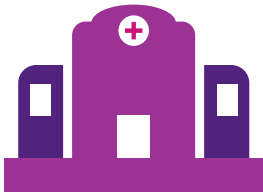




Previous Postpartum Haemorrhage and Thinking about Birth in a Midwifery Unit?

Information from a national research study



Midwifery units are often known as birth centres. This research was carried out alongside midwifery units (AMUs), which are in hospitals that also have a labour ward or delivery suite.



What is a "Postpartum Haemorrhage"?

Postpartum haemorrhage (or PPH), is excessive bleeding after birth. It is usually defined as blood loss of 500 mls or more (about a pint). Blood loss of more than 1500 mls (3 pints), is called "severe PPH".



Talk to your midwife and make a care plan that suits you. A midwifery unit birth might not be best for everyone. If you have other conditions, these results may not apply to you.



Did you have a PPH after a previous birth?

Women who have had PPH before, and are admitted to an AMU for labour care, are **more likely** to have **another PPH**, compared with women who have given birth before, but not had a PPH. However, the overall risk of having another PPH is similar to women giving birth in other settings.

Women with a previous PPH

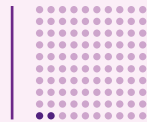


4 out of 100 women had another PPH that needed care from a doctor

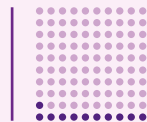


23 out of 100 women had a blood loss of 500 mls or more

Women without a previous PPH



2 out of 100 women had a PPH that needed care from a doctor



11 out of 100 women had a blood loss of 500 mls or more



Your previous birthing experiences are one of the things your health care team will take into account when they give you advice about where to have your baby.



This information comes from a national study carried out in 123 AMUs in the UK, over 12 months, by the UKMidSS team at the University of Oxford.

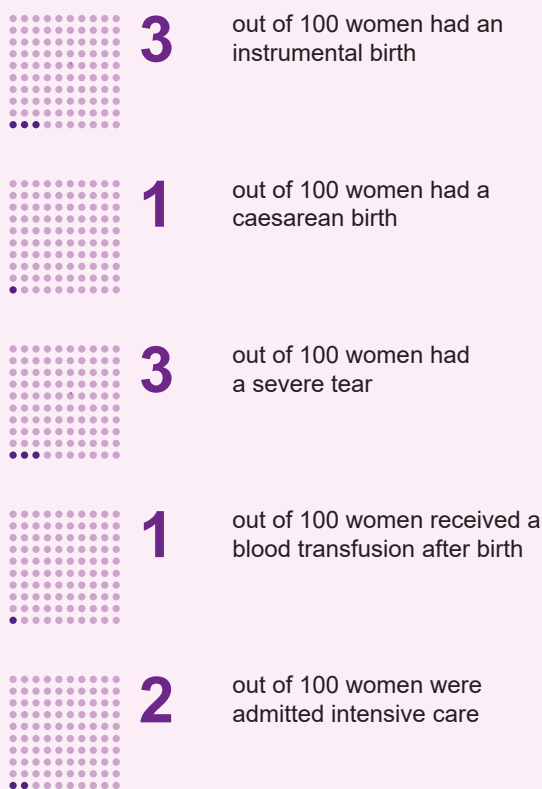
What we did?

- We collected information about 1866 women who laboured in an AMU after having had a PPH in a previous birth.
- We compared what happened to those women and their babies with a group of 1784 women in the same AMUs who had given birth before, but had not had a PPH before.
- The **main outcome** we looked at was whether women had a PPH after birth that meant they needed care from a doctor.
- We also looked at whether women:
 - Had any PPH (not necessarily needing care from a doctor)
 - Had a severe tear after birth
 - Had birth with instruments (forceps or ventouse) or a caesarean
 - Had a blood transfusion after birth
 - Were admitted to intensive care after birth

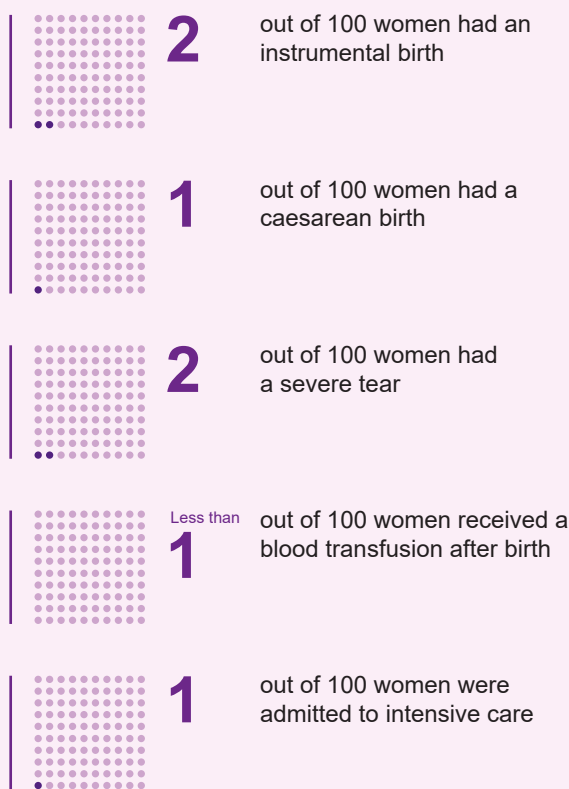
What else did we find?

We found no differences between women who had a previous PPH, and women who had not, in having a birth with forceps or ventouse; a caesarean birth; experiencing a severe tear; or needing a blood transfusion or intensive care.

Women with a previous PPH



Women with out a previous PPH



Risk factors for another PPH

If you are admitted to an AMU for labour care, and have had a previous PPH, these factors mean that you are more likely to have another PPH.

