

The first set of questions will focus on your experience with a Mother and Baby Institution.

Which of the following best describes your experience?

- ☐ I was adopted through a Mother and Baby institution.
- ☐ I spent time in a Mother and Baby Institution before/during/after the birth of my child.

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Please select 'yes' or 'no' to the following questions:

	Yes	No
Have you ever shared your experiences of being in a Mother and Baby institution with others?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If yes, approximately how many people? <div></div>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are you in contact with anyone else who had experience of a Mother and Baby institution?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Please select how often you have experienced the following situations:

Never                      Once                      More than  
once                      Many times

I have had a conversation with someone I am close to about my adoption through a Mother and Baby institution.

☐☐☐☐

I was open with someone that I am close to about my feelings about my adoption through a Mother and Baby institution.

☐☐☐☐

Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about your adoption through a Mother and Baby institution:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I can talk to the people I am close to about my adoption through a Mother and Baby institution.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I can trust the people I am close to with information about my adoption through a Mother and Baby institution.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I fear that others would know that I was adopted through a Mother and Baby institution.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My identity as someone adopted through a Mother and Baby institution is an inconvenience in my daily life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My identity as someone adopted through a Mother and Baby institution is a burden to me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I avoid interacting with others because I was adopted through a Mother and Baby institution.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I feel like I cannot do anything about my status as someone adopted through a Mother and Baby institution.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Others who were adopted through a Mother and Baby institution share my experience.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Others who were adopted through a Mother and Baby institution share my feelings.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Others who were adopted through a Mother and Baby institution share my beliefs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Others who were adopted through a Mother and Baby institution share my burdens.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I feel detached from others who were adopted through a Mother and Baby institution.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I'm unhappy about my association with Mother and Baby institutions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I'm quite different from others who were adopted through a Mother and Baby institution.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If/when other people knew about your adoption through a Mother and Baby institution, how likely do you think the following would be to happen?

	Not at all likely	Somewhat unlikely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Somewhat likely	Very likely
People acting as if you are inferior.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Being treated with less respect than others.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People not wanting to get to know you better.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Not at all likely      Somewhat unlikely      Neither likely nor unlikely      Somewhat likely      Very likely

People not wanting to get involved in an intimate relationship with you.



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The next set of questions will focus on your life since leaving the Mother and Baby institution.

Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
There are people in my life that really care about me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There are people in my life that I can count on to help me if I really need it.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have people in my life that provide me with a sense of emotional security and wellbeing.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel committed to my family.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am glad to be a part of my family.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Being a part of my family is an important part of how I see myself.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I identify with my family.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

I feel committed to others who were adopted through a Mother and Baby institution.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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I am glad to be someone adopted through a Mother and Baby institution.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Being someone adopted through a Mother and Baby institution is an important part of how I see myself.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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I identify with others who were adopted through a Mother and Baby institution.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Because of my adoption, I feel disconnected from my adoptive family.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
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	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Because of my adoption, I feel disconnected from my birth family.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Because of my adoption, I feel disconnected from my community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Because of my adoption, I feel disconnected from other Irish people.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Because of my adoption, I feel like I have lost some important aspects of who I am.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I see my adoption as central to my identity.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

We will now ask you about your national identity and your experiences with the national government.

Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I feel committed to Irish people.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I am glad to be Irish.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Being Irish is an important part of how I see myself.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I identify with Irish people.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

As a survivor of the Irish Mother and Baby Institutions, we would like to ask you some questions about the Irish state:

	Not at all	Not much	Neutral	Some	A lot
How much do you trust the national government?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How much do you trust the national government's response to historical abuses in Mother and Baby institutions?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In thinking about the events related to Mother and Baby institutions, did the national government play a role by:

Yes

Actively supporting you with resources (e.g., counselling, academic services, accommodation, meetings or phone calls).

☐

Apologising for what happened to you.

☐

Inviting you to be involved in the Mother and Baby Home Commission of Investigation.

☐

Not doing enough to prevent this type of experience.

☐

Creating an environment in which this type of experience seemed common or normal.

☐

Creating an environment in which this experience was more likely to occur.

☐

Making it difficult to report the experiences.

☐

Responding inadequately to the experiences, if reported.

☐

Mishandling your case, if legislative action was required.

☐

Covering up the experiences.

☐

Denying your experiences in some way.

☐

Punishing you in some way for reporting the experiences (e.g., loss of privileges or status).

☐

Suggesting your experiences might negatively affect the reputation of Irish society.

☐

Creating an environment where you no longer felt like a valued member of Irish society.

☐

Creating an environment where staying in Irish society was difficult for you.

☐

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While you were growing up, during your first 18 years of life...

Yes

No

Did a parent or other adult in the household often: Swear at you, insult you, put you down, or humiliate you? Or act in a way that made you afraid that you might be physically hurt?

☐
☐

Did a parent or other adult in the household often: Push, grab, slap, or throw something at you? Or ever hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?

