

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 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"/>
Are you in contact with someone who you shared your time with in a Mother and Baby institution?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have you ever searched for someone you shared your time with in a Mother and Baby institution?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Please select how often you experienced the following situations:

Never

Once

More than once

Many times

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

☐☐☐☐

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

☐☐☐☐

I felt the support of someone that I am close to during the time of my experience in a Mother and Baby institution.

☐☐☐☐

Please select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about your experience in 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 experience in 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 can trust the people I
am close to with
information about my
experience in a Mother
and Baby institution.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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When I was in the
Mother and Baby
institution, I felt
supported by the
people I was close to.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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I fear that others would
know I was in a Mother
and Baby institution.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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My identity as
someone who was in 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"/>
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Strongly
disagree

Disagree

Neither agree
nor disagree

Agree

Strongly
agree

My identity as a
someone who was in 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"/>
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I avoid interacting with
others because I was
in a Mother and Baby
institution.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

I feel like I cannot do
anything about my
status as someone
who was in a Mother
and Baby institution.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

Others who were in a Mother and Baby institution share my experience.

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

Others who were in a Mother and Baby institution share my feelings.

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Others who were in a Mother and Baby institution share my beliefs.

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

Others who were in a Mother and Baby institution share my burdens.

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I feel detached from others who were in a Mother and Baby institution.

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I'm unhappy about my association with Mother and Baby institutions.

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I'm quite different from others who were in a Mother and Baby institution.

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

If/when other people knew about your experience in 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"/>
People not wanting to get involved in an intimate relationship with you.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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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"/>

Experiences of Mother and Baby Institutions

Being a part of my family is an important part of how I see myself.

☐☐☐☐☐

I identify with my family.

☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

I feel committed to others who were in a Mother and Baby institution.

☐☐☐☐☐

I am glad to be a mother with experience of a Mother and Baby institution.

☐☐☐☐☐

Being a mother with experience of a Mother and Baby institution is an important part of how I see myself.

☐☐☐☐☐

I identify with others who were in a Mother and Baby institution.

☐☐☐☐☐

Because my child was adopted, I feel disconnected from my family.

☐☐☐☐☐

Because my child was adopted, I feel disconnected from my community.

☐☐☐☐☐

Because my child was adopted, I feel disconnected from other Irish people.

☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Because my child was adopted, 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"/>
My identity as a Mother and Baby institution survivor is central to who I am.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I like being a traditional female.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I think that most women will feel fulfilled by being a wife and a mother.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I think it's lucky that women aren't expected to do some of the more dangerous jobs that men are expected to do, like construction work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I do not want to have equal status with men.	<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
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Experiences of Mother and Baby Institutions

I feel committed to Irish people.

☐☐☐☐☐

I am glad to be Irish.

☐☐☐☐☐

Being Irish is an important part of how I see myself.

☐☐☐☐☐

I identify with Irish people.

☐☐☐☐☐

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

Somewhat

A lot

How much do you trust the national government?

☐☐☐☐☐

How much do you trust the national government's response to historical abuses in Mother and Baby institutions?

☐☐☐☐☐

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

Yes

No

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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We are going to ask you some questions about events in your life that most people find scary, upsetting, or stressful. Please think about your whole life when answering these questions.

1. Have you ever been separated from your child against your will (for example, the loss of custody or visitation or forced adoption)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. Have you ever had a very serious accident or accident-related injury (for example, a bad car wreck or an on-the-job accident)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

3. Were you or a close family member ever sent to jail?

☐ Yes

☐ No

4. Were you ever put in foster care or put up for adoption?

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. Did your parents ever separate or divorce while you were living with them?

☐ Yes

☐ No

6. Have you ever been separated or divorced?

☐ Yes

☐ No

7. Have you ever had serious money problems (for example, not enough money for food or a place to live)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

8. Have you ever had a very serious physical or mental illness (for example, cancer, heart attack, serious operation, felt like killing yourself, hospitalised because of nerve problems)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

9. Have you ever been emotionally abused or neglected (for example, being frequently shamed, embarrassed, ignored, or repeatedly told that you were “no good”)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

10. Have you ever been physically neglected (for example, not fed, not properly clothed, or left to take care of yourself when you were too young or ill)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

11. Have you ever had an abortion or miscarriage (lost your baby)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

12. Has a baby or child of yours ever had a severe physical or mental disability (for example, intellectual disabilities, birth defects, can't hear, see, walk)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

13. Have you ever been responsible for taking care of someone close to you (not your child) who had a severe physical or mental disability (for example, cancer, stroke, AIDS, nerve problems, can't hear, see, walk)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

14. Has someone close to you died suddenly or unexpectedly (for example, sudden heart attack, murder or suicide)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

15. When you were young (before age 16), did you ever see violence between family members (for example, hitting, kicking, slapping, punching)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

16. Have you ever been robbed, mugged, or physically attacked (not sexually) by someone you did not know?

☐ Yes

☐ No

17. Before age 16, were you ever abused or physically attacked (not sexually) by someone you knew (for example, a parent, boyfriend, or husband, hit, slapped, choked, burned, or beat you up)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

18. After age 16, were you ever abused or physically attacked (not sexually) by someone you knew (for example, a parent, boyfriend, or husband hit, slapped, choked, burned, or beat you up)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

19. Have you ever been bothered or harassed by sexual remarks, jokes, or demands for sexual favours by someone at work or school (for example, a coworker, a boss, a customer, another student, a teacher)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

20. Before age 16, were you ever touched or made to touch someone else in a sexual way because he/she forced you in some way or threatened to harm you if you didn't?

☐ Yes

☐ No

21. After age 16, were you ever touched or made to touch someone else in a sexual way because he/she forced you in some way or threatened to harm you if you didn't?

☐ Yes

☐ No

22. Before age 16, did you ever have sex (oral, anal, genital) when you didn't want to because someone forced you in some way or threatened to hurt you if you didn't?

☐ Yes

☐ No

23. After age 16, did you ever have sex (oral, anal, genital) when you didn't want to because someone forced you in some way or threatened to harm you if you didn't?

☐ Yes

☐ No

24. Are there any events we did not include that you would like to mention?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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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
I have felt cheerful and in good spirits.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have felt calm and relaxed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have felt active.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I woke up feeling fresh and rested.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My daily life has been filled with things that interest me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Disagree slightly

Agree

Slightly Agree

Strongly Agree

I enjoy making plans for the future and working to make them a reality.

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

My daily activities often seem trivial and unimportant to me.

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

I am an active person in carrying out the plans I set for myself.

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

I don't have a good sense of what it is I'm trying to accomplish in my life.

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

I sometimes feel as if I've done all there is to do in life.

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

I live life one day at a time and don't really think about the future.

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

I have a sense of direction and purpose in my life.

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

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	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prescribed Medication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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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.

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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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