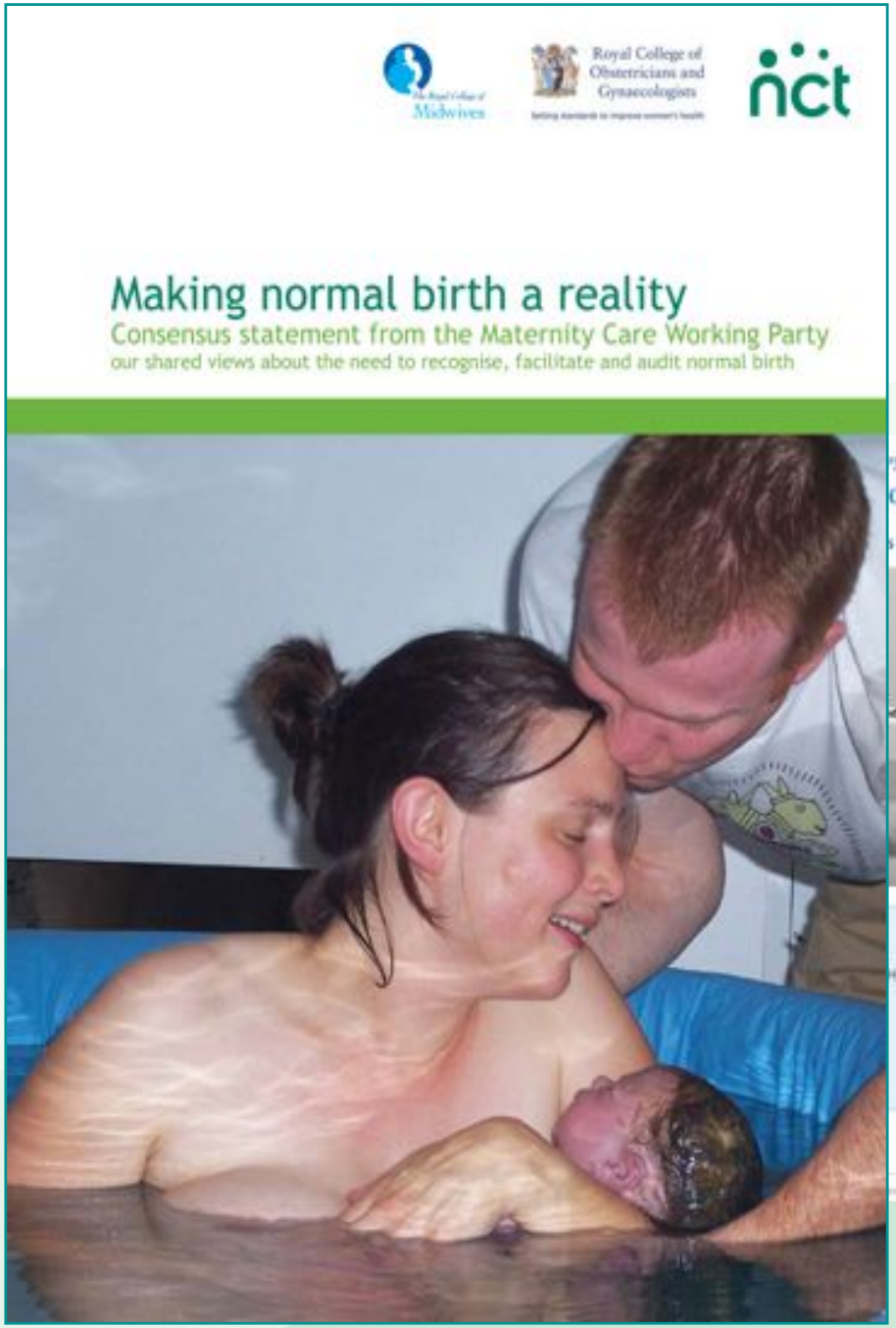
# Location, location, location

## Women's access to choice of place of birth

**Mary Newburn** – Head of Research and Information, NCT

**Jay Francis** – Campaigns Project Officer, NCT

# What do women and their partners want?

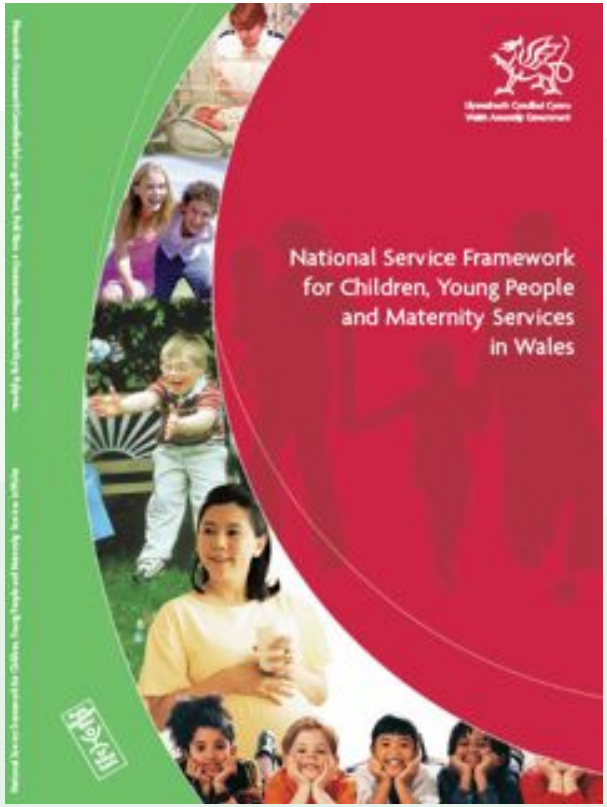

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
nct
Making normal birth a reality
Consensus statement from the Maternity Care Working Party
our shared views about the need to recognise, facilitate and audit normal birth

