

**Parent's experiences of the impact of ethnicity and skin pigmentation on perinatal care.**

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This document is the Supplemental Material

**Citation:**

FAIR, Frankie, FURNESS, Amy, HIGGINBOTTOM, Gina, ODDIE, Sam and SOLTANI, Hora (2025). Parent's experiences of the impact of ethnicity and skin pigmentation on perinatal care. *Ethnicity & health*. [Article]

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**Supplemental Material Table S1. Additional quotations**

<p><b>Parent's voice not being heard</b></p>	<p>Poor communication</p>	<p><i>"I see like so many parents, because there's a lunchroom. I was talking to them and they were like saying ... the doctor is saying that they're gonna change the medicine. Apart from that, they don't know much about it, whereas for me, I would like to know why they're changing the medicine? What's the new medicine and what are the consequences? What can be the long term consequences of this? So I don't think they are bothered to give those type of information for parents."</i> <b>PA02 Asian mother</b></p> <p><i>"I had such a traumatic birth ... the baby's heartbeat heart rate kept dropping and I think when it happened the second or third the third time second or third time they pressed a buzzer and like the alarm went off. And actually what they're supposed to do is tell you that we're about to do this ... and then like 10 people walk into your cubicle ... and I don't know what's happening. Uhm, even now it's very difficult for me to talk about it because if they had said to me look, the heart rate has dropped again, we are going to press an alarm. This is what's going to happen. Luckily I did have some insight because one of my friends had had a baby. And she had said that they'd pressed an alarm and if that happens, people come in so I knew. But then I knew something was wrong. But no one told me that something was wrong, so that was very difficult."</i> <b>PA13 Asian mother</b></p> <p><i>"After she'd [the doctor] finished her work, I heard her telling another staff member that she was just going to leave it for a few minutes to see if the bleeding had stopped. She didn't tell me this. I heard her saying."</i> <b>PA20 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"His head was bigger than his body ... They asked us to go again like each week for a month, and then we kept questioning about it, but they didn't tell us ... just one woman that we don't normally see, we asked her "Is everything OK?" and then she said oh his head is just growing a bit bigger than his body and then showed it us and that made it make sense. And then she explained, that's why we've been asking you to come in."</i> <b>PA24 Mixed ethnicity father</b></p> <p><i>"The questions I asked were like affronts to them as opposed to an opportunity to have a conversation."</i> <b>PA20 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"You've just had a C-section and you know with any other operation I feel like there'd be a bit more aftercare, but with this you just kind of like left to it. I wasn't told, or maybe I don't remember 'cause I was like sedated but I wasn't told I had like a catheter in me or anything like that, and the first I knew of it was just being told that they're gonna remove the catheter."</i> <b>PA21 Other ethnicity mother</b></p> <p><i>"I saw like there were so many mothers who were not speaking proper, like couldn't communicate in English and who also don't have that understanding to put forward an argument ... I saw that a lot of parents were struggling in terms of the language, so for them probably they don't even understand what's going on."</i> <b>PA02 Asian mother</b></p>
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<p>Being silenced within the system</p>	<p><i>"We were re-admitted later to Pediatrics. That was a whole different story in terms of the care, and it was actually very good for both the baby and myself and it was also like they took care of me as well which was good ... So I think that it was something I think specifically to do with maternity rather than hospitals in general that there was a problem ... I think the biggest thing was listening and believing women. It feels like there's a culture of especially first time moms maybe don't know what they're talking about, and it's not true, 'cause it's our bodies."</i> <b>PA22 Mixed ethnicity mother</b></p> <p><i>"With both of the older two, there's this theme of not being listened to and not being believed. So when I would say things like babies coming, or I mean I'm in unbearable amounts of pain. I was told on both occasions like you're being ridiculous, baby's not ready to come and there's no way you can be fully dilated. ...There's lots of different kind of words that were kind of fobbing me off ... In the end they'd become concerned about the baby's heart rate ... when they went to click put a clip on her head, they then realised that I was fully dilated and hello head ... she was halfway out."