

# **Children's Health in Northern Ireland**

**A statistical profile of births using data drawn from the  
Northern Ireland Child Health System,  
Northern Ireland Maternity System and  
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency**

**2020/21**

**Public Health Intelligence Unit  
January 2023**

## Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and with staff being redeployed, the publication of this report had to be delayed. In order to publish the outstanding reports as quickly as possible, it has been agreed to produce the 2019/20 report and this report as summary versions. Some of the detail of the full report will not be available for these years, but the majority of data tables will be provided.

The report containing 2021/22 data, to be published early 2023, will revert back to the full version of the report, similar to the 2018/19 report available below.

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/directorates/operations/statistics>

Please note that data for 2020/21 will be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore data should be interpreted with a degree of caution.

## Executive Summary

- There were 20,884 registered births to Northern Ireland residents in 2020 with a birth rate of 11.0 per thousand population (2019 = 11.9, 2018 = 12.1, 2017 = 12.3). There were 69 registered still births to Northern Ireland residents in 2020. *[Page 7]*
- The percentage change in the number of births registered in the last ten years (2011 to 2020) has not been consistent across Northern Ireland. Although the number of births fell in all Trust areas, South Eastern Trust decreased by 22.1%, while in Southern Trust there was a decrease of 13.4% (NI decreased by 17.7%). *[Page 8]*
- In the next twenty years, the number of registered resident births in Northern Ireland is projected to increase from 20,884 in 2020 to 21,831 in 2040 (+4.5%). However, the Northern and Western Trusts are projected to decrease by 3.1% and 6.2% respectively, with the other three Trusts projecting increases – Belfast +8.3%, South Eastern +9.0% and Southern +14.2%. *[Page 10]*
- In 2016, there was a slight increase in the teenage fertility rate (13.8), however the rate has continued to decrease since then to 9.0 in 2020. (The lowest number of registered teenage births on record occurred during 2020, NI = 489). *[Page 14]*
- In 2020/21, births to teenage mothers represented 2.3% of all births (n=497). *[Page 15]* Following a year on year increase in the proportion of births to older mothers (aged 40+), the percentage decreased slightly in 2016/17 and 2017/18, with increases again in 2018/19 and 2019/20 (4.4%). In 2020/21, the percentage remained at 4.4%. *[Page 17]*
- In 2020/21, 7.6% of births were booked at 15 weeks or more gestation. This is a slight decrease on the previous year (8.0%). *[Page 23]*
- There were substantial differences in the timescales of when mothers booked by ethnic group during 2020/21. A quarter (25.5%) of births to mothers from a 'non-white' ethnic group booked at 15+ weeks, compared to 6.8% of those from a white ethnic group (all births = 7.6%). *[Page 24]*
- In 2020/21, 7.8% of infants were born pre-term to mothers living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland. This compared to 6.0% of infants born to mothers living in those areas considered least deprived (all infants = 6.9%). *[Page 28]*
- In 2020/21, 12.4% of mothers smoked (2010/11 = 15.5%) and 15.0% of mothers had diabetes (2010/11 = 1.8%). *[Page 30]*
- In the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland (NIMDM 2017), 23.2% of mothers smoked, compared to 4.4% in the least deprived areas. *[Page 32]*
- The percentage of mothers with diabetes increased with age, 6.5% of those aged less than 20 years, compared to 20.7% of mothers aged 40 and over. *[Page 33]*
- Over a quarter (25.7%) of mothers giving birth during 2020/21 were measured as obese at time of antenatal booking appointment (BMI = 30.00 or more). This proportion has increased year on year since 2011/12. *[Page 36]*
- In 2020/21, 33.5% of infants were delivered by Caesarian section. *[Page 41]*
- In 2020/21, 5.9% of all births were measured as low birth weight i.e. less than 2,500g (5.7% of live and 65.1% of still births). 15.0% of live infants were born with a higher birth weight of 4,000g+ and, of these, 2.0% with a birth weight of 4,500g+. *[Page 46, 45]*
- In 2020/21, 51.2% of live infants were breastfed (total/partial feeding) at discharge from hospital (feeding status known). *[Page 50]*.
- Of mothers who delivered in 2019/20, the proportion breastfeeding gradually decreased as the child reached 12 months old – 50.1% of infants in Northern Ireland were breastfed at discharge, falling to only 15.3% of infants at 12 months old. *[Page 54]*
- Of those children measured in Primary 1 in 2018/19, 21.8% were considered overweight or obese, a slight increase on the previous year. (Based on IOTF classification) *[Page 59]*

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## Introduction

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
- Module 7 – Influenza

This report draws on the information in Modules 1 and 4 and is supplemented with information from the Registrar General's birth registrations and Northern Ireland Maternity System (NIMATS) to provide a statistical profile.

The **General Register Office for Northern Ireland (GRONI)** is the part of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) that administers civil registration e.g. the registration of births, deaths, marriages through District Registration Offices. The Registrar General has additional statutory duties relating to the production and publication of vital statistics. Vital Statistics Team within NISRA manage these duties in partnership with GRONI.

**(Source: Registrar General Northern Ireland Annual Report 2011)**

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 complete 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 on discharge. NIMATs is available in all five Health Trust areas across Northern Ireland and is available through the Regional Data Warehouse. As a result of ongoing work, data coverage and completeness on NIMATs has improved in recent years.

### Note:

1. **Births are presented using all of the above sources, and therefore may not agree. For example, births provided by NISRA are based on the number of births registered with a District Registrar in any year. It is likely that some births occurring in a year may not be registered until the following year and therefore the reason for any differences.**

# Section 1: Trends in Births

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## Key Points

- There were 20,884 registered births to Northern Ireland residents in 2020 with a birth rate of 11.0 per thousand population (2019 = 11.9, 2018 = 12.1, 2017 = 12.3) *[Page 7]*.
- There were 69 registered still births to Northern Ireland residents in 2020. *[Page 7]*
- The number of births in Northern Ireland to non-NI resident mothers continued to decrease. In 2020, there were 115 such births. *[Page 7]*
- In 2020, the highest number of registered births was recorded to residents in the Northern Trust area (5,124 or 24% of all births in Northern Ireland), with the lowest number in the Western Trust (3,502 or 17% of all births). *[Page 8]*
- The percentage change in the number of births registered in the last ten years (2011 to 2020) has not been consistent across Northern Ireland. Although the number of births fell in all Trust areas, South Eastern Trust decreased by 22.1%, while in Southern Trust there was a decrease of 13.4% (NI decreased by 17.7%). *[Page 8]*
- In 2020, the percentage of live births to mothers whose country of birth was not Northern Ireland was 17.5%. *[Page 7]*
- In the next twenty years, the number of registered resident births in Northern Ireland is projected to increase from 20,884 in 2020 to 21,831 in 2040 (+4.5%). However, the Northern and Western Trusts are projected to decrease by 3.1% and 6.2% respectively, with the other three Trusts projecting increases – Belfast +8.3%, South Eastern +9.0% and Southern +14.2%. *[Page 10]*

**Table 1.1: Trends in births (live and still) registered in Northern Ireland, 2011 - 2020**

		Year of birth (registered)									
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total resident births (live and still)		<b>25,364</b>	<b>25,375</b>	<b>24,387</b>	<b>24,475</b>	<b>24,291</b>	<b>24,158</b>	<b>23,177</b>	<b>22,908</b>	<b>22,514</b>	<b>20,884</b>
Total resident crude birth rate / 1,000 population		<b>13.9</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>11.0</b>
Birth status (NI maternal residents)	Live	25,273	25,269	24,277	24,394	24,215	24,076	23,075	22,829	22,447	20,815
	Still	91	106	110	81	76	82	102	79	67	69
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>25,364</b>	<b>25,375</b>	<b>24,387</b>	<b>24,475</b>	<b>24,291</b>	<b>24,158</b>	<b>23,177</b>	<b>22,908</b>	<b>22,514</b>	<b>20,884</b>
Born to NI-resident / non-resident mothers	Resident	25,364	25,375	24,387	24,475	24,291	24,158	23,177	22,908	22,514	20,884
	Non-resident	461	354	261	221	210	186	173	152	140	115
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>25,825</b>	<b>25,729</b>	<b>24,648</b>	<b>24,696</b>	<b>24,501</b>	<b>24,344</b>	<b>23,350</b>	<b>23,060</b>	<b>22,654</b>	<b>20,999</b>
Country of birth of mother (live births only)	NI	20,808	20,819	19,937	20,129	19,968	19,882	19,031	18,804	18,374	17,172
	Rest of UK	1,296	1,293	1,271	1,170	1,186	1,052	1,051	985	1,072	956
	Republic of Ireland	692	698	626	626	635	618	572	608	597	548
	A8 countries	1,210	1,202	1,257	1,258	1,205	1,184	1,041	995	986	754
	All other countries	1,267	1,257	1,186	1,211	1,221	1,340	1,380	1,437	1,418	1,385
	Not stated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>25,273</b>	<b>25,269</b>	<b>24,277</b>	<b>24,394</b>	<b>24,215</b>	<b>24,076</b>	<b>23,075</b>	<b>22,829</b>	<b>22,447</b>	<b>20,815</b>
Place of birth (live births only)	Altnagelvin	2,830	2,741	2,554	2,695	2,675	2,588	2,528	2,496	2,422	2,333
	Antrim	2,671	2,640	2,638	2,820	2,953	2,970	2,910	2,816	2,933	3,164
	Causeway	1,432	1,413	1,362	1,204	1,086	1,033	943	903	895	532
	Craigavon	3,975	4,170	3,993	4,015	4,040	4,150	4,028	3,911	3,876	3,233
	Daisy Hill	1,765	1,814	1,701	1,806	1,794	1,760	1,745	1,624	1,656	1,803
	Downe	72	97	86	57	81	46	42	30	13	2
	Lagan Valley	334	213	206	178	193	170	107	87	96	75
	Mater	1,219	1,194	437	191	196	237	262	291	303	93
	Royal	5,555	5,584	5,927	5,995	5,748	5,630	5,137	5,126	4,861	4,546
	SWAH/Erne	1,206	1,226	1,217	1,233	1,220	1,252	1,233	1,252	1,197	1,136
	Ulster	4,120	4,086	4,036	4,119	4,131	4,140	4,028	4,183	4,059	3,760
	Other hospitals	5	1	0	1	5	2	3	1	3	2
	Home	73	72	105	67	75	82	89	93	111	117
	Other locations	16	18	15	13	18	16	20	16	22	19
	<b>All places of birth</b>	<b>25,273</b>	<b>25,269</b>	<b>24,277</b>	<b>24,394</b>	<b>24,215</b>	<b>24,076</b>	<b>23,075</b>	<b>22,829</b>	<b>22,447</b>	<b>20,815</b>

**Table 1.1 continued: Trends in births (live and still) registered in Northern Ireland, 2011 – 2020**

		Year of birth (registered)									
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total resident births (live and still)		<b>25,364</b>	<b>25,375</b>	<b>24,387</b>	<b>24,475</b>	<b>24,291</b>	<b>24,158</b>	<b>23,177</b>	<b>22,908</b>	<b>22,514</b>	<b>20,884</b>
Local Government District (2014) of residence of mother	Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,914	1,896	1,744	1,779	1,799	1,767	1,674	1,634	1,670	1,563
	Ards and North Down	1,889	1,796	1,739	1,748	1,756	1,657	1,566	1,537	1,537	1,372
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	3,061	3,139	2,884	2,931	2,990	2,947	2,877	2,849	2,751	2,511
	Belfast	4,847	4,938	4,743	4,641	4,601	4,612	4,212	4,277	4,216	3,668
	Causeway Coast and Glens	1,777	1,768	1,771	1,712	1,726	1,663	1,632	1,524	1,514	1,461
	Derry City and Strabane	2,242	2,155	2,066	2,104	2,067	2,009	1,912	1,906	1,872	1,769
	Fermanagh and Omagh	1,559	1,549	1,461	1,513	1,418	1,517	1,508	1,500	1,421	1,338
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	1,808	1,767	1,740	1,757	1,722	1,752	1,727	1,798	1,727	1,659
	Mid and East Antrim	1,627	1,569	1,535	1,596	1,513	1,577	1,522	1,452	1,469	1,377
	Mid Ulster	2,115	2,195	2,219	2,142	2,181	2,155	2,133	2,060	2,092	1,991
	Newry, Mourne and Down	2,525	2,603	2,485	2,552	2,518	2,502	2,414	2,371	2,245	2,175
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>25,364</b>	<b>25,375</b>	<b>24,387</b>	<b>24,475</b>	<b>24,291</b>	<b>24,158</b>	<b>23,177</b>	<b>22,908</b>	<b>22,514</b>	<b>20,884</b>
	Trust of residence of mother (NI resident mothers only)	Belfast	4,854	4,956	4,786	4,718	4,665	4,663	4,345	4,435	4,347
Northern		6,062	5,986	5,901	5,895	5,776	5,764	5,565	5,308	5,400	5,124
South Eastern		4,615	4,547	4,374	4,338	4,333	4,249	4,033	4,074	3,911	3,597
Southern		5,538	5,721	5,384	5,477	5,547	5,527	5,376	5,265	5,159	4,797
Western		4,295	4,165	3,942	4,047	3,970	3,955	3,858	3,826	3,697	3,502
<b>All infants</b>		<b>25,364</b>	<b>25,375</b>	<b>24,387</b>	<b>24,475</b>	<b>24,291</b>	<b>24,158</b>	<b>23,177</b>	<b>22,908</b>	<b>22,514</b>	<b>20,884</b>

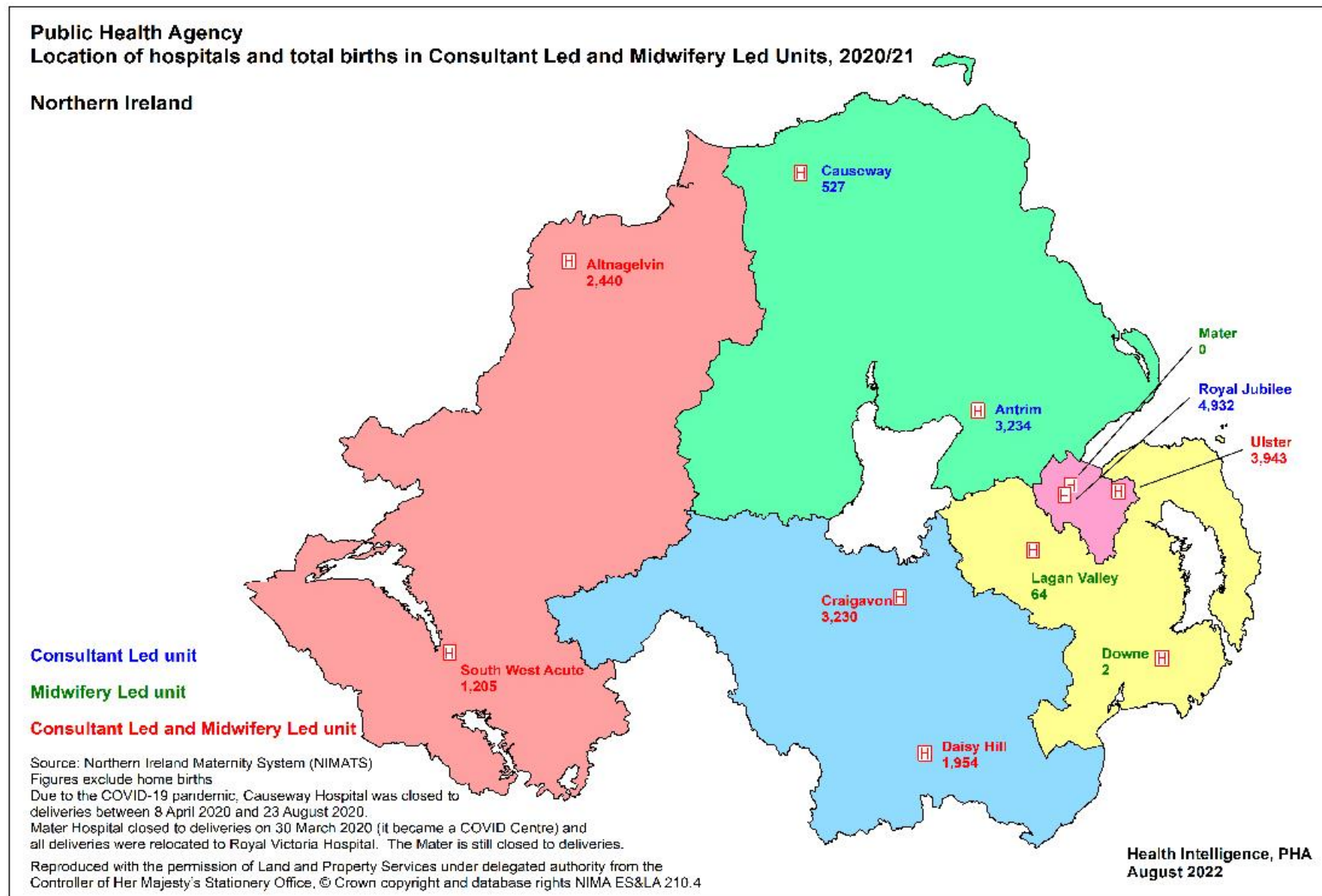
Source: NISRA <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/births-deaths-and-marriages/births>

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Causeway Hospital was closed to deliveries between 8 April 2020 and 23 August 2020. Mater Hospital closed to deliveries on 30 March 2020 (it became a COVID Centre) and all deliveries were relocated to Royal Victoria Hospital. The Mater is still closed to deliveries.

A8 countries are the eight central and eastern European countries that joined the EU in May 2004 - Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia



**Figure 1.1: Location of hospitals and number of births in Consultant Led Units/Midwifery Led Units, Northern Ireland, 2020/21**



## Projected births

**Table 1.2: Resident registered births by Health Trust and 2014 Local Government District, 2018 - 2020 and projected to 2040**

No. of resident births		Registered births			2018 based projections			
		2018	2019	2020	2025/26	2030/31	2035/36	2040/41
Northern Ireland		<b>22,908</b>	<b>22,514</b>	<b>20,884</b>	<b>21,302</b>	<b>20,739</b>	<b>20,996</b>	<b>21,831</b>
Health Trust of residence	Belfast	4,435	4,347	3,864	4,164	4,018	4,046	4,184
	Northern	5,308	5,400	5,124	5,019	4,828	4,821	4,963
	South Eastern	4,074	3,911	3,597	3,807	3,725	3,769	3,921
	Southern	5,265	5,159	4,797	4,938	4,939	5,149	5,479
	Western	3,826	3,697	3,502	3,374	3,229	3,211	3,284
	<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>22,908</b>	<b>22,514</b>	<b>20,884</b>	<b>21,302</b>	<b>20,739</b>	<b>20,996</b>	<b>21,831</b>
Local Government District (2014)	Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,634	1,670	1,563	1,534	1,486	1,490	1,539
	Ards and North Down	1,537	1,537	1,372	1,452	1,406	1,407	1,441
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	2,849	2,751	2,511	2,680	2,677	2,791	2,974
	Belfast	4,277	4,216	3,668	4,043	3,891	3,911	4,030
	Causeway Coast and Glens	1,524	1,514	1,461	1,416	1,326	1,295	1,311
	Derry City and Strabane	1,906	1,872	1,769	1,741	1,656	1,638	1,667
	Fermanagh and Omagh	1,500	1,421	1,338	1,266	1,225	1,229	1,266
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	1,798	1,727	1,659	1,673	1,671	1,720	1,837
	Mid and East Antrim	1,452	1,469	1,377	1,394	1,350	1,349	1,386
	Mid Ulster	2,060	2,092	1,991	1,903	1,882	1,941	2,054
	Newry, Mourne and Down	2,371	2,245	2,175	2,200	2,169	2,225	2,326
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>22,908</b>	<b>22,514</b>	<b>20,884</b>	<b>21,302</b>	<b>20,739</b>	<b>20,996</b>	<b>21,831</b>	

Source:

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/births-deaths-and-marriages/births>

NISRA (Components of Change) <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/SNPP18-Methodology.pdf>

# Section 2: Fertility Rates

## Key Points

- Total Period Fertility Rates (TPFR) show that fertility has not been at replacement level (2.10 children per “average woman”) since 1991. Replacement level is taken to be the level at which the population would replace itself, ignoring migration. In 2020 fertility levels were below replacement level at 1.71 children. [Page 11, 12]
- Age specific fertility rates have remained fairly steady over the last ten years in older age groups - with small increases in the 35-39 and 40-44 age groups. There have been overall decreases in the younger age groups (15-19, 20-24 and 25-29). [Page 14]. The shift to women having children later in life is clearly shown in Figure 2.4. [Page 13]
- In 2016, there was a slight increase in the teenage fertility rate (13.8), however the rate has continued to decrease since then to 9.0 in 2020. (The lowest number of registered teenage births on record occurred during 2020, NI = 489). The primary driver in this reduction in births is the decline in the fertility rate in this age group e.g. 29.2 per 1,000 population in 1990 to 9.0 in 2020. [Page 14]

**Table 2.1: UK/Rol fertility rates 1992 - 2020, and projections 2025 – 2040**

Total Fertility Rate										2020 based projections			
	1992	1997	2002	2007	2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2025/26	2030/31	2035/36	2040/41
Northern Ireland	2.08	1.93	1.76	1.98	2.03	1.87	1.85	1.82	1.71	1.68	1.68	1.69	1.72
England	1.79	1.73	1.64	1.88	1.94	1.76	1.70	1.66	1.59	1.56	1.56	1.57	1.60
Wales	1.87	1.81	1.64	1.86	1.88	1.69	1.63	1.54	1.47	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.46
Scotland	1.67	1.58	1.47	1.70	1.67	1.47	1.42	1.37	1.29	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.29
UK	1.79	1.72	1.63	1.87	1.92	1.74	1.68	1.63	1.56	1.53	1.53	1.54	1.57
<b>Total Period Fertility Rate</b>													
Republic of Ireland	1.99	1.94	1.98	2.03	1.98	1.77	1.75	1.71	1.63	-	-	-	-

**Source:**

United Kingdom home countries: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Vital statistics in the UK: births, deaths and marriages, December 2021

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/vitalstatisticspopulationandhealthreferencetables>

Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office, Vital Statistics Annual Reports/Yearly Summaries

<http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/birthsdeathsandmarriages/>

2020 based projections are fertility rates per 1,000 females (principal projection)

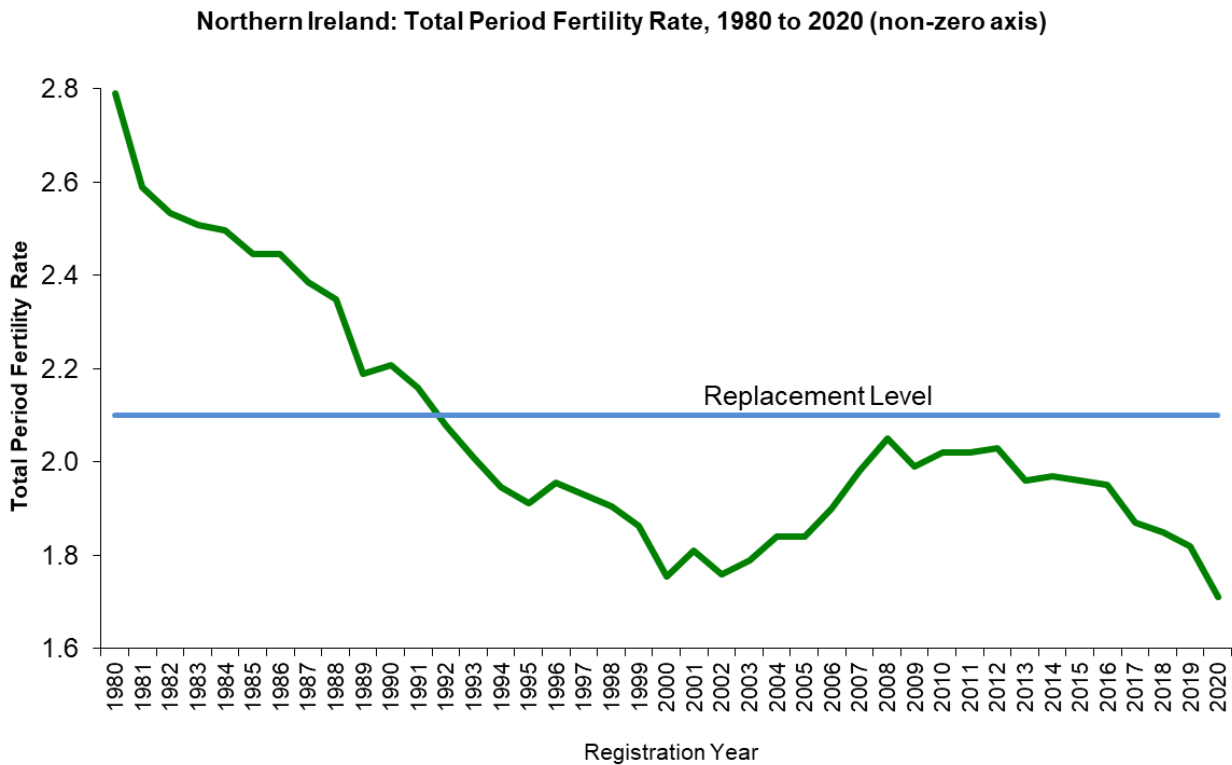
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datalist?filter=datasets>

UK: Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the average number of live children that a group of women would bear if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates of the calendar year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan

Rol: The Total Period Fertility Rate (TPFR) gives the theoretical average number of children who would be born alive to a woman during her lifetime if she were to pass through her childbearing years conforming to the age-specific fertility rates of a given year

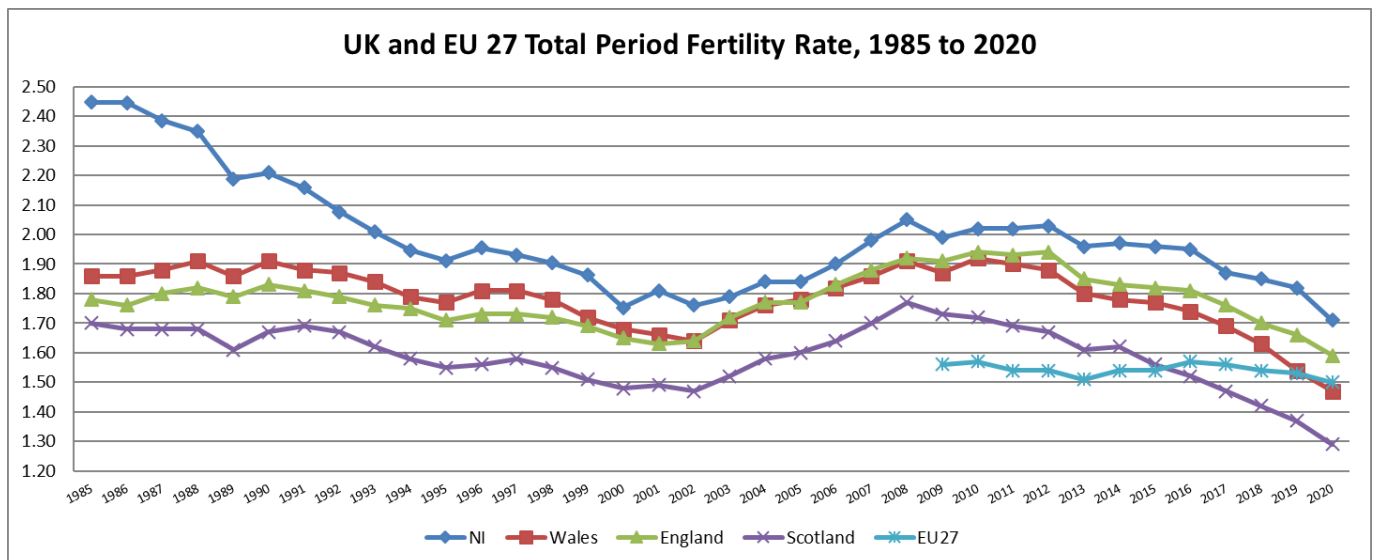
Rol projections data not produced in this format

**Figure 2.1: Total Period Fertility Rate (TPFR), Northern Ireland, 1980 - 2020**



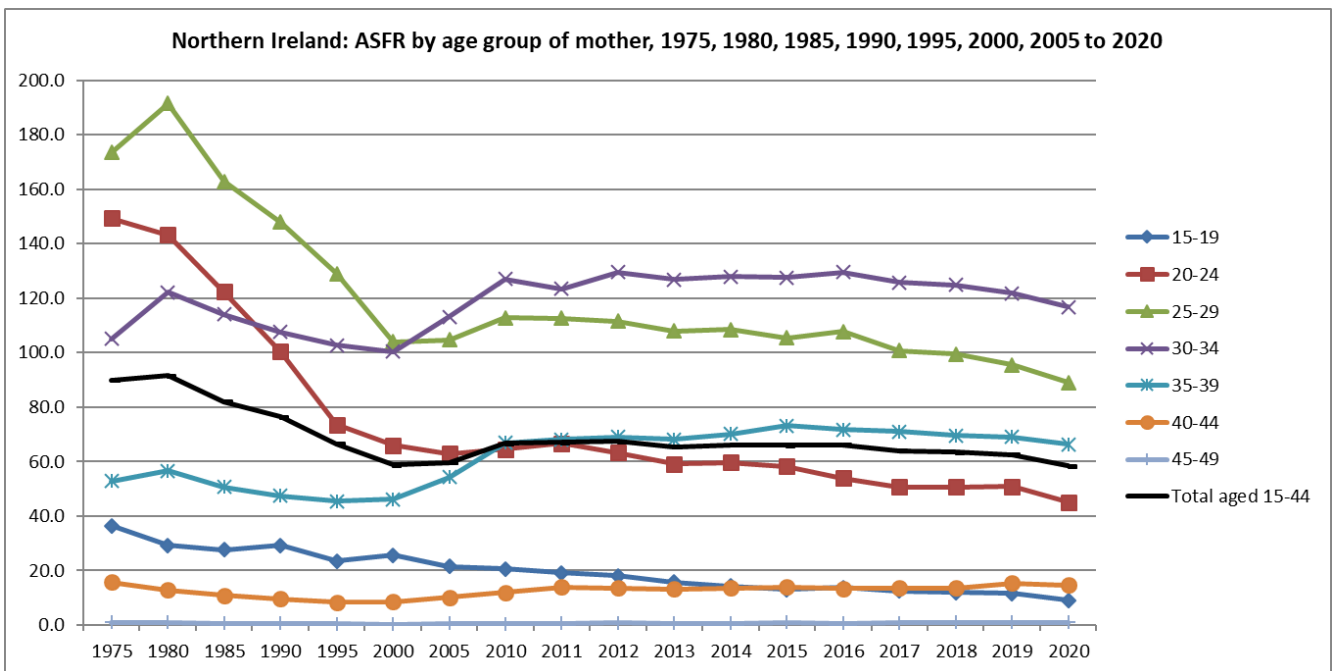
Source: NISRA <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/births-deaths-and-marriages/registrars-general-annual-report>  
 The line at a TPFR of 2.1 represents the 'replacement level' which is the number of births that are required to maintain a steady Northern Ireland population taking account of this population's mortality rates but ignoring any outside effects of population movement.