nct

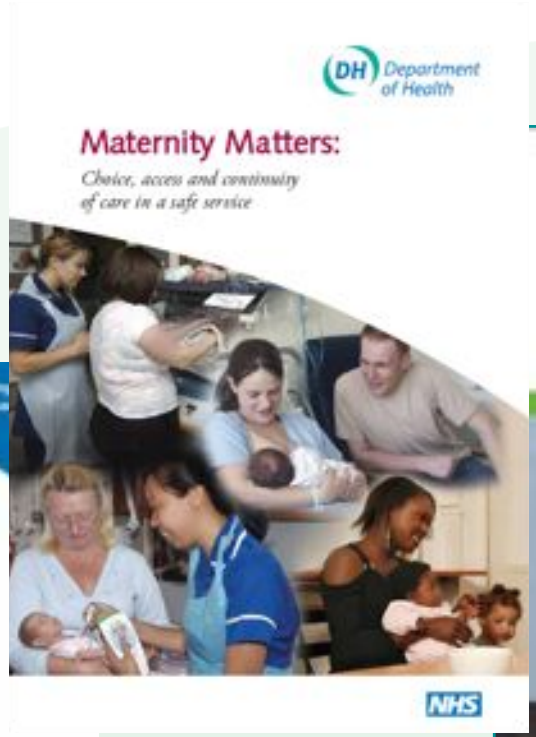
A Framework for maternity services in Scotland
February 2001

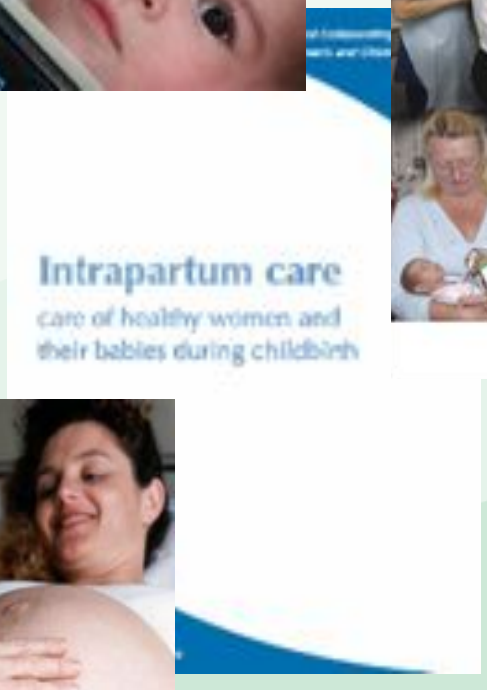
education and skills
Department of Health
Maternity Services

"REALISING THE POTENTIAL"
A Strategic Framework for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting in Wales into the 21st Century
Briefing Paper 4
"DELIVERING THE FUTURE IN WALES"
A Framework for Realising the Potential of Midwives in Wales
June 2002