</i> <b>PA23 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"I had a contraction and then I was literally holding her head and I had to say, you know, like excuse me, can you look again? You're saying I'm not dilated but I'm holding her head ... With my daughter I was checked over repeatedly because they said I was too calm. So the first one said you can't be 10 centimetres dilated, you're too calm ... I should have been in more pain and screaming more and swearing at the nurse clearly. Because I wasn't reacting, I don't know, I wasn't reacting how they expect me to react."</i> <b>PA04 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"When I was admitted with pain ... they were very like 'Oh no, this isn't [labour]' ... and they're like, 'oh, we'll be going home soon' and then they did this swab test for the premature baby ... and then the swab came back positive and they were like Oh well you know we're just going to give you the steroid just the precaution ... You're not in labour or that kind of thing and right up until the point when I was in lots and lots of pain and my water broke, it was like 'oh you'll be going home soon'. ... It was almost like people didn't believe me when I said that [I] was in pain."</i> <b>PA16 Asian mother</b></p> <p><i>"I'd asked a couple of things and asked to have a check over by a consultant because I felt that I'd maybe had a prolapse after my son. Something didn't feel right and I knew something didn't feel right. And I was told you've just given birth, so actually nothings going to feel right ... And so I was kind of pushing to be checked before I left ... And then the midwife essentially came in and said, well I can ask the consultant to check you, but they're doing their rounds. And they won't be here for hours, so you have a choice to wait or you can go home. And I was like, damn, because I really wanted to go home ... I want to go to bed, I wanna go home. So I get home and I had to beg to see the GP a few weeks later. At that point they discovered that yes, I did have a prolapse and referred me to physio for gynae support, and various other things. I think that's the theme that I felt throughout all three pregnancies, was that lack of being listened to."</i> <b>PA23 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"I very much remember them looking at screens and not looking at me and not listening to me at all, throughout that whole process [of labour]."</i> <b>PA22 Mixed ethnicity mother</b></p> <p><i>"They'd come in and they said oh, you know, we're here to do a hearing test and I'm like you've done that already. 'No we haven't' 'You definitely have'."</i> <b>PA04 Black mother</b></p>
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	Being silenced within the system cont.	<p><i>"It was as if no one had really read my care plan and no one acknowledged that I had I was suffering with these issues ... I don't think my mental health was taken into consideration considering there was an actual care plan there on it ... there was like no no acknowledgement, nothing and I felt very like I felt invisible in that sense."</i> <b>PA13 Asian mother</b></p> <p><i>"I was last in contact with her [birth after thoughts midwife] ... I felt gaslit. She basically contradicted my own experience of what had happened."</i> <b>PA20 Black mother</b></p> <p>Within a system that was quick to dismiss them, women felt that they had to fight to be heard:  <i>"He [her child] was supposed to get a special vaccine, for RSV ... because his lungs were still quite weak ... At some point before discharging, they said they decided that they're not gonna give it. So if I was a mother who accepted it as it is and just walked out, they would have never given that vaccine. But I had to fight back. I was like, why? So I started questioning why is he not getting it?"</i> <b>PA02 Asian mother</b></p>
	Inadequate consent and choice	<p><i>"With my first pregnancy, no one told me that I had a choice to be, to say I don't want to be examined or whatever ... I definitely felt that I didn't feel I had control over decisions."</i> <b>PA13 Asian mother</b></p> <p><i>"So actually, there's a power imbalance as well, like you feel if you don't do XY and Z, you could potentially get in trouble. You won't be allowed to leave and you'll be referred to social care."</i> <b>PA23 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"I think that's the theme that I felt throughout all three pregnancies, was that lack of being listened to. That lack of your knowledge, your beliefs, and your body being taken seriously. Yeah, you know your wishes, your desires. It's wild to me that it there's the suggestion that we lose our capacity to consent. Or that our, our autonomy is not the priority during pregnancy ... Actually, during pregnancy it's still my body and I still have a right to say if I do or don't want things done to it. But there seems to be this perception that we don't have that right."</i> <b>PA23 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"I was told [in antenatal class] they would read my notes. They definitely didn't read my notes ... But also that they you know, took into account our wishes and that absolutely didn't happen throughout my pregnancy and in the birth itself."</i> <b>PA22 Mixed ethnicity mother</b></p> <p><i>"My waters broke maybe six days before my due date, and then labour did not progress, and so from that that moment on I was encouraged, and then I'd say pressured to have an induction."</i> <b>PA20 Black mother</b></p>
