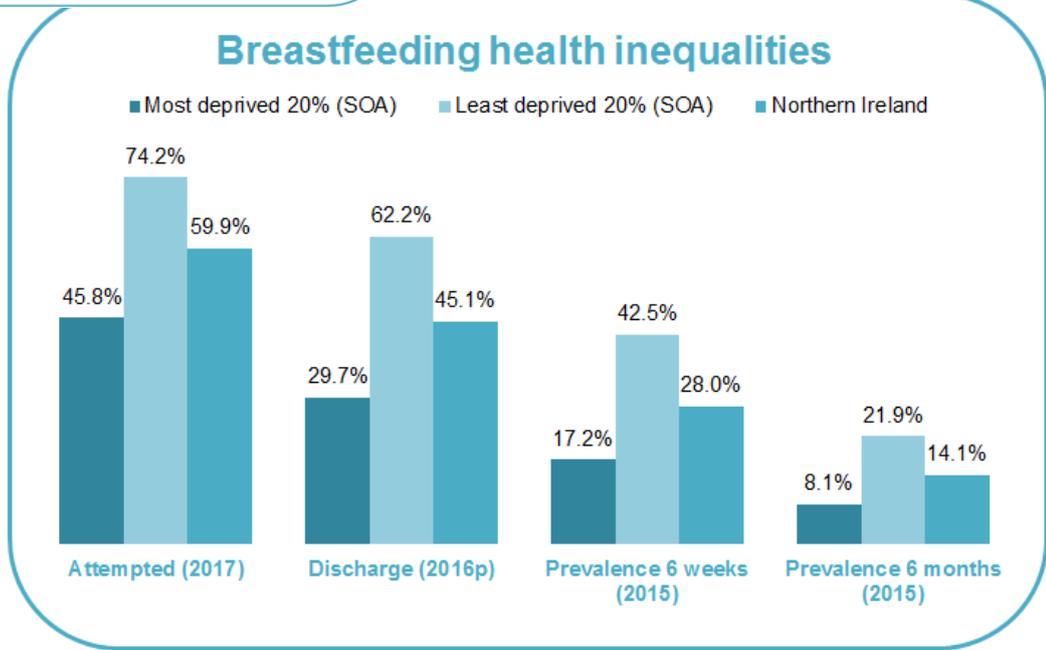
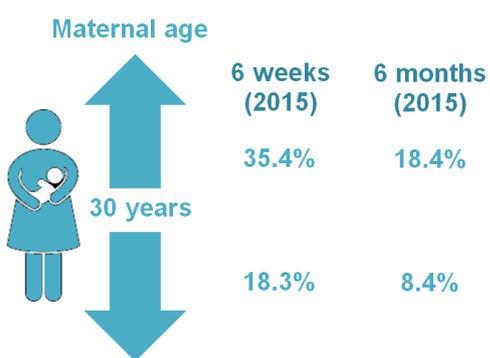
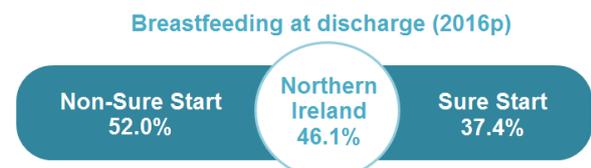
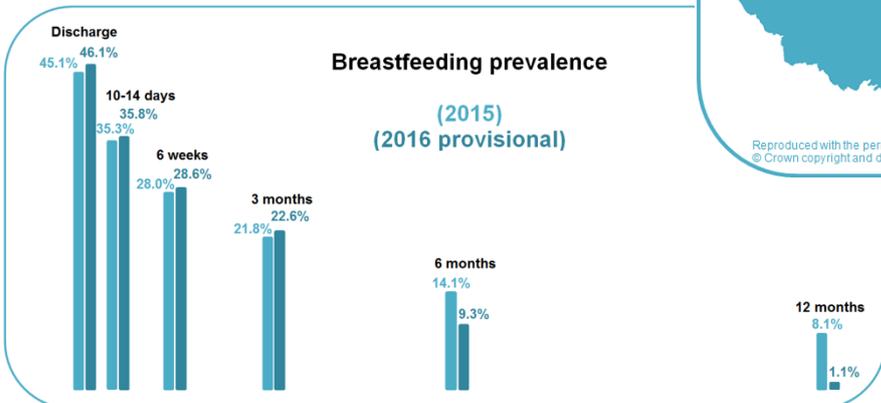
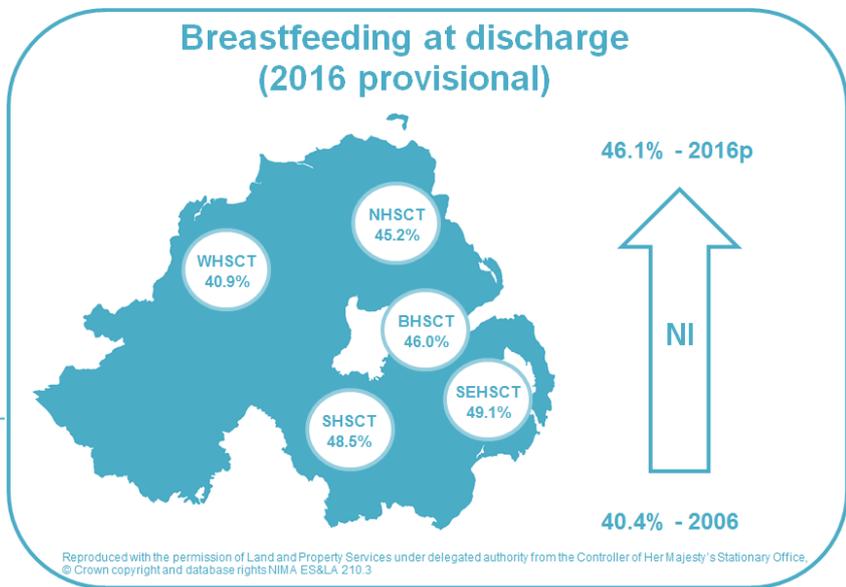
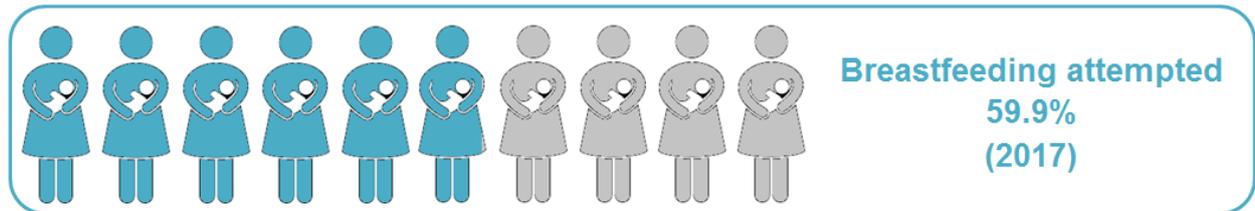


Health Intelligence briefing

Breastfeeding in Northern Ireland, September 2018



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Northern Ireland context and policy on breastfeeding

'*Breastfeeding – A Great Start. A strategy for Northern Ireland 2013-2023*' aims to improve the health and well-being of mothers and babies through breastfeeding and outlines the strategic direction to protect, promote, support and normalise breastfeeding in Northern Ireland.¹

The Northern Ireland Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016–21 aims to improve wellbeing for all – by tackling disadvantage, and driving economic growth. The framework includes 14 outcomes and those particularly relevant to breastfeeding are 'Outcome 4: We enjoy long, healthy, active lives' and 'Outcome 14: We give our children and young people the best start in life'.²

The *Making Life Better* strategy aims to "Achieve better health and wellbeing for everyone and reduce inequalities in health."³ The strategic framework is structured around six key themes and the following three themes relate to breastfeeding:

- Theme 1: Giving every child the best start recognises that what happens to children in their earliest years is key to outcomes in adult life. Under Outcome 2, Healthy and confident children and young people, the strategy commits to implementation of the breastfeeding strategy including support programmes for those least likely to breastfeed.
- Theme 3: Empowering Healthy Living, Outcome 7 Improved health and reduction in harm highlights the need to develop and implement strategies, action plans and targeted programmes to increase breastfeeding rates.
- Theme 6: Developing Collaboration focuses on the need for integration of public health principles across all parts of society and under Outcome 17, A Strategic Approach to Public Health identifies the requirement to consider and implement legislative change to support public health including promotion and support of breastfeeding.

Other strategies in Northern Ireland that relate to breastfeeding include:

- Health and Wellbeing 2026 – Delivering Together⁴
- A Fitter Future for All-Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland 2012-2022⁵
- A Strategy for Maternity Care in Northern Ireland 2012-2018⁶
- A Healthier Future: A Twenty Year Vision for Health and Wellbeing in Northern Ireland 2005-2025⁷
- The Executive's Child Poverty Strategy⁸
- Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-2027 Consultation Document⁹
- 'Supporting the best start in life' Infant Mental Health Framework and Action Plan 2015-2018¹⁰
- Improving and Safeguarding Social Wellbeing A Strategy for Social Work in Northern Ireland 2012-2022¹¹

In line with Department of Health (DoH) priorities, including the Making Life Better public health framework, the Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016–21, and local government-led community planning, the Public Health Agency Corporate plan sets out the strategic direction and priorities for 2017-21.¹² Under the outcome "All children and young people have the best start in life" it includes the "*Proportion of mothers breastfeeding on discharge and differential between the average and most deprived breastfeeding*" as a key indicator to monitor breastfeeding.¹³

The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and Public Health Agency (PHA) commissioning plan for 2016/17 prioritises continued investment in early years' interventions.¹⁴ This includes implementation of the breast feeding strategy across all trust areas with specific attention to the training of staff, peer support and accreditation of facilities to meet the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative Standards.

UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF recommend that every infant should be exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life, with continued breastfeeding for up to two years or longer.^{15,16}

The WHO Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding have recently been revised and the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative Standards reflect the global standards (Figures 1 and 2).^{17,18}

UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) awards are based on a set of interlinking evidence-based standards for maternity, health visiting, neonatal and children's centres services. These are designed to provide parents with the best possible care to build close and loving relationships with their baby and to feed their baby in ways which will support optimum health and development. UNICEF UK BFI works with the health service to support breastfeeding.

UNICEF UK also runs a Baby Friendly programme for universities to ensure that their courses equip newly qualified midwives and health visitors to implement the Baby Friendly standards. Universities implement the standards in stages and the course is accredited as Baby Friendly.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance recommends that healthcare providers, including hospitals and community use the Baby Friendly Initiative as a minimum standard.¹⁹ At July 2018, across the UK, 63% of maternity services, 65% of health visiting services, 48% of Midwifery courses; 13% Health visiting courses, 15 children's centres and six neonatal units have achieved full, independent Baby Friendly accreditation.²⁰

Figure 1: Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding – revised 2018

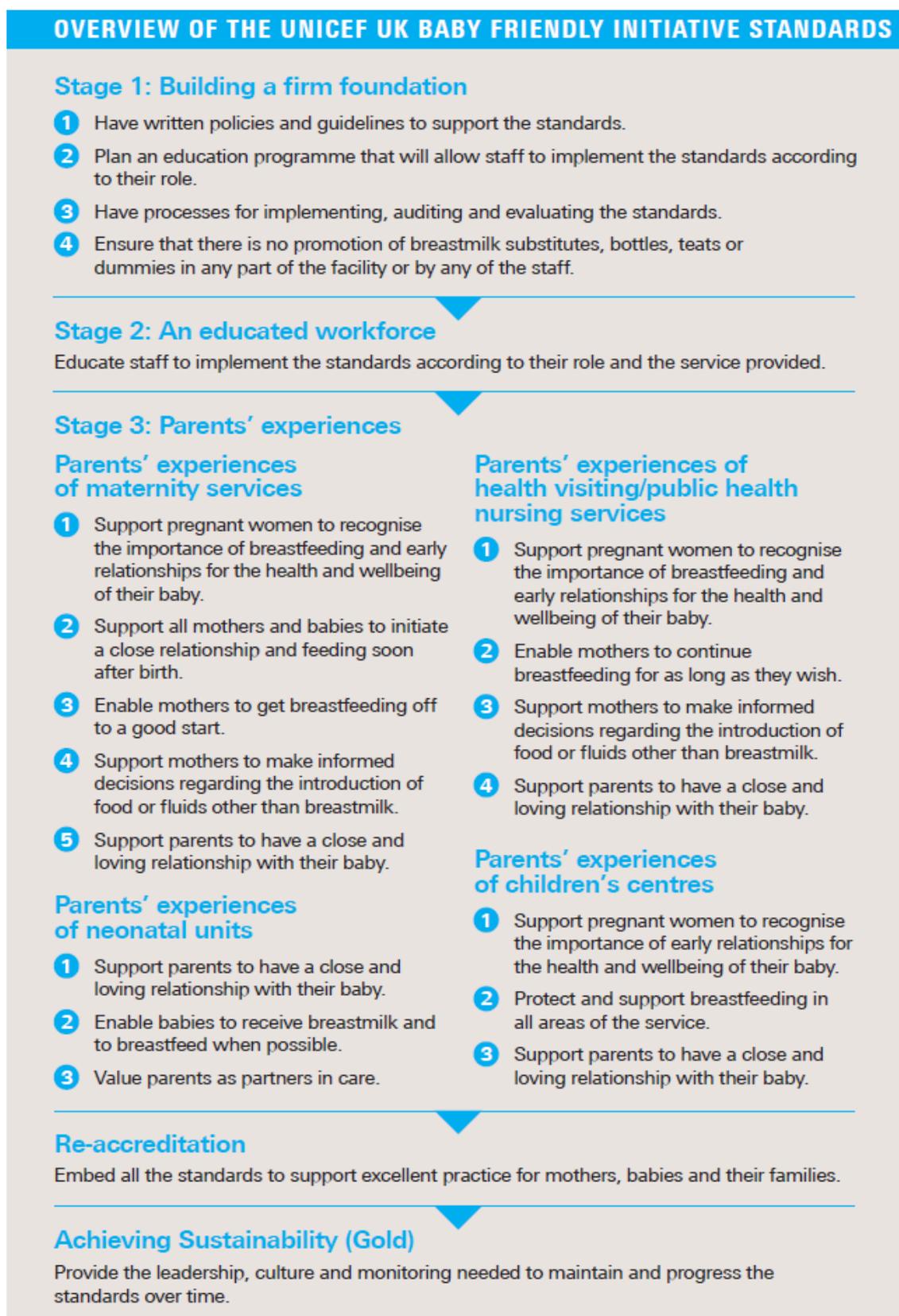
Critical management procedures

- 1a. **The International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (25–27):** Comply fully with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and relevant World Health Assembly resolutions.
- 1b. **Infant feeding policy:** Have a written infant feeding policy that is routinely communicated to staff and parents.
- 1c. **Monitoring and data management systems:** Establish ongoing monitoring and data management systems.
2. **Staff competency:** Ensure that staff have sufficient knowledge, competence and skills to support breastfeeding.

Key clinical practices

3. **Antenatal information:** Discuss the importance and management of breastfeeding with pregnant women and their families.
4. **Immediate postnatal care:** Facilitate immediate and uninterrupted skin-to-skin contact and support mothers to initiate breastfeeding as soon as possible after birth.
5. **Support with breastfeeding:** Support mothers to initiate and maintain breastfeeding and manage common difficulties.
6. **Supplementation:** Do not provide breastfed newborns any food or fluids other than breast milk, unless medically indicated.
7. **Rooming-in:** Enable mothers and their infants to remain together and to practise rooming-in throughout the day and night.
8. **Responsive feeding:** Support mothers to recognize and respond to their infants' cues for feeding.
9. **Feeding bottles, teats and pacifiers:** Counsel mothers on the use and risks of feeding bottles, teats and pacifiers.
10. **Care at discharge:** Coordinate discharge so that parents and their infants have timely access to ongoing support and care.

Figure 2: UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative Standards



In 2016 UK BFI launched the Achieving Sustainability standards which are designed to support longer-term implementation of best practice standards.²¹ A service is considered to be achieving sustainability when they have implemented and maintained the core Baby Friendly standards for at least two years as confirmed by a full re-assessment. In addition, they have adequate leadership structures in place to support continued maintenance of the standards. Gold award services must also demonstrate that they cultivate a positive and enabling culture for Baby Friendly, with consideration given to the specific cultural and societal challenges in the UK.

Baby Friendly Initiative in Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland breastfeeding strategy outlines that 'Health and Social Care has the necessary knowledge, skills and leadership to protect, promote, support and normalise breastfeeding'. One of the actions included is that all maternity and community health care services should achieve and maintain UNICEF UK BFI accreditation and that Universities in Northern Ireland should be supported to achieve UNICEF UK BFI University Standards accreditation for midwifery and health visiting training courses.

Introduced in Northern Ireland in 1994, the Baby Friendly Initiative is currently supported by the Public Health Agency (PHA) and implemented in all five HSC Trust areas.

In 2013, fifty four percent (54%) of babies in Northern Ireland were delivered in a hospital with full Baby Friendly status. By July 2016 this had increased to 100% of births with all hospitals in Northern Ireland achieving full BFI accreditation. Currently 59% of births in England, 90% of births in Wales and 100%/94%* of births in Scotland take place in BFI accredited hospitals (Table 1).²²

Table 1: Births in BFI fully accredited hospitals

Northern Ireland	England	Scotland	Wales
100%	59%	100/94%*	90%

* All hospitals in Scotland achieved Baby Friendly accreditation; however one unit requires a follow up assessment.

Health Visiting Services across NHSCT, WHSCT, SHSCT and SEHSCT have achieved full BFI accreditation for the health visiting service. BHSCT health visiting service has now met Stage 1 requirements and is progressing towards Stage 2 assessment by end of 2019.

Some Sure Start services in Northern Ireland have previously been involved in BFI accreditation jointly with health visiting services. Sure Starts are now being encouraged to implement the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly services for Children's Centres with four Sure Starts in Belfast having jointly met the full Children's Centre BFI standards. Recent progress has also been made with nine Sure Starts in SHSCT having achieved their Stage 2 accreditation. Five Belfast Sure Starts and Lisburn Sure Start have now achieved Stage 1 accreditation against these new standards.

In 2017 Queens University Belfast achieved Full University Standards accreditation for their BSc (Hons) Midwifery Sciences (3 years) and BSc (Hons) Midwifery Studies (18 months) courses.

In 2018 NHSCT maternity services and health visiting service achieved the first joint UK Baby Friendly Initiative Gold Standard Award in recognition of their long standing commitment to best practice and implementation of the Achieving Sustainability Standards. They are the first joint hospital and community award in the UK which demonstrates a high level of effective partnership working across the Trust.

Northern Ireland Maternity System (NIMATS) and Northern Ireland Child Health System (CHS)

This briefing includes analysis of data sourced from the Northern Ireland Maternity System (NIMATS) and Northern Ireland Child Health System (CHS).

The Northern Ireland Maternity System (NIMATS) contains a range of demographic and clinical information on mothers and infants. It captures data relating to the current maternity process, but also contains details about the mother's past medical and obstetric history. It is a key source for data on birth numbers, interventions, maternal risk factors, birth weights, maternal smoking, BMI and breastfeeding at discharge. In June 2016 a number of changes were implemented on NIMATS to expand the data collected in relation to infant feeding and inform practice (for further information see Appendix: Data Sources). On the basis that this has involved changes to the NIMATS system and recording practice, information relating to these fields has been included as **experimental data**.

The Northern Ireland Child Health System (CHS) acts as a call and recall system for a variety of immunisations, vaccinations and screening tests. In addition, a wide range of health data is recorded at birth, throughout infancy and while the child is at school. Each of the four legacy health board areas has its own identical CHS and data is currently extracted separately from each system. This tends to mean that data reported from CHS is less current than NIMATS.

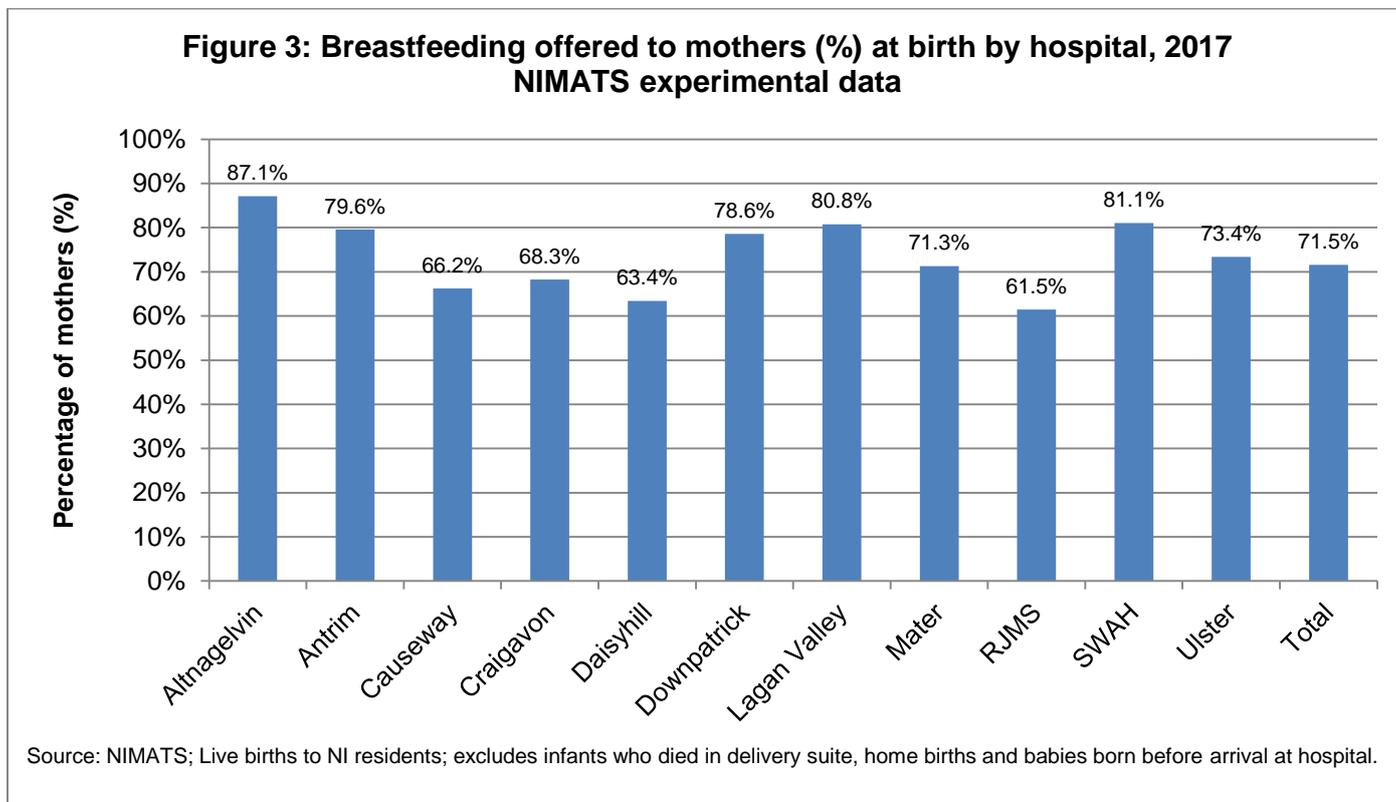
The Child Health System currently collates information on the feeding status of infants at discharge from hospital, first visit (10-14 days), 6 weeks, 3 months, 6 months and 12 months in line with Healthy Child, Healthy Future. This data provides an indication of the prevalence of breastfeeding at these time points.

Data limitations. There is a time lag in reporting data on breastfeeding prevalence for example, 12 month data for an infant born in December 2016 will not be due for collection until December 2017. As such it is important to note that feeding status was not fully recorded for all time points at the time of the data download from CHS, as illustrated by the high proportions of unknowns at 6 and 12 months. Figures are subject to change as data is updated on CHS and as such should be considered provisional. It is intended that the 2016p cohort of birth data will be updated in the next brief.

Both NIMATS and CHS capture information on breastfeeding at discharge. This brief includes data from both sources as NIMATS data is directly available from the Northern Ireland data warehouse, providing more recent data. However, it is important to note that there will be some variation in the total births included as the systems collect information differently for example, NIMATS will record births in Northern Ireland hospitals while CHS will include infants not born in NI hospitals. This may result in minor variation in the breastfeeding rates calculated from each system for the same time period.

Feeding at birth

All mothers should be offered the opportunity to give a first breast feed at birth; data for 2017 indicates that overall, 71.5% of mothers were offered the opportunity to give a first breastfeed (Figure 3, Appendix Table A). Figure 3 also illustrates variation by hospital.



Data also shows that at birth 53.4% of infants were breastfed, 29.3% were formula fed while a further 17.3% did not receive a feed at this time (Figure 4, Appendix Table B).

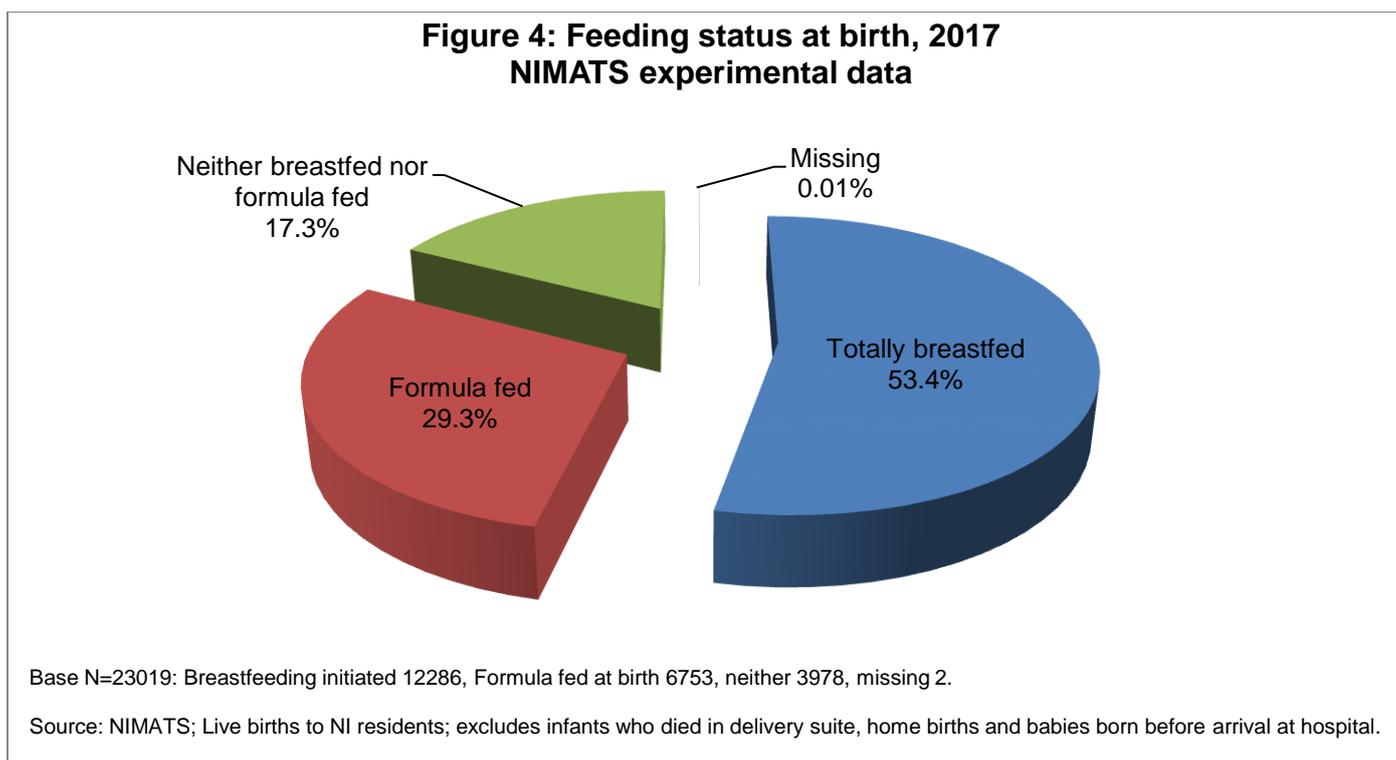
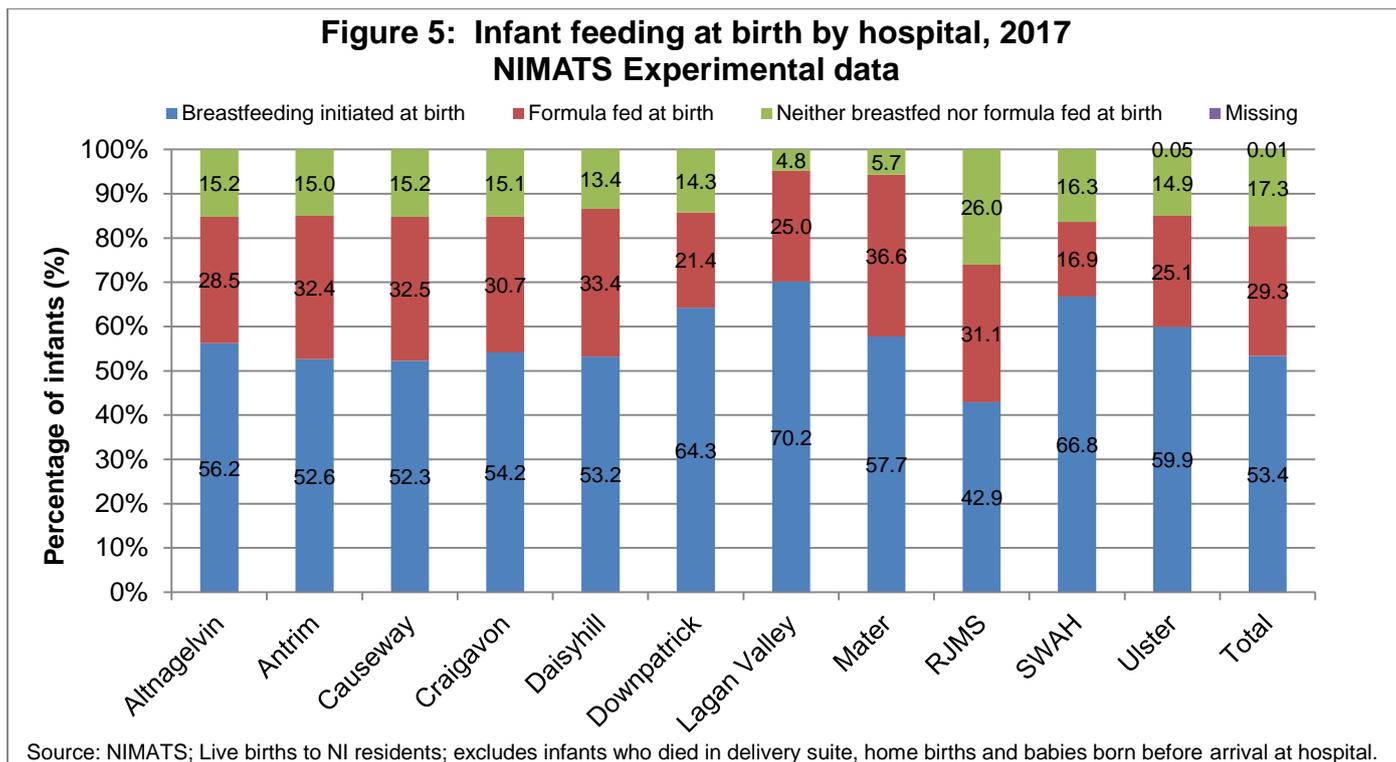


Figure 5 illustrates the variation in infant feeding at birth by hospital. The highest rates of breastfeeding initiation at birth were recorded for Lagan Valley (70.2%) and Downpatrick (64.3%) with the lowest rates recorded for Royal Jubilee (42.9%) (Appendix Table B).



Step 8 of the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) outlines that mothers should be supported to recognise and respond to their infants' cues for feeding, regardless of feeding type.²³ Overall, NIMATS data shows that responsiveness was discussed with 93.4% of mothers at birth (ranging from 90.5% to 100% by hospital).

Skin-to-skin contact at birth

Skin-to-skin contact has a number of benefits for mothers and babies. There is evidence that skin-to-skin contact at birth can support mothers to establish and maintain breastfeeding.^{24,25}

NICE quality standard for Intrapartum care [QS105] covers the care of women and their babies during labour and immediately after the birth.²⁶ Quality statement 7 outlines that women have skin-to-skin contact with their babies after the birth with the rationale that it has been shown to promote the initiation of breastfeeding and protect against the negative effects of mother-baby separation.²⁷

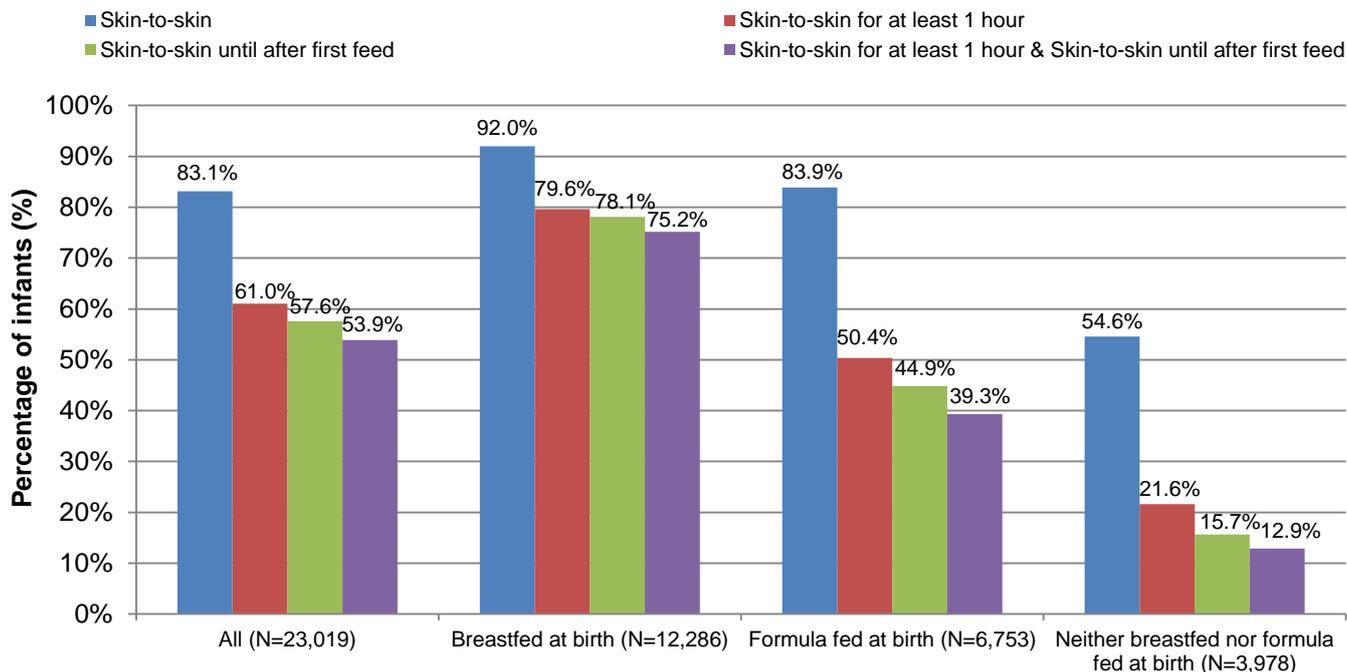
UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Standards support all mothers and babies to initiate a close relationship and feeding soon after birth and require maternity units to ensure that all mothers have skin-to-skin contact with their baby after birth, at least until after the first feed and for as long as they wish.^{28,29,30}

New fields added to NIMATS capture information on the prevalence of skin-to-skin contact at birth (Refer to Appendix: Data sources). The question 'Did mother have skin-to-skin contact with baby at birth? - Yes/No' is asked at birth. The question is accompanied by the prompt 'Skin-to-skin contact should be offered to all mothers regardless of feeding type'. Subsequently, where skin-to-skin contact at birth is recorded as Yes, the question 'How long did skin-to-skin contact last?' is asked, with options for 'Until after the first feed - Yes/No' and 'At least on hour offered - Yes/No'.

NIMATS data for 2017 shows that 83.1% of infants (19,140) received skin-to-skin contact at birth (Figure 6, Appendix Table C); 61.0% received skin-to-skin contact for at least one hour with 57.6% having skin-to-skin contact until after the first feed. Skin-to-skin contact at birth was more common

among infants who were breastfed at birth (92.0%) compared to those who were formula fed at birth (83.9%).

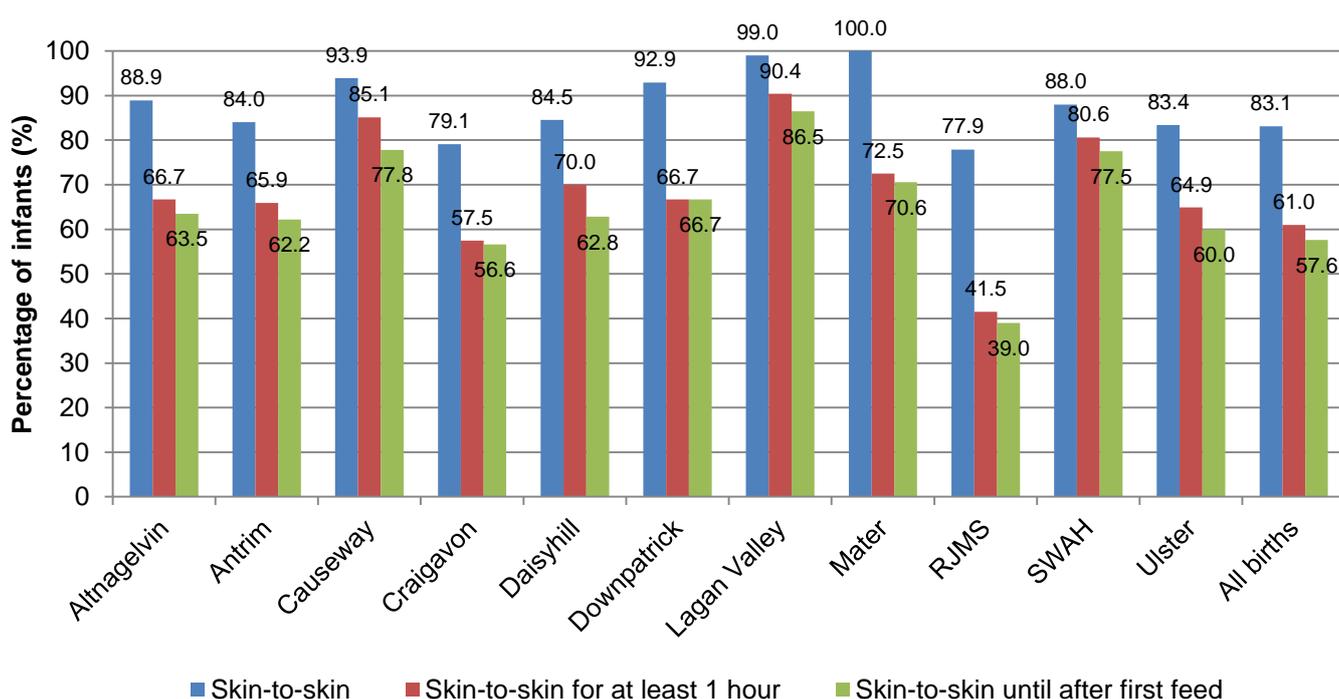
Figure 6: Skin-to-skin contact at birth by feeding type at birth, 2017
NIMATS experimental data



Source: NIMATS; Live births to NI residents; excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and babies born before arrival at hospital.

It is recommended that skin-to-skin contact begins immediately, regardless of method of delivery and should be uninterrupted for at least one hour. Figure 7 shows overall rates of skin-to-skin contact which range from 77.9% to 100% depending on hospital (Appendix Table D). There is generally a noticeable drop in the rates of infants who receive skin-to-skin contact for at least one hour.

Figure 7: Skin-to-skin contact at birth by hospital, 2017
NIMATS experimental data (all feeding types)



Source: NIMATS; Live births to NI residents; excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and babies born before arrival at hospital.

As previously shown, rates of skin to skin contact are higher among infants breastfed at birth and Table 2 provides the breakdown of rates by hospital.

Table 2: Skin-to-skin contact at birth for infants breastfed at birth by hospital, 2017

	Births	Skin-to-skin		Skin-to-skin for at least 1 hour		Skin-to-skin until after first feed	
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%
Altnagelvin	1,442	1,363	94.5%	1,172	81.3%	1,167	80.9%
Antrim	1,535	1,423	92.7%	1,287	83.8%	1,241	80.8%
Causeway	498	488	98.0%	463	93.0%	453	91.0%
Craigavon	2,178	1,929	88.6%	1,647	75.6%	1,661	76.3%
Daisyhill	935	866	92.6%	810	86.6%	777	83.1%
Downpatrick	27	27	100.0%	20	74.1%	22	81.5%
Lagan Valley	73	73	100.0%	71	97.3%	70	95.9%
Mater	153	153	100.0%	132	86.3%	135	88.2%
RJMS	2,195	1,964	89.5%	1,431	65.2%	1,384	63.1%
SWAH	831	794	95.5%	769	92.5%	773	93.0%
Ulster	2,419	2,220	91.8%	1,982	81.9%	1,915	79.2%
Infants breastfed at birth	12,286	11,300	92.0%	9,784	79.6%	9,598	78.1%

Source: NIMATS; Live births to NI residents; excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and babies born before arrival at hospital.