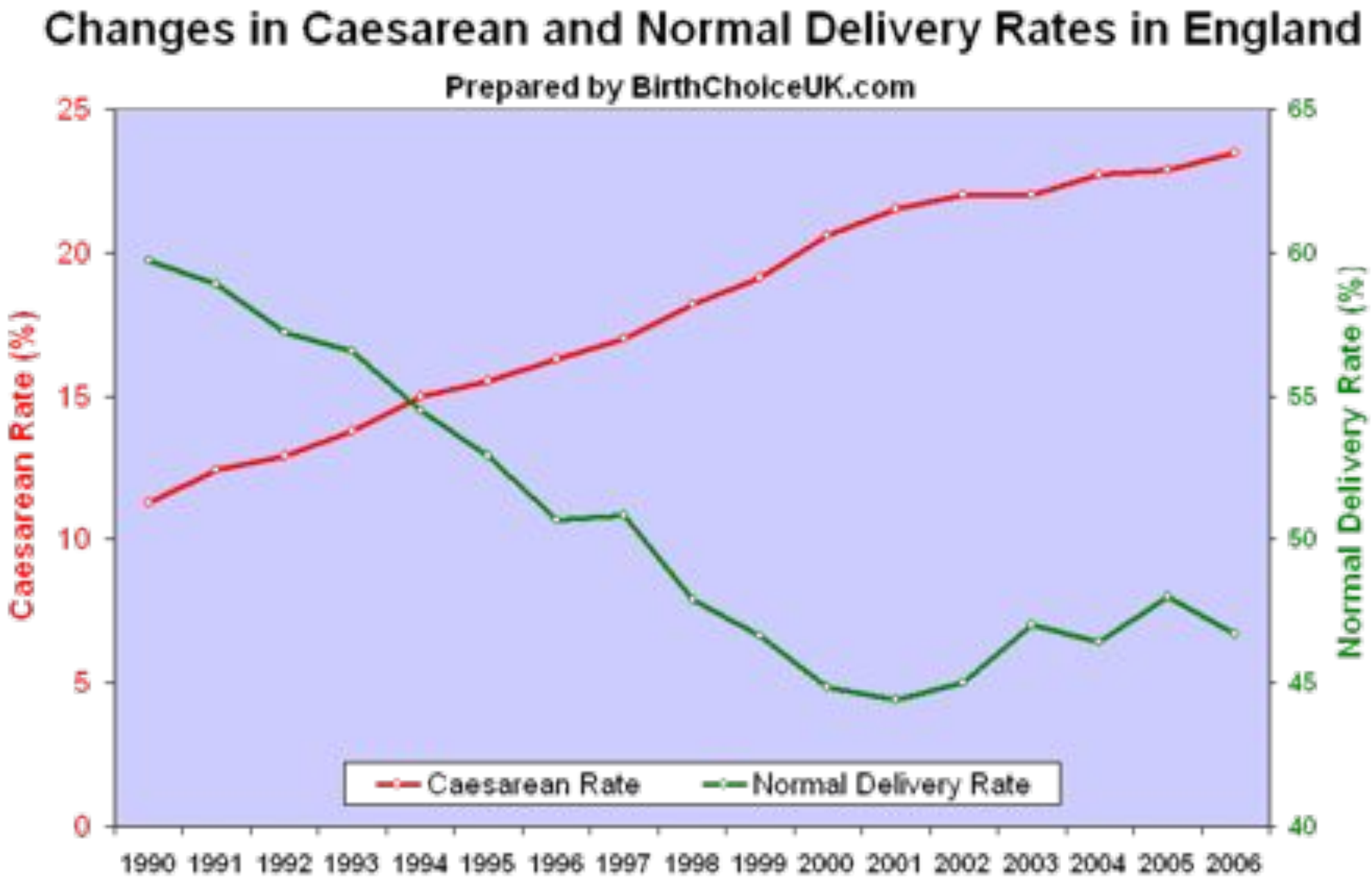

National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services in Wales

# Implementation






KCND -Scotland


Changes in Caesarean and Normal Delivery Rates in England
Prepared by BirthChoiceUK.com
Caesarean Rate (%)
Normal Delivery Rate (%)
25
20
15
10
5
0
65
60
55
50
45
40
1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006
Caesarean Rate
Normal Delivery Rate

# 2008-09 Maternity Statistics for England

| | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Caesarean Rate | 24.3% | 24.6% | 24.6% |
| Instrumental Delivery Rate | 11.5% | 12.1% | 12.2% |
| Forceps | 4.5% | 5.0% | 5.5% |

# Home, birth centre, hospital

# Healthcare Commission

- 80% of women reported choice
- Only 51% had enough information
- Only 57% offered home birth

# But…

"So far they have refused to give me a guarantee they will attend me if I have a home birth due to potential staff shortages"

**Rebecca**

"The first thing the midwife asked me was, 'Which hospital do you want to go to?'"

**Sarah**

"I wasn't given any choices about where to give birth. It was assumed that it would be in the hospital! When I mentioned the option of having a home birth it was quickly pushed aside and replaced with "Not really a good idea when you're having your first, is it?" So I didn't pursue it any more."