**Figure 2.2: UK and EU total period fertility rate, 1985 to 2020**



Source: NISRA <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/births-deaths-and-marriages/registrars-general-annual-report>  
 United Kingdom home countries: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Vital statistics in the UK: births, deaths and marriages, November 2019 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/vitalstatisticspopulationandhealthreferencetables>  
 Eurostat (European Commission) - <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/main/data/database>  
 EU 27 refers to the 27-member states of the European Union as at 1 February 2020 (excluding United Kingdom). Data only available from 2009. Rate refers to the mean number of children that would be born alive to a woman during her lifetime if she were to survive and pass through her childbearing years conforming to the fertility rates by age of a given year.

**Figure 2.3: Age-Specific Fertility Rates (ASFR) by age-group of mother, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005 to 2020**

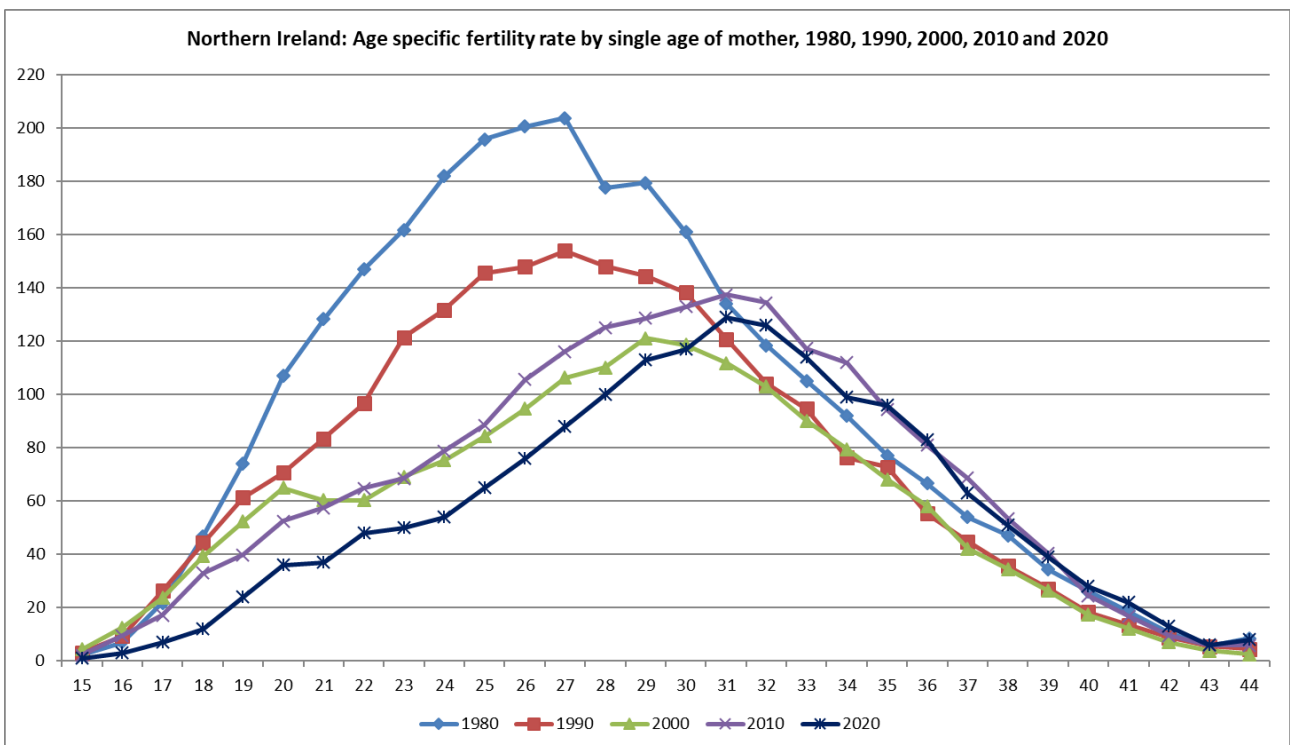


Source: NISRA <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/births-deaths-and-marriages/registrars-general-annual-report>

Age-specific fertility rate is the number of live births occurring to a particular woman of a particular age or age group per year, normally expressed per 1,000 women

Rate for 15-44 includes births for those aged under 15 and over 49

**Figure 2.4: Fertility by age of mother 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2020**



Source: NISRA <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/births-deaths-and-marriages/registrars-general-annual-report>

Age-specific fertility rate is the number of live births occurring to a particular woman of a particular age or age group per year, normally expressed per 1,000 women

Rate for age 15 includes births at younger ages and for age 44 includes births at older ages

**Table 2.2: Age-Specific Fertility Rates by age-group of mother, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2011 to 2020**

Age Group of Mother	Registration Year																	
	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
15-19	36.5	29.2	27.6	29.2	23.4	25.6	21.5	20.5	19.1	18.1	15.7	14.2	13.0	13.8	12.4	11.9	11.6	9.0
20-24	149.3	143.2	122.3	100.4	73.5	66.0	63.0	64.6	66.7	63.3	59.2	59.6	58.3	53.9	50.7	50.6	50.8	45.0
25-29	173.5	191.6	162.9	148.0	129.1	103.9	104.7	112.8	112.7	111.6	108.0	108.5	105.4	107.7	100.8	99.4	95.5	89.1
30-34	105.1	122.1	114.0	107.6	102.7	100.4	113.1	127.1	123.4	129.5	126.8	127.9	127.6	129.5	125.7	124.9	121.8	116.7
35-39	52.9	56.6	50.7	47.4	45.5	46.2	54.3	66.8	68.1	69.1	68.2	70.1	73.1	71.8	71.0	69.6	69.1	66.4
40-44	15.7	12.9	10.8	9.6	8.4	8.5	10.1	12.0	13.9	13.6	13.2	13.5	14.0	13.4	13.5	13.5	15.4	14.7
45-49	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.0
Total aged 15-44	90.0	91.6	82.1	76.5	66.6	58.7	59.6	66.7	67.0	67.5	65.4	66.1	66.0	66.2	64.0	63.5	62.6	58.5

Source: NISRA <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/births-deaths-and-marriages/registrars-general-annual-report>

Age-specific fertility rate is the number of live births occurring to a particular woman of a particular age or age group per year, normally expressed per 1,000 women

Rate for 15-44 includes births for those aged under 15 and over 49

# Section 3: Age Profile of Mother

## Key Points

- In 2020/21, births to teenage mothers represented 2.3% of all births (n=497). [Page 15]
- Following a year on year increase in the proportion of births to older mothers (aged 40+), the percentage decreased slightly in 2016/17 and 2017/18, with increases again in 2018/19 and 2019/20 (4.4%). In 2020/21, the percentage remained at 4.4%. [Page 17]
- Based on 2017 deprivation quintiles, the proportion of births to teenage mothers decreased from 4.7% in the most deprived areas (2019/20=5.2%, 2018/19=5.0%, 2017/18=5.4%) to 0.8% in the least deprived (2019/20=1.1%, 2018/19=1.2%, 2017/18 = 1.5%). (Note these proportions are based on small numbers). The opposite can be seen in the proportion of births to older mothers (40+), increasing from 3.8% in the most deprived areas (2019/20=3.3%, 2018/19=2.9%, 2017/18 = 2.4%) to 5.0% in the least deprived areas (2019/20=6.3%, 2018/19=4.9%, 2017/18 = 5.4%). [Page 18]

**Table 3.1: Births to Northern Ireland residents, by age of mother, 2010/11 – 2020/21**

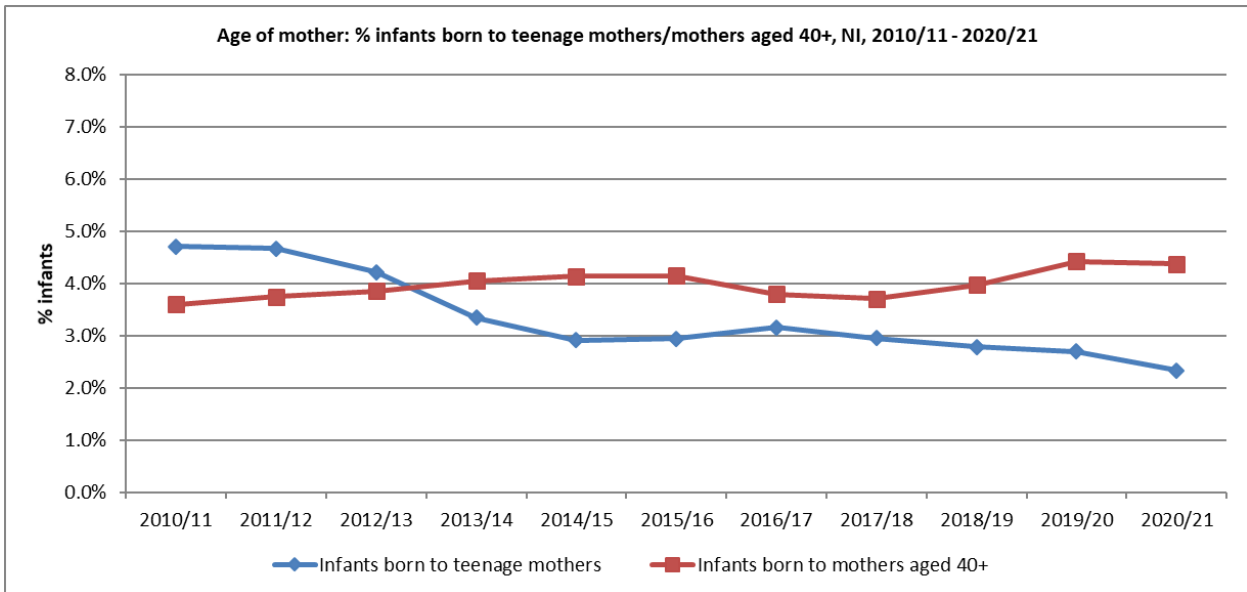
Year of birth		Infants born by age of mother								Total	Infants born to teenage mothers
		≤ 17	18-19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 +	Not known		
2010/11	n	343	864	4,103	7,177	7,902	4,308	923	39	25,659	1,207
	%	1.3%	3.4%	16.0%	28.0%	30.8%	16.8%	3.6%	-	-	4.7%
2011/12	n	318	863	4,098	7,196	7,706	4,172	947	9	25,309	1,181
	%	1.3%	3.4%	16.2%	28.4%	30.5%	16.5%	3.7%	-	-	4.7%
2012/13	n	263	793	3,737	6,891	8,211	4,164	965	4	25,028	1,056
	%	1.1%	3.2%	14.9%	27.5%	32.8%	16.6%	3.9%	-	-	4.2%
2013/14	n	187	624	3,466	6,780	7,955	4,280	984	1	24,277	811
	%	0.8%	2.6%	14.3%	27.9%	32.8%	17.6%	4.1%	-	-	3.3%
2014/15	n	170	542	3,441	6,619	8,220	4,396	1,009	3	24,400	712
	%	0.7%	2.2%	14.1%	27.1%	33.7%	18.0%	4.1%	-	-	2.9%
2015/16	n	165	555	3,305	6,605	8,160	4,629	1,015	2	24,436	720
	%	0.7%	2.3%	13.5%	27.0%	33.4%	18.9%	4.2%	-	-	2.9%
2016/17	n	174	586	3,060	6,584	8,267	4,492	914	2	24,079	760
	%	0.7%	2.4%	12.7%	27.3%	34.3%	18.7%	3.8%	-	-	3.2%
2017/18	n	157	523	2,835	6,274	7,963	4,395	853	4	23,004	680
	%	0.7%	2.3%	12.3%	27.3%	34.6%	19.1%	3.7%	-	-	3.0%
2018/19	n	141	498	2,879	6,062	8,002	4,420	910	3	22,915	639
	%	0.6%	2.2%	12.6%	26.5%	34.9%	19.3%	4.0%	-	-	2.8%
2019/20	n	148	456	2,759	5,705	7,848	4,450	990	6	22,362	604
	%	0.7%	2.0%	12.3%	25.5%	35.1%	19.9%	4.4%	-	-	2.7%
2020/21	n	113	384	2,443	5,479	7,685	4,281	933	2	21,320	497
	%	0.5%	1.8%	11.5%	25.7%	36.0%	20.1%	4.4%	-	-	2.3%

Source: Child Health System

Teenage refers to those aged less than twenty years

This refers to live and still births to NI residents irrespective of place of birth. These numbers will vary slightly from the registered births shown in Table 1.1.

**Figure 3.1: % infants born to teenage/older mothers, Northern Ireland, 2010/11 – 2020/21**



Source: Child Health System  
Teenage refers to those aged less than twenty years



**Table 3.2: Births to Northern Ireland residents, by age of mother, 2020/21**

		Infants born by age of mother									% infants born to teenage mothers	% infants born to mothers aged 40+
		≤ 17	18-19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 +	Not known	Total		
Multiple births	Single	111	376	2,389	5,319	7,446	4,158	901	2	<b>20,702</b>	2.4%	4.4%
	Multiple	2	8	54	160	239	123	32	0	<b>618</b>	1.6%	5.2%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>2,443</b>	<b>5,479</b>	<b>7,685</b>	<b>4,281</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
Ethnic group of mother (NIMATS)	White	108	368	2,376	5,304	7,417	4,115	902	0	<b>20,590</b>	2.3%	4.4%
	Non-white	5	17	87	195	299	193	47	0	<b>843</b>	2.6%	5.6%
	Not stated / Blank	1	0	5	8	13	10	1	0	<b>38</b>	2.6%	2.6%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>2,468</b>	<b>5,507</b>	<b>7,729</b>	<b>4,318</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
Ethnic group of infant (CHS)	White	100	356	2,311	5,189	7,312	4,029	865	1	<b>20,163</b>	2.3%	4.3%
	Non-white	9	28	124	286	363	247	65	0	<b>1,122</b>	3.3%	5.8%
	Not stated / Blank	4	0	8	4	10	5	3	1	<b>35</b>	11.8%	8.8%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>2,443</b>	<b>5,479</b>	<b>7,685</b>	<b>4,281</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
Place of birth	Altnagelvin	13	30	317	626	801	455	112	0	<b>2,354</b>	1.8%	4.8%
	Antrim	13	57	359	866	1,165	579	125	0	<b>3,164</b>	2.2%	4.0%
	Causeway	<5	<15	75	148	164	93	<25	0	<b>515</b>	>2.3%	<4.4%
	Craigavon	11	37	335	890	1,166	651	131	0	<b>3,221</b>	1.5%	4.1%
	Daisy Hill	7	23	162	432	780	435	98	0	<b>1,937</b>	1.5%	5.1%
	Downe / Lagan Valley	0	0	<10	25	25	<15	0	0	<b>69</b>	0.0%	0.0%
	Mater	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	-	-
	Royal	40	142	684	1,244	1,641	921	217	0	<b>4,889</b>	3.7%	4.4%
	SWAH	<5	<10	88	282	458	285	56	0	<b>1,180</b>	<2.3%	>4.4%
	Ulster	22	76	411	956	1,468	845	171	0	<b>3,949</b>	2.5%	4.3%
	Home/Other	0	0	<5	10	17	<10	<5	2	<b>42</b>	0.0%	>4.4%
<b>All infants</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>2,443</b>	<b>5,479</b>	<b>7,685</b>	<b>4,281</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	

**Table 3.2 continued: Births to Northern Ireland residents, by age of mother, 2020/21**

		Infants born by age of mother								% infants born to teenage mothers	% infants born to mothers aged 40+	
		≤ 17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40+	Not known			Total
Trust of residence of mother	Belfast	35	114	577	1,014	1,390	860	188	0	<b>4,178</b>	3.6%	4.5%
	Northern	26	94	574	1,373	1,845	929	197	0	<b>5,038</b>	2.4%	3.9%
	South Eastern	17	87	387	924	1,357	712	153	0	<b>3,637</b>	2.9%	4.2%
	Southern	18	54	493	1,267	1,841	1,014	214	1	<b>4,902</b>	1.5%	4.4%
	Western	17	35	412	901	1,252	766	181	1	<b>3,565</b>	1.5%	5.1%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>2,443</b>	<b>5,479</b>	<b>7,685</b>	<b>4,281</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
Council area (2014)	Antrim and Newtownabbey	8	24	181	421	546	270	60	0	<b>1,510</b>	2.1%	4.0%
	Ards and North Down	11	22	160	361	514	292	53	0	<b>1,413</b>	2.3%	3.8%
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	9	32	304	721	910	469	99	1	<b>2,545</b>	1.6%	3.9%
	Belfast	35	125	606	970	1,316	777	185	0	<b>4,014</b>	4.0%	4.6%
	Causeway Coast and Glens	7	25	186	402	496	269	60	0	<b>1,445</b>	2.2%	4.2%
	Derry City and Strabane	11	23	270	506	603	334	82	0	<b>1,829</b>	1.9%	4.5%
	Fermanagh and Omagh	<5	<10	98	287	514	361	82	1	<b>1,355</b>	<2.3%	6.1%
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	<5	<30	125	409	632	366	62	0	<b>1,626</b>	<2.3%	3.8%
	Mid and East Antrim	13	29	156	367	528	209	51	0	<b>1,353</b>	3.1%	3.8%
	Mid Ulster	5	28	167	531	761	448	76	0	<b>2,016</b>	1.6%	3.8%
	Newry, Mourne and Down	8	38	190	504	865	486	123	0	<b>2,214</b>	2.1%	5.6%
<b>All infants</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>2,443</b>	<b>5,479</b>	<b>7,685</b>	<b>4,281</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	
Deprivation 2017 quintile (SOA) based on residence of mother	Most deprived	52	166	878	1,318	1,367	688	177	0	<b>4,646</b>	4.7%	3.8%
	2	16	94	564	1,186	1,567	894	187	2	<b>4,510</b>	2.4%	4.1%
	3	18	52	475	1,173	1,574	900	175	0	<b>4,367</b>	1.6%	4.0%
	4	21	49	340	1,010	1,654	880	211	0	<b>4,165</b>	1.7%	5.1%
	Least deprived	6	23	186	792	1,523	919	183	0	<b>3,632</b>	0.8%	5.0%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>2,443</b>	<b>5,479</b>	<b>7,685</b>	<b>4,281</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>

Source: Child Health System/NIMATS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Causeway Hospital was closed to deliveries between 8 April 2020 and 23 August 2020. Mater Hospital closed to deliveries on 30 March 2020 (it became a COVID Centre) and all deliveries were relocated to Royal Victoria Hospital. The Mater is still closed to deliveries.

NI Statistics and Research Agency, NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/nisra-releases-updated-deprivation-measures-northern-ireland>

Teenage refers to those aged less than twenty years

Due to small numbers, it is not possible to show data by individual ethnic group

Disclosure controls have been applied to this table. As a result, for some places of birth and Council areas, it is not possible to show the exact percentage values in the final two columns and so a comparison to the Northern Ireland value has been provided. There were 2 births recorded in Downe Hospital during 2020/21 – disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Downe and Lagan Valley Hospitals.

# Section 4: Multiple Births

## Key Points

- The proportion of infants born within a multiple birth has remained fairly steady over the last ten years (2020/21 = 2.9%). [Page 19]
- The incidence of multiple births increased with mother's age. In 2020/21 across Northern Ireland, 2.0% of births to mothers aged less than twenty years were multiple births, compared to 3.4% of births to mothers aged 40 and over. [Page 20]

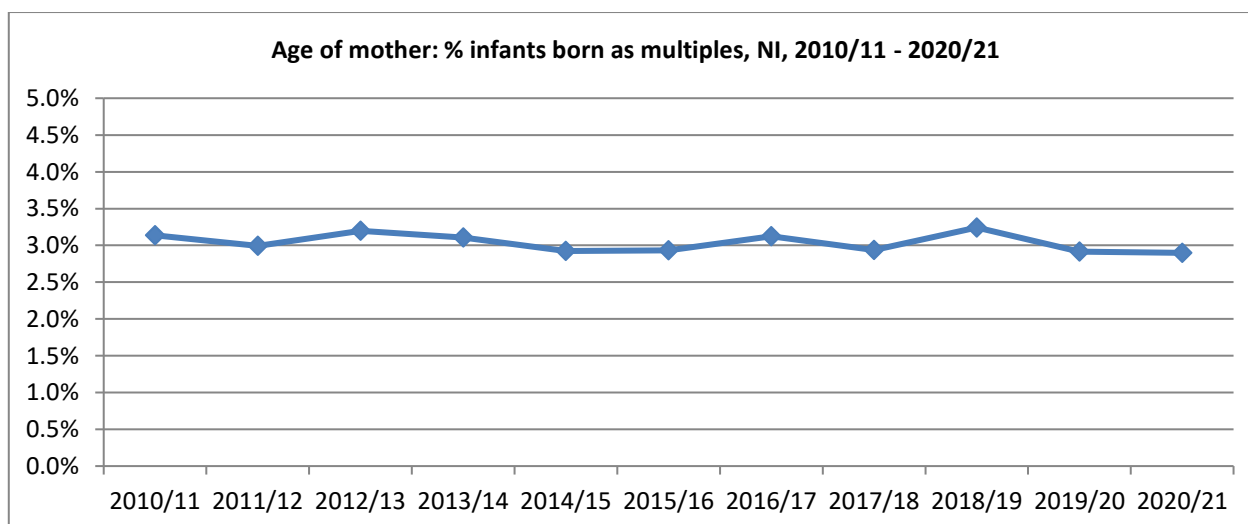
**Table 4.1: Births to Northern Ireland residents, by singleton/multiple, 2010/11 – 2020/21**

Year of birth		Infants born by singleton/multiple birth				Infants born as multiples
		Single	Twin	Triplet / Other	Total	
2010/11	n	24,854	784	21	<b>25,659</b>	<b>805</b>
	%	96.9%	3.1%	0.1%	-	<b>3.1%</b>
2011/12	n	24,552	748	9	<b>25,309</b>	<b>757</b>
	%	97.0%	3.0%	0.0%	-	<b>3.0%</b>
2012/13	n	24,228	782	18	<b>25,028</b>	<b>800</b>
	%	96.8%	3.1%	0.1%	-	<b>3.2%</b>
2013/14	n	23,523	742	12	<b>24,277</b>	<b>754</b>
	%	96.9%	3.1%	0.0%	-	<b>3.1%</b>
2014/15	n	23,687	698	15	<b>24,400</b>	<b>713</b>
	%	97.1%	2.9%	0.1%	-	<b>2.9%</b>
2015/16	n	23,720	686	30	<b>24,436</b>	<b>716</b>
	%	97.1%	2.8%	0.1%	-	<b>2.9%</b>
2016/17	n	23,327	716	36	<b>24,079</b>	<b>752</b>
	%	96.9%	3.0%	0.1%	-	<b>3.1%</b>
2017/18	n	22,328	664	12	<b>23,004</b>	<b>676</b>
	%	97.1%	2.9%	0.1%	-	<b>2.9%</b>
2018/19	n	22,172	730	13	<b>22,915</b>	<b>743</b>
	%	96.8%	3.2%	0.1%	-	<b>3.2%</b>
2019/20	n	21,710	640	12	<b>22,362</b>	<b>652</b>
	%	97.1%	2.9%	0.1%	-	<b>2.9%</b>
2020/21	n	20,702	606	12	<b>21,320</b>	<b>618</b>
	%	97.1%	2.8%	0.1%	-	<b>2.9%</b>

Source: Child Health System

Figures for multiple births show the number of infants born

**Figure 4.1: % infants born as multiples, Northern Ireland, 2010/11 – 2020/21**



Source: Child Health System

**Table 4.2: Births to Northern Ireland residents, by singleton/multiple, 2020/21**

		Infants born by singleton/multiple birth			% infants born as multiples
		Single	Multiple	Total	
Birth status	Live	20,621	612	<b>21,233</b>	2.9%
	Still	81	6	<b>87</b>	6.9%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>20,702</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
Age Group of mother	Under 20	487	10	<b>497</b>	2.0%
	20 - 24	2389	54	<b>2,443</b>	2.2%
	25 - 29	5319	160	<b>5,479</b>	2.9%
	30 - 34	7446	239	<b>7,685</b>	3.1%
	35 - 39	4158	123	<b>4,281</b>	2.9%
	40 +	901	32	<b>933</b>	3.4%
	Not known	2	0	<b>2</b>	0.0%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>20,702</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
Ethnic group of mother (NIMATS)	White	20,002	588	<b>20,590</b>	2.9%
	Non-white	819	24	<b>843</b>	2.8%
	Not stated / Blank	38	0	<b>38</b>	0.0%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>20,859</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
Ethnic group of infant (CHS)	White	19,588	575	<b>20,163</b>	2.9%
	Non-white	1,086	36	<b>1,122</b>	3.2%
	Not stated / Blank	28	7	<b>35</b>	20.0%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>20,702</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
Place of birth	Altnagelvin	2,268	86	<b>2,354</b>	3.7%
	Antrim	3,050	114	<b>3,164</b>	3.6%
	Causeway	515	0	<b>515</b>	0.0%
	Craigavon	3,127	94	<b>3,221</b>	2.9%
	Daisy Hill	1,903	34	<b>1,937</b>	1.8%
	Downe / Lagan Valley	69	0	<b>69</b>	0.0%
	Mater	0	0	<b>0</b>	-
	Royal	4,709	180	<b>4,889</b>	3.7%
	SWAH	1,158	22	<b>1,180</b>	1.9%
	Ulster	3,869	80	<b>3,949</b>	2.0%
	Home/Other	34	8	<b>42</b>	19.0%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>20,702</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
Trust of residence of mother	Belfast	4,048	130	<b>4,178</b>	3.1%
	Northern	4,864	174	<b>5,038</b>	3.5%
	South Eastern	3,550	87	<b>3,637</b>	2.4%
	Southern	4,789	113	<b>4,902</b>	2.3%
	Western	3,451	114	<b>3,565</b>	3.2%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>20,702</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>2.9%</b>

**Table 4.2 continued: Births to Northern Ireland residents, by singleton/multiple, 2020/21**

		Infants born by singleton/multiple birth			% infants born as multiples
		Single	Multiple	Total	
Council area (2014)	Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,453	57	<b>1,510</b>	3.8%
	Ards and North Down	1,383	30	<b>1,413</b>	2.1%
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	2,481	64	<b>2,545</b>	2.5%
	Belfast	3,885	129	<b>4,014</b>	3.2%
	Causeway Coast and Glens	1,397	48	<b>1,445</b>	3.3%
	Derry City and Strabane	1,773	56	<b>1,829</b>	3.1%
	Fermanagh and Omagh	1,313	42	<b>1,355</b>	3.1%
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	1,586	40	<b>1,626</b>	2.5%
	Mid and East Antrim	1,304	49	<b>1,353</b>	3.6%
	Mid Ulster	1,966	50	<b>2,016</b>	2.5%
	Newry, Mourne and Down	2,161	53	<b>2,214</b>	2.4%
		<b>All infants</b>	<b>20,702</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>21,320</b>
Deprivation 2017 quintile (SOA) based on residence of mother	Most deprived	4,512	134	<b>4,646</b>	2.9%
	2	4,375	135	<b>4,510</b>	3.0%
	3	4,244	123	<b>4,367</b>	2.8%
	4	4,041	124	<b>4,165</b>	3.0%
	Least deprived	3,530	102	<b>3,632</b>	2.8%
		<b>All infants</b>	<b>20,702</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>21,320</b>

Source: Child Health System/NIMATS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Causeway Hospital was closed to deliveries between 8 April 2020 and 23 August 2020. Mater Hospital closed to deliveries on 30 March 2020 (it became a COVID Centre) and all deliveries were relocated to Royal Victoria Hospital. The Mater is still closed to deliveries.

NI Statistics and Research Agency, NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/nisra-releases-updated-deprivation-measures-northern-ireland>

Due to small numbers, it is not possible to show data by individual ethnic group

There were 2 births recorded in Downe Hospital during 2020/21 – disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Downe and Lagan Valley Hospitals.