<b>Systemic factors</b>		<p><i>"In XXXX [South Asian country], ... if you are like quite a petite person like me and my baby was 3.55 kilos, which for my body he's quite a big baby. In that case I would have immediately gone for a C-section and instead of going for a natural delivery. So they would classify me as a high risk pregnancy, whereas here the criteria doesn't really match. They don't look at the genetics, ... Instead, everything is like 1 criteria that's fitting for everyone. In the UK 3.55kg baby is not a big baby, whereas in XXXX [South Asian country] a baby who is above 3 kilos is a big baby ... having like that one criteria will fit for everyone is not really working because I know so many of my XXXX [South Asian country] friends have gone through, I think 90% of them go through so many complications in their birth here in the UK."</i> <b>PA02 Asian mother</b></p>

	Accessibility issues	<p><i>"The only challenge is some ... cancelled appointments."</i> <b>PA09 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"I don't feel like it was very uhm should I say intense? ... There wasn't much ... there wasn't a lot of aftercare ... I don't know if it's because my midwife like saw I had ... quite a good support system or whatever, but I don't feel like there was much aftercare."</i> <b>PA01 Other ethnicity mother</b></p> <p><i>"In community I struggled, so I struggled to get through to midwife. There would be a lot of mix ups with them migrating systems [between her resident Trust and her chosen place of birth Trust] and things just not being updated and appointments not being noted and me, you know, being heavily pregnant and waddling around to appointments that they didn't really have in their diary."</i> <b>PA21 Other ethnicity mother</b></p> <p><i>"I will go out and get what I need. Urm but I'm conscious that for others it's probably not [easy to access the care they need]. And that's a shame, isn't it? I think that it requires a certain level of being assertive or being direct or having to know what you need in terms of getting that support."</i> <b>PA23 Black mother</b></p> <p>One woman particularly highlighted the difficulty of navigating the care system when you don't know what care you are entitled too:</p> <p><i>"I didn't know of anything like unless they're going to turn around and say, oh, you've got an appointment on this day. I wouldn't know what's available, you know what I mean? Or what I needed to do?"</i> <b>PA01 Other ethnicity mother</b></p> <p>Mothers recognised the lack of appointments and having to be "proactive" or "fight" for appointments.</p> <p><i>"I am like completely dissatisfied with the Community services and GP Centre the same because you have to wait for so long to get appointment and then even that, I remember for vaccines, they were giving me appointments really late, saying that we don't have appointments, so I had to like kind of fight to get appointments."</i> <b>PA02 Asian mother</b></p>
	Staffing	<p><i>"Sometimes you feel that they don't really care about the baby as much as you would want them to be care about. But also I understand it's also like they are overwhelmed. When you have three babies, it's hard to care for one baby like 100%. They have to like, leave that baby and move to the other baby ... Of course I understand from the NHS point of view that I see that there's lot of staff cuts and they are struggling."</i> <b>PA02 Asian mother</b></p> <p><i>"I got the sense in the postpartum, immediate postpartum period that they were not enough staff members and well, I got the impression before that as well, but it seemed heightened because at one point, for example, I had asked for support with breastfeeding and I kept having to ask over again and no one was coming."</i> <b>PA20 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"They didn't seem to be enough staff around ... I just got the sense that they were running ... it was definitely a sense that yeah they were over overworked, understaffed, yeah, but it felt like yeah then I was just a problem that they needed to deal with as quickly as possible so they could move on to the next problem."</i> <b>PA20 Black mother</b></p>

	Staffing cont	<p><i>"[They] took me to the labour ward and then I felt as though there was just a stretch. There was a lack of staff there, so they weren't really with me ... I definitely don't think I should have been left alone for periods of time, especially during like the end of labour, where I'm about to actually push the baby out ... my husband was out looking around for midwives to call some midwives and he kept saying there's nobody around, he can't see anybody ... we kept pressing the bell. And they came in and they saw that, you know, the baby was actually gonna come out. So they started rushing around then."</i> <b>PA07 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"I know there were shortages and ... issues in terms of staffing etc but I think you can still have a degree of empathy and care, which I don't think I got."</i> <b>PA22 Mixed ethnicity mother</b></p> <p>When asked if she felt there were any reasons she felt she was being overlooked by staff: <i>"To be honest, I don't know if they were just overworked."</i> <b>PA01 Other ethnicity mother</b></p> <p><i>"I think it's systematic. I think they're so busy that they dismiss you."