Breastfeeding attempted

Breastfeeding is considered to have been attempted if the baby has been put to the breast or received mother's breast milk while in hospital. In 2017, data shows that breastfeeding was attempted* for around 6 out of ten births (59.9%) in Northern Ireland, a 5.8% increase from 54.1% in 2012 (Table 3).†

Table 3: Breastfeeding attempted (%) by year, 2012-2017

Year	Yes Breastfeeding attempted		No Breastfeeding not attempted		Missing data		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2017	13,860	59.9%	9,154	39.6%	111	0.5%	23,125	100.0%
2016	13,906	57.9%	10,108	42.1%	-	-	24,014	100.0%
2015	13,751	56.8%	10,449	43.2%	-	-	24,200	100.0%
2014	13,797	56.7%	10,532	43.3%	-	-	24,329	100.0%
2013	13,458	56.1%	10,531	43.9%	-	-	23,989	100.0%
2012	13,633	54.1%	11,558	45.9%	-	-	25,191	100.0%

Source: Northern Ireland Maternity System (NIMATS); live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births and infants who died in the delivery suite.

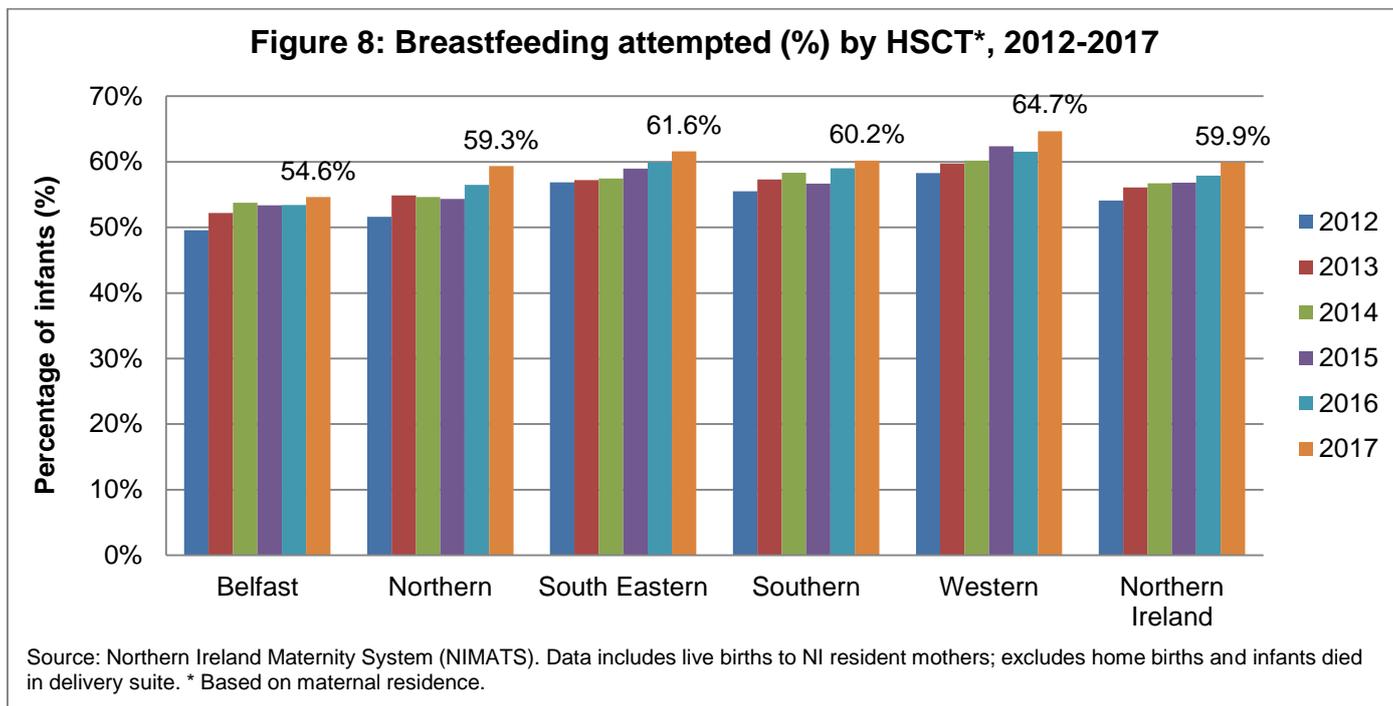
Note: New fields relating to infant feeding were introduced on the NIMATS system in July 2016 allow the identification of missing data.

* Note: In 2016 changes to NIMATS involved the creation of a new screen to record all the feeding and relationship questions.

† This figure is lower than the incidence of breastfeeding in Northern Ireland reported in the 2010 Infant feeding survey (64%). It is suggested that the difference between the two sets of results is likely to be due to the methodological differences between data collection methods for example, IFS is based on self-reported information from women who agree to take part in the survey.

Health and Social Care Trust

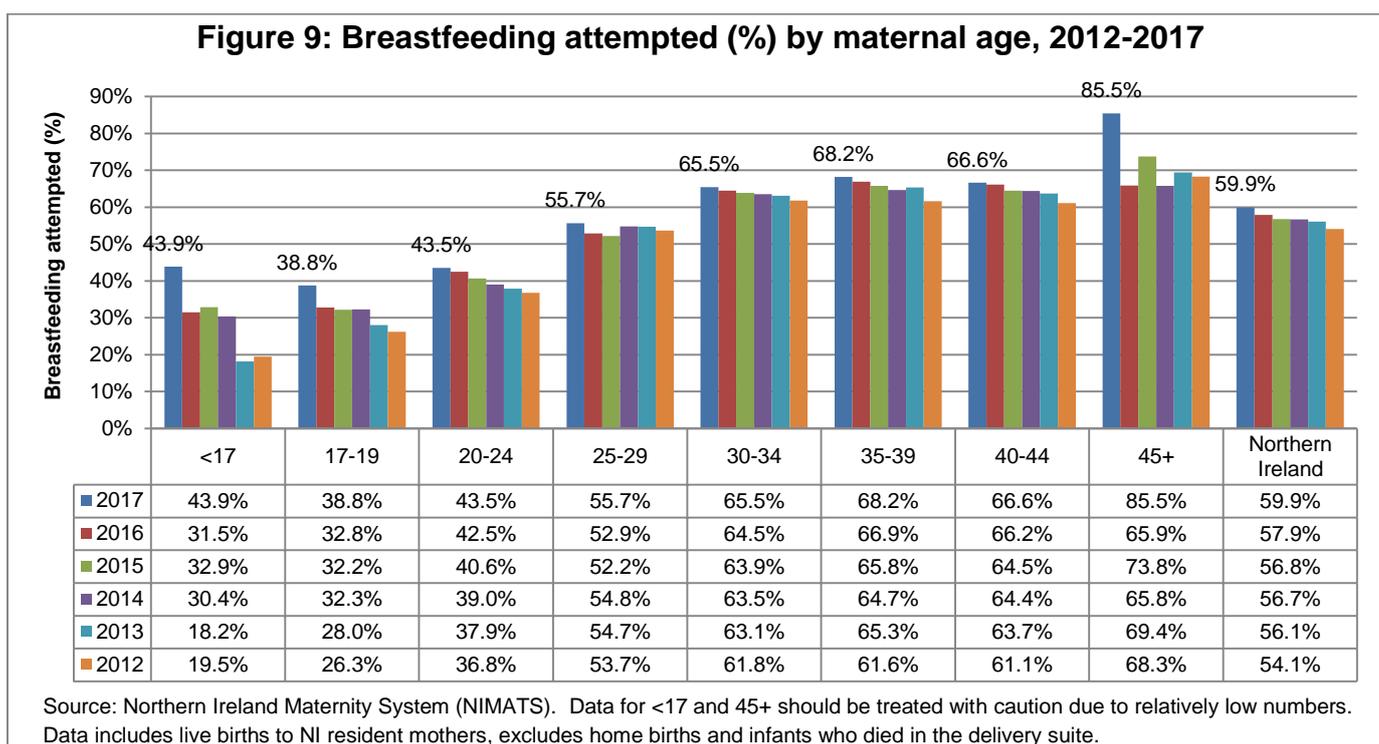
In 2017, breastfeeding was attempted during the postnatal stay for 64.7% of infants from the Western HSCT* area compared to 61.6% from the South Eastern HSCT, 60.2% in the Southern HSCT, 59.3% of those in the Northern HSCT and 54.6% in Belfast HSCT (Figure 8, Appendix Table E).



Maternal age

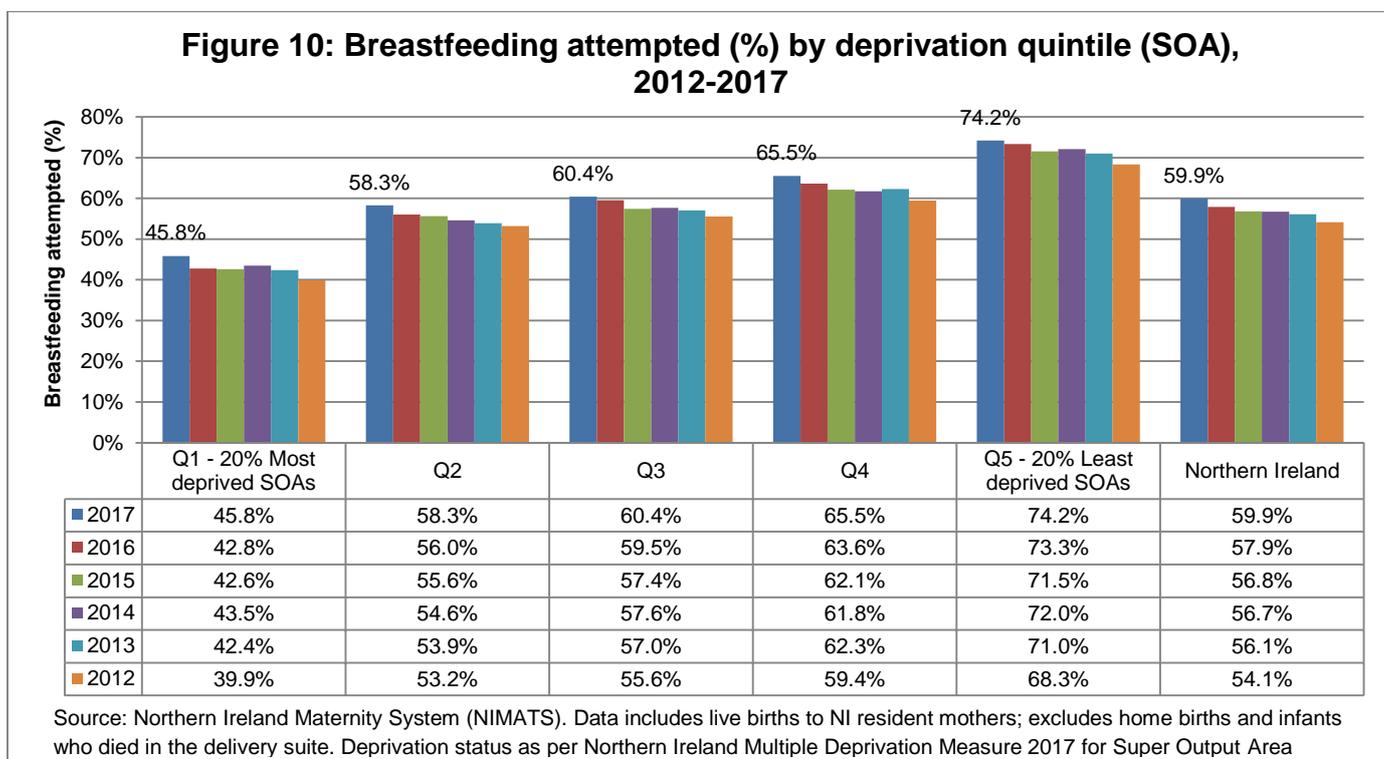
In line with previous findings from the UK Infant Feeding Survey (IFS), NIMATS data shows that the rate of breastfeeding varies according to mother's age, with older mothers more likely to attempt breastfeeding (Figure 9, Appendix Table F).

In 2017, 43.5% of mothers aged 20-24 years attempted to breastfeed compared to 65.5% of mothers aged 30-34 years. A similar trend is observed for previous years.



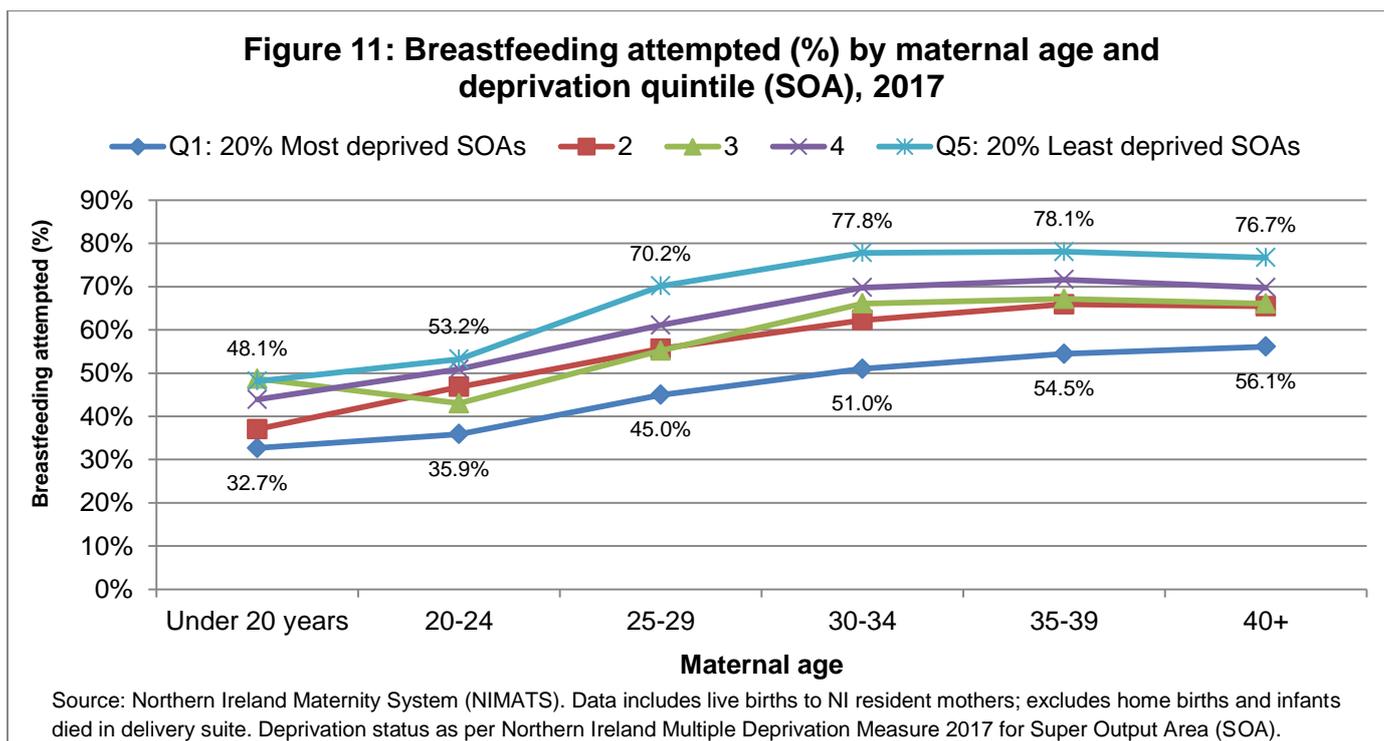
Deprivation

There is an association between attempted breastfeeding and deprivation. In 2017, 45.9% of mothers living in the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) in Northern Ireland were reported as having attempted to breastfeed during the postnatal stay compared to 74.1% of those from the 20% least deprived SOAs (Figure 10, Appendix Table G).



Maternal age and deprivation

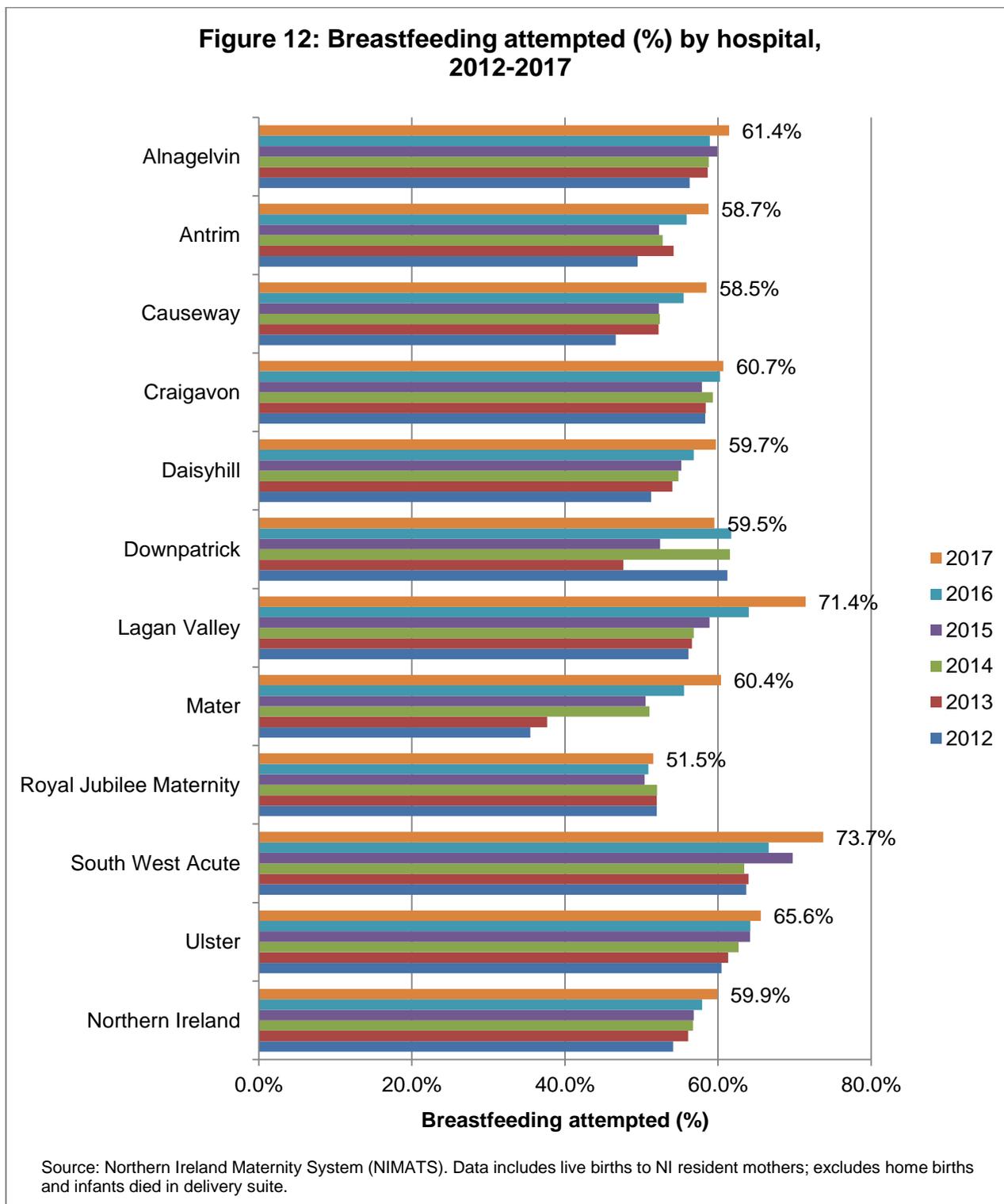
Figure 11 shows the combined picture of maternal age and deprivation status on breastfeeding initiation rates (Appendix Table H). The increasing rate of attempted breastfeeding with age is consistent across all levels of deprivation.



Place of birth

The rates of attempted breastfeeding are seen to vary by hospital (Figure 12, Appendix Table I). Data for 2017 shows that the highest rates of attempted breastfeeding were recorded for South West Acute Hospital (73.7%), Lagan Valley (71.4%), Ulster (65.6%) and Altnagelvin (61.4%).

Between 2012 and 2017 the proportion of births where breastfeeding was attempted increased from 54.1% to 59.9%.

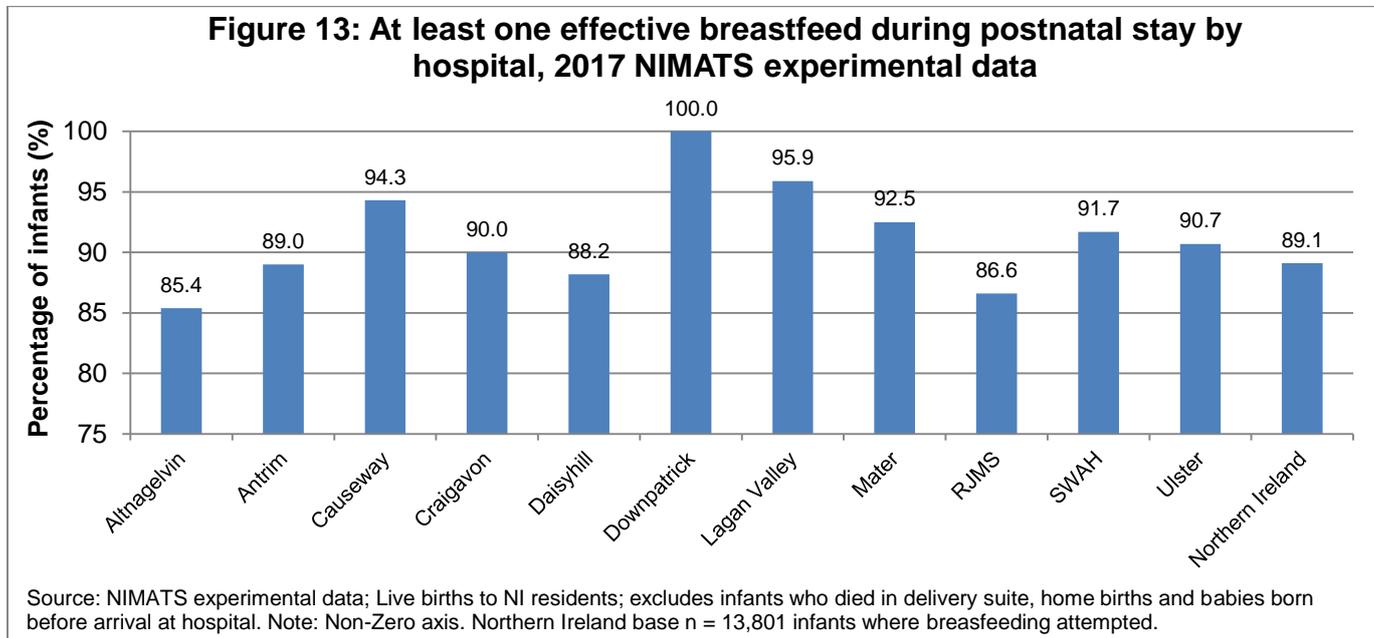


Note: On 30 April 2013 the Mater became a Midwifery Led Unit (MLU) and all consultant services moved to Royal Jubilee Maternity.

Feeding during the postnatal stay

In addition to information on breastfeeding having been attempted, a new field on NIMATS captures data on whether the infant has had at least one effective breastfeed during the postnatal stay.

Overall, where breastfeeding was attempted, 89.1% [12,293 / 13,801] of infants had at least one effective breastfeed during the postnatal stay (53.4% [12,293 / 23,019] of all infants). There was some variation by hospital as shown in Figure 13 (Appendix Table J).



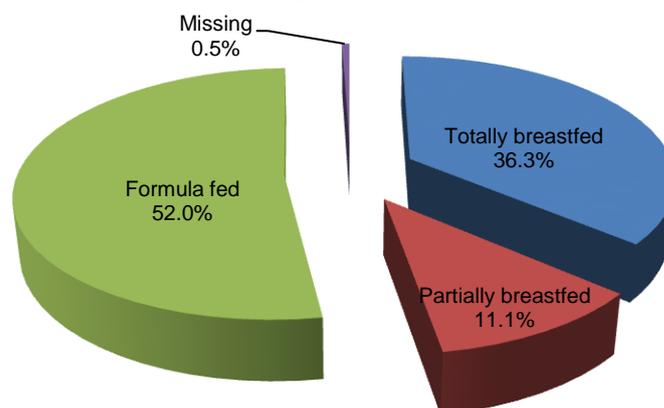
A range of factors may influence whether a mother attempts to breastfeed and the infant receiving at least one effective breastfeed during the postnatal stay. As previously shown, there is variation in the rates of attempted breastfeeding with deprivation status and maternal age. However, other factors such as method of delivery (e.g. caesarean section) hospital length of stay or a combination of both of these may influence breastfeeding initiation.^{31,32,33,34}

Preliminary exploration of NIMATS data suggests that rates of attempted breastfeeding and infants having one effective breastfeed during the postnatal stay vary with method of delivery and infant length stay postnatally. For example rates of attempted breastfeeding are slightly higher for normal deliveries compared to caesarean section. Variation in rates of attempted breastfeeding with infant length of postnatal hospital stay is also observed. Further data analysis is planned to explore these associations in more depth and will be reported on in a later briefing.

Feeding at discharge - NIMATS

NIMATS figures for 2017 indicate that 47.5% of infants were receiving breastmilk at discharge (36% totally breastfed and 11% partially breastfed) with 52.0% formula fed at discharge (Figure 14). [As previously stated, there will be some variation between total births recorded on the NIMATS and CHS as the systems collate information differently for example, NIMATS will record births in Northern Ireland hospitals while CHS will include infants not born in NI hospitals.]

**Figure 14: Feeding status at discharge, 2017
NIMATS experimental data**

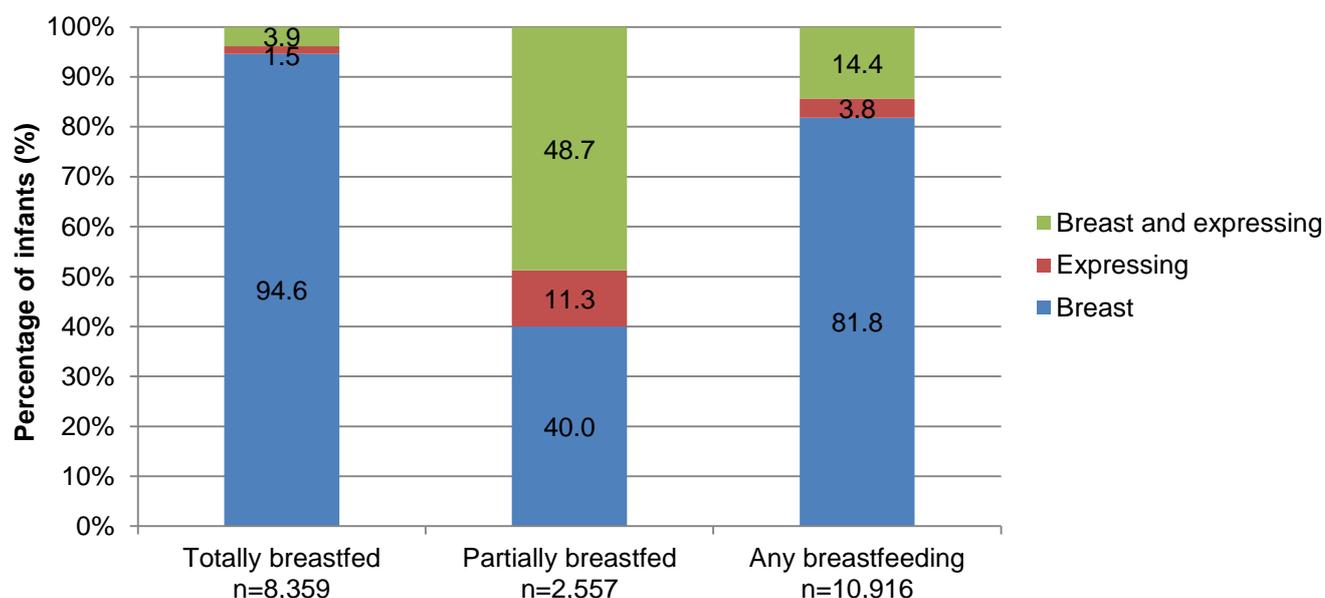


Base N=23019: Totally breastfed 8359, Partially breastfed 2557, formula fed 11980, missing 123.

Source: NIMATS experimental data; Live births to NI residents; excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and babies born before arrival at hospital.

For those who were totally or partially breastfed at discharge, the method of feeding was recorded as either breast, expressed or both. Figure 15 (Appendix Table K) shows that the majority (94.6%) of those recorded as totally breastfeeding at discharge were feeding by breast compared to 40% of those discharged partially breastfeeding.

**Figure 15: Breastfeeding at discharge by feeding method, 2017
NIMATS experimental data**



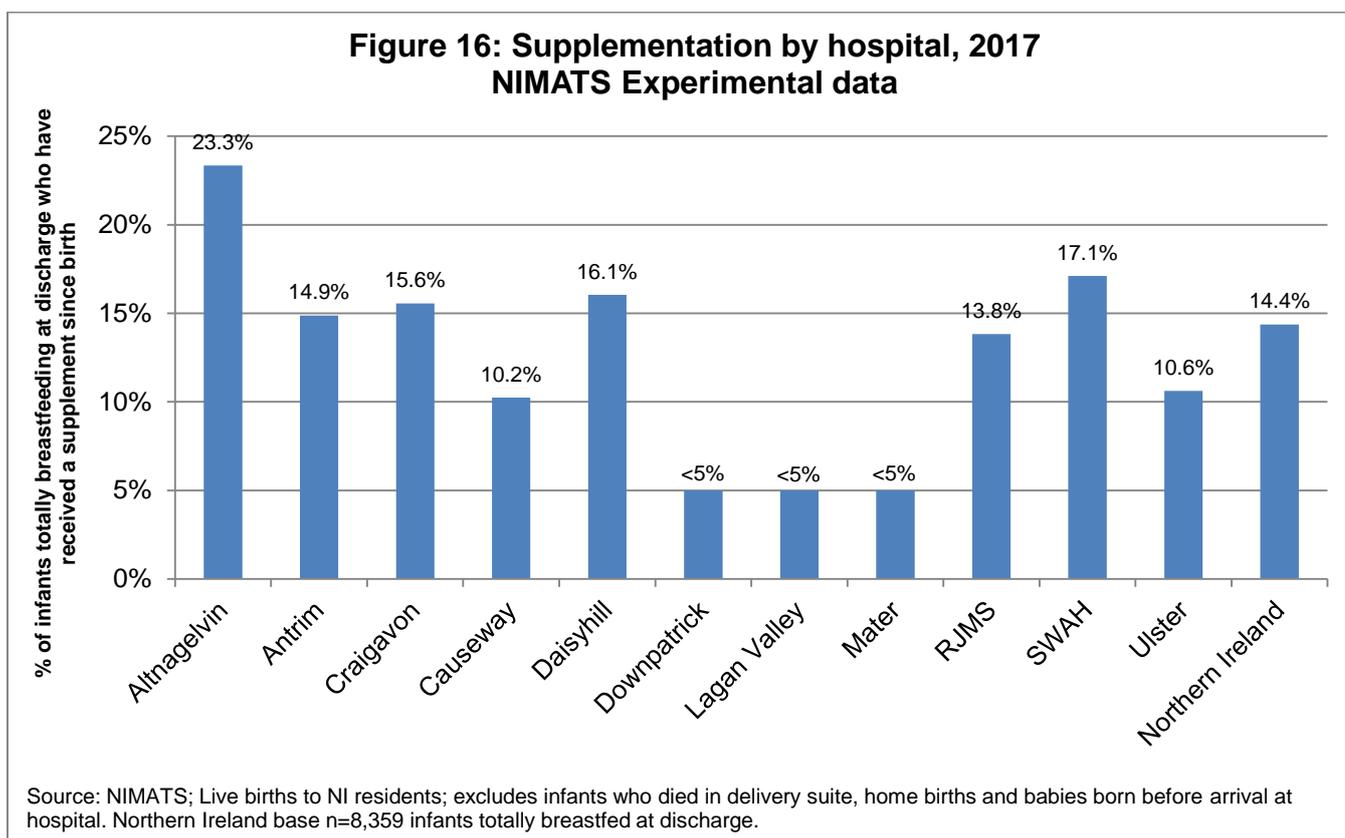
Source: NIMATS; Live births to NI residents; excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and babies born before arrival at hospital.

Supplementation

Evidence suggests that providing newborn babies with foods or fluids other than breast milk in the first few days after birth has a negative impact on the successful establishment and maintenance of breastfeeding.^{35,36} Supplementation with artificial milk has also been found to significantly alter the intestinal microflora.³⁷

Current WHO guidance recommends that 'Mothers should be discouraged from giving any food or fluids other than breast milk, unless medically indicated'.³⁸ One of the key findings from a 2016 review of the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative stated that 'Avoiding in-hospital supplementation appears to be a key step for breastfeeding success, perhaps reflecting adequate implementation of the rest of Ten Steps'.³⁹

For infants who are recorded as being totally breastfed at discharge, NIMATS also records if the infant has received any formula supplements. The system does not record the reason for supplementation i.e. clinical indication, fully informed choice or other. Overall, 14.4% (n=1,201) of infants who were totally breastfed at discharge had also received a formula supplement since birth (Figure 16, Appendix Table L). The rates of supplementation vary between hospitals and range from <5% to 23.3%.

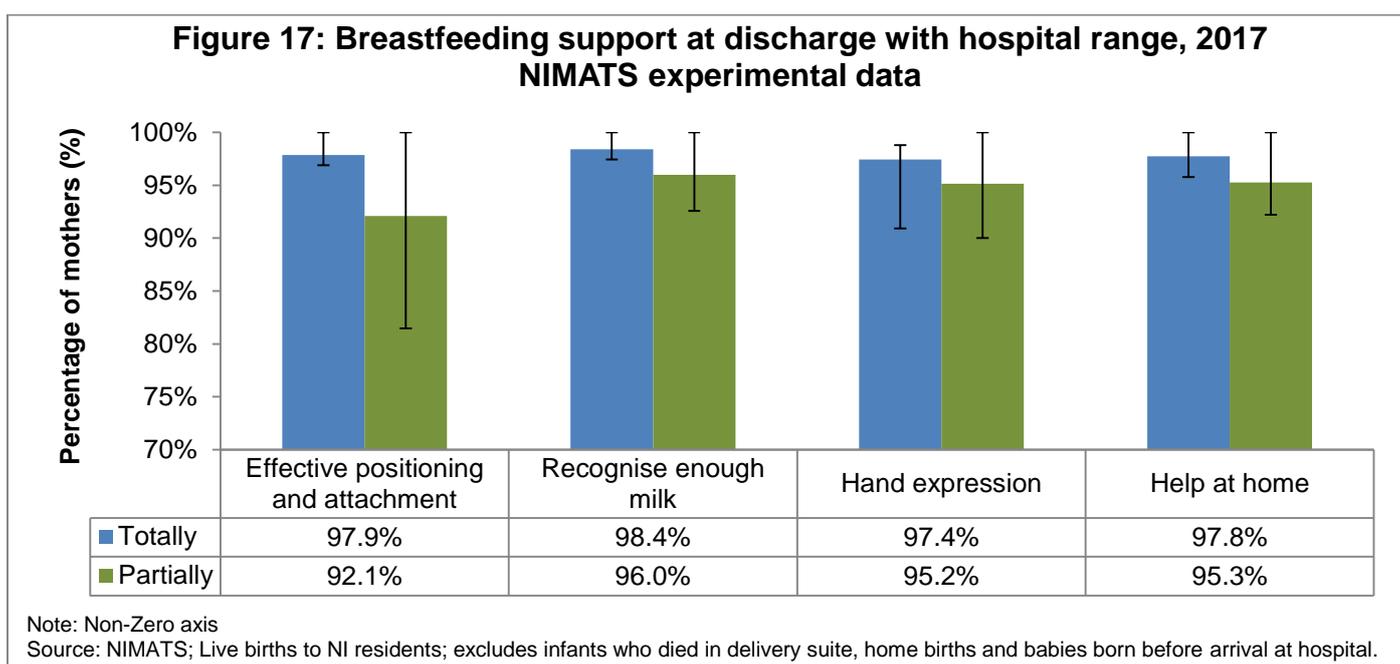


As previously highlighted skin-to-skin contact at birth can support mothers to establish and maintain breastfeeding. As such, it is of interest to note that of those infants who were totally breastfed at discharge, 13.7% (1,033/7,556) of those who had skin-to-skin contact at birth had received a supplement compared to 20.9% (168/802) of those who did not have skin-to-skin contact at birth.

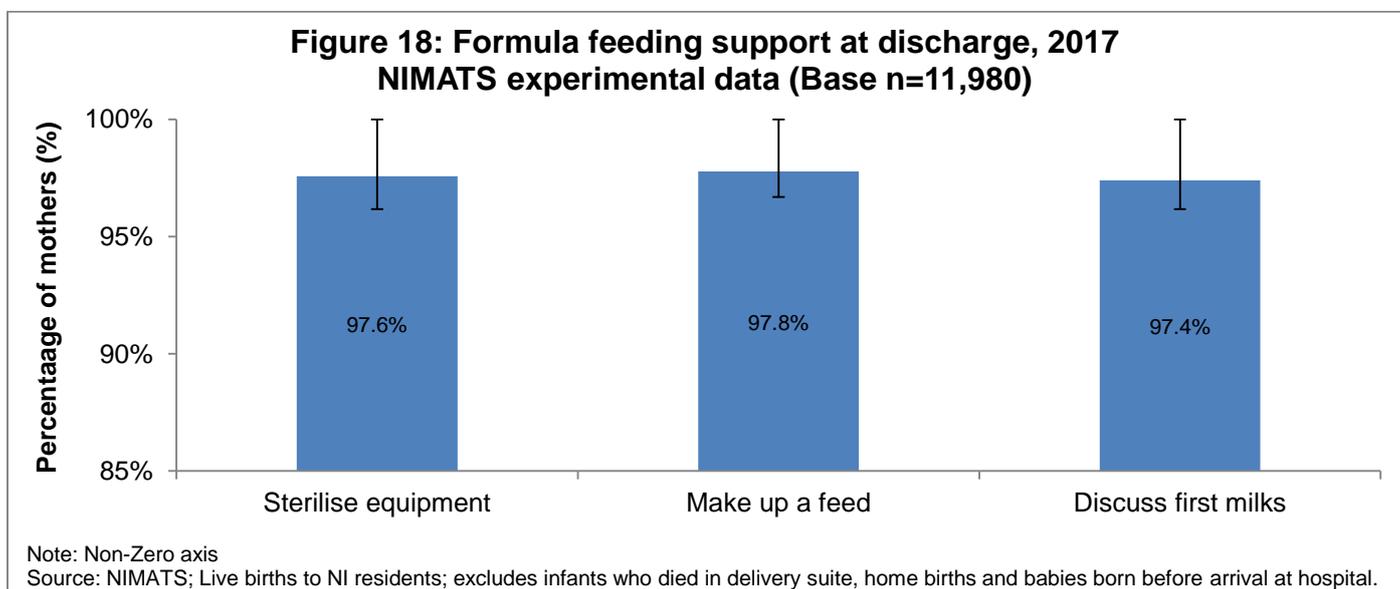
Support with feeding

The UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative standards for maternity services require staff to enable mothers to get breastfeeding off to a good start and to support mothers to make informed decisions regarding the introduction of food or fluids other than breastmilk. This means that mothers should be supported to initiate and maintain breastfeeding and manage common difficulties. This includes coaching mothers on how to express breastmilk including hand expression, understanding good positioning and attachment and milk supply.

NIMATS data for 2017 shows that over nine out of ten mothers who were totally or partially breastfeeding at discharge had received information on effective positioning and attachment, recognising enough milk, hand expression and accessing help at home at discharge (Figure 17, Appendix Table M). In addition to the Northern Ireland levels, Figure 17 also highlights the range from lowest to highest across hospitals.

