

# Health Intelligence briefing

## Breastfeeding in Northern Ireland, December 2022



**Breastfeeding attempted**  
**61.8%**  
**(2021)**

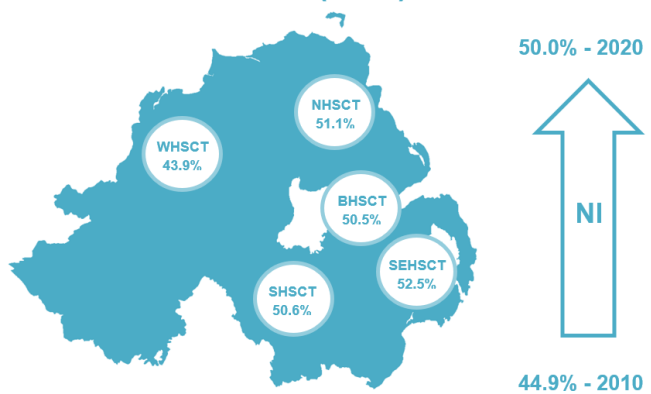


**Skin-to-skin, 2021**  
(of those breastfed at birth n=12,179)

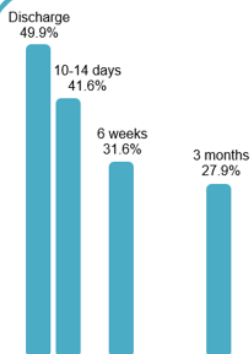
**Any skin-to-skin: 94.4%**

**For at least 1 hour: 84.8%**  
**Until after first feed: 82.2%**

### Breastfeeding at discharge from hospital (2020)



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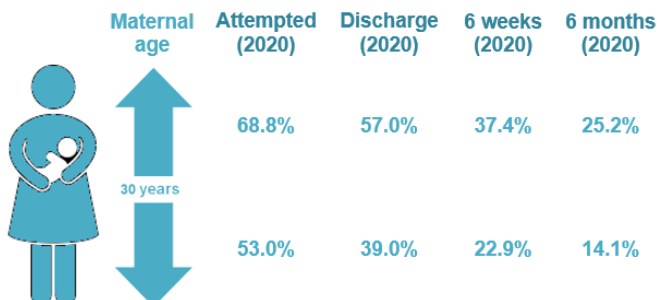


### Breastfeeding prevalence over time for infants born in 2020

### Breastfeeding at discharge (2020)

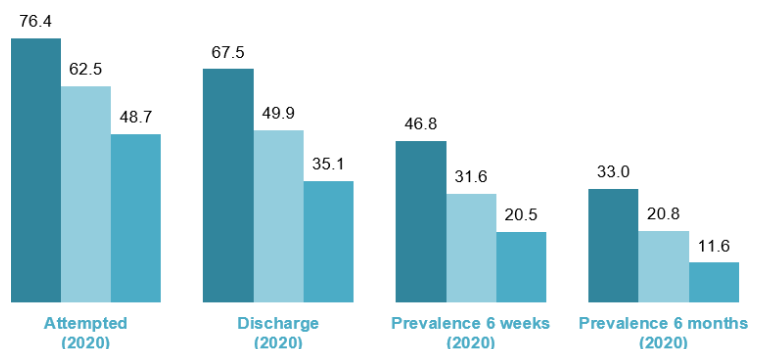
**Non-Sure Start 55.8%**   **Northern Ireland 49.9%**   **Sure Start 40.1%**

NI Child Health System: Live births to NI resident mothers



### Breastfeeding health inequalities

■ Least deprived 20% (SOA)   ■ Northern Ireland   ■ Most deprived 20% (SOA)



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## Northern Ireland context and policy on breastfeeding

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

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

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

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

Other strategies in Northern Ireland that relate to breastfeeding include:

- Health and Wellbeing 2026 – Delivering Together<sup>4</sup>
- A Fitter Future for All-Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland 2012-2022<sup>5</sup>
- A Strategy for Maternity Care in Northern Ireland 2012-2018<sup>6</sup>
- A Healthier Future: A Twenty Year Vision for Health and Wellbeing in Northern Ireland 2005-2025<sup>7</sup>
- The Child Poverty Strategy<sup>8</sup>
- Children and Young People's Strategy 2020-2030<sup>9</sup>
- 'Supporting the best start in life' Infant Mental Health Framework and Action Plan 2015-2018<sup>10</sup>
- Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031<sup>11</sup>

In line with Department of Health (DoH) priorities, including the Making Life Better public health framework, the Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016–21 and local government-led community planning, the Public Health Agency Corporate plan sets out the strategic direction and priorities for 2017-21.<sup>12</sup> Under the outcome "All children and young people have the best start in life" it includes the "*Proportion of mothers breastfeeding on discharge and differential between the average and most deprived breastfeeding*" as a key indicator to monitor breastfeeding.<sup>13</sup>

## UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF recommend that every infant should be exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life, with continued breastfeeding for up to two years or longer.<sup>14,15</sup> The WHO Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding, revised in 2018, are reflected in the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative Standards.<sup>16,17</sup>

The UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative programme is based on a set of interlinking evidence-based standards for maternity, health visiting, neonatal and children's centres services. These are designed to provide parents with the best possible care to build close and loving relationships with their baby and to feed their baby in ways which will support optimum health and development. The UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative enables public services to better support families with feeding and developing close and loving relationships so that all babies get the best possible start in life.

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

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance recommends that healthcare providers, including hospitals and community settings use the Baby Friendly Initiative as a minimum standard.<sup>18</sup> At December 2022, across the UK, 45% of maternity services, 66% of health visiting services, 38% of Midwifery courses; 17% Health visiting courses, 15 children's centres and 29 neonatal units have achieved full, independent Baby Friendly accreditation.<sup>19</sup>

In 2016, the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative launched the Achieving Sustainability standards which are designed to support longer term implementation of best practice standards.<sup>20</sup> A service is considered to be achieving sustainability when they have implemented and maintained the core Baby Friendly standards for at least two years as confirmed by a full re-assessment. In addition, they should have adequate leadership structures in place to support continued maintenance of the standards. Those who have achieved the Achieving Sustainability 'Gold' award must also demonstrate that they cultivate a positive and enabling culture for Baby Friendly, with consideration given to the specific cultural and societal challenges in the UK.

### Baby Friendly Initiative in Northern Ireland

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

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

All maternity units in Northern Ireland have achieved full BFI. This compares to 94% in Scotland, 37% in Wales and 38% in England.<sup>21</sup> Health Visiting Services across all five HSC Trust areas have achieved full BFI accreditation for the health visiting service.

Sure Starts in Northern Ireland are encouraged to implement the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly standards for Children's Centres and, where possible, to work towards accreditation jointly with a group of other Sure Start projects. Recent progress has meant more Sure Start projects in Northern Ireland are now actively working with the Baby Friendly Professional Officer for Northern Ireland to achieve and maintain accreditation.

A full list of NI Sure Start awards can be accessed at <https://unicefbfi.secure.force.com/Events/Awards>.

The Baby Friendly neonatal standards were developed in response to the need to improve breastfeeding outcomes for the most vulnerable babies and mothers. The standards focus on specific ways to transform care for families within the neonatal unit as follows;

1. Enabling staff to support parents to have a close and loving relationship with their baby.
2. Enabling babies to receive breastmilk and to be breastfed when possible.
3. Valuing parents as partners in care.

There are 29 fully accredited Baby Friendly neonatal units in UK and the Northern HSCT became the first Neonatal Unit in NI to achieve full Baby Friendly accreditation in 2021.

In 2022 Queens University Belfast achieved University Standards re-accreditation for their BSc (Hons) Midwifery Sciences (3 years) and BSc (Hons) Midwifery Studies (18 months) courses.

The UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative Gold Standard Award is presented to services in recognition of their long standing commitment to best practice and implementation of the Achieving Sustainability standards. In Northern Ireland a total of nine services have now achieved a BFI Gold Standard award. They include; Antrim Hospital; Causeway Hospital, NHSCT Health Visiting Services; SEHSCT Health Visiting Services, South West Acute Hospital Maternity service and WHSCT (Southern Sector) Health Visiting Services. In November 2020 Northern Ireland's first GOLD Children's Centre award was achieved jointly by Glenbrook, Smile and Shankill Sure Starts.

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

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

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

Note: As NIMATS is a live system and subject to ongoing update, there may be some minor variation when comparing data to previous Health Intelligence Breastfeeding briefings.