</i> <b>PA23 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"We were rushed to leave ... I remember being told several times that there wasn't space and that we were put in a sort of private room and we were told there was no one else on the floor and they said, that's 'cause there's no space in the other main place where people have given birth. So I think they were keen to get us out because they then had to have staff on that floor."</i> <b>PA22 Mixed ethnicity mother</b></p> <p><i>"I felt like if I had any questions I couldn't really ask. I would like look online or I would ask like one of my friends ... Because if I did call it was like, oh, your midwife is busy or whatever, so I just never really used to call."</i> <b>PA01 Other ethnicity mother</b></p> <p>Staff of the same ethnicity were appreciated:  <i>"Well, the midwife who came, also wasn't White, so maybe that's why she picked it up as well [jaundice in her baby]. I can't remember where she was from, but she had quite similar skin tone to me and maybe that's why she also noticed it."</i> <b>PA22 Mixed ethnicity mother</b></p>
<b>Discrimination</b>		<p><i>"I've got very close-knit group of girlfriends we've all had babies, you know, the space of sort of 2-3 years together. And we talk about the experience and all that kind of stuff. And it's only myself and the other non White person a XXXX [Middle Eastern country] friend who've had horrendous experiences and also have specifically had their partners being barred from coming to support them, which I find really disturbing ...I think we all in our group found it striking that it was myself and XXXX [name of friend from a Middle Eastern country] who had such difficult issues and other people you know didn't have a pleasant birth 'cause who does but you know it wasn't the same kind of treatment at all."</i> <b>PA22 Mixed ethnicity mother</b></p>

<p><b>Discrimination cont.</b></p>		<p><i>"It's hard because it's often it can just be a feeling that you get, it's not necessarily that someone has said something or explicitly done something. It's just like an underlying feeling or little things that are happening that can make you feel that way."</i> <b>PA13 Asian mother</b></p> <p><i>"When she was born [her daughter] there were moments where she might have passed for White, and I think that played a role definitely. So it felt like my experiences of sort of kind of micro-aggressions and that sort of thing were directed at me and less so at her if that makes sense."</i> <b>PA20 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"All my other friends are like from the UK. They're White British friends and I've been telling them these stories and they were, they were surprised. They were like, 'oh, no, we didn't face anything like this'."</i> <b>PA02 Asian mother</b></p> <p><i>"[At] the beginning of my pregnancy the COVID regulations were still in place to the point where partners weren't allowed to attend appointments and I remember feeling like the appointments were very, very checklisty. There wasn't the kind of building of relationship that I thought I would have with the midwife. But then towards the end, my partner, who's White was able to come to appointments and I definitely could see a difference in the way that she spoke to him versus the way she talked to me ... I had the continuity of care, which I know that a lot of women in the UK don't experience, it felt like I had the continuity yes, but in terms of the relationship building or report or intimacy or any of that, was quite absent from my relationship with my midwife."</i> <b>PA20 Black mother</b></p> <p>Some parents were very aware that while they may not have experienced discrimination, this was different from previous generations or in other geographical locations:</p> <p><i>"Now you've got new generations coming in where we're all really open ... We're all OK with loads of things, so there's not a lot of things like that are like, I feel like our ethnicity would have done to impact like how we've been treated or anything like these days, I feel like it's a lot less common."</i> <b>PA01 Other ethnicity mother</b></p> <p><i>"I know in in XXXXX [area of residence] there's quite a diverse ethnic community, so it might just be that in you know healthcare settings around this area, it might just be more common to come across a child who's of different ethnicities, so they might just be better trained for it."</i> <b>PA21 Other ethnicity mother</b></p>
	<p>Stereotyping</p>	<p><i>"I will make it quite clear from the beginning that I work in safeguarding team, you're not going to necessarily be able to suggest certain things to me without me challenging that you know."</i> <b>PA23 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"I've spoken to a social worker that I work along side ... about her experiences and where she used to wear the whole get up as she's a Muslim and they were very dismissive. But once she was normal clothed and ... said she was a social worker, the change of approach that they had with her was in her words disgusting. Because they treated her like gold dust after she knew she was a social worker and I think that's not appropriate ... It still happens where they treat people differently to not only your skin colour, but your work as well."</i> <b>PA24 Mixed ethnicity father</b></p>