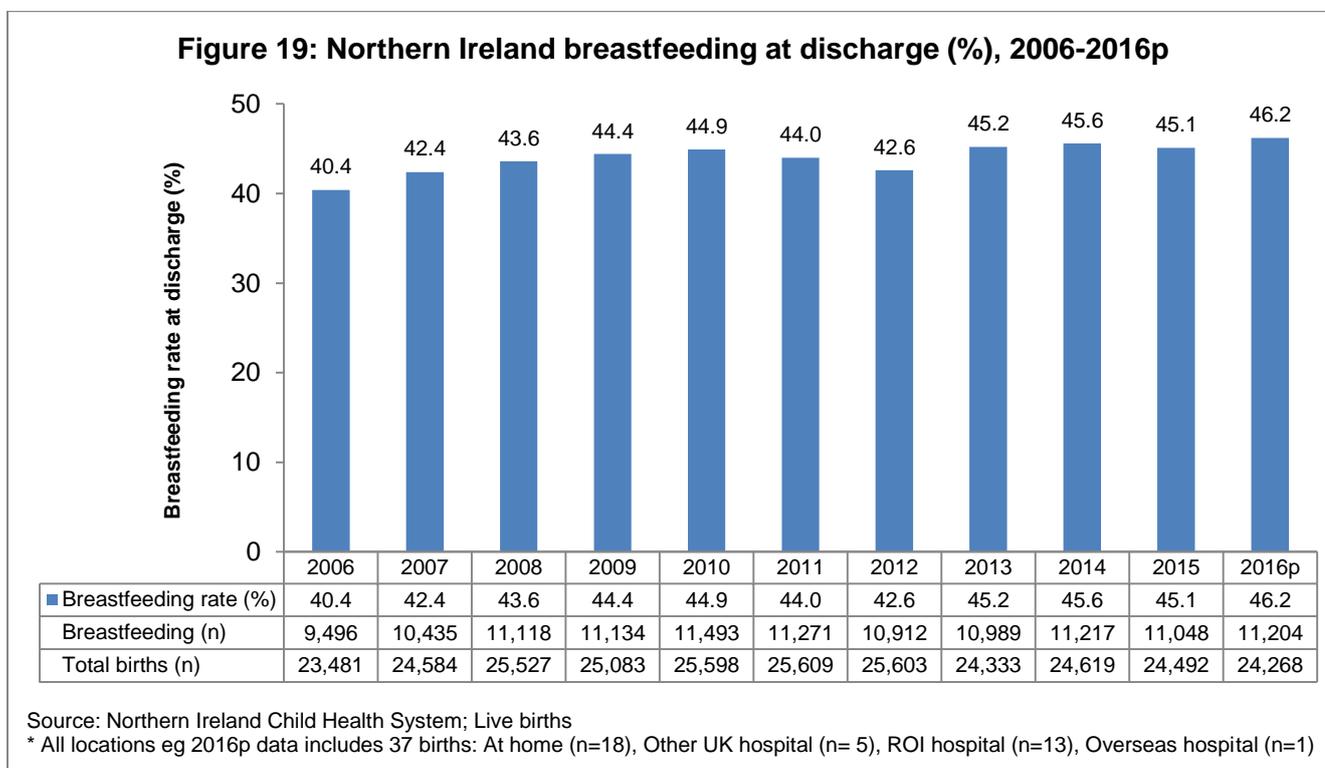


BFI standards relating to support with bottle-feeding highlight that mothers who are mixed feeding or have chosen to formula feed should be taught about safe preparation and storage of formula. NIMATS records that a high proportions of mothers formula feeding at discharge are offered information/support to sterilise equipment (97.6%), make up feeds (97.8%) and discuss first milks (97.4%) (Figure 18, Appendix Table N).



Feeding at discharge - CHS

Figure 19 shows the number of infants receiving **any**[‡] breast milk at discharge from hospitals* in Northern Ireland from 2006-2016p. Between 2006 and 2010, the rate of breastfeeding at discharge increased from 40.4% to 44.9% (an average yearly increase of 1.1%). While the rates for 2011 and 2012 decreased to 44.0% and 42.6% respectively, figures for 2013 showed an increase in the rate to 45.2% which remained relatively stable until 2015. Provisional figures for 2016p show a small increase to 46.2% (Figure 19).



More recent figures available from NIMATS for 2017 indicate that 47.5% of infants were receiving breastmilk at discharge (Table 4).

Table 4: Northern Ireland breastfeeding at discharge, NIMATS 2015-2017

Year	Artificial		Any breastfeeding		Other		Missing data		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2017	12,030	52.0	10,988	47.5	-	0.0	138	0.6	23,156	100.0
2016	12,658	52.6	11,136	46.3	75	0.3	177	0.7	24,046	100.0
2015	12,948	53.4	10,969	45.3	205	0.8	108	0.4	24,230	100.0

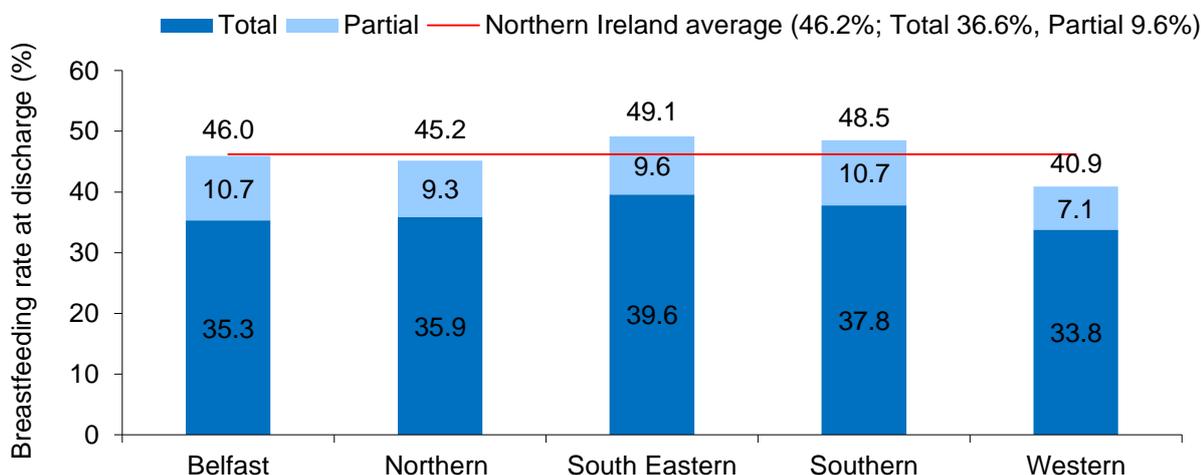
Source: Northern Ireland Maternity System (NIMATS). Data includes live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births and infants who died in the delivery suite.
Note: There will be some variation between total births as the systems collate information differently for example, NIMATS will record births in Northern Ireland hospitals while CHS will include infants not born in NI hospitals.

[‡] Data includes infants receiving only breast milk and those receiving both breast milk and formula.

Health and Social Care Trust

CHS data for 2016p shows that the South Eastern HSCT/LCG[^] has the highest breastfeeding rates at discharge (49.1%) followed by the Southern HSCT (48.5%), Belfast HSCT (46.0%), Northern (45.2%) and Western (40.9%) (Figure 20, Appendix Table O). For definitions of 'Total' and 'Partial' breastfeeding refer to Page 49.

Figure 20: Breastfeeding rate at discharge (%) by HSCT / LCG[^], 2016p

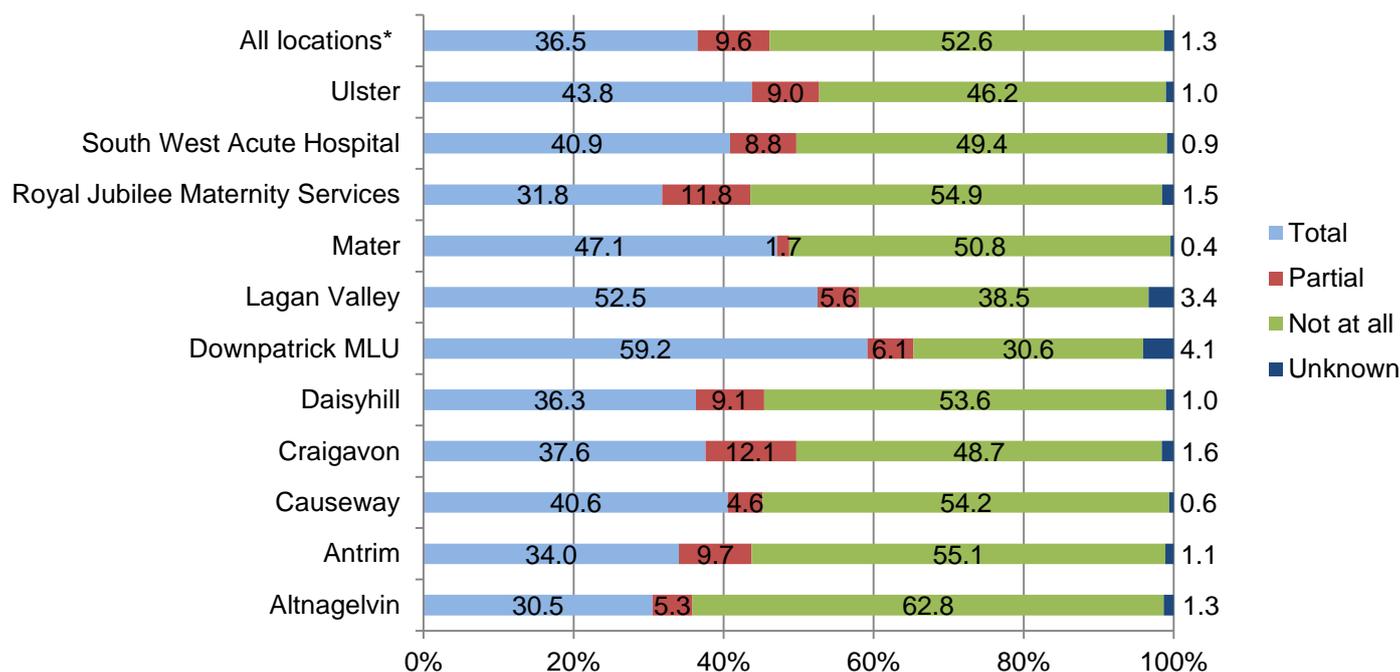


Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births. Note: [^] LCG based on maternal residence.

Place of birth

In 2016p the highest rates of any breastfeeding at discharge from hospital were Downpatrick MLU (65.3%, n=49), Ulster (52.7%), Lagan Valley (58.1%), Craigavon (49.7%) and South West Acute Hospital (49.7%) (Figure 21, Appendix Table P).

Figure 21: Breastfeeding rate at discharge (%) by hospital, 2016p



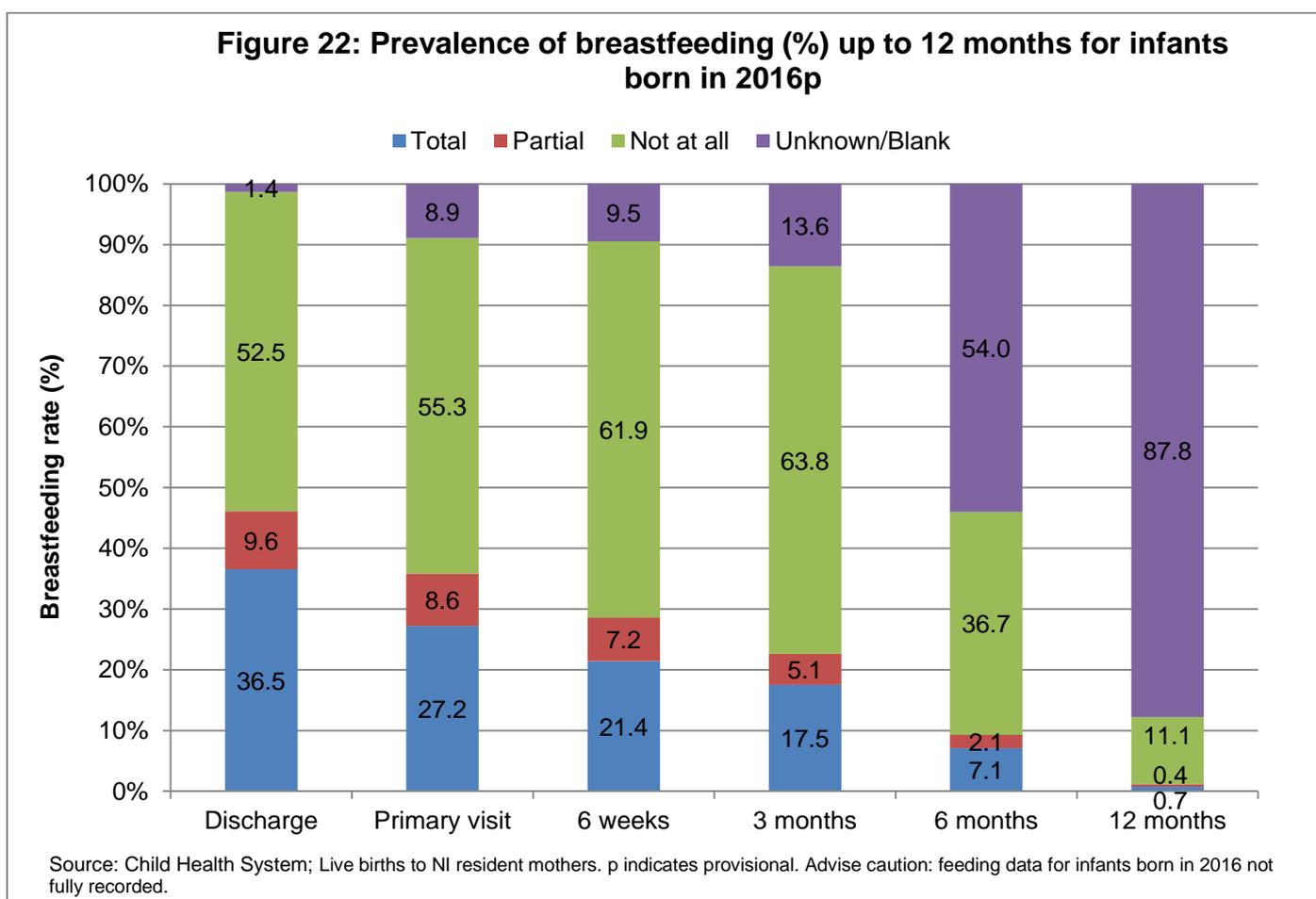
Source: CHS; Live births to NI resident mothers. All locations* - Excludes 36 births - At home (n=18), Other UK hospital (n=5), ROI hospital (n=12), Overseas hospital (n=1)

Prevalence of breastfeeding

The Child Health System currently collates information on the feeding status of infants at discharge from hospital, first visit (10-14 days), 6 weeks, 3 months, 6 months and 12 months in line with Healthy Child, Healthy Future. This data provides an indication of the prevalence of breastfeeding.

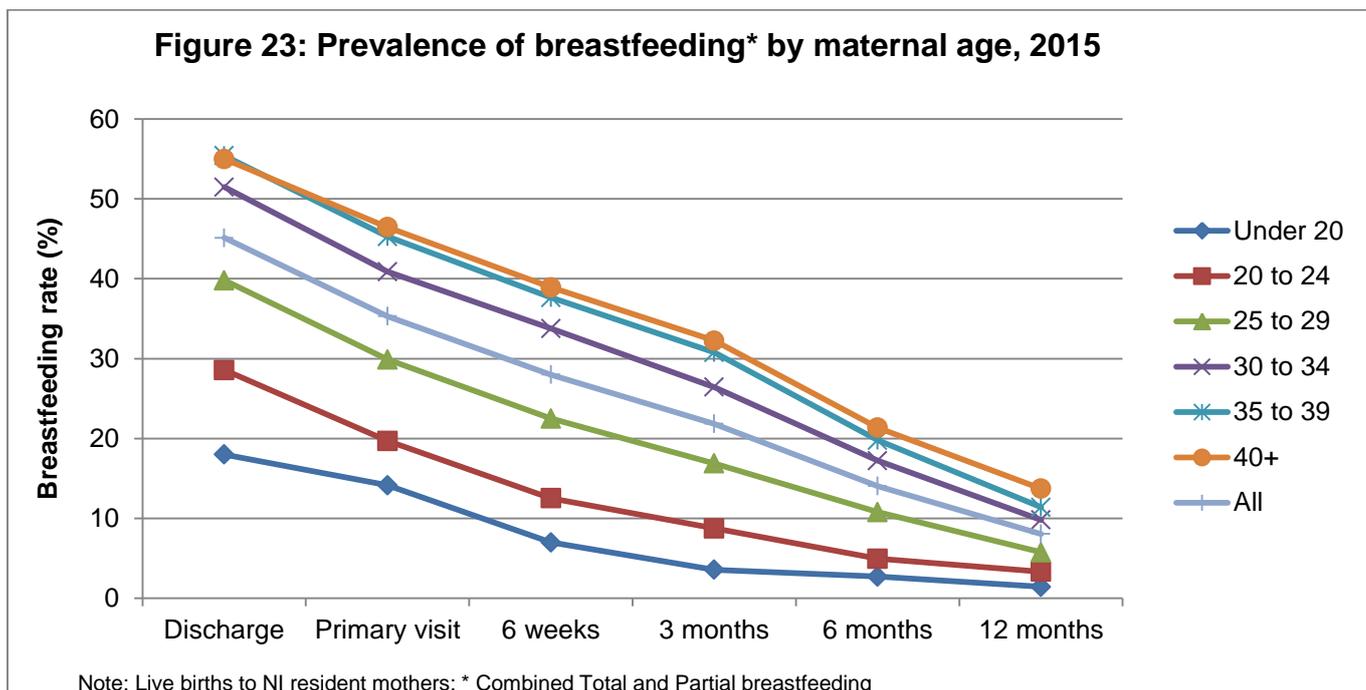
There is a time lag in reporting data on breastfeeding prevalence for example, 12 month data for an infant born in December 2016 will not be due for collection until December 2017. As such it is important to note that feeding status was not fully recorded for all time points at the time of the data download from CHS, as illustrated by the high proportions of unknowns at 6 and 12 months. Figures are subject to change as data is updated on CHS and as such should be considered provisional. It is intended that the 2016p cohort of birth data will be updated in the next brief.

Figure 22 (Appendix Table Q) shows the prevalence of breastfeeding for births in 2016p. Data shows a drop in the number of infants receiving any breast milk from 46.1% at discharge to 35.8% at the primary visit, 28.6% at 6 weeks, 22.6% at 3 months, 9.3% at 6 months and 1.1% at 12 months.



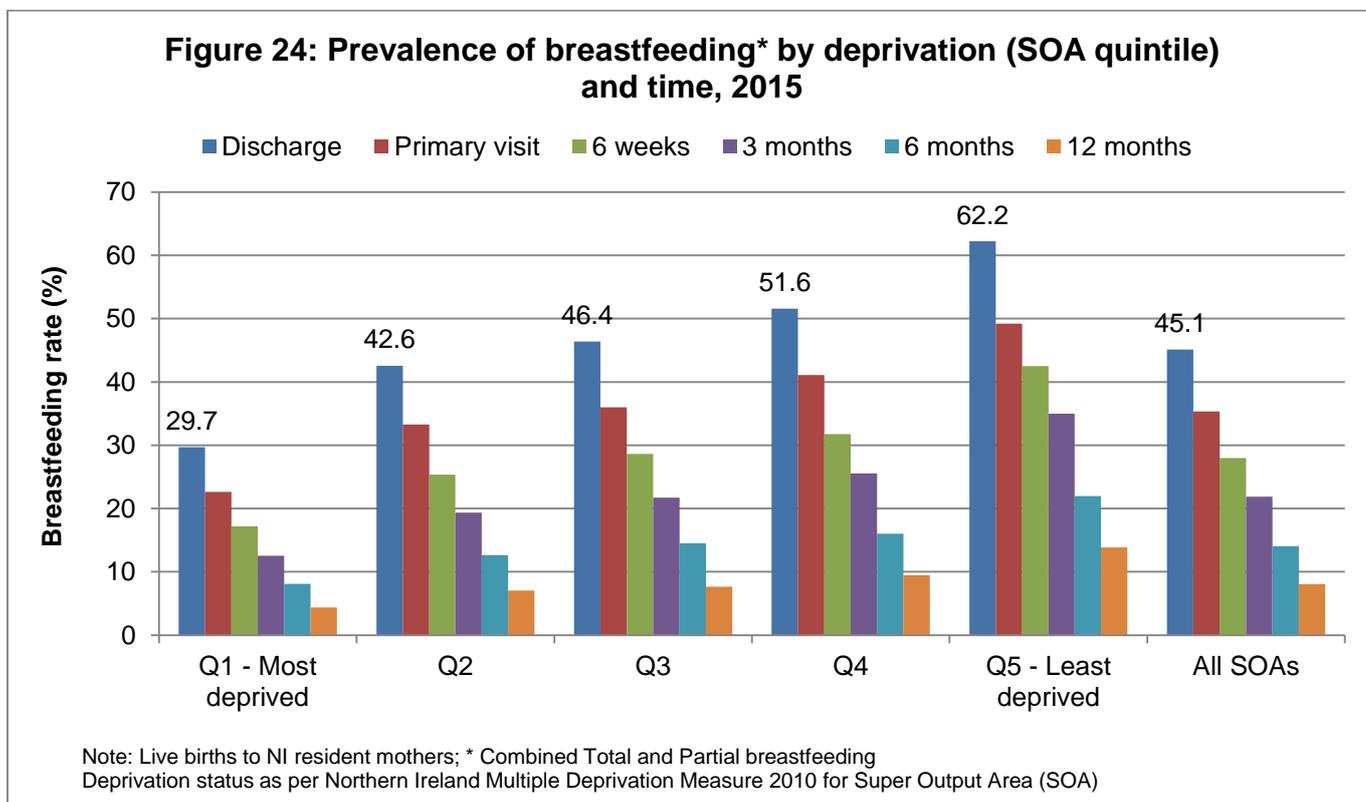
Maternal age

Figure 23 (Appendix Table R) shows the prevalence of breastfeeding* by maternal age for infants born in 2015. Mothers aged over 30 years are twice as likely as those under 30 years of age to be feeding beyond 6 weeks.



Deprivation

Figure 24 (Appendix Table S) shows that the rate of breastfeeding* is higher in the least deprived areas and this pattern is consistent at each recording time point.



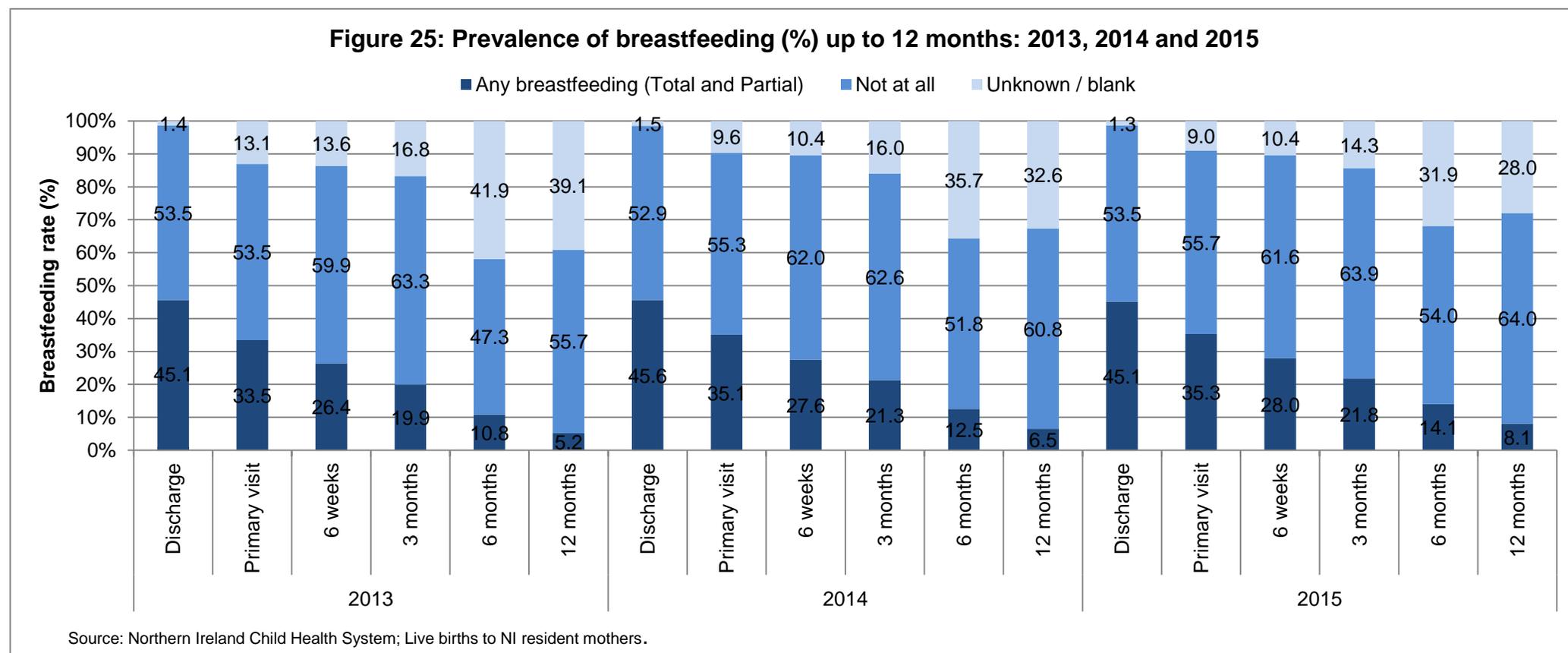
Further breakdowns on the prevalence of breastfeeding by place of birth and Health and Social Care Trust are available in Appendix Tables T and U respectively.

Trends in breastfeeding prevalence, 2013-2015

Figure 25 (Appendix Table V) provides a comparison of data on breastfeeding prevalence up to 12 months for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015.

In general, the data shows that the pattern of breastfeeding remains relatively stable between 2013 and 2015 between discharge and 3 months. However, there is some indication of an increase in prevalence at both 6 months and 12 months with rates increasing from 10.8% in 2013 to 12.5% in 2014 and 14.1% in 2015 and from 5.2% in 2013 to 6.5% in 2014 and 8.1% in 2015 respectively.

Data for 2015 continues to show some improvement in the level of recording from 2014 with fewer unknowns / blanks, however, this remains an area for improvement.

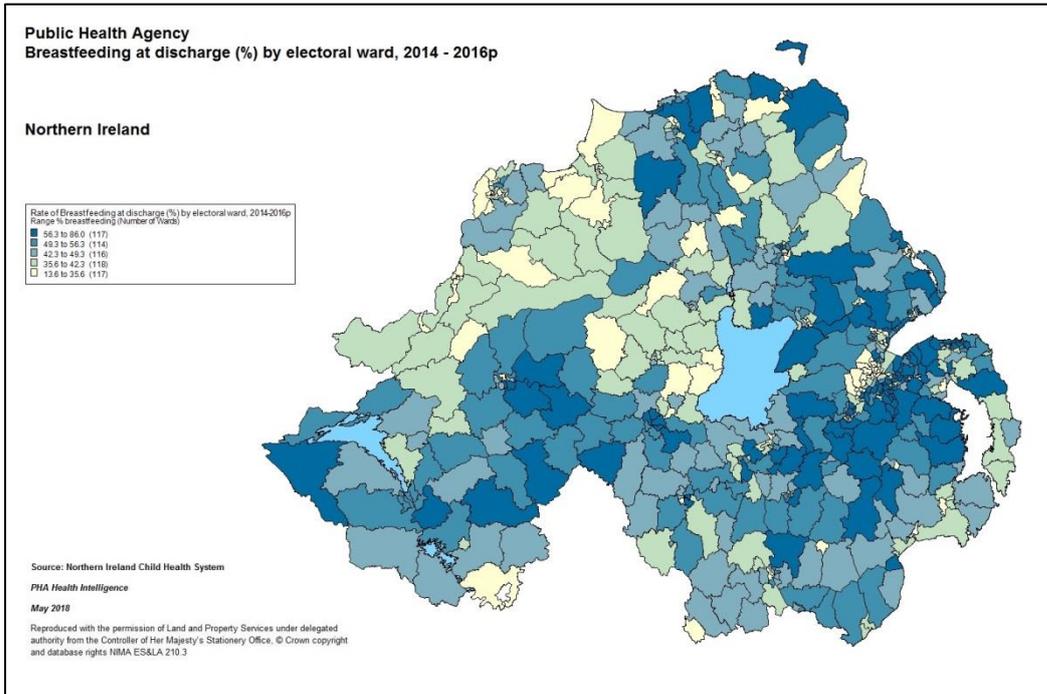


Breastfeeding and inequality

Using data from the Child Health System it is possible to map the variation in average breastfeeding rates for 2014-2016p at local ward level (1992) across Northern Ireland (Figure 26). Due to small numbers a three year period is used to provide some stability in rates.

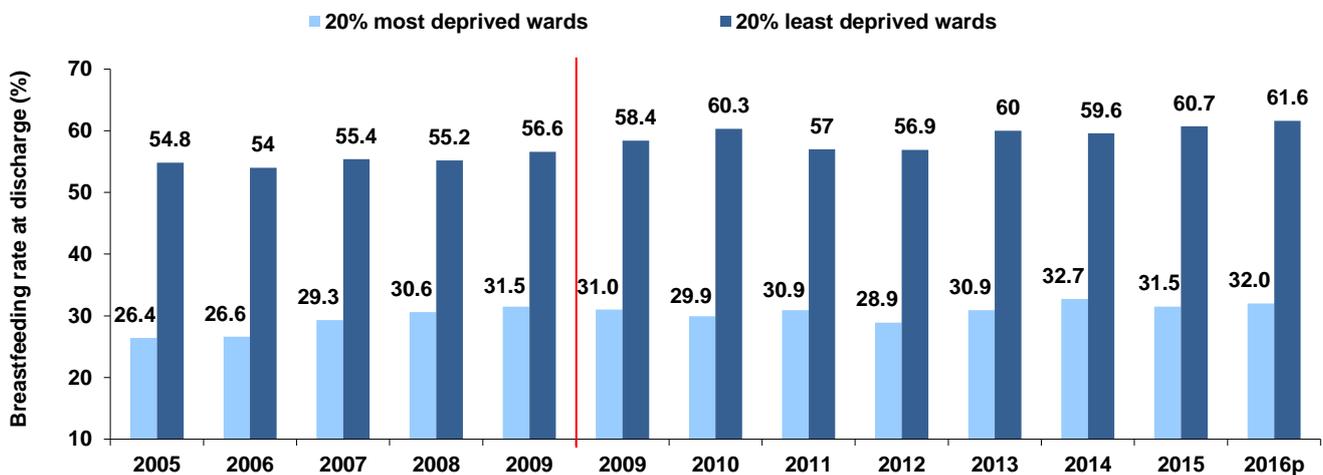
At a Northern Ireland level the lowest breastfeeding rates are found in Whiterock (13.7%), Ardoyne (14.6%), Shankill (14.9%), Woodvale (15.2%) and Collin Glen (15.3%) wards with the highest breastfeeding rates observed in Stormont (85.9%), Craigavad (82.8%), Holywood Priory (82.3%), Stranmillis (81.9%) and Drumbo (80.6%).

Figure 26



The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) provides a relative measure of deprivation for local ward areas across Northern Ireland. Comparison of breastfeeding rates between 2005 and 2016p shows that mothers living in the 20% least deprived wards are on average twice as likely to breastfeed as those mothers living in the 20% most deprived wards (Figure 27). A comparison of 2009 rates was conducted using both 2005 and 2010 MDM.

Figure 27: Breastfeeding rates at discharge for the 20% most deprived wards (1992) compared to the 20% least deprived, 2005-2016p



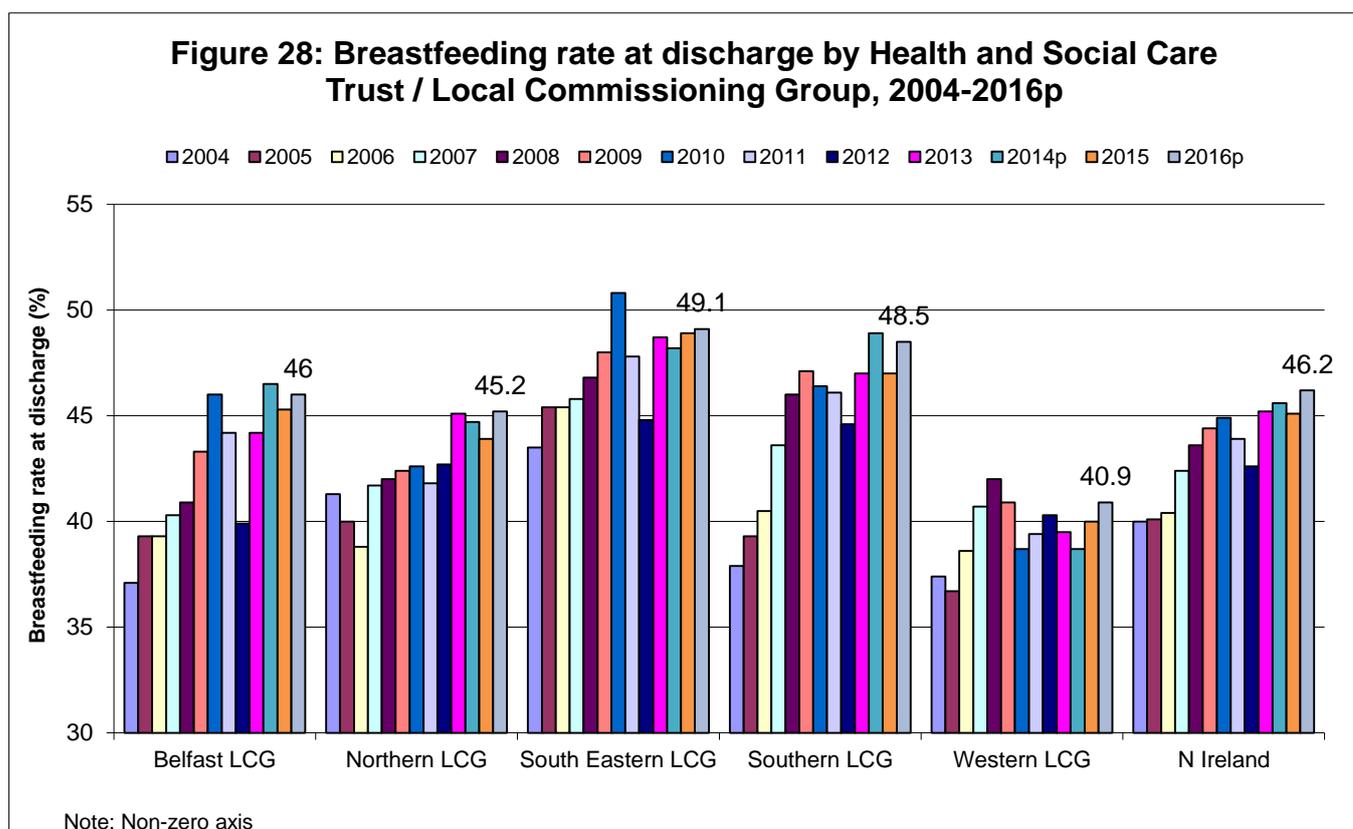
Source: Child Health System. Note: Rates from 2005 to 2009 calculated using 2005 MDM. The graph also shows a comparison of 2009 rates conducted using both 2005 and 2010 MDM. Rates from 2010 calculated using 2010 MDM.

Breastfeeding rates at discharge by Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT) / Local Commissioning Group (LCG)

Figure 28 shows the variation in rates of breastfeeding at hospital discharge from the Child Health System by LCG based on maternal residence (Appendix Table W).

At a Northern Ireland regional level the rate of breastfeeding at discharge has increased from 40.0% in 2004 to 46.2% in 2016p (an average yearly increase of 0.5%).

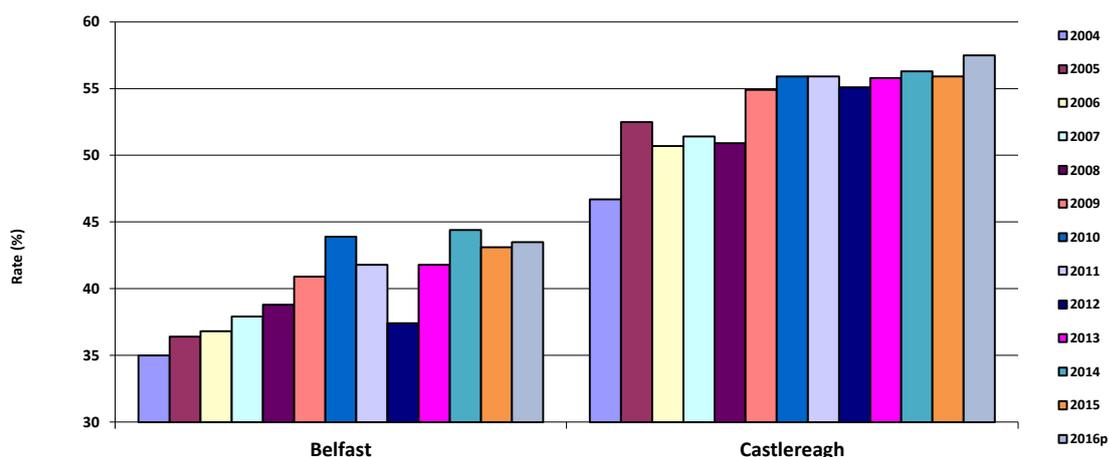
At HSCT/ LCG level, between 2004 and 2016p, the Southern HSCT showed the largest increase in breastfeeding rates at discharge, an increase of 10.6 percentage points compared to 8.9 for the Belfast HSCT, 5.6 for the South Eastern HSCT, 3.9 for the Northern HSCT and 3.5 for the Western HSCT (CHS).



The following pages provide breakdowns by HSCT and Local Government District (LGD1992) areas for comparative purposes. Further breakdowns by new Council areas (LGD2014) and District Electoral Wards (DEA2014) are available on Pages 31-35.

