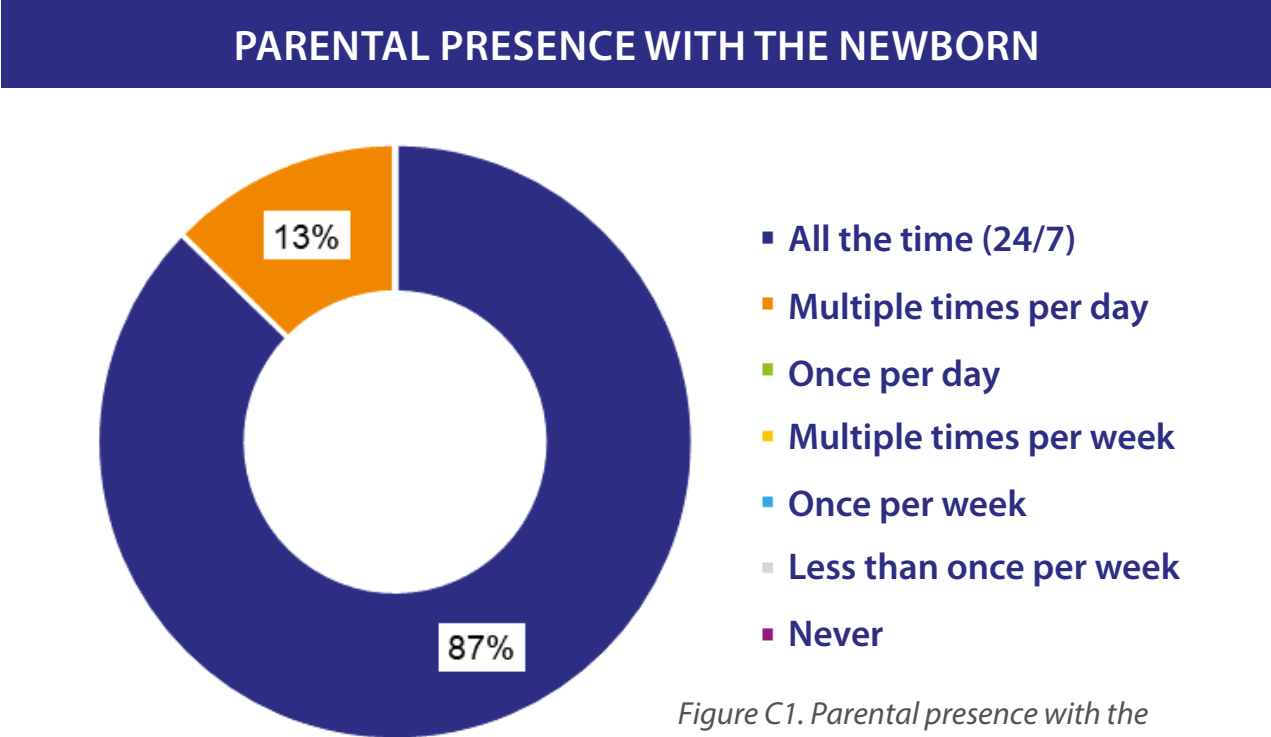


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in Australia (n = 55)