# Section 5: Infant Gestation

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## Key Points

### Infant gestation at booking

- In 2020/21, 7.6% of births were booked at 15 weeks or more gestation. This is a slight decrease on the previous year (8.0%). *[Page 23]*
- There were 312 (1.45%) infants born to women who were estimated to be 28 weeks or more gestation at booking. In general, this proportion has been falling year on year since 2011/12. *[Page 23]*
- There were substantial differences in the timescales of when mothers booked by ethnic group during 2020/21. A quarter (25.5%) of births to mothers from a 'non-white' ethnic group booked at 15+ weeks, compared to 6.8% of those from a white ethnic group (all births = 7.6%). *[Page 24]*

### Infant gestation at delivery

- Over the last ten years there has been little variation in the proportion of infants born pre-term (<37 weeks gestation) (2020/21= 6.9%). *[Page 39]* The 2020/21 figures differ considerably by type of birth: 6.7% of live births, 66.7% of still births born pre-term. The same can be seen for multiple births (58.5%) compared to singleton births (5.4%). *[Page 26]*
- In 2020/21, 7.8% of infants were born pre-term to mothers living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland. This compared to 6.0% of infants born to mothers living in those areas considered least deprived (all infants = 6.9%). *[Page 28]*

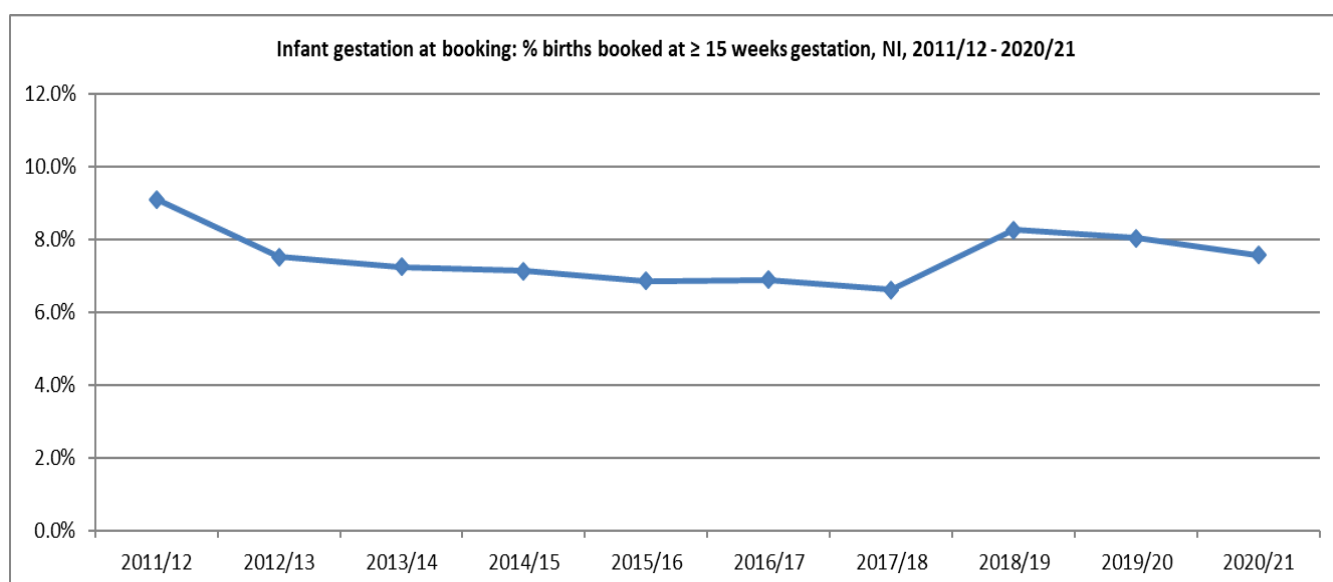
## GESTATION AT BOOKING

**Table 5.1: Gestation at booking, for births to Northern Ireland residents, by completed weeks, 2011/12 – 2020/21**

Year of birth		Infants born by gestation at booking								Booking at ≥ 15 weeks
		≤ 14 weeks	15 - 20 weeks	21 - 27 weeks	28 - 32 weeks	33 - 36 weeks	37+ weeks	Not known	Total	
2011/12	n	22,106	1,317	364	212	177	141	26	24,343	2,211
	%	90.9%	5.4%	1.5%	0.9%	0.7%	0.6%	-	-	9.1%
2012/13	n	23,050	1,050	325	200	159	138	20	24,942	1,872
	%	92.5%	4.2%	1.3%	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	-	-	7.5%
2013/14	n	22,444	1,020	329	171	144	89	11	24,208	1,753
	%	92.8%	4.2%	1.4%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	-	-	7.2%
2014/15	n	22,585	1,001	316	197	160	58	5	24,322	1,732
	%	92.9%	4.1%	1.3%	0.8%	0.7%	0.2%	-	-	7.1%
2015/16	n	22,729	998	287	180	136	72	3	24,405	1,673
	%	93.1%	4.1%	1.2%	0.7%	0.6%	0.3%	-	-	6.9%
2016/17	n	22,427	1,013	280	156	141	67	0	24,084	1,657
	%	93.1%	4.2%	1.2%	0.6%	0.6%	0.3%	-	-	6.9%
2017/18	n	21,517	881	278	149	135	81	4	23,045	1,524
	%	93.4%	3.8%	1.2%	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	-	-	6.6%
2018/19	n	21,061	1,230	291	166	138	70	1	22,957	1,895
	%	91.7%	5.4%	1.3%	0.7%	0.6%	0.3%	-	-	8.3%
2019/20	n	20,608	1,189	272	157	130	53	1	22,410	1,801
	%	92.0%	5.3%	1.2%	0.7%	0.6%	0.2%	-	-	8.0%
2020/21	n	19,844	1,038	276	167	100	45	1	21,471	1,626
	%	92.4%	4.8%	1.3%	0.8%	0.5%	0.2%	-	-	7.6%

Source: NIMATS

**Figure 5.1: % births booked at ≥ 15 weeks gestation, Northern Ireland residents, 2011/12 – 2020/21**



Source: NIMATS

**Table 5.2: Gestation at booking, for births to Northern Ireland residents, by completed weeks, 2020/21**

		Infants born by gestation at booking								% booking at ≥ 15 weeks
		≤ 14 weeks	15 - 20 weeks	21 - 27 weeks	28 - 32 weeks	33 - 36 weeks	37+ weeks	Not known	Total	
Age Group of mother	Under 20	407	47	25	<20	<10	<5	0	<b>499</b>	>7.6%
	20 - 24	2,194	159	49	36	21	8	1	<b>2,468</b>	11.1%
	25 - 29	5,128	241	66	39	23	10	0	<b>5,507</b>	6.9%
	30 - 34	7,254	312	77	45	27	14	0	<b>7,729</b>	6.1%
	35 - 39	3,992	220	48	33	18	7	0	<b>4,318</b>	7.5%
	40 +	869	59	11	<5	<5	<5	0	<b>950</b>	>7.6%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>19,844</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>7.6%</b>
Ethnic group of mother	White	19,188	929	223	139	75	35	1	<b>20,590</b>	6.8%
	Non-white	628	103	51	27	24	10	0	<b>843</b>	25.5%
	Not stated / Blank	28	6	2	1	1	0	0	<b>38</b>	26.3%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>19,844</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>7.6%</b>
Place of birth	Altnagelvin	2,263	44	30	16	18	6	0	<b>2,377</b>	4.8%
	Antrim	3,056	99	31	17	18	9	0	<b>3,230</b>	5.4%
	Causeway	490	23	9	<5	<5	0	0	<b>524</b>	<7.6%
	Craigavon	2,841	281	50	30	10	5	0	<b>3,217</b>	11.7%
	Daisy Hill	1,716	178	30	11	<10	<5	0	<b>1,945</b>	>7.6%
	Downe / Lagan Valley	60	0	<5	<5	0	<5	0	<b>65</b>	>7.6%
	Mater	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	-
	Royal	4,481	269	74	50	29	15	0	<b>4,918</b>	8.9%
	SWAH	1,145	22	<10	12	<5	0	0	<b>1,190</b>	<7.6%
	Ulster	3,726	120	44	27	12	7	1	<b>3,937</b>	5.3%
	Home/Other	66	2	0	0	0	0	0	<b>68</b>	2.9%
<b>All infants</b>	<b>19,844</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	
Trust of residence of mother	Belfast	3,810	225	74	44	25	14	0	<b>4,192</b>	9.1%
	Northern	4,869	182	44	28	26	10	0	<b>5,159</b>	5.6%
	South Eastern	3,409	132	45	27	8	7	1	<b>3,629</b>	6.0%
	Southern	4,310	425	78	42	18	8	0	<b>4,881</b>	11.7%
	Western	3,446	74	35	26	23	6	0	<b>3,610</b>	4.5%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>19,844</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>7.6%</b>



**Table 5.2 continued: Gestation at booking, for births to Northern Ireland residents, by completed weeks, 2020/21**

		Infants born by gestation at booking								% booking at ≥ 15 weeks
		≤ 14 weeks	15 - 20 weeks	21 - 27 weeks	28 - 32 weeks	33 - 36 weeks	37+ weeks	Not known	Total	
Council area (2014)	Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,507	53	10	<10	9	<5	0	<b>1,587</b>	<7.6%
	Ards and North Down	1,342	39	14	12	<10	<5	0	<b>1,414</b>	<7.6%
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	2,254	198	38	24	10	5	0	<b>2,529</b>	10.9%
	Belfast	3,638	230	80	45	23	14	0	<b>4,030</b>	9.7%
	Causeway Coast and Glens	1,396	44	15	<5	<10	<5	0	<b>1,469</b>	<7.6%
	Derry City and Strabane	1,746	39	25	14	16	6	0	<b>1,846</b>	5.4%
	Fermanagh and Omagh	1,323	32	8	11	5	0	0	<b>1,379</b>	4.1%
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	1,522	60	18	6	<5	<5	1	<b>1,612</b>	<7.6%
	Mid and East Antrim	1,285	47	14	11	<10	<5	0	<b>1,369</b>	<7.6%
	Mid Ulster	1,839	143	20	15	<10	<5	0	<b>2,024</b>	>7.6%
	Newry, Mourne and Down	1,992	153	34	18	9	6	0	<b>2,212</b>	9.9%
		<b>All infants</b>	<b>19,844</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21,471</b>
Deprivation 2017 quintile (SOA) based on residence of mother	Most deprived	4,275	277	93	41	21	15	0	<b>4,722</b>	9.5%
	2	4,145	276	56	31	16	9	0	<b>4,533</b>	8.6%
	3	4,094	180	48	33	25	9	1	<b>4,390</b>	6.7%
	4	3,881	182	47	33	<20	<10	0	<b>4,171</b>	<7.6%
	Least deprived	3,449	123	32	29	<20	<5	0	<b>3,655</b>	<7.6%
		<b>All infants</b>	<b>19,844</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21,471</b>

Source: NIMATS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Causeway Hospital was closed to deliveries between 8 April 2020 and 23 August 2020. Mater Hospital closed to deliveries on 30 March 2020 (it became a COVID Centre) and all deliveries were relocated to Royal Victoria Hospital. The Mater is still closed to deliveries.

NI Statistics and Research Agency, NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/nisra-releases-updated-deprivation-measures-northern-ireland>

Due to small numbers, it is not possible to show data by individual ethnic group

Disclosure controls have been applied to the data. There were 2 births recorded in Downe Hospital during 2020/21 – disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Downe and Lagan Valley Hospitals.

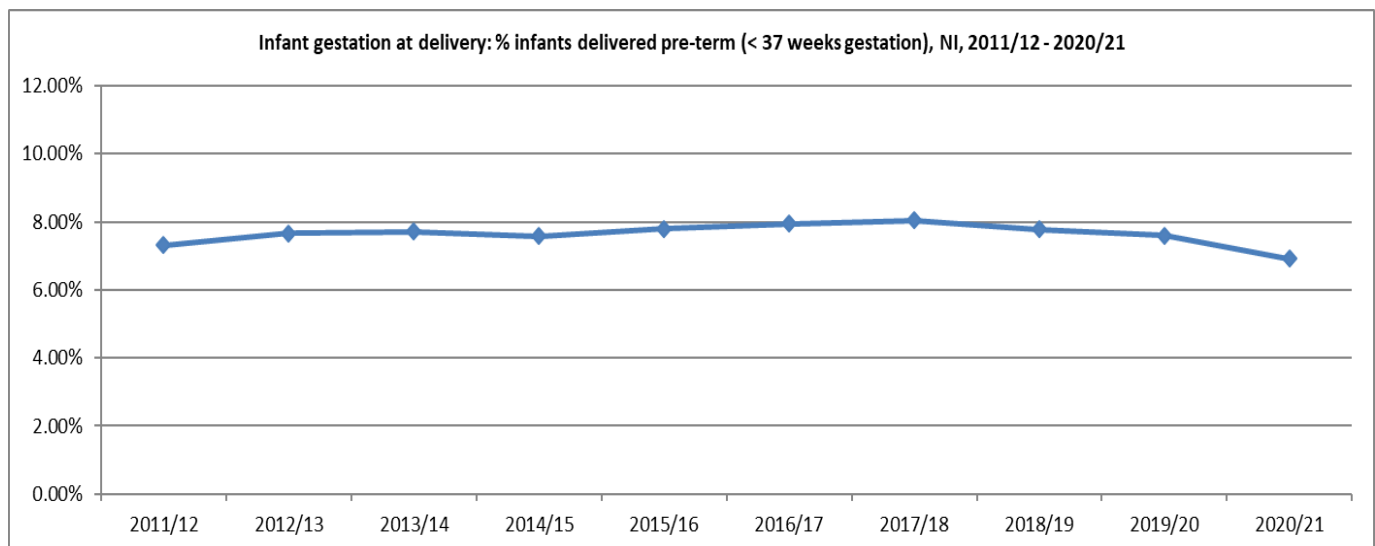
## GESTATION AT DELIVERY

**Table 5.3: Gestation at delivery, for births (live and still) to Northern Ireland residents, by completed weeks, 2011/12 – 2020/21**

Year of birth		Infants born by gestation at delivery						Total	Infants born pre-term (< 37 wks)
		< 28 weeks	28 - 31 weeks	32 - 36 weeks	37 - 38 weeks	39+ weeks	Not known		
2011/12	n	118	192	1,470	4,493	18,067	3	24,343	1,780
	%	0.48%	0.79%	6.04%	18.46%	74.23%	-	-	7.31%
2012/13	n	116	203	1,593	4,570	18,459	1	24,942	1,912
	%	0.47%	0.81%	6.39%	18.32%	74.01%	-	-	7.67%
2013/14	n	105	212	1,551	4,472	17,868	0	24,208	1,868
	%	0.43%	0.88%	6.41%	18.47%	73.81%	-	-	7.72%
2014/15	n	101	226	1,517	4,658	17,820	0	24,322	1,844
	%	0.42%	0.93%	6.24%	19.15%	73.27%	-	-	7.58%
2015/16	n	106	186	1,612	4,985	17,516	0	24,405	1,904
	%	0.43%	0.76%	6.61%	20.43%	71.77%	-	-	7.80%
2016/17	n	123	192	1,598	5,410	16,761	0	24,084	1,913
	%	0.51%	0.80%	6.64%	22.46%	69.59%	-	-	7.94%
2017/18	n	105	162	1,588	5,186	16,004	0	23,045	1,855
	%	0.46%	0.70%	6.89%	22.50%	69.45%	-	-	8.05%
2018/19	n	113	177	1,496	5,042	16,129	0	22,957	1,786
	%	0.49%	0.77%	6.52%	21.96%	70.26%	-	-	7.78%
2019/20	n	110	153	1,438	5,057	15,652	0	22,410	1,701
	%	0.49%	0.68%	6.42%	22.57%	69.84%	-	-	7.59%
2020/21	n	115	147	1,224	4,620	15,365	0	21,471	1,486
	%	0.54%	0.68%	5.70%	21.52%	71.56%	-	-	6.92%

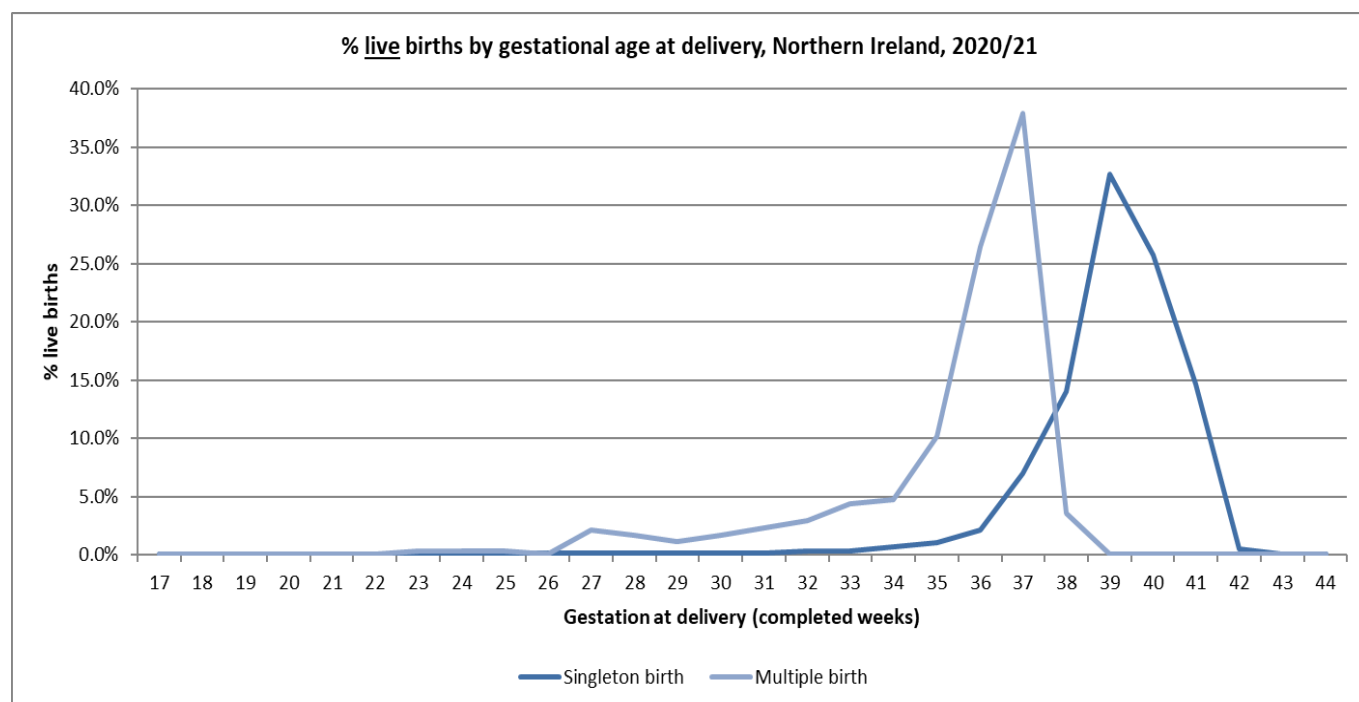
Source: NIMATS

**Figure 5.2: % infants delivered pre-term (<37 weeks), Northern Ireland, 2011/12 – 2020/21**



Source: NIMATS

**Figure 5.3: % live infants by gestational age at delivery, Northern Ireland, 2020/21**



Source: NIMATS

**Table 5.4: Gestation at delivery for births to Northern Ireland residents by completed weeks, 2020/21**

		Infants born by gestation at delivery						Total	% infants born pre-term (< 37 wks)
		< 28 weeks	28 - 31 weeks	32 - 36 weeks	37 - 38 weeks	39+ weeks	Not known		
Age Group of mother	Under 20	<5	<10	30	88	373	0	499	>6.9%
	20 - 24	21	17	158	540	1,732	0	2,468	7.9%
	25 - 29	30	33	323	1,189	3,932	0	5,507	7.0%
	30 - 34	35	56	389	1,611	5,638	0	7,729	6.2%
	35 - 39	21	28	252	938	3,079	0	4,318	7.0%
	40 +	<10	<10	72	254	611	0	950	>6.9%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>4,620</b>	<b>15,365</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
Multiple births	Single	96	106	926	4,366	15,365	0	20,859	5.4%
	Multiple	19	41	298	254	0	0	612	58.5%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>4,620</b>	<b>15,365</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
Birth status	Live	92	136	1,200	4,606	15,350	0	21,384	6.7%
	Still	23	11	24	14	15	0	87	66.7%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>4,620</b>	<b>15,365</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
Ethnic group of mother	White	105	135	1,172	4,374	14,804	0	20,590	6.9%
	Non-white	8	12	50	236	537	0	843	8.3%
	Not stated/Blank	2	0	2	10	24	0	38	10.5%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>4,620</b>	<b>15,365</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>6.9%</b>

**Table 5.4 continued: Gestation at delivery for births to Northern Ireland residents by completed weeks, 2020/21**

		Infants born by gestation at delivery						% infants born pre-term (< 37 wks)	
		< 28 weeks	28 - 31 weeks	32 - 36 weeks	37 - 38 weeks	39+ weeks	Not known		Total
Place of birth	Altnagelvin	7	13	139	547	1,671	0	<b>2,377</b>	6.7%
	Antrim	7	24	185	808	2,206	0	<b>3,230</b>	6.7%
	Causeway	<5	<5	<5	107	410	0	<b>524</b>	<6.9%
	Craigavon	13	26	250	825	2,103	0	<b>3,217</b>	9.0%
	Daisy Hill	<10	<5	64	331	1,539	0	<b>1,945</b>	<6.9%
	Downe / Lagan Valley	0	0	0	5	60	0	<b>65</b>	0.0%
	Mater	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	-
	Royal	58	49	277	1,045	3,489	0	<b>4,918</b>	7.8%
	SWAH	<5	<5	<60	178	952	0	<b>1,190</b>	<6.9%
	Ulster	19	25	252	771	2,870	0	<b>3,937</b>	7.5%
	Home/Other	0	0	0	3	65	0	<b>68</b>	0.0%
		<b>All infants</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>4,620</b>	<b>15,365</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,471</b>
Trust of residence of mother	Belfast	21	31	236	821	3,083	0	<b>4,192</b>	6.9%
	Northern	16	43	275	1,216	3,609	0	<b>5,159</b>	6.5%
	South Eastern	28	23	224	756	2,598	0	<b>3,629</b>	7.6%
	Southern	31	25	280	1,093	3,452	0	<b>4,881</b>	6.9%
	Western	19	25	209	734	2,623	0	<b>3,610</b>	7.0%
		<b>All infants</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>4,620</b>	<b>15,365</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,471</b>
Council area (2014)	Antrim and Newtownabbey	7	13	77	370	1,120	0	<b>1,587</b>	6.1%
	Ards and North Down	9	11	97	293	1,004	0	<b>1,414</b>	8.3%
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	11	16	161	599	1,742	0	<b>2,529</b>	7.4%
	Belfast	21	30	223	810	2,946	0	<b>4,030</b>	6.8%
	Causeway Coast and Glens	7	21	86	346	1,009	0	<b>1,469</b>	7.8%
	Derry City and Strabane	10	12	102	426	1,296	0	<b>1,846</b>	6.7%
	Fermanagh and Omagh	<10	<10	86	222	1,055	0	<b>1,379</b>	>6.9%
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	15	9	94	323	1,171	0	<b>1,612</b>	7.3%
	Mid and East Antrim	<5	<10	78	333	948	0	<b>1,369</b>	<6.9%
	Mid Ulster	10	11	91	456	1,456	0	<b>2,024</b>	5.5%
	Newry, Mourne and Down	16	7	129	442	1,618	0	<b>2,212</b>	6.9%
		<b>All infants</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>4,620</b>	<b>15,365</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,471</b>
Deprivation 2017 quintile (SOA) based on residence of mother	Most deprived	29	43	298	1,051	3,301	0	<b>4,722</b>	7.8%
	2	26	32	286	998	3,191	0	<b>4,533</b>	7.6%
	3	25	20	241	957	3,147	0	<b>4,390</b>	6.5%
	4	19	26	222	913	2,991	0	<b>4,171</b>	6.4%
	Least deprived	16	26	177	701	2,735	0	<b>3,655</b>	6.0%
		<b>All infants</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>4,620</b>	<b>15,365</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,471</b>

Source: NIMATS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Causeway Hospital was closed to deliveries between 8 April 2020 and 23 August 2020. Mater Hospital closed to deliveries on 30 March 2020 (it became a COVID Centre) and all deliveries were relocated to Royal Victoria Hospital. The Mater is still closed to deliveries.

NI Statistics and Research Agency, NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/nisra-releases-updated-deprivation-measures-northern-ireland>

Due to small numbers, it is not possible to show data by individual ethnic group

Disclosure controls have been applied to the data. There were 2 births recorded in Downe Hospital during 2020/21 – disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Downe and Lagan Valley Hospitals.

# Section 6: Maternal Risk Factors

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## Key Points

- In 2020/21 *[Page 30]*:
  - 12.4% of mothers smoked (2010/11 = 15.5%)
  - 15.0% of mothers had diabetes (2010/11 = 1.8%).
  - 1.7% of mothers experienced an antepartum haemorrhage (2010/11 = 2.2%)

### Smoking

- The proportion of mothers who smoked (recorded at antenatal booking appointment) decreased with age, from 28.5% of those aged less than 20 years (a small increase on the previous year (2019/20 = 27.7%)), to 7.6% of those aged 40 and over (a decrease on the previous year (2019/20 = 9.0%)). *[Page 31]*
- In the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland (NIMDM 2017), 23.2% of mothers smoked, compared to 4.4% in the least deprived areas. *[Page 32]*
- Mothers who had previously given birth were more likely to smoke (13.4%), compared to first time mothers (10.0%). *[Page 31]*
- Smoking rates were higher amongst those women who were of a white ethnic background (12.7%), compared to those of a non-white background (5.1%). *[Page 31]*

### Diabetes

- The percentage of mothers with diabetes increased with age, 6.5% of those aged less than 20 years, compared to 20.7% of mothers aged 40 and over. *[Page 33]*
- A higher proportion of mothers from a non-white ethnic background had diabetes (25.9%), compared to 14.5% of mothers from a white ethnic background (all mothers = 15.0%). *[Page 33]*
- The proportion of mothers with diabetes was fairly consistent across the five Health Trusts, ranging from 14.3% in Western Trust to 16.8% in South Eastern Trust. *[Page 33]*

**Table 6.1: Mothers resident in Northern Ireland, by maternal risk factor, 2010/11 – 2020/21**

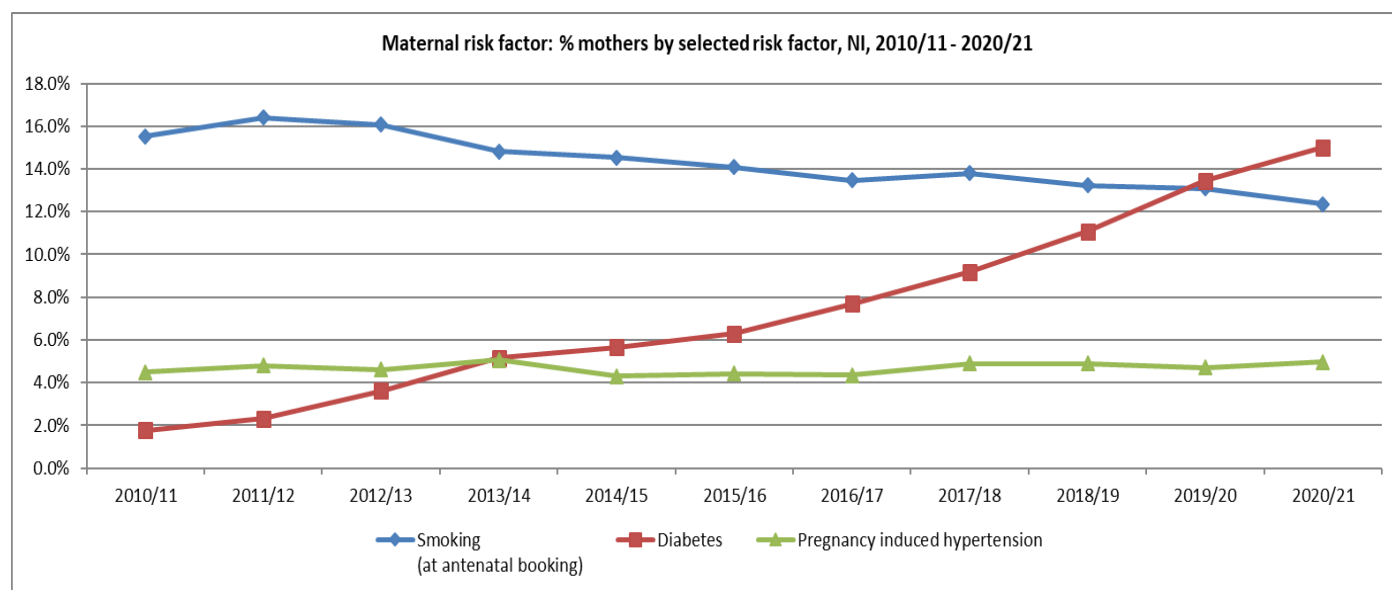
Year of birth	Maternal risk factor							
	Mothers (n)	Smoking (at antenatal booking)	Diabetes	Pregnancy induced hypertension	Anaemia	Alcohol use	Antepartum haemorrhage (APH)	History of psychiatric illness
2010/11	25,253	3,923	444	1,136	940	22	563	
	-	15.5%	1.8%	4.5%	3.7%	0.09%	2.2%	
2011/12	24,929	4,087	575	1,199	863	27	743	
	-	16.4%	2.3%	4.8%	3.5%	0.11%	3.0%	
2012/13	24,625	3,959	890	1,138	1,069	26	719	
	-	16.1%	3.6%	4.6%	4.3%	0.11%	2.9%	
2013/14	23,898	3,544	1,230	1,207	989	21	682	
	-	14.8%	5.1%	5.1%	4.1%	0.09%	2.9%	
2014/15	24,041	3,497	1,361	1,034	787	19	623	
	-	14.5%	5.7%	4.3%	3.3%	0.08%	2.6%	
2015/16	24,073	3,389	1,517	1,063	850	20	574	
	-	14.1%	6.3%	4.4%	3.5%	0.08%	2.4%	
2016/17	23,697	3,194	1,822	1,029	779	12	514	1,668
	-	13.5%	7.7%	4.3%	3.3%	0.05%	2.2%	7.0%
2017/18	22,705	3,134	2,086	1,109	735	83	417	1,711
	-	13.8%	9.2%	4.9%	3.2%	0.37%	1.8%	7.5%
2018/19	Mothers giving birth (n)	22,582	22,582	22,582	22,582	22,582	22,582	22,582
	Valid responses (n) (smoking only)	21,637	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Risk factor (n)	2,862	2,500	1,106	967	85	381	1,751
	%	13.2%	11.1%	4.9%	4.3%	0.38%	1.7%	7.8%
2019/20	Mothers giving birth (n)	22,084	22,084	22,084	22,084	22,084	22,084	22,084
	Valid responses (n) (smoking only)	21,400	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Risk factor (n)	2,801	2,969	1,039	1,057	70	368	1,829
	%	13.1%	13.4%	4.7%	4.8%	0.32%	1.7%	8.3%
2020/21	Mothers giving birth (n)	21,163	21,163	21,163	21,163	21,163	21,163	21,163
	Valid responses (n) (smoking only)	18,851	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Risk factor (n)	2,329	3,177	1,049	973	31	357	1,766
	%	12.4%	15.0%	5.0%	4.6%	0.15%	1.7%	8.3%

Source: Child Health System (2010/11 - 2016/17), NIMATS (2017/18 onwards)

Following a change in the interface between NIMATS and CHS during 2017/18, fields containing information on ante-natal risk factors, which had usually transferred from NIMATS to CHS are not now available on CHS. As a result, the data must be sourced from NIMATS. However, on CHS, only four ante-natal risk factors are recorded and so e.g. history of psychiatric illness may not have been recorded on CHS (but would be recorded on NIMATS), therefore this may account for lower figures when comparing CHS data to NIMATS data. The data from both sources were analysed and the impact of changing the source of the data was considered minimal. History of psychiatric illness - coverage prior to 2016/17 was not regarded as sufficient. There has been a concerted effort to identify diabetes risk factors in women and this may in part be reflected in the increased numbers. In September 2016, new screens were added to NIMATS to collect more detailed data on the mother's smoking habits. This data could not be used due to the large number of incomplete records. However from 2018/19, CO levels, the proportion of mothers who smoked and the number of cigarettes smoked per day will be presented using this new data. As a result of this change in source of smoking data, how the percentage of mothers who smoked is calculated will change from 2018/19 onwards. The percentage is now a valid percentage i.e. the % calculation is based on those records where smoking status was known and blank data has been removed from the denominator value. Percentage calculations for all other ante natal risk factors remain the same i.e. as a % of ALL mothers giving birth

Note that due to COVID-19, carbon monoxide (CO) monitoring ceased April 2020 and recommenced November 2021. CO monitoring is recorded at the same time as smoking status and so it is likely that some women will not have had a smoking status recorded

**Figure 6.1: % mothers by selected risk factor, Northern Ireland residents, 2010/11 - 2020/21**



Source: Child Health System (2010/11 - 2016/17), NIMATS (2017/18 onwards)

**Table 6.2: Mothers resident in Northern Ireland, by smoking status, 2020/21**

		Smoking status at time of booking appointment					All mothers	% who smoked (valid percentage)
		Smoked	Never smoked	No stopped smoking prior to this pregnancy	No stopped smoking this pregnancy	Blank		
Age Group of mother	Under 20	121	216	39	48	70	494	28.5%
	20 - 24	518	1,158	271	222	273	2,442	23.9%
	25 - 29	748	3,240	537	320	581	5,426	15.4%
	30 - 34	580	5,163	745	297	825	7,610	8.5%
	35 - 39	299	2,931	431	134	462	4,257	7.9%
	40 +	63	638	112	20	101	934	7.6%
	Not known	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>All mothers</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>13,346</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>2,312</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>12.4%</b>	
Multiple births	Single	2,300	13,160	2,097	1,025	2,277	20,859	12.4%
	Multiple	29	186	38	16	35	304	10.8%
	<b>All mothers</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>13,346</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>2,312</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>12.4%</b>
First time mothers	First time mother	576	4,163	595	425	799	6,558	10.0%
	Not a first time mother	1,753	9,183	1,540	616	1,512	14,604	13.4%
	Not known	0	0	0	0	1	1	-
	<b>All mothers</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>13,346</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>2,312</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>12.4%</b>
Ethnic group of mother	White	2,290	12,692	2,089	1,021	2,202	20,294	12.7%
	Non-white	37	625	45	18	106	831	5.1%
	Not stated / Blank	2	29	1	2	4	38	5.9%
	<b>All mothers</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>13,346</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>2,312</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>12.4%</b>

**Table 6.2 continued: Mothers resident in Northern Ireland, by smoking status, 2020/21**

		Smoking status at time of booking appointment						% who smoked (valid percentage)
		Smoked	Never smoked	No stopped smoking prior to this pregnancy	No stopped smoking this pregnancy	Blank	All mothers	
Place of birth	Altnagelvin	286	1,563	224	137	123	<b>2,333</b>	12.9%
	Antrim	342	1,923	286	150	471	<b>3,172</b>	12.7%
	Causeway	50	279	<50	<30	118	<b>524</b>	12.3%
	Craigavon	305	2,062	250	141	412	<b>3,170</b>	11.1%
	Daisy Hill	145	1,232	163	96	292	<b>1,928</b>	8.9%
	Downe / Lagan Valley	<5	32	<10	<5	20	<b>65</b>	<12.4%
	Mater	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	-
	Royal	725	2,984	590	235	293	<b>4,827</b>	16.0%
	SWAH	80	837	119	58	85	<b>1,179</b>	7.3%
	Ulster	393	2,395	433	191	485	<b>3,897</b>	11.5%
	Home	<5	39	<20	0	13	<b>68</b>	<12.4%
		<b>All mothers</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>13,346</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>2,312</b>	<b>21,163</b>
Trust of residence of mother	Belfast	610	2,566	473	201	279	<b>4,129</b>	15.8%
	Northern	521	3,144	487	239	680	<b>5,071</b>	11.9%
	South Eastern	381	2,136	432	178	458	<b>3,585</b>	12.2%
	Southern	447	3,082	399	223	675	<b>4,826</b>	10.8%
	Western	370	2,418	344	200	220	<b>3,552</b>	11.1%
		<b>All mothers</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>13,346</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>2,312</b>	<b>21,163</b>
Council area (2014)	Antrim and Newtownabbey	162	959	162	75	200	<b>1,558</b>	11.9%
	Ards and North Down	157	814	171	75	182	<b>1,399</b>	12.9%
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	262	1,639	192	116	289	<b>2,498</b>	11.9%
	Belfast	638	2,385	473	207	263	<b>3,966</b>	17.2%
	Causeway Coast and Glens	143	892	156	83	171	<b>1,445</b>	11.2%
	Derry City and Strabane	250	1,183	168	111	105	<b>1,817</b>	14.6%
	Fermanagh and Omagh	90	973	129	63	103	<b>1,358</b>	7.2%
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	127	1,056	171	61	178	<b>1,593</b>	9.0%
	Mid and East Antrim	152	802	116	64	212	<b>1,346</b>	13.4%
	Mid Ulster	157	1,330	173	82	256	<b>1,998</b>	9.0%
	Newry, Mourne and Down	191	1,313	224	104	353	<b>2,185</b>	10.4%
	<b>All mothers</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>13,346</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>2,312</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>12.4%</b>
Deprivation 2017 quintile (SOA) based on residence of mother	Most deprived	987	2,453	520	290	406	<b>4,656</b>	23.2%
	2	528	2,639	503	263	534	<b>4,467</b>	13.4%
	3	383	2,803	428	215	499	<b>4,328</b>	10.0%
	4	289	2,783	370	159	506	<b>4,107</b>	8.0%
	Least deprived	142	2,668	314	114	367	<b>3,605</b>	4.4%
		<b>All mothers</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>13,346</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>2,312</b>	<b>21,163</b>

Source: NIMATS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Causeway Hospital was closed to deliveries between 8 April 2020 and 23 August 2020. Mater Hospital closed to deliveries on 30 March 2020 (it became a COVID Centre) and all deliveries were relocated to Royal Victoria Hospital. The Mater is still closed to deliveries.