Belfast HSCT / LCG (Appendix Table X)

Figure 29: Belfast LCG breastfeeding at discharge, 2004-2016p



Note: Non-zero axis

Figure 30

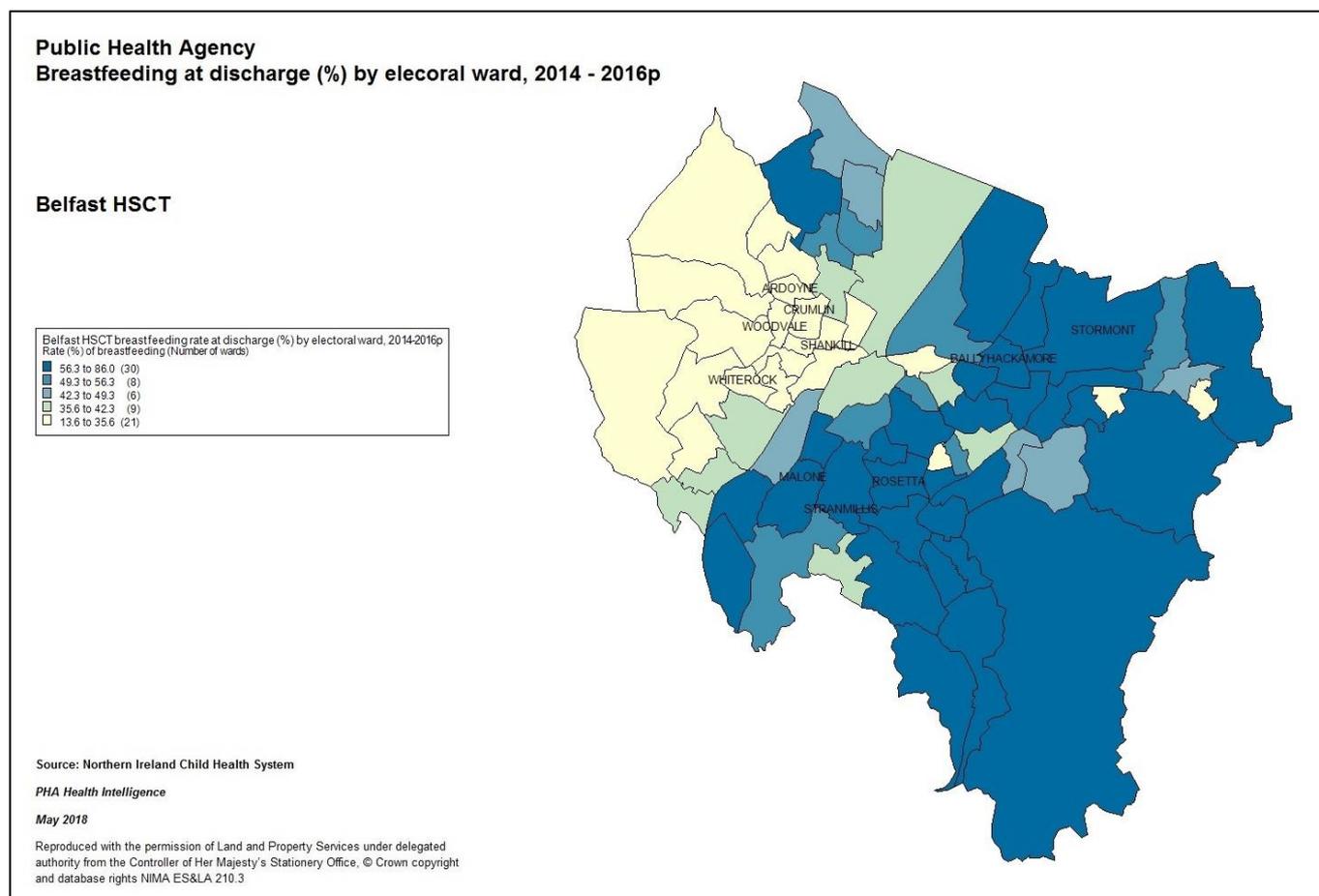


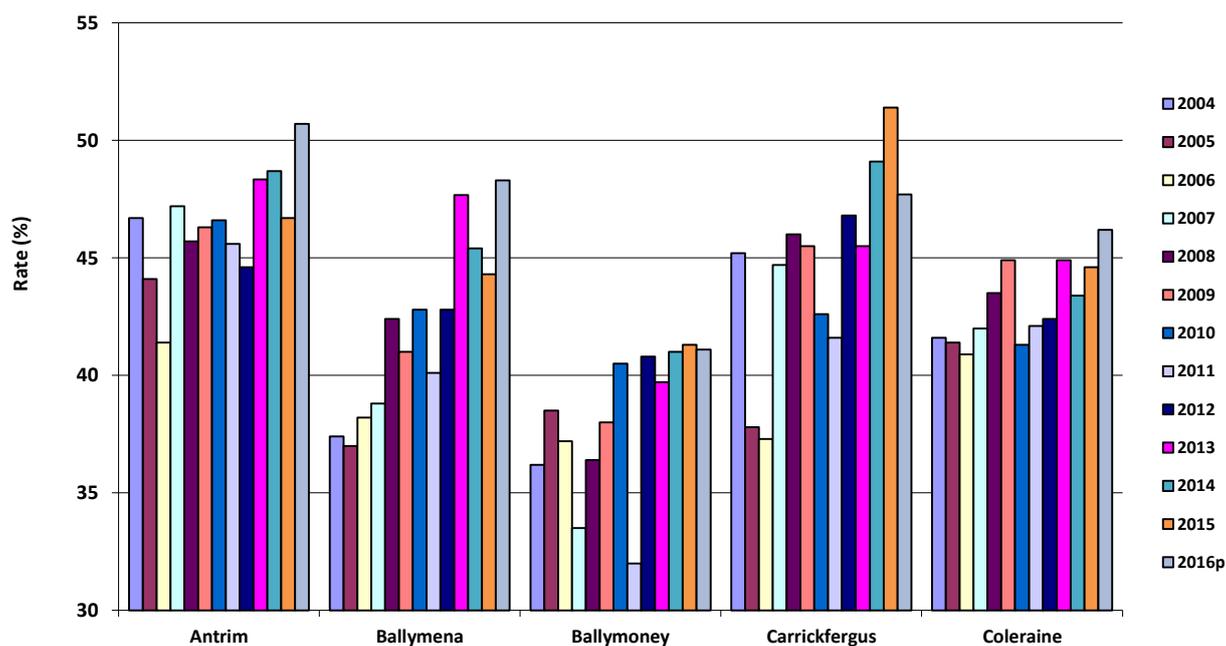
Table: 5 Belfast HSCT / LCG

Wards with highest breastfeeding rates 2014 - 2016p		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Stormont	85.9
2	Stranmillis	81.9
3	Rosetta	79.8
4	Malone	79.6
5	Ballyhackamore	78.3

Wards with lowest breastfeeding rates 2014 - 2016p		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Whiterock	13.7
2	Ardoyne	14.6
3	Shankill	14.9
4	Woodvale	15.2
5	Crumlin (Belfast)	17.6

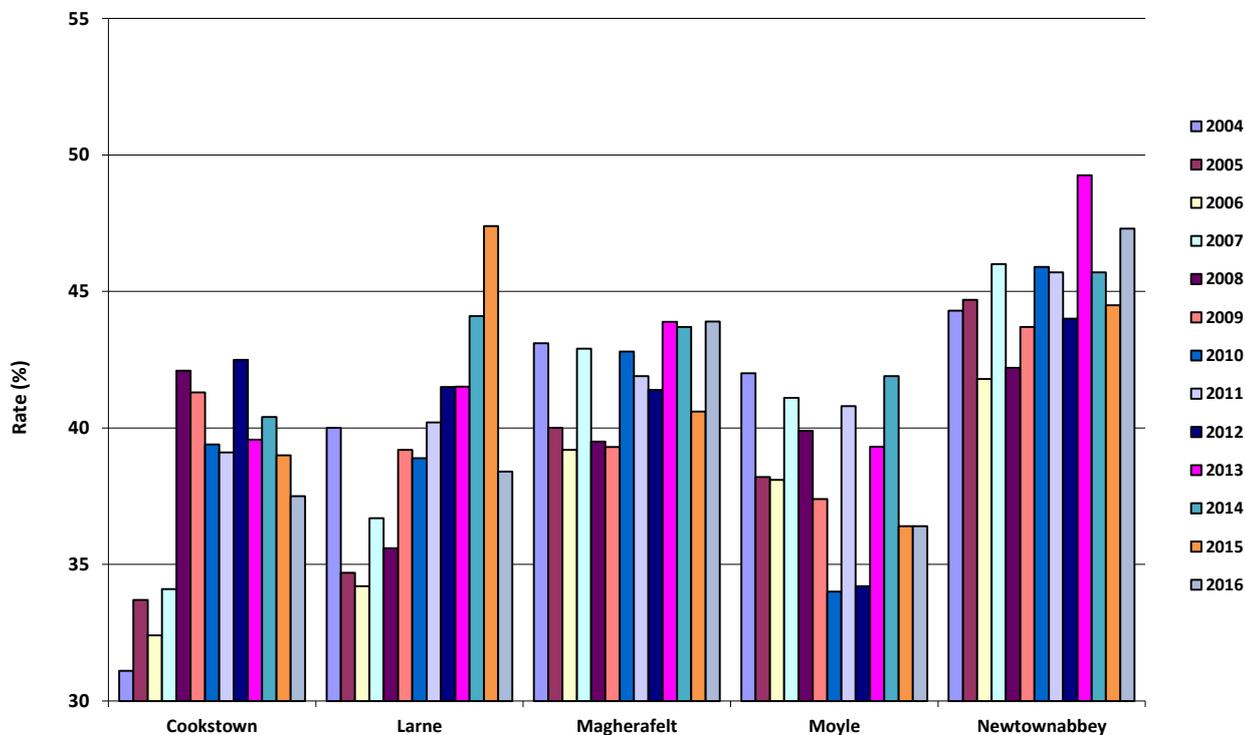
Northern HSCT / LCG (Appendix Table Y)

Figure 31: Northern LCG breastfeeding at discharge, 2004-2016p



Note: Non-zero axis

Figure 32: Northern LCG breastfeeding at discharge, 2004-2016p



Note: Non-zero axis

Figure 33

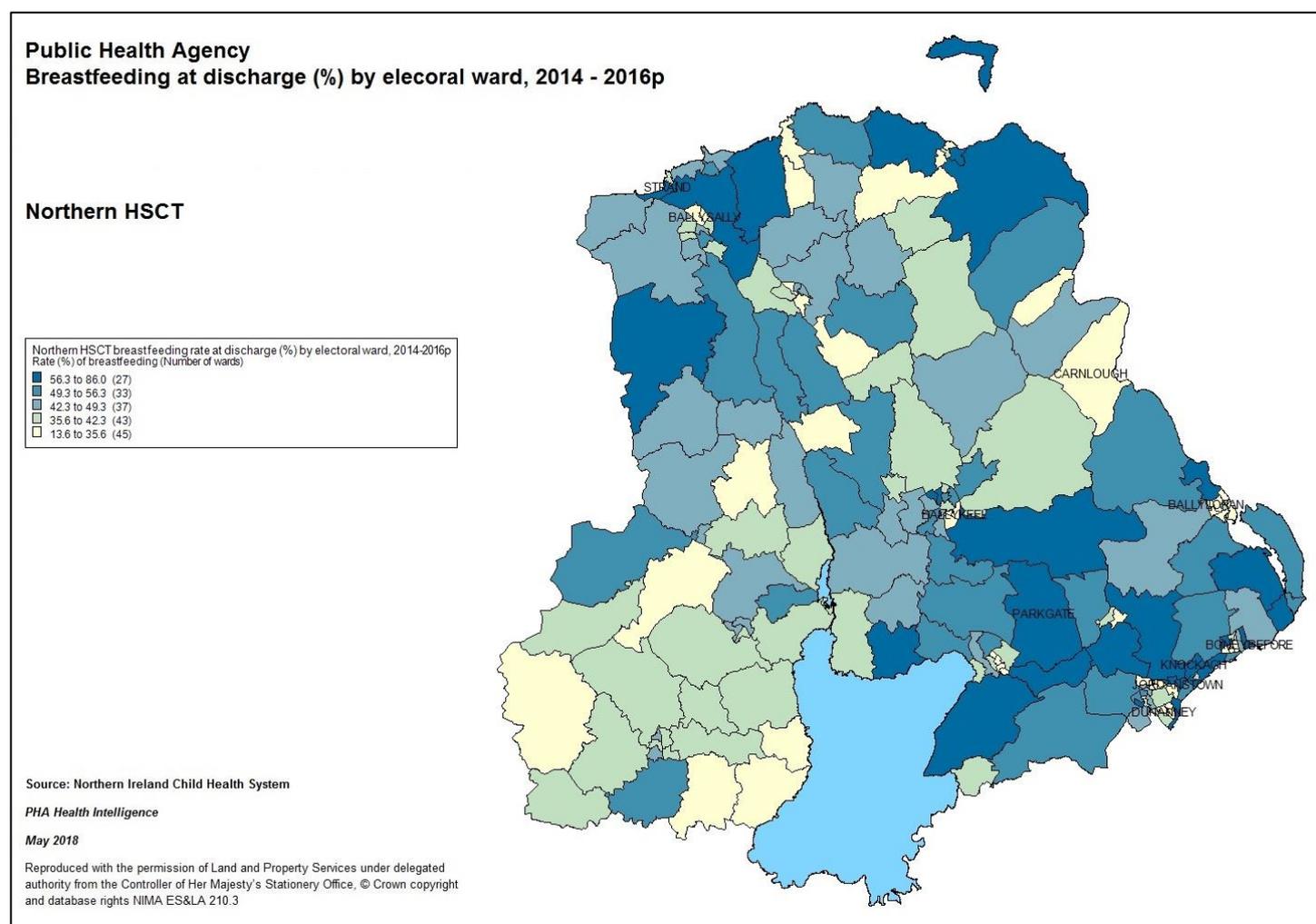


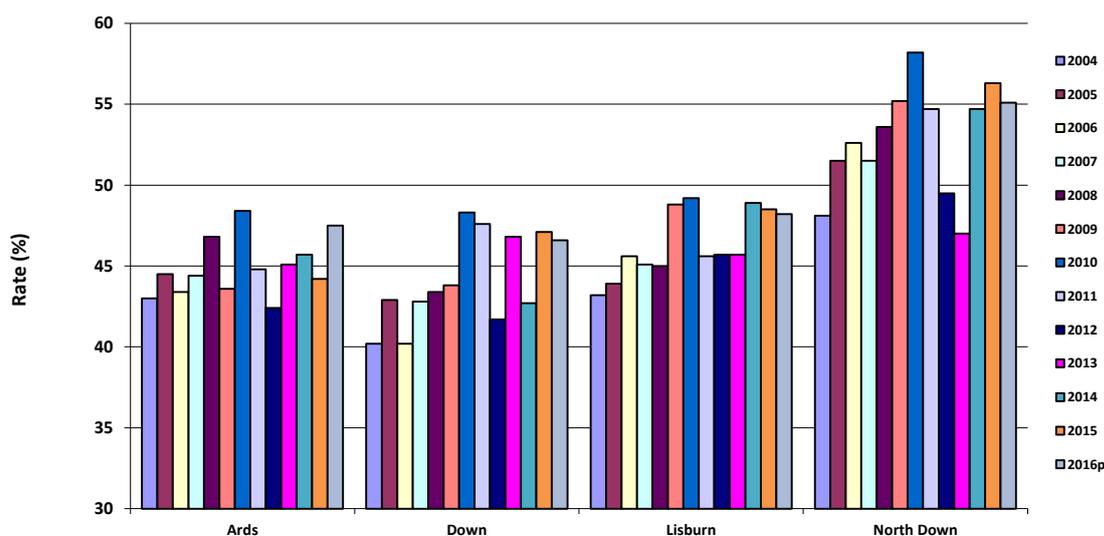
Table: 6 Northern HSCT / LCG

Wards with highest breastfeeding rates 2014 - 2016p		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Boneybefore	71.4 (n=20)
2	Strand (Coleraine)	70.7
3	Parkgate	70.4
4	Knockagh	70.0
5	Jordanstown	69.2

Wards with lowest breastfeeding rates 2014 - 2016p		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Ballykeel	17.6 (n=15)
2	Ballyloran	18.4 (n=7)
3	Dunanney	19.1 (n=18)
4	Ballysally	19.9
5	Carnlough	20.0 (n=15)

South Eastern HSCT / LCG (Appendix Table Z)

Figure 34: South Eastern LCG breastfeeding at discharge, 2004-2016p



Note: Non-zero axis

Figure 35

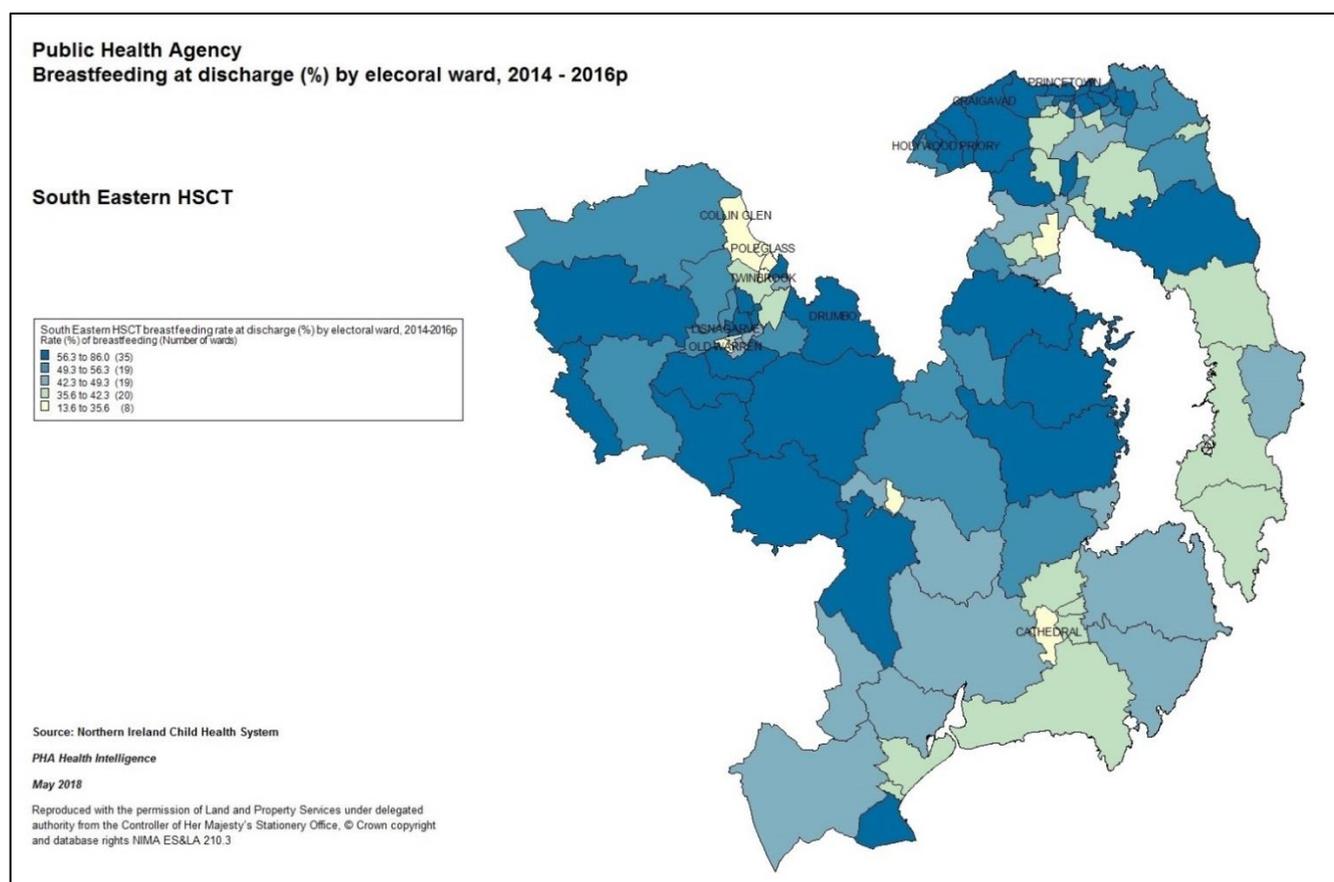


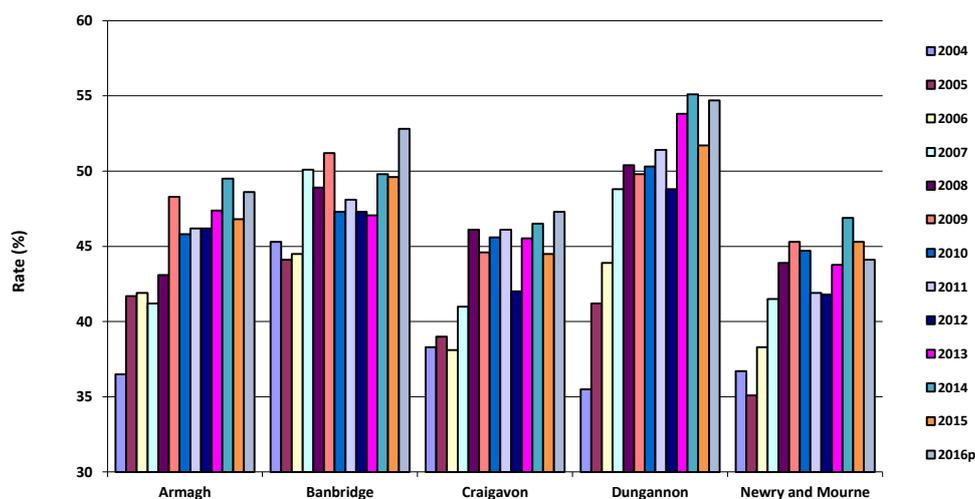
Table: 7 South Eastern HSCT / LCG

Wards with highest breastfeeding rates 2014 - 2016p		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Craigavad	82.8
2	Hollywood Priory	82.3
3	Drumbo	80.6
4	Lisnagarvey	80.5
5	Princetown	77.4

Wards with lowest breastfeeding rates 2014 - 2016p		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Colin Glen	15.3
2	Poleglass	20.8
3	Twinbrook	28.1
4	Old Warren	28.6
5	Cathedral	29.0

Southern HSCT / LCG (Appendix Table AA)

Figure 36: Southern LCG breastfeeding at discharge, 2004-2016p



Note: Non-zero axis

Figure 37

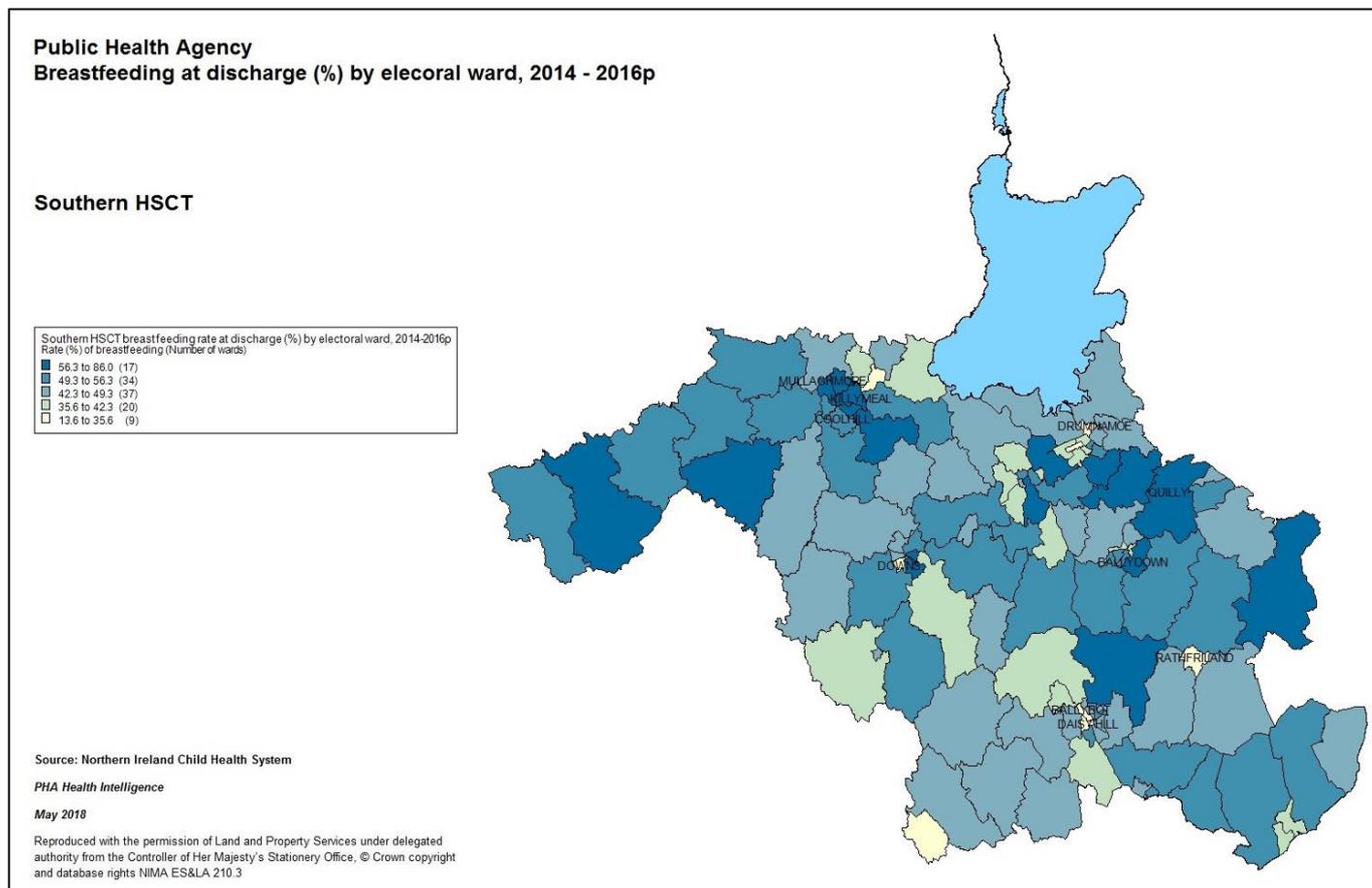


Table: 8 Southern HSCT / LCG

Wards with highest breastfeeding rates 2014 - 2016p		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Killymeal	74.8
2	Quilly	69.1
3	Coolhill	68.8
4	Mullaghmore	63.8
5	Ballydown	63.7

Wards with lowest breastfeeding rates 2014 - 2016p		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Drumnacree	17.1
2	Ballybot	27.5
3	Rathfriland	31.8
4	Daisy Hill	32.7
5	Downs	32.7

Western HSCT / LCG (Appendix Table AB)

Figure 38: Western LCG breastfeeding at discharge, 2004-2016p

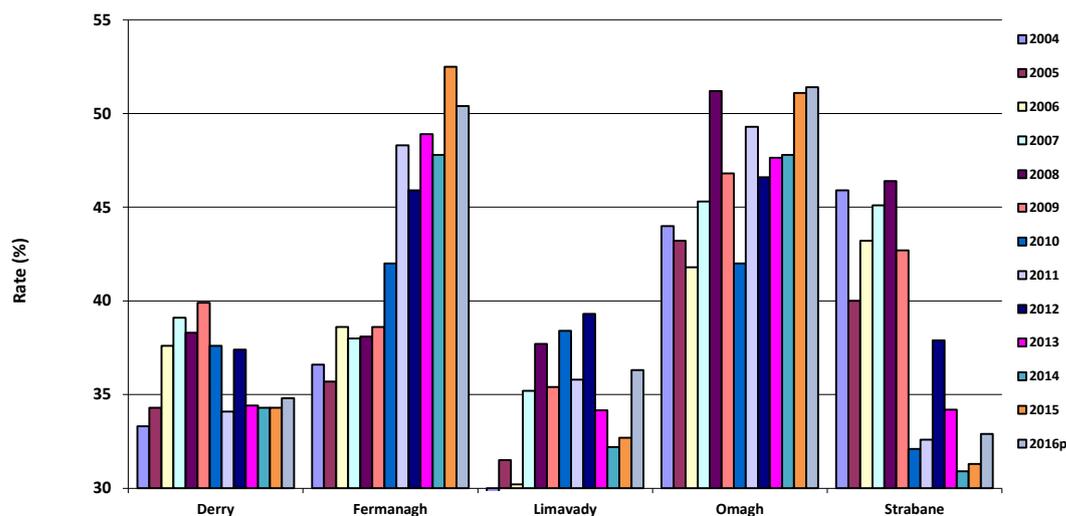


Figure 39

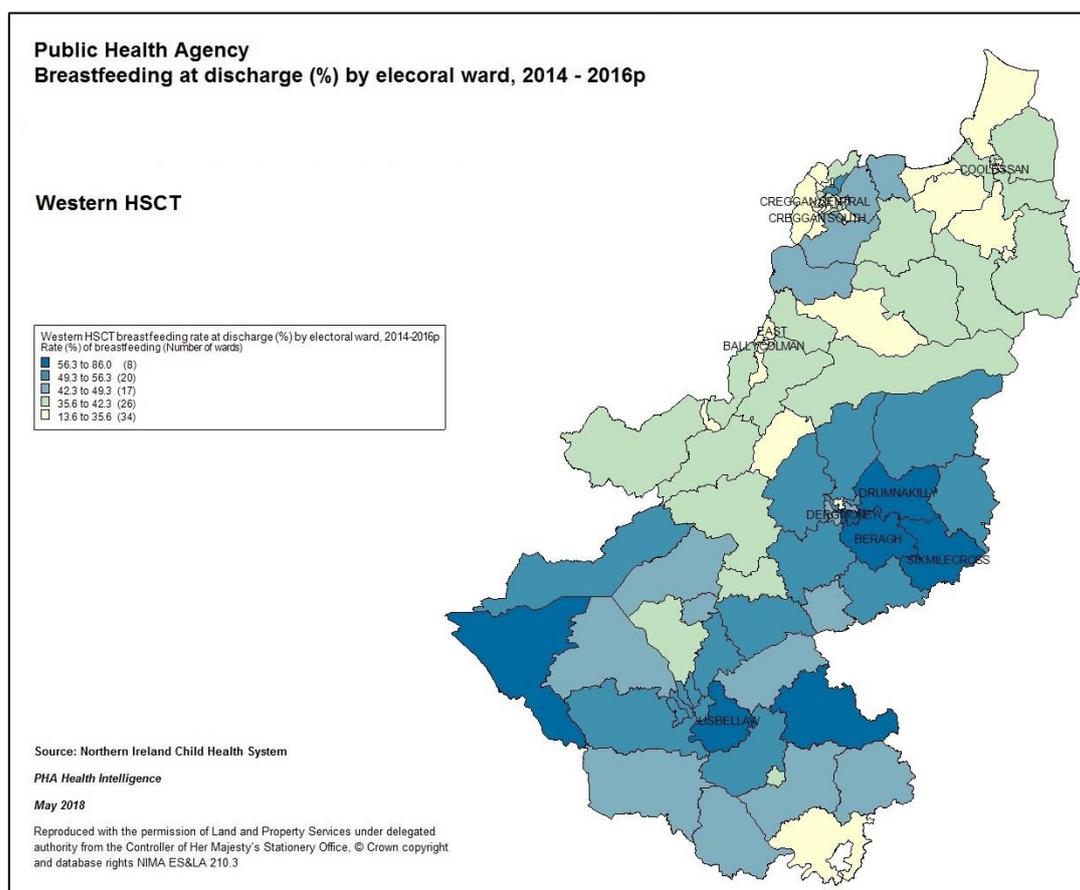


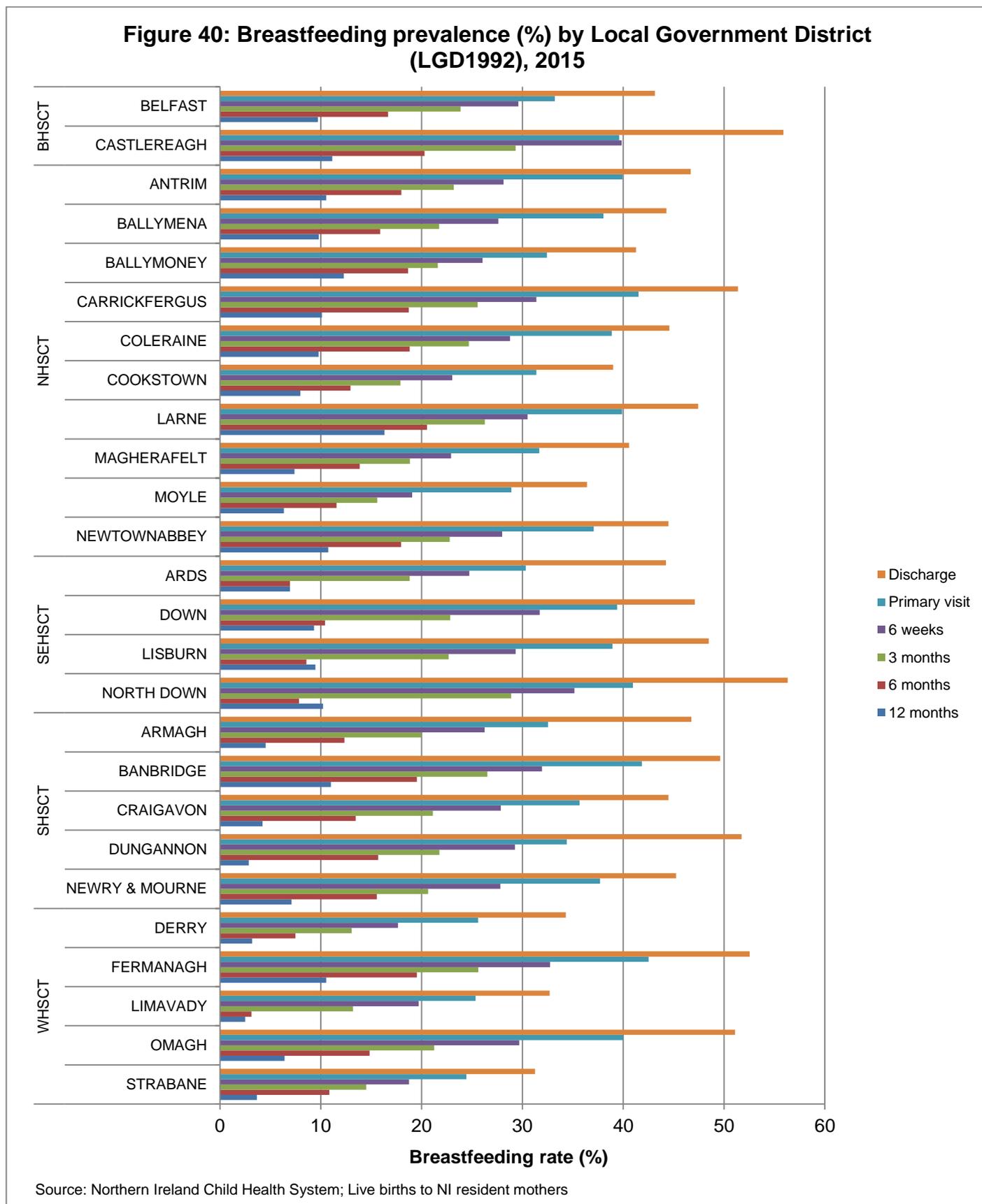
Table: 9 Western HSCT / LCG

Wards with highest breastfeeding rates 2014 - 2016p		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Lisbellaw	67.3
2	Dergmonee	62.7
3	Beragh	57.3
4	Sixmilecross	57.1
5	Drumnakilly	56.8

Wards with lowest breastfeeding rates 2014 - 2016p		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Ballycolman	18.5 (n=15)
2	Coolissan	18.6 (n=13)
3	Creggan Central	19.1 (n=26)
4	Creggan South	19.4
5	East	21.1% (n=16)

Breastfeeding prevalence by HSCT / LCG and Local Government District (LGD1992)

Figure 40 (Appendix Table AC) shows the prevalence of breastfeeding (%) by HSCT / LCG and Local Government District (LGD1992) for 2015.



New council areas

In 2012 the Local Government (Boundaries) Order (Northern Ireland) created 11 new Council areas which came into effect in May 2014 (Figure 41, Table 10).

Data for 2016p shows the highest rates of breastfeeding at discharge in Lisburn and Castlereagh (56.2%) and Ards and North Down (51.5%) with the lowest rates in Derry City and Strabane (34.3%) and Causeway Coast and Glens (41.2%) based on maternal residence.

Figure 41

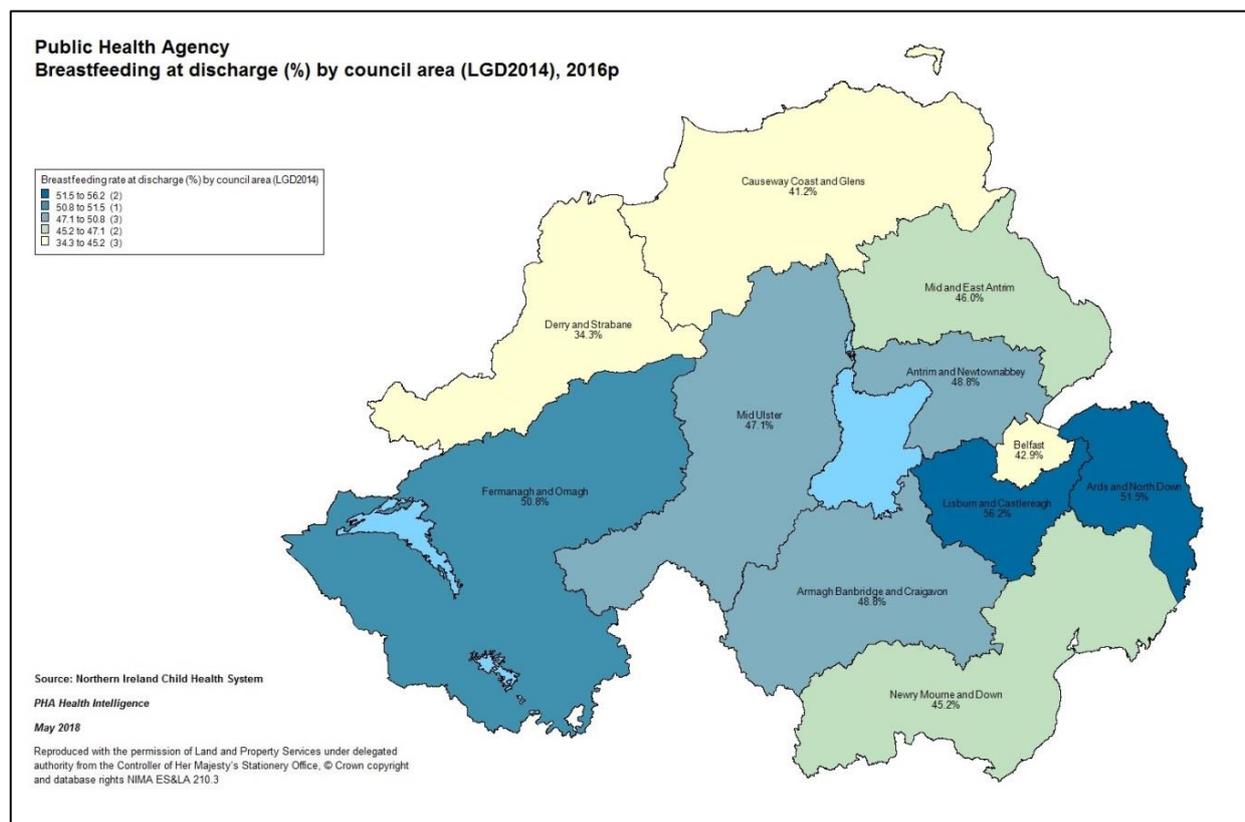


Table 10: Breastfeeding rate at discharge (%) by Council area (LGD2014), 2014, 2015 and 2016p

Council area	2014			2015			2016p		
	Births	Breastfeeding * at discharge		Births	Breastfeeding * at discharge		Births	Breastfeeding * at discharge	
		N	%		N	%		N	%
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,772	831	46.9	1,799	819	45.5	1,748	853	48.8
Ards and North Down	1,742	874	50.2	1,755	883	50.3	1,661	855	51.5
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	2,931	1,405	47.9	2,995	1,386	46.3	2,932	1,430	48.8
Belfast	4,649	2,019	43.4	4,591	1,949	42.5	4,616	1,981	42.9
Causeway Coast and Glens	1,699	677	39.8	1,721	683	39.7	1,631	672	41.2
Derry City and Strabane	2,089	700	33.5	2,106	706	33.5	1,978	679	34.3
Fermanagh and Omagh	1,508	720	47.7	1,428	741	51.9	1,517	771	50.8
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1,747	997	57.1	1,737	971	55.9	1,755	986	56.2
Mid and East Antrim	1,605	740	46.1	1,503	701	46.6	1,585	729	46.0
Mid Ulster	2,139	1,022	47.8	2,186	987	45.2	2,148	1,012	47.1
Newry, Mourne and Down	2,569	1,172	45.6	2,492	1,145	45.9	2,522	1,139	45.2
Total	24,452*	11,158	45.6	24,313	10,971	45.1	24,093	11,107	46.1

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers. * Any breastfeeding (Total/Partial)

* Total includes two births where council residence could not be assigned.

Figure 42 (Appendix Table AD) shows the variation in breastfeeding rates at discharge (%) by Council area (LGD2014) from 2014 to 2016p.

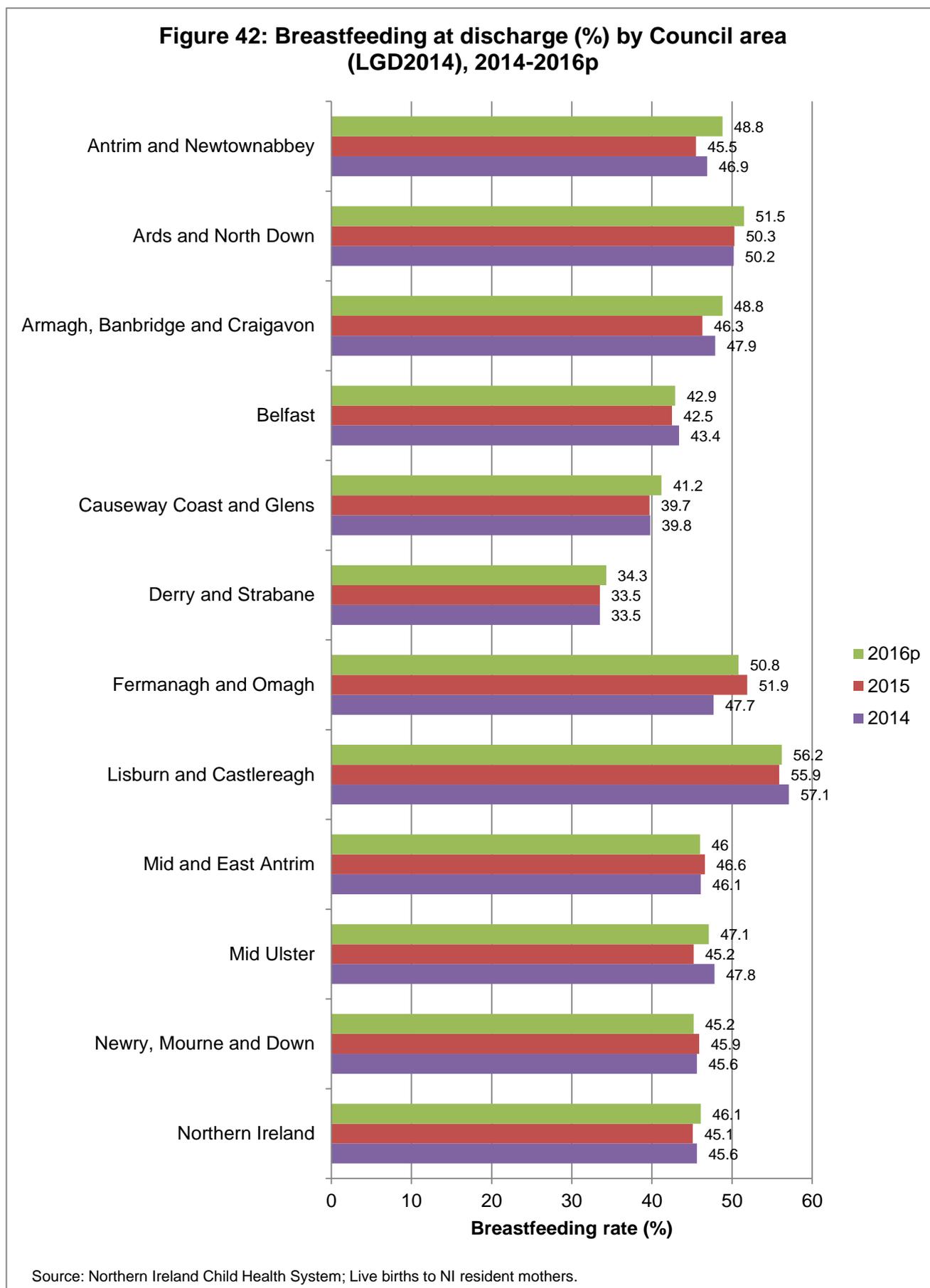


Figure 43 (Appendix Table AE) shows the variation in breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Council area (LGD2014) for 2015.