China



Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Western Pacific	China
Age of respondent (years)	n = 161	n = 60
<20	2 (1%)	1 (2%)
20–29	45 (28%)	16 (27%)
30–39	102 (63%)	38 (63%)
>40	12 (7%)	5 (8%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 153	n = 53
Early preterm: <28	50 (33%)	18 (34%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	48 (31%)	29 (55%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	45 (29%)	6 (11%)
Term: 37–42	10 (7%)	0 (0%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 154	n = 54
Yes	33 (21%)	18 (33%)
No	121 (79%)	36 (67%)
Birth mode	n = 153	n = 54
Vaginal birth	53 (35%)	24 (44%)
C-section	98 (64%)	29 (54%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	2 (1%)	1 (2%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 154	n = 54
<1000	48 (31%)	15 (28%)
1000–1500	51 (33%)	28 (52%)
>1500–2500	39 (25%)	10 (19%)
>2500	16 (10%)	1 (2%)
Don't know the birth weight	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 154	n = 54
<1	9 (6%)	5 (9%)
1–3	31 (20%)	17 (31%)
>3–5	40 (26%)	17 (31%)
>5	74 (48%)	15 (28%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 150	n = 52
No major concern	14 (9%)	14 (27%)
Precautions	44 (29%)	30 (58%)
Social distancing	34 (23%)	7 (13%)
Lockdown	53 (35%)	1 (2%)
Quarantine	5 (3%)	0 (0%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 153	n = 53
Yes	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
No	152 (99%)	53 (100%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 152	n = 53
Yes	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
No	150 (99%)	53 (100%)
Don't know	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 153	n = 53
Yes	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
No	148 (97%)	50 (94%)
Don't know	4 (3%)	3 (6%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Western Pacific	China
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 148	n = 51
It was done as usual	81 (55%)	1 (2%)
No appointments took place	2 (1%)	49 (96%)
Fewer appointments took place	53 (36%)	0 (0%)
Other	12 (8%)	1 (2%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 148	n = 51
Yes	44 (30%)	24 (47%)
Not to all appointments	56 (38%)	12 (24%)
No, never	41 (28%)	14 (27%)
Don't know/NA	7 (5%)	1 (2%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 149	n = 52
Yes	103 (69%)	19 (37%)
No	46 (31%)	33 (63%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 105	n = 20
For the entire labour	89 (85%)	17 (85%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	16 (15%)	3 (15%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Western Pacific	China
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 147	n = 52
There were no changes	16 (11%)	5 (10%)
Restrictions were implemented	113 (77%)	36 (69%)
I don't know if there were changes	18 (12%)	11 (21%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 147	n = 52
Sum of multiple answers	260 (172%)	73 (140%)
Mother	107 (73%)	18 (35%)
Father/partner	102 (69%)	15 (29%)
Sibling/s	8 (5%)	3 (6%)
Other family members	9 (6%)	3 (6%)
Friends	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
No one	27 (18%)	27 (52%)
I don't know	7 (5%)	7 (13%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 147	n = 52
Yes	81 (55%)	27 (52%)
No	66 (45%)	25 (48%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 147	n = 52
All the time, (24/7)	75 (51%)	0 (0%)
Multiple times per day	13 (9%)	0 (0%)
Once per day	5 (3%)	1 (2%)
Multiple times per week	3 (2%)	1 (2%)
Once per week	2 (1%)	1 (2%)
Less than once per week	5 (3%)	5 (10%)
Never	44 (30%)	44 (85%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Western Pacific	China
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 147	n = 52
Up to an hour	5 (3%)	2 (4%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	9 (6%)	4 (8%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	11 (7%)	1 (2%)
Unlimited	77 (52%)	0 (0%)
Not at all	45 (31%)	45 (87%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 146	n = 51
Yes	99 (68%)	39 (76%)
No, not more difficult	28 (19%)	3 (6%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	8 (5%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	11 (8%)	9 (18%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 148	n = 52
Immediately after birth	17 (11%)	2 (4%)
On the first day	20 (14%)	0 (0%)
After the first day but during the first week	39 (26%)	0 (0%)
After the first week	23 (16%)	4 (8%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	46 (31%)	44 (85%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	3 (2%)	2 (4%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 148	n = 52
As often as I wanted	36 (24%)	0 (0%)
At least once per day	47 (32%)	2 (4%)
At least once per week	11 (7%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	4 (3%)	2 (4%)
Not so far	50 (34%)	48 (92%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 146	n = 51
Yes, to a high degree	76 (52%)	4 (8%)
Yes, to some degree	25 (17%)	3 (6%)
No, not at all	41 (28%)	40 (78%)
Don't know	4 (3%)	4 (8%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 146	n = 51
Yes, to a high degree	57 (39%)	3 (6%)
Yes, to some degree	34 (23%)	4 (8%)
No, not at all	47 (32%)	39 (76%)
Don't know	5 (3%)	5 (10%)
I don't have a partner	3 (2%)	0 (0%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 148	n = 52
Yes	99 (67%)	4 (8%)
No	49 (33%)	48 (92%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 148	n = 52
As often as I wanted	81 (55%)	0 (0%)
At least once per day	14 (9%)	2 (4%)
At least once per week	3 (2%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	2 (1%)	2 (4%)
Not so far	48 (32%)	48 (92%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 144	n = 51
Sum of multiple answers	157 (109%)	59 (116%)
Photos	28 (19%)	14 (27%)
Livestream	10 (7%)	4 (8%)
Recorded video	4 (3%)	3 (6%)
Video calls	8 (6%)	1 (2%)
None	90 (63%)	26 (51%)
Other	17 (12%)	11 (22%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Western Pacific	China
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 146	n = 51
Yes, highly encouraged	129 (88%)	50 (98%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	10 (7%)	0 (0%)
No, not encouraged at all	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	5 (3%)	1 (2%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 145	n = 51
Yes, exclusively	98 (68%)	31 (61%)
Yes, partly	43 (30%)	18 (35%)
No, not at all	4 (3%)	2 (4%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 146	n = 51
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	3 (2%)	2 (4%)
On the first day	59 (40%)	8 (16%)
After the first day but during the first week	67 (46%)	34 (67%)
After the first week	12 (8%)	4 (8%)
Don't know	5 (3%)	3 (6%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 146	n = 51
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
Yes	137 (94%)	51 (100%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	3 (2%)	0 (0%)
No, other	4 (3%)	0 (0%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Western Pacific	China
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 145	n = 51
Yes, to a high degree	80 (55%)	20 (39%)
Yes, to some degree	51 (35%)	23 (45%)
No, not at all	8 (6%)	2 (4%)
Don't know	1 (1%)	1 (2%)
I didn't receive any information	5 (3%)	5 (10%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 146	n = 52
Yes, to a high degree	60 (41%)	26 (50%)
Yes, to some degree	55 (38%)	15 (29%)
No, not at all	9 (6%)	2 (4%)
Don't know	7 (5%)	5 (10%)
I didn't receive any information	15 (10%)	4 (8%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 146	n = 52
Yes, to a high degree	36 (25%)	20 (38%)
Yes, to some degree	42 (29%)	15 (29%)
No, not at all	16 (11%)	1 (2%)
Don't know	5 (3%)	3 (6%)
I didn't receive any information	17 (12%)	2 (4%)
No discharge yet	30 (21%)	11 (21%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Western Pacific	China
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 143	n = 50
Yes, to a high degree	50 (35%)	9 (18%)
Yes, to some degree	52 (36%)	17 (34%)
No, not at all	28 (20%)	20 (40%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	13 (9%)	4 (8%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 143	n = 50
Yes, to a high degree	62 (43%)	7 (14%)
Yes, to some degree	49 (34%)	17 (34%)
No, not at all	31 (22%)	26 (52%)
Don't know	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 144	n = 51
Yes, to a high degree	32 (22%)	15 (29%)
Yes, to some degree	68 (47%)	21 (41%)
No, not at all	25 (17%)	2 (4%)
Don't know	5 (3%)	4 (8%)
There was no mental health support	14 (10%)	9 (18%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 144	n = 51
Sum of multiple answers	227 (158%)	84 (165%)
Psychological counselling	35 (24%)	9 (18%)
Self-help groups	6 (4%)	3 (6%)
Parent groups	49 (34%)	26 (51%)
Peer-to-peer support	30 (21%)	23 (45%)
Social worker	67 (47%)	7 (14%)
None	29 (20%)	9 (18%)
Don't know	9 (6%)	6 (12%)
Other	2 (1%)	1 (2%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