NI Statistics and Research Agency, NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/nisra-releases-updated-deprivation-measures-northern-ireland>

Alcohol use - figures are too small and so have not been provided

In September 2016, new screens were added to NIMATS to collect more detailed data on the mother's smoking habits. This data could not be used due to the large number of incomplete records. However from 2018/19, CO levels, the proportion of mothers who smoked and the number of cigarettes smoked per day will be presented using this new data.

As a result of this change in source of smoking data, how the percentage of mothers who smoked is calculated will change from 2018/19 onwards and so the smoking information presented in this report has been separated out to a new table. The percentage is now a valid percentage i.e. the % calculation is based on those records where smoking status was known and blank data has been removed from the denominator value.

Note that due to COVID-19, carbon monoxide (CO) monitoring ceased April 2020 and recommenced November 2021. CO monitoring is recorded at the same time as smoking status and so it is likely that some women will not have had a smoking status recorded. Disclosure controls have been applied to the data. There were 2 births recorded in Downe Hospital during 2020/21 – disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Downe and Lagan Valley Hospitals.



**Table 6.3: Mothers resident in Northern Ireland, by maternal risk factor, 2020/21**

		% mothers by risk factor					
		Total mothers	Diabetes	Pregnancy induced hypertension	Anaemia	Antepartum haemorrhage (APH)	History of psychiatric illness
Age Group of mother	Under 20	494	6.5%	6.1%	9.3%	3.0%	11.3%
	20 - 24	2,442	11.8%	5.2%	7.4%	1.4%	12.7%
	25 - 29	5,426	14.3%	5.0%	4.6%	1.6%	9.4%
	30 - 34	7,610	15.1%	4.8%	3.8%	1.6%	6.7%
	35 - 39	4,257	17.4%	4.9%	4.0%	1.9%	7.0%
	40 +	934	20.7%	4.5%	3.9%	2.1%	8.6%
	Not known	0	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>All mothers</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>
Multiple births	Single	20,859	15.0%	4.9%	4.5%	1.7%	8.4%
	Multiple	304	16.8%	7.9%	12.8%	3.6%	7.9%
	<b>All mothers</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>
First time mothers	First time mother	6,558	14.3%	7.8%	3.6%	1.7%	6.2%
	Not a first time mother	14,604	15.3%	3.7%	5.0%	1.7%	9.3%
	Not known	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	<b>All mothers</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>
Ethnic group of mother	White	20,294	14.5%	5.0%	4.5%	1.7%	8.6%
	Non-white	831	25.9%	4.7%	6.4%	2.0%	3.5%
	Not stated / Blank	38	26.3%	5.3%	7.9%	0.0%	2.6%
	<b>All mothers</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>
Place of birth	Altnagelvin	2,333	16.8%	3.8%	6.3%	2.1%	7.3%
	Antrim	3,172	15.6%	4.0%	3.8%	1.6%	7.2%
	Causeway	524	4.6%	3.1%	2.5%	1.0%	5.5%
	Craigavon	3,170	21.8%	5.1%	3.1%	1.3%	6.1%
	Daisy Hill	1,928	3.3%	2.2%	2.8%	1.2%	4.4%
	Downe	2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Lagan Valley	63	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%
	Mater	0	-	-	-	-	-
	Royal	4,827	16.3%	6.9%	6.4%	1.5%	12.0%
	SWAH	1,179	9.7%	3.6%	2.4%	1.3%	7.9%
	Ulster	3,897	15.6%	6.1%	5.3%	2.6%	9.9%
	Home	68	4.4%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	1.5%
	<b>All mothers</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>
Trust of residence of mother	Belfast	4,129	15.1%	6.7%	6.5%	1.9%	11.5%
	Northern	5,071	14.6%	4.4%	3.8%	1.4%	7.5%
	South Eastern	3,585	16.8%	5.9%	5.1%	2.0%	10.1%
	Southern	4,826	14.6%	4.1%	3.0%	1.4%	5.7%
	Western	3,552	14.3%	3.9%	5.1%	2.0%	7.7%
	<b>All mothers</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>

**Table 6.3 continued: Mothers resident in Northern Ireland, by maternal risk factor, 2020/21**

		% mothers by risk factor					
		Total mothers	Diabetes	Pregnancy induced hypertension	Anaemia	Antepartum haemorrhage (APH)	History of psychiatric illness
Council area (2014)	Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,558	15.1%	4.8%	4.4%	1.7%	9.0%
	Ards and North Down	1,399	15.0%	6.2%	5.4%	2.4%	10.7%
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	2,498	15.5%	4.5%	3.1%	1.5%	6.6%
	Belfast	3,966	15.3%	6.8%	6.7%	1.7%	12.1%
	Causeway Coast and Glens	1,445	14.8%	3.8%	3.6%	1.7%	6.1%
	Derry City and Strabane	1,817	15.8%	3.9%	6.8%	2.1%	7.4%
	Fermanagh and Omagh	1,358	11.6%	3.9%	2.8%	1.8%	7.7%
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	1,593	17.7%	6.3%	4.6%	2.3%	9.0%
	Mid and East Antrim	1,346	15.2%	4.2%	3.3%	1.0%	9.2%
	Mid Ulster	1,998	14.4%	4.4%	3.6%	0.8%	5.1%
	Newry, Mourne and Down	2,185	13.9%	3.8%	3.8%	1.7%	6.3%
	<b>All mothers</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>
Deprivation 2017 quintile (SOA) based on residence of mother	Most deprived	4,656	15.1%	4.9%	6.6%	1.8%	12.4%
	2	4,467	15.8%	4.1%	4.7%	1.6%	8.7%
	3	4,328	14.6%	4.8%	3.9%	1.5%	7.4%
	4	4,107	15.4%	5.4%	4.1%	1.7%	6.4%
	Least deprived	3,605	14.1%	5.7%	3.4%	1.9%	6.1%
		<b>All mothers</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>

Source: NIMATS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Causeway Hospital was closed to deliveries between 8 April 2020 and 23 August 2020. Mater Hospital closed to deliveries on 30 March 2020 (it became a COVID Centre) and all deliveries were relocated to Royal Victoria Hospital. The Mater is still closed to deliveries.

NI Statistics and Research Agency, NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/nisra-releases-updated-deprivation-measures-northern-ireland>

Alcohol use - figures are too small and so have not been provided

## Diabetes and smoking

Table 6.4: Mothers resident in Northern Ireland, who are diabetic and smoke, 2012/13 - 2020/21

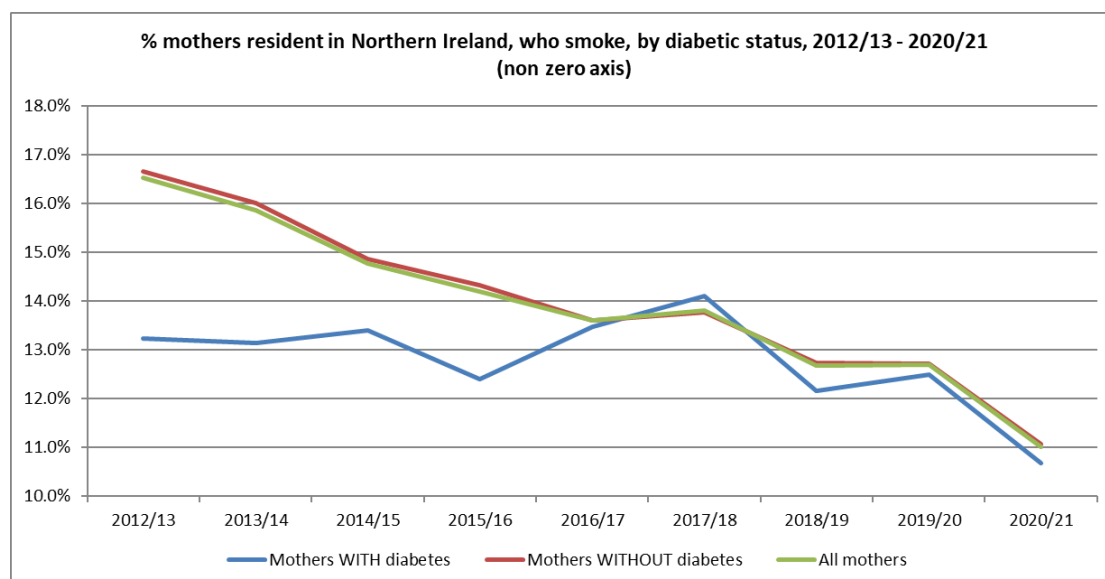
	Year of birth	Mothers giving birth	Mothers who smoke (at antenatal booking)	
		n	n	%
<b>Mothers WITH diabetes (any type)</b>	2012/13	899	119	13.2%
	2013/14	1,234	162	13.1%
	2014/15	1,352	181	13.4%
	2015/16	1,653	205	12.4%
	2016/17	1,968	265	13.5%
	2017/18	2,086	294	14.1%
	2018/19	2,500	304	12.2%
	2019/20	2,969	371	12.5%
	2020/21	3,177	339	10.7%
<b>Mothers WITHOUT diabetes</b>	2012/13	23,639	3,936	16.7%
	2013/14	22,599	3,616	16.0%
	2014/15	22,617	3,359	14.9%
	2015/16	22,392	3,205	14.3%
	2016/17	21,737	2,957	13.6%
	2017/18	20,624	2,840	13.8%
	2018/19	20,085	2,558	12.7%
	2019/20	19,115	2,430	12.7%
	2020/21	17,986	1,990	11.1%
<b>All mothers</b>	2012/13	24,538	4,055	16.5%
	2013/14	23,833	3,778	15.9%
	2014/15	23,969	3,540	14.8%
	2015/16	24,045	3,410	14.2%
	2016/17	23,705	3,222	13.6%
	2017/18	22,710	3,134	13.8%
	2018/19	22,585	2,862	12.7%
	2019/20	22,084	2,801	12.7%
	2020/21	21,163	2,329	11.0%

Source: NIMATS

In September 2016, new screens were added to NIMATS to collect more detailed data on the mother's smoking habits. This data could not be used due to the large number of incomplete records. However from 2018/19, CO levels, the proportion of mothers who smoked and the number of cigarettes smoked per day will be presented using this new data. As a result of this change in source of smoking data, how the percentage of mothers who smoked is calculated will change from 2018/19 onwards and so the smoking information presented in this report is now shown as a valid percentage i.e. the % calculation is based on those records where smoking status was known and blank data has been removed from the denominator value.

NOTE THAT DUE TO COVID-19, CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) MONITORING CEASED APRIL 2020 AND RECOMMENCED NOVEMBER 2021. CO MONITORING IS RECORDED AT THE SAME TIME AS SMOKING STATUS AND SO IT IS LIKELY THAT SOME WOMEN WILL NOT HAVE HAD A SMOKING STATUS RECORDED

Figure 6.2: Mothers resident in Northern Ireland, who are diabetic and who smoke, 2012/13 - 2020/21



Source: NIMATS

# Section 7: Maternal BMI

## Key Points

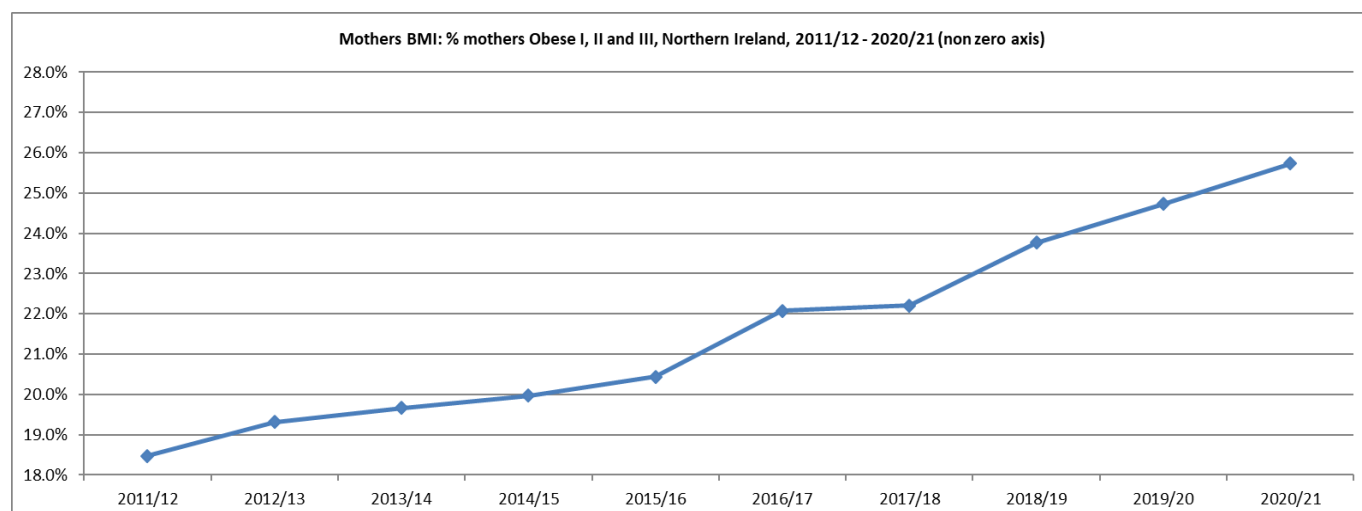
- Over a quarter (25.7%) of mothers giving birth during 2020/21 were measured as obese at time of antenatal booking appointment (BMI = 30.00 or more). This proportion has increased year on year since 2011/12. [Page 36]
- In 2020/21, over half (56.7%) of mothers at the time of booking, were considered pre-obese or obese (BMI = 25.00 or more). Again this figure has increased continually since 2011/12 (47.8%). [Page 36]
- Levels of obesity in mothers, in general, increased with age e.g. in 2020/21, 35.2% of mothers aged less than twenty years were considered pre-obese/obese, compared to 60.8% of mothers aged 40 and over (all mothers = 56.7%). [Page 37]
- Levels of obesity decreased as level of deprivation decreased (NIMDM 2017). In 2020/21, 59.2% of mothers from the most deprived areas were classified as pre-obese/obese, compared to 52.1% from the least deprived areas (all mothers = 56.7%). [Page 38]

**Table 7.1: Body Mass Index, at time of booking, of mothers resident in Northern Ireland who gave birth, 2011/12 – 2020/21**

Year of birth		Mothers by BMI at booking							Total	Total: Obese I, II and III
		Underweight (<18.50)	Normal (18.50 - 24.99)	Pre-obese (25.00 - 29.99)	Obese I (30.00 - 34.99)	Obese II (35.00 - 39.99)	Obese III (≥40.00)	Not known		
2011/12	n	487	11,540	6,753	2,733	1,032	489	947	<b>23,981</b>	<b>4,254</b>
	%	2.1%	50.1%	29.3%	11.9%	4.5%	2.1%	-	-	<b>18.5%</b>
2012/13	n	509	11,805	7,037	2,971	1,115	547	552	<b>24,536</b>	<b>4,633</b>
	%	2.1%	49.2%	29.3%	12.4%	4.6%	2.3%	-	-	<b>19.3%</b>
2013/14	n	470	11,430	6,950	2,923	1,174	515	368	<b>23,830</b>	<b>4,612</b>
	%	2.0%	48.7%	29.6%	12.5%	5.0%	2.2%	-	-	<b>19.7%</b>
2014/15	n	472	11,512	6,952	2,933	1,215	576	307	<b>23,967</b>	<b>4,724</b>
	%	2.0%	48.7%	29.4%	12.4%	5.1%	2.4%	-	-	<b>20.0%</b>
2015/16	n	472	11,216	7,178	2,970	1,271	605	331	<b>24,043</b>	<b>4,846</b>
	%	2.0%	47.3%	30.3%	12.5%	5.4%	2.6%	-	-	<b>20.4%</b>
2016/17	n	456	10,704	7,043	3,148	1,332	676	345	<b>23,704</b>	<b>5,156</b>
	%	2.0%	45.8%	30.2%	13.5%	5.7%	2.9%	-	-	<b>22.1%</b>
2017/18	n	435	10,213	6,776	3,028	1,351	595	307	<b>22,705</b>	<b>4,974</b>
	%	1.9%	45.6%	30.3%	13.5%	6.0%	2.7%	-	-	<b>22.2%</b>
2018/19	n	359	9,953	6,808	3,254	1,408	675	125	<b>22,582</b>	<b>5,337</b>
	%	1.6%	44.3%	30.3%	14.5%	6.3%	3.0%	-	-	<b>23.8%</b>
2019/20	n	382	9,463	6,682	3,345	1,416	669	127	<b>22,084</b>	<b>5,430</b>
	%	1.7%	43.1%	30.4%	15.2%	6.4%	3.0%	-	-	<b>24.7%</b>
2020/21	n	321	8,769	6,515	3,173	1,475	758	152	<b>21,163</b>	<b>5,406</b>
	%	1.5%	41.7%	31.0%	15.1%	7.0%	3.6%	-	-	<b>25.7%</b>

Source: NIMATS

**Figure 7.1: % mothers Obese I, II and III, Northern Ireland, 2011/12 – 2020/21**



Source: NIMATS

**Table 7.2: Body Mass Index, at time of booking, of mothers resident in Northern Ireland who gave birth, 2020/21**

		Mothers by BMI at booking							Total	% obese I, II and III
		Under weight (<18.50)	Normal (18.50 - 24.99)	Pre-obese (25.00 - 29.99)	Obese I (30.00 - 34.99)	Obese II (35.00 - 39.99)	Obese III (≥40.00)	Not known		
Age Group of mother	Under 20	34	279	99	52	12	7	11	494	14.7%
	20 - 24	75	1,072	629	391	177	78	20	2,442	26.7%
	25 - 29	96	2,121	1,660	870	432	221	26	5,426	28.2%
	30 - 34	81	3,200	2,444	1,068	487	277	53	7,610	24.2%
	35 - 39	30	1,740	1,382	649	280	145	31	4,257	25.4%
	40 +	5	357	301	143	87	30	11	934	28.2%
	<b>All mothers</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>8,769</b>	<b>6,515</b>	<b>3,173</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>25.7%</b>
Multiple births	Single	320	8,661	6,418	3,119	1,455	737	149	20,859	25.6%
	Multiple	1	108	97	54	20	21	3	304	31.6%
	<b>All mothers</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>8,769</b>	<b>6,515</b>	<b>3,173</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>25.7%</b>
Ethnic group of mother	White	300	8,413	6,223	3,045	1,434	737	142	20,294	25.9%
	Non-white	21	340	277	125	39	21	8	831	22.5%
	Not stated / Blank	0	16	15	3	2	0	2	38	13.9%
	<b>All mothers</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>8,769</b>	<b>6,515</b>	<b>3,173</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>25.7%</b>
Place of birth	Altnagelvin	47	936	687	403	167	92	1	2,333	28.4%
	Antrim	68	1,320	951	453	230	130	20	3,172	25.8%
	Causeway	7	255	152	80	<30	<5	4	524	<25.7%
	Craigavon	42	1,231	991	496	252	145	13	3,170	28.3%
	Daisy Hill	16	841	669	246	119	35	2	1,928	20.8%
	Downe / Lagan Valley	0	34	15	10	0	0	6	65	16.9%
	Mater	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Royal	84	2,003	1,416	781	328	193	22	4,827	27.1%
	SWAH	7	500	396	168	72	<35	<5	1,179	<25.7%
	Ulster	50	1,612	1,219	527	280	129	80	3,897	24.5%
	Home	0	37	19	9	<5	0	<5	68	<25.7%
	<b>All mothers</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>8,769</b>	<b>6,515</b>	<b>3,173</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>25.7%</b>
Trust of residence of mother	Belfast	72	1,728	1,262	606	292	150	19	4,129	25.5%
	Northern	92	2,152	1,549	739	341	172	26	5,071	24.8%
	South Eastern	51	1,465	1,066	538	254	132	79	3,585	26.4%
	Southern	54	1,965	1,557	711	343	178	18	4,826	25.6%
	Western	52	1,459	1,081	579	245	126	10	3,552	26.8%
	<b>All mothers</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>8,769</b>	<b>6,515</b>	<b>3,173</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>21,163</b>	<b>25.7%</b>

**Table 7.2 continued: Body Mass Index, at time of booking, of mothers resident in Northern Ireland who gave birth, 2020/21**

		Mothers by BMI at booking							Total	% obese I, II and III
		Under weight (<18.50)	Normal (18.50 - 24.99)	Pre-obese (25.00 - 29.99)	Obese I (30.00 - 34.99)	Obese II (35.00 - 39.99)	Obese III (≥40.00)	Not known		
Council area (2014)	Antrim and Newtownabbey	37	645	485	242	97	51	1	<b>1,558</b>	25.0%
	Ards and North Down	18	594	440	189	110	41	7	<b>1,399</b>	24.4%
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	28	1,002	794	387	189	88	10	<b>2,498</b>	26.7%
	Belfast	69	1,653	1,172	618	283	151	20	<b>3,966</b>	26.7%
	Causeway Coast and Glens	17	625	445	204	87	51	16	<b>1,445</b>	23.9%
	Derry City and Strabane	40	726	529	314	135	70	3	<b>1,817</b>	28.6%
	Fermanagh and Omagh	10	584	434	204	80	39	7	<b>1,358</b>	23.9%
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	24	679	483	221	97	59	30	<b>1,593</b>	24.1%
	Mid and East Antrim	26	569	384	209	107	46	5	<b>1,346</b>	27.0%
	Mid Ulster	29	830	658	265	134	73	9	<b>1,998</b>	23.7%
	Newry, Mourne and Down	23	862	691	320	156	89	44	<b>2,185</b>	26.4%
		<b>All infants</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>8,769</b>	<b>6,515</b>	<b>3,173</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>21,163</b>
Deprivation 2017 quintile (SOA) based on residence of mother	Most deprived	90	1,797	1,375	785	384	196	29	<b>4,656</b>	29.5%
	2	71	1,738	1,390	695	353	189	31	<b>4,467</b>	27.9%
	3	50	1,761	1,392	651	278	154	42	<b>4,328</b>	25.3%
	4	47	1,820	1,241	567	270	137	25	<b>4,107</b>	23.9%
	Least deprived	63	1,653	1,117	475	190	82	25	<b>3,605</b>	20.9%
		<b>All mothers</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>8,769</b>	<b>6,515</b>	<b>3,173</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>21,163</b>

Source: NIMATS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Causeway Hospital was closed to deliveries between 8 April 2020 and 23 August 2020. Mater Hospital closed to deliveries on 30 March 2020 (it became a COVID Centre) and all deliveries were relocated to Royal Victoria Hospital. The Mater is still closed to deliveries.

NI Statistics and Research Agency, NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/nisra-releases-updated-deprivation-measures-northern-ireland>

Due to small numbers, it is not possible to show data by individual ethnic group

Disclosure controls have been applied to this table. As a result, for some places of birth, it is not possible to show the exact percentage values in the final column and so a comparison to the NI value has been provided. There were 2 births recorded in Downe Hospital during 2020/21 – disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Downe and Lagan Valley Hospitals.

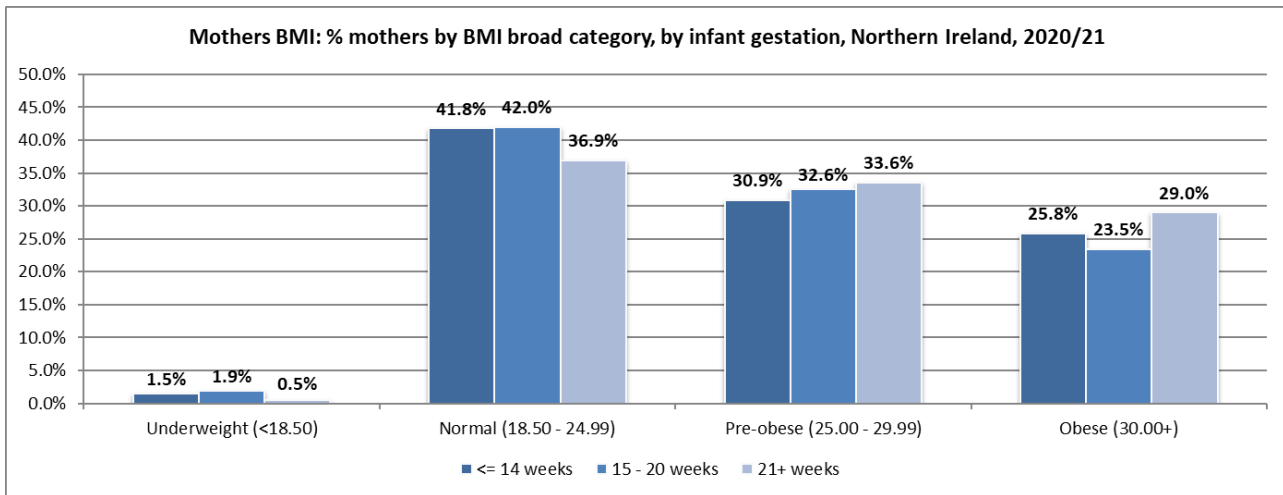
**Table 7.3: Body Mass Index, at time of booking, of mothers resident in Northern Ireland by infant gestation at time of booking (completed weeks), 2020/21**

Infant gestation at booking	Mother's BMI at booking / No. of infants							Grand Total	% obese I, II and III (BMI known)
	Under weight (<18.50)	Normal (18.50 - 24.99)	Pre-obese (25.00 - 29.99)	Obese I (30.00 - 34.99)	Obese II (35.00 - 39.99)	Obese III (40.00+)	Not known		
≤ 14 weeks	299	8,237	6,086	2,988	1,382	724	128	<b>19,844</b>	<b>25.8%</b>
15 - 20 weeks	<25	433	336	141	67	34	<10	<b>1,038</b>	<b>23.5%</b>
21+ weeks	<5	210	191	98	46	21	<20	<b>588</b>	<b>29.0%</b>
Not known	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	<b>1</b>	-
Grand Total	<b>322</b>	<b>8,880</b>	<b>6,613</b>	<b>3,227</b>	<b>1,495</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>25.8%</b>

Source: NIMATS

Disclosure controls have been applied to this table.

**Figure 7.2: % mothers by BMI category, by infant gestation, Northern Ireland, 2020/21**



The data from Table 5.2 [Page 24] shows that younger women are more likely to attend for their antenatal booking appointment later in their pregnancy. Women under 20 years tend to be less overweight/obese and this can confuse the picture.

Table 7.4 below looks at women who attend antenatal booking, in under 15 weeks only, across a range of risk factors and outcomes by maternal weight at booking.