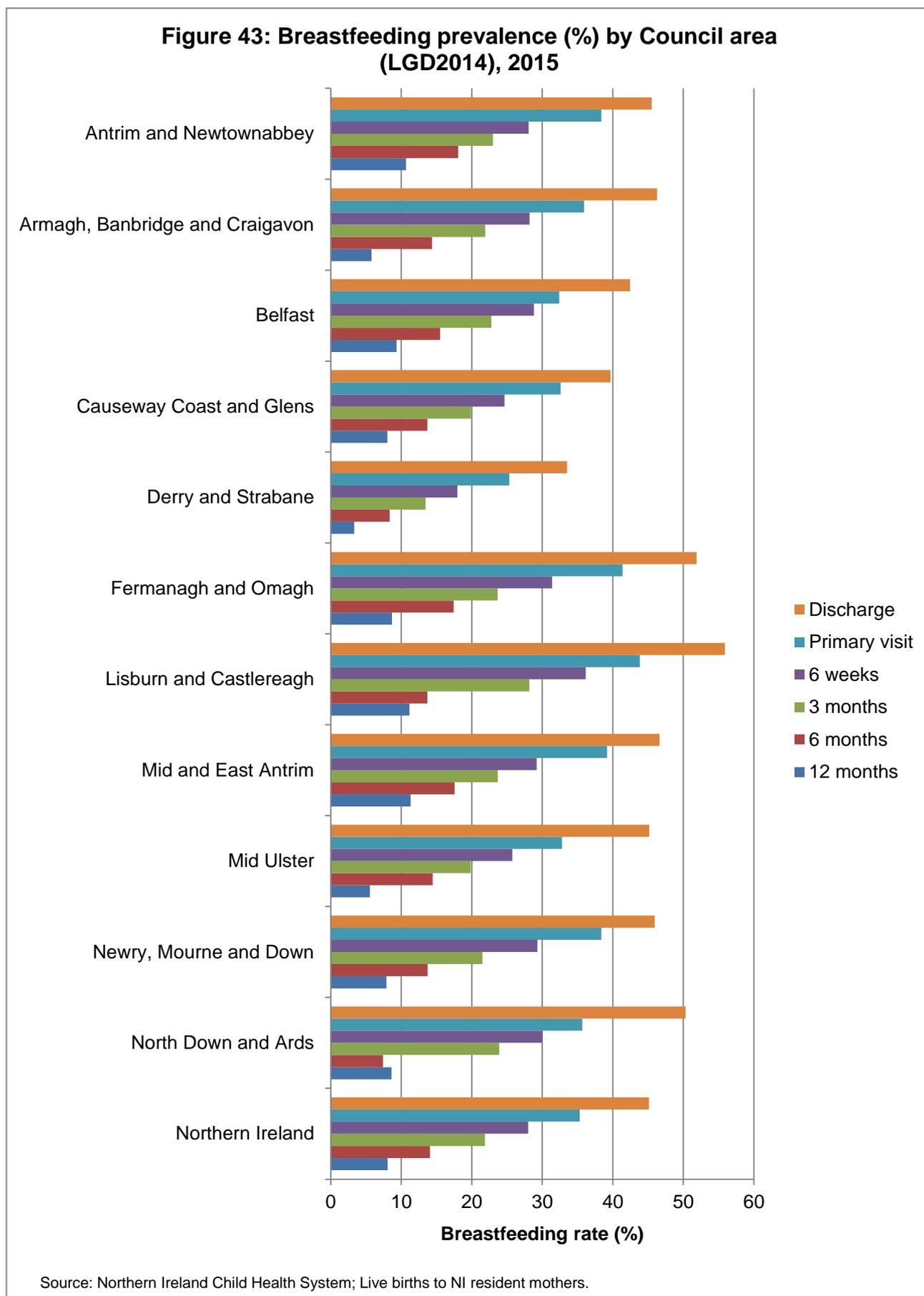
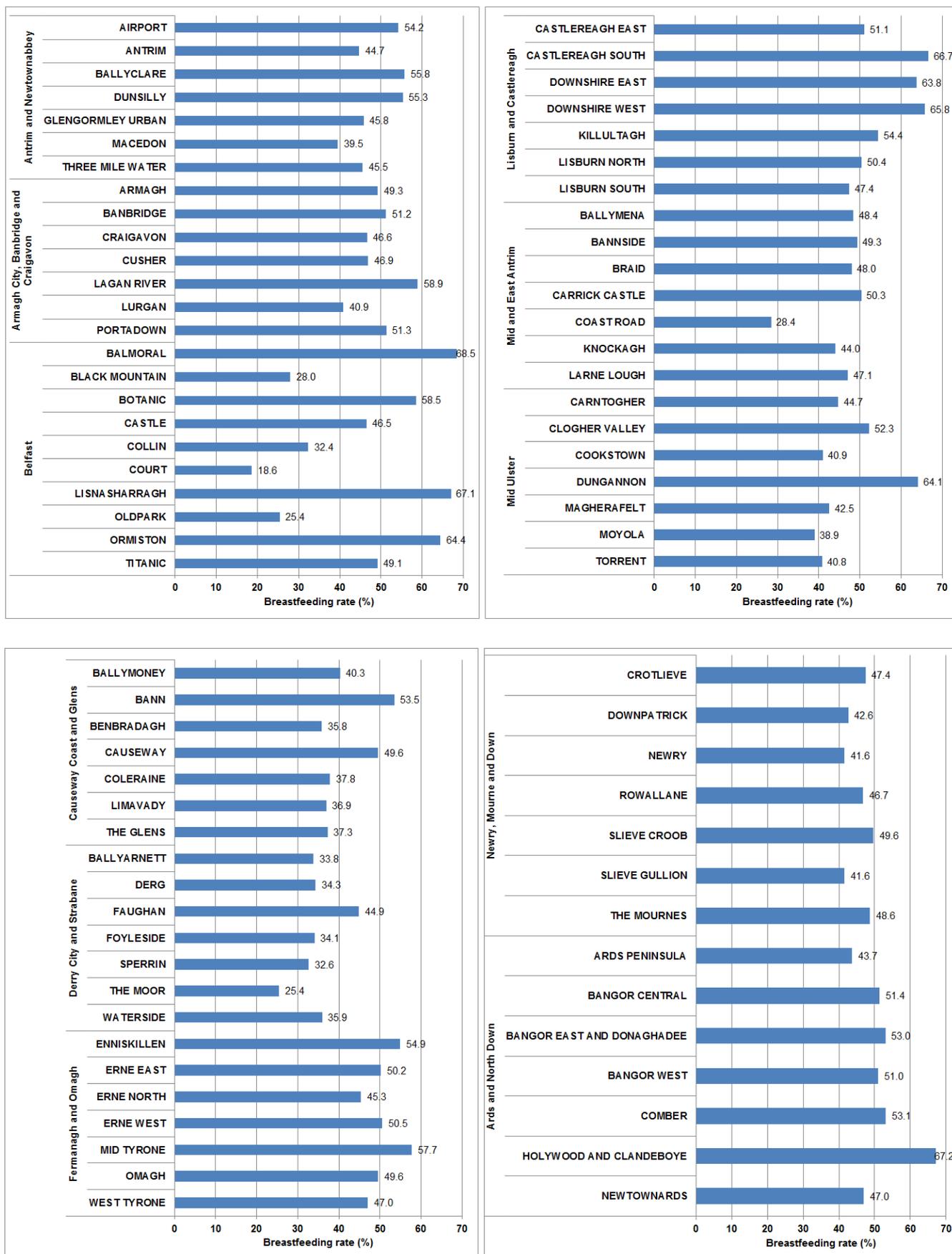


Figure 44 (Appendix Table AF) shows the variation in breastfeeding rates at discharge (%) by Council Area (LGD2014) and District Electoral Area (DEA2014) for 2016p.

Figure 44: Breastfeeding at discharge (%) by District Electoral Area (DEA2014), 2016p



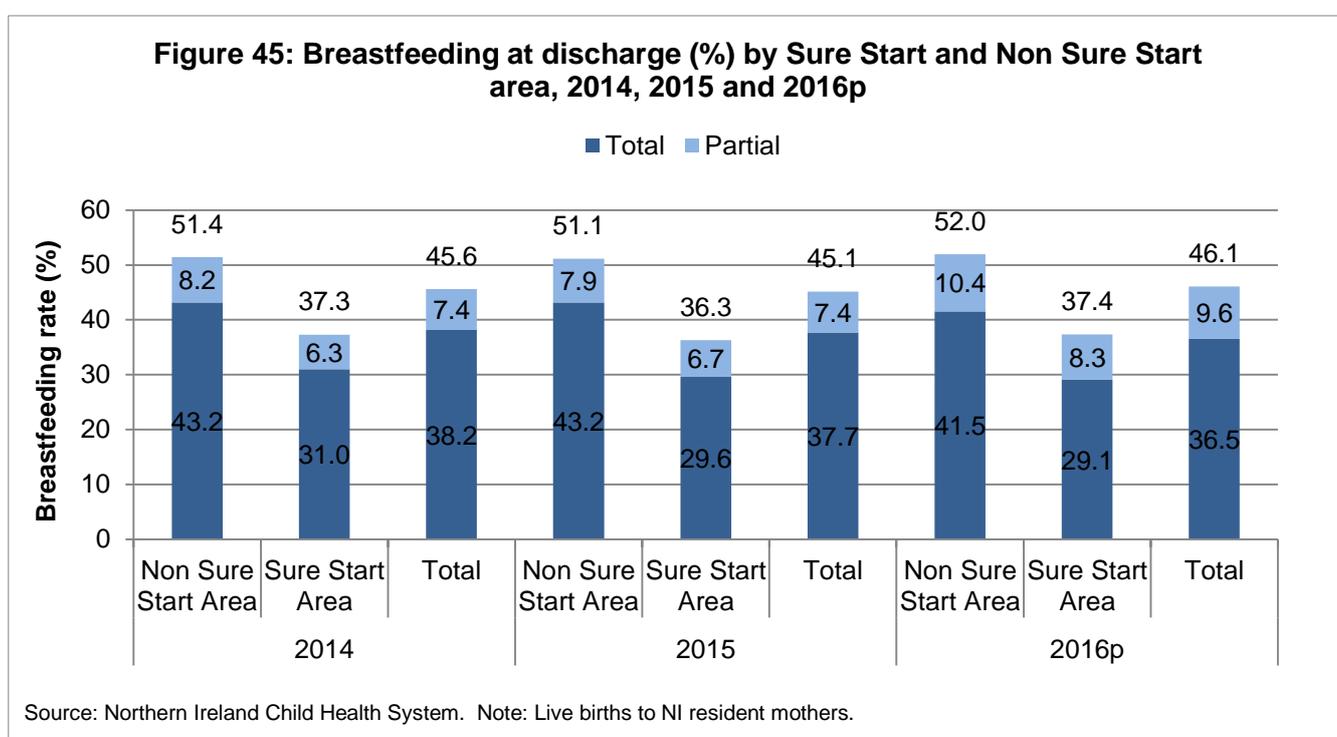
Sure Start Services

Sure Start is a government programme which provides a range of support services for parents and children under the age of four, who live in disadvantaged areas across Northern Ireland. It aims to support parents from pregnancy and to give children the best start in life. Each Sure Start project works with parents as well as statutory agencies and community-based organisations from the area, to design and deliver a range of services that best meet local need.

The NI Breastfeeding Strategy asks Sure Starts to support best practice by implementing UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative Children's Centre Standards.

In addition to core services, Sure Starts may also offer additional antenatal and postnatal support and advice on breastfeeding.

Figure 45 (Appendix Table AG) shows the rates of breastfeeding at discharge (%) categorised by Sure Start and Non Sure Start area for the years 2014 to 2016p. Data for 2016p shows that 52.0% of mothers resident in Non Sure Start areas were breastfeeding on discharge from hospital compared to 37.4% of mothers resident in Sure Start Areas.



Breakdowns on the prevalence of breastfeeding (%) by Sure Start areas within each Child Care Partnership are provided in pages 38 - 42.

Belfast Child Care Partnership Area

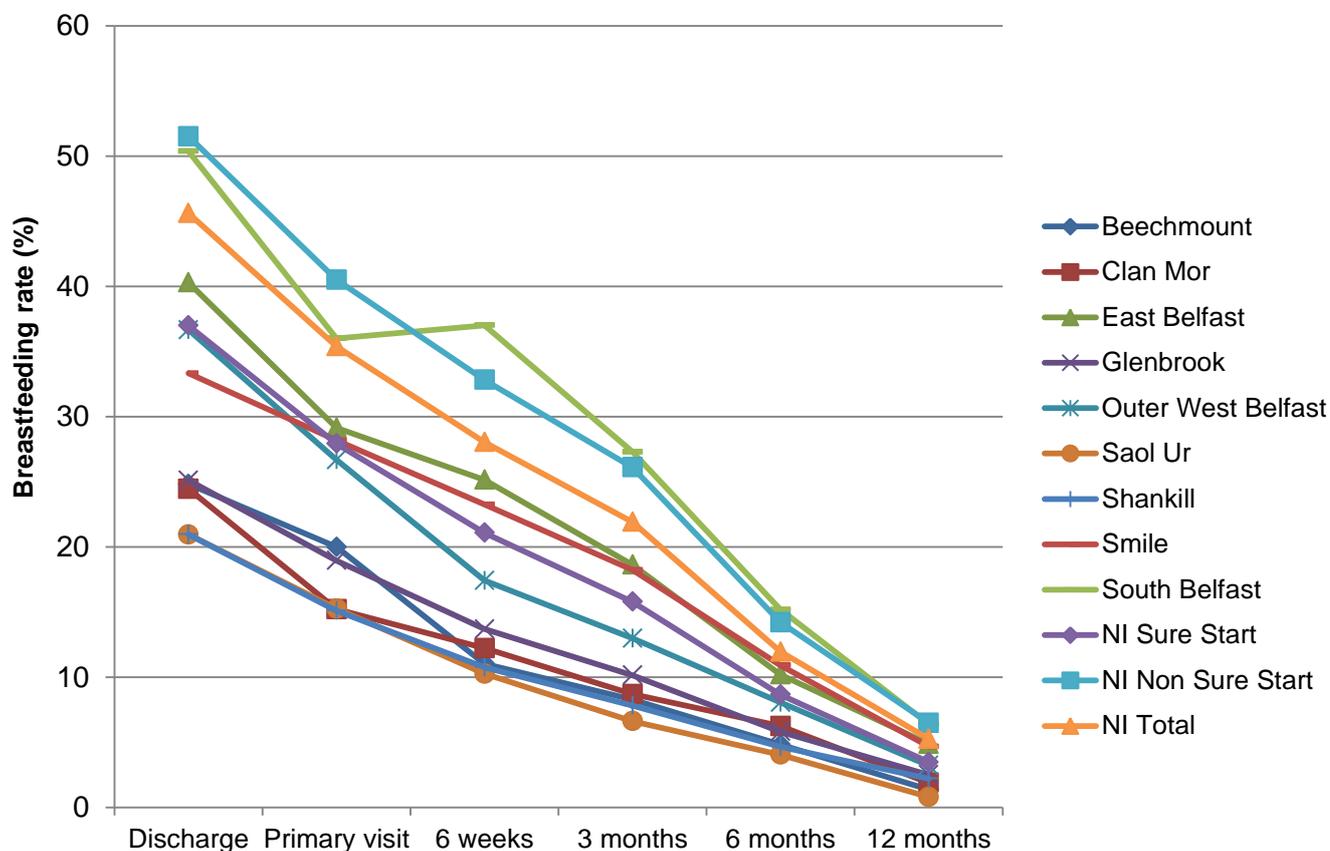
Within the Belfast Child Care Partnership area the highest rate of breastfeeding at discharge was recorded for South Belfast Sure Start (50.4%) compared to the lowest for Saol Ur Sure Start (20.9%) (Table 11, Figure 46).

Table 11: Breastfeeding prevalence by Sure Start, combined data 2014-2016p

Belfast CCP	Total live births	Discharge	Primary visit	6 weeks	3 months	6 months	12 months
Beechmount	290	24.8	20.0	11.0	8.3	4.8	1.4
Clan Mor	368	24.5	15.2	12.2	8.7	6.3	1.9
East Belfast	1,578	40.3	29.2	25.2	18.6	10.2	4.9
Glenbrook	876	25.1	18.9	13.7	10.2	5.8	2.5
Outer West Belfast	993	36.7	26.7	17.4	13.0	8.1	3.2
Saol Ur	740	20.9	15.3	10.3	6.6	4.1	0.8
Shankill	1,264	21.0	15.1	10.8	7.8	4.7	2.2
Smile	834	33.3	28.2	23.3	18.2	10.9	4.7
South Belfast	1,205	50.4	36.0	37.0	27.3	15.2	6.4
NI Sure Start	29,612	37.0	27.9	21.1	15.8	8.7	3.5
NI Non Sure Start	43,246	51.5	40.5	32.8	26.1	14.2	6.5
NI Total	72,858	45.6	35.4	28.1	21.9	12.0	5.3

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers
Advise caution: feeding data for infants born in 2016 not fully recorded

Figure 46: Belfast CCP breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Sure Start, 2014-2016p (combined)



Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; live births to NI resident mothers. Advise caution: feeding data for infants born in 2016 may not be fully recorded.

Northern Child Care Partnership Area

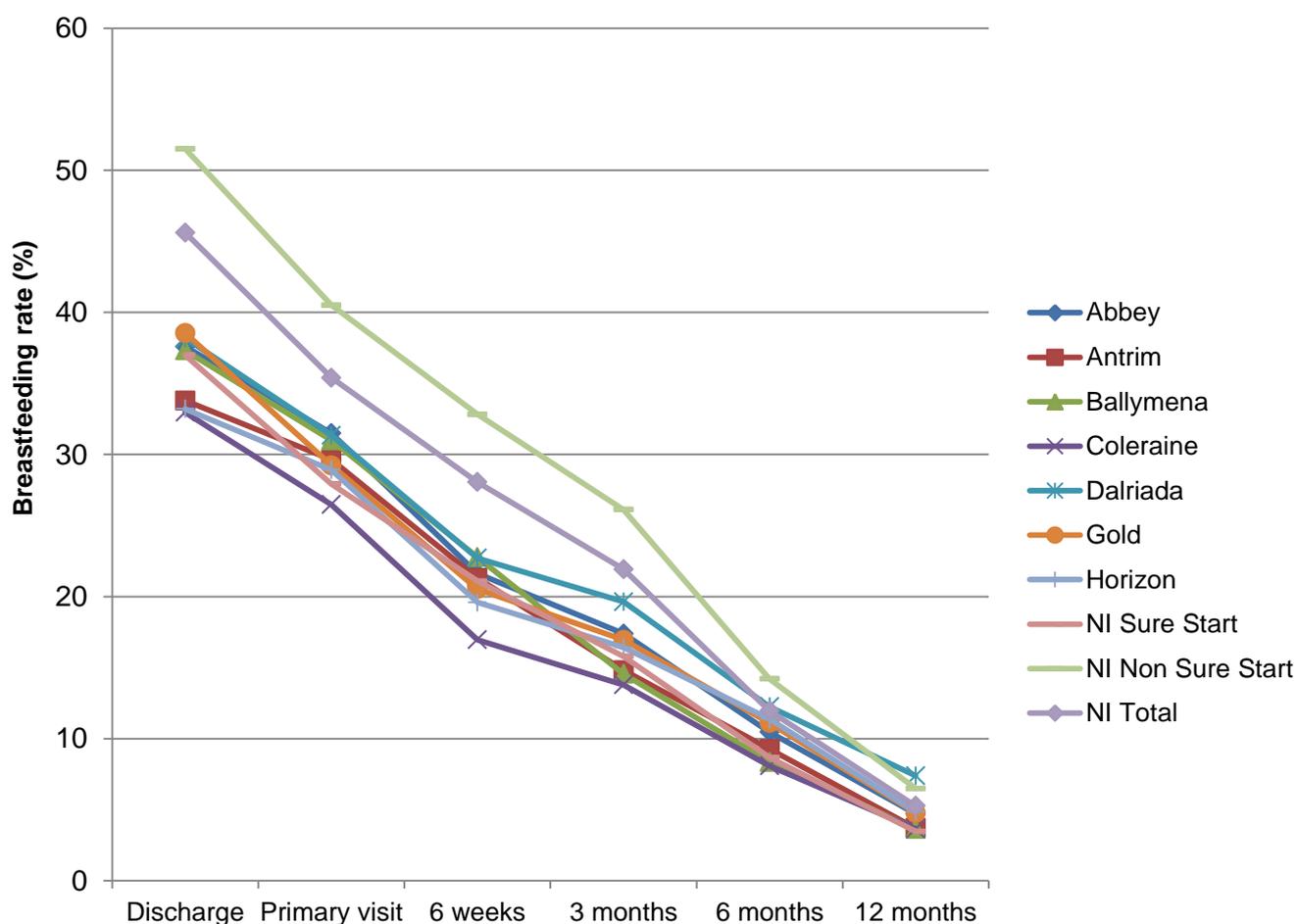
Within the Northern Child Care Partnership area the highest rate of breastfeeding at discharge was recorded for Gold Sure Start (38.5%) compared to the lowest for Coleraine Sure Start (33.0%) (Table 12, Figure 47).

Table 12: Breastfeeding prevalence by Sure Start, combined data 2014-2016p

Northern CCP	Total live births	Discharge	Primary visit	6 weeks	3 months	6 months	12 months
Abbey	851	37.6	31.5	21.6	17.4	10.5	4.7
Antrim	216	33.8	29.6	21.3	14.8	9.3	3.7
Ballymena	742	37.3	31.0	22.8	14.6	8.4	3.6
Coleraine	631	33.0	26.5	17.0	13.8	8.1	3.6
Dalriada	555	38.2	31.4	22.7	19.6	12.3	7.4
Gold	838	38.5	29.2	20.5	16.9	11.1	4.8
Horizon	536	33.2	28.9	19.6	16.4	11.4	4.9
NI Sure Start	29,612	37.0	27.9	21.1	15.8	8.7	3.5
NI Non Sure Start	43,246	51.5	40.5	32.8	26.1	14.2	6.5
NI Total	72,858	45.6	35.4	28.1	21.9	12.0	5.3

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers
Advise caution: feeding data for infants born in 2016 not fully recorded

Figure 47: Northern CCP breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Sure Start, 2014-2016p (combined)



Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; live births to NI resident mothers. Advise caution: feeding data for infants born in 2016 may not be fully recorded.

South Eastern Child Care Partnership Area

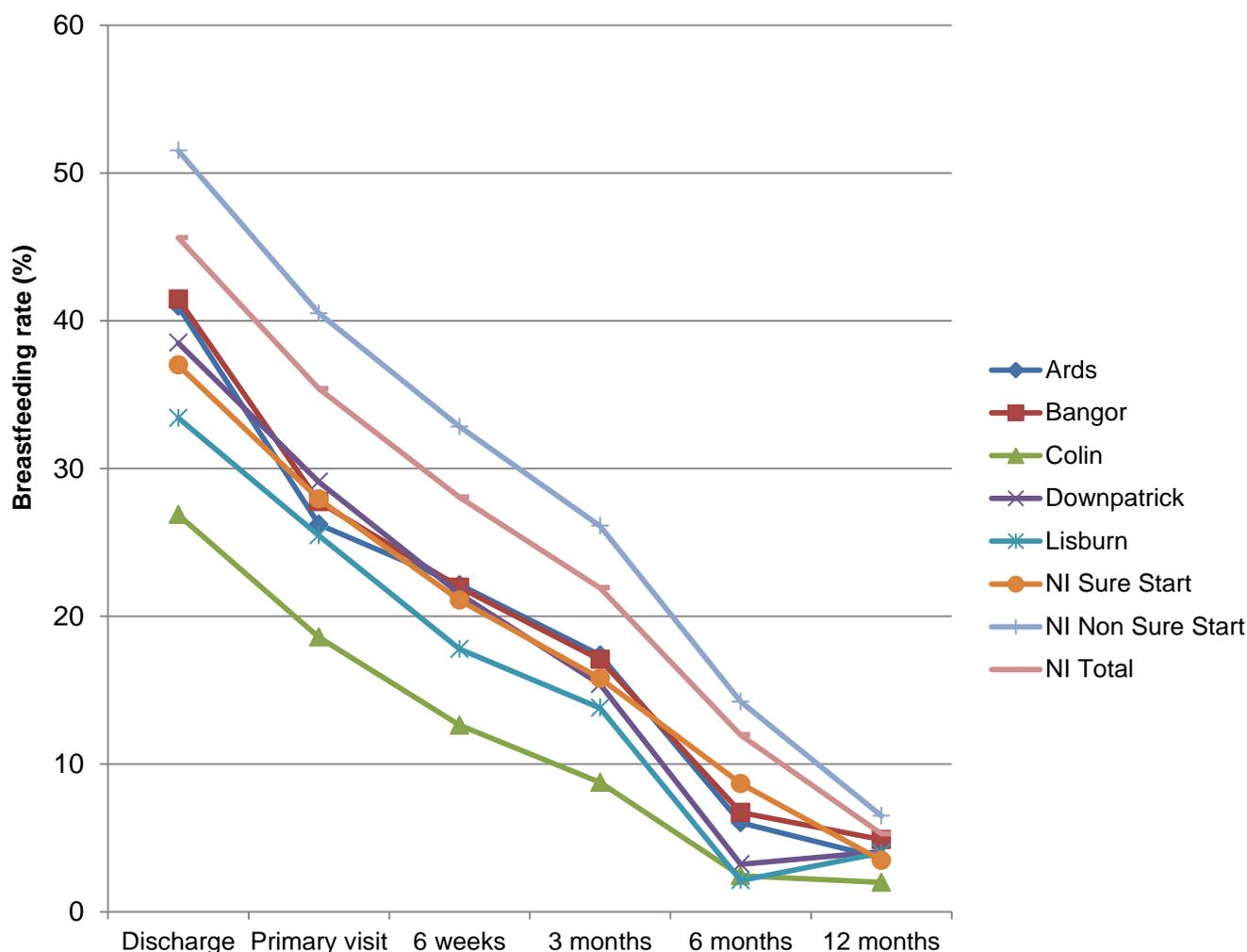
Within the South Eastern Child Care Partnership area the highest rate of breastfeeding at discharge was recorded for Bangor Sure Start (41.5%) compared to the lowest for Colin Sure Start (26.9%) (Table 13, Figure 48).

Table 13: Breastfeeding prevalence by Sure Start, combined data 2014-2016p

South Eastern CCP	Total live births	Discharge	Primary visit	6 weeks	3 months	6 months	12 months
Ards	881	41.0	26.2	22.1	17.4	6.0	3.6
Bangor	328	41.5	27.7	22.0	17.1	6.7	4.9
Colin	1,109	26.9	18.6	12.6	8.7	2.4	2.0
Downpatrick	935	38.5	29.1	21.5	15.4	3.2	4.1
Lisburn	377	33.4	25.5	17.8	13.8	2.1	4.0
NI Sure Start	29,612	37.0	27.9	21.1	15.8	8.7	3.5
NI Non Sure Start	43,246	51.5	40.5	32.8	26.1	14.2	6.5
NI Total	72,858	45.6	35.4	28.1	21.9	12.0	5.3

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers
Advise caution: feeding data for infants born in 2016 not fully recorded

Figure 48: South Eastern CCP breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Sure Start, 2014-2016p (combined)



Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; live births to NI resident mothers. Advise caution: feeding data for infants born in 2016 may not be fully recorded.

Southern Child Care Partnership Area

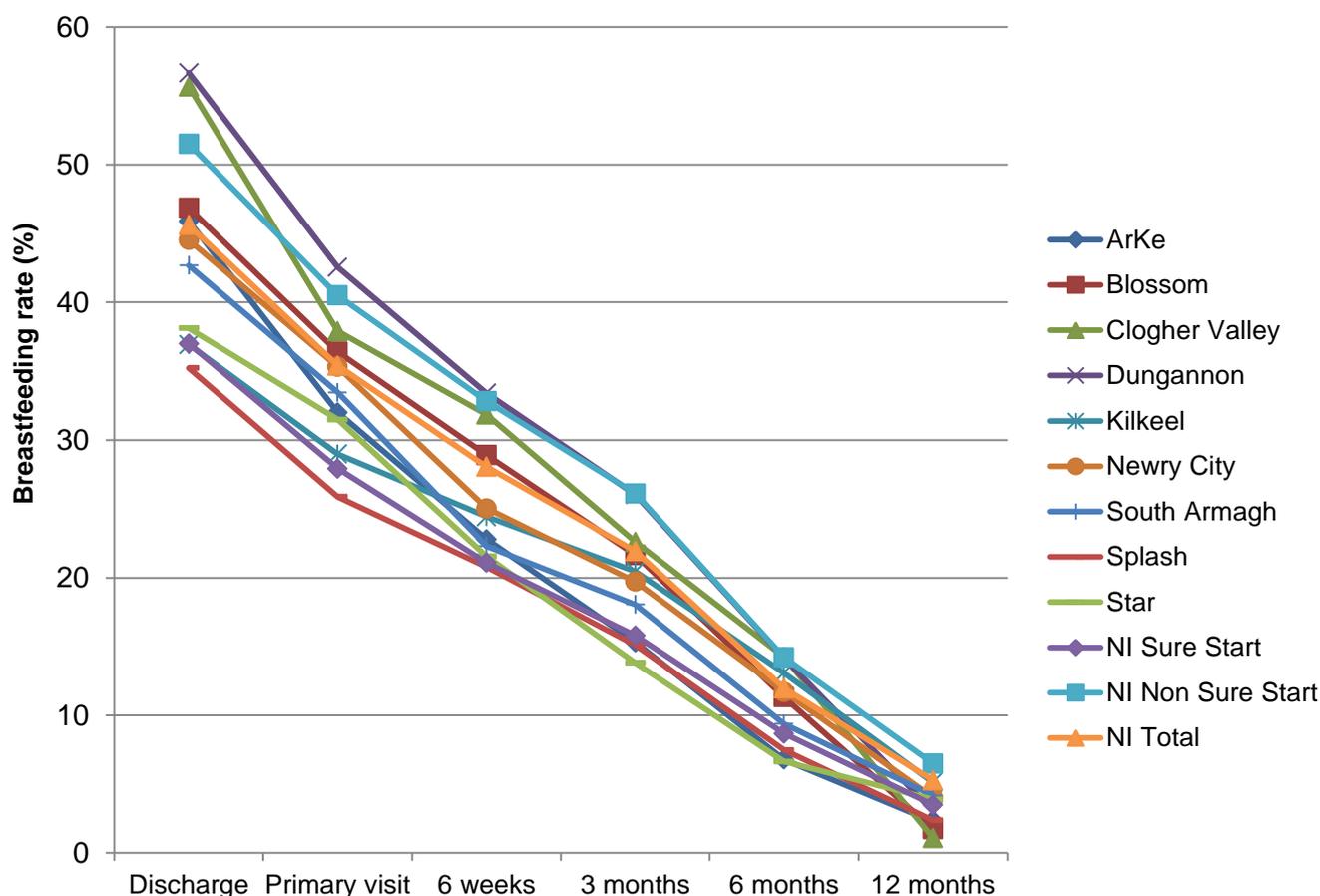
Within the Southern Child Care Partnership area the highest rate of breastfeeding at discharge was recorded for Dungannon Sure Start (56.7%) compared to the lowest for Splash Sure Start (35.2%) (Table 14, Figure 49).

Table 14: Breastfeeding prevalence by Sure Start, combined data 2014-2016p

Southern CCP	Total live births	Discharge	Primary visit	6 weeks	3 months	6 months	12 months
ArKe	575	45.9	32.0	22.8	15.3	6.8	2.3
Blossom	813	46.9	36.4	28.9	21.6	11.3	1.7
Clogher Valley	562	55.7	37.9	31.9	22.6	14.2	1.1
Dungannon	1,060	56.7	42.5	33.4	26.0	14.2	3.0
Kilkeel	176	36.9	29.0	24.4	20.5	13.1	5.1
Newry City	923	44.5	35.3	25.0	19.7	11.7	4.0
South Armagh	1,324	42.7	33.5	22.3	18.1	9.4	4.2
Splash	1,059	35.2	25.9	20.8	15.1	7.5	2.4
Star	181	38.1	31.5	21.5	13.8	6.6	3.9
NI Sure Start	29,612	37.0	27.9	21.1	15.8	8.7	3.5
NI Non Sure Start	43,246	51.5	40.5	32.8	26.1	14.2	6.5
NI Total	72,858	45.6	35.4	28.1	21.9	12.0	5.3

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers
Advise caution: feeding data for infants born in 2016 not fully recorded

Figure 49: Southern CCP breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Sure Start, 2014-2016p (combined)



Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; live births to NI resident mothers. Advise caution: feeding data for infants born in 2016 may not be fully recorded.

Western Child Care Partnership Area

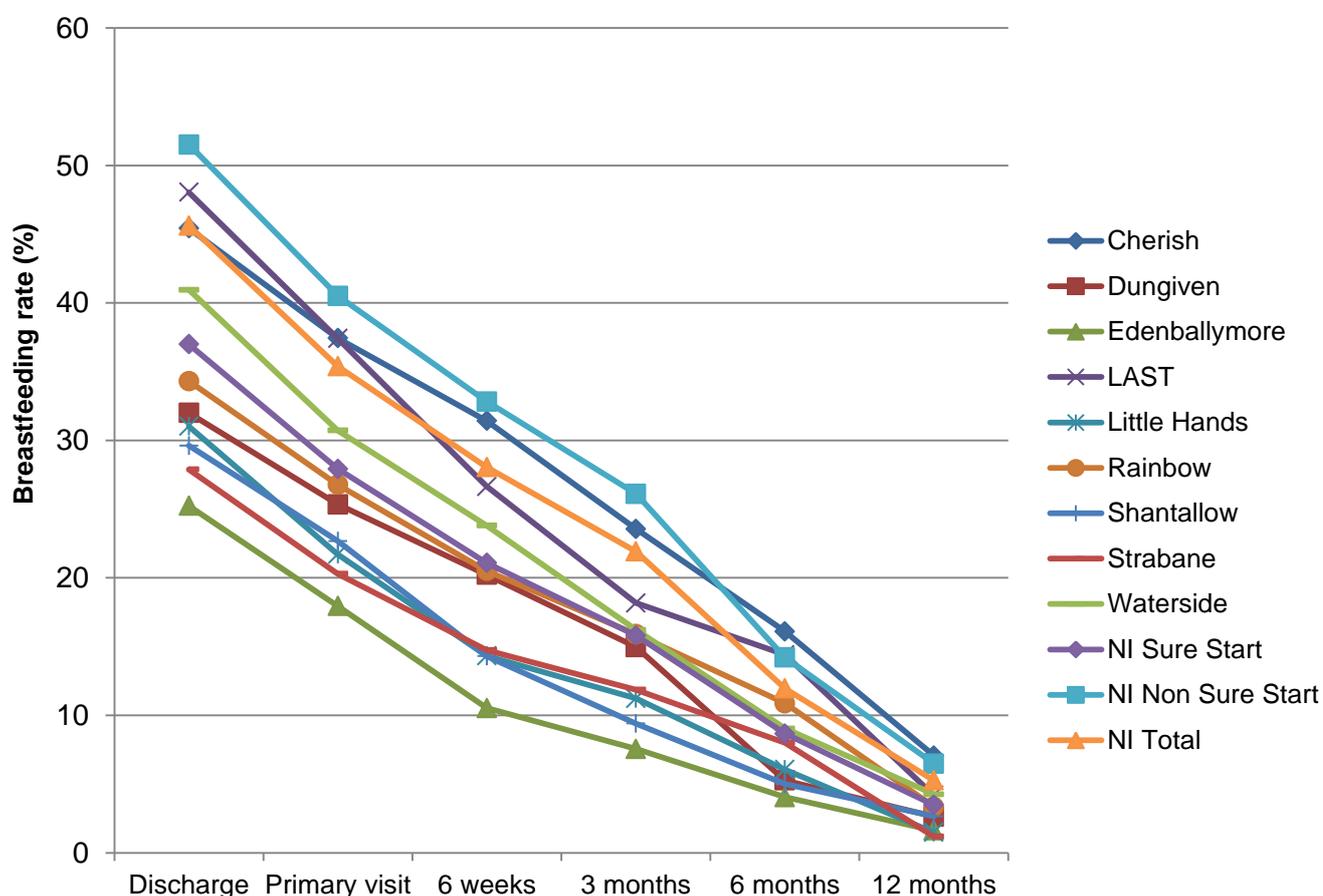
Within the Western Child Care Partnership area the highest rate of breastfeeding at discharge was recorded for LAST Sure Start (48.0%) compared to the lowest for Edenballymore Sure Start (25.2%) (Table 15, Figure 50).

Table 15: Breastfeeding prevalence by Sure Start, combined data 2014-2016p

Western CCP	Total live births	Discharge	Primary visit	6 weeks	3 months	6 months	12 months
Cherish	764	45.4	37.4	31.4	23.6	16.1	7.1
Dungiven	722	32.0	25.3	20.2	15.0	5.3	2.6
Edenballymore	741	25.2	17.9	10.5	7.6	4.0	1.6
LAST	743	48.0	37.4	26.6	18.2	14.4	4.2
Little Hands	677	31.0	21.7	14.3	11.2	6.1	1.5
Rainbow	478	34.3	26.8	20.5	15.9	10.9	3.3
Shantallow	979	29.6	22.7	14.3	9.4	5.0	2.7
Strabane	936	27.9	20.3	14.7	11.9	8.0	1.2
Waterside	752	41.0	30.7	23.8	16.2	9.0	4.3
NI Sure Start	29,612	37.0	27.9	21.1	15.8	8.7	3.5
NI Non Sure Start	43,246	51.5	40.5	32.8	26.1	14.2	6.5
NI Total	72,858	45.6	35.4	28.1	21.9	12.0	5.3

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers
Advise caution: feeding data for infants born in 2016 not fully recorded

Figure 50: Western CCP breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Sure Start, 2014-2016p (combined)



Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; live births to NI resident mothers. Advise caution: feeding data for infants born in 2016 may not be fully recorded

Breastfeeding in neonatal units

There is evidence that feeding breast milk to infants in neonatal units has both short-term and long-term benefits to health.^{40,41,42} Breast milk has been shown to reduce infection and necrotising enterocolitis (NEC) as well as evidence of longer term neurodevelopmental advantages.⁴³

In Northern Ireland, the BadgerNet™ neonatal system (BNNS) records information relating to all infants admitted to neonatal care in Northern Ireland.

National Neonatal Audit Programme (NNAP)

The National Neonatal Audit Programme (NNAP) was set up by the Department of Health in England to support healthcare professionals, families and commissioners to improve the provision of neonatal care. Initially focusing on neonatal units in England, units in Wales were included in 2012 with Scottish units joining in 2015. The 2017 report includes 2016 data from 181/184 (98%) neonatal units across England, Scotland and Wales.^{44,45}

The most recent data for the NNAP audit measure, 'What proportion of babies <33 weeks gestation at birth were receiving any of their own mother's milk at discharge to home from a neonatal unit?' shows that there has been no improvement in the overall rates of breastmilk feeding at discharge for babies born at <33 weeks gestation, with 59% receiving any mothers milk at in 2016 compared, the same proportion recorded as for 2013.

While Neonatal Network Northern Ireland (NINI) units are not currently members of the NNAP, BNNS standardised network reports facilitate national benchmarking of breastfeeding performance. Table 16 shows that in 2016, 41.5% of babies <33 weeks gestation at birth were receiving any of their own mothers milk at discharge home from neonatal units in Northern Ireland compared to the 59% for English, 51% for Welsh and 47% for Scottish units.

Table 16: Proportion of babies of <33 weeks gestation at birth receiving any of their own mother's milk at discharge home: comparison of Northern Ireland and NNAP⁴⁶ performance, 2013-2017

Benchmarking Key Audit Question 6	What proportion of babies of <33 weeks gestation at birth were receiving any of their own mother's milk at discharge to home from a neonatal unit?	
Year	Northern Ireland NNAP comparison	National Neonatal Audit Programme (NNAP) Performance*
2017	48.8% (78/160)	-
2016	41.5% (68/164)	59% (Scotland 47%, Wales 51%)
2015	27.1% (54/199)	58% (Scotland 54%, Wales 43%)
2014	30.9% (51/165)	60% (Wales 46%)
2013	40.1% (82/203)	59% (Wales 44%)

*No NNAP standard has been set

Source: Northern Ireland NNAP data from BadgerNet Standardised Report

Notes:

Babies will be classified as meeting the NNAP standard if they are noted to have received any of the following types of enteral feed on their final day of care: Suckling at breast, Mother's fresh expressed breast milk and/or Mother's frozen expressed breast milk.

Includes babies who received all of their neonatal care in one neonatal unit, and were discharged home at the end of their neonatal care.