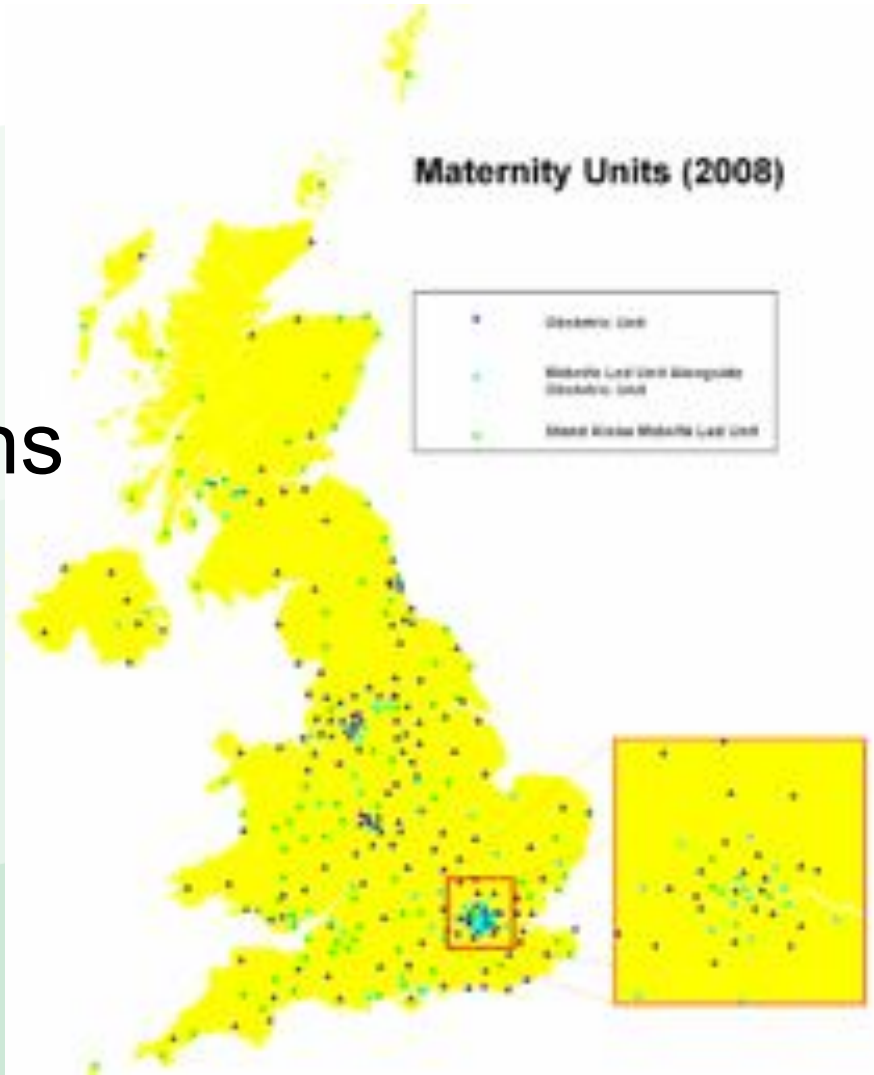
**Henri**

# Research

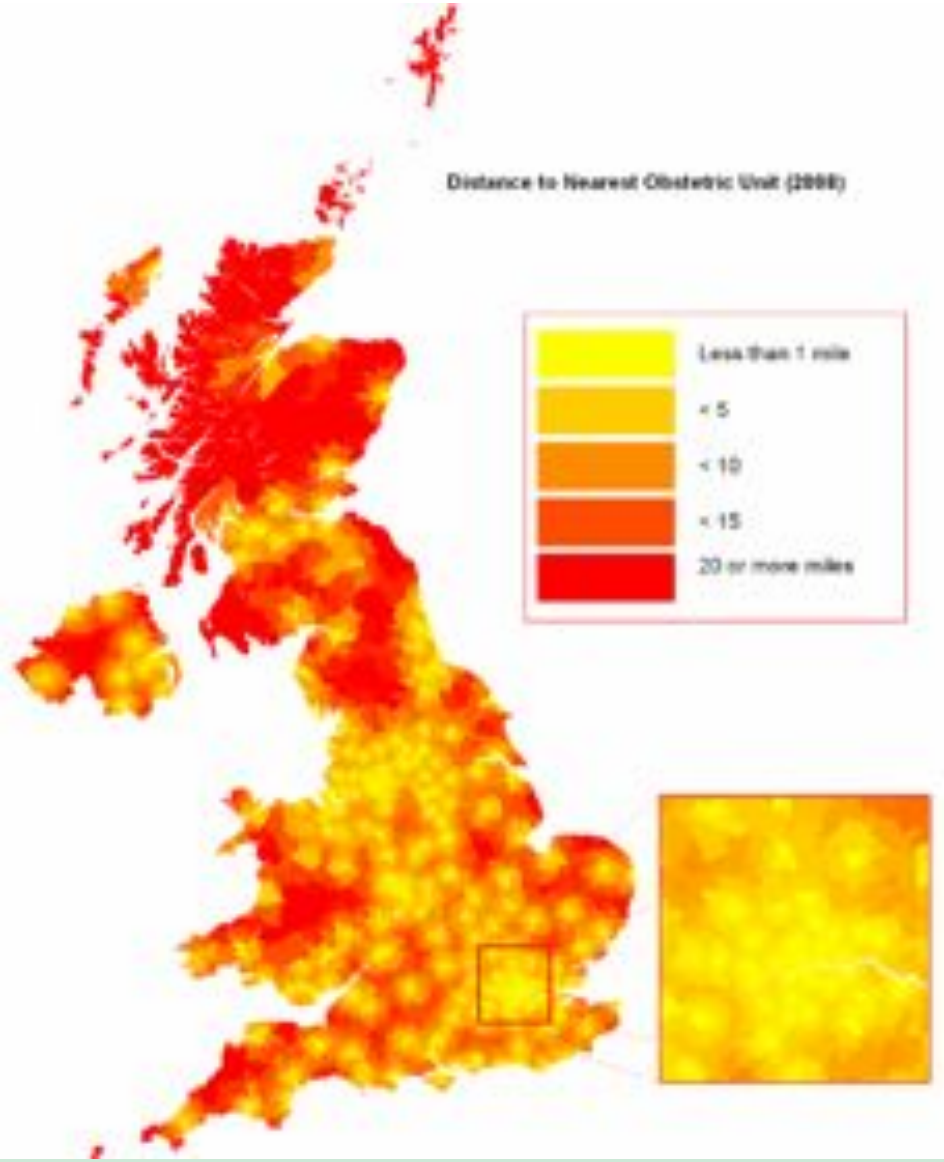