	Stereotyping cont.	<p><i>"They wanted know if the dad was White or his race was like me that they wanted know 'cause when I did give birth my child wasn't really looking that, you know, normal kids are usually White when you're born. So my kid was a lot White so they were confused they wanna see the dad, and at that time dad wasn't really around ... was a lot of issues and complications questions ... Just trying to say when baby was born his skin colour wasn't Black, was more of a fair person ... they just wanted to know if the dad was from the UK or not."</i> <b>PA06 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"In terms of care I would say that I also did get some, should I say a little breakdown on some reactions. I felt quite, should I say depressed. I felt down because of a colour I was. Yeah, at that moment I was kind of should I say raising an alarm like? ... Why was I born Black, and why am I getting all these types of reactions or looks?"</i> <b>PA11 Black father</b></p> <p>Discrimination in pain management:</p> <p><i>"I certainly feel there's some of the experiences I had during pregnancy, were perhaps linked to kind of inherent biases and presumptions. Particularly, kind of, when giving birth. A lot of presumptions around kind of pain management and what I should or should not be able to sustain during labour."</i> <b>PA23 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"Stop seeing the Blacks different. You don't keep believing and that the Blacks are always fine. The Blacks need drugs to, need drugs to survive in it and they need medical attention. ... They just have the general mentality that the Blacks can do it on their own. They believe that the Blacks can complete anything ... No, it doesn't work that way. Blacks are human too."</i> <b>PA18 Black mother</b></p>
	Limited cultural safety and anti-racist practice	<p><i>"The false mentality that we worship a different religion, different culture, ... it's all still classifying and racism ... I'm of Christian religion ... There are a lot of false rumour about Africa ... Blacks have a lot of problem regarding that. Being seen to be worshipping a different God, a different power and black magic and all that."</i> <b>PA19 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"One of the things is that in my culture we co sleep a lot. Like co sleeping is the norm. And like all the parents that I know, me myself as a baby, I co-sleep ... my brother, children, they co sleep, with their children. So it's like the norm, whereas like when you tell this to your health visitor she was she was like, oh, it's very dangerous ... I feel that there's like this huge pressure to conform to the parenting norm of this part of the world whereas we practice things differently but there's no space for these kind of differences."</i> <b>PA02 Asian mother</b></p> <p><i>"I got counselling myself, you know, privately, so I said to them [the NHS] I'm opting out of the you know maternal kind of checks especially in terms of mental health and this apparently created a massive red flag for them ... worried that my husband was ... controlling or I don't know something. It was very strange ... and I also wondered if it was an ethnicity thing ... But I wondered about with the thing about my husband, questioning whether things were OK at home. That's when I thought you're perceiving some kind of culture, and I think even then you're probably perceiving the cultures wrong."</i> <b>PA22 Mixed ethnicity mother</b></p>



	Limited cultural safety and anti-racist practice cont.	<p>Assumptions were made around cultural practices (FGM) due to one mother's ethnicity:</p> <p><i>"In my booking appointment with my midwife ... she asked me about female genital cutting right, which I assume is a standard question that everyone gets asked. But she sort she kept like coming, she wanted to make doubly triply sure, and it felt like this was directly linked to me, saying that I'm from South Africa and as soon as I said that it felt like she had to triple check even though it felt like she had no understanding ... Because Africa is incredibly large continent with diverse practices you know female genital cutting is not practiced or particularly widespread in South Africa, but it felt like because I'd said Africa, she kind of honed in on that."</i> <b>PA20 Black mother</b></p>
	Inadequate care	<p><u>Instances of poor or inadequate care:</u></p> <p><i>"There are a lot of complications medically I was being treated or attended to last a lot ... Each time I try to visit healthcare services ... If you ask me, I think kids with colour are being treated differently from that of the White."</i> <b>PA06 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"I actually had to tour a couple of hospital. Yeah, before I could finally see one that can meet my needs well. 'Cause there are some classes that I needed to go through when I was pregnant and I would be like treated less ... I didn't feel I was given much care here. I didn't belong. I wasn't attended to like the other Whites. Yeah, I just feel I was like discriminated. I feel I wasn't given the care I needed here."