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

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

**Data limitations: There is a time lag in reporting data on breastfeeding prevalence for example, 12 month data for an infant born in December 2019 will not be due for collection until December 2020. It is important to note that feeding status was not fully recorded for all time points as illustrated by the high proportions of unknowns at 6 and 12 months.**

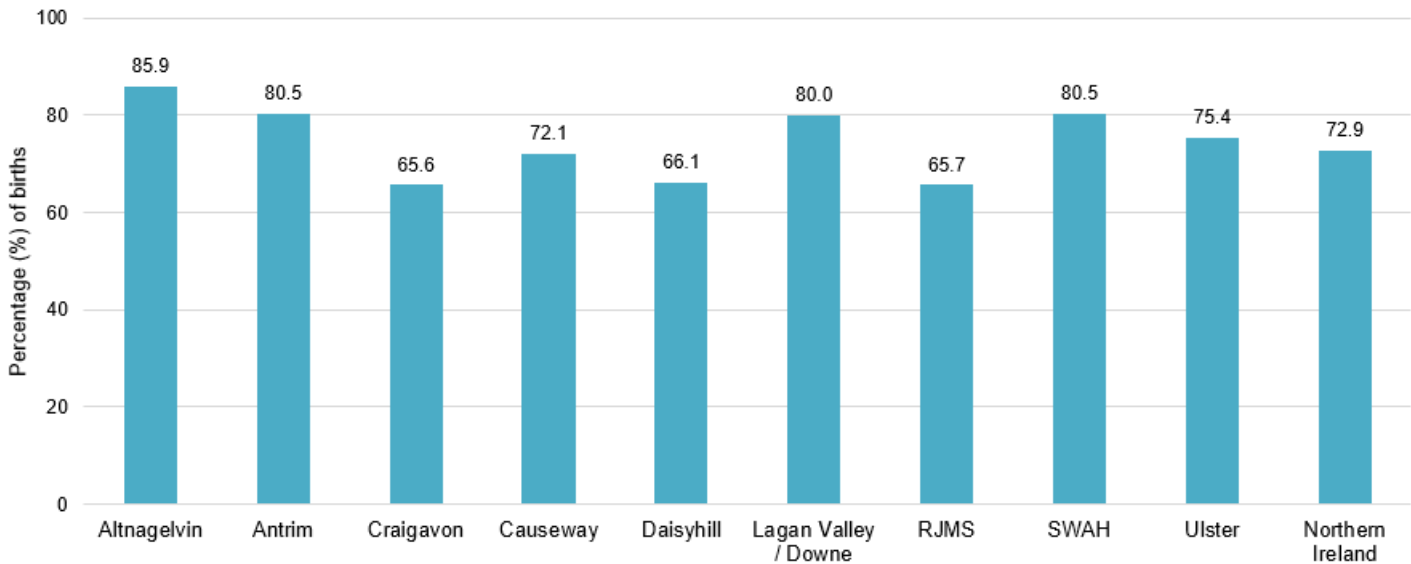
Both NIMATS and CHS capture information on breastfeeding at discharge. This brief includes data from both sources as NIMATS data is directly available from the Northern Ireland data warehouse, providing more recent data. However, it is important to note that there will be some variation in the total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



# Feeding at birth

All mothers should be offered the opportunity to give a first breast feed at birth; data for 2021 indicates that overall, 72.9% of infants (73.2% of mothers) were offered the opportunity of a first breastfeed (Figure 1, [Appendix Table A](#)). Figure 1 illustrates the variation in breastfeeding offered by hospital.

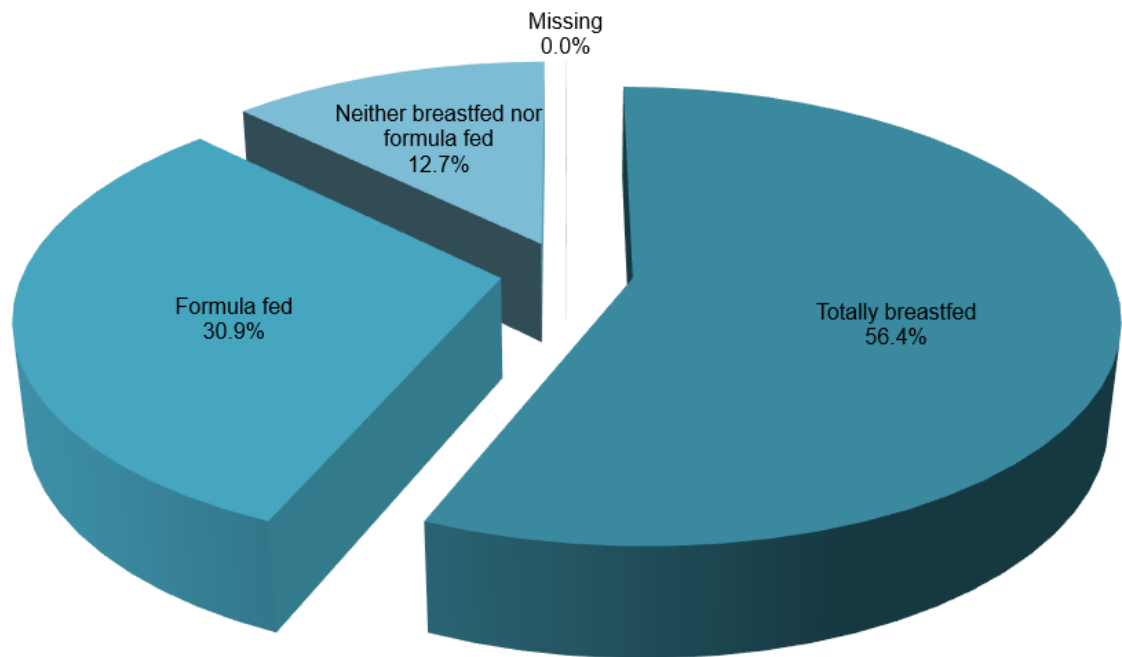
Figure 1: Breastfeeding offered (%) at birth by hospital, 2021 NIMATS experimental data



Source: NIMATS; Live births to NI residents; excludes infants who died in the delivery suite, home births and babies born before arrival at hospital. Disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Lagan Valley and Downe due to small numbers.  
Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal on 30 March 2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.

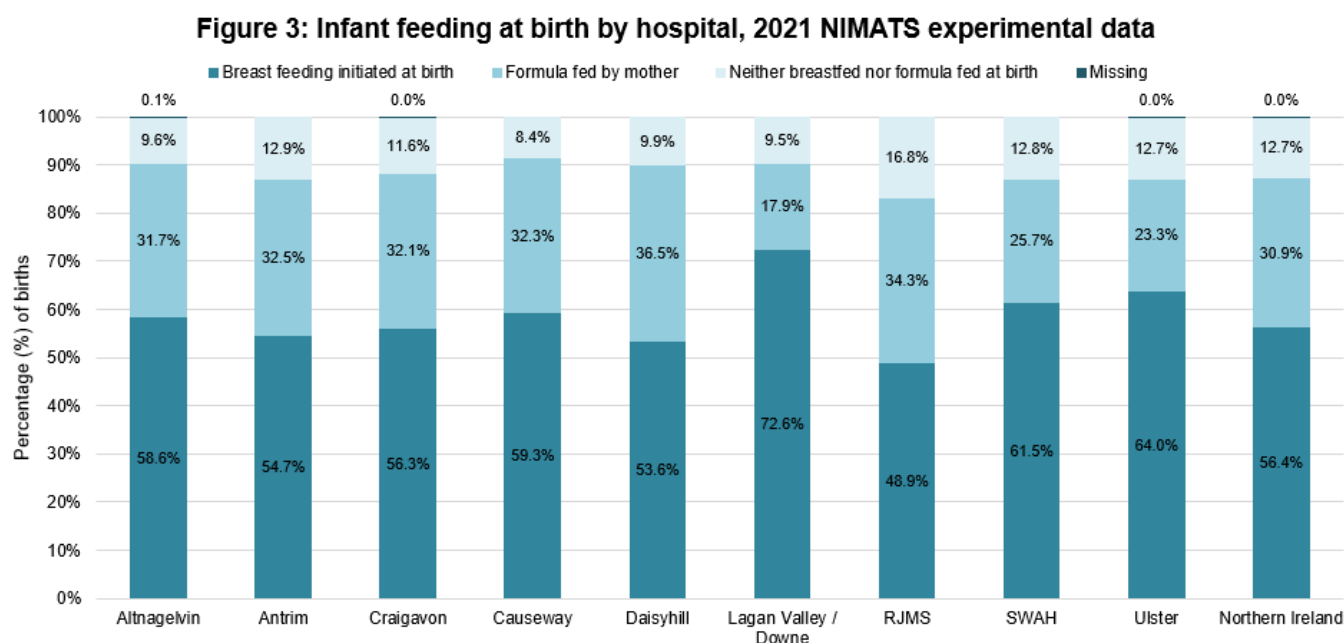
Data also shows that at birth 56.4% of infants were breastfed, 30.9% were formula fed while a further 12.7% did not receive a feed at this time (Figure 3, [Appendix Table B](#)).