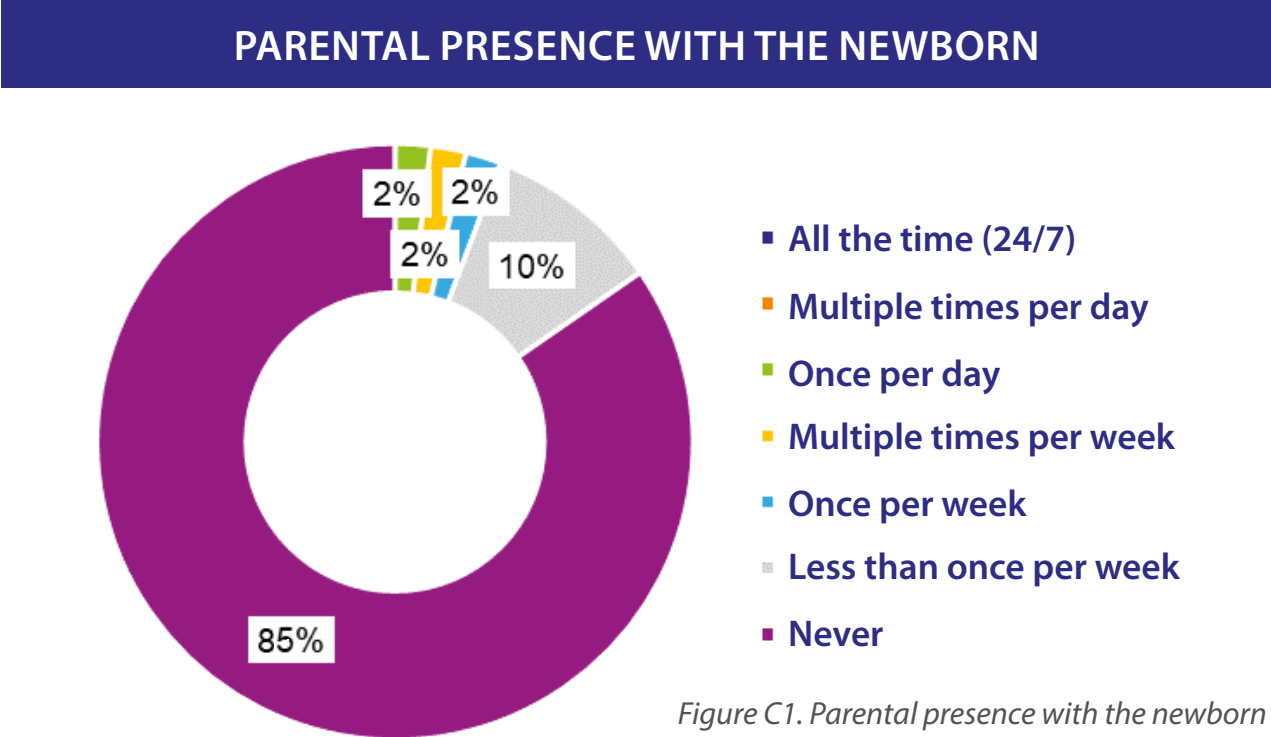


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in China (n = 52; note: percentages do not total 100% due to rounding)

New Zealand

“

The fact that my husband could not see our daughter during her first four weeks of life was very traumatic and unnecessary. We were living together outside the hospital and he wasn't working. We had the same bugs. I was completely exhausted being the only one who could see her, she was in such critical health and I had to receive all that information alone and then re-lay it to him. We are also hours away from home because we don't have a NICU there so no possible support from family or friends. It made an already terrible situation feel almost impossible.
(New Zealand)



Skin-to-skin contact was mostly initiated during the first week

77%

6% of respondents indicated that pregnancy-related appointments took place as usual

More than 75% answered that both parents were involved in the care of their baby by medical staff

KEY FACTS NEW ZEALAND

94%

.. WERE ALLOWED TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SUPPORT PERSON DURING BIRTH

Table C1. Participants and COVID-19 related characteristics

	Western Pacific	New Zealand
Age of respondent (years)	n = 161	n = 31
<20	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
20–29	45 (28%)	15 (48%)
30–39	102 (63%)	15 (48%)
>40	12 (7%)	1 (3%)
Gestational age at birth (weeks)	n = 153	n = 31
Early preterm: <28	50 (33%)	6 (19%)
Very preterm: 28–<32	48 (31%)	7 (23%)
Moderate to late preterm: 32–<37	45 (29%)	15 (48%)
Term: 37–42	10 (7%)	3 (10%)
Multiple pregnancy	n = 154	n = 31
Yes	33 (21%)	3 (10%)
No	121 (79%)	28 (90%)
Birth mode	n = 153	n = 30
Vaginal birth	53 (35%)	6 (20%)
C-section	98 (64%)	24 (80%)
Both (e.g. in case of multiple pregnancy)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
Birth weight of the baby (grams)	n = 154	n = 31
<1000	48 (31%)	8 (26%)
1000–1500	51 (33%)	7 (23%)
>1500–2500	39 (25%)	10 (32%)
>2500	16 (10%)	6 (19%)
Don't know the birth weight	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Duration of special/intensive care (weeks) (at time of data collection)	n = 154	n = 31
<1	9 (6%)	1 (3%)
1–3	31 (20%)	3 (10%)
>3–5	40 (26%)	9 (29%)
>5	74 (48%)	18 (58%)
COVID-19 situation in country/region at time of baby's birth	n = 150	n = 30
No major concern	14 (9%)	0 (0%)
Precautions	44 (29%)	5 (17%)
Social distancing	34 (23%)	6 (20%)
Lockdown	53 (35%)	18 (60%)
Quarantine	5 (3%)	1 (3%)
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 153	n = 31
Yes	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
No	152 (99%)	31 (100%)
Has your partner tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 152	n = 31
Yes	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
No	150 (99%)	31 (100%)
Don't know	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
Has your baby tested positive for COVID-19?	n = 153	n = 31
Yes	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
No	148 (97%)	31 (100%)
Don't know	4 (3%)	0 (0%)