**Table 7.4: Body Mass Index, at time of booking, of mothers resident in Northern Ireland, who booked at ≤14 weeks gestation, by various risk factors/outcomes, 2016/17 - 2020/21**

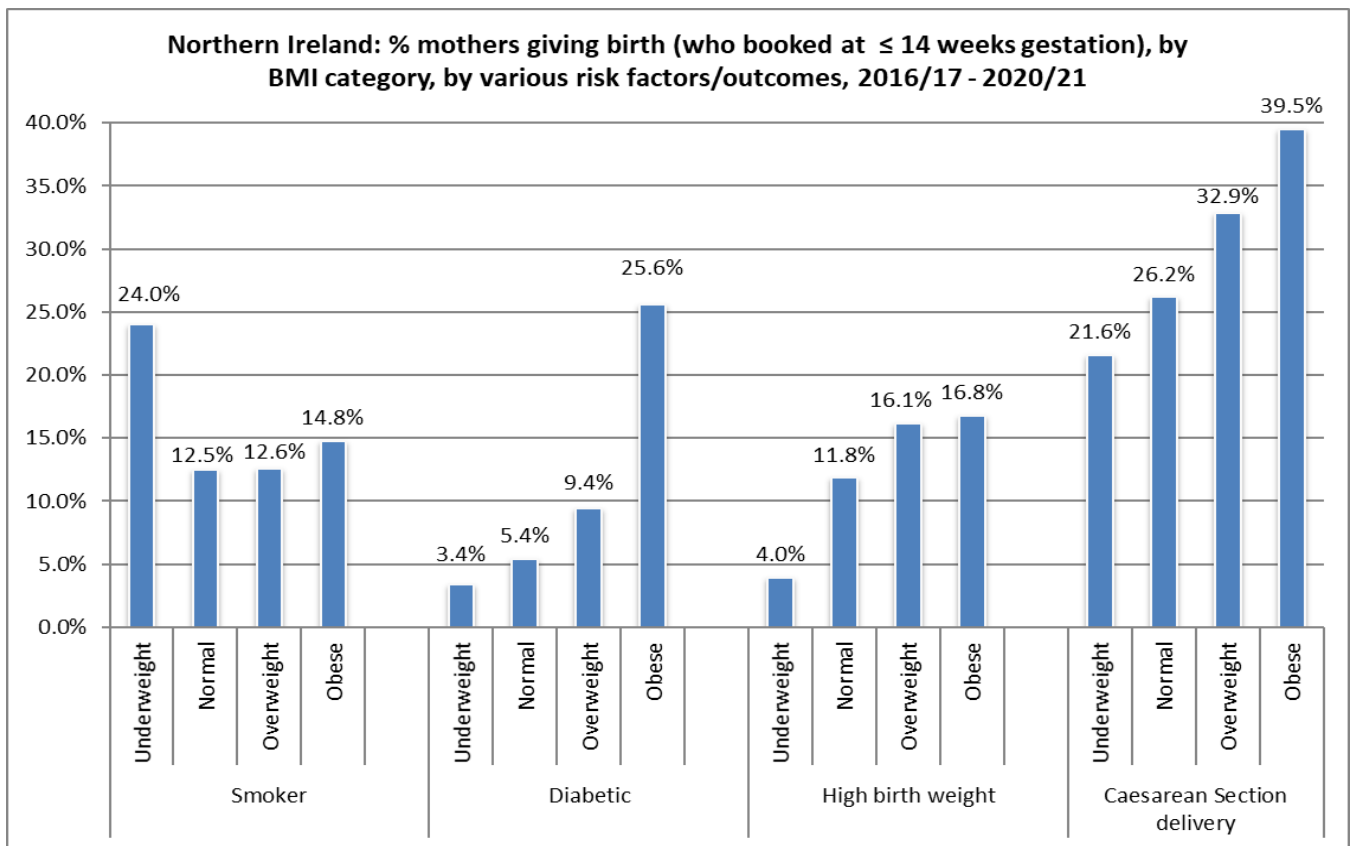
Risk factor/outcome (blanks/not knowns removed except diabetes)		No. of mothers	Mother's BMI at booking (% of BMI category)					TOTAL
			Under-weight (<18.50)	Normal (18.50 - 24.99)	Overweight (25.00 - 29.99)	Obese (≥30.00)	Not known	
Birth weight	Low birth weight (<2,500g)	6,079	12.0%	5.6%	4.8%	5.1%	13.1%	5.4%
	2500 - 3999g	90,222	84.0%	82.6%	79.0%	78.1%	72.9%	80.4%
	High birth weight (> 4000g)	15,904	4.0%	11.8%	16.1%	16.8%	14.0%	14.2%
	<b>Total mothers</b>	<b>112,205</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delivery method	Elective Caesarean	18,202	9.6%	13.6%	16.8%	21.0%	11.9%	16.2%
	Emergency Caesarean	16,898	12.0%	12.6%	16.1%	18.5%	16.0%	15.1%
	Normal	64,040	64.1%	60.1%	56.0%	52.0%	63.3%	57.1%
	Other	13,106	14.3%	13.7%	11.1%	8.5%	8.8%	11.7%
	<b>Total mothers</b>	<b>112,246</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gestation at delivery (completed weeks)	<28 weeks	502	0.7%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	4.2%	0.5%
	28 - 31 weeks	718	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	1.7%	0.6%
	32 - 36 weeks	6,447	9.1%	5.5%	5.6%	6.1%	10.0%	5.7%
	37 - 38 weeks	24,663	23.3%	20.3%	20.6%	26.8%	22.3%	22.0%
	39+ weeks	79,917	66.3%	73.2%	72.9%	65.9%	61.8%	71.2%
	<b>Total mothers</b>	<b>112,247</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Breastfeeding (live)	Total	41,677	36.1%	44.0%	37.0%	26.4%	40.1%	37.6%
	Partial	13,008	9.6%	11.0%	12.1%	12.9%	12.4%	11.7%
	Not at all	56,205	54.3%	45.1%	50.9%	60.7%	47.3%	50.7%
	Other	30	0.00%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.20%	0.03%
	<b>Total mothers</b>	<b>110,920</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smoker (recorded at booking)	Yes	10,653	24.0%	12.5%	12.6%	14.8%	9.8%	13.3%
	No	69,483	76.0%	87.5%	87.4%	85.2%	90.2%	86.7%
	<b>Total mothers</b>	<b>80,136</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	Yes	12,700	3.4%	5.4%	9.4%	25.6%	8.7%	11.3%
	Not known	99,547	96.6%	94.7%	90.6%	74.4%	91.3%	88.7%
	<b>Total mothers</b>	<b>112,247</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: NIMATS

Data above refers to mothers giving birth between 2016/17 and 2020/21

The percentage of mothers is shown as a valid percentage (except for diabetes) i.e. the % calculation is based on those records where data has been completed - blanks or unknowns have been removed from the denominator value.

**Figure 7.3: % mothers giving birth (who booked at ≤ 14 weeks gestation), by BMI category, by various risk factors/outcomes, Northern Ireland, 2016/17 - 2020/21**





# Section 8: Method of Delivery

## Key Points

- In 2020/21, 33.5% of infants were delivered by Caesarian section (2019/20=32.9%, 2018/19=31.2%, 2017/18=31.0%). [Page 41]
- In 2020/21, the proportion of infants born by Caesarian increased with age of mother, from 20.0% of those aged less than 20 years to 50.5% of those aged over 40 years. Whilst mothers under 30 years of age had a higher percentage of births by emergency Caesarian section (16.3%) than by elective Caesarian section (11.0%), the opposite is seen when the mother is over 30 years of age where 21.6% of births are by elective Caesarian section and 16.0% are by emergency Caesarian section. [Page 42]
- In 2020/21, of those hospitals providing Caesarean Sections, the proportion of infants born by this method, ranged from 27.2% in Craigavon Area Hospital to 45.6% in Daisy Hill Hospital. (All infants = 33.5%). The proportion of infants born by Caesarian has increased across Altnagelvin, Daisy Hill, South West Acute and Ulster Hospitals on the previous year 2019/20. [Page 43]

**Table 8.1: Births to Northern Ireland residents, by method of delivery, 2010/11 – 2020/21**

Year of birth		Infants born by method of delivery							Total	Infants born by Caesarean Section
		Elective C/S	Emergency C/S	C/S Other	Normal	Other	Not known			
2010/11	n	3,614	3,518	16	14,318	3,313	880	25,659	7,148	
	%	14.6%	14.2%	0.1%	57.8%	13.4%	-	-	28.8%	
2011/12	n	3,614	3,509	0	14,291	3,744	151	25,309	7,123	
	%	14.4%	13.9%	0.0%	56.8%	14.9%	-	-	28.3%	
2012/13	n	3,785	3,610	0	13,902	3,574	157	25,028	7,395	
	%	15.2%	14.5%	0.0%	55.9%	14.4%	-	-	29.7%	
2013/14	n	3,475	3,484	0	13,778	3,393	147	24,277	6,959	
	%	14.4%	14.4%	0.0%	57.1%	14.1%	-	-	28.8%	
2014/15	n	3,473	3,550	0	13,754	3,525	98	24,400	7,023	
	%	14.3%	14.6%	0.0%	56.6%	14.5%	-	-	28.9%	
2015/16	n	3,742	3,492	0	13,832	3,262	108	24,436	7,234	
	%	15.4%	14.4%	0.0%	56.9%	13.4%	-	-	29.7%	
2016/17	n	3,832	3,480	0	13,527	3,130	110	24,079	7,312	
	%	16.0%	14.5%	0.0%	56.4%	13.1%	-	-	30.5%	
2017/18	n	3,677	3,458	0	13,144	2,766	0	23,045	7,135	
	%	16.0%	15.0%	0.0%	57.0%	12.0%	-	-	31.0%	
2018/19	n	3,701	3,454	0	13,014	2,788	0	22,957	7,155	
	%	16.1%	15.0%	0.0%	56.7%	12.1%	-	-	31.2%	
2019/20	n	3,808	3,562	0	12,430	2,610	0	22,410	7,370	
	%	17.0%	15.9%	0.0%	55.5%	11.6%	-	-	32.9%	
2020/21	n	3,740	3,460	0	11,824	2,446	1	21,471	7,200	
	%	17.4%	16.1%	0.0%	55.1%	11.4%	-	-	33.5%	

Source: Child Health System (2010/11 - 2016/17), NIMATS (2017/18 onwards)

Following a change in the interface between NIMATS and CHS during 2017/18, fields containing information on method of delivery, which had usually transferred from NIMATS to CHS are not now available on CHS. As a result, the data must be sourced from NIMATS. The data from both sources were analysed and the impact of changing the source of the data was considered minimal.

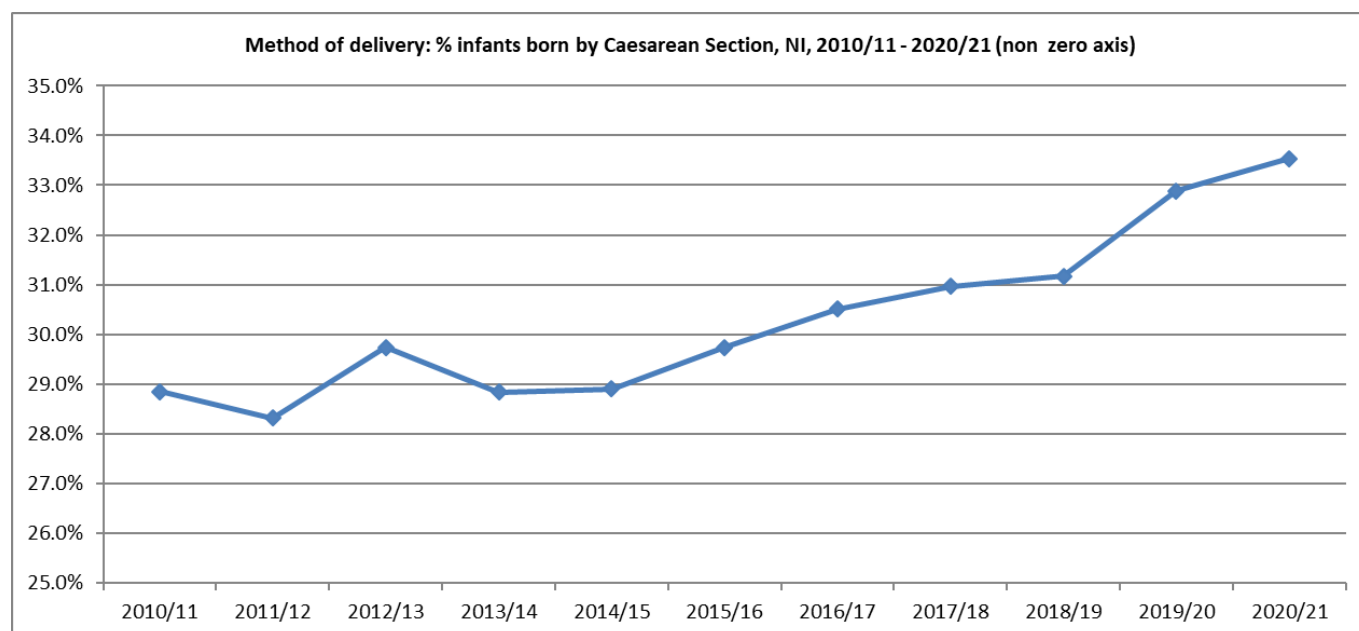
Method of delivery – categories used (CHS)

- Normal: normal vertex
- Elective Caesarean: elective, planned or scheduled Caesarean
- Emergency Caesarean: crash, emergency or urgent Caesarean
- Other: assisted breech, breech delivery, breech extraction, forceps (low), forceps (other), other cephalic, spontaneous breech or vacuum

Method of delivery – categories used (NIMATS)

- Normal: normal face to pubis or normal occiput anterior
- Elective Caesarean
- Emergency Caesarean
- Other: assisted breech, Barnes-Neville forceps, breech extraction, Haig-Ferguson forceps, Kielland's forceps, spontaneous breech, vacuum extraction or Wrigley's forceps

**Figure 8.1: % infants born by Caesarean Section, Northern Ireland, 2010/11 – 2020/21**



**Table 8.2: Births to Northern Ireland residents, by method of delivery, 2020/21**

		Infants born by method of delivery					Total	% infants born by Caesarean Section
		Elective C/S	Emergency C/S	Normal	Other	Not known		
Age Group of mother	Under 20	23	77	324	75	0	499	20.0%
	20 - 24	189	405	1,557	317	0	2,468	24.1%
	25 - 29	719	895	3,205	688	0	5,507	29.3%
	30 - 34	1,429	1,275	4,131	894	0	7,729	35.0%
	35 - 39	1,074	634	2,210	399	1	4,318	39.6%
	40 +	306	174	397	73	0	950	50.5%
	Not known	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>All infants</b>	<b>3,740</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>11,824</b>	<b>2,446</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>33.5%</b>	
Multiple births	Single	3,523	3,262	11,729	2,344	1	20,859	32.5%
	Multiple	217	198	95	102	0	612	67.8%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>3,740</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>11,824</b>	<b>2,446</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>33.5%</b>
First time mothers	First time mother	538	1,765	2,834	1,510	0	6,647	34.6%
	Not a first-time mother	3,202	1,695	8,989	936	1	14,823	33.0%
	Not known	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.0%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>3,740</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>11,824</b>	<b>2,446</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>33.5%</b>
Ethnic group of mother	White	3,616	3,280	11,343	2,350	1	20,590	33.5%
	Asian	37	47	138	29	0	251	33.5%
	Black	24	40	89	16	0	169	37.9%
	Mixed	14	17	63	8	0	102	30.4%
	Other	45	66	169	41	0	321	34.6%
	Not stated / Blank	4	10	22	2	0	38	36.8%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>3,740</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>11,824</b>	<b>2,446</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>33.5%</b>
Ethnic group of infant	White	3,576	3,223	11,176	2,332	1	20,308	33.5%
	Asian	28	38	122	17	0	205	32.2%
	Black	18	27	81	14	0	140	32.1%
	Mixed	66	93	227	48	0	434	36.6%
	Other	52	70	211	33	0	366	33.3%
	Not stated / Blank	0	9	7	2	0	18	50.0%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>3,740</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>11,824</b>	<b>2,446</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>33.5%</b>

**Table 8.2 continued: Births to Northern Ireland residents, by method of delivery, 2020/21**

	Infants born by method of delivery						% infants born by Caesarean Section	
	Elective C/S	Emergency C/S	Normal	Other	Not known	Total		
Place of birth	Altnagelvin	466	428	1,208	275	0	<b>2,377</b>	37.6%
	Antrim	614	515	1,790	310	1	<b>3,230</b>	35.0%
	Causeway	85	75	298	66	0	<b>524</b>	30.5%
	Craigavon	335	540	1,979	363	0	<b>3,217</b>	27.2%
	Daisy Hill	641	245	897	162	0	<b>1,945</b>	45.6%
	Downe / Lagan Valley	0	0	65	0	0	<b>65</b>	0.0%
	Mater	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	-
	Royal	682	780	2,820	636	0	<b>4,918</b>	29.7%
	SWAH	205	153	671	161	0	<b>1,190</b>	30.1%
	Ulster	712	724	2,028	473	0	<b>3,937</b>	36.5%
	Home	0	0	68	0	0	<b>68</b>	0.0%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>3,740</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>11,824</b>	<b>2,446</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>33.5%</b>
Trust of residence of mother	Belfast	624	665	2,363	540	0	<b>4,192</b>	30.7%
	Northern	913	814	2,890	541	1	<b>5,159</b>	33.5%
	South Eastern	615	648	1,942	424	0	<b>3,629</b>	34.8%
	Southern	916	735	2,725	505	0	<b>4,881</b>	33.8%
	Western	672	598	1,904	436	0	<b>3,610</b>	35.2%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>3,740</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>11,824</b>	<b>2,446</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>33.5%</b>
Council area (2014)	Antrim and Newtownabbey	255	263	899	169	1	<b>1,587</b>	32.7%
	Ards and North Down	255	261	733	165	0	<b>1,414</b>	36.5%
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	448	359	1,451	271	0	<b>2,529</b>	31.9%
	Belfast	566	638	2,322	504	0	<b>4,030</b>	29.9%
	Causeway Coast and Glens	289	233	800	147	0	<b>1,469</b>	35.5%
	Derry City and Strabane	334	345	940	227	0	<b>1,846</b>	36.8%
	Fermanagh and Omagh	249	201	756	173	0	<b>1,379</b>	32.6%
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	285	277	843	207	0	<b>1,612</b>	34.9%
	Mid and East Antrim	224	195	806	144	0	<b>1,369</b>	30.6%
	Mid Ulster	396	320	1,100	208	0	<b>2,024</b>	35.4%
	Newry, Mourne and Down	439	368	1,174	231	0	<b>2,212</b>	36.5%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>3,740</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>11,824</b>	<b>2,446</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>33.5%</b>
Deprivation 2017 quintile (SOA) based on residence of mother	Most deprived	762	757	2,678	525	0	<b>4,722</b>	32.2%
	2	752	731	2,579	471	0	<b>4,533</b>	32.7%
	3	812	676	2,419	483	0	<b>4,390</b>	33.9%
	4	733	709	2,264	465	0	<b>4,171</b>	34.6%
	Least deprived	681	587	1,884	502	1	<b>3,655</b>	34.7%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>3,740</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>11,824</b>	<b>2,446</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>33.5%</b>

Source: NIMATS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Causeway Hospital was closed to deliveries between 8 April 2020 and 23 August 2020. Mater Hospital closed to deliveries on 30 March 2020 (it became a COVID Centre) and all deliveries were relocated to Royal Victoria Hospital. The Mater is still closed to deliveries.

Disclosure controls have been applied to the data. There were 2 births recorded in Downe Hospital during 2020/21 – disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Downe and Lagan Valley Hospitals.

Method of delivery – categories used

- Normal: normal face to pubis or normal occiput anterior
- Elective Caesarean
- Emergency Caesarean
- Other: assisted breech, Barnes-Neville forceps, breech extraction, Kielland's forceps, spontaneous breech, vacuum extraction or Wrigley's forceps

NI Statistics and Research Agency, NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

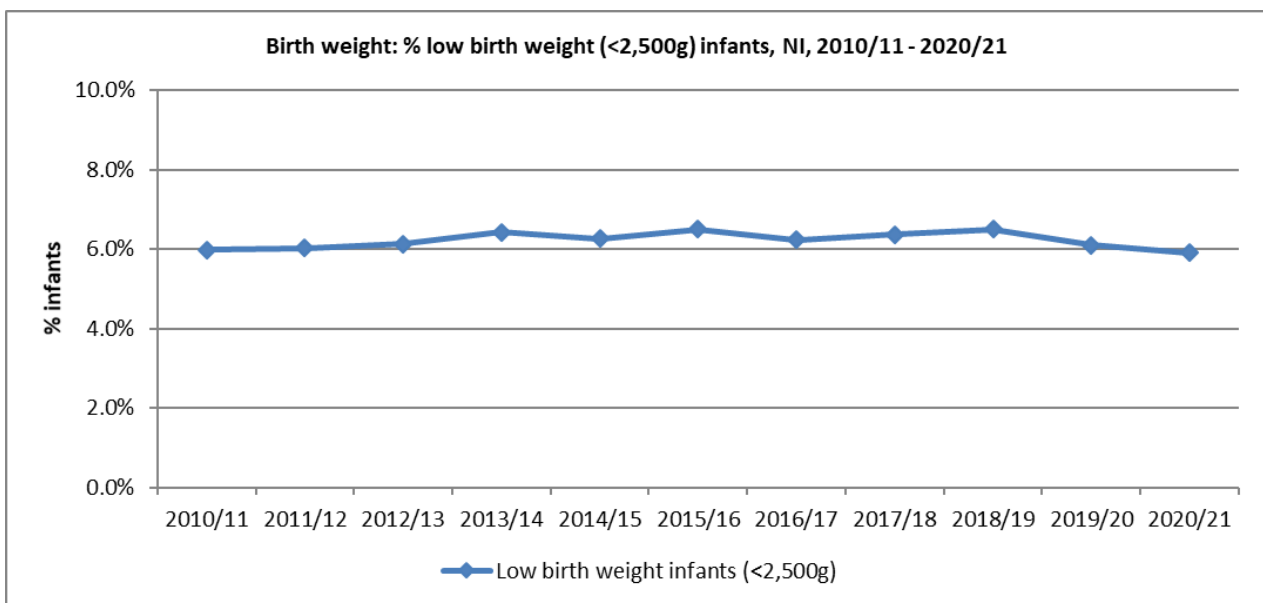
<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/nisra-releases-updated-deprivation-measures-northern-ireland>

# Section 9: Infant Birth Weight

## Key Points

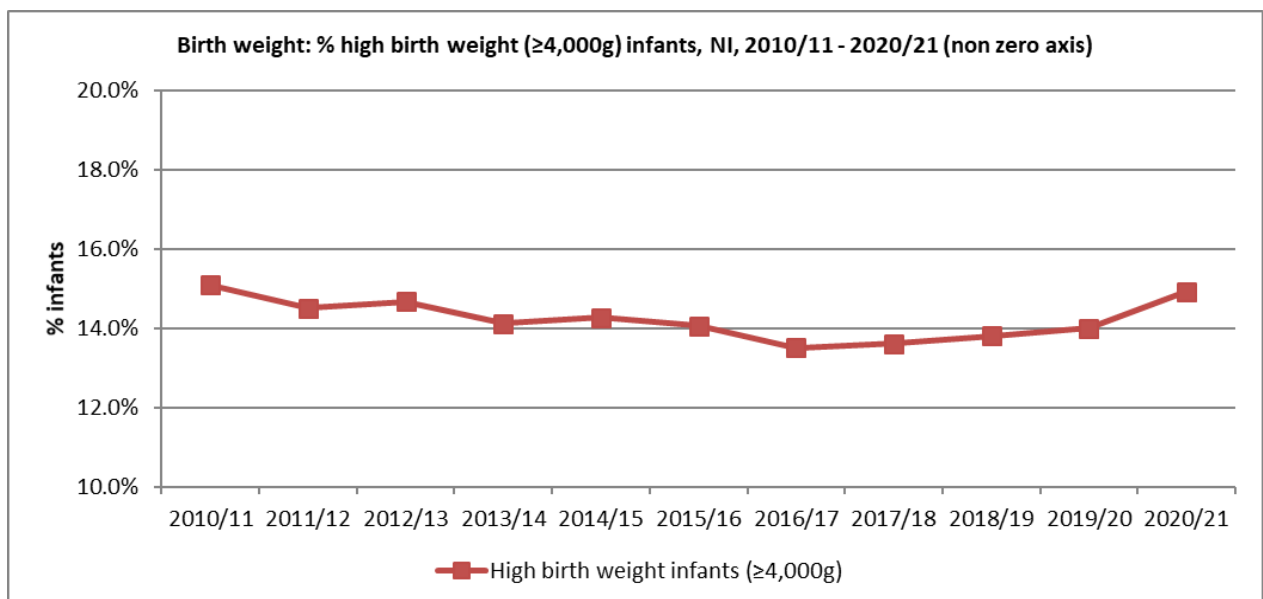
- In 2020/21, 5.9% of all births were measured as low birth weight i.e. less than 2,500g (5.7% of live and 65.1% of still births). 15.0% of live infants were born with a higher birth weight of 4,000g+ and, of these, 2.0% with a birth weight of 4,500g+. [Page 46, 45]
- A higher proportion (15.3%) of mothers in 2020/21 who were of a white ethnic group had infants with a higher birth weight ( $\geq 4,000\text{g}$ ) than those of a non-white ethnic group (6.6%). (All infants = 14.9%). [Page 46]
- The proportion of low birth weight infants born to mothers residing in the most deprived areas in 2020/21 was higher at 7.6% than to mothers from least deprived areas (4.6%). [Page 47]

Figure 9.1: Percentage low birth weight infants, Northern Ireland, 2010/11 – 2020/21



Source: Child Health System

Figure 9.2: Percentage high birth weight ( $\geq 4,000\text{g}$ ) infants, Northern Ireland, 2010/11 – 2020/21



Source: Child Health System

**Table 9.1: Births to Northern Ireland residents, by birth weight, 2010/11 - 2020/21**

Year of birth		Infants born by birth weight							Low birth weight infants (<2,500g)	High birth weight infants (≥4,000g)	High birth weight infants (≥4,500g)
		LIVE BIRTHS									
		< 1,500g	1,500 - 2,499g	2,500 - 3,999g	4,000 - 4,499g	4,500+g	Not known	Total			
2010/11	n	251	1,220	20,190	3,245	621	29	25,556	1,471	3,866	621
	%	1.0%	4.8%	79.1%	12.7%	2.4%	-	-	5.76%	15.14%	2.43%
2011/12	n	247	1,218	20,062	3,075	590	28	25,220	1,465	3,665	590
	%	1.0%	4.8%	79.6%	12.2%	2.3%	-	-	5.82%	14.55%	2.34%
2012/13	n	229	1,225	19,767	3,118	548	24	24,911	1,454	3,666	548
	%	0.9%	4.9%	79.4%	12.5%	2.2%	-	-	5.84%	14.73%	2.20%
2013/14	n	243	1,241	19,238	2,942	480	25	24,169	1,484	3,422	480
	%	1.0%	5.1%	79.7%	12.2%	2.0%	-	-	6.15%	14.17%	1.99%
2014/15	n	238	1,221	19,341	2,997	477	35	24,309	1,459	3,474	477
	%	1.0%	5.0%	79.7%	12.3%	2.0%	-	-	6.01%	14.31%	1.97%
2015/16	n	206	1,327	19,333	2,923	504	55	24,348	1,533	3,427	504
	%	0.8%	5.5%	79.6%	12.0%	2.1%	-	-	6.31%	14.11%	2.07%
2016/17	n	239	1,208	19,261	2,764	484	21	23,977	1,447	3,248	484
	%	1.0%	5.0%	80.4%	11.5%	2.0%	-	-	6.04%	13.56%	2.02%
2017/18	n	208	1,187	18,361	2,711	416	20	22,903	1,395	3,127	416
	%	0.9%	5.2%	80.2%	11.8%	1.8%	-	-	6.10%	13.67%	1.82%
2018/19	n	221	1,221	18,226	2,753	404	14	22,839	1,442	3,157	404
	%	1.0%	5.3%	79.9%	12.1%	1.8%	-	-	6.32%	13.83%	1.77%
2019/20	n	193	1,121	17,839	2,735	391	12	22,291	1,314	3,126	391
	%	0.9%	5.0%	80.1%	12.3%	1.8%	-	-	5.90%	14.03%	1.76%
2020/21	n	210	990	16,840	2,755	424	14	21,233	1,200	3,179	424
	%	1.0%	4.7%	79.4%	13.0%	2.0%	-	-	5.66%	14.98%	2.00%

Source: Child Health System

Year of birth		Infants born by birth weight					Low birth weight infants (<2,500g)
		STILL BIRTHS					
		< 1,500g	1,500 - 2,499g	2,500+g	Not known	Total	
2010/11	n	38	24	38	3	103	62
	%	38.0%	24.0%	38.0%	-	-	62.00%
2011/12	n	34	25	29	1	89	59
	%	38.6%	28.4%	33.0%	-	-	67.05%
2012/13	n	53	25	39	0	117	78
	%	45.3%	21.4%	33.3%	-	-	66.67%
2013/14	n	50	25	32	1	108	75
	%	46.7%	23.4%	29.9%	-	-	70.09%
2014/15	n	43	23	24	1	91	66
	%	47.8%	25.6%	26.7%	-	-	73.33%
2015/16	n	33	20	29	6	88	53
	%	40.2%	24.4%	35.4%	-	-	64.63%
2016/17	n	43	10	43	6	102	53
	%	44.8%	10.4%	44.8%	-	-	55.21%
2017/18	n	46	24	31	0	101	70
	%	45.5%	23.8%	30.7%	-	-	69.31%
2018/19	n	28	17	30	1	76	45
	%	37.3%	22.7%	40.0%	-	-	60.00%
2019/20	n	35	13	22	1	71	48
	%	50.0%	18.6%	31.4%	-	-	68.57%
2020/21	n	42	14	30	1	87	56
	%	48.8%	16.3%	34.9%	-	-	65.12%

Source: Child Health System

The number of infants with a birth weight above 4,000g was too small to show separately

**Table 9.1 continued: Births to Northern Ireland residents, by birth weight, 2010/11 - 2020/21**

Year of birth		Infants born by birth weight							Low birth weight infants (<2,500g)	High birth weight infants (≥4,000g)	High birth weight infants (≥4,500g)
		ALL BIRTHS									
		< 1,500g	1,500 - 2,499g	2,500 - 3,999g	4,000 - 4,499g	4,500+g	Not known	Total			
2010/11	n	289	1,244	20,227	3,246	621	32	25,659	1,533	3,867	621
	%	1.1%	4.9%	78.9%	12.7%	2.4%	-	-	5.98%	15.09%	2.42%
2011/12	n	281	1,243	20,087	3,077	592	29	25,309	1,524	3,669	592
	%	1.1%	4.9%	79.5%	12.2%	2.3%	-	-	6.03%	14.51%	2.34%
2012/13	n	282	1,250	19,801	3,123	548	24	25,028	1,532	3,671	548
	%	1.1%	5.0%	79.2%	12.5%	2.2%	-	-	6.13%	14.68%	2.19%
2013/14	n	293	1,266	19,267	2,944	481	26	24,277	1,559	3,425	481
	%	1.2%	5.2%	79.4%	12.1%	2.0%	-	-	6.43%	14.12%	1.98%
2014/15	n	281	1,244	19,362	2,999	478	36	24,400	1,525	3,477	478
	%	1.2%	5.1%	79.5%	12.3%	2.0%	-	-	6.26%	14.27%	1.96%
2015/16	n	239	1,347	19,360	2,925	504	61	24,436	1,586	3,429	504
	%	1.0%	5.5%	79.4%	12.0%	2.1%	-	-	6.51%	14.07%	2.07%
2016/17	n	282	1,218	19,302	2,765	485	27	24,079	1,500	3,250	485
	%	1.2%	5.1%	80.3%	11.5%	2.0%	-	-	6.24%	13.51%	2.02%
2017/18	n	254	1,211	18,389	2,713	417	20	23,004	1,465	3,130	417
	%	1.1%	5.3%	80.0%	11.8%	1.8%	-	-	6.37%	13.62%	1.81%
2018/19	n	249	1,238	18,252	2,757	404	15	22,915	1,487	3,161	404
	%	1.1%	5.4%	79.7%	12.0%	1.8%	-	-	6.49%	13.80%	1.76%
2019/20	n	228	1,134	17,858	2,737	392	13	22,362	1,362	3,129	392
	%	1.0%	5.1%	79.9%	12.2%	1.8%	-	-	6.09%	14.00%	1.75%
2020/21	n	252	1,004	16,867	2,757	425	15	21,320	1,256	3,182	425
	%	1.2%	4.7%	79.2%	12.9%	2.0%	-	-	5.90%	14.94%	1.99%