Figure 2: Feeding status at birth, 2021 NIMATS experimental data



Base N=21,611: Breastfeeding initiated (n=12,179), Formula fed at birth (n=6,683), neither (n=2,745), missing/unknown (n=4).  
Source: NIMATS; Live births to NI resident mothers; excludes infants who died in the delivery suite, home births and babies born before arrival at hospital.

Figure 3 ([Appendix Table B](#)) illustrates the variation in infant feeding at birth by hospital. The highest rates of breastfeeding initiation at birth were recorded for Lagan Valley / Downe (72.6%) and Ulster (64.0%) with the lowest rates recorded for the Royal Jubilee (48.9%).



Source: NIMATS; Live births to NI residents; excludes infants who died in the delivery suite, home births and babies born before arrival at hospital. Disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Lagan Valley and Downe due to small numbers.  
 Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal on 30 March 2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.

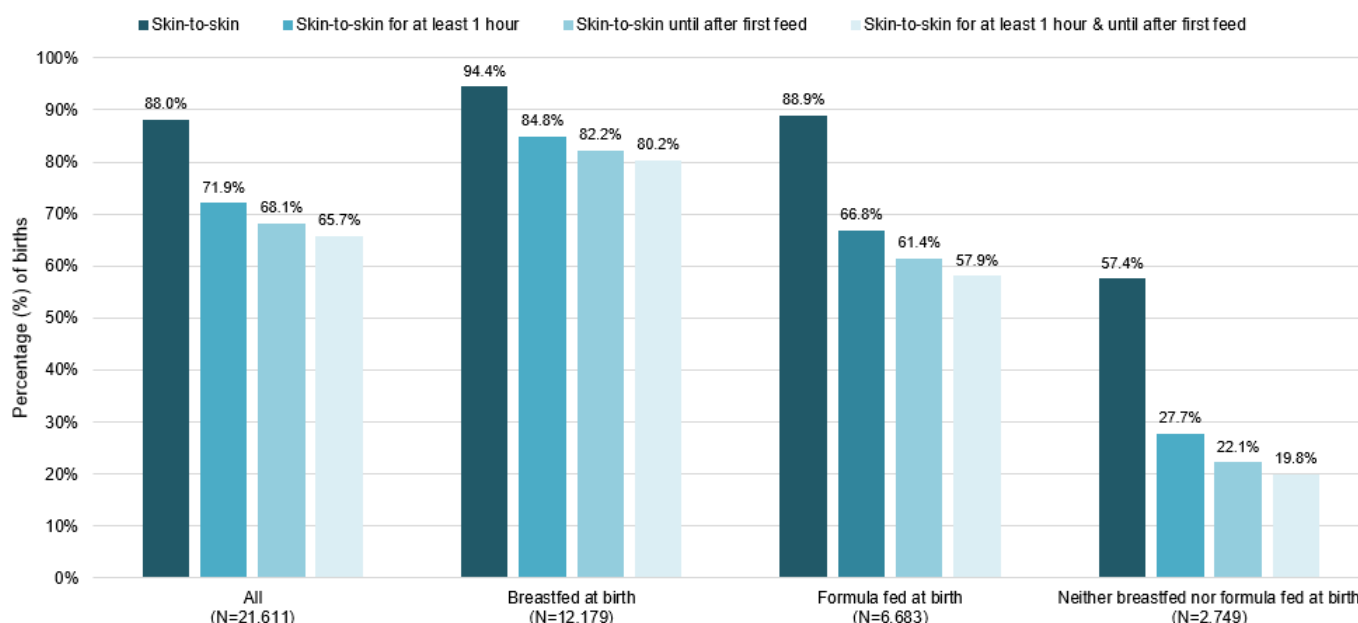
Step 8 of the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) outlines that mothers should be supported to recognise and respond to their infants' cues for feeding, regardless of feeding type<sup>22</sup>. Overall, NIMATS data shows that responsiveness was discussed with 96.4% of mothers at birth (ranging from 94.7% to 100% by hospital).

## Skin-to-skin contact at birth

Skin-to-skin contact has a number of benefits for mothers and babies. There is evidence that skin-to-skin contact at birth can support mothers to establish and maintain breastfeeding.<sup>23,24</sup>

NIMATS data for 2021 shows that 88.0% of infants (19,011/21,611) received skin-to-skin contact at birth; 71.9% (15,548/21,611) received skin-to-skin contact for at least one hour with 68.1% (14,717/21,611) having skin-to-skin contact until after the first feed (Figure 4, [Appendix Table C](#)). Skin-to-skin contact at birth was more common among infants who were breastfed at birth (94.4%; 11,493/12,179) compared to those who were formula fed at birth (88.9%; 5,939/6,683).

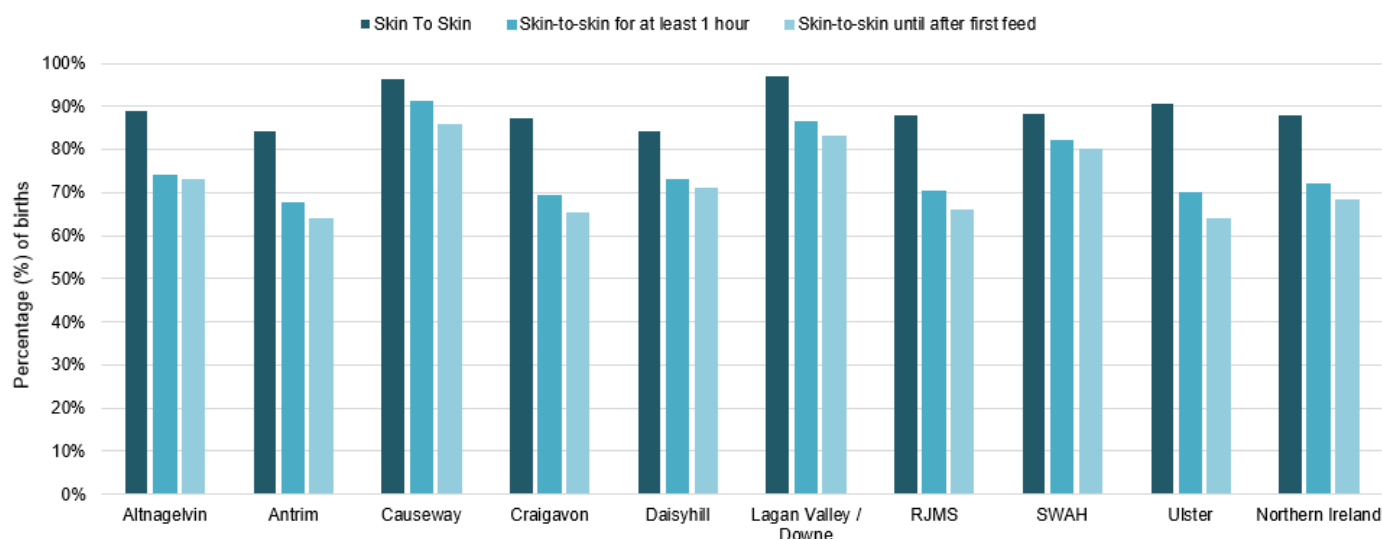
**Figure 4: Skin-to-skin contact at birth by feeding type at birth, 2021 NIMATS experimental data**



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

It is recommended that skin-to-skin contact begins immediately, regardless of method of delivery, and should be uninterrupted for at least one hour. Figure 5 shows overall rates of skin-to-skin contact which range from 84.1% to 96.8% depending on hospital ([Appendix Table D](#)).

**Figure 5: Skin-to-skin contact at birth by hospital, 2021 NIMATS experimental data (all feeding types)**



Source: NIMATS; Live births, NI resident mothers Excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and infants born before arrival. Disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Lagan Valley and Downe due to small numbers.

Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal on 30 March 2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.

As previously shown, rates of skin to skin contact are higher among infants breastfed at birth and Table 1 provides the breakdown of rates by hospital.