Table C2. Prenatal care and birth

	Western Pacific	New Zealand
How was the timing of pregnancy-related appointments affected, if at all, by COVID-19?	n = 148	n = 31
It was done as usual	81 (55%)	2 (6%)
No appointments took place	2 (1%)	3 (10%)
Fewer appointments took place	53 (36%)	2 (6%)
Other	12 (8%)	24 (77%)
Was another person permitted to accompany you to pregnancy-related appointments during the COVID-19 phase?	n = 148	n = 31
Yes	44 (30%)	2 (6%)
Not to all appointments	56 (38%)	15 (48%)
No, never	41 (28%)	13 (42%)
Don't know/NA	7 (5%)	1 (3%)
Were you permitted to have another person present with you during birth (e.g. partner)?	n = 149	n = 31
Yes	103 (69%)	29 (94%)
No	46 (31%)	2 (6%)
For how long was this person permitted to stay with you?	n = 105	n = 29
For the entire labour	89 (85%)	25 (86%)
For a part of it (please elaborate)	16 (15%)	4 (14%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care

	Western Pacific	New Zealand
Do you know if the COVID-19 situation affected the facility policy around your ability to be present with the baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 147	n = 31
There were no changes	16 (11%)	4 (13%)
Restrictions were implemented	113 (77%)	25 (81%)
I don't know if there were changes	18 (12%)	2 (6%)
Who was allowed to be present with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 147	n = 31
Sum of multiple answers	260 (172%)	56 (181%)
Mother	107 (73%)	28 (90%)
Father/partner	102 (69%)	26 (84%)
Sibling/s	8 (5%)	1 (3%)
Other family members	9 (6%)	1 (3%)
Friends	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
No one	27 (18%)	0 (0%)
I don't know	7 (5%)	0 (0%)
Could more than one person be present with the baby at the same time?	n = 147	n = 31
Yes	81 (55%)	16 (52%)
No	66 (45%)	15 (48%)
How often were you allowed to see your baby receiving special/intensive care?	n = 147	n = 31
All the time, (24/7)	75 (51%)	23 (74%)
Multiple times per day	13 (9%)	5 (16%)
Once per day	5 (3%)	2 (6%)
Multiple times per week	3 (2%)	1 (3%)
Once per week	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	5 (3%)	0 (0%)
Never	44 (30%)	0 (0%)

Table C3. Presence with the newborn and skin-to-skin care (continued)

	Western Pacific	New Zealand
How long were you allowed to see your baby per visit?	n = 147	n = 31
Up to an hour	5 (3%)	0 (0%)
More than one hour, up to three hours	9 (6%)	0 (0%)
More than three hours, but not unlimited	11 (7%)	4 (13%)
Unlimited	77 (52%)	27 (87%)
Not at all	45 (31%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel that the measures that were implemented due to COVID-19 (e.g. restrictions by hospital management) made it more difficult for you to be present with your baby?	n = 146	n = 31
Yes	99 (68%)	20 (65%)
No, not more difficult	28 (19%)	7 (23%)
No, there were no restrictive measures in place	8 (5%)	3 (10%)
Don't know	11 (8%)	1 (3%)
When was skin-to-skin contact with your baby and one of the parents initiated (e.g. holding the baby on the chest, kangaroo mother care)?	n = 148	n = 31
Immediately after birth	17 (11%)	5 (16%)
On the first day	20 (14%)	5 (16%)
After the first day but during the first week	39 (26%)	14 (45%)
After the first week	23 (16%)	7 (23%)
Not so far (If you are still in the hospital with your baby)	46 (31%)	0 (0%)
Not during the time in the hospital (if you are already at home with your baby)	3 (2%)	0 (0%)
How often were you permitted to have skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo mother care) with your baby?	n = 148	n = 31
As often as I wanted	36 (24%)	16 (52%)
At least once per day	47 (32%)	12 (39%)
At least once per week	11 (7%)	3 (10%)
Less than once per week	4 (3%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	50 (34%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve you in the care of your baby (e.g. nappy changing, feeding, temperature taking)?	n = 146	n = 31
Yes, to a high degree	76 (52%)	27 (87%)
Yes, to some degree	25 (17%)	4 (13%)
No, not at all	41 (28%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	4 (3%)	0 (0%)
Did medical/nursing staff involve your partner in the care of your baby?	n = 146	n = 31
Yes, to a high degree	57 (39%)	18 (58%)
Yes, to some degree	34 (23%)	6 (19%)
No, not at all	47 (32%)	5 (16%)
Don't know	5 (3%)	0 (0%)
I don't have a partner	3 (2%)	2 (6%)
Were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 148	n = 31
Yes	99 (67%)	31 (100%)
No	49 (33%)	0 (0%)
How often were you permitted to touch your baby in the incubator or bed?	n = 148	n = 31
As often as I wanted	81 (55%)	31 (100%)
At least once per day	14 (9%)	0 (0%)
At least once per week	3 (2%)	0 (0%)
Less than once per week	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
Not so far	48 (32%)	0 (0%)
Which other options of being present were provided with your baby receiving special/intensive care? (multiple answers possible)	n = 144	n = 29
Sum of multiple answers	157 (109%)	30 (103%)
Photos	28 (19%)	4 (14%)
Livestream	10 (7%)	0 (0%)
Recorded video	4 (3%)	0 (0%)
Video calls	8 (6%)	5 (17%)
None	90 (63%)	20 (69%)
Other	17 (12%)	1 (3%)