Year: Babies who experienced their final neonatal discharge in the calendar year of analysis

While the regional rate for Northern Ireland recorded for 2016 was lower than for other UK regions, there is tentative evidence to suggest that rates may be increasing; 48.8% of babies <33 weeks gestation at birth received any of their own mothers milk at discharge home in 2017, an increase from 41.5% in 2016. Lower rates reported in 2014 (30.9%) and 2015 (27.1%) may be due to data quality issues. The NNNI routinely monitors BNNS data quality and substantial improvements have been demonstrated in data completeness and accuracy in recent years. Downloaded NICORE data for infants born in 2014 and 2015, which has undergone detailed retrospective quality assurance, indicated that 33.1% (48/145) and 37.9% (72/190) of infants of <33 weeks gestation with a single admission to neonatal care were receiving mother's milk at discharge home respectively.⁴⁷

Table 17 provides information on the proportion of babies discharged on mother's milk and those discharged breastfeeding. It shows that while 46.9% of babies are discharged on mother's milk, under half of these (19.5%) are discharged breastfeeding.

Table 17: Babies <33 weeks gestation receiving any mother's milk at discharge by year of discharge - all episodes, 2013-2017

Year	Babies discharged	Babies discharged on mother's milk		Babies discharged breastfeeding	
	N	N	%	N	%
2017	262	123	46.9	51	19.5
2016	289	128	44.3	48	16.6
2015	315	122	38.7	44	14.0
2014	294	117	39.8	56	19.0
2013	336	145	43.2	52	15.5

Source: BadgerNet Standardised Feeding Reports: Table 7 Note: Discharge to home / ward / foster care; babies admitted any time

One of the key recommendations in the NNAP report was that *'Neonatal and midwifery staff should, as part of active use of a multidisciplinary policy, inform parents before delivery of a preterm baby of the major health benefits of breastmilk feeding for preterm babies and advocate breastmilk feeding. Staff should provide information and support about the practical aspects of breastmilk expression prior to, and after, delivery of the baby in order to help mothers of preterm infants to breastfeed'* (Figure 51).⁴⁸

Recent investment has provided the opportunity to enhance support for best practice in Neonatal Units with the appointment of five part-time Neonatal Infant Feeding Leads, one in each HSC Trust.

Figure 51: Mother's milk at discharge – key recommendations, NNAP 2017 Annual Report

Key recommendations

- **Neonatal and midwifery staff** should, as part of active use of a multidisciplinary policy, inform parents before delivery of a preterm baby of the major health benefits of breastmilk feeding for preterm babies and advocate breastmilk feeding. Staff should provide information and support about the practical aspects of breastmilk expression prior to, and after, delivery of the baby in order to help mothers of preterm infants to breastfeed.
- **Neonatal units** should use breastmilk feeding data, alongside available data concerning breastfeeding practices in full term babies in their local area, to inform local quality improvement activity.
- **Neonatal units** should aim to deliver sustainable sequential improvements in breastmilk feeding at discharge by adopting best practice and regularly reviewing its implementation.
- **Neonatal networks and units** should use the NNAP online data reporting tool to compare their performance and its trajectory over time to that of suitable comparable networks.*
- **Neonatal networks** should consider whether standardising aspects of support for breastmilk feeding across units would improve parental experience, particularly where babies are transferred.
- **Neonatal units, hospitals, neonatal networks and outside bodies** should interpret the breast milk feeding at discharge rates of individual units alongside data describing breastfeeding in the population local to that unit.
- **The National Maternity and Perinatal Audit (NMPA) and the NNAP** should align any future work concerning breastmilk feeding.
- **The NNAP** should consider longitudinal outlier analysis to identify networks or units whose trajectory is different to that of other networks or units.
- **The NNAP** should consider including the transferred baby in this measure.*

*Recommendations marked with an asterisk are repeated from the 2016 annual report on 2015 data

Comparing Northern Ireland breastfeeding rates to other regions

Although initiation rates have increased in recent years, the UK has one of the lowest rates of breastfeeding worldwide. Historically, the UK Infant Feeding Survey reported Northern Ireland breastfeeding rates to be lower than those of other UK countries.⁴⁹ However, in 2014 the decision was made to cancel the survey and no survey was carried out in 2015.

Currently there is variation between UK countries in the time points at which breastfeeding data is recorded / reported and the definitions used and as such direct comparisons between Northern Ireland breastfeeding rates and other UK countries are not possible.

The following sections highlight the current sources of breastfeeding data for England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland.

Breastfeeding in England

The Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) for England sets out a vision for public health in England. The framework sets out high-level outcomes supported by a broad set of indicators to measure how well public health is being improved and protected at national and local level. Indicators are grouped into four domains; two breastfeeding indicators are included within the Health Improvement domain:

- 2.02i Breastfeeding initiation
(% of all mothers who breastfeed their babies in the first 48hrs after delivery)
- 2.02ii Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks after birth
(% of all infants due a 6-8 week check that are totally or partially breastfed)

In 2015 responsibility for the collection of 6 to 8 week breastfeeding data moved to Public Health England. An interim reporting system has been implemented to collect health visiting activity at a local authority resident level. A data tool presents data for the indicators in the framework for the most recent period available <http://www.phoutcomes.info/> Breastfeeding data is included in the Health Improvement section.

The data included in the PHOF for 2016/17 indicates that breastfeeding initiation for England was 74.5% with breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks after birth 44.4%[§].

Breastfeeding initiation (Experimental statistics)

Data relating to breastfeeding status immediately after birth is captured and reported by NHS Digital via the Maternity Services Data Set (MSDS).

In April 2018, 74% of babies born with a recorded first feed breast milk status received maternal or donor breast milk.⁵⁰ However, it is worth noting that this calculation is based on recorded feeding status and excludes missing values. Calculated as a percentage of all births, 64.9% received maternal or donor breast milk, 22.3% did not receive breast milk and 12.8% of data was missing.

Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks after birth (Experimental statistics)⁵¹

- The aggregate breastfeeding rate for England for 2016/17 is 44.4% with confidence intervals of 44.3 – 44.6% (based on 142/150 reporting local authorities that submitted valid quarterly data). This compares to 43.1% in 2015/16.
- Breastfeeding prevalence at a PHE centre level can be published for the North East and East of England. All other areas fail to meet validation at stage 3 (known breastfeeding status for infants age 6-8 weeks is lower than the 95% quality standard).
- Breastfeeding prevalence can be published for 69 local authorities (passing all 3 stages of validation) and percentages range from 19.3% to 75.6%.

[§] Annual figure includes constituent area(s) with annual figure scaled up data from three quarters' data

Breastfeeding in Wales

Information on breastfeeding at birth for Wales and its Health Boards is published annually using data from the National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD). The percentage of babies exclusively breastfed at 10 days of age is one of a set of maternity indicators developed following the publication of the 'Strategic Vision for Maternity Services in Wales' in 2011. The indicators are available from Public Health Wales ['Pregnancy and childhood surveillance tool'](#).

Since September 2012 Health Boards have recorded infant feeding data according to revised definitions which include the following categories: Artificial Milk Feeding; Combined Milk Feeding - Partially Breast; Combined Milk Feeding - Predominantly Breast; and Exclusive Milk.

Breastfeeding at birth

At least 18,276 babies were breastfed at birth in 2017, 60.5% of all births with **known** breastfeeding status (Table 18).^{52,53}

Table 18: Live births by breastfeeding status at birth, Wales 2005-2017

Breastfeeding*	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Breastfeeding	15,780	15,445	15,959	17,810	18,032	17,983	18,062	16,918	15,677	15,171	16,246	18,254	18,276
Not breastfeeding	12,867	12,580	12,551	13,777	13,793	14,524	14,469	13,406	12,367	11,041	10,956	11,722	11,931
Not stated	3,986	5,665	5,959	4,168	3,177	3,526	3,151	5,026	5,778	7,436	6,159	3,028	2,029
Total	32,633	33,690	34,469	35,755	35,002	36,033	35,682	35,350	33,822	33,648	33,361	33,004	32,236

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017

*Breastfeeding data based on new breastfeeding definitions introduced in September 2012

Of the **18,276** babies who were **breast fed at birth**:

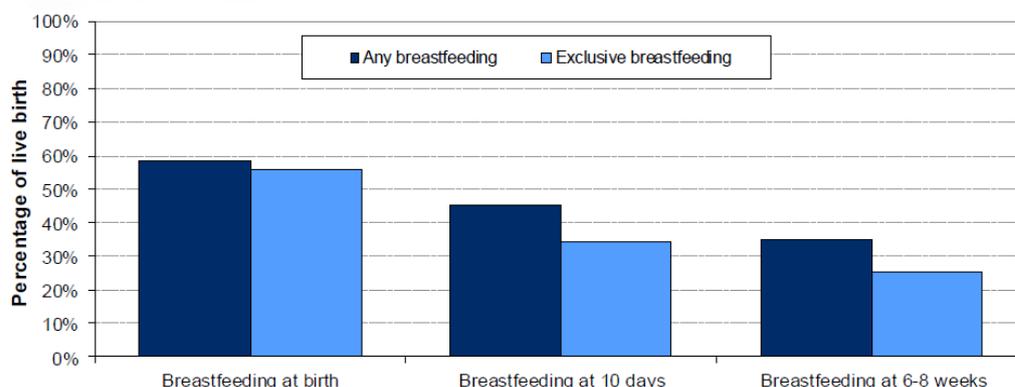
- 98% at least 17,478 fed exclusively on breast milk (97.7% of babies with a known breastfeeding type);
- 271 were predominantly fed breast milk (1.5% of babies with a known breastfeeding type);
- 140 were partially fed breast milk (0.8% of babies with a known breastfeeding type); and
- 387 did not have a known breastfeeding type.

Breastfeeding after birth

Following a new mandate in August 2012, data on infant feeding at 10 days, 6 weeks and 6 months has been recorded on the Child Health System. Data for 6 months is insufficiently complete as yet to present with only 56% of births having a status recorded at this stage.

Figure 52 shows the proportion of babies receiving breast milk (exclusive or any) at 10 days and 6-8 weeks (24,436 records with complete data for infant feeding at birth, 10 days and 6-8 weeks). Note that the data relates to births occurring in 2017.

Figure 52: Percentage of babies exclusively breastfed or receiving any breast milk from birth to age 6-8 weeks, 2017



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017

Note that the percentage is of 24,436 records with complete data for infant feeding at birth, 10 days and 6-8 weeks

Breastfeeding in Scotland

NHS Scotland provides a universal health promotion programme to all children and their families known as the Child Health Programme.^{54,55} Breastfeeding statistics are derived from data collected at the child health programme health visitor First Visit review (around 10 to 14 days of age) and the 6-8 week review.

At each review the mother is asked about current feeding; '*How the baby is currently feeding (i.e. over the 24 hours leading up to the review)*'. Current feeding method is recorded as breast only, formula only, mixed (i.e. both breast and formula milk), or other (i.e. the very small number of children on specialist non milk feeding for medical reasons). This question has been included in the child health reviews for many years, hence results relating to this question are provided for babies born in 2001/02 to 2016/17.

In February 2016 two new questions were added to the child health reviews; '*Whether the baby has ever been breastfed*' and '*Whether the baby has always been exclusively breastfed*'.

'Breastfeeding' includes being fed at the breast and being fed expressed breast milk. Being 'always exclusively' breastfed means that the baby has only ever been breastfed from birth up to the time of their review, and has never received fluids or food (except medicines) apart from breast milk.

Key findings for babies born in Scotland during 2016/17 are as follows:

- At the health visitor first visit at around 10-14 days of age:
 - 63% of babies were "ever breastfed" i.e. breastfed for at least some period of time after their birth.
 - 50% of babies were receiving any breastfeeding; 37% were being exclusively breastfed (receiving breast milk only) and a further 14% were receiving mixed feeding (both breast and formula milk).
- At the time of the 6-8 week review:
 - 41% of babies were receiving any breastfeeding (30% exclusively and 11% mixed feeding).
 - 28% of babies were reported as always exclusively breastfed from birth to the time of the 6-8 week review. This is slightly lower than the 30% that were reported as exclusively breastfed over the 24 hours leading up to the review. This is to be expected as a small number of babies may have required temporary supplementary feeding prior to exclusive breastfeeding being established.
- Among babies who were ever breastfed:
 - 79% were still being breastfed at the time of their Health Visitor first visit (58% exclusive and 22% mixed feeding) and the remaining 21% of babies were no longer being breastfed.
 - 65% were still being breastfed (48% exclusive and 17% mixed feeding) by the time of their 6-8 week review and the remaining 35% of babies were no longer being breastfed.
- There are strong associations between breastfeeding rates and mothers' age, deprivation level, and ethnicity with breastfeeding being more common among older mothers, those living in less deprived areas and those from minority ethnic groups. By the time of their 6-8 week review:
 - 56% of babies born to mothers aged 40 years or over were breastfed (exclusive or mixed) compared to 12% of babies born to mothers aged less than 20 years.
 - 60% of babies born to mothers living in the least deprived areas of Scotland (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5) were breastfed (exclusive or mixed) compared to 26% of babies born to mothers living in the most deprived areas (quintile 1).
 - 85% of babies of Black, Caribbean or African ethnicity were breastfed (exclusive or mixed) compared to 33% of White Scottish babies.

Breastfeeding in the Republic of Ireland

The Perinatal Statistics Report presents national statistics on perinatal events in Ireland.

The Perinatal Statistics Report 2016 is currently at first draft stage of publication and data is provisional until publication.⁵⁶ The report provides information on mothers giving birth and babies born in 2016.

Breastfeeding at discharge

Breastfeeding statistics are based on live births only and exclude early neonatal deaths. Type of feeding is recorded at the time of discharge from hospital (Table 19).

Table 19: Trends in feeding at discharge, 2007 - 2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change	
											2007 - 2016	2015 - 2016
Any breastfeeding <small>1,2,5,6</small>	50.6	51.1	52.8	54.1	55.3	55.4	55.9	57.0	58.0	59.9	18.6	1.8
Exclusive breastfeeding* <small>1,2,5</small>	45.2	44.6	45.5	46.2	47.0	46.9	46.6	46.6	48.0	49.8	8.1	3.0

Provisional data.
Notes: Percentages are subject to rounding. 1 Based on live births. 2 Based on maternities. 3 Excludes early neonatal deaths. 4 Any breastfeeding includes type of feeding recorded as either breast or combined.

Key findings in relation to breastfeeding at discharge from hospital are as follows ** :

- 60% of babies recorded any breastfeeding in 2016, compared to 55% in 2012 and 51% in 2007;
- 49% of babies were exclusively breastfed in 2016 compared to 47% in 2012 and 45% in 2007;
- 60% of mothers recorded any breastfeeding, compared to 55% in 2012 and 51% in 2007;
- 50% of mothers exclusively breastfed, compared to 47% in 2012 and 45% in 2007;
- Breastfeeding was more common for singleton births (50.1% for singleton births compared to 34.7% for multiple births).
- Breastfeeding was more common than artificial feeding among mothers aged 30 years or more. Mothers in the 30 to 34 year age group reported a breastfeeding rate of 53.1%, while mothers in the 35 to 39 year age group reported the highest breastfeeding rate at 54.8%.
- More than one-fifth (22.7%) of infants born to mothers aged under 20 years were exclusively breastfed.
- Breastfeeding was most common among mothers in 'higher professional' (65.9%) and 'lower professional' (62.6%) socio-economic groups. Breastfeeding was least common among 'unemployed' mothers (31.9%).

Breastfeeding at First and 3 month Public Health Nurse (PHN) visits

The Health Service Executive's Performance Assurance Report (PAR) provides data on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for breastfeeding at the first PHN Visit (PC135) and at the 3 month PHN Visit (PC136):⁵⁷

- % of babies breastfed (exclusively and not exclusively) at first PHN Visit (PC135, Target 58%); and
- % of babies breastfed (exclusively and not exclusively) at 3 month PHN Visit (PC136, Target 40%).^{††}

Quarterly performance reports are available.⁵⁸ Data at September 2017 indicates that 54.6% of babies were breastfed at first PHN visit with 39.0% breastfed at 3 month PHN visit.⁵⁹

** Data should be considered provisional until publication of the Perinatal Statistics Report 2016

†† The denominator for KPI calculations is the total number of babies seen by PHN. * Refers to exclusive breastfeeding only

Appendix: Data sources

Information on infant feeding in Northern Ireland is currently available from the following sources:

1. Northern Ireland Maternity System (NIMATS)

The Northern Ireland Maternity System (NIMATS) is a hospital based system which collects data on a range of maternal and infant characteristics.

The Northern Ireland Maternity System (NIMATS) contains a range of demographic and clinical information on mothers and infants. It captures data relating to the current maternity process, but also contains details about the mother's past medical and obstetric history. It is a key source for data on birth numbers, interventions, maternal risk factors, birth weights, maternal smoking, BMI and breastfeeding at discharge. NIMATS is available in all five Trust areas and is now available through the data warehouse. As a result of ongoing work, recording of data on NIMATS has improved in recent years.

New NIMATS fields

In June 2016 a number of changes were implemented on NIMATS to expand the data collected in relation to infant feeding and inform practice. A new screen was added to the Infant exam and birth details section to capture information on skin-to-skin contact and feeding at birth.

HSC Business Services Organisation
Information Technology Services

Main Menu> Delivery Menu> Infant Exam & Birth Details> 3 of 3

Back Save

Casenote No [] DoB [] Gender [] HCN []

Previous Patient Address [] Email and Phone [] Allergies []

Infant Feeding

Skin to skin:
Did Mother have Skin to Skin Contact at Birth

How Long did Skin to Skin Contact Last:
Until After First Feed
At Least One Hour

At Birth:
Was First Breastfeed Offered at Birth
Breastfeeding Initiated at Birth
Formula Fed at Birth by Mum
Responsiveness for Mother/Baby Wellbeing and Feeding Discussed

Previous

Skin to skin contact should be offered to all mothers regardless of feeding type.
Record: 1/1 -<OSC>

A new postnatal screen added to NIMATS records information on infant feeding during the postnatal stay and the feeding status at discharge. It also provides the opportunity to complete outstanding information from the infant exam and birth details fields.

HSC Business Services Organisation
Information Technology Services

Main Menu> Postnatal Inpatients Menu> Record Postnatal For Infant> 4 of 4

Back Save

Infants

Casenote No [] DoB [] Gender Male [] HCN []

Address [] Email and Phone [] Allergies []

Skin to skin:
Did Mother have Skin to Skin Contact at Birth

How Long did Skin to Skin Contact Last:
Until After First Feed
At Least One Hour

At Birth:
Was First Breastfeed Offered at Birth
Breastfeeding Initiated at Birth
Formula Fed at Birth by Mum
Responsiveness for Mother/Baby Wellbeing and Feeding Discussed

Feeding at Discharge:
Breast milk (Total) How []
Breast milk and formula (Partial) How []
Formula (Not at all)

During the Postnatal Stay:
Has Breastfeeding Been Attempted
Has the Baby had at Least One Effective Breastfeed

Previous Next

Skin to skin contact should be offered to all mothers regardless of feeding type.
Record: 1/1 -<OSC>

2. Northern Ireland Child Health System

The Child Health System (CHS) is a patient centred community based operational system comprising seven modules: Module 1 – Child Register; Module 2 – Preschool Vaccination and Immunisation; Module 3 – Preschool Developmental Surveillance; Module 4 – School Health; Module 5 – Special Needs; Module 6 – New-born Hearing; and Module 7 - Influenza.

Historically, the Northern Ireland Child Health System recorded information on the status of infant feeding at discharge from hospital. However, in 2010 a new system was implemented to improve the reporting systems and provide a better picture of infant feeding. Information on infant feeding status is now collected at the following time points after birth; discharge from hospital, first visit by health visitor (10-14 days), 6 weeks, 3 months, 6 months and 12 months.

Northern Ireland Child Health System infant feeding definitions (1 November 2016):

Up to 6 months

- Total: Totally breastfed is defined as infants who have received breast milk only within the previous 24 hours (this may be expressed breast milk) - that is, they have NOT received formula milk, any other liquids or food.
- Partial: Partially breastfed is defined as infants who have received any breast milk (this may be expressed breast milk) as well as formula milk or any other liquids or food within the previous 24 hours.
- Not at all: Not at all breastfed is defined as infants who have not received any breast milk within the previous 24 hours.

From 6 months

- Total: Totally breastfed is defined as infants who have received breast milk only (this may be expressed breast milk) as the milk element of a weaning diet within the previous 24 hours - that is, they have NOT received formula milk.
- Partial: Partially breastfed is defined as infants who have received any breast milk (this may be expressed breast milk) as well as formula milk as the milk element of a weaning diet within the previous 24 hours.
- Not at all: Not at all breastfed is defined as infants who have not received any breast milk within the previous 24 hours.

Any BF or B/BC: babies who are receiving only breast milk and those who are receiving both breast milk and formula.

3. Neonatal Intensive Care Outcomes Research and Evaluation (NICORE)

NICORE has been routinely collecting data on neonatal units in Northern Ireland since 1994. The data is used to monitor a number of key quality markers and to ensure consistently high standards of care so that all babies admitted to a neonatal unit in Northern Ireland will benefit. Each neonatal unit (NNU) routinely provides a range of socio-demographic, obstetric, neonatal process and outcome data relating to individual episodes of care.

4. BadgerNet™ neonatal system (BNNS)

In the BadgerNet™ neonatal system (BNNS), discharge feeding data are available from two sources i.e. summary discharge data items 'DischargeMilk' and 'DischargeFeeding' and the more detailed daily data items which can be analysed for the day of discharge 'EnteralFeeds' and 'FeedingMethod'.

Appendix: Tables

Table A: Breast feeding offered to mothers (%) at birth by hospital, 2017 NIMATS experimental data

Hospital	Yes – breastfeeding offered at birth		No, breastfeeding not offered at birth		Missing		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Altnagelvin	2,224	87.1	340	12.9	-	0.0	2,564	100.0
Antrim	2,305	79.6	611	20.4	-	0.0	2,916	100.0
Causeway	630	66.2	323	33.8	-	0.0	953	100.0
Craigavon	2,730	68.3	1,291	31.7	-	0.0	4,021	100.0
Daisyhill	1,108	63.4	648	36.6	-	0.0	1,756	100.0
Downpatrick	33	78.6	9	21.4	-	0.0	42	100.0
Lagan Valley	84	80.8	19	18.3	1	1.0	104	100.0
Mater	189	71.3	76	28.7	-	0.0	265	100.0
RJMS	3,128	61.5	1,988	38.5	-	0.0	5,116	100.0
SWAH	1,007	81.1	237	18.9	-	0.0	1,244	100.0
Ulster	2,953	73.4	1,084	26.6	1	0.0	4,038	100.0
Northern Ireland	16,391	71.5	6,626	28.4	2	0.0	23,019	100.0

Source: NIMATS; Live births, NI resident mothers Excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and infants born before arrival
Note: % of mothers

Table B: Infant feeding at birth by hospital, 2017 NIMATS Experimental data

	Breast feeding initiated at birth	Formula fed at birth by mother							
		Yes		N		Missing		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Altnagelvin	Y	-	-	1,442	56.2	-	-	1,442	100
	N	732	28.5	390	15.2	-	-	1,122	100
	Total	732	28.5	1,832	71.5	-	-	2,564	100
Antrim	Y	-	-	1,535	52.6	-	-	1,535	100
	N	945	32.4	436	15.0	-	-	1,381	100
	Total	945	32.4	1,971	67.6	-	-	2,916	100
Causeway	Y	-	-	498	52.3	-	-	498	100
	N	310	32.5	145	15.2	-	-	455	100
	Total	310	32.5	643	67.5	-	-	953	100
Craigavon	Y	-	-	2,178	54.2	-	-	2,178	100
	N	1,234	30.7	609	15.1	-	-	1,843	100
	Total	1,234	30.7	2,787	69.3	-	-	4,021	100
Daisyhill	Y	-	-	935	53.2	-	-	935	100
	N	586	33.4	235	13.4	-	-	821	100
	Total	586	33.4	1,170	66.6	-	-	1,756	100
Downpatrick	Y	-	-	27	64.3	-	-	27	100
	N	9	21.4	6	14.3	-	-	15	100
	Total	9	21.4	33	78.6	-	-	42	100
Lagan Valley	Y	-	-	73	70.2	-	-	73	100
	N	26	25.0	5	4.8	-	-	31	100
	Total	26	25.0	78	75.0	-	-	104	100
Mater	Y	-	-	153	57.7	-	-	153	100
	N	97	36.6	15	5.7	-	-	112	100
	Total	97	36.6	168	63.4	-	-	265	100
RJMS	Y	-	-	2,195	42.9	-	-	2,195	100
	N	1,590	31.1	1,331	26.0	-	-	2,921	100
	Total	1,590	31.1	3,526	68.9	-	-	5,116	100
SWAH	Y	-	-	831	66.8	-	-	831	100
	N	210	16.9	203	16.3	-	-	413	100
	Total	210	16.9	1,034	83.1	-	-	1,244	100
Ulster	Y	-	-	2,419	59.9	-	-	2,419	100
	N	1,014	25.1	603	14.9	-	-	1,617	100
	Missing	-	-	-	-	2	0.05	2	100
	Total	1,014	25.1	3,022	74.8	2	0.05	4,038	100
Northern Ireland	Y	-	-	12,286	53.4	-	-	12,286	100
	N	6,753	29.3	3,978	17.3	-	-	10,731	100
	Missing	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	100
	Total	6,753	29.3	16,264	70.7	2	-	23,019	100

Source: NIMATS; Live births, NI resident mothers Excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and infants born before arrival

Table C: Skin-to-skin contact at birth by feeding type at birth, 2017 NIMATS experimental data

Feeding at birth	Skin-to-skin contact	Yes		No		Missing		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
All births	Skin-to-skin	19,140	83.1	3,877	16.8	2	0.0	23,019	100.0
	Skin-to-skin after 1 hour	14,046	61.0	5,091	22.1	3,882	16.9	23,019	100.0
	Skin-to-skin after first feed	13,251	57.6	5,886	25.6	3,882	16.9	23,019	100.0
Breastfed	Skin-to-skin	11,300	92.0	985	8.0	1	0.0	12,286	100.0
	Skin-to-skin after 1 hour	9,784	79.6	1,514	12.3	988	8.0	12,286	100.0
	Skin-to-skin after first feed	9,598	78.1	1,701	13.8	987	8.0	12,286	100.0
Formula fed	Skin-to-skin	5,667	83.9	1,086	16.1	-	-	6,753	100.0
	Skin-to-skin after 1 hour	3,401	50.4	2,266	33.6	1,086	16.1	6,753	100.0
	Skin-to-skin after first feed	3,030	44.9	2,636	39.0	1,087	16.1	6,753	100.0
Neither breastfed nor formula fed	Skin-to-skin	2,172	54.6	1,806	45.4	-	-	3,978	100.0
	Skin-to-skin after 1 hour	861	21.6	1,311	33.0	1,806	45.4	3,978	100.0
	Skin-to-skin after first feed	623	15.7	1,549	38.9	1,806	45.4	3,978	100.0

Source: NIMATS; Live births, NI resident mothers Excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and infants born before arrival

Table D: Skin-to-skin contact at birth by hospital, 2017

	Births	Skin-to-skin		Skin-to-skin for at least 1 hour		Skin-to-skin until after first feed	
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%
Altnagelvin	2,564	2,279	88.9	1,711	66.7	1,627	63.5
Antrim	2,916	2,449	84.0	1,921	65.9	1,813	62.2
Causeway	953	895	93.9	811	85.1	741	77.8
Craigavon	4,021	3,179	79.1	2,311	57.5	2,277	56.6
Daisyhill	1,756	1,483	84.5	1,230	70.0	1,103	62.8
Downpatrick	42	39	92.9	28	66.7	28	66.7
Lagan Valley	104	103	99.0	94	90.4	90	86.5
Mater	265	265	100.0	192	72.5	187	70.6
RJMS	5,116	3,986	77.9	2,125	41.5	1,997	39.0
SWAH	1,244	1,095	88.0	1,003	80.6	964	77.5
Ulster	4,038	3,367	83.4	2,620	64.9	2,424	60.0
All births	23,019	19,140	83.1	14,046	61.0	13,251	57.6

Source: NIMATS; Live births to NI residents; excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and babies born before arrival at hospital.

Table E: Breastfeeding attempted (%) by Health and Social Care Trust*, 2012-2017

HSCT	Year	Y		N		Missing		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Belfast	2017	2,381	54.6	1,967	45.1	10	0.2	4,358	100.0
	2016	2,496	53.4	2,176	46.6	-		4,672	100.0
	2015	2,485	53.4	2,171	46.6	-		4,656	100.0
	2014	2,532	53.8	2,178	46.2	-		4,710	100.0
	2013	2,454	52.2	2,249	47.8	-		4,703	100.0
	2012	2,463	49.6	2,506	50.4	-		4,969	100.0
Northern	2017	3,289	59.3	2,228	40.2	26	0.5	5,543	100.0
	2016	3,206	56.5	2,471	43.5	-		5,677	100.0
	2015	3,118	54.3	2,621	45.7	-		5,739	100.0
	2014	3,192	54.7	2,648	45.3	-		5,840	100.0
	2013	3,161	54.9	2,599	45.1	-		5,760	100.0
	2012	3,071	51.6	2,878	48.4	-		5,949	100.0
South Eastern	2017	2,439	61.6	1,493	37.7	29	0.7	3,961	100.0
	2016	2,533	59.9	1,694	40.1	-		4,227	100.0
	2015	2,536	58.9	1,766	41.1	-		4,302	100.0
	2014	2,472	57.4	1,832	42.6	-		4,304	100.0
	2013	2,469	57.2	1,845	42.8	-		4,314	100.0
	2012	2,540	56.9	1,926	43.1	-		4,466	100.0
Southern	2017	3,231	60.2	2,115	39.4	21	0.4	5,367	100.0
	2016	3,246	59.0	2,252	41.0	-		5,498	100.0
	2015	3,125	56.7	2,390	43.3	-		5,515	100.0
	2014	3,197	58.3	2,284	41.7	-		5,481	100.0
	2013	3,057	57.3	2,277	42.7	-		5,334	100.0
	2012	3,166	55.5	2,537	44.5	-		5,703	100.0
Western	2017	2,520	64.7	1,351	34.7	25	0.6	3,896	100.0
	2016	2,425	61.5	1,515	38.5	-		3,940	100.0
	2015	2,487	62.4	1,501	37.6	-		3,988	100.0
	2014	2,405	60.2	1,591	39.8	-		3,996	100.0
	2013	2,319	59.7	1,564	40.3	-		3,883	100.0
	2012	2,394	58.3	1,713	41.7	-		4,107	100.0
Northern Ireland	2017	13,860	59.9	9,154	39.6	111	0.5	23,125	100.0
	2016	13,906	57.9	10,108	42.1	0	0.0	24,014	100.0
	2015	13,751	56.8	10,449	43.2	0	0.0	24,200	100.0
	2014	13,798	56.7	10,533	43.3	0	0.0	24,331	100.0
	2013	13,460	56.1	10,534	43.9	0	0.0	23,994	100.0
	2012	13,634	54.1	11,560	45.9	0	0.0	25,194	100.0

Source: Northern Ireland Maternity System (NIMATS). Data includes live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births and infants died in delivery suite. * Based on maternal residence.

Table F: Breastfeeding attempted by maternal age, 2012-2017

Year	Age group	Y		N		Missing		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2017	<17	25	43.9	30	52.6	2	3.5	57	100.0
	17-19	240	38.8	371	59.9	8	1.3	619	100.0
	20-24	1,250	43.5	1,610	56.0	13	0.5	2,873	100.0
	25-29	3,489	55.7	2,745	43.8	33	0.5	6,267	100.0
	30-34	5,205	65.5	2,714	34.1	33	0.4	7,952	100.0
	35-39	3,057	68.2	1,404	31.3	20	0.4	4,481	100.0
	40-44	547	66.6	272	33.1	2	0.2	821	100.0
	45+	47	85.5	8	14.5	0	0.0	55	100.0
	Total	13,860	59.9	9,154	39.6	111	0.5	23,125	100.0
2016	<17	23	31.5	50	68.5	-	-	73	100.0
	17-19	234	32.8	479	67.2	-	-	713	100.0
	20-24	1,318	42.5	1,783	57.5	-	-	3,101	100.0
	25-29	3,497	52.9	3,118	47.1	-	-	6,615	100.0
	30-34	5,284	64.5	2,914	35.5	-	-	8,198	100.0
	35-39	2,954	66.9	1,459	33.1	-	-	4,413	100.0
	40-44	569	66.2	291	33.8	-	-	860	100.0
	45+	27	65.9	14	34.1	-	-	41	100.0
	Total	13,906	57.9	10,108	42.1	-	-	24,014	100.0
2015	<17	23	32.9	47	67.1	-	-	70	100.0
	17-19	225	32.2	473	67.8	-	-	698	100.0
	20-24	1,383	40.6	2,020	59.4	-	-	3,403	100.0
	25-29	3,451	52.2	3,159	47.8	-	-	6,610	100.0
	30-34	5,133	63.9	2,903	36.1	-	-	8,036	100.0
	35-39	2,925	65.8	1,519	34.2	-	-	4,444	100.0
	40-44	566	64.5	312	35.5	-	-	878	100.0
	45+	45	73.8	16	26.2	-	-	61	100.0
	Total	13,751	56.8	10,449	43.2	-	-	24,200	100.0
2014	<17	24	30.4	55	69.6	-	-	79	100.0
	17-19	235	32.3	493	67.7	-	-	728	100.0
	20-24	1,386	39.0	2,164	61.0	-	-	3,550	100.0
	25-29	3,690	54.8	3,047	45.2	-	-	6,737	100.0
	30-34	5,147	63.5	2,959	36.5	-	-	8,106	100.0
	35-39	2,716	64.7	1,484	35.3	-	-	4,200	100.0
	40-44	574	64.4	317	35.6	-	-	891	100.0
	45+	25	65.8	13	34.2	-	-	38	100.0
	Total	13,797	56.7	10,532	43.3	-	-	24,329	100.0
2013	<17	16	18.2	72	81.8	-	-	88	100.0
	17-19	229	28.0	588	72.0	-	-	817	100.0
	20-24	1,330	37.9	2,176	62.1	-	-	3,506	100.0
	25-29	3,682	54.7	3,052	45.3	-	-	6,734	100.0
	30-34	4,977	63.1	2,913	36.9	-	-	7,890	100.0
	35-39	2,656	65.3	1,410	34.7	-	-	4,066	100.0
	40-44	543	63.7	309	36.3	-	-	852	100.0
	45+	25	69.4	11	30.6	-	-	36	100.0
	Total	13,458	56.1	10,531	43.9	-	-	23,989	100.0
2012	<17	22	19.5	91	80.5	-	-	113	100.0
	17-19	260	26.3	730	73.7	-	-	990	100.0
	20-24	1,407	36.8	2,415	63.2	-	-	3,822	100.0
	25-29	3,766	53.7	3,253	46.3	-	-	7,019	100.0
	30-34	5,028	61.8	3,102	38.2	-	-	8,130	100.0
	35-39	2,572	61.6	1,602	38.4	-	-	4,174	100.0
	40-44	550	61.1	350	38.9	-	-	900	100.0
	45+	28	68.3	13	31.7	-	-	41	100.0
	(blank)		0.0	2	100.0	-	-	2	100.0
Total	13,633	54.1	11,558	45.9	-	-	25,191	100.0	

Source: NIMATS: Data includes live births to NI resident mothers, excludes home births and infants who died in the delivery suite.