Source: Child Health System

**Table 9.2: Births to Northern Ireland residents, by birth weight, 2020/21**

		Infants born by birth weight						% low birth weight infants (<2,500g)	% high birth weight infants (≥4,000g)
		< 1,500g	1,500 - 2,499g	2,500 - 3,999g	4,000 +g	Not known	Total		
Age Group of mother	Under 20	7	34	426	30	0	497	8.25%	6.04%
	20 - 24	39	146	1,977	278	3	2,443	7.58%	11.39%
	25 - 29	59	276	4,393	749	2	5,479	6.12%	13.68%
	30 - 34	89	309	5,980	1,302	5	7,685	5.18%	16.95%
	35 - 39	44	181	3,338	715	3	4,281	5.26%	16.71%
	40 +	14	58	753	108	0	933	7.72%	11.58%
	Not known	0	0	0	0	2	2	-	-
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>16,867</b>	<b>3,182</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>5.90%</b>	<b>14.94%</b>
Multiple births	Single	187	758	16,561	3,182	14	20,702	4.57%	15.38%
	Multiple	65	246	306	0	1	618	50.41%	0.00%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>16,867</b>	<b>3,182</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>5.90%</b>	<b>14.94%</b>
Ethnic group of mother (NIMATS)	White	226	958	16,257	3,145	4	20,590	5.75%	15.28%
	Non-white	20	50	717	56	0	843	8.30%	6.64%
	Not stated / Blank	2	3	29	4	0	38	13.16%	10.53%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>17,003</b>	<b>3,205</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,471</b>	<b>5.86%</b>	<b>14.93%</b>
Ethnic group of infant (CHS)	White	221	929	15,909	3,093	11	20,163	5.71%	15.35%
	Non-white	21	72	942	87	0	1,122	8.29%	7.75%
	Not stated / Blank	10	3	16	2	4	35	41.94%	6.45%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>16,867</b>	<b>3,182</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>5.90%</b>	<b>14.94%</b>

**Table 9.2 continued: Births to Northern Ireland residents, by birth weight, 2020/21**

		Infants born by birth weight					Total	% low birth weight infants (<2,500g)	% high birth weight infants (≥4,000g)
		< 1,500g	1,500 - 2,499g	2,500 - 3,999g	4,000 +g	Not known			
Place of birth	Altnagelvin	22	124	1,887	320	1	<b>2,354</b>	6.20%	13.60%
	Antrim	27	136	2,509	492	0	<b>3,164</b>	5.15%	15.55%
	Causeway	<5	<10	414	92	0	<b>515</b>	<5.90%	17.86%
	Craigavon	33	201	2,514	470	3	<b>3,221</b>	7.27%	14.61%
	Daisy Hill	10	58	1,510	359	0	<b>1,937</b>	3.51%	18.53%
	Downe / Lagan Valley	0	0	58	11	0	<b>69</b>	0.00%	15.94%
	Mater	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	-	-
	Royal	104	263	3,903	618	1	<b>4,889</b>	7.51%	12.64%
	SWAH	<10	<40	917	225	2	<b>1,180</b>	<5.90%	19.10%
	Ulster	39	185	3,135	588	2	<b>3,949</b>	5.68%	14.90%
	Home/Other	9	0	20	7	6	<b>42</b>	25.00%	19.44%
		<b>All infants</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>16,867</b>	<b>3,182</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>5.90%</b>
Trust of residence of mother	Belfast	55	222	3,371	528	2	<b>4,178</b>	6.63%	12.64%
	Northern	49	218	3,993	778	0	<b>5,038</b>	5.30%	15.44%
	South Eastern	49	168	2,860	558	2	<b>3,637</b>	5.97%	15.35%
	Southern	57	228	3,840	773	4	<b>4,902</b>	5.82%	15.78%
	Western	42	168	2,803	545	7	<b>3,565</b>	5.90%	15.32%
		<b>All infants</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>16,867</b>	<b>3,182</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>5.90%</b>
Council area (2014)	Antrim and Newtownabbey	16	68	1,193	233	0	<b>1,510</b>	5.56%	15.43%
	Ards and North Down	19	73	1,109	211	1	<b>1,413</b>	6.52%	14.94%
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	27	131	2,004	381	2	<b>2,545</b>	6.21%	14.98%
	Belfast	54	213	3,244	502	1	<b>4,014</b>	6.65%	12.51%
	Causeway Coast and Glens	22	63	1,135	225	0	<b>1,445</b>	5.88%	15.57%
	Derry City and Strabane	23	92	1,470	241	3	<b>1,829</b>	6.30%	13.20%
	Fermanagh and Omagh	15	56	1,035	245	4	<b>1,355</b>	5.26%	18.13%
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	23	74	1,288	239	2	<b>1,626</b>	5.97%	14.72%
	Mid and East Antrim	9	59	1,101	184	0	<b>1,353</b>	5.03%	13.60%
	Mid Ulster	19	85	1,568	342	2	<b>2,016</b>	5.16%	16.98%
	Newry, Mourne and Down	25	90	1,720	379	0	<b>2,214</b>	5.19%	17.12%
		<b>All infants</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>16,867</b>	<b>3,182</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>5.90%</b>
Deprivation 2017 quintile (SOA) based on residence of mother	Most deprived	72	282	3,737	552	3	<b>4,646</b>	7.62%	11.89%
	2	58	227	3,540	680	5	<b>4,510</b>	6.33%	15.09%
	3	46	194	3,421	701	5	<b>4,367</b>	5.50%	16.07%
	4	42	168	3,279	675	1	<b>4,165</b>	5.04%	16.21%
	Least deprived	34	133	2,890	574	1	<b>3,632</b>	4.60%	15.81%
		<b>All infants</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>16,867</b>	<b>3,182</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>5.90%</b>

Source: Child Health System and NIMATS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Causeway Hospital was closed to deliveries between 8 April 2020 and 23 August 2020. Mater Hospital closed to deliveries on 30 March 2020 (it became a COVID Centre) and all deliveries were relocated to Royal Victoria Hospital. The Mater is still closed to deliveries.

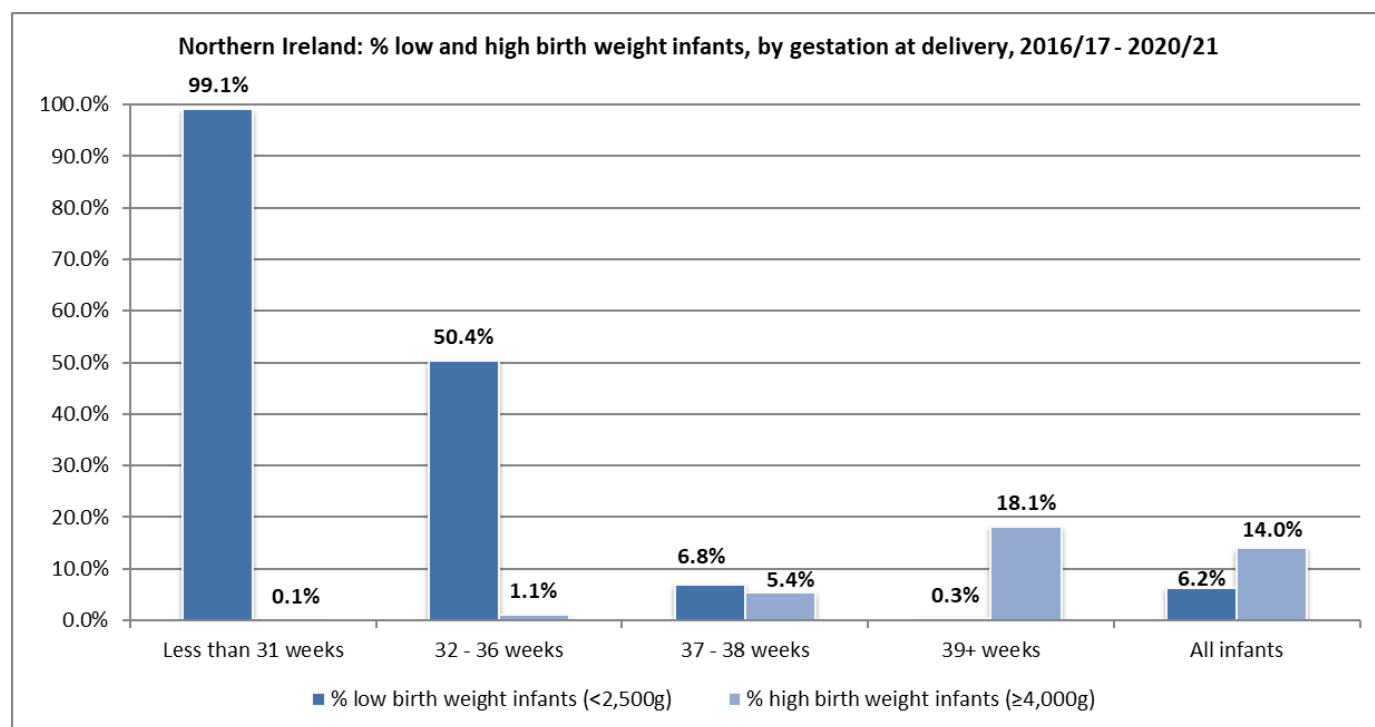
NI Statistics and Research Agency, NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/nisra-releases-updated-deprivation-measures-northern-ireland>

Due to small numbers, it is not possible to show data by individual ethnic group. For reasons of disclosure control and small numbers, birthweights over 4,000g have been grouped

Disclosure controls have been applied to this table. As a result, for some places of birth, it is not possible to show the exact percentage values in the final two columns and so a comparison to the NI value has been provided. There were 2 births recorded in Downe Hospital during 2020/21 – disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Downe and Lagan Valley Hospitals. Ethnic group of mother is not available from CHS, therefore data from NIMATS has been provided. However, data by ethnic group will differ between the two systems.

**Figure 9.3: Percentage low and high birth weight infants, gestation at delivery, Northern Ireland, 2016/17 – 2020/21**



Source: NIMATS

Due to small numbers, data had to be shown over a 5 year period



# Section 10: Breastfeeding

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## COVID-19 Pandemic

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions and measures introduced to control the spread of the virus impacted the delivery of health services in Northern Ireland, including maternity and health visiting services.

New guidance was created for the care of women during pregnancy, delivery and postnatally during the pandemic, and the changes have had major impacts on pregnant women, infants and new parents<sup>1</sup>. The guidance restricted face-to-face contact, with a shift to online or telephone consultations and restrictions were placed on partners accompanying women for appointments and birth.

There has also been an impact on the availability of community support for new mothers including, for example, a reduction in Breastfeeding Support Groups operating across Northern Ireland and an increase in online support. Such changes have the potential to impact on mothers' experiences of caring for a new baby and decisions around infant feeding, specifically initiation and continuation of breastfeeding.

Towards the end of 2020, the Public Health Agency commissioned Ipsos MORI to explore the experiences of mothers and service providers in relation to breastfeeding support during the Covid-19 pandemic. An engagement exercise took the form of focus groups with new mothers and service providers (staff working in Health and Social Care and those working in the community/voluntary sector) across Northern Ireland. The report on the exercise and its findings was published in May 2021, "Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on breastfeeding support" and is available at:

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/2021-12/20-104030%20PHA%20breastfeeding%20research%20report%20V7%2021.05.2021%20client%20use%20only.pdf>

## Key Points

- **Note that recording of breastfeeding data may not be complete. In any year, there will be records where the breastfeeding status is not known. As a result, percentage breastfeeding is calculated as a valid percentage. The calculation is based on those records where feeding status was known i.e. blank data has been removed from the denominator value.**
- Breastfeeding data on the Child Health System is recorded as either 'Total', 'Partial' or 'Not at all'. Total – where the child receives breast milk only, with no other type of milk, liquids or food given. Partial – where the child receives breast milk, as well as formula milk and other liquids or food. Not at all - where the child does not receive any breast milk, but rather other feeding methods are used.

## Breastfeeding at discharge

In 2020/21:

- 51.2% of live infants were breastfed (total/partial feeding) at discharge from hospital (feeding status known). *[Page 50]*.
- Only 25.0% of infants born to mothers under 20 were breastfed at discharge, compared to 59.1% of infants to mothers aged 40 and over. *[Page 52]*.
- Breastfeeding rates were slightly higher for infants born to first time mothers at 53.9%. Mothers who have previously given birth = 49.6%. *[Page 52]*.
- Breastfeeding rates were much higher in infants born to 'non-white' mothers. However the number of births for some ethnic groupings was small and caution is advised. *[Page 52]*.

<sup>1</sup> Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, last updated March 2022 <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/coronavirus-pregnancy/covid-19-virus-infection-and-pregnancy/>

- Breastfeeding rates varied by Health Trust of mother, ranging from 45.7% of infants born to mothers from Western Trust, to 54.2% in South Eastern. [Page 53].
- The proportion breastfeeding was markedly lower in more deprived areas (NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017). In 2020/21, 35.6% of mothers from most deprived areas breastfed at discharge, compared to 68.7% of mothers from the least deprived areas. It should however be noted that breastfeeding rates tend to increase with age of mother, and more deprived areas have a higher proportion of younger mothers. [Page 53]

### Breastfeeding duration (infants born during 2019/20)

- Of mothers who delivered in 2019/20, the proportion breastfeeding gradually decreased as the child reached 12 months old – 50.1% of infants in Northern Ireland were breastfed at discharge, falling to only 15.3% of infants at 12 months old. [Page 54]
- At all stages where breastfeeding was recorded, the rate was higher in those infants born to mothers who lived in less deprived areas (NIMDM 2017), when compared to mothers from more deprived areas. In 2019/20, prevalence of breastfeeding at 12 months old was higher at 24.3% in the least deprived areas, than in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland (8.6%). [Page 55]

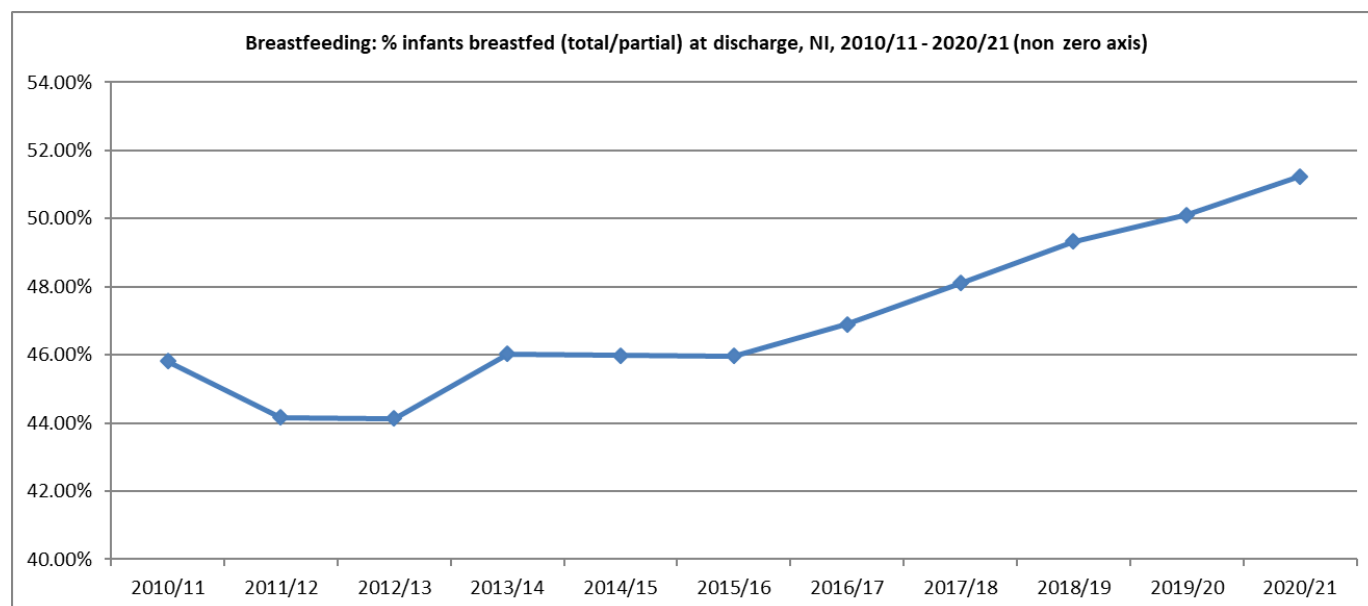
**Table 10.1: Breastfeeding status (at discharge) of live infants born to Northern Ireland residents, 2010/11 – 2020/21**

Year of birth		Infant breastfeeding status at discharge					% infants breastfed (partial/total - feeding status known)
		Total	Partial	Not at all	Not known	Total	
2010/11	n	9,578	1,897	13,573	508	<b>25,556</b>	<b>11,475</b>
	%	38.2%	7.6%	54.2%	-	-	<b>45.81%</b>
2011/12	n	9,369	1,610	13,879	362	<b>25,220</b>	<b>10,979</b>
	%	37.7%	6.5%	55.8%	-	-	<b>44.17%</b>
2012/13	n	9,011	1,777	13,658	465	<b>24,911</b>	<b>10,788</b>
	%	36.9%	7.3%	55.9%	-	-	<b>44.13%</b>
2013/14	n	9,148	1,838	12,886	297	<b>24,169</b>	<b>10,986</b>
	%	38.3%	7.7%	54.0%	-	-	<b>46.02%</b>
2014/15	n	9,235	1,762	12,918	394	<b>24,309</b>	<b>10,997</b>
	%	38.6%	7.4%	54.0%	-	-	<b>45.98%</b>
2015/16	n	9,157	1,891	12,988	312	<b>24,348</b>	<b>11,048</b>
	%	38.1%	7.9%	54.0%	-	-	<b>45.96%</b>
2016/17	n	8,655	2,439	12,562	321	<b>23,977</b>	<b>11,094</b>
	%	36.6%	10.3%	53.1%	-	-	<b>46.90%</b>
2017/18	n	8,343	2,507	11,704	349	<b>22,903</b>	<b>10,850</b>
	%	37.0%	11.1%	51.9%	-	-	<b>48.11%</b>
2018/19	n	8,471	2,613	11,383	372	<b>22,839</b>	<b>11,084</b>
	%	37.7%	11.6%	50.7%	-	-	<b>49.33%</b>
2019/20	n	8,254	2,747	10,953	337	<b>22,291</b>	<b>11,001</b>
	%	37.6%	12.5%	49.9%	-	-	<b>50.11%</b>
2020/21	n	7,865	2,845	10,198	325	<b>21,233</b>	<b>10,710</b>
	%	37.6%	13.6%	48.8%	-	-	<b>51.22%</b>

Source: Child Health System

Percentage breastfeeding is calculated as a valid percentage. The calculation is based on those records where feeding status was known i.e. blank data has been removed from the denominator value.

**Figure 10.1: % infants' breastfed (total/partial) at discharge, Northern Ireland, 2010/11 – 2020/21**



Source: Child Health System

**Table 10.2: Breastfeeding status (at discharge) of live infants born to Northern Ireland residents, 2020/21**

		Infant breastfeeding status at discharge				Total	% infants breastfed (partial/total - feeding status known)
		Total	Partial	Not at all	Other / Not known		
Age Group of mother	Under 20	83	38	363	12	<b>496</b>	25.00%
	20 - 24	559	248	1,586	36	<b>2,429</b>	33.72%
	25 - 29	1,754	671	2,949	86	<b>5,460</b>	45.12%
	30 - 34	3,167	1,058	3,318	107	<b>7,650</b>	56.01%
	35 - 39	1,911	680	1,607	66	<b>4,264</b>	61.72%
	40 +	391	150	375	16	<b>932</b>	59.06%
	Not known	0	0	0	2	<b>2</b>	-
<b>All ages</b>	<b>7,865</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>10,198</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>21,233</b>	<b>51.22%</b>	
Multiple births	Single	7,791	2,707	9,824	299	<b>20,621</b>	51.66%
	Multiple	74	138	374	26	<b>612</b>	36.18%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>7,865</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>10,198</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>21,233</b>	<b>51.22%</b>
First time mothers	First time mother	2,972	1,354	3,706	96	<b>8,128</b>	53.86%
	Not a first time mother	4,882	1,485	6,473	221	<b>13,061</b>	49.59%
	Not known	11	6	19	8	<b>44</b>	47.22%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>7,865</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>10,198</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>21,233</b>	<b>51.22%</b>
Ethnic group of mother (NIMATS)	White	7,578	2,622	10,131	179	<b>20,510</b>	50.17%
	Asian	109	95	45	1	<b>250</b>	81.93%
	Black	71	64	28	5	<b>168</b>	82.82%
	Mixed	52	15	32	3	<b>102</b>	67.68%
	Other	144	102	63	8	<b>317</b>	79.61%
	Not stated / Blank	20	10	6	1	<b>37</b>	83.33%
	<b>All ethnic groups</b>	<b>7,974</b>	<b>2,908</b>	<b>10,305</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>21,384</b>	<b>51.36%</b>
Ethnic group of infant (CHS)	White	7,344	2,513	9,935	295	<b>20,087</b>	49.80%
	Asian	83	78	37	2	<b>200</b>	81.31%
	Black	52	52	25	7	<b>136</b>	80.62%
	Mixed	202	98	116	8	<b>424</b>	72.12%
	Other	174	95	75	8	<b>352</b>	78.20%
	Not stated / Blank	10	9	10	5	<b>34</b>	65.52%
<b>All ethnic groups</b>	<b>7,865</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>10,198</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>21,233</b>	<b>51.22%</b>	
Place of birth	Altnagelvin	711	262	1,331	43	<b>2,347</b>	42.23%
	Antrim	1,147	462	1,539	9	<b>3,157</b>	51.11%
	Causeway	231	44	234	3	<b>512</b>	54.03%
	Craigavon	1,200	484	1,473	48	<b>3,205</b>	53.34%
	Daisy Hill	753	202	948	22	<b>1,925</b>	50.18%
	Downe / Lagan Valley	43	<5	20	<10	<b>69</b>	>51.22%
	Mater	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	-
	Royal	1,585	717	2,461	97	<b>4,860</b>	48.33%
	SWAH	445	165	552	15	<b>1,177</b>	52.50%
	Ulster	1,742	506	1,635	56	<b>3,939</b>	57.89%
	Home/Other	8	<5	5	<30	<b>42</b>	>51.22%
	<b>All places of birth</b>	<b>7,865</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>10,198</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>21,233</b>	<b>51.22%</b>

**Table 10.2 continued: Breastfeeding status (at discharge) of live infants born to Northern Ireland residents, 2020/21**

		Infant breastfeeding status at discharge				Total	% infants breastfed (partial/total - feeding status known)
		Total	Partial	Not at all	Other / Not known		
Trust of residence of mother	Belfast	1,518	583	1,997	60	<b>4,158</b>	51.27%
	Northern	1,896	703	2,378	44	<b>5,021</b>	52.22%
	South Eastern	1,454	473	1,631	69	<b>3,627</b>	54.16%
	Southern	1,848	639	2,299	87	<b>4,873</b>	51.96%
	Western	1,149	447	1,893	65	<b>3,554</b>	45.74%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>7,865</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>10,198</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>21,233</b>	<b>51.22%</b>
Council area (2014)	Antrim and Newtownabbey	562	254	677	11	<b>1,504</b>	54.66%
	Ards and North Down	583	168	629	33	<b>1,413</b>	54.42%
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	923	350	1,219	43	<b>2,535</b>	51.08%
	Belfast	1,345	541	2,050	61	<b>3,997</b>	47.92%
	Causeway Coast and Glens	522	172	726	19	<b>1,439</b>	48.87%
	Derry City and Strabane	534	196	1,061	34	<b>1,825</b>	40.76%
	Fermanagh and Omagh	508	204	615	23	<b>1,350</b>	53.65%
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	760	255	578	21	<b>1,614</b>	63.72%
	Mid and East Antrim	528	201	608	15	<b>1,352</b>	54.53%
	Mid Ulster	740	260	979	24	<b>2,003</b>	50.53%
	Newry, Mourne and Down	860	244	1,056	41	<b>2,201</b>	51.11%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>7,865</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>10,198</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>21,233</b>	<b>51.22%</b>
Deprivation 2017 quintile (SOA) based on residence of mother	Most deprived	1,124	498	2,931	74	<b>4,627</b>	35.62%
	2	1,523	594	2,304	73	<b>4,494</b>	47.89%
	3	1,601	557	2,119	67	<b>4,344</b>	50.46%
	4	1,774	589	1,729	54	<b>4,146</b>	57.75%
	Least deprived	1,843	607	1,115	57	<b>3,622</b>	68.72%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>7,865</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>10,198</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>21,233</b>	<b>51.22%</b>

Source: Child Health System and NIMATS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Causeway Hospital was closed to deliveries between 8 April 2020 and 23 August 2020. Mater Hospital closed to deliveries on 30 March 2020 (it became a COVID Centre) and all deliveries were relocated to Royal Victoria Hospital. The Mater is still closed to deliveries.

NI Statistics and Research Agency, NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/nisra-releases-updated-deprivation-measures-northern-ireland>

Disclosure controls have been applied to this table. As a result, for some places of birth, it is not possible to show the exact percentage values in the final two columns and so a comparison to the NI value has been provided. There were 2 births recorded in Downe Hospital during 2020/21 – disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Downe and Lagan Valley Hospitals. Percentage breastfeeding is calculated as a valid percentage. The calculation is based on those records where feeding status was known i.e. blank data has been removed from the denominator value.

**Table 10.3: Prevalence of breastfeeding of live infants born to Northern Ireland residents, at various stages during first year of life, 2019/20**

		% infants breastfed (total/partial) by time period (feeding status known)					
		Discharge	Primary visit (10-14 days old)	6 weeks	3 months	6 months	12 months
Age Group of mother	Under 20	24.2%	20.0%	13.1%	10.2%	6.0%	4.7%
	20 - 24	32.4%	26.5%	17.9%	14.5%	11.3%	6.9%
	25 - 29	45.5%	38.9%	29.4%	24.4%	19.3%	12.5%
	30 - 34	55.6%	47.8%	38.9%	34.0%	28.1%	18.2%
	35 - 39	59.1%	52.4%	43.4%	37.6%	29.7%	19.3%
	40 +	58.4%	53.7%	46.2%	37.7%	30.0%	22.5%
	Not known	25.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>50.1%</b>	<b>43.3%</b>	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>29.4%</b>	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>
Multiple births	Single	50.4%	43.5%	34.7%	29.7%	23.9%	15.4%
	Multiple	38.9%	36.9%	25.9%	18.8%	12.8%	11.6%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>50.1%</b>	<b>43.3%</b>	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>29.4%</b>	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>
First time mothers	First time mother	52.5%	44.8%	34.5%	28.6%	22.4%	14.5%
	Not a first time mother	48.6%	42.4%	34.4%	29.9%	24.3%	15.8%
	Not known	50.0%	45.0%	38.5%	37.1%	31.0%	16.0%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>50.1%</b>	<b>43.3%</b>	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>29.4%</b>	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>
Ethnic group of infant	White	48.7%	41.6%	32.8%	27.9%	22.5%	14.5%
	Asian	86.5%	90.2%	80.8%	72.9%	60.0%	55.4%
	Black	90.1%	91.7%	86.9%	78.9%	62.3%	42.9%
	Mixed	73.2%	66.9%	57.1%	52.3%	43.7%	29.3%
	Other	76.9%	78.6%	66.8%	58.4%	50.5%	35.4%
	Not stated / Blank	43.3%	46.9%	33.3%	27.6%	17.4%	8.3%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>50.1%</b>	<b>43.3%</b>	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>29.4%</b>	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>
Place of birth	Altnagelvin	40.9%	32.8%	25.0%	20.0%	16.3%	10.1%
	Antrim	50.4%	42.6%	33.4%	28.3%	23.4%	16.6%
	Causeway	49.1%	40.4%	32.6%	27.2%	21.6%	15.2%
	Craigavon	52.2%	44.9%	34.4%	29.6%	24.3%	14.3%
	Daisy Hill	49.8%	42.5%	32.1%	27.2%	21.4%	11.8%
	Downe	66.7%	80.0%	60.0%	60.0%	50.0%	75.0%
	Lagan Valley	58.3%	52.4%	44.2%	40.6%	37.1%	40.0%
	Mater	58.6%	49.7%	43.4%	38.8%	28.7%	23.7%
	Royal	47.1%	42.2%	34.7%	30.3%	23.7%	15.9%
	SWAH	51.5%	43.5%	33.3%	27.4%	23.6%	14.5%
	Ulster	55.9%	50.3%	41.5%	35.7%	30.1%	19.3%
	Home/Other	53.8%	73.1%	58.3%	56.5%	47.1%	43.8%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>50.1%</b>	<b>43.3%</b>	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>29.4%</b>	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>

**Table 10.3 continued: Prevalence of breastfeeding of live infants born to Northern Ireland residents, at various stages during first year of life, 2019/20**

		% infants breastfed (total/partial) by time period (feeding status known)					
		Discharge	Primary visit (10-14 days old)	6 weeks	3 months	6 months	12 months
Trust of residence of mother	Belfast	50.3%	46.9%	39.5%	36.1%	29.3%	18.8%
	Northern	50.7%	43.0%	34.1%	28.9%	23.7%	16.9%
	South Eastern	52.3%	45.3%	36.9%	30.0%	23.8%	17.1%
	Southern	51.6%	44.4%	34.1%	29.5%	24.3%	13.6%
	Western	44.4%	36.2%	27.5%	22.5%	18.4%	11.4%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>50.1%</b>	<b>43.3%</b>	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>29.4%</b>	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>
Council area (2014)	Antrim and Newtownabbey	52.8%	46.6%	37.1%	32.5%	26.8%	19.4%
	Ards and North Down	53.5%	45.5%	37.9%	31.6%	24.0%	17.6%
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	51.2%	44.0%	33.6%	29.5%	24.2%	16.2%
	Belfast	47.2%	43.1%	36.5%	33.3%	26.1%	15.3%
	Causeway Coast and Glens	46.8%	39.0%	31.1%	25.8%	20.6%	14.9%
	Derry City and Strabane	39.6%	31.3%	23.4%	18.4%	14.9%	8.7%
	Fermanagh and Omagh	51.4%	43.3%	33.3%	28.0%	23.6%	14.2%
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	60.2%	55.2%	44.8%	37.0%	31.8%	21.3%
	Mid and East Antrim	53.6%	44.7%	35.2%	30.1%	24.8%	17.6%
	Mid Ulster	50.1%	42.4%	32.8%	27.0%	22.4%	13.2%
	Newry, Mourne and Down	49.7%	43.1%	33.3%	27.7%	22.7%	13.2%
<b>All infants</b>	<b>50.1%</b>	<b>43.3%</b>	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>29.4%</b>	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	
Deprivation 2017 quintile (SOA) based on residence of mother	Most deprived	36.0%	30.4%	22.7%	18.8%	14.0%	8.6%
	2	46.4%	39.7%	30.2%	26.0%	21.3%	13.3%
	3	48.8%	41.7%	32.8%	27.3%	22.4%	15.3%
	4	56.4%	48.6%	39.0%	33.0%	26.0%	16.9%
	Least deprived	67.2%	60.0%	51.3%	44.9%	37.4%	24.3%
	<b>All infants</b>	<b>50.1%</b>	<b>43.3%</b>	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>29.4%</b>	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>

Source: Child Health System

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Causeway Hospital was closed to deliveries between 8 April 2020 and 23 August 2020. Mater Hospital closed to deliveries on 30 March 2020 (it became a COVID Centre) and all deliveries were relocated to Royal Victoria Hospital. The Mater is still closed to deliveries.

NI Statistics and Research Agency, NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/nisra-releases-updated-deprivation-measures-northern-ireland>

Note that for some ethnic groups, hospitals and age groups the number of infants will be very small

Percentage breastfeeding is calculated as a valid percentage. The calculation is based on those records where feeding status was known i.e. blank data has been removed from the denominator value.