Table C4. Infant nutrition and breastfeeding

	Western Pacific	New Zealand
Was initiation of breastfeeding encouraged by medical/nursing staff?	n = 146	n = 31
Yes, highly encouraged	129 (88%)	23 (74%)
Yes, somewhat encouraged	10 (7%)	5 (16%)
No, not encouraged at all	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
Don't know	5 (3%)	3 (10%)
Was your baby breastfed or provided with mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk in the first weeks after birth?	n = 145	n = 30
Yes, exclusively	98 (68%)	22 (73%)
Yes, partly	43 (30%)	7 (23%)
No, not at all	4 (3%)	1 (3%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
When did the initiation of breastfeeding or provision of mother's own pumped/expressed breastmilk take place?	n = 146	n = 31
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	3 (2%)	0 (0%)
On the first day	59 (40%)	17 (55%)
After the first day but during the first week	67 (46%)	9 (29%)
After the first week	12 (8%)	4 (13%)
Don't know	5 (3%)	1 (3%)
Were you allowed to bring expressed milk from home to the unit?	n = 146	n = 31
Not applicable; baby was not breastfed	2 (1%)	1 (3%)
Yes	137 (94%)	25 (81%)
No, the milk had to be expressed at the hospital	3 (2%)	2 (6%)
No, other	4 (3%)	3 (10%)

Table C5. Communication and health information

	Western Pacific	New Zealand
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate general health information about your baby during the hospital stay?	n = 145	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	80 (55%)	20 (67%)
Yes, to some degree	51 (35%)	9 (30%)
No, not at all	8 (6%)	1 (3%)
Don't know	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	5 (3%)	0 (0%)
Do you feel you received or are receiving adequate information about how to protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19 transmission while your baby received or is receiving special/intensive care?	n = 146	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	60 (41%)	11 (37%)
Yes, to some degree	55 (38%)	12 (40%)
No, not at all	9 (6%)	3 (10%)
Don't know	7 (5%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	15 (10%)	4 (13%)
Do you feel you received adequate information about COVID-19 when discharged from the hospital?	n = 146	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	36 (25%)	2 (7%)
Yes, to some degree	42 (29%)	8 (27%)
No, not at all	16 (11%)	7 (23%)
Don't know	5 (3%)	0 (0%)
I didn't receive any information	17 (12%)	5 (17%)
No discharge yet	30 (21%)	8 (27%)

Table C6. Mental health and support

	Western Pacific	New Zealand
Did you worry because of the COVID-19 situation during pregnancy?	n = 143	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	50 (35%)	11 (37%)
Yes, to some degree	52 (36%)	15 (50%)
No, not at all	28 (20%)	3 (10%)
Don't know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
COVID-19 was not an issue then	13 (9%)	1 (3%)
Did/do you worry because of the COVID-19 situation after the birth of your baby?	n = 143	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	62 (43%)	17 (57%)
Yes, to some degree	49 (34%)	11 (37%)
No, not at all	31 (22%)	1 (3%)
Don't know	1 (1%)	1 (3%)
Do you feel you were adequately informed about mental health support (e.g. counselling, self-help/parent groups)?	n = 144	n = 30
Yes, to a high degree	32 (22%)	3 (10%)
Yes, to some degree	68 (47%)	14 (47%)
No, not at all	25 (17%)	11 (37%)
Don't know	5 (3%)	0 (0%)
There was no mental health support	14 (10%)	2 (7%)
What kind of support was offered? (multiple answers possible)	n = 144	n = 30
Sum of multiple answers	227 (158%)	41 (137%)
Psychological counselling	35 (24%)	6 (20%)
Self-help groups	6 (4%)	1 (3%)
Parent groups	49 (34%)	5 (17%)
Peer-to-peer support	30 (21%)	3 (10%)
Social worker	67 (47%)	16 (53%)
None	29 (20%)	8 (27%)
Don't know	9 (6%)	1 (3%)
Other	2 (1%)	1 (3%)