Table G: Breastfeeding attempted by deprivation quintile (SOA), 2012-2017

Year	Deprivation quintile (SOA) NIMDM 2017 1 – Most deprived 20% 5 – Least deprived 20%	Yes Breastfeeding attempted		No Breastfeeding not attempted		Missing		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2017	1	2,333	45.8	2,732	53.7	25	0.5	5,090	100.0
	2	2,973	58.3	2,096	41.1	30	0.6	5,099	100.0
	3	2,859	60.4	1,850	39.1	25	0.5	4,734	100.0
	4	2,952	65.5	1,533	34.0	21	0.5	4,506	100.0
	5	2,743	74.2	943	25.5	10	0.3	3,696	100.0
	Total	13,860	59.9	9,154	39.6	111	0.5	23,125	100.0
2016	1	2,338	42.8	3,127	57.2	-	-	5,465	100.0
	2	2,881	56.0	2,266	44.0	-	-	5,147	100.0
	3	2,957	59.5	2,011	40.5	-	-	4,968	100.0
	4	2,974	63.6	1,702	36.4	-	-	4,676	100.0
	5	2,756	73.3	1,002	26.7	-	-	3,758	100.0
	Total	13,906	57.9	10,108	42.1	-	-	24,014	100.0
2015	1	2,342	42.6	3,150	57.4	-	-	5,492	100.0
	2	2,866	55.6	2,286	44.4	-	-	5,152	100.0
	3	2,881	57.4	2,136	42.6	-	-	5,017	100.0
	4	2,939	62.1	1,792	37.9	-	-	4,731	100.0
	5	2,723	71.5	1,085	28.5	-	-	3,808	100.0
	Total	13,751	56.8	10,449	43.2	-	-	24,200	100.0
2014	1	2,436	43.5	3,163	56.5	-	-	5,599	100.0
	2	2,932	54.6	2,438	45.4	-	-	5,370	100.0
	3	2,846	57.6	2,091	42.4	-	-	4,937	100.0
	4	2,913	61.8	1,804	38.2	-	-	4,717	100.0
	5	2,670	72.0	1,036	28.0	-	-	3,706	100.0
	Total	13,797	56.7	10,532	43.3	-	-	24,329	100.0
2013	1	2,345	42.4	3,191	57.6	-	-	5,536	100.0
	2	2,774	53.9	2,374	46.1	-	-	5,148	100.0
	3	2,857	57.0	2,153	43.0	-	-	5,010	100.0
	4	2,907	62.3	1,762	37.7	-	-	4,669	100.0
	5	2,575	71.0	1,051	29.0	-	-	3,626	100.0
	Total	13,458	56.1	10,531	43.9	-	-	23,989	100.0
2012	1	2,311	39.9	3,488	60.1	-	-	5,799	100.0
	2	2,944	53.2	2,591	46.8	-	-	5,535	100.0
	3	2,893	55.6	2,313	44.4	-	-	5,206	100.0
	4	2,840	59.4	1,939	40.6	-	-	4,779	100.0
	5	2,645	68.3	1,227	31.7	-	-	3,872	100.0
	Total	13,633	54.1	11,558	45.9	-	-	25,191	100.0

Source: NIMATS: Live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births and infants died in delivery suite
 Note: Deprivation status as per Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 for Super Output Area (SOA)

Table H: Breastfeeding attempted (%) by maternal age and deprivation quintile (SOA), 2017

Maternal age group at birth	Deprivation quintile (SOA) 1 – Most deprived 20%, 5 – Least deprived 20%	Yes		No		Missing		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<20 years	1	84	32.7	172	66.9	1	0.4	257	100.0%
	2	57	37.0	92	59.7	5	3.2	154	100.0%
	3	55	48.7	55	48.7	3	2.7	113	100.0%
	4	43	43.9	55	56.1	0	0.0	98	100.0%
	5	26	48.1	27	50.0	1	1.9	54	100.0%
	<20 years total	265	39.2	401	59.3	10	1.5	676	100.0%
20-24	1	356	35.9	634	63.9	2	0.2	992	100.0%
	2	322	46.8	364	52.9	2	0.3	688	100.0%
	3	222	43.0	290	56.2	4	0.8	516	100.0%
	4	227	50.9	215	48.2	4	0.9	446	100.0%
	5	123	53.2	107	46.3	1	0.4	231	100.0%
	20-24 total	1,250	43.5	1,610	56.0	13	0.5	2,873	100.0%
25-29	1	714	45.0	866	54.5	8	0.5	1,588	100.0%
	2	802	55.6	631	43.8	9	0.6	1,442	100.0%
	3	714	55.2	574	44.4	6	0.5	1,294	100.0%
	4	702	61.1	442	38.5	5	0.4	1,149	100.0%
	5	557	70.2	232	29.2	5	0.6	794	100.0%
	25-29 total	3,489	55.7	2,745	43.8	33	0.5	6,267	100.0%
30-34	1	732	51.0	695	48.4	9	0.6	1,436	100.0%
	2	1,062	62.3	635	37.2	9	0.5	1,706	100.0%
	3	1,107	66.1	560	33.4	8	0.5	1,675	100.0%
	4	1,177	69.8	505	29.9	5	0.3	1,687	100.0%
	5	1,127	77.8	319	22.0	2	0.1	1,448	100.0%
	30-34 total	5,205	65.5	2,714	34.1	33	0.4	7,952	100.0%
35-39	1	378	54.5	311	44.8	5	0.7	694	100.0%
	2	605	65.9	308	33.6	5	0.5	918	100.0%
	3	646	67.2	312	32.4	4	0.4	962	100.0%
	4	676	71.6	263	27.9	5	0.5	944	100.0%
	5	752	78.1	210	21.8	1	0.1	963	100.0%
	35-39 total	3,057	68.2	1,404	31.3	20	0.4	4,481	100.0%
40+ years	1	69	56.1	54	43.9	0	0.0	123	100.0%
	2	125	65.4	66	34.6	0	0.0	191	100.0%
	3	115	66.1	59	33.9	0	0.0	174	100.0%
	4	127	69.8	53	29.1	2	1.1	182	100.0%
	5	158	76.7	48	23.3	0	0.0	206	100.0%
	40+ total	594	67.8	280	32.0	2	0.2	876	100.0%
Northern Ireland		13,860	59.9%	9,154	39.6	111	0.5	23,125	100.0

Source: NIMATS: Live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births and infants died in delivery suite
 Note: Deprivation status as per Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 for Super Output Area (SOA)

Table I: Breastfeeding attempted by place of birth, 2012-2017

Place of birth	Year	Breastfeeding attempted				Missing		Total	
		Yes		No		N	%	N	%
		N	%	N	%				
Altnagelvin	2017	1,589	61.4	980	37.9	17	0.7	2,586	100.0
	2016	1,522	58.9	1,061	41.1	-	-	2,583	100.0
	2015	1,618	59.9	1,084	40.1	-	-	2,702	100.0
	2014	1,576	58.8	1,105	41.2	-	-	2,681	100.0
	2013	1,505	58.7	1,061	41.3	-	-	2,566	100.0
	2012	1,539	56.3	1,195	43.7	-	-	2,734	100.0
Antrim	2017	1,719	58.7	1,188	40.6	19	0.6	2,926	100.0
	2016	1,672	55.9	1,320	44.1	-	-	2,992	100.0
	2015	1,541	52.3	1,406	47.7	-	-	2,947	100.0
	2014	1,491	52.8	1,335	47.2	-	-	2,826	100.0
	2013	1,404	54.2	1,187	45.8	-	-	2,591	100.0
	2012	1,313	49.5	1,339	50.5	-	-	2,652	100.0
Craigavon	2017	2,450	60.7	1,570	38.9	16	0.4	4,036	100.0
	2016	2,501	60.2	1,651	39.8	-	-	4,152	100.0
	2015	2,356	57.9	1,715	42.1	-	-	4,071	100.0
	2014	2,377	59.3	1,631	40.7	-	-	4,008	100.0
	2013	2,313	58.4	1,648	41.6	-	-	3,961	100.0
	2012	2,449	58.3	1,750	41.7	-	-	4,199	100.0
Causeway	2017	558	58.5	393	41.2	3	0.3	954	100.0
	2016	562	55.5	451	44.5	-	-	1,013	100.0
	2015	569	52.2	520	47.8	-	-	1,089	100.0
	2014	626	52.4	569	47.6	-	-	1,195	100.0
	2013	708	52.2	648	47.8	-	-	1,356	100.0
	2012	661	46.6	757	53.4	-	-	1,418	100.0
Daisyhill	2017	1,051	59.7	703	39.9	6	0.3	1,760	100.0
	2016	1,007	56.8	765	43.2	-	-	1,772	100.0
	2015	988	55.2	802	44.8	-	-	1,790	100.0
	2014	997	54.8	822	45.2	-	-	1,819	100.0
	2013	929	54.0	791	46.0	-	-	1,720	100.0
	2012	941	51.3	895	48.7	-	-	1,836	100.0
Downpatrick	2017	25	59.5	10	23.8	7	16.7	42	100.0
	2016	29	61.7	18	38.3	-	-	47	100.0
	2015	43	52.4	39	47.6	-	-	82	100.0
	2014	32	61.5	20	38.5	-	-	52	100.0
	2013	40	47.6	44	52.4	-	-	84	100.0
	2012	60	61.2	38	38.8	-	-	98	100.0

Source: NIMATS: Live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births and infants died in delivery suite

Table I Continued: Breastfeeding attempted by place of birth, 2012-2017

Place of birth	Year	Breastfeeding attempted				Missing		Total	
		Yes		No		N	%	N	%
		N	%	N	%				
Lagan Valley	2017	75	71.4	24	22.9	6	5.7	105	100.0
	2016	112	64.0	63	36.0	-	-	175	100.0
	2015	116	58.9	81	41.1	-	-	197	100.0
	2014	100	56.8	76	43.2	-	-	176	100.0
	2013	116	56.6	89	43.4	-	-	205	100.0
	2012	119	56.1	93	43.9	-	-	212	100.0
Mater	2017	160	60.4	105	39.6	0	0.0	265	100.0
	2016	135	55.6	108	44.4	-	-	243	100.0
	2015	95	50.5	93	49.5	-	-	188	100.0
	2014	101	51.0	97	49.0	-	-	198	100.0
	2013	145	37.7	240	62.3	-	-	385	100.0
	2012	422	35.5	768	64.5	-	-	1,190	100.0
RJMS	2017	2,651	51.5	2,490	48.4	3	0.1	5,144	100.0
	2016	2,871	50.9	2,770	49.1	-	-	5,641	100.0
	2015	2,884	50.4	2,839	49.6	-	-	5,723	100.0
	2014	3,129	52.0	2,887	48.0	-	-	6,016	100.0
	2013	3,077	52.0	2,842	48.0	-	-	5,919	100.0
	2012	2,893	52.0	2,670	48.0	-	-	5,563	100.0
SWAH	2017	921	73.7	322	25.8	6	0.5	1,249	100.0
	2016	844	66.6	423	33.4	-	-	1,267	100.0
	2015	851	69.8	369	30.2	-	-	1,220	100.0
	2014	780	63.4	450	36.6	-	-	1,230	100.0
	2013	764	64.0	430	36.0	-	-	1,194	100.0
	2012	757	63.7	432	36.3	-	-	1,189	100.0
Ulster	2017	2,661	65.6	1,369	33.7	28	0.7	4,058	100.0
	2016	2,651	64.2	1,478	35.8	-	-	4,129	100.0
	2015	2,690	64.2	1,501	35.8	-	-	4,191	100.0
	2014	2,588	62.7	1,540	37.3	-	-	4,128	100.0
	2013	2,457	61.3	1,551	38.7	-	-	4,008	100.0
	2012	2,479	60.5	1,621	39.5	-	-	4,100	100.0
Northern Ireland	2017	13,860	59.9	9,154	39.6	111	0.5	23,125	100.0
	2016	13,906	57.9	10,108	42.1	-	-	24,014	100.0
	2015	13,751	56.8	10,449	43.2	-	-	24,200	100.0
	2014	13,797	56.7	10,532	43.3	-	-	24,329	100.0
	2013	13,458	56.1	10,531	43.9	-	-	23,989	100.0
	2012	13,633	54.1	11,558	45.9	-	-	25,191	100.0

Source: NIMATS: Live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births and infants died in delivery suite

Table J: At least one effective breastfeed during postnatal stay by hospital, 2017 NIMATS experimental data

Site	Effective breastfeed during postnatal stay				Total Base = 13,801 infants attempted breastfeeding	
	Yes		No		N	%
	N	%	N	%		
Altnagelvin	1,350	85.4	230	9.0	1,580	100.0
Antrim	1,527	89.0	188	6.4	1,715	100.0
Causeway	526	94.3	32	3.4	558	100.0
Craigavon	2,194	90.0	244	6.1	2,438	100.0
Daisyhill	924	88.2	124	7.1	1,048	100.0
Downpatrick	25	100.0	0	0.0	25	100.0
Lagan Valley	71	95.9	3	2.9	74	100.0
Mater	148	92.5	12	4.5	160	100.0
RJMS	2,284	86.6	353	6.9	2,637	100.0
SWAH	843	91.7	76	6.1	919	100.0
Ulster	2,401	90.7	246	6.1	2,647	100.0
Total attempted Breastfeeding	12,293	89.1	1,508	6.6	13,801	100.0

Source: NIMATS experimental data; Live births to NI residents; excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and babies born before arrival at hospital.

Table K: Breastfeeding at discharge by feeding method, 2017 NIMATS experimental data

Milk type at discharge	Method of feeding at discharge							
	Breast		Expressed		Both breast and expressed		Total Base = 10,916 infants receiving breastmilk at discharge	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Totally breastfeeding	7,909	94.6	127	1.5	323	3.9	8,359	100.0
Breast and formula feeding	1,022	40.0	289	11.3	1,246	48.7	2,557	100.0
Any breastmilk	8,931	81.8	416	3.8	1,569	14.4	10,916	100.0

Source: NIMATS experimental data; Live births to NI residents; excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and babies born before arrival at hospital.

Table L: Supplementation by hospital, 2017 NIMATS Experimental data

Hospital	Supplementation of breastfed infants during post-natal stay	Total
		Base = 8,359 infants totally breastfed at discharge
	%	N
Altnagelvin	23.3	741
Antrim	14.9	1,035
Causeway	10.2	381
Craigavon	15.6	1,568
Daisyhill	16.1	623
Downpatrick	<5	22
Lagan Valley	<5	57
Mater	<5	127
RJMS	13.8	1,548
SWAH	17.1	497
Ulster	10.6	1,760
Total	14.4	8,359

Source: NIMATS experimental data; Live births to NI residents; excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and babies born before arrival at hospital.

Table M: Breastfeeding support at discharge with hospital range, 2017 NIMATS experimental data

Feeding type at discharge	Site	Effective Positioning		Recognise Enough		Hand Expression		Help At Home		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Totally breastfed	Altnagelvin	730	98.5	735	99.2	732	98.8	734	99.1	741	100.0
	Antrim	1,012	97.8	1,017	98.2	1,014	98.0	1,013	97.9	1,035	100.0
	Causeway	374	98.2	374	98.2	371	97.4	372	97.6	381	100.0
	Craigavon	1,540	98.3	1,546	98.6	1,533	97.7	1,536	97.9	1,568	100.0
	Daisyhill	607	97.4	607	97.4	601	96.5	603	96.8	623	100.0
	Downpatrick	22	100.0	22	100.0	20	90.9	22	100.0	22	100.0
	Lagan Valley	56	98.2	57	100.0	56	98.2	57	100.0	57	100.0
	Mater	127	100.0	127	100.0	124	97.6	127	100.0	127	100.0
	RJMS	1,497	96.9	1,517	98.0	1,489	96.2	1,482	95.8	1,548	100.0
	SWAH	484	97.4	490	98.6	480	96.6	488	98.2	497	100.0
	Ulster	1,727	98.2	1,735	98.6	1,724	97.9	1,737	98.7	1,760	100.0
	Total	8,176	97.9	8,227	98.4	8,144	97.4	8,171	97.8	8,359	100.0
Partially breastfed	Altnagelvin	189	91.1	199	94.6	198	94.1	199	94.6	211	100.0
	Antrim	264	95.2	270	97.0	271	97.4	268	96.7	280	100.0
	Causeway	44	81.5	50	92.6	50	92.6	50	92.6	54	100.0
	Craigavon	449	94.8	464	98.0	458	96.7	462	97.6	473	100.0
	Daisyhill	209	93.6	213	95.0	211	94.0	212	94.5	224	100.0
	Downpatrick	3	100.0	3	100.0	3	100.0	3	100.0	3	100.0
	Lagan Valley	2	100.0	2	100.0	2	100.0	2	100.0	2	100.0
	Mater	20	100.0	19	95.0	18	90.0	20	100.0	20	100.0
	RJMS	599	88.5	644	95.0	639	94.2	625	92.2	680	100.0
	SWAH	151	93.1	158	97.5	152	93.7	157	96.9	162	100.0
	Ulster	416	92.9	430	95.9	429	95.6	434	96.8	448	100.0
	Total	2,346	92.1	2,452	96.0	2,431	95.2	2,432	95.3	2,557	100.0

Source: NIMATS experimental data; Live births to NI residents; excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and babies born before arrival at hospital.

Table N: Formula feeding support at discharge with hospital range, 2017 NIMATS experimental data

Feeding type at discharge	Site	Effective Positioning		Recognise Enough		Hand Expression		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Formula fed	Altnagelvin	1,554	97.4	1,561	97.9	1,558	97.7	1,594	100.0
	Antrim	1,548	98.0	1,551	98.1	1,539	97.4	1,583	100.0
	Causeway	498	96.7	498	96.7	498	96.7	515	100.0
	Craigavon	1,933	98.5	1,936	98.7	1,935	98.6	1,962	100.0
	Daisyhill	882	97.9	883	98.0	884	98.1	901	100.0
	Downpatrick	10	100.0	10	100.0	10	100.0	10	100.0
	Lagan Valley	38	97.4	38	97.4	38	97.4	39	100.0
	Mater	116	98.3	116	98.3	116	98.3	118	100.0
	RJMS	2,773	96.6	2,776	96.8	2,773	96.7	2,877	100.0
	SWAH	557	96.2	561	96.9	557	96.2	579	100.0
	Ulster	1,771	98.3	1,773	98.4	1,751	97.1	1,802	100.0
	Total	11,680	97.6	11,703	97.8	11,659	97.4	11,980	100.0

Source: NIMATS experimental data; Live births to NI residents; excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and babies born before arrival at hospital.

Table O: Breastfeeding at discharge by Health and Social Care Trust, 2016p

HSCT / LCG	Number of births						Rate (%)					
	Total BF	Partial BF	<i>Any BF</i>	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All	Total BF	Partial BF	<i>Any BF</i>	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All
Belfast	1,647	497	<i>2,144</i>	2,472	49	4,665	35.3	10.7	<i>46.0</i>	53.0	1.1	100
Northern	2,049	530	<i>2,579</i>	3,060	71	5,710	35.9	9.3	<i>45.2</i>	53.6	1.2	100
South Eastern	1,690	408	<i>2,098</i>	2,112	59	4,269	39.6	9.6	<i>49.1</i>	49.5	1.4	100
Southern	2,086	592	<i>2,678</i>	2,746	95	5,519	37.8	10.7	<i>48.5</i>	49.8	1.7	100
Western	1,328	280	<i>1,608</i>	2,268	54	3,930	33.8	7.1	<i>40.9</i>	57.7	1.4	100
Unknown	85	12	<i>97</i>	72	6	175	48.6	6.9	<i>55.4</i>	41.1	3.4	100
Total	8,885	2,319	<i>11,204</i>	12,730	334	24,268	36.6	9.6	<i>46.2</i>	52.5	1.4	100

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers.

Table P: Breastfeeding at discharge by hospital, 2016p

Birthplace	Number of births						Rate (%)					
	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown/ blank	All
Altnagelvin	786	137	923	1,619	34	2,576	30.5	5.3	35.8	62.8	1.3	100.0
Antrim	1,018	291	1,309	1,650	33	2,992	34.0	9.7	43.8	55.1	1.1	100.0
Causeway	411	47	458	549	6	1,013	40.6	4.6	45.2	54.2	0.6	100.0
Craigavon	1,565	504	2,069	2,029	66	4,164	37.6	12.1	49.7	48.7	1.6	100.0
Daisyhill	643	161	804	949	18	1,771	36.3	9.1	45.4	53.6	1.0	100.0
Downpatrick	29	3	32	15	2	49	59.2	6.1	65.3	30.6	4.1	100.0
Lagan Valley	94	10	104	69	6	179	52.5	5.6	58.1	38.5	3.4	100.0
Mater	114	4	118	123	1	242	47.1	1.7	48.8	50.8	0.4	100.0
RJMS	1,802	667	2,469	3,112	86	5,667	31.8	11.8	43.6	54.9	1.5	100.0
SWAH	515	111	626	623	11	1,260	40.9	8.8	49.7	49.4	0.9	100.0
Ulster	1,814	371	2,185	1,916	43	4,144	43.8	9.0	52.7	46.2	1.0	100.0
Total*	8,791	2,306	11,097	12,654	306	24,057	36.5	9.6	46.1	52.6	1.3	100.0

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers.

* Excludes 36 births - At home (n=18), Other UK hospital (n= 5), ROI hospital (n=12), Overseas hospital (n=1)

Table Q: Prevalence of breastfeeding (%) up to 12 months for infants born in 2016p

Year	Stage	Number of births						Rate (%)					
		Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / Blank	All	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / Blank	All
2016p	Discharge	8,800	2,307	11,107	12,658	328	24,093	36.5	9.6	46.1	52.5	1.4	100.0
	Primary visit	6,561	2,068	8,629	13,314	2,150	24,093	27.2	8.6	35.8	55.3	8.9	100.0
	6 weeks	5,164	1,730	6,894	14,916	2,283	24,093	21.4	7.2	28.6	61.9	9.5	100.0
	3 months	4,224	1,221	5,445	15,375	3,273	24,093	17.5	5.1	22.6	63.8	13.6	100.0
	6 months	1,718	517	2,235	8,848	13,010	24,093	7.1	2.1	9.3	36.7	54.0	100.0
	12 months	180	97	277	2,665	21,151	24,093	0.7	0.4	1.1	11.1	87.8	100.0

Source: Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers

Advise caution: feeding status not fully recorded

Table R: Prevalence of breastfeeding (%) by maternal age, 2015

Age group	Total births	Discharge		Primary visit		6 weeks		3 months		6 months		12 months	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Under 20	700	126	18.0	99	14.1	49	7.0	25	3.6	19	2.7	10	1.4
20 to 24	3,334	953	28.6	657	19.7	418	12.5	292	8.8	165	4.9	111	3.3
25 to 29	6,540	2,604	39.8	1,955	29.9	1,471	22.5	1,105	16.9	706	10.8	376	5.7
30 to 34	8,118	4,179	51.5	3,320	40.9	2,741	33.8	2,146	26.4	1,399	17.2	797	9.8
35 to 39	4,598	2,548	55.4	2,082	45.3	1,731	37.6	1,415	30.8	910	19.8	524	11.4
40+	1,020	561	55.0	474	46.5	397	38.9	329	32.3	218	21.4	140	13.7
Not known	3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	24,313	10,971	45.1	8,587	35.3	6,807	28.0	5,312	21.8	3,417	14.1	1,958	8.1

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers

Table S: Prevalence of breastfeeding (%) by deprivation (SOA quintile) and time, 2015

Deprivation quintile	Total births	Discharge		Primary visit		6 weeks		3 months		6 months		12 months	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1 – Most deprived	5,587	1,659	29.7	1,263	22.6	960	17.2	701	12.5	453	8.1	244	4.4
2	5,133	2,185	42.6	1,709	33.3	1,302	25.4	993	19.3	650	12.7	362	7.1
3	5,266	2,442	46.4	1,896	36.0	1,508	28.6	1,143	21.7	763	14.5	402	7.6
4	4,659	2,403	51.6	1,915	41.1	1,479	31.7	1,191	25.6	746	16.0	442	9.5
5 – Least deprived	3,668	2,282	62.2	1,804	49.2	1,558	42.5	1,284	35.0	805	21.9	508	13.8
Total	24,313	10,971	45.1	8,587	35.3	6,807	28.0	5,312	21.8	3,417	14.1	1,958	8.1

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers
Deprivation status as per Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 for Super Output Area (SOA)

Table T: Prevalence of breastfeeding (%) by place of birth, 2015

Place of birth	Total births	Discharge		Primary visit		6 weeks		3 months		6 months		12 months	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Altnagelvin	2,711	933	34.4	701	25.9	502	18.5	364	13.4	206	7.6	89	3.3
Antrim	2,952	1,247	42.2	1,042	35.3	765	25.9	607	20.6	469	15.9	281	9.5
Causeway	1,089	466	42.8	380	34.9	282	25.9	248	22.8	194	17.8	102	9.4
Craigavon	4,080	1,969	48.3	1,469	36.0	1,158	28.4	893	21.9	594	14.6	213	5.2
Daisyhill	1,793	806	45.0	681	38.0	512	28.6	383	21.4	284	15.8	131	7.3
Downpatrick	81	47	58.0	34	42.0	26	32.1	16	19.8	7	8.6	7	8.6
Lagan Valley	200	110	55.0	82	41.0	68	34.0	55	27.5	20	10.0	27	13.5
Mater	186	79	42.5	58	31.2	50	26.9	44	23.7	29	15.6	22	11.8
RJMS	5,747	2,423	42.2	1,931	33.6	1,567	27.3	1,240	21.6	793	13.8	496	8.6
SWAH	1,229	645	52.5	508	41.3	403	32.8	308	25.1	230	18.7	119	9.7
Ulster	4,199	2,233	53.2	1,677	39.9	1,451	34.6	1,135	27.0	579	13.8	458	10.9
At home	24	9	37.5	20	83.3	19	79.2	18	75.0	12	50.0	12	50.0
ROI hospitals	13	3	23.1	2	15.4	2	15.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	7.7
English / Scottish hospitals	9	1	11.1	2	22.2	2	22.2	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	24,313	10,971	45.1	8,587	35.3	6,807	28.0	5,312	21.8	3,417	14.1	1,958	8.1

Source: Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers
 Advise caution: feeding status not fully recorded

Table U: Prevalence of breastfeeding (%) by Health and Social Care Trust / Local Commissioning Group, 2015

HSCT / LCG	Stage	Number of births (N)						Rate (%)					
		Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / Blank	All	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / Blank	All
BHSCT	Discharge	1,652	460	2,112	2,488	60	4,660	35.5	9.9	45.3	53.4	1.3	100
	Primary visit	1,188	411	1,599	2,142	919	4,660	25.5	8.8	34.3	46	19.7	100
	6 weeks	1,060	401	1,461	2,032	1,167	4,660	22.7	8.6	31.4	43.6	25.0	100
	3 months	871	285	1,156	1,963	1,541	4,660	18.7	6.1	24.8	42.1	33.1	100
	6 months	552	254	806	1,570	2,284	4,660	11.8	5.5	17.3	33.7	49.0	100
	12 months	263	201	464	2,194	2,002	4,660	5.6	4.3	10.0	47.1	43.0	100
NHSCT	Discharge	2,114	422	2,536	3,181	56	5,773	36.6	7.3	43.9	55.1	1.0	100
	Primary visit	1,636	470	2,106	3,588	79	5,773	28.3	8.1	36.5	62.2	1.4	100
	6 weeks	1,188	368	1,556	4,120	97	5,773	20.6	6.4	27.0	71.4	1.7	100
	3 months	1,009	266	1,275	4,371	127	5,773	17.5	4.6	22.1	75.7	2.2	100
	6 months	746	229	975	4,563	235	5,773	12.9	4	16.9	79	4.1	100
	12 months	403	179	582	4,737	454	5,773	7	3.1	10.1	82.1	7.9	100
SEHSCT	Discharge	1,766	354	2,120	2,163	51	4,334	40.7	8.2	48.9	49.9	1.2	100
	Primary visit	1,226	408	1,634	2,270	430	4,334	28.3	9.4	37.7	52.4	9.9	100
	6 weeks	957	347	1,304	2,846	184	4,334	22.1	8	30.1	65.7	4.2	100
	3 months	777	228	1,005	3,130	199	4,334	17.9	5.3	23.2	72.2	4.6	100
	6 months	231	137	368	1,580	2,386	4,334	5.3	3.2	8.5	36.5	55.1	100
	12 months	217	177	394	3,382	558	4,334	5	4.1	9.1	78	12.9	100
SHSCT	Discharge	2,178	422	2,600	2,832	103	5,535	39.3	7.6	47.0	51.2	1.9	100
	Primary visit	1,536	467	2,003	3,043	489	5,535	27.8	8.4	36.2	55	8.8	100
	6 weeks	1,165	401	1,566	3,073	896	5,535	21	7.2	28.3	55.5	16.2	100
	3 months	921	271	1,192	3,146	1,197	5,535	16.6	4.9	21.5	56.8	21.6	100
	6 months	596	232	828	3,254	1,453	5,535	10.8	4.2	15.0	58.8	26.3	100
	12 months	170	142	312	2,915	2,308	5,535	3.1	2.6	5.6	52.7	41.7	100
WHSCT	Discharge	1,450	153	1,603	2,350	58	4,011	36.2	3.8	40.0	58.6	1.4	100
	Primary visit	957	288	1,245	2,498	268	4,011	23.9	7.2	31.0	62.3	6.7	100
	6 weeks	678	242	920	2,904	187	4,011	16.9	6	22.9	72.4	4.7	100
	3 months	519	165	684	2,914	413	4,011	12.9	4.1	17.1	72.7	10.3	100
	6 months	330	110	440	2,169	1,402	4,011	8.2	2.7	11.0	54.1	35.0	100
	12 months	127	79	206	2,330	1,475	4,011	3.2	2	5.1	58.1	36.8	100
Unknown	Discharge	65	12	77	42	60	179	36.3	6.7	43.0	23.5	33.5	100
	Primary visit	4	5	9	3	167	179	2.2	2.8	5.0	1.7	93.3	100
	6 weeks	4	3	7	9	163	179	2.2	1.7	3.9	5	91.1	100
	3 months	6	1	7	10	162	179	3.4	0.6	3.9	5.6	90.5	100
	6 months	3		3	11	165	179	1.7	0	1.7	6.1	92.2	100
	12 months	-	1	1	15	163	179	0	0.6	0.6	8.4	91.1	100
TOTAL	Discharge	9,225	1,823	11,048	13,056	388	24,492	37.7	7.4	45.1	53.3	1.6	100
	Primary visit	6,547	2,049	8,596	13,544	2,352	24,492	26.7	8.4	35.1	55.3	9.6	100
	6 weeks	5,052	1,762	6,814	14,984	2,694	24,492	20.6	7.2	27.8	61.2	11.0	100
	3 months	4,103	1,216	5,319	15,534	3,639	24,492	16.8	5	21.7	63.4	14.9	100
	6 months	2,458	962	3,420	13,147	7,925	24,492	10.0	3.9	14.0	53.7	32.4	100
	12 months	1,180	779	1,959	15,573	6,960	24,492	4.8	3.2	8.0	63.6	28.4	100

Source: Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers
Advise caution: feeding status not fully recorded

Table V: Prevalence of breastfeeding (%) up to 12 months: 2013, 2014 and 2015

Year	Stage	Number of births						Rate (%)					
		Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / Blank	All	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / Blank	All
2015	Discharge	9,160	1,811	10,971	13,014	328	24,313	37.7	7.4	45.1	53.5	1.3	100
	Primary visit	6,543	2,044	8,587	13,541	2,185	24,313	26.9	8.4	35.3	55.7	9.0	100
	6 weeks	5,048	1,759	6,807	14,975	2,531	24,313	20.8	7.2	28.0	61.6	10.4	100
	3 months	4,097	1,215	5,312	15,524	3,477	24,313	16.9	5.0	21.8	63.9	14.3	100
	6 months	2,455	962	3,417	13,136	7,760	24,313	10.1	4.0	14.1	54.0	31.9	100
	12 months	1,180	778	1,958	15,558	6,797	24,313	4.9	3.2	8.1	64.0	28.0	100
2014	Discharge	9,338	1,820	11,158	12,931	363	24,452	38.2	7.4	45.6	52.9	1.5	100
	Primary visit	6,691	1,881	8,572	13,522	2,358	24,452	27.4	7.7	35.1	55.3	9.6	100
	6 weeks	5,010	1,728	6,738	15,164	2,550	24,452	20.5	7.1	27.6	62.0	10.4	100
	3 months	3,907	1,308	5,215	15,316	3,921	24,452	16.0	5.3	21.3	62.6	16.0	100
	6 months	2,060	999	3,059	12,672	8,721	24,452	8.4	4.1	12.5	51.8	35.7	100
	12 months	798	801	1,599	14,875	7,978	24,452	3.3	3.3	6.5	60.8	32.6	100
2013	Discharge	9,056	1,820	10,876	12,922	335	24,133	37.5	7.5	45.1	53.5	1.4	100
	Primary visit	6,279	1,794	8,073	12,908	3,152	24,133	26.0	7.4	33.5	53.5	13.1	100
	6 weeks	4,611	1,767	6,378	14,462	3,293	24,133	19.1	7.3	26.4	59.9	13.6	100
	3 months	3,503	1,305	4,808	15,275	4,050	24,133	14.5	5.4	19.9	63.3	16.8	100
	6 months	1,676	936	2,612	11,410	10,111	24,133	6.9	3.9	10.8	47.3	41.9	100
	12 months	532	730	1,262	13,434	9,437	24,133	2.2	3.0	5.2	55.7	39.1	100

Source: Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers

2015 updated Oct 2016 and July 2017

2014 updated Oct 2015 and Oct 2016

2013 updated Nov 2014 and Oct 2015

Table W: Breastfeeding at discharge by Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT) / Local Commissioning Group (LCG), 2004-2016p.

Year		HSCT / LCG						Total
		Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western	Unknown / blank	
2016p	Total births (n)	4,665	5,710	4,269	5,519	3,930	175	24,268
	B/BC (n)	2,144	2,579	2,098	2,678	1,608	97	11,204
	Rate (%)	46.0	45.2	49.1	48.5	40.9	55.4	46.2
2015	Total births (n)	4,660	5,773	4,334	5,535	4,011	179	24,492
	B/BC (n)	2,112	2,536	2,120	2,600	1,603	77	11,048
	Rate (%)	45.3	43.9	48.9	47.0	40.0	43.0	45.1
2014	Total births (n)	4,711	5,875	4,336	5,502	4,028	167	24,619
	B/BC (n)	2,190	2,627	2,089	2,692	1,560	59	11,217
	Rate (%)	46.5	44.7	48.2	48.9	38.7	35.3	45.6
2013	Total births (n)	4,719	5,800	4,336	5,362	3,916	200	24,333
	B/BC (n)	2,086	2,613	2,113	2,518	1,546	113	10,989
	Rate (%)	44.2	45.1	48.7	47.0	39.5	56.5	45.2
2012	Total births (n)	5,047	5,855	4,981	5,288	4,152	280	25,603
	B/BC (n)	2,014	2,499	2,233	2,359	1,674	133	10,912
	Rate (%)	39.9	42.7	44.8	44.6	40.3	47.5	42.6
2011	Total births (n)	4,840	5,887	4,551	5,546	4,310	475	25,609
	B/BC (n)	2,139	2,461	2,174	2,554	1,698	245	11,271
	Rate (%)	44.2	41.8	47.8	46.1	39.4	51.6	44.0
2010	Total births (n)	4,834	6,066	4,452	5,765	4,253	228	25,598
	B/BC (n)	2,225	2,587	2,262	2,674	1,646	99	11,493
	Rate (%)	46.0	42.6	50.8	46.4	38.7	43.4	44.9
2009	Total births (n)	4,699	5,877	4,502	5,625	4,235	145	25,083
	B/BC (n)	2,037	2,489	2,162	2,647	1,731	68	11,134
	Rate (%)	43.3	42.4	48	47.1	40.9	46.9	44.4
2008	Total births (n)	4,746	6,225	4,641	5,583	4,255	75	25,525
	B/BC (n)	1,943	2,617	2,172	2,570	1,787	27	11,116
	Rate (%)	40.9	42	46.8	46	42	36	43.6
2007	Total births (n)	4,435	6,031	4,445	5,422	4,126	123	24,582
	B/BC (n)	1,788	2,516	2,035	2,366	1,679	50	10,434
	Rate (%)	40.3	41.7	45.8	43.6	40.7	40.7	42.4
2006	Total births (n)	4,212	5,771	4,252	5,077	4,079	89	23,480
	B/BC (n)	1,655	2,237	1,931	2,057	1,573	43	9,496
	Rate (%)	39.3	38.8	45.4	40.5	38.6	48.3	40.4
2005	Total births (n)	4,021	5,592	3,979	4,836	3,894	35	22,357
	B/BC (n)	1,582	2,235	1,806	1,902	1,429	8	8,962
	Rate (%)	39.3	40	45.4	39.3	36.7	22.9	40.1
2004	Total births (n)	4,097	5,224	4,047	4,724	3,779	27	21,898
	B/BC (n)	1,519	2,159	1,761	1,792	1,412	9	8,652
	Rate (%)	37.1	41.3	43.5	37.9	37.4	33.3	39.5

Source: Child Health System; Live births

Table X: Belfast HSCT breastfeeding at discharge by Local Government District (LGD), 2004-2016p.

Year		Belfast	Castlereagh	BHSCT
2016p	Total births (n)	3,843	822	4,665
	B/BC (n)	1,671	473	2,144
	Rate (%)	43.5	57.5	46.0
2015	Total births (n)	3,862	798	4,660
	B/BC (n)	1,666	446	2,112
	Rate (%)	43.1	55.9	45.3
2014	Total births (n)	3,897	814	4,711
	B/BC (n)	1,732	458	2,190
	Rate (%)	44.4	56.3	46.5
2013	Total births (n)	3,911	808	4,719
	B/BC (n)	1,635	451	2,086
	Rate (%)	41.8	55.8	44.2
2012	Total births (n)	4,343	704	5,047
	B/BC (n)	1,626	388	2,014
	Rate (%)	37.4	55.1	39.9
2011	Total births (n)	4,032	808	4,840
	B/BC (n)	1,687	452	2,139
	Rate (%)	41.8	55.9	44.2
2010	Total births (n)	3,991	843	4,834
	B/BC (n)	1,754	471	2,225
	Rate (%)	43.9	55.9	46.0
2009	Total births (n)	3,869	830	4,699
	B/BC (n)	1,581	456	2,037
	Rate (%)	40.9	54.9	43.3
2008	Total births (n)	3,894	852	4,746
	B/BC (n)	1,509	434	1,943
	Rate (%)	38.8	50.9	40.9
2007	Total births (n)	3,647	788	4,435
	B/BC (n)	1,383	405	1,788
	Rate (%)	37.9	51.4	40.3
2006	Total births (n)	3,461	751	4,212
	B/BC (n)	1,274	381	1,655
	Rate (%)	36.8	50.7	39.3
2005	Total births (n)	3,290	731	4,021
	B/BC (n)	1,198	384	1,582
	Rate (%)	36.4	52.5	39.3
2004	Total births (n)	3,369	728	4,097
	B/BC (n)	1,179	340	1,519
	Rate (%)	35.0	46.7	37.1

Source: Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers

Table Y: Northern HSCT breastfeeding at discharge by Local Government District (LGD), 2004-2016p.

Year		Antrim	Ballymena	Ballymoney	Carrickfergus	Coleraine	NHSCT
2016p	Total births (n)	678	877	375	392	628	5,710
	B/BC (n)	344	424	154	187	290	2,579
	Rate (%)	50.7	48.3	41.1	47.7	46.2	45.2
2015	Total births (n)	711	786	407	395	664	5,773
	B/BC (n)	332	348	168	203	296	2,536
	Rate (%)	46.7	44.3	41.3	51.4	44.6	43.9
2014	Total births (n)	705	798	400	440	685	5,875
	B/BC (n)	343	362	164	216	297	2,627
	Rate (%)	48.7	45.4	41.0	49.1	43.4	44.7
2013	Total births (n)	695	753	418	389	726	5,800
	B/BC (n)	336	359	166	177	326	2,613
	Rate (%)	48.3	47.7	39.7	45.5	44.9	45.1
2012	Total births (n)	803	884	434	327	689	5,855
	B/BC (n)	358	378	177	153	292	2,499
	Rate (%)	44.6	42.8	40.8	46.8	42.4	42.7
2011	Total births (n)	753	818	378	438	642	5,887
	B/BC (n)	343	328	121	182	270	2,461
	Rate (%)	45.6	40.1	32.0	41.6	42.1	41.8
2010	Total births (n)	754	776	410	469	673	6,066
	B/BC (n)	351	332	166	200	278	2,587
	Rate (%)	46.6	42.8	40.5	42.6	41.3	42.6
2009	Total births (n)	792	790	400	437	615	5,877
	B/BC (n)	367	324	152	199	276	2,489
	Rate (%)	46.3	41	38	45.5	44.9	42.4
2008	Total births (n)	854	824	407	500	717	6,225
	B/BC (n)	390	349	148	230	312	2,617
	Rate (%)	45.7	42.4	36.4	46	43.5	42.0
2007	Total births (n)	822	822	382	443	645	6,031
	B/BC (n)	388	319	128	198	271	2,516
	Rate (%)	47.2	38.8	33.5	44.7	42.0	41.7
2006	Total births (n)	737	781	393	490	634	5,771
	B/BC (n)	305	298	146	183	259	2,237
	Rate (%)	41.4	38.2	37.2	37.3	40.9	38.8
2005	Total births (n)	710	772	379	465	596	5,592
	B/BC (n)	313	286	146	176	247	2,235
	Rate (%)	44.1	37	38.5	37.8	41.4	40.0
2004	Total births (n)	704	725	323	416	596	5,224
	B/BC (n)	329	271	117	188	248	2,159
	Rate (%)	46.7	37.4	36.2	45.2	41.6	41.3

Source: Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers

Table Y (continued): Northern HSCT breastfeeding at discharge by Local Government District (LGD), 2004-2016p.

Year		Cookstown	Larne	Magherafelt	Moyle	Newtownabbey	NHSCT
2016p	Total births (n)	557	323	622	195	1,063	5,710
	B/BC (n)	209	124	273	71	503	2,579
	Rate (%)	37.5	38.4	43.9	36.4	47.3	45.2
2015	Total births (n)	564	331	663	173	1,079	5,773
	B/BC (n)	220	157	269	63	480	2,536
	Rate (%)	39.0	47.4	40.6	36.4	44.5	43.9
2014	Total births (n)	565	370	661	186	1,065	5,875
	B/BC (n)	228	163	289	78	487	2,627
	Rate (%)	40.4	44.1	43.7	41.9	45.7	44.7
2013	Total births (n)	566	371	663	206	1,013	5,800
	B/BC (n)	224	154	291	81	499	2,613
	Rate (%)	39.6	41.5	43.9	39.3	49.3	45.1
2012	Total births (n)	525	364	701	196	932	5,855
	B/BC (n)	223	151	290	67	410	2,499
	Rate (%)	42.5	41.5	41.4	34.2	44.0	42.7
2011	Total births (n)	537	341	645	201	1,134	5,887
	B/BC (n)	210	137	270	82	518	2,461
	Rate (%)	39.1	40.2	41.9	40.8	45.7	41.8
2010	Total births (n)	607	342	699	203	1,133	6,066
	B/BC (n)	239	133	299	69	520	2,587
	Rate (%)	39.4	38.9	42.8	34	45.9	42.6
2009	Total births (n)	537	332	680	206	1,088	5,877
	B/BC (n)	222	130	267	77	475	2,489
	Rate (%)	41.3	39.2	39.3	37.4	43.7	42.4
2008	Total births (n)	515	326	693	203	1,186	6,225
	B/BC (n)	217	116	274	81	500	2,617
	Rate (%)	42.1	35.6	39.5	39.9	42.2	42.0
2007	Total births (n)	543	362	652	224	1,136	6,031
	B/BC (n)	185	133	280	92	522	2,516
	Rate (%)	34.1	36.7	42.9	41.1	46.0	41.7
2006	Total births (n)	506	357	625	181	1,067	5,771
	B/BC (n)	164	122	245	69	446	2,237
	Rate (%)	32.4	34.2	39.2	38.1	41.8	38.8
2005	Total births (n)	460	354	598	186	1,072	5,592
	B/BC (n)	155	123	239	71	479	2,235
	Rate (%)	33.7	34.7	40	38.2	44.7	40.0
2004	Total births (n)	483	215	580	150	1,032	5,224
	B/BC (n)	150	86	250	63	457	2,159
	Rate (%)	31.1	40.0	43.1	42.0	44.3	41.3

Source: Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers

Table Z: South Eastern HSCT breastfeeding at discharge by Local Government District (LGD), 2004-2016p.

Year		Ards	Down	Lisburn	North Down	SEHSCT
2016p	Total births (n)	798	903	1,701	867	4,269
	B/BC (n)	379	421	820	478	2,098
	Rate (%)	47.5	46.6	48.2	55.1	49.1
2015	Total births (n)	877	911	1,667	879	4,334
	B/BC (n)	388	429	808	495	2,120
	Rate (%)	44.2	47.1	48.5	56.3	48.9
2014	Total births (n)	862	910	1,678	886	4,336
	B/BC (n)	394	389	821	485	2,089
	Rate (%)	45.7	42.7	48.9	54.7	48.2
2013	Total births (n)	849	932	1,665	890	4,336
	B/BC (n)	397	426	783	507	2113
	Rate (%)	45.1	46.8	45.7	47.0	57.0
2012	Total births (n)	1,053	1,204	1,657	1,067	4,981
	B/BC (n)	446	502	757	528	2,233
	Rate (%)	42.4	41.7	45.7	49.5	44.8
2011	Total births (n)	904	930	1,756	961	4,551
	B/BC (n)	405	443	800	526	2,174
	Rate (%)	44.8	47.6	45.6	54.7	47.8
2010	Total births (n)	861	926	1,704	961	4,452
	B/BC (n)	417	447	839	559	2,262
	Rate (%)	48.4	48.3	49.2	58.2	50.8
2009	Total births (n)	871	975	1,741	915	4,502
	B/BC (n)	380	427	850	505	2,162
	Rate (%)	43.6	43.8	48.8	55.2	48
2008	Total births (n)	958	998	1,736	949	4,641
	B/BC (n)	448	433	782	509	2,172
	Rate (%)	46.8	43.4	45	53.6	46.8
2007	Total births (n)	964	919	1,643	919	4,445
	B/BC (n)	428	393	741	473	2,035
	Rate (%)	44.4	42.8	45.1	51.5	45.8
2006	Total births (n)	850	948	1,554	900	4,252
	B/BC (n)	369	381	708	473	1,931
	Rate (%)	43.4	40.2	45.6	52.6	45.4
2005	Total births (n)	887	808	1,464	820	3,979
	B/BC (n)	395	347	642	422	1,806
	Rate (%)	44.5	42.9	43.9	51.5	45.4
2004	Total births (n)	874	892	1,439	842	4,047
	B/BC (n)	376	359	621	405	1,761
	Rate (%)	43	40.2	43.2	48.1	43.5

Source: Child Health System
 Note: Live births to NI resident mothers

Table AA: Southern HSCT breastfeeding at discharge by Local Government District (LGD), 2004-2016p.