</i> <b>PA15 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"Sometimes we were left unattended and sometimes we delayed to be attended to ... Doctors and nurses during childbirth should be more careful and more professionalism underlying care delivery for our Black or Asian mothers I think they should be more professional in welcoming very well, and in a more loving manner, not some making it feel the baby is already unwanted, even from birth."</i> <b>PA10 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"They kept coming into the room thinking I was somebody else and they tried to give me medicine like inject me with something... they said oh you had this last night and I was like no I didn't ... Then they'd go away and they'll be like, oh sorry, I thought you were someone else and they would appear at my bedside and then ask, oh, are you so and so? And I'm like no, and they are still looking at my name tag on my wrist as if I'm, you know, lying like. I'm like, no, that's definitely not me."</i> <b>PA04 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"I think they should be more polite, more careful and more respectful to the Black folks. I think I feel as Blacks we aren't being respected."</i> <b>PA18 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"I didn't feel like a human being, so throughout the pushing process, for example, she would reprimand me for not pushing appropriately or the right way. ... Once my daughter came out and they placed her on me I started crying 'cause I was so happy, relieved all those things and she said stop being so hysterical."</i> <b>PA20 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"Some of the health professionals were nice and some were not."</i> <b>PA06 Black mother</b></p>

	<p>Inadequate care cont.</p>	<p><i>"I think it's probably my skin colour I think had an impact on the birth and certainly my care afterwards. We were sort of left alone ... Quite a lot of the time it took a lot of my husband pushing and pushing [to get the care she needed] ... I told them I was in a lot of pain so I was denied any pain relief ... Then there was a woman in the bed next to me ... she rang the bell and someone came immediately ... and assisted her immediately."</i> <b>PA22 Mixed ethnicity mother</b></p> <p><i>"He [her child] started choking in the middle of the night. What I thought was choking and it turns out he's just bringing up like mucus. But I literally woke up ... he was making just the most horrendous sounds and I thought my child was dying. But I freaked out, pressed the buzzer and a midwife, a maternity support worker came in. They were so dismissive, she was like 'Oh yeah they do that'. 'Well, I didn't ..., I didn't know that!' ... there was no kind of like calming, reassurance. It was just like annoyance that I'd kind of buzzed them into that."</i> <b>PA23 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"The day after I was discharged, someone did ring me and say, ... you probably need a blood transfusion ... looking back he was born in August. My skin colour is usually very dark in August ... but looking at the pictures I was actually really, really pale, but nobody would have really noticed that because I was still kind of like I still had some colour ... it was only later on I thought, you know, maybe that would have been picked up on and if ... my skin colour had been more obvious."</i> <b>PA16 Asian mother</b></p> <p><i>"The baby still breastfeeds and he bit me quite hard and it got infected and was incredibly painful to feed and so I went to the doctor and I asked for her antibiotics to get rid of the infection and they looked at my nipple and said "Oh well, it's not very red". I have brown nipples, I don't have pink nipples! ... But and so they refused to give me any antibiotics."</i> <b>PA22 Mixed ethnicity mother</b></p> <p><i>"I do receive all the care but, I feel I have to you know cause a scene sometimes before I receive the care ... I would say not as easy [to access care] as some other White mum were able to access your care ... 'cause I'm not being treated the way I feel I should be treated. I should be treated as the same way the Whites are treated. I was being treated another way."</i> <b>PA17 Black mother</b></p> <p><u>Positive elements of care</u></p> <p><i>"The way I was being attended too ... the services and the care was awesome."</i> <b>PA03 Mixed ethnicity father</b></p> <p><i>"These are fantastic, to the baby, so the care is still natural. We are getting help when we need it."</i> <b>PA09 Black mother</b></p>
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	<p>Inadequate care cont.</p>	<p><i>"I think what was really good about it was that I was being briefed about the situation. I was being informed about the happenings, with all the medications. From the diagnosis to when maybe he felt better ... The care and attention I received were brilliant."</i> <b>PA08 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"I feel like a lot of people have really bad experiences and whatever, but honestly, like I had the best experience like in the hospital giving birth, like obviously like the given birth obviously is traumatic, but after that and like the care that I received, even whilst giving birth and after like was so good. Like I couldn't, I couldn't fault any of them like they were all really, really nice, from the nurses to the midwives to the doctors, like everyone."