Extent of choice

- Obstetric unit ≤ 30 mins
- Birth centre ≤ 30 mins

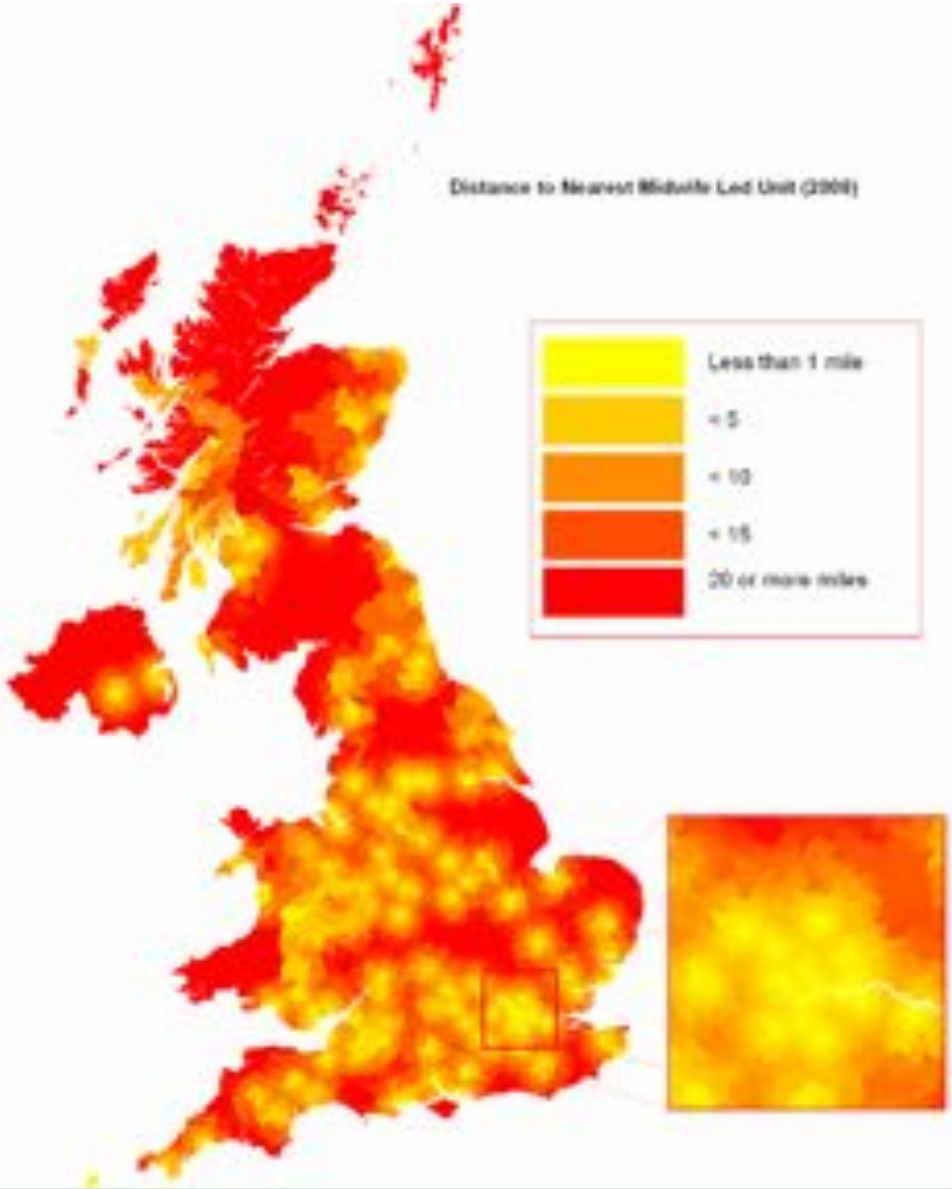