**Table 1: Skin-to-skin contact at birth for infants breastfed at birth by hospital, 2021**

	<b>Births</b>	<b>Skin-to-skin</b>		<b>Skin-to-skin for at least 1 hour</b>		<b>Skin-to-skin until after first feed</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Altnagelvin	1,376	1,295	94.1	1,141	82.9	1,168	84.9
Antrim	1,586	1,476	93.1	1,321	83.3	1,267	79.9
Craigavon	1,847	1,732	93.8	1,543	83.5	1,489	80.6
Causeway	517	512	99.0	501	96.9	492	95.2
Daisyhill	1,063	962	90.5	896	84.3	890	83.7
Lagan Valley / Downe	69	69	100.0	66	95.7	67	97.1
RJMS	2,359	2,229	94.5	2,015	85.4	1,940	82.2
SWAH	784	735	93.8	712	90.8	708	90.3
Ulster	2,578	2,483	96.3	2,127	82.5	1,987	77.1
<b>Infants breastfed at birth</b>	<b>12,179</b>	<b>11,493</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>10,322</b>	<b>84.8</b>	<b>10,008</b>	<b>82.2</b>

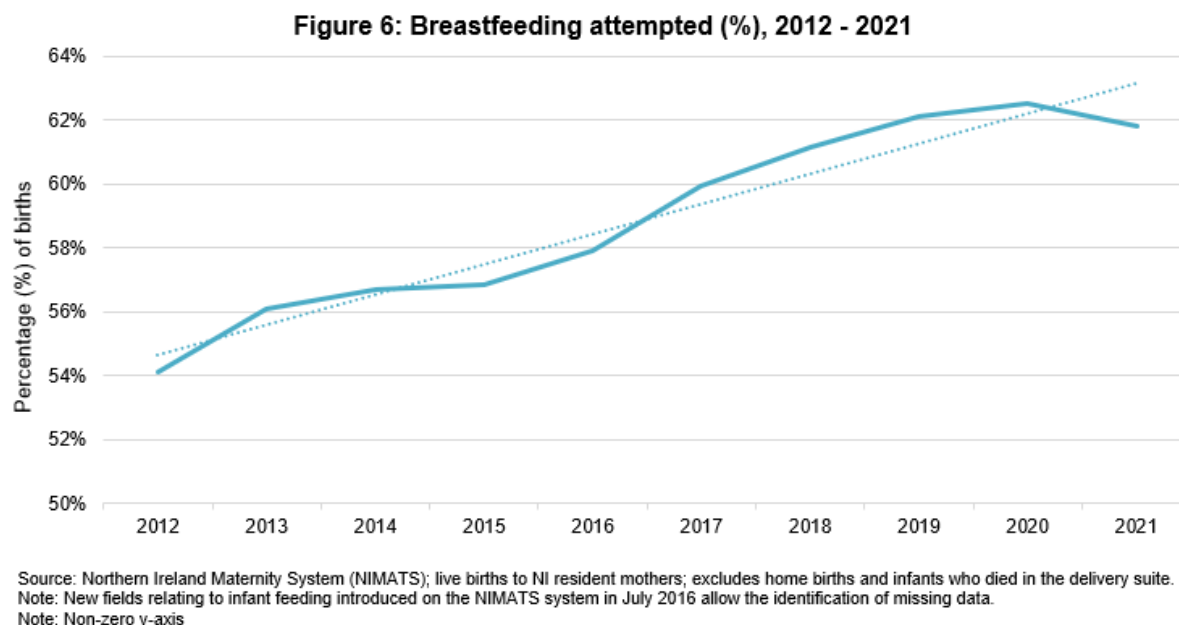
Source: NIMATS; Live births, NI resident mothers Excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and infants born before arrival.

Disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Lagan Valley and Downe due to small numbers.

Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal on 30 March 2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.

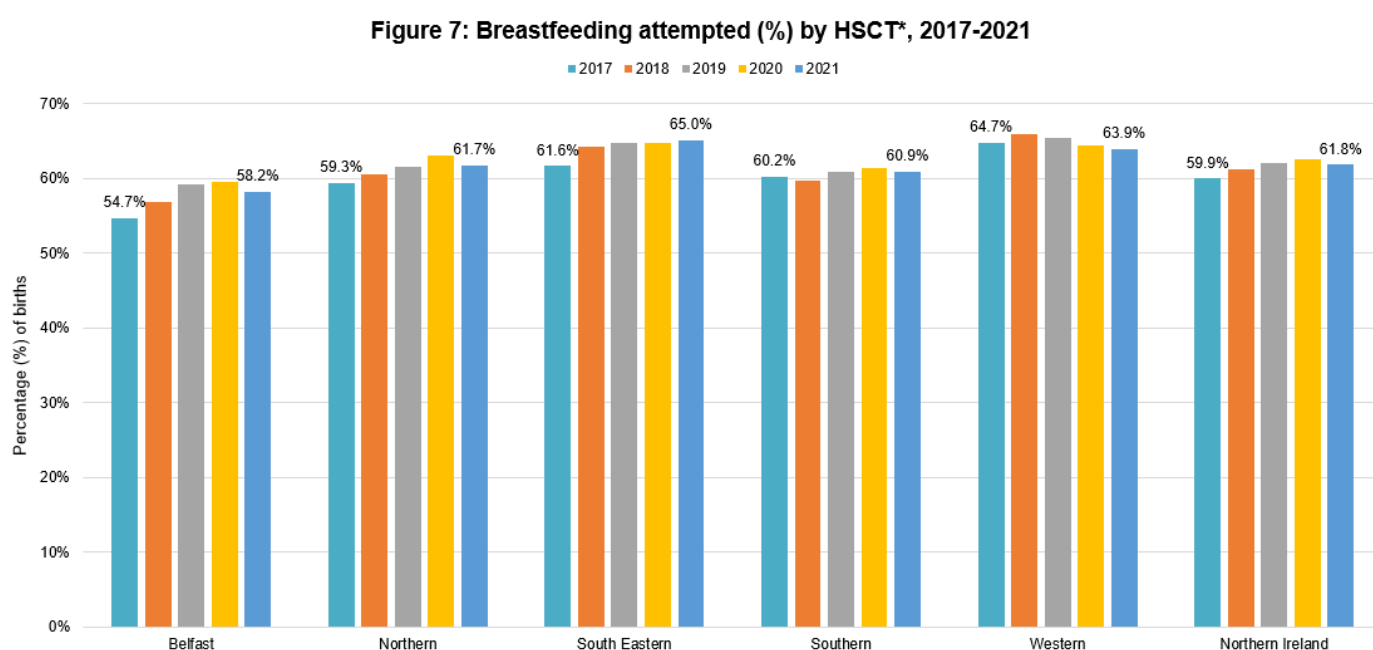
## Breastfeeding attempted

Breastfeeding is considered to have been attempted if the baby has been put to the breast or received mother's breast milk while in hospital. In 2021, data shows that breastfeeding was attempted<sup>ð</sup> for around 6 out of ten births (61.8%) in Northern Ireland. Despite a minor decrease in the overall rate of attempted breastfeeding in 2021 (61.8%) compared to 2020 (62.5%), Figure 6 ([Appendix Table E](#)) shows the increasing trend in attempted breastfeeding from 54.1% in 2012 to 61.8% in 2021.



## Health and Social Care Trust

In 2021, breastfeeding was attempted during the postnatal stay for 65.0% of infants from the South Eastern HSCT\* area compared to 63.9% from the Western HSCT, 61.7% in the Northern HSCT, 60.9% in the Southern HSCT and 58.2% of those in the Belfast HSCT (Figure 7, [Appendix Table E](#)).



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

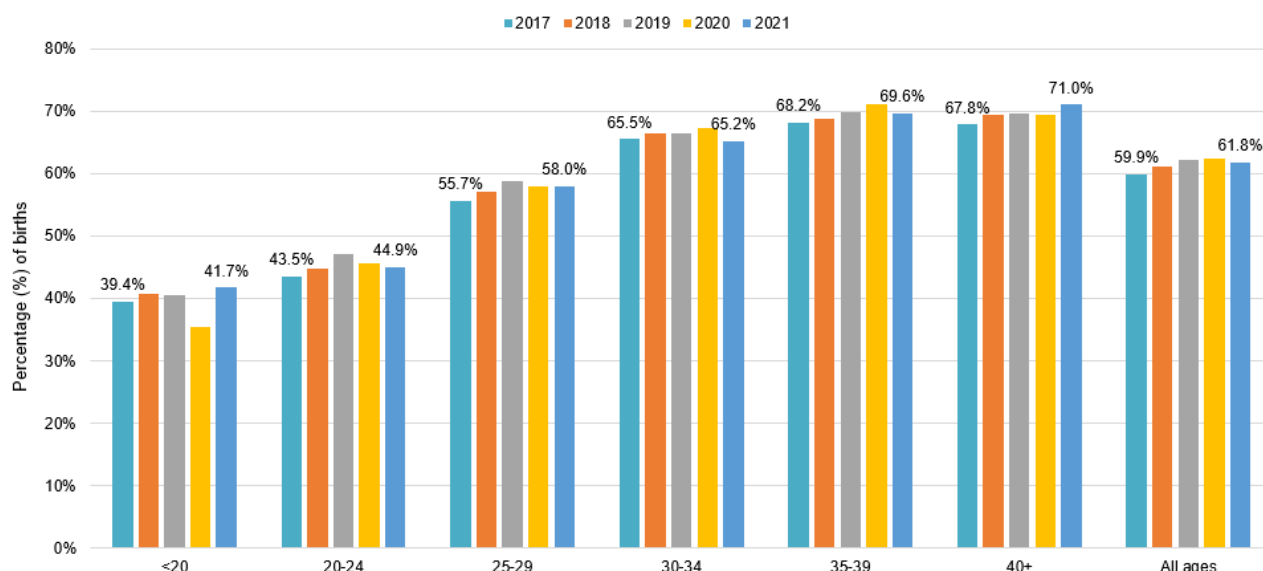
<sup>ð</sup> Note: In 2016 changes to NIMATS involved the creation of a new screen to record all the feeding and relationship questions.