</i> <b>PA01 Other ethnicity mother</b></p> <p><i>"They've always been, you know, very kind to my son when they're interacting with him, etc. So I think it's been good from that respect, like yeah from that dimension and he's got what he needed to be healthy which is the main points I guess ... We recently had a health visitor checkup and they were very kind to him and very you know, engaging with him properly and that kind of thing, they weren't dismissive at all."</i> <b>PA22 Mixed ethnicity mother</b></p> <p><i>"The only thing that we're not satisfied with is the acknowledgement of the jaundice part. Everything else there was really helpful and was willing to help. We stayed ... an extra two nights because there was a woman there trained with breastfeeding and she was supporting [partner's name] ... It was just they missed the jaundice which we were questioning quite a lot and they were just not very responsive with doing anything with that."</i> <b>PA24 Mixed ethnicity father</b></p> <p><i>"There were some really supportive kind, lovely health care professionals that I did interact with in the time I was in hospital, but unfortunately also some not great ones ... {community} was much better. I feel like I got good support from the Community midwives for breastfeeding support. ... It just, it was personal, it was regular it felt like they were invested in my well-being, you know, the midwives from my teams because yeah, I was assigned to a particular team of midwives and so it was the same group of women coming to my house when I asked for additional breastfeeding support. So it felt like there was a continuity ... It felt like, yeah, there was a relationship established ... I really, I felt like I was taken seriously."</i> <b>PA20 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"Because he[her baby] was on oxygen, so they made decisions quite quickly ... also the one good thing was that he was the right care that he needed ... so they brought in a special lung specialist ... They did like the right set of scans, the brain scans and all those things. So those are, I think those are good things and the neonatologist knew what was going on and they were like checking everything carefully."</i> <b>PA02 Asian mother</b></p> <p><i>"When it comes to my son I'm very like 'but I don't understand that.' But can you explain that? But can you explain it again? But can you explain it again? And I'll keep telling them to explain it until I understand and I feel like they were really patient with that."</i> <b>PA01 Other ethnicity mother</b></p> <p>When asked if they were satisfied with the care they received:</p> <p><i>"Yeah I was satisfied, despite everything, I think I'm I was more satisfied with the healthcare, the services, the process, but I only had issue with the manner in which I was, uh, I attended too."</i> <b>PA18 Black mother</b></p>
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	Inadequate care cont.	<p><i>"I am satisfied because my baby was well attended to, well taken care by the nurses and the doctor. And anytime I go to the hospital I receive amazing care from people in the hospital ... I was being listened to and I anytime I have challenges and I ask a question, they're always willing to bring the answers. That was amazing for me."</i> <b>PA12 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"From the GP, yeah. Not so much the health visiting team ... I like my GP surgery. They're always very helpful, very friendly. If I have concerns for any of the kids, I can phone up and speak to someone or they'll see them. They usually see them in the day if they think it's necessary. ... The Doctor that does the six week checks is a paediatric specialist ... She's really knowledgeable, so I really like that. She answers loads of random questions that you might have. Just really reassuring for new parents."</i> <b>PA23 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"With the health visitor, I did feel like she cared and she genuinely listened and you know, helped me and gave me advice and this made me feel seen and listened to."</i> <b>PA13 Asian mother</b></p> <p>Although for one father he believed this was because he chose the place of perinatal care carefully:  <i>"OK yeah I would say yes satisfied ... in the term of quality that we did get was quite OK. Yeah, because I had to do a lot of should I say background search on the type of hospital which I should get administered with, so I would say that the level of care was OK."</i> <b>PA11 Black father</b></p>
<b>Contextual issues</b>	Parental isolation	<p><i>"To add another complicated layer, like not having any family around must be very, very, very difficult."</i> <b>PA02 Asian mother</b></p> <p><i>"The COVID restrictions at the time they were quite confusing and it meant that you know, literally straight after half an hour after delivery my partner wasn't there. So I did feel quite isolated."</i> <b>PA21 Other ethnicity mother</b></p>