- Urban < 7.5 miles
- Rural <15 miles



# Access to an obstetric unit



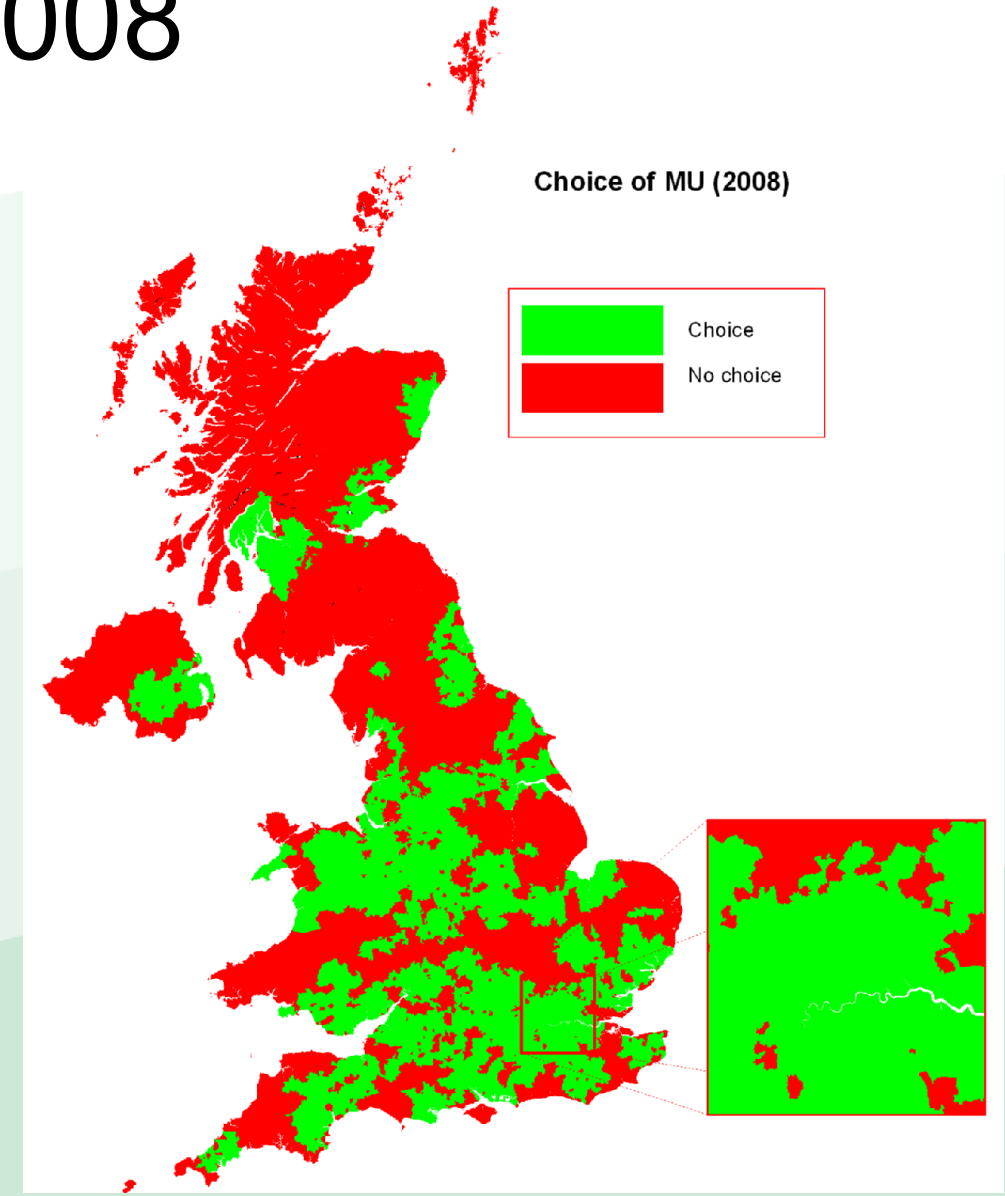