## Maternal age

NIMATS data shows that the rate of breastfeeding varies according to mother's age, with older mothers generally more likely to attempt breastfeeding (Figure 8, [Appendix Table F](#)). For example, in 2021, 44.9% of mothers aged 20-24 years attempted to breastfeed compared to 69.6% of mothers aged 35-39 years.

While the overall rate of attempted breastfeeding in Northern Ireland showed a minor decrease in 2021 (61.8%) compared to 2020 (62.5%), there was some variation by maternal age group, with decreasing rates among mothers aged 20-24 years, 30-34 years and 35-39 years between 2020 and 2021 and increases among mothers under 20 years and 40+ years in 2020.

**Figure 8: Breastfeeding attempted (%) by maternal age, 2017-2021**

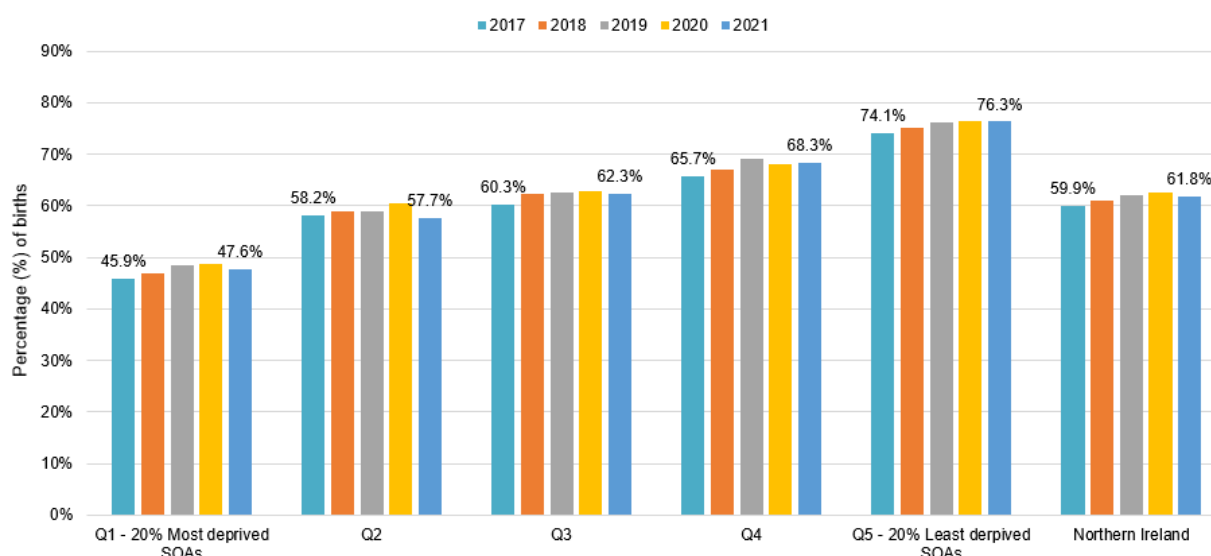


Source: Northern Ireland Maternity System (NIMATS); live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births and infants who died in the delivery suite.

## Deprivation

There is an association between attempted breastfeeding and deprivation. In 2021, breastfeeding was reported as having been attempted for 47.6% of births to mothers living in the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) in Northern Ireland compared to 76.3% of births to mothers living in the 20% least deprived SOAs (Figure 9, [Appendix Table G](#)).

**Figure 9: Breastfeeding attempted (%) by deprivation quintile (SOA), 2017-2021**

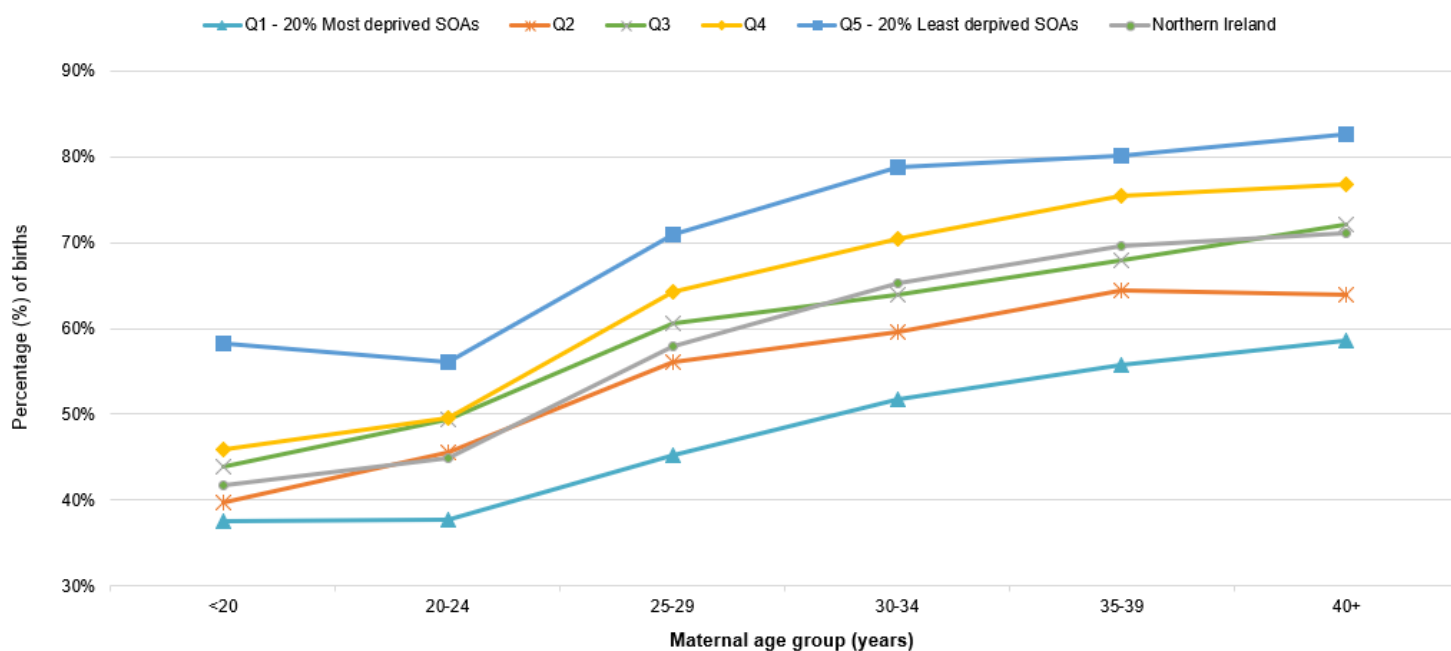


Source: Northern Ireland Maternity System (NIMATS); live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births and infants who died in the delivery suite.  
Note: Deprivation status as per Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 for Super Output Area (SOA).

## Maternal age and deprivation

Figure 10 shows the combined picture of maternal age and deprivation status on breastfeeding attempted ([Appendix Table H](#)). In general, an increasing trend in the rates of attempted breastfeeding with age is seen across all levels of deprivation. The highest rates are reported for mothers aged 40+ years living in the 20% least deprived SOAs (Q5), where breastfeeding was attempted for 82.6% of births. Contrastingly, the lowest rates of attempted breastfeeding were reported for mothers aged <20 years (37.6%) and 20-24 years (37.8%) living in the 20% most deprived SOAs. Note: relatively low numbers of births to mothers aged <20 years of age in deprivation quintiles Q3 to Q5.