☐
☐

Did an adult or person at least 5 years older than you ever: Touch or fondle you or have you touch their body in a sexual way? Or try to or actually have oral, anal, or vaginal sex with you?

☐
☐

Did you often feel that: No one in your family loved you or thought you were important or special? Or your family didn't look out for each other, feel close to each other, or support each other?

☐
☐

Yes

No

Did you often feel that: You didn't have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, and had no one to protect you? Or your parents were too drunk or high to take care of you or take you to the doctor if you needed it?

☐☐

Were your parents ever separated or divorced?

☐☐

Thinking of your mother or stepmother: Were they often or very often pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at her? Or sometimes, often, or very often kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard? Or ever repeatedly hit over at least a few minutes or threatened with a gun or knife?

☐☐

Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic, or who used street drugs?

☐☐

Was a household member depressed or mentally ill, or did a household member attempt suicide?

☐☐

Did a household member go to prison?

☐☐

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The next set of questions are going to ask about your current health and life circumstances.

Please rate your health from 1 (poor) – 10 (excellent)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Physical Health



Mental Health



In the last two weeks, how often have you had negative feelings such as blue mood, despair, anxiety, depression?

Never

Not very often

Quite often

Very often

Always



How would you rate your quality of life?

Very poor



Poor



Neither poor nor good



Good



Very good



Please select the option that is closest to how you have been feeling over the past two weeks:

At no time	Some of the time	Less than half the time	More than half of the time	Most of the time	All of the time
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I have felt cheerful  
and in good spirits.



○



I have felt calm  
and relaxed.



○



I have felt active.



○



I woke up feeling  
fresh and rested.



○



My daily life has been filled with things that interest me.



○





Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

[illegible]

Strongly disagree   Disagree   Disagree slightly   Agree   Slightly Agree   Strongly Agree

I have had important new insights about how past events have influenced my current mental health and behaviour.

☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

I have learned important new ways of thinking about my 'self' and my problems.

☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

Do you currently use any of the following to cope with your experiences of Mother and Baby institutions?

Never   Sometimes   Most of the time   Always

Alcohol

☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

Prescribed Medication

☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

Other

☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

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State your age in years:

What gender do you identify with?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Non-binary / third gender
- ☐ Prefer not to say

What describes your current relationship status?

- ☐ Single
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Widowed
- ☐ In a romantic relationship (e.g., dating exclusively)
- ☐ Cohabiting (i.e., living with your romantic partner)

What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- ☐ Primary School
- ☐ Junior Certificate (or inter-cert or similar)
- ☐ Leaving Certificate (or similar)
- ☐ Vocational Training or Apprenticeship (e.g. FAS)
- ☐ FETAC Qualification
- ☐ Bachelors degree (level 8)
- ☐ Masters degree (level 9)
- ☐ Doctoral degree/PhD (level 10)
- ☐ Professional Degree (e.g., MD)
- ☐ Other, please specify

Are you employed?

- ☐ Yes (full-time, around or more than 40 hours a week)
- ☐ Yes (part-time, less than 40 hours a week)
- ☐ No

Please now think of this ladder with 10 rungs as representing people with different levels of income, education, and occupation status in your country. People at the top of the ladder are those who are the best off, have the most money, most education, and best jobs, whereas people at the bottom of the ladder are those who are the worst off, have the least money, least education, and worst jobs or no job.



Where would you place yourself on this ladder?

- ☐ 1 – worst off
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7

- ☐ 8
- ☐ 9
- ☐ 10 – best off

Do you know how long you were in the Mother and Baby institution? (Please select the closest option)

- ☐ Less than 1 month.
- ☐ 1 to 3 months.
- ☐ 4 to 6 months.
- ☐ 7 to 12 months.
- ☐ More than 12 months.
- ☐ I'm not sure.

Are you eligible for the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme? (Select one)

- ☐ Yes, I am eligible and I have applied.
- ☐ Yes, I am eligible and I have received the payment.
- ☐ Yes, I am eligible but I have not applied.
- ☐ No, I am not eligible.
- ☐ I'm not sure.

Have you applied for your birth or adoption information under the Birth Information and Tracing Act? (Select one)

- ☐ Yes, I have applied and received the documents.
- ☐ Yes, I have applied but received no information.
- ☐ Yes, I have applied and am still waiting for a response.
- ☐ No, I have not applied.
- ☐ I was not aware of the Birth Information and Tracing Act.
- ☐ I'm not sure.

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### Debrief

Thank you for taking part in our study. Your help is very important to our research.

If you have any questions about the study, please contact the researchers at

dearbhla.moroney@ul.ie or catriona.shelly@ul.ie

If you need support after completing the survey, you can access priority support from the National Counselling Service by mentioning that you were referred through the survey.

<https://www2.hse.ie/mental-health/services-support/ncs/>

To receive a €10 Tesco voucher for completing the survey, please follow this link\*: [click here](#)



\*vouchers are only valid within the Republic of Ireland.

Email addresses and mobile numbers are kept separate from the questionnaire answers.

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