**Table 10.4: Prevalence of breastfeeding of live infants born to Northern Ireland residents, at various stages during first year of life, by Sure Start area, 2019/20**

Sure Start area	% infants breastfed (total/partial) by time period (where feeding status is known)					
	Discharge	Primary visit (10-14 days old)	6 weeks	3 months	6 months	12 months
Abbey	44.1%	41.8%	31.9%	24.7%	20.8%	18.3%
Antrim	36.2%	33.3%	26.5%	20.6%	17.2%	16.4%
Ards	39.6%	26.7%	25.0%	19.5%	18.0%	11.8%
ArKe	44.9%	34.1%	23.6%	19.7%	18.3%	1.8%
Ballymena	52.3%	39.4%	30.2%	26.1%	20.5%	15.4%
Bangor	43.7%	38.1%	29.3%	22.5%	14.6%	17.0%
Beechmount	34.1%	28.2%	24.1%	24.4%	27.1%	20.0%
Blossom	58.9%	49.0%	41.2%	38.0%	32.9%	15.0%
Cherish	47.3%	38.8%	29.9%	24.4%	18.8%	11.3%
Clan Mor	28.0%	26.6%	17.3%	19.4%	10.8%	6.7%
Clogher Valley	57.5%	46.5%	37.6%	31.7%	30.1%	14.9%
Coleraine	33.5%	28.7%	23.1%	18.4%	16.9%	13.5%
Colin	29.9%	18.9%	15.3%	11.3%	8.9%	3.5%
Dalriada	40.6%	32.7%	26.3%	19.0%	17.1%	12.4%
Downpatrick	41.9%	35.9%	31.8%	23.6%	18.1%	14.0%
Dungannon	54.6%	52.1%	38.2%	31.4%	29.0%	9.5%
Dungiven	37.9%	29.2%	22.1%	19.6%	14.6%	12.0%
East Belfast	39.2%	38.2%	26.5%	24.1%	21.2%	11.3%
Edenballymore	31.1%	27.4%	17.5%	13.2%	9.6%	7.3%
Glenbrook	30.2%	26.5%	26.6%	27.3%	20.9%	6.4%
Gold	39.8%	31.0%	22.6%	19.7%	15.9%	9.2%
Horizon	35.2%	29.8%	24.5%	16.8%	14.2%	13.2%
Kilkeel	39.6%	39.6%	26.2%	20.5%	12.5%	3.6%
LAST	45.5%	39.9%	27.7%	23.2%	20.4%	9.0%
Lisburn	42.7%	35.1%	24.7%	23.3%	13.0%	11.4%
Little Hands	42.0%	32.3%	26.1%	20.4%	18.2%	10.6%
Newry City	55.5%	46.2%	35.6%	31.3%	14.4%	12.2%
Outer West Belfast	40.2%	33.0%	23.3%	20.2%	11.0%	4.1%
Rainbow	42.8%	37.3%	28.1%	17.4%	13.9%	8.1%
Saol Ur	28.6%	24.4%	18.6%	16.8%	10.6%	4.8%
Shankill	32.5%	26.4%	19.5%	16.5%	10.1%	2.0%
Shantallow	32.7%	22.8%	20.0%	14.9%	11.7%	5.0%
Smile	38.4%	38.3%	35.5%	34.9%	15.8%	14.6%
South Armagh	47.8%	39.6%	28.8%	26.2%	23.1%	9.2%
South Belfast	50.4%	49.9%	43.6%	36.8%	30.3%	24.5%
Splash	35.9%	35.5%	19.8%	18.9%	16.1%	11.0%
Star	38.3%	26.7%	18.9%	17.9%	10.3%	12.0%
Strabane	38.6%	29.6%	18.0%	13.4%	10.6%	5.5%
Waterside	34.4%	27.7%	18.6%	15.9%	12.2%	3.7%
<b>Children living in Sure Start areas</b>	<b>41.2%</b>	<b>35.1%</b>	<b>26.8%</b>	<b>22.4%</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>10.9%</b>
<b>Children not living in Sure Start areas</b>	<b>55.6%</b>	<b>48.3%</b>	<b>39.1%</b>	<b>33.5%</b>	<b>27.2%</b>	<b>17.7%</b>
<b>All children</b>	<b>50.1%</b>	<b>43.3%</b>	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>29.4%</b>	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>

Source: Child Health System

Note that some percentages above are based on small numbers

Percentage breastfeeding is calculated as a valid percentage. The calculation is based on those records where feeding status was known i.e. blank data has been removed from the denominator value.



# Section 11: Childhood Immunisations

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## Vaccination Coverage

The COVER (Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly) programme monitors immunisation coverage data for children in the United Kingdom who reach their first, second or fifth birthday during each evaluation year.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) states that there is an expectation that a target of 95% coverage should be reached for all routine childhood immunisation in the UK by the age of five years.<sup>2</sup>

However, over the last few years, immunisation coverage in Northern Ireland has been falling and coverage for some immunisations is below the expected 95% target.

### Northern Ireland

Detailed coverage data for Northern Ireland can be found at the link below:

Public Health Agency, Health Protection Department

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/annual-immunisation-and-vaccine-preventable-diseases-reports>

### Rest of United Kingdom

Detailed coverage data for the rest of the UK can be found at the links below:

NHS Digital

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-immunisation-statistics>

UK Health Security Agency

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-uptake>

Public Health Scotland/ISD Scotland

<https://beta.isdscotland.org/topics/child-health/immunisation/>

Public Health Wales

<https://phw.nhs.wales/>

<sup>2</sup> World Health Organisation "Health 21" - *The health for all policy framework for the WHO European Region* [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/98398/wa540qa199heeng.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/98398/wa540qa199heeng.pdf)

# Section 12: Childhood BMI

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## Classification of Growth Measurements in Northern Ireland

In this report, in the past, growth measurements have been classified using the International Obesity Task Force Classification (IOTF) only. However, from 2017/18 onwards a further classification will be provided - the British 1990 (UK90) growth reference. In other countries of the UK, the British 1990 growth reference (UK90) is recommended for population monitoring and clinical assessment in children aged 4 years and over.

### International Obesity Task Force (IOTF)

The IOTF thresholds are derived from BMI data from six large, nationally representative, cross-sectional surveys from Brazil, Great Britain, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, Singapore, and the United States. These samples include 192,727 children aged 0 to 25 years. Each data set has over 10,000 subjects, with age ranges covering at least the period from 6 to 18 years. Age and sex specific cut-off points are extrapolated from the adult BMI cut-offs of 25kg/m<sup>2</sup> and 30kg/m<sup>2</sup> for overweight and obesity respectively. Three grades of thinness are defined from equivalent adult BMIs of 16, 17 and 18.5.

### British 1990 Growth Reference (UK90)

The UK90 BMI reference provides centile curves for BMI for British children from birth to 23 years. They are based on a sample of 32,222 measurements from 12 distinct surveys collected between 1978 and 1994. The sample was rebased to 1990 levels and the data were then used to express BMI as a centile based on the BMI distribution, adjusted for skewness, age and sex using Cole's LMS method ('*Growth monitoring with the British 1990 growth reference*'. *Cole Arch Dis Child*.1997; 76: 47-49.)

The BMI classification of each child is derived by calculating the child's BMI centile and assigning the BMI classification based on the following thresholds:

- Underweight is defined as a BMI centile less than or equal to the 2nd centile
- Healthy weight is defined as a BMI centile greater than the 2nd centile but less than the 85th centile
- Overweight is defined as a BMI centile greater than or equal to the 85th centile but less than the 95th centile (i.e. overweight but not obese)
- Obese is defined as a BMI centile greater than or equal to the 95th centile.

### Further information on classifications:

National Obesity Observatory (PHE), "A simple guide to classifying body mass index in children", June 2011

<https://khub.net/documents/31798783/32039025/A+simple+guide+to+classifying+body+mass+index+in+children/ced23256-6f8d-43c7-9f44-222e2beebf97?version=1.0>

**As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, disruption in schools resulted in some children not being measured and therefore there was insufficient coverage during 2020/21. Therefore, data for 2020/21 has not been provided in this report. The tables continue to show data for 2018/19 school year.**

## International Obesity Task Force Classification

### Key Points

#### Primary 1

- Of those children measured in Primary 1 in 2018/19, 21.8% were considered overweight or obese, a slight increase on the previous year (20.5%) [Page 59].
- In 2018/19, a higher proportion of girls were overweight/obese (25.5%) compared to boys (18.3%) [Page 60].
- The proportion of children overweight/obese by Council area ranges from 17.8% (Ards and North Down LGD) to 26.4% (Antrim and Newtownabbey LGD) [Page 60].
- 24.7% of children living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland (NIMDM 2017) were measured as overweight/obese, compared to 18.3% of children from the least deprived areas [Page 60].

#### Year 8 (2018/19 excludes WHSCT)

- In 2018/19, just over 27% of children in Year 8 were measured as overweight/obese, a decrease on the previous year [Page 62].
- At this age, there is little difference in the proportion overweight/obese between the two genders (27.5% male, 26.8% female) [Page 63].

## PRIMARY 1 (IOTF)

**Table 12.1: BMI levels in Primary 1 children across Northern Ireland (IOTF), 2008/09 - 2018/19**

BMI category	% Primary 1 children										
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
<b>Number of children</b>	<b>18,514</b>	<b>19,749</b>	<b>19,469</b>	<b>21,223</b>	<b>21,934</b>	<b>23,048</b>	<b>21,780</b>	<b>23,778</b>	<b>24,042</b>	<b>23,314</b>	<b>22,848</b>
Thinness grade 1 to 3	2.98%	3.21%	2.72%	3.46%	3.53%	3.38%	3.86%	3.58%	4.48%	4.51%	4.12%
Normal	75.62%	75.50%	75.15%	75.75%	75.04%	75.26%	75.23%	74.88%	74.86%	74.95%	74.06%
Overweight	16.84%	16.57%	17.12%	15.83%	16.59%	16.57%	15.82%	16.19%	15.69%	15.48%	16.29%
Obese	4.56%	4.72%	5.01%	4.96%	4.85%	4.80%	5.08%	5.35%	4.97%	5.06%	5.53%
<b>% children overweight/obese</b>	<b>21.40%</b>	<b>21.29%</b>	<b>22.13%</b>	<b>20.79%</b>	<b>21.44%</b>	<b>21.37%</b>	<b>20.90%</b>	<b>21.54%</b>	<b>20.66%</b>	<b>20.54%</b>	<b>21.82%</b>

Source: Child Health System

Year refers to school year

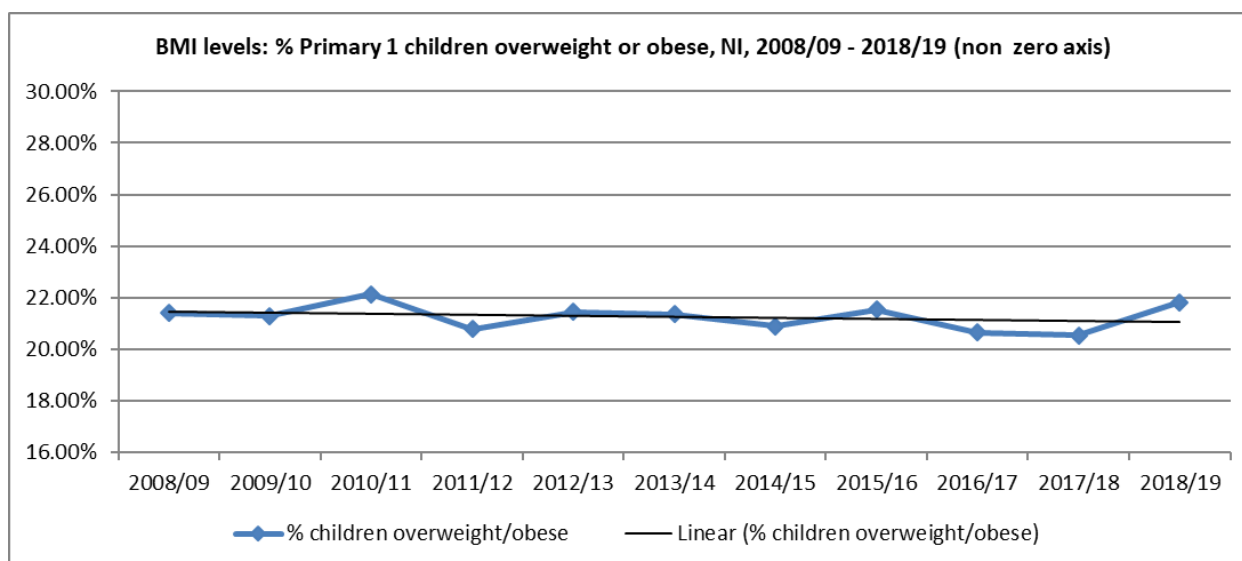
Children measured are typically between 4½ and 5½ years of age

Figures above are categorised using International Obesity TaskForce measures

Note that in any year all children may not be measured and so coverage may not be complete

Following a data validation exercise, data for 2008/09 to 2016/17 has been revised

**Figure 12.1: % Primary 1 children overweight or obese, Northern Ireland (IOTF), 2008/09 – 2018/19**



**Table 12.2: BMI levels in Primary 1 children across Northern Ireland (IOTF), 2018/19**

		No. of children by BMI category					% children overweight or obese
		Thinness grade 1 to 3	Normal	Overweight	Obese	Total	
Gender	Male	558	8,988	1,620	523	<b>11,689</b>	18.33%
	Female	383	7,933	2,103	740	<b>11,159</b>	25.48%
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>16,921</b>	<b>3,723</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>22,848</b>	<b>21.82%</b>
Trust of residence of child	Belfast	213	3,109	663	221	<b>4,206</b>	21.02%
	Northern	213	4,088	1,002	361	<b>5,664</b>	24.06%
	South Eastern	144	3,291	656	220	<b>4,311</b>	20.32%
	Southern	241	3,796	807	246	<b>5,090</b>	20.69%
	Western	126	2,608	586	213	<b>3,533</b>	22.62%
	Not known	4	29	9	2	<b>44</b>	25.00%
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>16,921</b>	<b>3,723</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>22,848</b>	<b>21.82%</b>
Council area (2014)	Antrim and Newtownabbey	67	1,172	325	119	<b>1,683</b>	26.38%
	Ards and North Down	77	1,385	250	67	<b>1,779</b>	17.82%
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	133	1,949	387	123	<b>2,592</b>	19.68%
	Belfast	200	3,004	669	230	<b>4,103</b>	21.91%
	Causeway Coast and Glens	62	1,200	277	109	<b>1,648</b>	23.42%
	Derry City and Strabane	47	1,198	315	121	<b>1,681</b>	25.94%
	Fermanagh and Omagh	70	1,135	199	68	<b>1,472</b>	18.14%
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	52	1,326	260	87	<b>1,725</b>	20.12%
	Mid and East Antrim	58	1,100	276	101	<b>1,535</b>	24.56%
	Mid Ulster	74	1,570	335	100	<b>2,079</b>	20.92%
	Newry, Mourne and Down	97	1,853	421	136	<b>2,507</b>	22.22%
	Not known	4	29	9	2	<b>44</b>	25.00%
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>16,921</b>	<b>3,723</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>22,848</b>	<b>21.82%</b>
Deprivation 2017 quintile (SOA) based on residence of child	Most deprived	201	3,268	834	302	<b>4,605</b>	24.67%
	2	209	3,628	840	291	<b>4,968</b>	22.77%
	3	181	3,602	761	261	<b>4,805</b>	21.27%
	4	178	3,412	739	243	<b>4,572</b>	21.48%
	Least deprived	168	2,982	540	164	<b>3,854</b>	18.27%
	Not known	4	29	9	2	<b>44</b>	25.00%
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>16,921</b>	<b>3,723</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>22,848</b>	<b>21.82%</b>

Source: Child Health System

NI Statistics and Research Agency, NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/nisra-releases-updated-deprivation-measures-northern-ireland>

Year refers to school year

Children measured are typically between 4½ and 5½ years of age

Figures above are categorised using International Obesity TaskForce measures

Note that in any year all children may not be measured and so coverage may not be complete

**Table 12.3: BMI levels in Primary 1 children across Northern Ireland, by Sure Start area (IOTF), 2018/19**

Sure Start area	Total children	% children by BMI category				% children overweight or obese
		Thinness grade 1 to 3	Normal	Overweight	Obese	
Abbey	257	5.1%	71.6%	16.3%	7.0%	23.3%
Antrim	<100	4.1%	58.1%	25.7%	12.2%	37.8%
Ards	270	5.9%	71.1%	17.4%	5.6%	23.0%
ArKe	162	4.9%	74.7%	12.3%	8.0%	20.4%
Ballymena	188	4.8%	64.4%	22.9%	8.0%	30.9%
Bangor	114	1.8%	81.6%	12.3%	4.4%	16.7%
Beechmount	<100	1.3%	69.3%	20.0%	9.3%	29.3%
Blossom	187	10.7%	65.8%	15.0%	8.6%	23.5%
Cherish	240	7.1%	76.3%	13.3%	3.3%	16.7%
Clan Mor	<100	3.4%	69.0%	25.3%	2.3%	27.6%
Clogher Valley	161	4.3%	74.5%	18.0%	3.1%	21.1%
Coleraine	186	7.0%	70.4%	14.0%	8.6%	22.6%
Colin	315	2.5%	72.1%	18.1%	7.3%	25.4%
Dalriada	197	2.5%	76.6%	16.2%	4.6%	20.8%
Downpatrick	308	1.9%	76.3%	16.2%	5.5%	21.8%
Dungannon	343	7.3%	72.9%	14.3%	5.5%	19.8%
Dungiven	204	3.4%	69.6%	22.5%	4.4%	27.0%
East Belfast	422	4.5%	71.3%	16.4%	7.8%	24.2%
Edenballymore	136	2.2%	72.1%	18.4%	7.4%	25.7%
Glenbrook	273	7.7%	72.5%	15.8%	4.0%	19.8%
Gold	266	3.4%	75.2%	16.9%	4.5%	21.4%
Horizon	182	3.3%	73.6%	16.5%	6.6%	23.1%
Kilkeel	<100	11.6%	72.1%	16.3%	0.0%	16.3%
LAST	249	4.4%	73.9%	16.5%	5.2%	21.7%
Lisburn	111	2.7%	65.8%	25.2%	6.3%	31.5%
Little Hands	168	2.4%	71.4%	20.8%	5.4%	26.2%
Newry City	286	2.8%	68.5%	21.3%	7.3%	28.7%
Outer West Belfast	284	6.0%	70.4%	18.3%	5.3%	23.6%
Rainbow	127	2.4%	70.1%	18.9%	8.7%	27.6%
Saol Ur	239	2.1%	74.5%	16.3%	7.1%	23.4%
Shankill	368	5.4%	69.0%	17.4%	8.2%	25.5%
Shantallow	219	4.6%	70.8%	17.8%	6.8%	24.7%
Smile	219	5.9%	71.7%	15.5%	6.8%	22.4%
South Armagh	432	1.9%	73.6%	19.9%	4.6%	24.5%
South Belfast	323	4.6%	69.7%	20.4%	5.3%	25.7%
Splash	271	2.6%	74.5%	18.1%	4.8%	22.9%
Star	<100	12.2%	73.2%	14.6%	0.0%	14.6%
Strabane	279	3.6%	64.2%	21.9%	10.4%	32.3%
Waterside	215	3.7%	74.4%	14.0%	7.9%	21.9%
<b>Children living in Sure Start areas</b>	<b>8,521</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>71.7%</b>	<b>17.7%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>23.9%</b>
<b>Children not living in Sure Start areas</b>	<b>14,283</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>75.5%</b>	<b>15.5%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>20.6%</b>
<b>Children - address not known</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>65.9%</b>	<b>20.5%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>25.0%</b>
<b>All children</b>	<b>22,848</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>74.1%</b>	<b>16.3%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>21.8%</b>

Source: Child Health System

Year refers to school year

Children measured are typically between 4½ and 5½ years of age

Figures above are categorised using International Obesity TaskForce measures

Note that in any year all children may not be measured and so coverage may not be complete

Note that some percentages above are based on small numbers

Disclosure controls have been applied to the data

## YEAR 8 (IOTF)

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN 2018/19, CHILDREN IN WESTERN TRUST DID NOT HAVE HEIGHT AND WEIGHT MEASUREMENTS TAKEN AT YEAR 8. THEREFORE YEAR 8 DATA FOR 2018/19 IN THIS REPORT IS BASED ON FOUR OUT OF FIVE HEALTH TRUSTS ONLY. IN YEAR 8, APPROXIMATELY 3,000 CHILDREN WOULD HAVE BEEN MEASURED IN THE WESTERN TRUST AREA, WHILE ONLY 124 CHILDREN WERE MEASURED.

Coverage at Year 8 has never been complete, ranging from 15,000 – 18,000 children which would equate to 65 - 70%. Comparison with previous years' data including and excluding Western Trust has shown that the Northern Ireland figure is not materially affected.

**Table 12.4: BMI levels in Year 8 children across Northern Ireland (IOTF), 2010/11 - 2018/19**

BMI category	% Year 8 children								
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19*
<b>Number of children</b>	<b>17,873</b>	<b>17,836</b>	<b>16,618</b>	<b>14,789</b>	<b>15,490</b>	<b>17,832</b>	<b>18,108</b>	<b>18,465</b>	<b>16,367</b>
Thinness grade 1 to 3	6.13%	6.21%	5.87%	6.04%	6.95%	6.21%	6.86%	6.64%	7.15%
Normal	65.97%	66.12%	66.77%	65.72%	66.66%	66.45%	65.92%	65.50%	65.69%
Overweight	21.88%	21.96%	21.59%	22.14%	20.97%	21.93%	21.67%	21.83%	21.20%
Obese	6.03%	5.71%	5.78%	6.10%	5.42%	5.42%	5.55%	6.03%	5.96%
<b>% children overweight/obese</b>	<b>27.91%</b>	<b>27.67%</b>	<b>27.37%</b>	<b>28.24%</b>	<b>26.39%</b>	<b>27.35%</b>	<b>27.22%</b>	<b>27.86%</b>	<b>27.16%</b>

Source: Child Health System

\* NOTE THAT IN 2018/19, CHILDREN IN WESTERN TRUST DID NOT HAVE HEIGHT AND WEIGHT MEASUREMENTS TAKEN.

THEREFORE 2018/19 DATA IS BASED ON FOUR OUT OF FIVE HEALTH TRUSTS ONLY. A SMALL NUMBER OF CHILDREN WERE MEASURED WHO WERE RESIDENT IN WHSCT AREA (124) AND THESE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE DATA ABOVE

Year refers to school year

Children measured are typically between 11½ and 12½ years of age

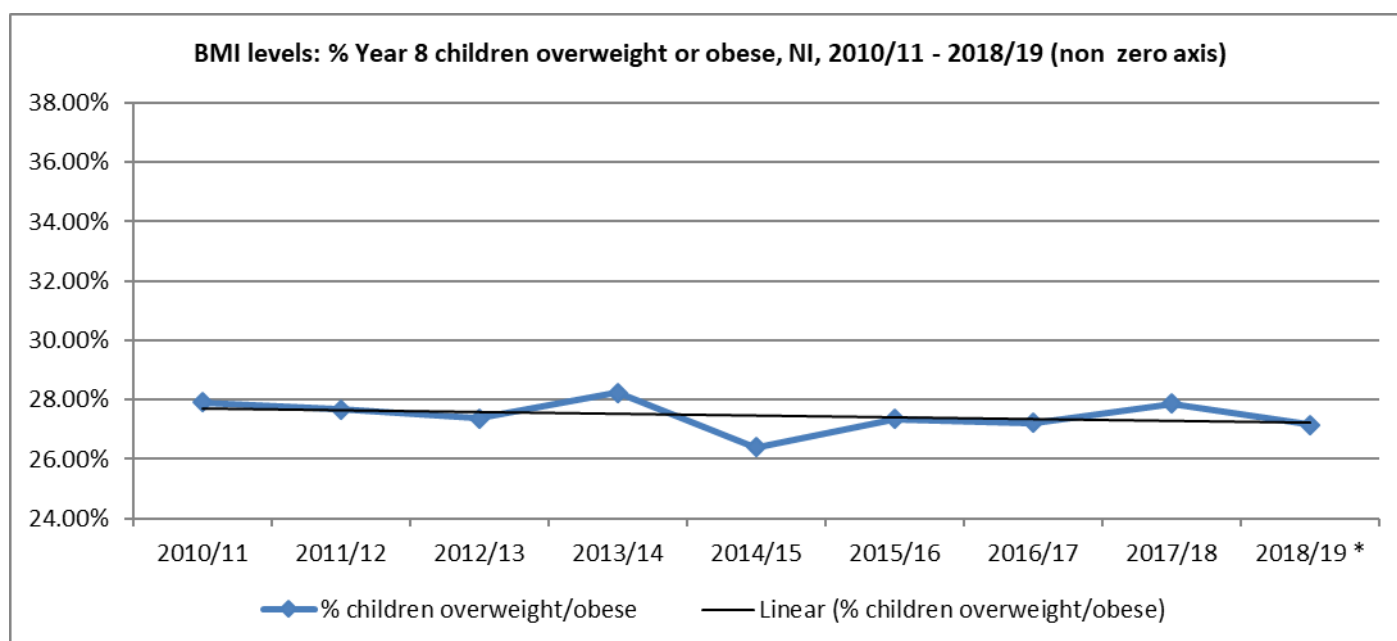
Figures above are categorised using International Obesity TaskForce measures

Note that in any year all children may not be measured and so coverage may not be complete

Due to lower coverage in previous years, figures are only available for Year 8 from 2010/11

Following a data validation exercise, data for 2010/11 to 2016/17 has been revised

**Figure 12.2: % Year 8 children overweight or obese, Northern Ireland (IOTF), 2010/11 – 2018/19**



**Table 12.5: BMI levels in Year 8 children across Northern Ireland (IOTF), 2018/19**

		No. of children by BMI category *					% children overweight or obese
		Thinness grade 1 to 3	Normal	Overweight	Obese	Total	
Gender	Male	530	5,405	1,714	537	<b>8,186</b>	27.50%
	Female	641	5,346	1,755	439	<b>8,181</b>	26.82%
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>1,171</b>	<b>10,751</b>	<b>3,469</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>16,367</b>	<b>27.16%</b>
Trust of residence of child	Belfast	199	2,075	709	210	<b>3,193</b>	28.78%
	Northern	359	3,448	1,151	335	<b>5,293</b>	28.07%
	South Eastern	276	2,344	731	176	<b>3,527</b>	25.72%
	Southern	326	2,762	853	243	<b>4,184</b>	26.20%
	Western						
	Not known	2	30	9	5	<b>46</b>	30.43%
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>10,659</b>	<b>3,453</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>16,243</b>	<b>27.22%</b>
Council area (2014)	Antrim and Newtownabbey	106	1,064	352	98	<b>1,620</b>	27.78%
	Ards and North Down	132	1,086	312	63	<b>1,593</b>	23.54%
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	192	1,508	466	146	<b>2,312</b>	26.47%
	Belfast	194	2,001	722	215	<b>3,132</b>	29.92%
	Causeway Coast and Glens						
	Derry City and Strabane						
	Fermanagh and Omagh						
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	96	896	268	64	<b>1,324</b>	25.08%
	Mid and East Antrim	103	931	343	103	<b>1,480</b>	30.14%
	Mid Ulster	112	1,109	358	98	<b>1,677</b>	27.19%
	Newry, Mourne and Down	146	1,281	377	108	<b>1,912</b>	25.37%
	Not known	2	30	9	5	<b>46</b>	30.43%
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>9,906</b>	<b>3,207</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>15,096</b>	<b>27.21%</b>
Deprivation 2017 quintile (SOA) based on residence of child	Most deprived	138	1,600	651	233	<b>2,622</b>	33.71%
	2	229	1,847	645	191	<b>2,912</b>	28.71%
	3	242	2,236	728	209	<b>3,415</b>	27.44%
	4	282	2,647	822	204	<b>3,955</b>	25.94%
	Least deprived	278	2,391	614	134	<b>3,417</b>	21.89%
	Not known	2	30	9	5	<b>46</b>	30.43%
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>1,171</b>	<b>10,751</b>	<b>3,469</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>16,367</b>	<b>27.16%</b>

Source: Child Health System

\* NOTE THAT IN 2018/19, CHILDREN IN WESTERN TRUST DID NOT HAVE HEIGHT AND WEIGHT MEASUREMENTS TAKEN. THEREFORE 2018/19 DATA IS BASED ON FOUR OUT OF FIVE HEALTH TRUSTS ONLY. A SMALL NUMBER OF CHILDREN WERE MEASURED WHO WERE RESIDENT IN WHSCT AREA (124) AND THESE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE DATA ABOVE BY GENDER AND DEPRIVATION QUINTILE, HOWEVER THEY HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM TRUST AND COUNCIL LEVEL DATA. DATA HAS NOT BEEN SHOWN FOR 3 COUNCILS ABOVE AND THIS REMOVED APPROXIMATELY 1,200 CHILDREN WHO WERE RESIDENT IN THESE COUNCIL AREAS, BUT NOT RESIDENT IN WHSCT AREA.

NI Statistics and Research Agency, NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/nisra-releases-updated-deprivation-measures-northern-ireland>

Year refers to school year

Children measured are typically between 11½ and 12½ years of age

Figures above are categorised using International Obesity TaskForce measures

Note that in any year all children may not be measured and so coverage may not be complete

**Table 12.6: BMI levels in Year 8 children across Northern Ireland, by Sure Start area (IOTF), 2018/19**

Sure Start area	Total children	% children by BMI category *				% children overweight or obese
		Thinness grade 1 to 3	Normal	Overweight	Obese	
Abbey	234	6.0%	60.3%	25.6%	8.1%	33.8%
Antrim	<100	3.9%	49.0%	35.3%	11.8%	47.1%
Ards	232	10.8%	60.8%	21.6%	6.9%	28.4%
ArKe	103	9.7%	60.2%	22.3%	7.8%	30.1%
Ballymena	169	5.9%	56.8%	26.6%	10.7%	37.3%
Bangor	<100	4.1%	64.9%	24.3%	6.8%	31.1%
Beechmount	<100	3.8%	61.5%	23.1%	11.5%	34.6%
Blossom	167	7.2%	61.7%	20.4%	10.8%	31.1%
Cherish						
Clan Mor	<100	0.0%	59.7%	29.0%	11.3%	40.3%
Clogher Valley	109	2.8%	63.3%	27.5%	6.4%	33.9%
Coleraine	127	3.9%	57.5%	29.9%	8.7%	38.6%
Colin	266	4.1%	60.2%	27.8%	7.9%	35.7%
Dalriada	142	7.7%	66.2%	19.7%	6.3%	26.1%
Downpatrick	229	7.9%	59.8%	24.0%	8.3%	32.3%
Dungannon	229	7.9%	65.9%	20.5%	5.7%	26.2%
Dungiven						
East Belfast	280	6.1%	62.1%	25.4%	6.4%	31.8%
Edenballymore						
Glenbrook	209	5.7%	59.8%	25.4%	9.1%	34.4%
Gold	166	7.8%	59.6%	27.1%	5.4%	32.5%
Horizon	112	6.3%	54.5%	25.9%	13.4%	39.3%
Kilkeel	<100	15.6%	53.1%	15.6%	15.6%	31.3%
LAST						
Lisburn	<100	14.7%	61.8%	13.2%	10.3%	23.5%
Little Hands						
Newry City	169	8.9%	63.3%	21.3%	6.5%	27.8%
Outer West Belfast	236	4.7%	64.4%	25.0%	5.9%	30.9%
Rainbow						
Saol Ur	165	3.0%	61.8%	25.5%	9.7%	35.2%
Shankill	340	4.7%	62.9%	23.2%	9.1%	32.4%
Shantallow						
Smile	160	5.6%	55.6%	27.5%	11.3%	38.8%
South Armagh	338	5.9%	68.6%	20.1%	5.3%	25.4%
South Belfast	240	6.3%	64.2%	22.5%	7.1%	29.6%
Splash	229	7.0%	62.9%	25.3%	4.8%	30.1%
Star	<100	9.6%	65.4%	19.2%	5.8%	25.0%
Strabane						
Waterside						
<b>Children living in Sure Start areas</b>	<b>5,098</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>61.8%</b>	<b>24.0%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>31.9%</b>
<b>Children not living in Sure Start areas</b>	<b>11,223</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>67.4%</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>25.1%</b>
<b>Children - address not known</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>65.2%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>10.9%</b>	<b>30.4%</b>
<b>All children</b>	<b>16,367</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>65.7%</b>	<b>21.2%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>27.2%</b>

Source: Child Health System

\* NOTE THAT IN 2018/19, CHILDREN IN WESTERN TRUST DID NOT HAVE HEIGHT AND WEIGHT MEASUREMENTS TAKEN. THEREFORE 2018/19 DATA IS BASED ON FOUR OUT OF FIVE HEALTH TRUSTS ONLY. DATA HAS NOT BEEN SHOWN FOR A NUMBER OF SURESTART AREAS AND THIS REMOVED APPROXIMATELY 1,200 CHILDREN WHO WERE RESIDENT IN THESE AREAS, BUT NOT RESIDENT IN WHSCT AREA.