**Figure 10: Breastfeeding attempted (%) by maternal age and deprivation quintile (SOA), 2021**

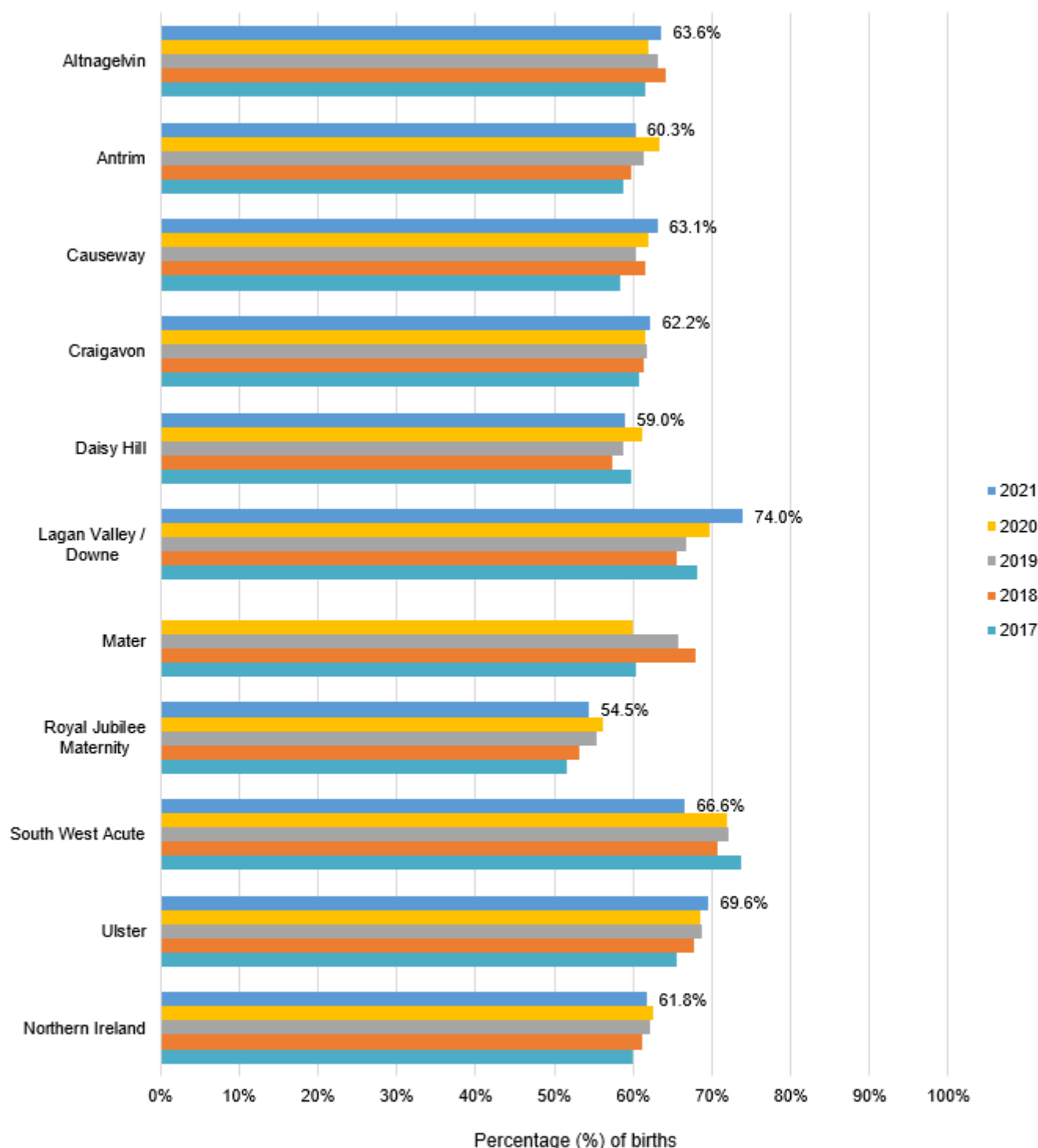


Source: Northern Ireland Maternity System (NIMATS); live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births and infants who died in the delivery suite. Deprivation status as per Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 for Super Output Area (SOA).  
Note: Non-zero y-axis

## Place of birth

There is variation in the rates of attempted breastfeeding by hospital (Figure 11, [Appendix Table I](#)). Data for 2021 show that the highest rates of attempted breastfeeding were recorded for Lagan Valley / Downe (74.0%), Ulster (69.6%) and South West Acute (66.6%) with the lowest rates for Royal Jubilee Maternity (RJMS) (54.5%) and Daisy Hill (59.0%).

**Figure 11: Breastfeeding attempted (%) by hospital, 2017-2021**



Source: Northern Ireland Maternity System (NIMATS); live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births and infants who died in the delivery suite. Disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Lagan Valley and Downe due to small numbers.

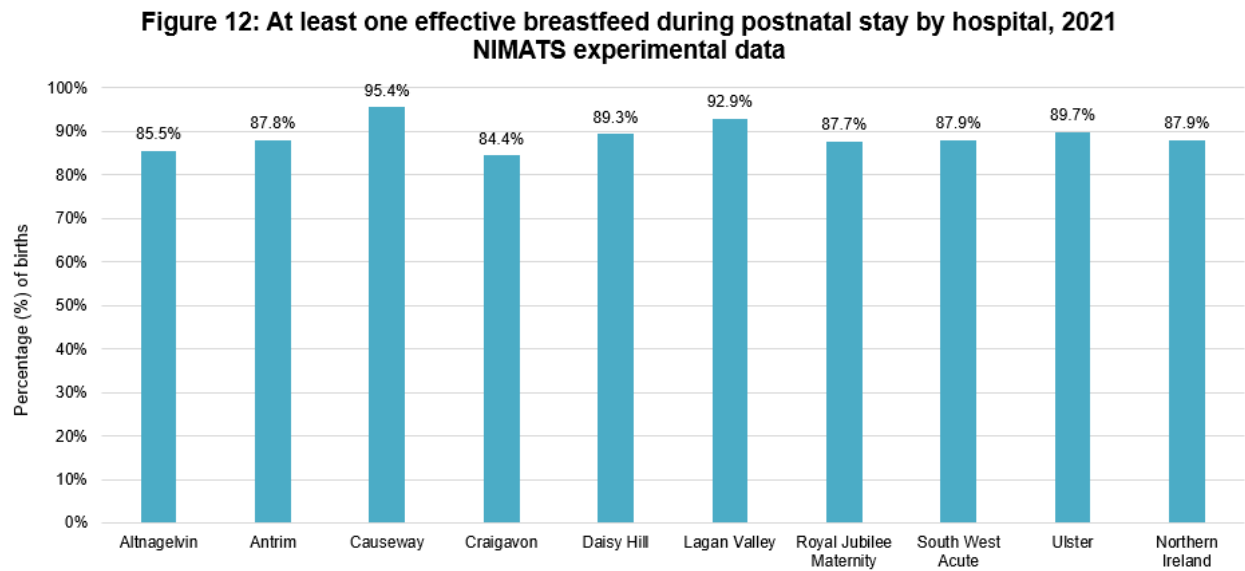
Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal on 30 March 2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.



## Feeding during the postnatal stay

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

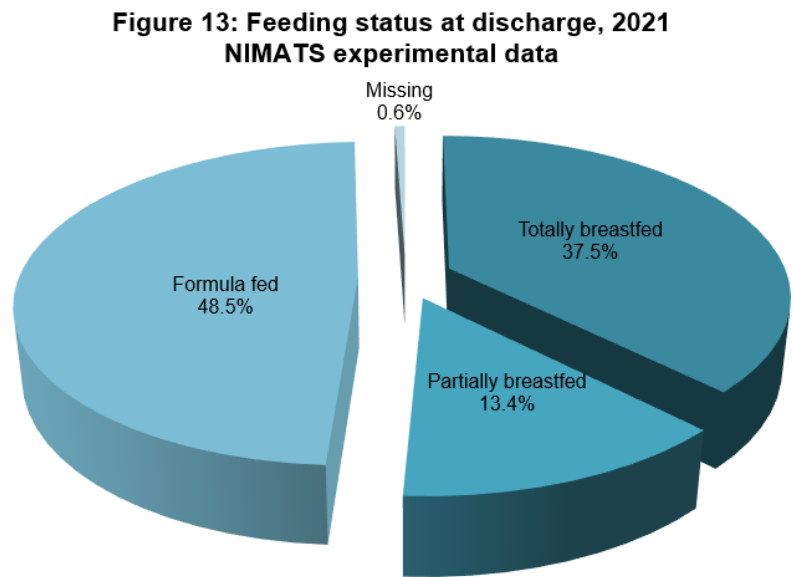
Overall, where breastfeeding was attempted, 87.9% (11,740/13,360) of infants had at least one effective breastfeed during the postnatal stay. Figure 12 shows that there was some variation by hospital ([Appendix Table J](#)).



Source: Northern Ireland Maternity System (NIMATS); live births to NI resident mothers; excludes infants who died in the delivery suite, home births and babies born before arrival at hospital. Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal on 30 March 2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.