Note: percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

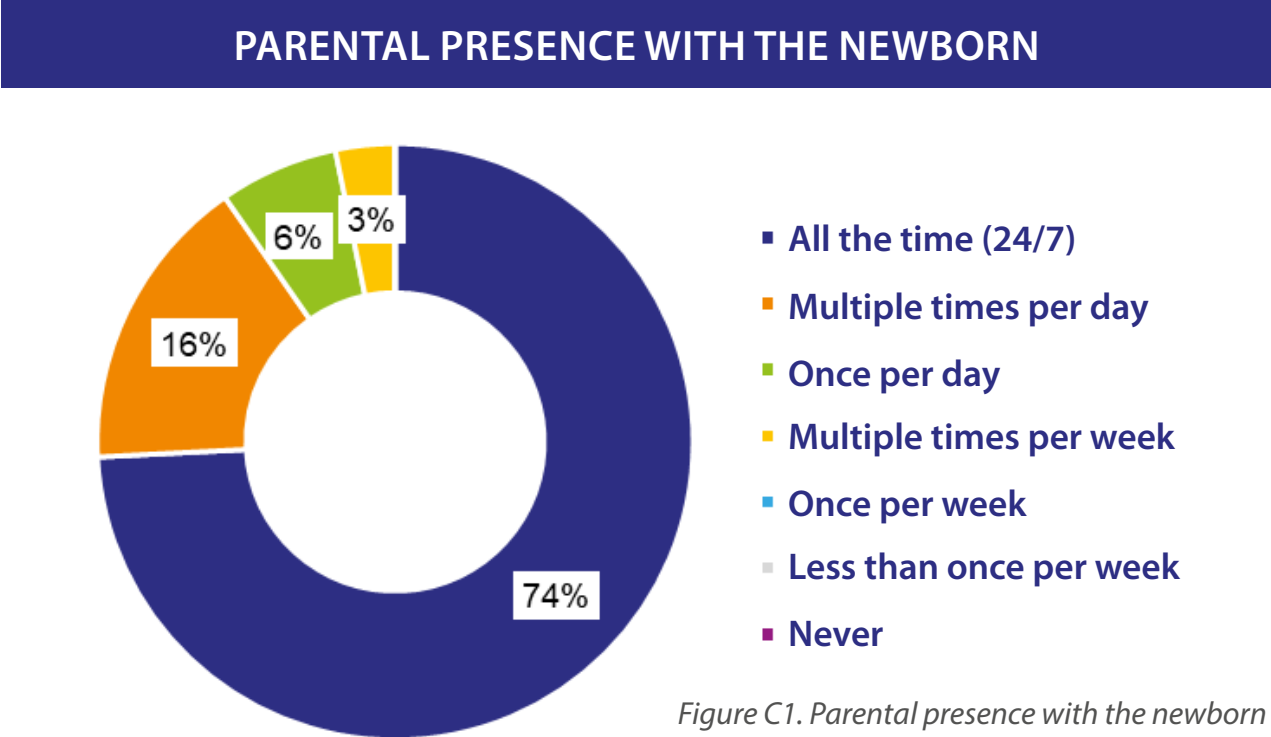


Figure C1. Parental presence with the newborn receiving special/intensive care in New Zealand (n = 31; note: percentages do not total 100% due to rounding)



Discussion –
Infant and
family-centred
developmental
care (IFCDC)
in times of
COVID-19

5

The provision of infant and family-centred developmental care (IFCDC) has been fragmented across countries, and the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions have disrupted care provision even more. Specific measures to stem virus transmission were implemented across countries. Some restrictions severely impacted the application of a holistic IFCDC approach, disrespecting its evidence-based benefits,^{25–27} which ultimately resulted in a separation of parents and hospitalised infants.

With this research, we have shed light on the magnitude of restrictive policies across countries regarding neonatal care for a most vulnerable group of patients, namely pre-term, sick and low birthweight infants and their families. With the use of a multi-country online survey, we explored parents' experience with regard to IFCDC in times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, 2103 parents from 56 countries shared their personal and often alarming insights. Based on the findings, it became evident that parents had to cope with severe restrictions regarding prenatal care provision, and the presence of family members, as well as with a lack of health information and much needed mental health support. These limitations in care provision, however, have immediate consequences for the infants in need and will most likely also have an impact on the long-term health status and thus the general wellbeing of the whole family.⁹

The restriction to have support persons present during prenatal appointments and birth is particularly concerning. More than one-third of all survey respondents indicated that they were not allowed to be accompanied by another person (e.g. their partner) during pregnancy-related appointments. Even half of the respondents were not allowed to have a support person present during birth. However, having a companion present is not only important for practical and informational reasons, yet most importantly also gives the expecting and birthing mother emotional support and enables non-pharmacological pain relief.²⁸ Thus, the presence of a partner or other support person substantially contributes to the wellbeing of the mother and facilitates family bonding,²⁹ which must urgently be recognised by policy-makers and local authorities ensuring a general reconsideration of current pandemic-related measures.

It is particularly worrisome that one in five of all respondents (more than 20%) indicated that no family member, including the parents, was allowed to be present with the hospitalised infant. This separation of parents and their newborns could be identified to different extents across countries. It further implies that the newborn, on the one hand, was withheld of the benefits of skin-to-skin contact and KMC, and could thus not experience hearing the parents' voices or smelling their scent. The parents, on the other hand, had less opportunities to be actively involved in the care process with immediate consequences for infant-family bonding, especially with regards to the fathers and siblings. Previous research confirms that separating parents and their newborn, however, has severe short and long-term consequences and can even impact developmental outcomes of the infant.^{14,18–20,30,31} In particular KMC has substantial benefits for the health outcome of the child, which far outweighs the COVID-19 related mortality risk, as a recent two-scenarios analysis confirmed.³² Separation policies can therefore not be accepted, neither in times of the current crisis nor in future emergency situations. Thus, and in particular based on these findings, policy-makers, healthcare professionals and families together should advocate for a zero separation and inclusive policy instead.



Experiencing already difficult times by having a newborn requiring special/intensive care has been further challenged by additional stressors during the COVID-19 pandemic. Receiving adequate health information and mental health support is therefore crucial. This research showed that the majority of the participating parents worried particularly due to the COVID-19 situation – during the prenatal and postnatal period. Pre- and perinatal stress, however, poses a risk for developing postpartum depression,³³ which in turn impacts parent-child bonding with potential long-term implications for the infants' development.³⁴ Yet, communication was often lacking and health information was often not sufficiently provided. What was especially missing was adequate information about how to protect oneself and the newborn from virus transmission, during hospitalisation and also at discharge. It needs to be acknowledged that also healthcare professionals often lacked information due to the novelty of the virus which provoked additional stress and concerns as reported in a global survey among more than 1100 neonatal care professionals worldwide.²⁰ Nevertheless, thorough communication and comprehensive advice on general practices on how to protect oneself and the hospitalised infant are crucial, and will also positively influence the parents' mental health status. Especially in already challenging situations and even more so in exceptional emergency situations, mental health support at an already early stage of hospitalisation is essential.³⁵ Providing psychological support itself, including self-help groups and counselling, however, was also found to be inadequate or even not existing.