	Societal discrimination	<p>Expectation of discrimination within society:  <i>"It's hard, I think when you are of colour. You sometimes don't know, you kind of you don't know if you are being treated different or your child is being treat differently because of you know that ethnicity or whether it's in your head, because sometimes that it's there in your head anyways."</i> <b>PA13 Asian mother</b></p> <p><i>"It's more of a silent treatment where you know that when you walk in a room, they will never like turn around and say anything to you. But I feel like, it's more like you feel a bit uncomfortable, like say if I'm the only person in the room with my scarf or whatever."</i> <b>PA01 Other ethnicity mother</b></p> <p>Recognised as different for different ethnicities:  <i>"I would imagine that Black people would [experience inequalities]. I mean it's just like it might say it's in life in general that people don't think of Indian Asian people as being uneducated or not understanding English ... Generally like I, I don't really experience racism too badly."</i> <b>PA16 Asian mother</b></p>

<b>Health inequalities</b>	Maternity outcomes	<p><i>"Shortly after he [her son] was born ... There was a report on maternal deaths and baby deaths ... that was talking about maternity care for Black and mixed race women and of course there are higher deaths etc not, of course it shouldn't be, of course, but there are ... there was a paragraph about, uh, just the experience of Black and mixed race women in general and the whole thing I was like, Oh my God, that's exactly what happened to me. You know, the denial of pain relief the denial of your partner being there, lack of care, lack of attention, all this kind of stuff and I just thought, oh, I wasn't going mad."</i> <b>PA22 Mixed ethnicity mother</b></p> <p><i>"We live in a society where most minority people tend to get low quality care and yeah, I would say initially the response or the reaction I got from the doctors in the hospital [talking about 1<sup>st</sup> hospital he went to], as I was actually there with my wife I thought of getting a low quality care because you could actually read it from the looks of people."</i> <b>PA11 Black father</b></p> <p><i>"Another interesting thing I observed when I was in in NICU [neonatal intensive care unit], because I was there for one month, I was sitting there and I was like looking at the mothers, and I see that so many mothers are from ethnic minorities, so many of them and I didn't see many mothers from White backgrounds."</i> <b>PA02 Asian mother</b></p> <p><i>"It's more stressful. I would say the process is more stressful for the Blacks, Black mothers giving birth, yeah, than White."</i> <b>PA10 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"Now, just because of the way I was treated and I said especially 'cause I think certainly my mental health has suffered and it's definitely because of the birth."</i> <b>PA22 Mixed ethnicity mother</b></p>
	Impact on parental reproductive choices	<p><i>"We kind of have some couple of hospital that's still racial discriminate. Yeah, so before I have to go to there, I needed to like access like three to four hospital. Yeah, before I can actually get one that fits my needs ... I go to the hospital like just come for an appointment ... and I can just try to assess the quality of treatment ... for the first two hospital I wasn't satisfied."</i> <b>PA15 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"You probably should try as much as possible to secure a hospital where your baby will be born and I did that too about, let's say three hospitals. Yeah, I went to the 1st and I saw the way they treated people of ethnic minority and I didn't quite like that ... So I had to keep on looking for hospitals, and I think it was actually the third one I was referred by my friend."</i> <b>PA11 Black father</b></p> <p><i>"By the time I was having my third I was like I don't really wanna step foot in hospital ... It was nice because I think the, the dynamics the power balance was slightly different because they were in my house. So I think I felt more in control of the situation and so that was nice."</i> <b>PA23 Black mother</b></p> <p><i>"All the other stuff definitely contributed to why I wanted to avoid those sorts of kind of the hospital experience, because I knew that I'd also be perceived as not just Black, not just African but also an immigrant."</i> <b>PA20 Black mother</b></p>

	Impact on perinatal reproductive choices cont.	<p><i>"My intention was to have a home birth specifically to avoid the potential for discrimination and racism within the maternity services. I hired a doula ... I guess again, part of the reason why I wanted to have a home birth was ...to avoid the inequalities that I knew existed from a statistical perspective, I knew that there are you know higher rates of maternal and infant morbidity and mortality and so I want my whole intention of choosing home birth, was trying to avoid that."</i></p> <p><b>PA20 Black mother</b></p>
	Mismanaged care	<p><i>"I think, uh, the my delivery should have managed better so my baby would have not gone through the trauma he went through ... I think it's like a totally avoidable trauma and a cost to the NHS at the end I mean it was a massive cost to the NHS that could have avoided easily."</i></p> <p><b>PA02 Asian mother</b></p> <p><i>"I was mindful of, like an assumption that if I didn't do what they said there was ... an extra layer of fear that they would report what I said or I'd be marked as not adhering to medical advice and that could lead to further interventions."</i></p> <p><b>PA20 Black mother</b></p>