## Feeding at discharge - NIMATS

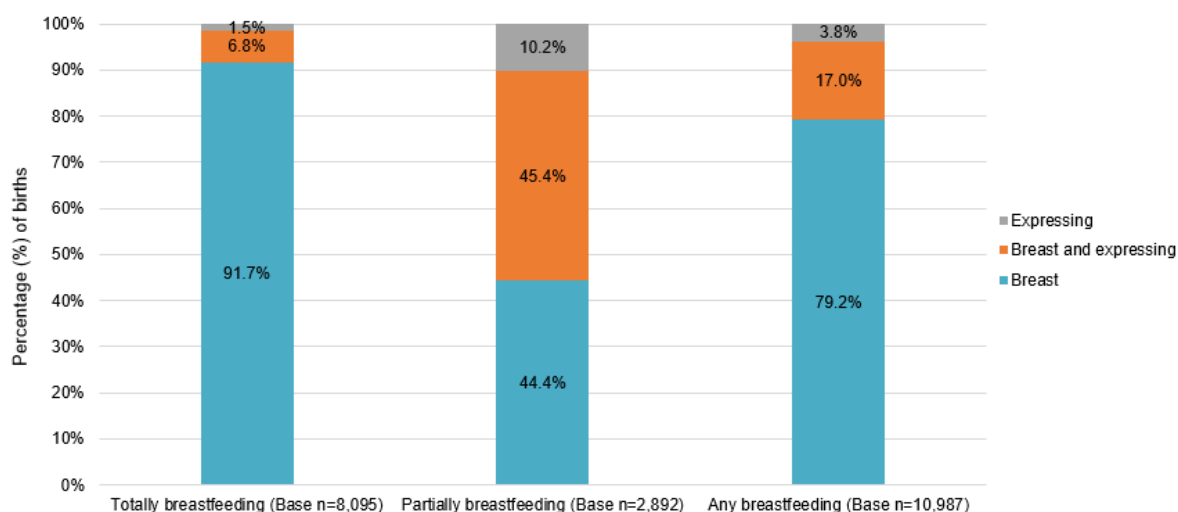
NIMATS figures for 2021 indicate that 50.9% of infants were receiving breastmilk at discharge (37.5% totally breastfed and 13.4% partially breastfed) with 48.5% formula fed at discharge (Figure 13). As previously stated, there will be some variation between total births recorded on the NIMATS and CHS as the systems collate information differently, for example NIMATS will record births in Northern Ireland hospitals while CHS will include infants not born in NI hospitals.



Base N=21,586; Totally breastfed (n=8,095), Partially breastfed (n=2,892), Formula fed (n=10,478), missing (n=121)  
Source: NIMATS; Live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births, babies born before arrival at hospital, infants who died in the delivery suite, neonatal unit or postnatal ward.

For those who were totally or partially breastfed at discharge, the method of feeding was recorded as either breast, expressed or both. Figure 14 ([Appendix Table K](#)) shows that the majority (91.7%) of those recorded as totally breastfeeding at discharge were feeding by breast compared to 44.4% of those discharged partially breastfeeding.

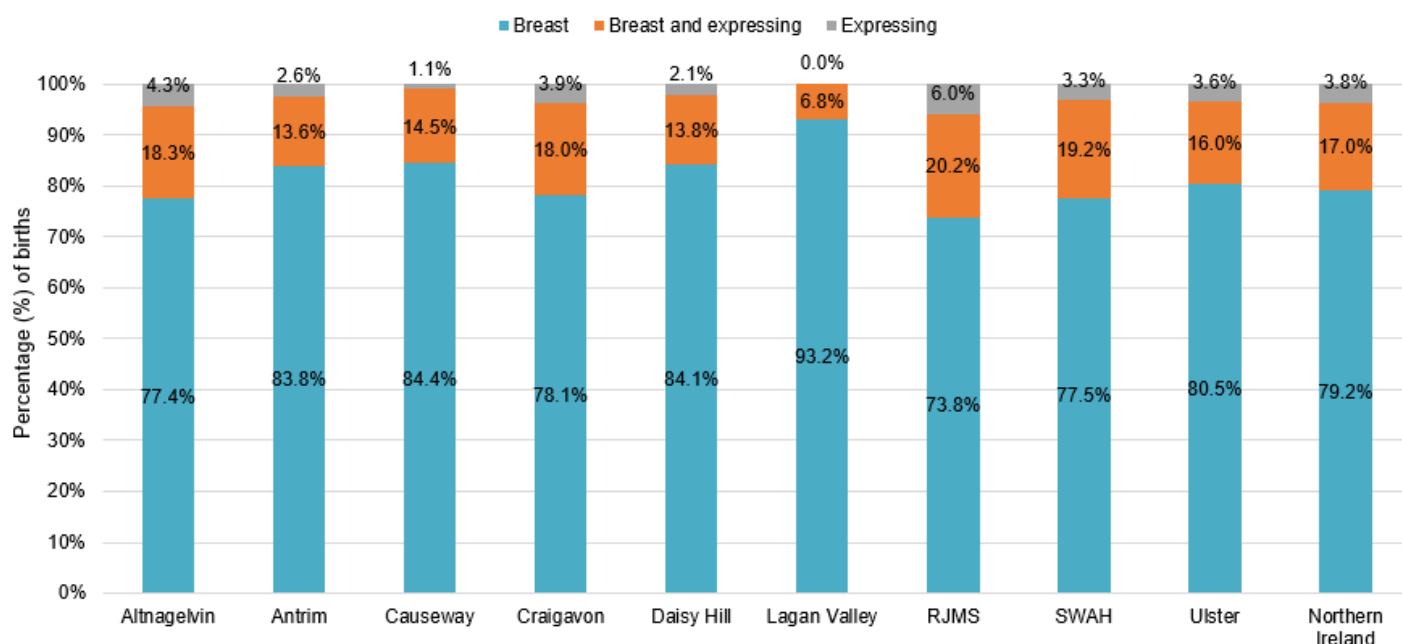
**Figure 14: Breastfeeding at discharge by feeding method, 2021**  
NIMATS experimental data



Source: NIMATS experimental data; Live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births, babies born before arrival at hospital, infants who died in the delivery suite, neonatal unit or postnatal ward.

Figure 15 ([Appendix Table K](#)) shows the variation in feeding method at discharge from hospital for infants receiving any breast milk. The highest rates of feeding at the breast were recorded for Lagan Valley (93.2%) followed by Causeway (84.4%) and Daisy Hill (84.1%).

**Figure 15: Breastfeeding at discharge feeding method by hospital, 2021**  
NIMATS experimental data  
(of infants receiving any breastfeeding at discharge n=10,987)



Source: NIMATS experimental data; Live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births, babies born before arrival at hospital, infants who died in the delivery suite, neonatal unit or postnatal ward.

Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal on 30 March 2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.

## Supplementation

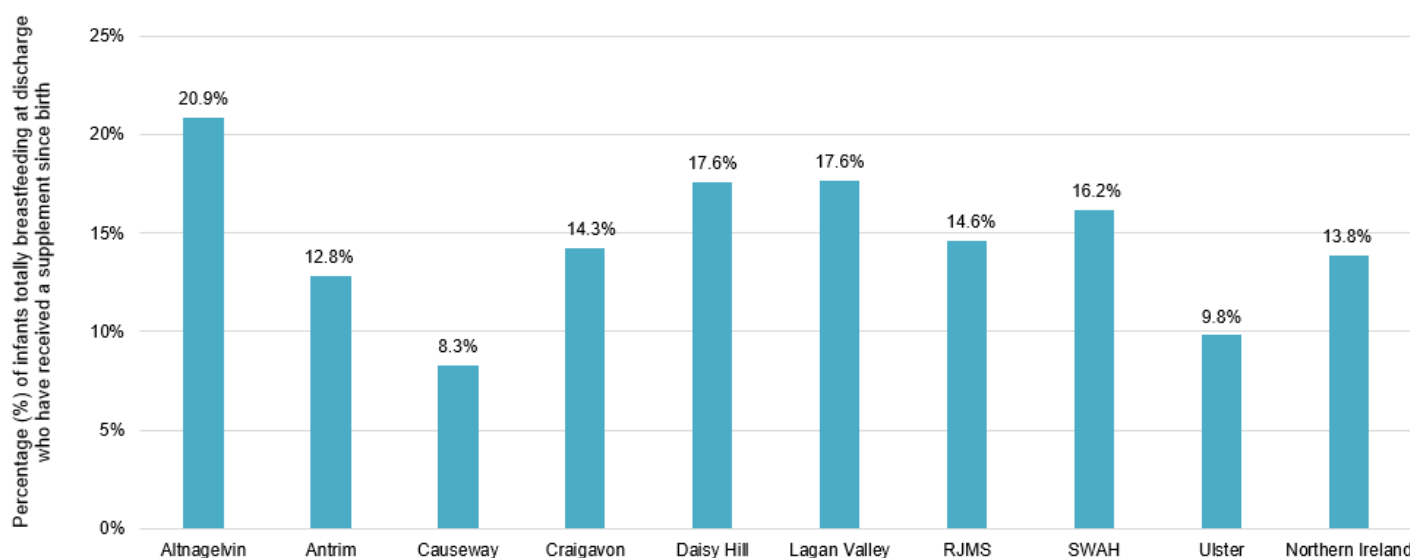
Evidence suggests that providing new born babies with foods or fluids other than breast milk in the first few days after birth has a negative impact on the successful establishment and maintenance of breastfeeding.<sup>25,26</sup> Supplementation with artificial milk has also been found to significantly alter the intestinal microflora.<sup>27</sup>