# Access to a birth centre



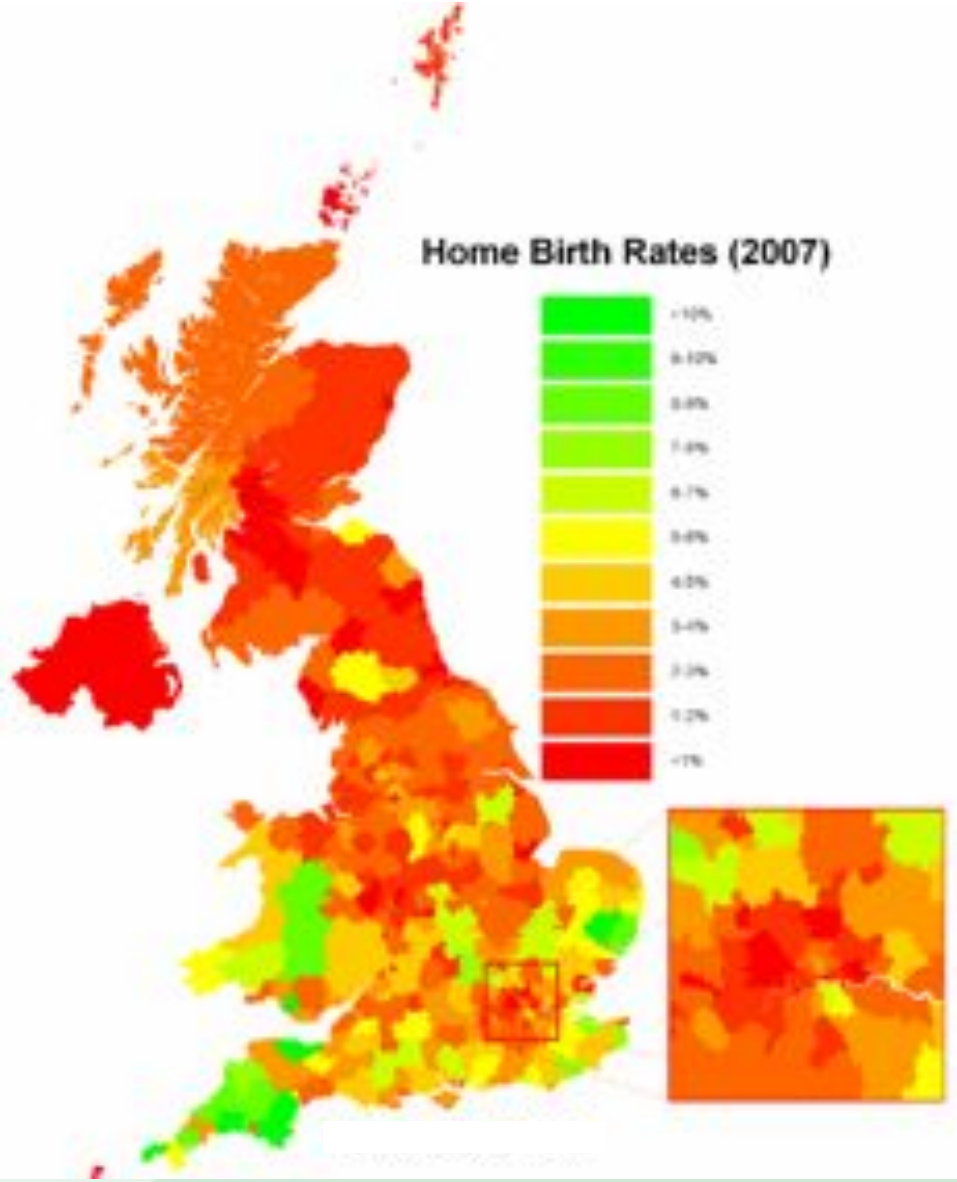
# ‘Reasonable’ access to both an OU and BC 2008