Year refers to school year

Children measured are typically between 11½ and 12½ years of age

Figures above are categorised using International Obesity TaskForce measures

Note that in any year all children may not be measured and so coverage may not be complete

Note that some percentages above are based on small numbers

Disclosure controls have been applied to the data



## British 1990 Growth Reference (UK90) Classification

### Key Points

#### Primary 1

- Based on the UK90 classification, in 2018/19, 26.1% of children in Northern Ireland measured in Primary 1 were considered overweight or obese. This compares to 22.6% in England and 22.4% in Scotland (Wales figure for 2018/19 was not available, equivalent figure for 2017/18 = 26.4%). *[Page 66]*.
- Of those children measured in Primary 1 across NI in 2018/19, 11.6% were considered obese. This figure has fluctuated only slightly over the last ten years *[Page 67]*.
- There was little difference between the genders in those children measured during 2018/19 (males = 26.6%, females = 25.5%) *[Page 68]*.
- Based on this classification, over a quarter (28.6%) of children in NHSCT were considered overweight/obese. SEHSCT had the lowest proportion at 24.6% *[Page 68]*.
- The proportion of children overweight/obese by Council area ranged from 22.3% (Fermanagh and Omagh LGD) to 30.2% (Antrim and Newtownabbey LGD) *[Page 68]*.
- Levels of overweight/obesity decreased as deprivation level decreased. 29% of children living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland (NIMDM 2017) were measured as overweight/obese, compared to 22.4% of children from the least deprived areas *[Page 68]*.

#### Year 8 (2018/19 excludes WHSCT)

- In 2018/19, more than 1 in 3 children in Year 8 were measured as overweight/obese (35.2%), a slight decrease on the previous year (35.6%) *[Page 70]*.
- At this age, more males than females were considered overweight/obese (38.3% male, 32.1% female) *[Page 71]*.

## PRIMARY 1 (UK90)

Table 12.7: Levels of obesity in Primary 1/Reception aged children, by UK country (UK90), 2012/13 – 2020/21

Country	Year measured (school year)	Number measured (with a valid height and weight)	% children in each BMI category (UK90)				
			Underweight	Healthy	Overweight	Obese	Overweight and obese
Northern Ireland	2012/13	21,934	0.5%	73.7%	15.0%	10.8%	25.8%
	2013/14	23,048	0.5%	73.5%	15.4%	10.7%	26.1%
	2014/15	21,780	0.6%	74.2%	14.3%	10.8%	25.1%
	2015/16	23,778	0.5%	73.5%	14.7%	11.2%	25.9%
	2016/17	24,042	0.7%	74.1%	14.5%	10.7%	25.2%
	2017/18	23,314	0.8%	74.6%	14.0%	10.7%	24.6%
	2018/19	22,848	0.7%	73.2%	14.5%	11.6%	26.1%
	2019/20	Not available due to impact of COVID-19 pandemic on data collection					
	2020/21	Not available due to impact of COVID-19 pandemic on data collection					
England	2012/13	587,678	0.9%	76.9%	13.0%	9.3%	22.2%
	2013/14	587,336	0.9%	76.5%	13.1%	9.5%	22.5%
	2014/15	610,636	1.0%	77.2%	12.8%	9.1%	21.9%
	2015/16	625,326	1.0%	76.9%	12.8%	9.3%	22.1%
	2016/17	629,359	1.0%	76.4%	13.0%	9.6%	22.6%
	2017/18	610,435	1.0%	76.6%	12.8%	9.5%	22.4%
	2018/19	597,812	1.0%	76.5%	12.9%	9.7%	22.6%
	2019/20	399,470	0.9%	76.1%	13.1%	9.9%	23.0%
	2020/21	129,586	0.9%	71.3%	13.3%	14.4%	27.7%
Scotland	2012/13	54,413	1.2%	77.5%	12.0%	9.4%	21.3%
	2013/14	55,027	1.0%	76.3%	12.4%	10.2%	22.6%
	2014/15	54,976	1.1%	77.1%	12.0%	9.8%	21.8%
	2015/16	53,721	1.2%	76.7%	12.2%	10.0%	22.1%
	2016/17	52,531	1.0%	76.1%	12.4%	10.5%	22.9%
	2017/18	52,923	1.1%	76.4%	12.3%	10.2%	22.5%
	2018/19	45,066	1.0%	76.6%	12.2%	10.3%	22.4%
	2019/20	25,228	1.0%	76.3%	12.3%	10.3%	22.7%
	2020/21	21,021	0.8%	69.8%	14.0%	15.5%	29.5%
Wales	2012/13	29,259	0.6%	73.2%	14.9%	11.3%	26.2%
	2013/14	30,693	0.8%	72.7%	14.6%	11.8%	26.4%
	2014/15	32,859	0.9%	72.9%	14.6%	11.6%	26.1%
	2015/16	33,337	1.0%	72.9%	14.5%	11.7%	26.2%
	2016/17	33,159	0.8%	72.1%	14.7%	12.4%	27.1%
	2017/18	32,166	0.8%	72.8%	14.3%	12.0%	26.4%
	2018/19	31,756	0.7%	72.4%	14.4%	12.6%	26.9%
	2019/20	Not available due to impact of COVID-19 pandemic on data collection					
	2020/21	Not available due to impact of COVID-19 pandemic on data collection					

**Source:**

Northern Ireland: Child Health System (Health Trusts)

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, disruption in schools resulted in some children not being measured and therefore there was insufficient coverage during 2020/21. Therefore, data for 2020/21 has not been provided in this report.

England: National Child Measurement Programme, NHS Digital/Public Health England

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/national-child-measurement-programme>

Due to disruptions caused by COVID-19 and periods of lockdown, the 2020/21 NCMP collection took the form of a sample, measuring many fewer children than usual. Statistical weighting was applied to data collected to produce estimates of the prevalence of underweight, healthy weight, overweight, obese and severely obese children at national level.

Scotland: Information Services Division, National Services Scotland (NHS Scotland)

<https://beta.isdscotland.org/topics/child-health/child-weight-and-growth/>

In 2020/21 coverage fell to 40% due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore data should be interpreted with a degree of caution.

Wales: Child Measurement Programme for Wales, Public Health Wales

<https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/child-measurement-programme/>

Data for 2020/21 is not available due to impact of COVID-19 pandemic on data collection.

**Table 12.8: BMI levels in Primary 1 children across Northern Ireland (UK90), 2008/09 - 2018/19**

BMI category	% Primary 1 children										
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
<b>Number of children</b>	<b>18,514</b>	<b>19,749</b>	<b>19,469</b>	<b>21,223</b>	<b>21,934</b>	<b>23,048</b>	<b>21,780</b>	<b>23,778</b>	<b>24,042</b>	<b>23,314</b>	<b>22,848</b>
Underweight	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%
Healthy	73.6%	73.8%	72.8%	74.2%	73.7%	73.5%	74.2%	73.5%	74.1%	74.6%	73.2%
Overweight	15.2%	15.1%	15.4%	14.5%	15.0%	15.4%	14.3%	14.7%	14.5%	14.0%	14.5%
Obese	10.8%	10.7%	11.5%	10.7%	10.8%	10.7%	10.8%	11.2%	10.7%	10.7%	11.6%
<b>% children overweight/obese</b>	<b>25.95%</b>	<b>25.77%</b>	<b>26.86%</b>	<b>25.27%</b>	<b>25.77%</b>	<b>26.07%</b>	<b>25.15%</b>	<b>25.94%</b>	<b>25.19%</b>	<b>24.64%</b>	<b>26.09%</b>

Source: Child Health System

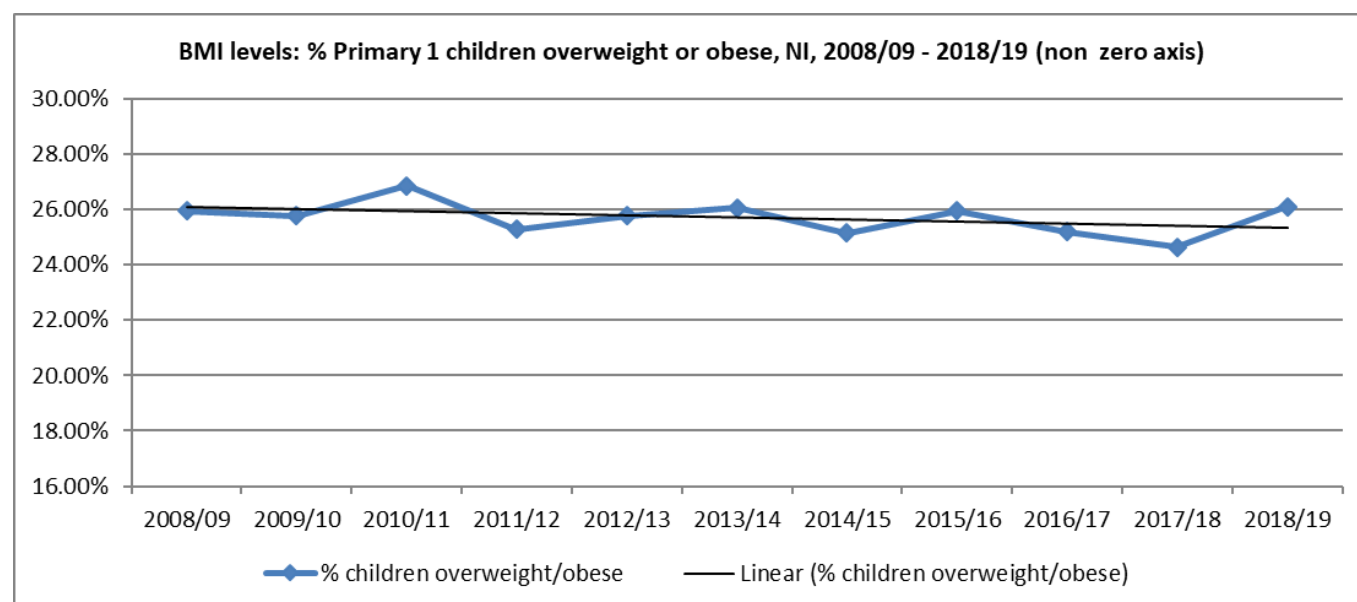
Year refers to school year

Children measured are typically between 4½ and 5½ years of age

Figures above are categorised using British 1990 (UK90) Growth Reference thresholds

Note that in any year all children may not be measured and so coverage may not be complete

**Figure 12.3: % Primary 1 children overweight or obese, Northern Ireland (UK90), 2008/09 – 2018/19**



**Table 12.9: BMI levels in Primary 1 children across Northern Ireland (UK90), 2018/19**

		No. of children by BMI category					% children overweight or obese
		Underweight	Healthy	Overweight	Obese	Total	
Gender	Male	117	8,462	1,698	1,412	<b>11,689</b>	26.61%
	Female	47	8,262	1,608	1,242	<b>11,159</b>	25.54%
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>16,724</b>	<b>3,306</b>	<b>2,654</b>	<b>22,848</b>	<b>26.09%</b>
Trust of residence of child	Belfast	43	3,107	584	472	<b>4,206</b>	25.11%
	Northern	36	4,006	877	745	<b>5,664</b>	28.64%
	South Eastern	17	3,232	604	458	<b>4,311</b>	24.63%
	Southern	49	3,770	729	542	<b>5,090</b>	24.97%
	Western	18	2,577	504	434	<b>3,533</b>	26.55%
	Not known	1	32	8	3	<b>44</b>	25.00%
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>16,724</b>	<b>3,306</b>	<b>2,654</b>	<b>22,848</b>	<b>26.09%</b>
Council area (2014)	Antrim and Newtownabbey	18	1,157	255	253	<b>1,683</b>	30.18%
	Ards and North Down	9	1,367	261	142	<b>1,779</b>	22.65%
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	29	1,948	353	262	<b>2,592</b>	23.73%
	Belfast	40	2,999	583	481	<b>4,103</b>	25.93%
	Causeway Coast and Glens	11	1,168	262	207	<b>1,648</b>	28.46%
	Derry City and Strabane	8	1,175	261	237	<b>1,681</b>	29.63%
	Fermanagh and Omagh	8	1,136	183	145	<b>1,472</b>	22.28%
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	9	1,295	234	187	<b>1,725</b>	24.41%
	Mid and East Antrim	7	1,085	232	211	<b>1,535</b>	28.86%
	Mid Ulster	10	1,520	335	214	<b>2,079</b>	26.41%
	Newry, Mourne and Down	14	1,842	339	312	<b>2,507</b>	25.97%
	Not known	1	32	8	3	<b>44</b>	25.00%
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>16,724</b>	<b>3,306</b>	<b>2,654</b>	<b>22,848</b>	<b>26.09%</b>
Deprivation 2017 quintile (SOA) based on residence of child	Most deprived	40	3,232	722	611	<b>4,605</b>	28.95%
	2	36	3,572	748	612	<b>4,968</b>	27.38%
	3	33	3,564	668	540	<b>4,805</b>	25.14%
	4	24	3,363	663	522	<b>4,572</b>	25.92%
	Least deprived	30	2,961	497	366	<b>3,854</b>	22.39%
	Not known	1	32	8	3	<b>44</b>	25.00%
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>16,724</b>	<b>3,306</b>	<b>2,654</b>	<b>22,848</b>	<b>26.09%</b>

Source: Child Health System

NI Statistics and Research Agency, NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/nisra-releases-updated-deprivation-measures-northern-ireland>

Year refers to school year

Children measured are typically between 4½ and 5½ years of age

Figures above are categorised using British 1990 (UK90) Growth Reference thresholds

Note that in any year all children may not be measured and so coverage may not be complete

**Table 12.10: BMI levels in Primary 1 children across Northern Ireland, by Sure Start area (UK90), 2018/19**

Sure Start area	Total children	% children by BMI category				% children overweight or obese
		Underweight	Healthy	Overweight	Obese	
Abbey	257	1.2%	72.4%	12.5%	14.0%	26.5%
Antrim	<100	0.0%	59.5%	17.6%	23.0%	40.5%
Ards	270	0.7%	72.6%	15.2%	11.5%	26.7%
ArKe	162	1.2%	74.7%	9.9%	14.2%	24.1%
Ballymena	188	1.1%	64.9%	15.4%	18.6%	34.0%
Bangor	114	0.0%	76.3%	14.9%	8.8%	23.7%
Beechmount	<100	0.0%	66.7%	10.7%	22.7%	33.3%
Blossom	187	1.1%	73.8%	10.2%	15.0%	25.1%
Cherish	240	1.3%	79.6%	10.8%	8.3%	19.2%
Clan Mor	<100	2.3%	65.5%	20.7%	11.5%	32.2%
Clogher Valley	161	0.0%	73.9%	19.9%	6.2%	26.1%
Coleraine	186	1.6%	68.8%	17.2%	12.4%	29.6%
Colin	315	0.3%	71.1%	14.3%	14.3%	28.6%
Dalriada	197	0.5%	74.1%	14.7%	10.7%	25.4%
Downpatrick	308	0.0%	73.1%	15.3%	11.7%	26.9%
Dungannon	343	1.7%	73.2%	14.3%	10.8%	25.1%
Dungiven	204	1.0%	68.1%	16.7%	14.2%	30.9%
East Belfast	422	0.7%	71.1%	15.4%	12.8%	28.2%
Edenballymore	136	0.0%	69.9%	15.4%	14.7%	30.1%
Glenbrook	273	2.2%	75.8%	12.1%	9.9%	22.0%
Gold	266	0.0%	71.4%	16.2%	12.4%	28.6%
Horizon	182	0.5%	67.6%	16.5%	15.4%	31.9%
Kilkeel	<100	2.3%	76.7%	11.6%	9.3%	20.9%
LAST	249	0.4%	73.9%	14.1%	11.6%	25.7%
Lisburn	111	0.9%	63.1%	17.1%	18.9%	36.0%
Little Hands	168	0.6%	67.9%	19.6%	11.9%	31.5%
Newry City	286	0.3%	68.5%	16.8%	14.3%	31.1%
Outer West Belfast	284	0.7%	72.2%	14.1%	13.0%	27.1%
Rainbow	127	0.0%	71.7%	11.8%	16.5%	28.3%
Saol Ur	239	0.4%	72.0%	15.5%	12.1%	27.6%
Shankill	368	1.9%	67.7%	15.2%	15.2%	30.4%
Shantallow	219	0.9%	71.2%	15.1%	12.8%	27.9%
Smile	219	0.0%	75.8%	14.2%	10.0%	24.2%
South Armagh	432	0.0%	68.8%	18.1%	13.2%	31.3%
South Belfast	323	0.3%	68.4%	18.6%	12.7%	31.3%
Splash	271	0.4%	73.1%	15.9%	10.7%	26.6%
Star	<100	2.4%	78.0%	17.1%	2.4%	19.5%
Strabane	279	0.4%	62.0%	20.1%	17.6%	37.6%
Waterside	215	0.5%	74.0%	12.1%	13.5%	25.6%
<b>Children living in Sure Start areas</b>	<b>8,521</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>71.1%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>28.2%</b>
<b>Children not living in Sure Start areas</b>	<b>14,283</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>74.5%</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>24.8%</b>
<b>Children - address not known</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>72.7%</b>	<b>18.2%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>25.0%</b>
<b>All children</b>	<b>22,848</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>73.2%</b>	<b>14.5%</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>26.1%</b>

Source: Child Health System

Year refers to school year

Children measured are typically between 4½ and 5½ years of age

Figures above are categorised using British 1990 (UK90) Growth Reference thresholds

Note that in any year all children may not be measured and so coverage may not be complete

Note that some percentages above are based on small numbers

Disclosure controls have been applied to the data

## YEAR 8 (UK90)

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN 2018/19, CHILDREN IN WESTERN TRUST DID NOT HAVE HEIGHT AND WEIGHT MEASUREMENTS TAKEN AT YEAR 8. THEREFORE YEAR 8 DATA FOR 2018/19 IN THIS REPORT IS BASED ON FOUR OUT OF FIVE HEALTH TRUSTS ONLY. IN YEAR 8, APPROXIMATELY 3,000 CHILDREN WOULD HAVE BEEN MEASURED IN THE WESTERN TRUST AREA, WHILE ONLY 124 CHILDREN WERE MEASURED.

Coverage at Year 8 has never been complete, ranging from 15,000 – 18,000 children which would equate to 65 - 70%. Comparison with previous years' data including and excluding Western Trust has shown that the Northern Ireland figure is not materially affected.

Table 12.11: BMI levels in Year 8 children across Northern Ireland (UK90), 2010/11 - 2018/19

BMI category	% Year 8 children								
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 *
Number of children	17,873	17,836	16,618	14,789	15,490	17,832	18,108	18,465	16,367
Underweight	1.1%	1.3%	1.3%	1.1%	1.5%	1.2%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%
Healthy	63.2%	62.8%	63.3%	62.9%	64.2%	63.6%	63.4%	62.9%	63.4%
Overweight	15.2%	15.7%	15.4%	15.0%	15.5%	15.3%	14.9%	15.2%	15.2%
Obese	20.6%	20.3%	20.1%	20.9%	18.8%	19.9%	20.2%	20.5%	20.0%
<b>% children overweight/obese</b>	<b>35.72%</b>	<b>35.97%</b>	<b>35.46%</b>	<b>35.93%</b>	<b>34.32%</b>	<b>35.16%</b>	<b>35.05%</b>	<b>35.64%</b>	<b>35.20%</b>

Source: Child Health System

\* NOTE THAT IN 2018/19, CHILDREN IN WESTERN TRUST DID NOT HAVE HEIGHT AND WEIGHT MEASUREMENTS TAKEN. THEREFORE 2018/19 DATA IS BASED ON FOUR OUT OF FIVE HEALTH TRUSTS ONLY. A SMALL NUMBER OF CHILDREN WERE MEASURED WHO WERE RESIDENT IN WHSCT AREA (124) AND THESE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE DATA ABOVE  
Year refers to school year

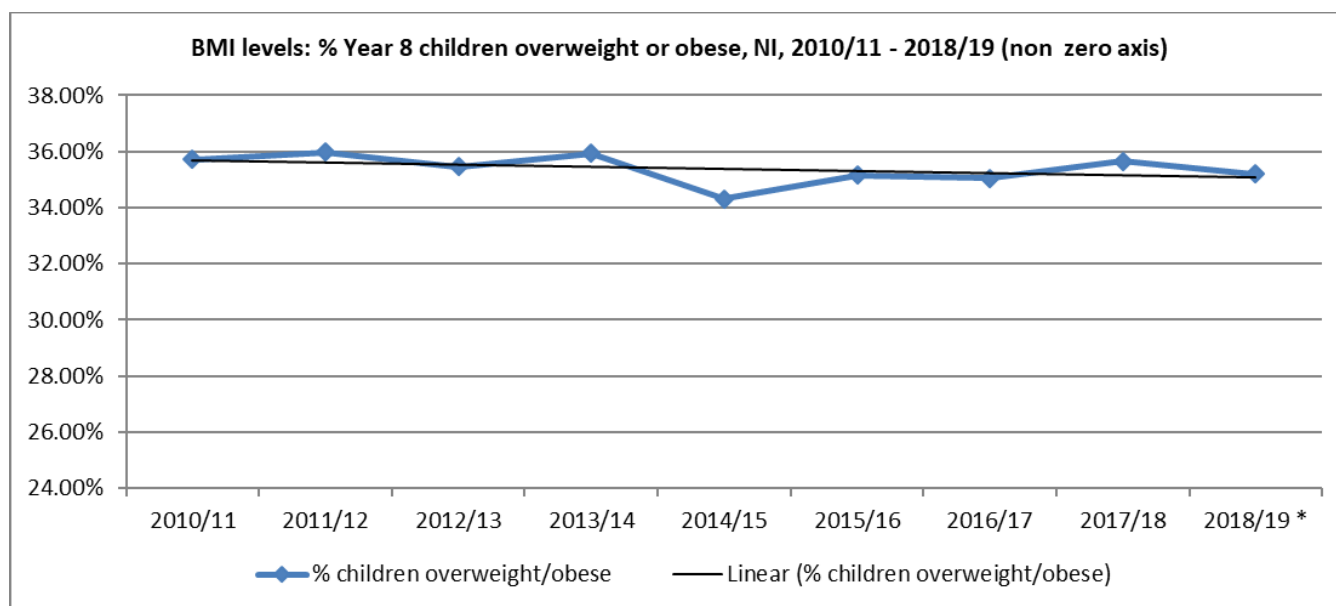
Children measured are typically between 11½ and 12½ years of age

Figures above are categorised using British 1990 (UK90) Growth Reference thresholds

Note that in any year all children may not be measured and so coverage may not be complete

Due to lower coverage in previous years, figures are only available for Year 8 from 2010/11

Figure 12.4: % Year 8 children overweight or obese, Northern Ireland (UK90), 2010/11 – 2018/19



**Table 12.12: BMI levels in Year 8 children across Northern Ireland (UK90), 2018/19**

		No. of children by BMI category *					% children overweight or obese
		Underweight	Healthy	Overweight	Obese	Total	
Gender	Male	101	4953	1273	1859	<b>8,186</b>	38.26%
	Female	137	5416	1215	1413	<b>8,181</b>	32.12%
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>10,369</b>	<b>2,488</b>	<b>3,272</b>	<b>16,367</b>	<b>35.19%</b>
Trust of residence of child	Belfast	42	1974	481	696	<b>3,193</b>	36.86%
	Northern	74	3299	848	1072	<b>5,293</b>	36.27%
	South Eastern	51	2279	532	665	<b>3,527</b>	33.94%
	Southern	70	2697	609	808	<b>4,184</b>	33.87%
	Western						
	Not known	0	30	3	13	<b>46</b>	34.78%
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>10,369</b>	<b>2,488</b>	<b>3,272</b>	<b>16,367</b>	<b>35.19%</b>
Council area (2014)	Antrim and Newtownabbey	23	1031	238	328	<b>1,620</b>	34.94%
	Ards and North Down	21	1068	236	268	<b>1,593</b>	31.64%
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	41	1501	323	447	<b>2,312</b>	33.30%
	Belfast	44	1894	482	712	<b>3,132</b>	38.12%
	Causeway Coast and Glens						
	Derry City and Strabane						
	Fermanagh and Omagh						
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	21	867	198	238	<b>1,324</b>	32.93%
	Mid and East Antrim	21	893	247	319	<b>1,480</b>	38.24%
	Mid Ulster	23	1043	272	339	<b>1,677</b>	36.43%
	Newry, Mourne and Down	28	1237	279	368	<b>1,912</b>	33.84%
	Not known	0	30	3	13	<b>46</b>	34.78%
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>10,369</b>	<b>2,488</b>	<b>3,272</b>	<b>16,367</b>	<b>35.19%</b>
Deprivation 2017 quintile (SOA) based on residence of child	Most deprived	27	1500	399	696	<b>2,622</b>	41.76%
	2	50	1787	464	611	<b>2,912</b>	36.92%
	3	48	2153	512	702	<b>3,415</b>	35.55%
	4	56	2569	591	739	<b>3,955</b>	33.63%
	Least deprived	57	2330	519	511	<b>3,417</b>	30.14%
	Not known	0	30	3	13	<b>46</b>	34.78%
	<b>All persons</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>10,369</b>	<b>2,488</b>	<b>3,272</b>	<b>16,367</b>	<b>35.19%</b>

Source: Child Health System

\* NOTE THAT IN 2018/19, CHILDREN IN WESTERN TRUST DID NOT HAVE HEIGHT AND WEIGHT MEASUREMENTS TAKEN. THEREFORE 2018/19 DATA IS BASED ON FOUR OUT OF FIVE HEALTH TRUSTS ONLY. A SMALL NUMBER OF CHILDREN WERE MEASURED WHO WERE RESIDENT IN WHSCT AREA (124) AND THESE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE DATA ABOVE BY GENDER AND DEPRIVATION QUINTILE, HOWEVER THEY HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM TRUST AND COUNCIL LEVEL DATA. DATA HAS NOT BEEN SHOWN FOR 3 COUNCILS ABOVE AND THIS REMOVED APPROXIMATELY 1,200 CHILDREN WHO WERE RESIDENT IN THESE COUNCIL AREAS, BUT NOT RESIDENT IN WHSCT AREA.

NI Statistics and Research Agency, NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/news/nisra-releases-updated-deprivation-measures-northern-ireland>

Year refers to school year

Children measured are typically between 11½ and 12½ years of age

Figures above are categorised using British 1990 (UK90) Growth Reference thresholds

Note that in any year all children may not be measured and so coverage may not be complete

**Table 12.13: BMI levels in Year 8 children across Northern Ireland, by Sure Start area (UK90), 2018/19**

Sure Start area	Total children	% children by BMI category *				% children overweight or obese
		Underweight	Healthy	Overweight	Obese	
Abbey	234	2.1%	57.7%	16.2%	23.9%	40.2%
Antrim	<100	0.0%	43.1%	21.6%	35.3%	56.9%
Ards	232	1.3%	62.1%	15.9%	20.7%	36.6%
ArKe	103	1.0%	64.1%	12.6%	22.3%	35.0%
Ballymena	169	1.8%	56.2%	16.0%	26.0%	42.0%
Bangor	<100	0.0%	64.9%	14.9%	20.3%	35.1%
Beechmount	<100	1.9%	55.8%	7.7%	34.6%	42.3%
Blossom	167	0.6%	61.7%	12.0%	25.7%	37.7%
Cherish						
Clan Mor	<100	0.0%	51.6%	19.4%	29.0%	48.4%
Clogher Valley	109	2.8%	54.1%	15.6%	27.5%	43.1%
Coleraine	127	0.0%	54.3%	15.7%	29.9%	45.7%
Colin	266	1.5%	54.5%	17.7%	26.3%	44.0%
Dalriada	142	1.4%	62.0%	18.3%	18.3%	36.6%
Downpatrick	229	0.9%	54.6%	17.9%	26.6%	44.5%
Dungannon	229	0.0%	64.6%	17.0%	18.3%	35.4%
Dungiven						
East Belfast	280	1.8%	58.6%	13.6%	26.1%	39.6%
Edenballymore						
Glenbrook	209	1.9%	58.9%	11.0%	28.2%	39.2%
Gold	166	2.4%	53.6%	20.5%	23.5%	44.0%
Horizon	112	0.9%	54.5%	13.4%	31.3%	44.6%
Kilkeel	<100	6.3%	53.1%	15.6%	25.0%	40.6%
LAST						
Lisburn	<100	5.9%	61.8%	13.2%	19.1%	32.4%
Little Hands						
Newry City	169	1.8%	66.3%	9.5%	22.5%	32.0%
Outer West Belfast	236	0.8%	56.8%	20.8%	21.6%	42.4%
Rainbow						
Saol Ur	165	0.6%	57.6%	13.9%	27.9%	41.8%
Shankill	340	0.6%	56.8%	16.2%	26.5%	42.6%
Shantallow						
Smile	160	1.3%	55.6%	11.9%	31.3%	43.1%
South Armagh	338	1.8%	64.8%	13.6%	19.8%	33.4%
South Belfast	240	1.3%	58.8%	16.3%	23.8%	40.0%
Splash	229	2.6%	60.7%	14.0%	22.7%	36.7%
Star	<100	3.8%	67.3%	11.5%	17.3%	28.8%
Strabane						
Waterside						
<b>Children living in Sure Start areas</b>	<b>5,098</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>58.9%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>24.4%</b>	<b>39.7%</b>
<b>Children not living in Sure Start areas</b>	<b>11,223</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>65.4%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>33.2%</b>
<b>Children - address not known</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>65.2%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>28.3%</b>	<b>34.8%</b>
<b>All children</b>	<b>16,367</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>63.4%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	<b>35.2%</b>

Source: Child Health System

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