



## **Raising Awareness**

### **Harry's Hydrocephalus Awareness Trust**

Hydrocephalus means water on the brain. When a baby has hydrocephalus, they have too much fluid within their brain. This can increase the pressure within the skull and can cause a baby's head to look very big.

It is important to know if a baby has hydrocephalus because it can damage the brain if doctors don't treat it. Checking how quickly a baby's head is growing using a tape measure is one way doctors can see if there might be a problem.

We asked new mums, dads and people who look after babies if they knew this and if their babies' heads have been measured. We put a survey on our website and over 700 people with babies less than 1 year old answered our questions. Here are the results.

The sign % stands for per cent which means out of 100.

## **Measuring babies' heads**

- 55% knew their baby's head should be measured at birth
- 46% knew their baby's head should be measured at their 6/8 week-old health check
- 67% said their baby's head was measured at birth
- 66% said their baby's head was measured at their 6/8 week-old health check
- 76% were told why their baby's head was being measured

## **Awareness of hydrocephalus**

- 67% of parents had not heard of hydrocephalus
- 80% of parents did not know that measuring a baby's head helps identify hydrocephalus

## **Access to healthcare**

- 18% of parents see their health visitor in person regularly
- 46% of parents said their health visitor measures their baby's head
- 94% of parents would support an initiative to get health professionals to measure babies' heads

We aim to raise awareness of hydrocephalus. We want parents to know the importance of measuring babies' heads.

**Find out more at our website <https://harrys-hat.org>**