This conducted research has several strengths and limitations which merit attention. An extensive outreach and collection of data in overall 56 countries could be achieved, and detailed results of countries with more than 20 respondents per country are outlined in this report. It was possible to identify different experiences and policy approaches across countries from different continents and a variety of settings. As the questionnaire was reviewed by an interdisciplinary group of experts and pre-tested among parents, we ensured a parent-friendly wording and minimised the risk for methodological inaccuracies. The specific focus on parents and their experiences is unique and provides invaluable insights for IFCDC provision from those who are directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, due to the online format of the survey, some parents may have found it challenging to respond or could not be reached. Due to missing information regarding the newborn situation in the respective countries, we were unable to assess the representativeness of the study sample and information of non-responders is not available. Differences regarding the point of time of data collection (with different waves of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the year) and the hospitalisation situation might have impacted the parents' perceived experiences. Due to missing data, comparisons with pre-pandemic periods were not possible, and we acknowledge that the differences with regards to IFCDC might have already existed across and within countries before the pandemic. Finally, we were unable to receive data from some regions outside of Europe due to a missing network with local parent representative organisations or the inexistence of such organisations (also because in some countries the establishment of parent/patient networks is prohibited).



Call to action

It is undisputed that the COVID-19 pandemic has created exceptional challenges for populations worldwide and has disrupted healthcare systems. Measures were implemented to reduce infection rates. However, some implemented restrictions have challenged neonatal care provision affecting most vulnerable groups including newborn infants and their families. Many elements of IFCDC have been severely affected, such as parental presence and skin-to-skin contact. The role of parents regarding the care of their newborn is, however, of paramount importance; separation is harmful and cannot be justified considering available scientific evidence.

IFCDC is an essential pillar of a holistic, long-term healthcare approach that benefits the overall health outcome of hospitalised infants, the mental wellbeing of their parents and families, and ultimately also the healthcare system and staff. The results of this research must therefore be acknowledged by policy-makers, public health experts, and healthcare professionals alike, to re-install a zero separation and family-inclusive policy, and an IFCDC approach where it was discontinued, to promote it where it was questioned, and to protect it where it was banned. Zero separation. Together for better care!

6

CALL TO ACTION

FOR ZERO SEPARATION AND INFANT AND FAMILY-CENTERED DEVELOPMENTAL CARE (IFCDC)

Based on the findings of this research initiated by the European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants (EFCNI), and under the umbrella of the Global Alliance for Newborn Care (GLANCE), we request policy-makers, for public health experts and healthcare professionals to:



Provide every woman with a safe environment and respectful and supportive care during pregnancy, labour and birth, and allowing support persons to be present during prenatal appointments and birth.



Provide every baby born too soon, too small, or too sick with high-quality care in all settings for the best start in life.



Value, include, and empower parents as key caregivers of their newborns at all times.



Establish a zero separation and family-inclusive policy in hospitals, ensuring parental presence to enable immediate skin-to-skin and Kangaroo Mother Care, and family-infant bonding.



Prioritise mother's own milk and encourage breastfeeding when possible, emphasising the benefits of adequate infant nutrition for all newborns.



Ensure adequate provision of health information and continuous and respectful communication between healthcare professionals and parents.



Offer and provide access to mental health support to parents and families in need.



Ensure a smooth and holistic application of IFCDC in general and in times of crisis.

ZERO SEPARATION. TOGETHER FOR BETTER CARE!

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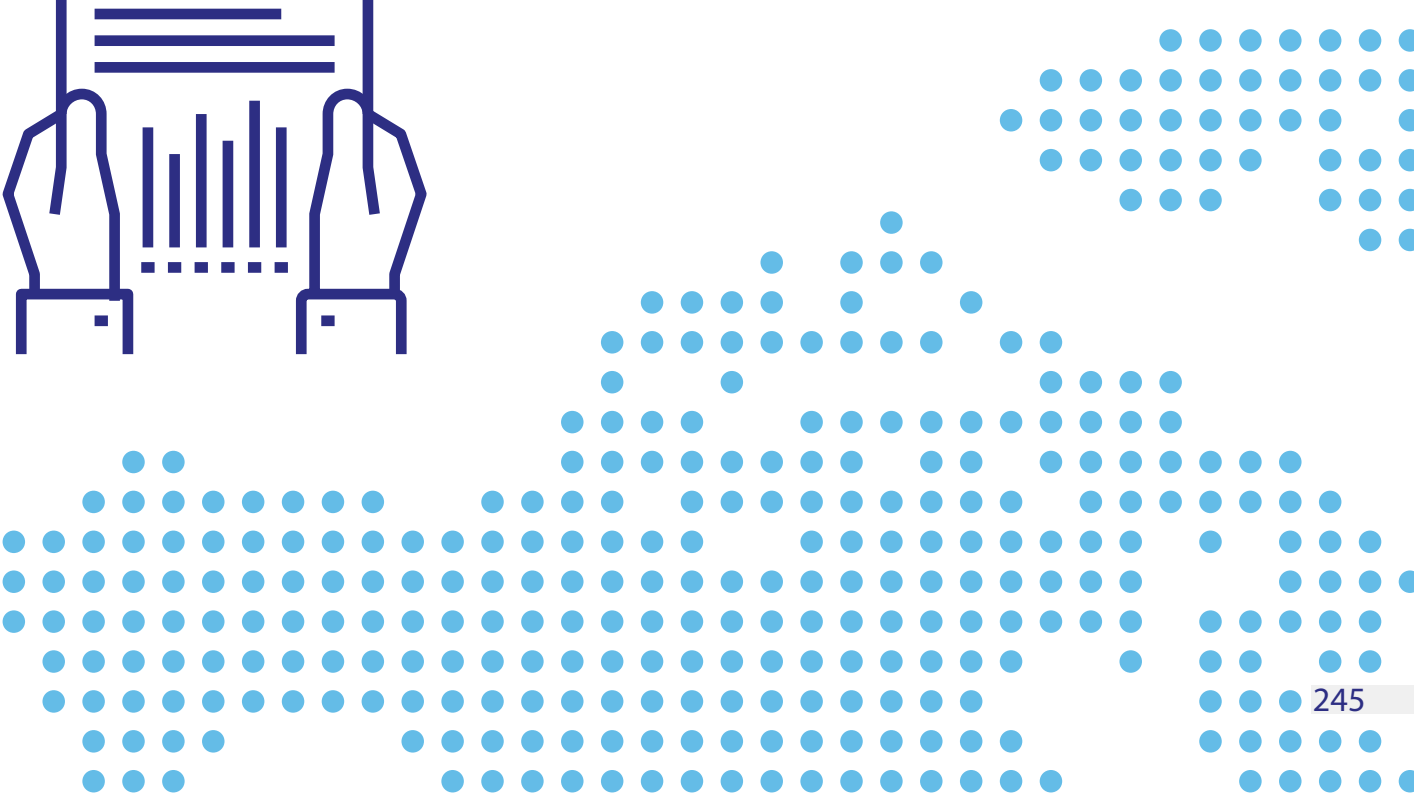
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Supplementary Table S1: Country overview total participants

