

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

RF23-669

Request:

From November 1st 2021 to the current time, November 2023

Ref. Mothers at the point of discharge, regardless of when post natal discharge takes place or if a mother is readmitted and re-discharged, from East Kent Hosp. maternity services during the early post natal period following delivery.

How many mothers being assessed or measured by any prescribed method, for example, by observation, recorded and historical notes, or psychological or psychiatric scale inventories, identified as having mental health difficulties and/or concerns, or a condition of any level, from for example, symptoms of mild anxiety and depressive symptoms, to more severe conditions like psychosis and suicidality, during the period stated above, 1st November 2021 to November 2023.

If possible please state what type of and/or level of mental health condition the mothers were assessed as having. For example. by numerical scale i.e. 1-20, or as described above i.e. depression, anxiety, and psychosis, suicidality.

Please, if possible, very kindly break these down into smaller periods of perhaps 6 months, as above, to allow comparisons for example in monthly or seasonal variables and service changes that have taken place over the 2-year period.

Please very kindly quantify these to show how many mothers, in figures, and, what percentage does this figure constitute of the total of mothers for that period.

For example:

Between November 1st 2021 and 30th April 2022, 250 out of 1000 mothers, this being 25% of all mothers discharged between 1- and 20-days post nately were shown to have a mental health difficulty and/or concern... and so on to November 2023 please.

Response:

We can confirm East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) holds the information you have requested.

Mothers at the point of discharge:

Type	Nov 2021 Apr 2022	May 2022 Oct 2022	Nov 2022 - Apr 2023	May 2023 - Oct 2023	Total
Anxious	7	14	12	14	47
Depression	1	4	2	2	9
Mental health problem	5	2	3	7	17
All Discharges	2,693	2,738	2,427	2,663	10,521
% with recorded Mental Health issue	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%	0.9%	2.7%

Please note that the information provided is the electronically recorded number of women discharged (postnatally) with a documented mental health concern **during the postnatal period**. We record more mental health information during the antenatal period, which is contained in the women's records for the information of medical professionals during the postnatal period. However, to obtain this information would exceed the appropriate cost limit as set out in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

(DATE OF RESPONSE: 20 NOVEMBER 2023)