- UK – 58%

- Scotland – 42%
- NI – 45%
- England – 59%
- Wales – 60%



# Home birth rates 2007




| Country | 2001 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|
| England | 2.1% | 2.8% |
| Wales | 1.9% | 3.7% |
| Scotland | 0.9% | 1.5% |
| Northern Ireland | 0.2% | 0.3% |
| UK | 1.9% | 2.7% |

Home birth ≥ 5%

# Home birth rates 2007

- UK – 11%

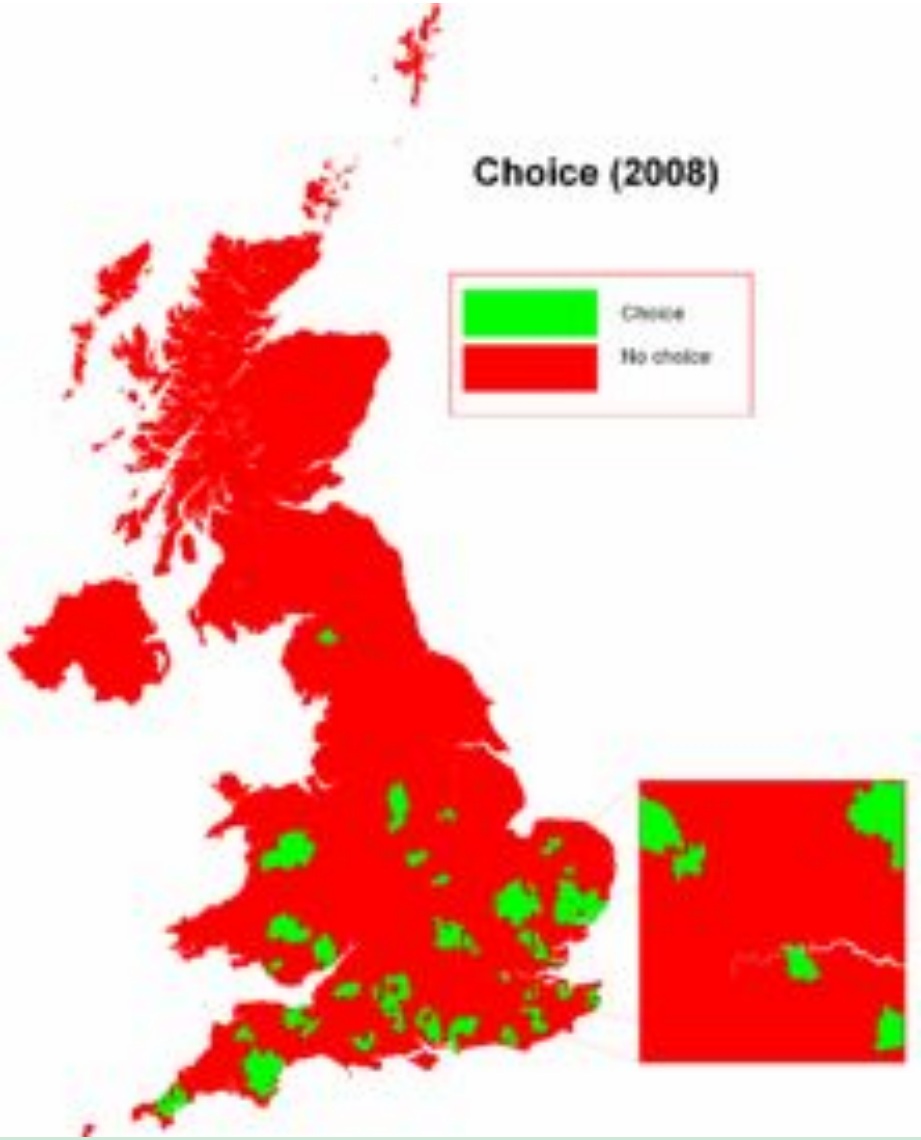
- Northern Ireland – 0%
- Scotland – 2%
- England – 12%
- Wales – 20%

# The choice guarantee

Reasonable access to all three options for birth

UK – 4.2%

- NI – 0%
- Scotland – 0%
- England – 4.7%
- Wales – 4.7%



# Good practice

NCT NI
Maternity &
Family Awards
2009

# Obstacles

- Shortage of midwives
- Clarity and confidence in evidence of safety of out-of-hospital births
- Presentation of choice information

# Solutions

- Full information
- Support women's choices
- Methods of working
  - Caseload midwifery,
  - Use of MCAs,
  - Ensuring low vacancy rates

# What you can do

- Keep providing women with information, and support
- Speak to your trusts and boards about using other ways of working, e.g. caseload
- Take action online: www.nct.org.uk/choice
- Let us know your thoughts

# So…

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