Year		Armagh	Banbridge	Craigavon	Dungannon	Newry and Mourne	SHSCT
2016p	Total	885	638	1,419	988	1,589	5,519
	B/BC (n)	430	337	671	540	700	2,678
	Rate (%)	48.6	52.8	47.3	54.7	44.1	48.5
2015	Total	971	645	1,396	974	1,549	5,535
	B/BC (n)	454	320	621	504	701	2,600
	Rate (%)	46.8	49.6	44.5	51.7	45.3	47.0
2014	Total	865	660	1,438	924	1,615	5,502
	B/BC (n)	428	329	668	509	758	2,692
	Rate (%)	49.5	49.8	46.5	55.1	46.9	48.9
2013	Total	838	648	1,397	948	1,531	5,362
	B/BC (n)	397	305	636	510	670	2,518
	Rate (%)	47.4	47.1	45.5	53.8	43.8	47.0
2012	Total	925	619	1,519	999	1,226	5,288
	B/BC (n)	427	293	638	488	513	2,359
	Rate (%)	46.2	47.3	42.0	48.8	41.8	44.6
2011	Total	942	667	1,468	906	1,563	5,546
	B/BC (n)	435	321	677	466	655	2,554
	Rate (%)	46.2	48.1	46.1	51.4	41.9	46.1
2010	Total	915	754	1,551	918	1,627	5,765
	B/BC (n)	419	357	708	462	728	2,674
	Rate (%)	45.8	47.3	45.6	50.3	44.7	46.4
2009	Total	920	688	1,477	934	1,606	5,625
	B/BC (n)	444	352	659	465	727	2,647
	Rate (%)	48.3	51.2	44.6	49.8	45.3	47.1
2008	Total	878	738	1,470	892	1,605	5,583
	B/BC (n)	378	361	677	450	704	2,570
	Rate (%)	43.1	48.9	46.1	50.4	43.9	46
2007	Total	873	712	1,411	879	1,547	5,422
	B/BC (n)	360	357	578	429	642	2,366
	Rate (%)	41.2	50.1	41	48.8	41.5	43.6
2006	Total	855	638	1,361	800	1,423	5,077
	B/BC (n)	358	284	519	351	545	2,057
	Rate (%)	41.9	44.5	38.1	43.9	38.3	40.5
2005	Total	796	656	1,204	771	1,409	4,836
	B/BC (n)	332	289	469	318	494	1,902
	Rate (%)	41.7	44.1	39	41.2	35.1	39.3
2004	Total	731	585	1,177	789	1,442	4,724
	B/BC (n)	267	265	451	280	529	1,792
	Rate (%)	36.5	45.3	38.3	35.5	36.7	37.9

Source: Child Health System
 Note: Live births to NI resident mothers

Table AB: Western HSCT breastfeeding at discharge by Local Government District (LGD), 2004-2016p.

Year		Derry	Fermanagh	Limavady	Omagh	Strabane	WHSCCT
2016p	Total births	1,462	830	433	689	516	3,930
	B/BC (n)	509	418	157	354	170	1,608
	Rate (%)	34.8	50.4	36.3	51.4	32.9	40.9
2015	Total births	1,562	788	477	640	544	4,011
	B/BC (n)	536	414	156	327	170	1,603
	Rate (%)	34.3	52.5	32.7	51.1	31.3	40.0
2014	Total births	1,575	800	428	711	514	4,028
	B/BC (n)	541	382	138	340	159	1,560
	Rate (%)	34.3	47.8	32.2	47.8	30.9	38.7
2013	Total births	1,572	822	407	615	500	3,916
	B/BC (n)	541	402	139	293	171	1,546
	Rate (%)	34.4	48.9	34.2	47.6	34.2	39.5
2012	Total births	1,832	656	504	579	581	4,152
	B/BC (n)	685	301	198	270	220	1,674
	Rate (%)	37.4	45.9	39.3	46.6	37.9	40.3
2011	Total births	1,684	814	494	747	571	4,310
	B/BC (n)	574	393	177	368	186	1,698
	Rate (%)	34.1	48.3	35.8	49.3	32.6	39.4
2010	Total births	1,621	897	450	746	539	4,253
	B/BC (n)	610	377	173	313	173	1,646
	Rate (%)	37.6	42	38.4	42	32.1	38.7
2009	Total births	1,665	427	601	720	822	4,235
	B/BC (n)	665	165	213	337	351	1,731
	Rate (%)	39.9	38.6	35.4	46.8	42.7	40.9
2008	Total births	1,644	467	570	699	875	4,255
	B/BC (n)	630	178	215	358	406	1,787
	Rate (%)	38.3	38.1	37.7	51.2	46.4	42
2007	Total births	1,603	489	523	688	823	4,126
	B/BC (n)	626	186	184	312	371	1,679
	Rate (%)	39.1	38	35.2	45.3	45.1	40.7
2006	Total births	1,548	472	549	686	824	4,079
	B/BC (n)	582	182	166	287	356	1,573
	Rate (%)	37.6	38.6	30.2	41.8	43.2	38.6
2005	Total births	1,546	446	498	666	738	3,894
	B/BC (n)	530	159	157	288	295	1,429
	Rate (%)	34.3	35.7	31.5	43.2	40	36.7
2004	Total births	1,485	426	492	661	715	3,779
	B/BC (n)	495	156	142	291	328	1,412
	Rate (%)	33.3	36.6	28.9	44	45.9	37.4

Source: Child Health System
 Note: Live births to NI resident mothers

Table AC: Breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Local Government District (LGD1992), 2015

LCG/ HSCT	LGD (1992)	Stage	Total	Partial	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All
BHSCT	BELFAST	Discharge	33.1	10.0	43.1	55.6	1.3	100
		Primary visit	24.3	8.9	33.2	48.1	18.7	100
		6 weeks	21.6	8.0	29.6	43.0	27.4	100
		3 months	17.9	6.0	23.9	40.0	36.2	100
		6 months	11.7	5.0	16.7	31.9	51.5	100
		12 months	5.4	4.3	9.7	44.5	45.8	100
	CASTLEREAGH	Discharge	46.7	9.1	55.9	42.7	1.4	100
		Primary visit	31.1	8.5	39.6	35.8	24.6	100
		6 weeks	28.3	11.5	39.8	46.5	13.7	100
		3 months	22.7	6.6	29.3	52.6	18.0	100
		6 months	12.7	7.6	20.3	42.5	37.2	100
		12 months	6.9	4.3	11.2	59.8	29.1	100
	BHSCT TOTAL	Discharge	35.5	9.9	45.3	53.4	1.3	100
		Primary visit	25.5	8.8	34.3	46.0	19.7	100
		6 weeks	22.7	8.6	31.4	43.6	25.0	100
		3 months	18.7	6.1	24.8	42.1	33.1	100
		6 months	11.8	5.5	17.3	33.7	49.0	100
		12 months	5.6	4.3	10.0	47.1	43.0	100
NHSCT	ANTRIM	Discharge	37.6	9.1	46.7	52.9	0.4	100
		Primary visit	29.7	10.3	39.9	58.9	1.1	100
		6 weeks	21.8	6.3	28.1	70.5	1.4	100
		3 months	18.6	4.6	23.2	74.5	2.3	100
		6 months	14.6	3.4	18.0	77.2	4.8	100
		12 months	7.2	3.4	10.5	80.7	8.7	100
	BALLYMENA	Discharge	36.0	8.3	44.3	54.6	1.1	100
		Primary visit	28.6	9.4	38.0	60.4	1.5	100
		6 weeks	19.3	8.3	27.6	71.4	1.0	100
		3 months	16.5	5.2	21.8	75.7	2.5	100
		6 months	10.9	5.0	15.9	78.5	5.6	100
		12 months	6.6	3.2	9.8	82.1	8.1	100
	BALLYMONEY	Discharge	37.6	3.7	41.3	57.2	1.5	100
		Primary visit	27.8	4.7	32.4	65.4	2.2	100
		6 weeks	20.6	5.4	26.0	72.0	2.0	100
		3 months	18.2	3.4	21.6	76.2	2.2	100
		6 months	14.0	4.7	18.7	78.4	2.9	100
		12 months	9.6	2.7	12.3	82.8	4.9	100
	CARRICKFERGUS	Discharge	43.3	8.1	51.4	47.6	1.0	100
		Primary visit	31.9	9.6	41.5	57.7	0.8	100
		6 weeks	22.8	8.6	31.4	67.1	1.5	100
		3 months	19.7	5.8	25.6	72.7	1.8	100
		6 months	14.9	3.8	18.7	73.4	7.8	100
		12 months	7.6	2.5	10.1	78.5	11.4	100
COLERAINE	Discharge	39.6	5.0	44.6	54.5	0.9	100	
	Primary visit	32.1	6.8	38.9	60.2	0.9	100	
	6 weeks	23.0	5.7	28.8	69.3	2.0	100	
	3 months	18.4	6.3	24.7	73.2	2.1	100	
	6 months	14.3	4.5	18.8	77.9	3.3	100	
	12 months	6.6	3.2	9.8	84.0	6.2	100	

Table AC (continued): Breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Local Government District (LGD1992), 2015

LCG/ HSCT	LGD (1992)	Stage	Total	Partial	Any	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All
NHSCT	COOKSTOWN	Discharge	33.3	5.7	39.0	59.2	1.8	100
		Primary visit	24.8	6.6	31.4	66.0	2.7	100
		6 weeks	17.7	5.3	23.0	73.0	3.9	100
		3 months	13.7	4.3	17.9	77.8	4.3	100
		6 months	8.7	4.3	12.9	83.0	4.1	100
		12 months	5.0	3.0	8.0	82.8	9.2	100
	LARNE	Discharge	38.7	8.8	47.4	51.7	0.9	100
		Primary visit	29.9	10.0	39.9	59.5	0.6	100
		6 weeks	24.2	6.3	30.5	68.6	0.9	100
		3 months	21.5	4.8	26.3	72.2	1.5	100
		6 months	17.2	3.3	20.5	74.6	4.8	100
		12 months	10.9	5.4	16.3	77.3	6.3	100
	MAGHERAFELT	Discharge	34.5	6.0	40.6	58.7	0.8	100
		Primary visit	26.8	4.8	31.7	66.8	1.5	100
		6 weeks	18.7	4.2	22.9	75.4	1.7	100
		3 months	16.0	2.9	18.9	79.9	1.2	100
		6 months	11.3	2.6	13.9	84.3	1.8	100
		12 months	5.7	1.7	7.4	88.2	4.4	100
	MOYLE	Discharge	31.2	5.2	36.4	63.0	0.6	100
		Primary visit	21.4	7.5	28.9	71.1	0.0	100
		6 weeks	12.1	6.9	19.1	80.9	0.0	100
		3 months	9.8	5.8	15.6	83.8	0.6	100
		6 months	8.1	3.5	11.6	86.7	1.7	100
		12 months	3.5	2.9	6.4	89.6	4.0	100
	NEWTOWNABBEY	Discharge	35.0	9.5	44.5	54.7	0.8	100
		Primary visit	27.2	9.8	37.1	61.6	1.3	100
		6 weeks	21.2	6.8	28.0	70.5	1.5	100
		3 months	18.7	4.1	22.8	75.1	2.1	100
		6 months	13.9	4.1	18.0	78.5	3.5	100
		12 months	7.3	3.4	10.8	78.8	10.5	100
NHSCT TOTAL	Discharge	36.6	7.3	43.9	55.1	1.0	100	
	Primary visit	28.3	8.1	36.5	62.2	1.4	100	
	6 weeks	20.6	6.4	27.0	71.4	1.7	100	
	3 months	17.5	4.6	22.1	75.7	2.2	100	
	6 months	12.9	4.0	16.9	79.0	4.1	100	
	12 months	7.0	3.1	10.1	82.1	7.9	100	
SEHSCT	ARDS	Discharge	37.4	6.8	44.2	54.6	1.1	100
		Primary visit	21.2	9.1	30.3	49.1	20.5	100
		6 weeks	17.9	6.8	24.7	70.1	5.1	100
		3 months	14.3	4.6	18.8	76.5	4.7	100
		6 months	4.8	2.2	7.0	41.2	51.9	100
		12 months	4.3	2.6	7.0	75.9	17.1	100
	DOWN	Discharge	40.4	6.7	47.1	51.5	1.4	100
		Primary visit	30.4	9.0	39.4	56.2	4.4	100
		6 weeks	23.2	8.6	31.7	63.8	4.5	100
		3 months	17.8	5.0	22.8	72.7	4.5	100
		6 months	7.5	3.0	10.4	43.7	45.9	100
		12 months	6.1	3.2	9.3	82.2	8.5	100

Table AC (continued): Breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Local Government District (LGD1992), 2015

LCG/ HSCT	LGD (1992)	Stage	Total	Partial	Any	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All
SEHSCT	LISBURN	Discharge	39.8	8.6	48.5	50.4	1.1	100
		Primary visit	30.3	8.6	38.9	57.6	3.5	100
		6 weeks	22.0	7.3	29.3	67.7	3.0	100
		3 months	18.2	4.4	22.7	72.5	4.9	100
		6 months	4.3	4.3	8.6	31.6	59.8	100
		12 months	4.7	4.7	9.5	78.3	12.2	100
	NORTH DOWN	Discharge	46.2	10.1	56.3	42.7	1.0	100
		Primary visit	29.4	11.6	41.0	41.8	17.3	100
		6 weeks	25.3	9.9	35.2	59.4	5.5	100
		3 months	21.2	7.7	28.9	67.0	4.1	100
		6 months	5.6	2.3	7.8	33.4	58.7	100
		12 months	5.0	5.2	10.2	75.3	14.4	100
	SEHSCT TOTAL	Discharge	40.7	8.2	48.9	49.9	1.2	100
		Primary visit	28.3	9.4	37.7	52.4	9.9	100
		6 weeks	22.1	8.0	30.1	65.7	4.2	100
		3 months	17.9	5.3	23.2	72.2	4.6	100
		6 months	5.3	3.2	8.5	36.5	55.1	100
		12 months	5.0	4.1	9.1	78.0	12.9	100
SHSCT	ARMAGH	Discharge	38.3	8.4	46.8	51.4	1.9	100
		Primary visit	25.6	6.9	32.5	53.9	13.6	100
		6 weeks	19.7	6.6	26.3	47.9	25.8	100
		3 months	15.2	4.7	20.0	44.7	35.3	100
		6 months	8.3	4.0	12.4	41.9	45.7	100
		12 months	2.9	1.6	4.5	40.0	55.5	100
	BANBRIDGE	Discharge	42.9	6.7	49.6	49.1	1.2	100
		Primary visit	32.7	9.1	41.9	55.8	2.3	100
		6 weeks	24.2	7.8	31.9	50.7	17.4	100
		3 months	21.2	5.3	26.5	55.5	18.0	100
		6 months	11.9	7.6	19.5	65.7	14.7	100
		12 months	4.5	6.5	11.0	74.1	14.9	100
	CRAIGAVON	Discharge	37.2	7.3	44.5	53.4	2.1	100
		Primary visit	25.5	10.2	35.7	56.1	8.2	100
		6 weeks	20.1	7.7	27.9	53.6	18.6	100
		3 months	15.8	5.4	21.1	59.5	19.3	100
		6 months	10.0	3.5	13.5	60.8	25.7	100
		12 months	2.5	1.7	4.2	49.9	45.8	100
	DUNGANNON	Discharge	43.5	8.2	51.7	46.8	1.4	100
		Primary visit	27.0	7.4	34.4	47.8	17.8	100
		6 weeks	22.8	6.5	29.3	49.1	21.7	100
		3 months	17.1	4.6	21.8	42.3	35.9	100
		6 months	12.1	3.6	15.7	45.9	38.4	100
		12 months	1.7	1.1	2.9	21.8	75.4	100
	NEWRY & MOURNE	Discharge	37.8	7.4	45.3	52.6	2.2	100
		Primary visit	29.5	8.2	37.7	58.8	3.5	100
		6 weeks	20.3	7.5	27.8	68.1	4.1	100
		3 months	16.1	4.6	20.7	71.7	7.6	100
		6 months	11.7	3.9	15.6	72.8	11.7	100
		12 months	3.9	3.2	7.1	73.6	19.3	100

Table AC (continued): Breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Local Government District (LGD1992), 2015

LCG/ HSCT	LGD (1992)	Stage	Total	Partial	Any	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All
	SHSCT TOTAL	Discharge	39.3	7.6	47.0	51.2	1.9	100
		Primary visit	27.8	8.4	36.2	55.0	8.8	100
		6 weeks	21.0	7.2	28.3	55.5	16.2	100
		3 months	16.6	4.9	21.5	56.8	21.6	100
		6 months	10.8	4.2	15.0	58.8	26.3	100
		12 months	3.1	2.6	5.6	52.7	41.7	100
WHSCT	DERRY	Discharge	31.7	2.6	34.3	64.3	1.3	100
		Primary visit	19.7	6.0	25.6	66.3	8.1	100
		6 weeks	12.5	5.1	17.7	76.5	5.8	100
		3 months	9.9	3.2	13.1	75.5	11.4	100
		6 months	6.2	1.3	7.5	52.6	39.9	100
		12 months	1.9	1.3	3.2	51.8	45.0	100
	FERMANAGH	Discharge	46.6	6.0	52.5	45.3	2.2	100
		Primary visit	33.4	9.1	42.5	54.3	3.2	100
		6 weeks	25.9	6.9	32.7	63.3	3.9	100
		3 months	19.9	5.7	25.6	66.9	7.5	100
		6 months	14.3	5.2	19.5	65.7	14.7	100
		12 months	6.5	4.1	10.5	74.7	14.7	100
	LIMAVADY	Discharge	30.4	2.3	32.7	65.8	1.5	100
		Primary visit	19.9	5.5	25.4	66.2	8.4	100
		6 weeks	14.3	5.5	19.7	75.3	5.0	100
		3 months	10.9	2.3	13.2	73.6	13.2	100
		6 months	2.3	0.8	3.1	26.6	70.2	100
		12 months	1.7	0.8	2.5	45.1	52.4	100
	OMAGH	Discharge	44.5	6.6	51.1	47.8	1.1	100
		Primary visit	30.2	9.8	40.0	52.0	8.0	100
		6 weeks	22.2	7.5	29.7	67.7	2.7	100
		3 months	15.3	5.9	21.3	65.8	13.0	100
		6 months	9.7	5.2	14.8	54.4	30.8	100
		12 months	3.8	2.7	6.4	72.7	20.9	100
STRABANE	Discharge	29.0	2.2	31.3	67.6	1.1	100	
	Primary visit	18.2	6.3	24.4	70.8	4.8	100	
	6 weeks	12.5	6.3	18.8	76.8	4.4	100	
	3 months	10.7	3.9	14.5	80.0	5.5	100	
	6 months	8.6	2.2	10.8	65.1	24.1	100	
	12 months	2.8	0.9	3.7	46.3	50.0	100	
WHSCT TOTAL	Discharge	36.2	3.8	40.0	58.6	1.4	100	
	Primary visit	23.9	7.2	31.0	62.3	6.7	100	
	6 weeks	16.9	6.0	22.9	72.4	4.7	100	
	3 months	12.9	4.1	17.1	72.7	10.3	100	
	6 months	8.2	2.7	11.0	54.1	35.0	100	
	12 months	3.2	2.0	5.1	58.1	36.8	100	
NORTHERN IRELAND	TOTAL	Discharge	37.7	7.4	45.1	53.5	1.3	100
		Primary visit	26.9	8.4	35.3	55.7	9.0	100
		6 weeks	20.8	7.2	28.0	61.6	10.4	100
		3 months	16.9	5.0	21.8	63.9	14.3	100
		6 months	10.1	4.0	14.1	54.0	31.9	100
		12 months	4.9	3.2	8.1	64.0	28.0	100

Source: Child Health System ; Live births to NI resident mothers
 Advise caution: feeding status not fully recorded

Table AD: Breastfeeding at discharge by Council Area (LGD2014), 2011-2016p

Council Area (LGD2014)		Year					
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016p
Antrim and Newtownabbey	Total births	1,888	1,878	1,714	1,772	1,799	1,748
	Any Breastfeeding	863	818	838	831	819	853
	Rate (%)	45.7	43.6	48.9	46.9	45.5	48.8
Ards and North Down	Total births	1,861	1,772	1,736	1,742	1,755	1,661
	Any Breastfeeding	926	875	902	874	883	855
	Rate (%)	49.8	49.4	52.0	50.2	50.3	51.5
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Total births	3,050	3,137	2,865	2,931	2,995	2,932
	Any Breastfeeding	1,415	1,423	1,330	1,405	1,386	1,430
	Rate (%)	46.4	45.4	46.4	47.9	46.3	48.8
Belfast	Total births	4,833	4,932	4,687	4,649	4,591	4,616
	Any Breastfeeding	1,995	1,900	1,912	2,019	1,949	1,981
	Rate (%)	41.3	38.5	40.8	43.4	42.5	42.9
Causeway Coast and Glens	Total births	1,713	1,766	1,759	1,699	1,721	1,631
	Any Breastfeeding	645	696	712	677	683	672
	Rate (%)	37.7	39.4	40.5	39.8	39.7	41.2
Derry City and Strabane	Total births	2,252	2,159	2,072	2,089	2,106	1,978
	Any Breastfeeding	760	682	712	700	706	679
	Rate (%)	33.7	31.6	34.4	33.5	33.5	34.3
Fermanagh and Omagh	Total births	1,554	1,551	1,436	1,508	1,428	1,517
	Any Breastfeeding	759	704	695	720	741	771
	Rate (%)	48.8	45.4	48.4	47.7	51.9	50.8
Lisburn and Castlereagh	Total births	1,791	1,767	1,701	1,747	1,737	1,755
	Any Breastfeeding	964	930	959	997	971	986
	Rate (%)	53.8	52.6	56.4	57.1	55.9	56.2
Mid and East Antrim	Total births	1,601	1,574	1,506	1,605	1,503	1,585
	Any Breastfeeding	650	688	687	740	701	729
	Rate (%)	40.6	43.7	45.6	46.1	46.6	46.0
Mid Ulster	Total births	2,081	2,187	2,159	2,139	2,186	2,148
	Any Breastfeeding	950	996	1,020	1,022	987	1,012
	Rate (%)	45.7	45.5	47.2	47.8	45.2	47.1
Newry, Mourne and Down	Total births	2,544	2,591	2,497	2,569	2,492	2,522
	Any Breastfeeding	1,125	1,119	1,109	1,172	1,145	1,139
	Rate (%)	44.2	43.2	44.4	45.6	45.9	45.2
Northern Ireland	Total births	25,172	25,318	24,133	24,452	24,313	24,093
	Any Breastfeeding	11,055	10,833	10,876	11,158	10,971	11,107
	Rate (%)	43.9	42.8	45.1	45.6	45.1	46.1

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; live births to NI resident mothers; p indicates provisional data

BF discharge

2012 updated Nov 2014
2011 updated Nov 2013

NI total for 2014 included 2 births where the LGD is unknown.
2013 includes 1 birth where LGD is unknown
2012 includes 4 births where LGD is unknown
2011 includes 4 births where LGD is unknown

Table AE: Breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Council area (LGD2014), 2015

Council area	Number of births (N)							Rate (%)					
	Stage	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All
Antrim and Newtownabbey	Discharge	650	169	819	967	13	1,799	36.1	9.4	45.5	53.8	0.7	100
	Primary visit	510	180	690	1,086	23	1,799	28.3	10.0	38.4	60.4	1.3	100
	6 weeks	387	118	505	1,267	27	1,799	21.5	6.6	28.1	70.4	1.5	100
	3 months	337	77	414	1,345	40	1,799	18.7	4.3	23.0	74.8	2.2	100
	6 months	256	69	325	1,401	73	1,799	14.2	3.8	18.1	77.9	4.1	100
	12 months	131	61	192	1,431	176	1,799	7.3	3.4	10.7	79.5	9.8	100
Ards and North Down	Discharge	734	149	883	8,53	19	1,755	41.8	8.5	50.3	48.6	1.1	100
	Primary visit	444	182	626	797	332	1,755	25.3	10.4	35.7	45.4	18.9	100
	6 weeks	379	147	526	1,136	93	1,755	21.6	8.4	30.0	64.7	5.3	100
	3 months	311	108	419	1,259	77	1,755	17.7	6.2	23.9	71.7	4.4	100
	6 months	91	39	130	654	971	1,755	5.2	2.2	7.4	37.3	55.3	100
	12 months	82	69	151	1,327	277	1,755	4.7	3.9	8.6	75.6	15.8	100
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Discharge	1,160	226	1386	1,554	55	2,995	38.7	7.5	46.3	51.9	1.8	100
	Primary visit	810	266	1076	1,657	262	2,995	27.0	8.9	35.9	55.3	8.7	100
	6 weeks	625	219	844	1,530	621	2,995	20.9	7.3	28.2	51.1	20.7	100
	3 months	505	151	656	1,611	728	2,995	16.9	5.0	21.9	53.8	24.3	100
	6 months	298	132	430	1,668	897	2,995	9.9	4.4	14.4	55.7	29.9	100
	12 months	92	81	173	1,543	1,279	2,995	3.1	2.7	5.8	51.5	42.7	100
Belfast	Discharge	1,511	438	1949	2,584	58	4,591	32.9	9.5	42.5	56.3	1.3	100
	Primary visit	1,089	398	1487	2,279	825	4,591	23.7	8.7	32.4	49.6	18.0	100
	6 weeks	955	367	1322	2,146	1,123	4,591	20.8	8.0	28.8	46.7	24.5	100
	3 months	786	259	1045	2,063	1,483	4,591	17.1	5.6	22.8	44.9	32.3	100
	6 months	492	219	711	1,511	2,369	4,591	10.7	4.8	15.5	32.9	51.6	100
	12 months	233	195	428	2,222	1,941	4,591	5.1	4.2	9.3	48.4	42.3	100
Causeway Coast and Glens	Discharge	615	68	683	1,018	20	1,721	35.7	4.0	39.7	59.2	1.2	100
	Primary visit	458	103	561	1,105	55	1,721	26.6	6.0	32.6	64.2	3.2	100
	6 weeks	326	98	424	1,252	45	1,721	18.9	5.7	24.6	72.7	2.6	100
	3 months	265	77	342	1,292	87	1,721	15.4	4.5	19.9	75.1	5.1	100
	6 months	177	59	236	1,113	372	1,721	10.3	3.4	13.7	64.7	21.6	100
	12 months	97	41	138	1,265	318	1,721	5.6	2.4	8.0	73.5	18.5	100
Derry City and Strabane	Discharge	653	53	706	1,373	27	2,106	31.0	2.5	33.5	65.2	1.3	100
	Primary visit	406	127	533	1,421	152	2,106	19.3	6.0	25.3	67.5	7.2	100
	6 weeks	264	114	378	1,613	115	2,106	12.5	5.4	17.9	76.6	5.5	100
	3 months	212	71	283	1,615	208	2,106	10.1	3.4	13.4	76.7	9.9	100
	6 months	144	32	176	1,176	754	2,106	6.8	1.5	8.4	55.8	35.8	100
	12 months	44	26	70	1,061	975	2,106	2.1	1.2	3.3	50.4	46.3	100

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers. Data updated October 2016 and July 2017.

Table AE (continued): Breastfeeding prevalence by Council area (LGD2014), 2015

Council area	Number of births (N)							Rate (%)					
	Stage	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All
Fermanagh and Omagh	Discharge	652	89	741	663	24	1,428	45.7	6.2	51.9	46.4	1.7	100
	Primary visit	456	135	591	761	76	1,428	31.9	9.5	41.4	53.3	5.3	100
	6 weeks	346	102	448	932	48	1,428	24.2	7.1	31.4	65.3	3.4	100
	3 months	255	83	338	948	142	1,428	17.9	5.8	23.7	66.4	9.9	100
	6 months	175	74	249	866	313	1,428	12.3	5.2	17.4	60.6	21.9	100
	12 months	75	49	124	1,054	250	1,428	5.3	3.4	8.7	73.8	17.5	100
Lisburn and Castlereagh	Discharge	805	166	971	745	21	1,737	46.3	9.6	55.9	42.9	1.2	100
	Primary visit	604	157	761	824	152	1,737	34.8	9.0	43.8	47.4	8.8	100
	6 weeks	472	156	628	1,015	94	1,737	27.2	9.0	36.2	58.4	5.4	100
	3 months	389	100	489	1,109	139	1,737	22.4	5.8	28.2	63.8	8.0	100
	6 months	132	106	238	587	912	1,737	7.6	6.1	13.7	33.8	52.5	100
	12 months	109	85	194	1,278	265	1,737	6.3	4.9	11.2	73.6	15.3	100
Mid and East Antrim	Discharge	577	124	701	787	15	1,503	38.4	8.3	46.6	52.4	1.0	100
	Primary visit	445	144	589	898	16	1,503	29.6	9.6	39.2	59.7	1.1	100
	6 weeks	319	120	439	1,048	16	1,503	21.2	8.0	29.2	69.7	1.1	100
	3 months	276	80	356	1,116	31	1,503	18.4	5.3	23.7	74.3	2.1	100
	6 months	200	64	264	1,149	90	1,503	13.3	4.3	17.6	76.4	6.0	100
	12 months	117	53	170	1,204	129	1,503	7.8	3.5	11.3	80.1	8.6	100
Mid Ulster	Discharge	836	151	987	1,170	29	2,186	38.2	6.9	45.2	53.5	1.3	100
	Primary visit	577	140	717	1,271	198	2,186	26.4	6.4	32.8	58.1	9.1	100
	6 weeks	442	121	563	1,382	241	2,186	20.2	5.5	25.8	63.2	11.0	100
	3 months	346	88	434	1,374	378	2,186	15.8	4.0	19.9	62.9	17.3	100
	6 months	240	76	316	1,465	405	2,186	11.0	3.5	14.5	67.0	18.5	100
	12 months	83	38	121	1,260	805	2,186	3.8	1.7	5.5	57.6	36.8	100
Newry, Mourne and Down	Discharge	967	178	1145	1,300	47	2,492	38.8	7.1	45.9	52.2	1.9	100
	Primary visit	744	212	956	1,442	94	2,492	29.9	8.5	38.4	57.9	3.8	100
	6 weeks	533	197	730	1,654	108	2,492	21.4	7.9	29.3	66.4	4.3	100
	3 months	415	121	536	1,792	164	2,492	16.7	4.9	21.5	71.9	6.6	100
	6 months	250	92	342	1,546	604	2,492	10.0	3.7	13.7	62.0	24.2	100
	12 months	117	80	197	1,913	382	2,492	4.7	3.2	7.9	76.8	15.3	100
Northern Ireland	Discharge	9,160	1811	10971	13,014	328	24,313	37.7	7.4	45.1	53.5	1.3	100
	Primary visit	6,543	2044	8587	13,541	2185	24,313	26.9	8.4	35.3	55.7	9.0	100
	6 weeks	5,048	1759	6807	14,975	2531	24,313	20.8	7.2	28.0	61.6	10.4	100
	3 months	4,097	1215	5312	15,524	3477	24,313	16.9	5.0	21.8	63.9	14.3	100
	6 months	2,455	962	3417	13,136	7760	24,313	10.1	4.0	14.1	54.0	31.9	100
	12 months	1,180	778	1958	15,558	6797	24,313	4.9	3.2	8.1	64.0	28.0	100

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers. Data updated October 2016 and July 2017.

Table AF: Breastfeeding at discharge (%) by Council area (LGD2014) and District Electoral Area (DEA2014), 2014-2016p

Council area LGD2014	District Electoral Area DEA 2014	2014			2015			2016p		
		Total births	Any BF		Total births	Any BF		Total births	Any BF	
		N	N	%	N	N	%	N	N	%
Antrim and Newtownabbey	Airport	300	182	60.7	329	161	48.9	310	168	54.2
	Antrim	305	130	42.6	307	125	40.7	291	130	44.7
	Ballyclare	223	96	43.0	229	102	44.5	242	135	55.8
	Dunsilly	230	114	49.6	218	121	55.5	217	120	55.3
	Glengormley Urban	243	125	51.4	280	136	48.6	238	109	45.8
	Macedon	266	97	36.5	224	86	38.4	228	90	39.5
	Three Mile Water	205	87	42.4	212	88	41.5	222	101	45.5
Ards and North Down	Ards Peninsula	286	127	44.4	294	127	43.2	261	114	43.7
	Bangor Central	342	183	53.5	333	187	56.2	331	170	51.4
	Bangor East and Donaghadee	202	111	55.0	205	106	51.7	198	105	53.0
	Bangor West	225	109	48.4	199	94	47.2	208	106	51.0
	Comber	185	96	51.9	181	84	46.4	175	93	53.1
	Holywood and Clondeboye	186	114	61.3	206	140	68.0	186	125	67.2
	Newtownards	316	134	42.4	337	145	43.0	302	142	47.0
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Armagh	441	218	49.4	507	234	46.2	471	232	49.3
	Banbridge	430	196	45.6	455	233	51.2	455	233	51.2
	Craigavon	425	222	52.2	434	185	42.6	399	186	46.6
	Cusher	360	184	51.1	373	171	45.8	337	158	46.9
	Lagan River	327	180	55.0	313	169	54.0	304	179	58.9
	Lurgan	504	209	41.5	467	182	39.0	516	211	40.9
	Portadown	444	196	44.1	446	212	47.5	450	231	51.3
Belfast	Balmoral	267	152	56.9	266	168	63.2	279	191	68.5
	Black Mountain	567	158	27.9	529	135	25.5	576	161	28.0
	Botanic	495	294	59.4	492	309	62.8	463	271	58.5
	Castle	433	215	49.7	409	179	43.8	426	198	46.5
	Collin	528	189	35.8	524	159	30.3	578	187	32.4
	Court	485	100	20.6	538	101	18.8	483	90	18.6
	Lisnasharragh	372	241	64.8	336	214	63.7	350	235	67.1
	Oldpark	526	144	27.4	526	132	25.1	532	135	25.4
	Ormiston	380	238	62.6	402	269	66.9	371	239	64.4
Titanic	596	288	48.3	569	283	49.7	558	274	49.1	

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers.

Table AF (continued): Breastfeeding at discharge (%) by Council area (LGD2014) and District Electoral Area (DEA2014), 2014-2016p

Council area LGD2014	District Electoral Area DEA 2014	2014			2015			2016p		
		Total births	Any BF		Total births	Any BF		Total births	Any BF	
		N	N	%	N	N	%	N	N	%
Causeway Coast and Glens	Ballymoney	296	116	39.2	311	126	40.5	288	116	40.3
	Bann	223	107	48.0	208	96	46.2	187	100	53.5
	Benbradagh	262	92	35.1	284	97	34.2	246	88	35.8
	Causeway	249	117	47.0	231	126	54.5	228	113	49.6
	Coleraine	306	113	36.9	306	109	35.6	291	110	37.8
	Limavady	166	46	27.7	193	59	30.6	187	69	36.9
	The Glens	197	86	43.7	188	70	37.2	204	76	37.3
Derry City and Strabane	Ballyarnett	366	110	30.1	380	119	31.3	376	127	33.8
	Derg	228	73	32.0	261	88	33.7	233	80	34.3
	Faughan	254	117	46.1	245	83	33.9	225	101	44.9
	Foyleside	248	72	29.0	246	93	37.8	229	78	34.1
	Sperrin	312	92	29.5	317	97	30.6	316	103	32.6
	The Moor	268	71	26.5	263	64	24.3	240	61	25.4
	Waterside	413	165	40.0	394	162	41.1	359	129	35.9
Fermanagh and Omagh	Enniskillen	217	114	52.5	204	121	59.3	213	117	54.9
	Erne East	207	85	41.1	222	102	45.9	235	118	50.2
	Erne North	188	87	46.3	168	94	56.0	192	87	45.3
	Erne West	185	94	50.8	194	97	50.0	188	95	50.5
	Mid Tyrone	248	130	52.4	198	103	52.0	227	131	57.7
	Omagh	235	109	46.4	237	120	50.6	226	112	49.6
	West Tyrone	228	101	44.3	205	104	50.7	236	111	47.0
Lisburn and Castlereagh	Castlereagh East	216	125	57.9	228	115	50.4	233	119	51.1
	Castlereagh South	286	199	69.6	265	178	67.2	300	200	66.7
	Downshire East	204	127	62.3	178	112	62.9	177	113	63.8
	Downshire West	168	100	59.5	185	122	65.9	158	104	65.8
	Killultagh	311	166	53.4	299	169	56.5	309	168	54.4
	Lisburn North	259	139	53.7	261	132	50.6	268	135	50.4
	Lisburn South	303	141	46.5	321	143	44.5	310	147	47.4

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers.

Table AF (continued): Breastfeeding at discharge (%) by Council area (LGD2014) and District Electoral Area (DEA2014), 2014-2016p

Council area LGD2014	District Electoral Area DEA 2014	2014			2015			2016p		
		Total births	Any BF		Total births	Any BF		Total births	Any BF	
		N	N	%	N	N	%	N	N	%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	Castlereagh East	216	125	57.9	228	115	50.4	233	119	51.1
	Castlereagh South	286	199	69.6	265	178	67.2	300	200	66.7
	Downshire East	204	127	62.3	178	112	62.9	177	113	63.8
	Downshire West	168	100	59.5	185	122	65.9	158	104	65.8
	Killultagh	311	166	53.4	299	169	56.5	309	168	54.4
	Lisburn North	259	139	53.7	261	132	50.6	268	135	50.4
	Lisburn South	303	141	46.5	321	143	44.5	310	147	47.4
Mid and East Antrim	Ballymena	304	138	45.4	297	126	42.4	339	164	48.4
	Bannside	215	98	45.6	236	109	46.2	223	110	49.3
	Braid	287	131	45.6	263	117	44.5	321	154	48.0
	Carrick Castle	200	99	49.5	183	90	49.2	165	83	50.3
	Coast Road	197	76	38.6	179	75	41.9	155	44	28.4
	Knockagh	201	93	46.3	175	89	50.9	193	85	44.0
	Larne Lough	201	105	52.2	170	95	55.9	189	89	47.1
Mid Ulster	Carntogher	252	111	44.0	257	103	40.1	253	113	44.7
	Clogher Valley	309	165	53.4	303	163	53.8	352	184	52.3
	Cookstown	354	148	41.8	341	126	37.0	342	140	40.9
	Dungannon	388	241	62.1	396	225	56.8	365	234	64.1
	Magherafelt	263	100	38.0	273	124	45.4	261	111	42.5
	Moyola	270	125	46.3	258	99	38.4	244	95	38.9
	Torrent	303	132	43.6	358	147	41.1	331	135	40.8
Newry, Mourne and Down	Crotlieve	367	201	54.8	373	180	48.3	386	183	47.4
	Downpatrick	276	96	34.8	277	112	40.4	251	107	42.6
	Newry	429	202	47.1	420	176	41.9	416	173	41.6
	Rowallane	253	124	49.0	255	130	51.0	261	122	46.7
	Slieve Croob	291	141	48.5	274	135	49.3	284	141	49.6
	Slieve Gullion	550	226	41.1	522	237	45.4	517	215	41.6
	The Mournes	403	182	45.2	371	175	47.2	407	198	48.6
Unknown		169	60	35.5	179	77	43.0	175	97	55.4
Total		24,619	11,217	45.6	24,492	11,048	45.1	24,268	11,204	46.2

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers.

Table AG: Breastfeeding at discharge by Sure Start and Non Sure Start areas, 2014-2016p

Year		Number of births (N)						Rate (%)					
		Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	Total	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	Total
2016p	Non Sure Start area	5,981	1,502	7,483	6,714	200	14,397	41.5	10.4	52.0	46.6	1.4	100.0
	Sure Start area	2,819	805	3,624	5,944	128	9,696	29.1	8.3	37.4	61.3	1.3	100.0
	All	8,800	2,307	11,107	12,658	328	24,093	36.5	9.6	46.1	52.5	1.4	100.0
2015	Non Sure Start area	6,243	1,149	7,392	6,867	195	14,454	43.2	7.9	51.1	47.5	1.3	100.0
	Sure Start area	2,917	662	3,579	6,147	133	9,859	29.6	6.7	36.3	62.3	1.3	100.0
	All	9,160	1,811	10,971	13,014	328	24,313	37.7	7.4	45.1	53.5	1.3	100.0
2014	Non Sure Start area	6,218	1,187	7,405	6,793	197	14,395	43.2	8.2	51.4	47.2	1.4	100.0
	Sure Start area	3,120	633	3,753	6,138	166	10,057	31.0	6.3	37.3	61.0	1.7	100.0
	All	9,338	1,820	11,158	12,931	363	24,452	38.2	7.4	45.6	52.9	1.5	100.0

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers.

This briefing has been produced by Health Intelligence for the use of Public Health Agency (PHA) staff and partner agencies.

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