	Total	n = 2094 (100%)*
Africa	South Africa Uganda	23 (1%) 2 (0%)
Eastern Mediterranean	Afghanistan	1 (0%)
Europe	Austria	12 (1%)
	Azerbaijan	1 (0%)
	Belgium	37 (2%)
	Bulgaria	23 (1%)
	Croatia	1 (0%)
	Cyprus	37 (2%)
	Czech Republic	42 (2%)
	Denmark	1 (0%)
	Estonia	6 (0%)
	Finland	44 (2%)
	France	125 (6%)
	Germany	36 (2%)
	Greece	31 (2%)
	Hungary	33 (2%)
	Ireland	37 (2%)
	Israel	1 (0%)
	Italy	38 (2%)
	Moldova	1 (0%)
	Netherlands	133 (6%)
	Republic of North Macedonia	17 (1%)
	Norway	49 (2%)
	Poland	160 (8%)
	Portugal	52 (3%)
	Romania	48 (2%)
	Russia	1 (0%)
	Serbia	1 (0%)
	Slovakia	60 (3%)
	Spain	38 (2%)
	Sweden	78 (4%)
	Switzerland	2 (0%)
	Turkey	357 (17%)
	Ukraine	109 (5%)
	United Kingdom	47 (2%)
Americas	Argentina	9 (0%)
	Bolivia	1 (0%)
	Brazil	38 (2%)
	Canada	52 (3%)
	Chile	7 (0%)
	Colombia	20 (1%)
	Costa Rica	29 (1%)
	Ecuador	12 (1%)
	Guatemala	11 (1%)
	Mexico	41 (2%)
	Nicaragua	9 (0%)
	Paraguay	1 (0%)
	Peru	6 (0%)
	United States	11 (1%)
	Uruguay	1 (0%)
Western Pacific	Australia	58 (3%)
	China	61 (3%)
	Japan	11 (1%)
	New Zealand	31 (2%)
	Singapore	1 (0%)

*n=9 participants did not answer this question
Note: country categorisation according to the World Health Organisation regions

The Campaign “Zero separation. Together for better care!”

In light of the pandemic-related developments, the global campaign, “Zero Separation. Together for Better Care! Keep Preterm and Sick Babies Close to their Parents.”, was launched under the umbrella of GLANCE. Its goal is to raise awareness for the importance of keeping parents and their babies close, highlighting the benefits of a zero separation policy for newborns in the NICU.

The campaign raises awareness for the application of a holistic IFCDC approach, even in times of crisis. Six different focus topics cover the general implications of separation policies, their impact on breastfeeding and the provision of human milk, lung diseases, the long-term effects on former preterm infants, mental health consequences, and discharge management.



For more information on the campaign “Zero Separation. Together for Better Care!” visit:
www.glance-network.org/covid-19/campaign



Please also see the comprehensive set of COVID-19 related frequently asked questions (FAQ) for parents, which was developed by EFCNI in collaboration with international medical experts:
www.glance-network.org/covid-19/covid-19-faq





Donation to GLANCE

Your donation matters!

EFCNI welcomes support of the GLANCE initiative. We would like to thank all donors for their generosity and commitment to improving maternal and newborn health on a global level. All contributions, however small, help us achieve our goals and will make a vital difference.

How to donate?

You can donate online by following this link: [Donate now](#)

Alternatively, please make your donation to the EFCNI bank account by stating:
Global Alliance for Newborn Care (GLANCE)

Recipient: European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants (EFCNI)
Bank name: Bank für Sozialwirtschaft
Account number: 88 10 900
Sort code: 700 205 00
BIC: BFSWDE 33 MUE
IBAN: DE 66 700 205 00 000 88 10 900

Please quote your address in the reference line so that we can issue a donation receipt.*

EFCNI is a registered charity certified by the Munich Tax Office as eligible for support, tax reference number 143/235/22619 and therefore can issue donation receipts.

Our donation receipt template is officially accepted by the German tax authorities. To reduce administration, EFCNI will issue donation receipts from 25 Euros or more (annual donation amount). Nevertheless, if you need a donation receipt for a smaller donation from us, please do not hesitate to contact us: donations@efcni.org

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Imprint

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About EFCNI

The European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants (EFCNI) is the first pan-European organisation and network to represent the interests of preterm and newborn infants and their families. It brings together parents, healthcare experts from different disciplines, and scientists with the common goal of improving long-term health of preterm and newborn children. EFCNI's vision is to ensure the best start in life for every baby.

About GLANCE

GLANCE is a global network to represent the interests of babies born too soon, too small or too sick and their families. Initiated and coordinated under the umbrella of EFCNI, GLANCE aims at including parents from all parts of the world to exchange knowledge and experience. GLANCE aspires to decrease the burden of afflicted families and their babies born too soon, too small or too sick to help them thrive beyond survival.

For more information: www.efcni.org and www.glance-network.org

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