

## Citation

Adenike Adesanya, Judith Rankin, Maria Raisa Jessica (Ryc) Aquino, Malcolm Moffat, Simon Barrett. Rapid review of the impact of COVID-19 on parental responsiveness and sensitivity, bonding and attunement. PROSPERO 2021 CRD42021236769 Available from:  
[https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospERO/display\\_record.php?ID=CRD42021236769](https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospERO/display_record.php?ID=CRD42021236769)

## Review question

How have pregnancy and birth, formal and informal care and services, parental responsiveness and sensitivity and bonding and attunement been impacted by COVID-19?

What is the impact for vulnerable families and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic families?

What are the potential long-term impacts on infant mental health, and social and emotional development?

## Searches [2 changes]

We will search the following peer-reviewed, preprint and grey literature databases: MEDLINE, CINAHL, PsycINFO, MedRxiv and PsyArXiv, and OpenGrey. We will also search websites of relevant UK-based organisations (e.g. Royal College of Midwives, Institute of Health Visiting, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists). COVID-specific databases will also be searched: COAP COVID-19 Living Evidence, COVID-19 Evidence Reviews, Cochrane COVID-19 study register.

We will include both peer-reviewed and grey literature of any study design. We will include evidence from 1 Mar 2020 – Search date. Studies with a particular focus on vulnerable and BAME families during COVID-19 will be included. We will exclude non-English language studies, studies conducted in other pandemic contexts, studies that do not focus on pregnancy and birth, formal and informal care and services, parental responsiveness and sensitivity, bonding and attunement. Studies conducted in high-income countries with any healthcare system will be included while studies conducted in countries that are assigned to any other income group will be excluded.

## Types of study to be included

All study designs (qualitative and quantitative) will be eligible for inclusion.

## Condition or domain being studied

Parental responsiveness and sensitivity, bonding and attunement in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Participants/population [1 change]

Studies involving birth parents, adoptive parents and formal caregivers will be eligible for inclusion. Studies involving women who were pregnant during the COVID-19 pandemic will be eligible for inclusion. The review will focus on evidence during pregnancy and the early years (0-5 years) as well as specifically considering the impact for vulnerable families and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic families. Studies conducted in high-income countries with any healthcare system will be included while studies conducted in countries that are assigned to any other income group will be excluded.

## Intervention(s), exposure(s)

Being an expectant/new parent and being pregnant or having children between 0-5 years old during the COVID-19 pandemic is the primary exposure. Studies which outline preparations or interventions to support parents during pandemics will be eligible for inclusion.

## Comparator(s)/control

Dependent on study design, some (but not all) studies will have a comparator/control group.

## Context

Studies must have been conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Main outcome(s) [1 change]

Reported impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on pregnancy and bonding.

Reported impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the birth experience and the consequences for bonding and development of attunement in the postnatal period.

Reported impact of the COVID-19 pandemic related isolation measures and changes to services and support from both formal and informal networks, on bonding and the development of sensitive and responsive parenting in the postnatal period.

Reported impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on breastfeeding, initiation and continuation, and the implications of this in relation to bonding and the development of attuned parenting.

Reported impact of the COVID-19 pandemic related anxiety and increased mental health concerns on parents perceived relationship with their baby/child.

Reported evidence on whether professionals beyond Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) recognise and support the development of attunement between parent and child.

Reported evidence on what strategies and support parents have accessed and if this been useful

These will include particular consideration of the impact for vulnerable families and BAME families.

### Measures of effect

Incidence rate percentages; frequencies; odds ratios/relative risk ratios for clinical (e.g. mortality, preterm birth) and health/wellbeing.

### Additional outcome(s)

None

### Measures of effect

Not applicable

### Data extraction (selection and coding)

Title and abstract screening will be led by one researcher, with another member of the research team double screening a proportion (at least 20%) of records identified. Full-text screening of articles against the eligibility criteria will be led by one researcher, with another member of the research team screening full-texts of all excluded studies.

A tailored data extraction form will be developed and piloted before use. Example data items are: study design, study aims, study setting, methods, and key findings. Data extraction from included studies will be led by one researcher, with a second researcher checking extracted data for correctness and completeness.

### Risk of bias (quality) assessment

Risk of bias/quality assessments will be led by one researcher, with support and input from the wider review team to fully verify all judgements. We will use the Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT) developed by researchers at McGill University (MMAT; Hong et al., 2018) to assess the quality of included studies, whether qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods.

### Strategy for data synthesis

We will use a narrative approach to evidence synthesis: describing experiences, identifying issues concerning access to formal/informal care, support and services, parental responsiveness and sensitivity, bonding and attunement, and healthcare professional experiences of needs assessment/care provision. The synthesis will be led by one researcher with support and input from the wider review team and project

partners.

### Analysis of subgroups or subsets

Where possible, sub-group analyses will be conducted by geographical area, ethnicity, and parity.

### Contact details for further information

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### Organisational affiliation of the review

Newcastle University  
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### Review team members and their organisational affiliations

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### Collaborators

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### Type and method of review

Intervention, Narrative synthesis, Service delivery, Systematic review

### Anticipated or actual start date

01 February 2021

### Anticipated completion date

31 July 2021

### Funding sources/sponsors

Public Health England

### Conflicts of interest

### Language

English

### Country

England

### Stage of review [1 change]

Review Completed not published

### Subject index terms status

Subject indexing assigned by CRD

### Subject index terms

COVID-19; Humans; Object Attachment; Parents; SARS-CoV-2

### Date of registration in PROSPERO

12 February 2021

### Date of first submission

11 February 2021

### Stage of review at time of this submission [2 changes]

Stage	Started	Completed
Preliminary searches	Yes	Yes
Piloting of the study selection process	Yes	Yes
Formal screening of search results against eligibility criteria	Yes	Yes
Data extraction	Yes	Yes
Risk of bias (quality) assessment	Yes	Yes
Data analysis	Yes	Yes

### Revision note

The inclusion/exclusion criteria for the geographical area that studies were conducted in was refined to reflect a similarity in the point of view of income and to identify any useful learning from those countries in terms of the impact of COVID-19 on sensitive and responsive parenting.

*The record owner confirms that the information they have supplied for this submission is accurate and complete and they understand that deliberate provision of inaccurate information or omission of data may be construed as scientific misconduct.*

*The record owner confirms that they will update the status of the review when it is completed and will add publication details in due course.*

### Versions

12 February 2021  
02 March 2021  
11 May 2021  
17 August 2021