Current WHO guidance recommends that 'Mothers should be discouraged from giving any food or fluids other than breast milk, unless medically indicated'.<sup>28</sup> One of the key findings from a 2016 review of the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative stated that 'Avoiding in-hospital supplementation appears to be a key step for breastfeeding success, perhaps reflecting adequate implementation of the rest of Ten Steps.'<sup>29</sup>

For infants who are recorded as being totally breastfed at discharge, NIMATS also records if the infant has received any formula supplements. The system does not record the reason for supplementation i.e. clinical indication, fully informed choice or other.

In 2021, 13.8% (n=1,121) of infants who were totally breastfed at discharge had also received a formula supplement since birth (Figure 16, [Appendix Table L](#)). The rates of supplementation vary between hospitals, ranging from 8.3% in Causeway to 20.9% in Altnagelvin.

**Figure 16: Supplementation by hospital, 2021**  
**NIMATS experimental data**  
(of 8,095 infants totally breastfed at discharge)



Source: NIMATS experimental data; Live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births, babies born before arrival at hospital, infants who died in the delivery suite, neonatal unit or postnatal ward.

Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal on 30/03/2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.

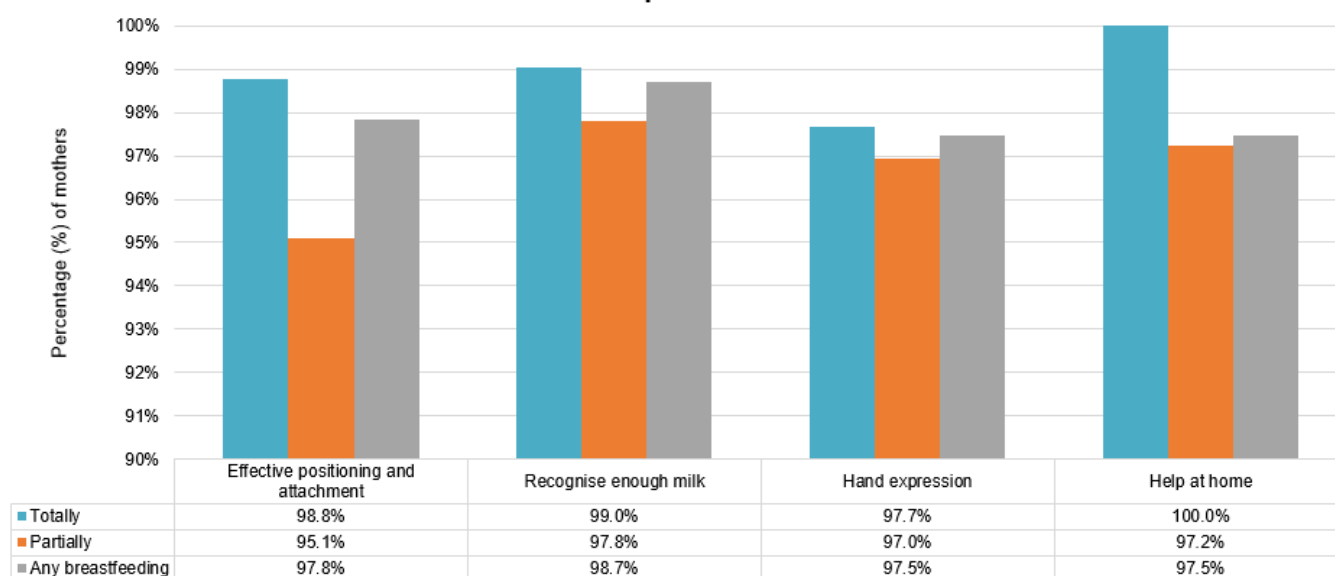
As previously highlighted, skin-to-skin contact at birth can support mothers to establish and maintain breastfeeding. As such, it is of interest to note that of those infants who were totally breastfed at discharge (n=8,095), 13.4% (1,013/7,572) of those who had any skin-to-skin contact at birth had received a supplement compared to 20.7% (108/523) of those who did not have any skin-to-skin contact at birth.

## Support with feeding

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

NIMATS data for 2021 shows that over nine out of ten mothers who were totally or partially breastfeeding at discharge had received information on effective positioning and attachment, recognising enough milk, hand expression and accessing help at home on discharge from hospital ([Figure 17](#)). Some variation is observed by hospital ([Appendix Table M](#)).

**Figure 17: Breastfeeding support at discharge, 2021**  
NIMATS experimental data



Source: NIMATS experimental data; Live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births, babies born before arrival at hospital, infants who died in the delivery suite, neonatal unit or postnatal ward.

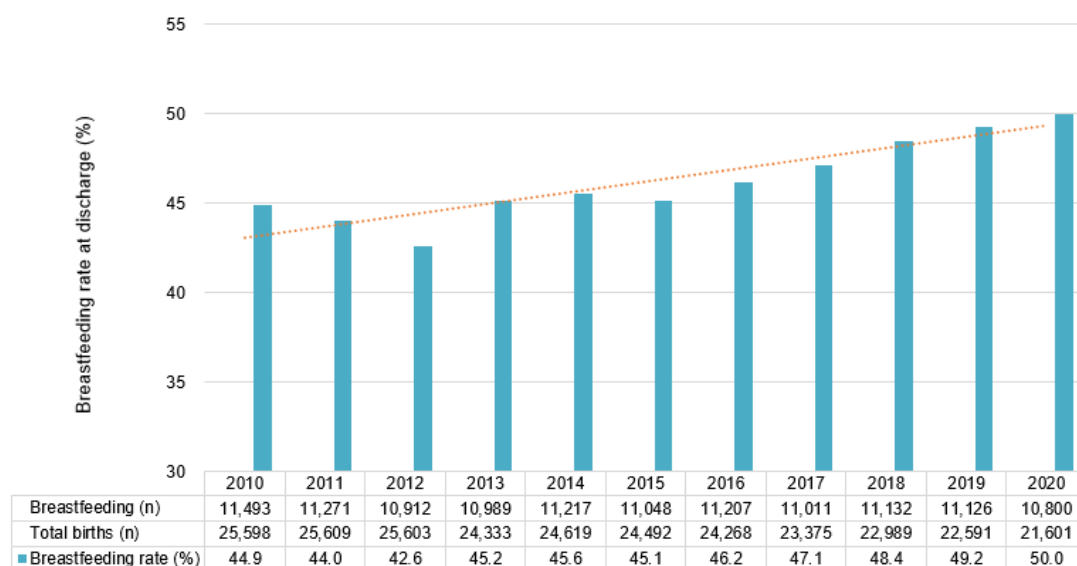
Note: Non-zero y-axis

BFI standards relating to support with bottle-feeding highlight that mothers who are formula feeding or mixed feeding should be taught about safe preparation and storage of formula. NIMATS data for 2021 shows that the majority of mothers formula feeding at discharge are offered information/support to sterilise equipment with some minor variation by hospital of birth (98.3%, range 96.8%-100%), make up feeds (98.4%, range 97.3%-100%) and discuss first milks (97.8%, range 96.9%-100%) ([Appendix Table N](#)).

## Feeding at discharge - CHS

Figure 18 shows the number of infants receiving **any**\* breast milk at discharge from hospitals† in Northern Ireland from 2010-2020. Between 2010 and 2012, the rate of breastfeeding decreased from 44.9% to 42.6%. However, figures for 2013 showed an increase in the rate to 45.2% and this remained relatively stable until 2015. Since 2015 rates have increased steadily with 50% of infants receiving any breastmilk at discharge from hospital in 2020 (Figure 18).

**Figure 18: Northern Ireland breastfeeding at discharge (%), 2010 - 2020**

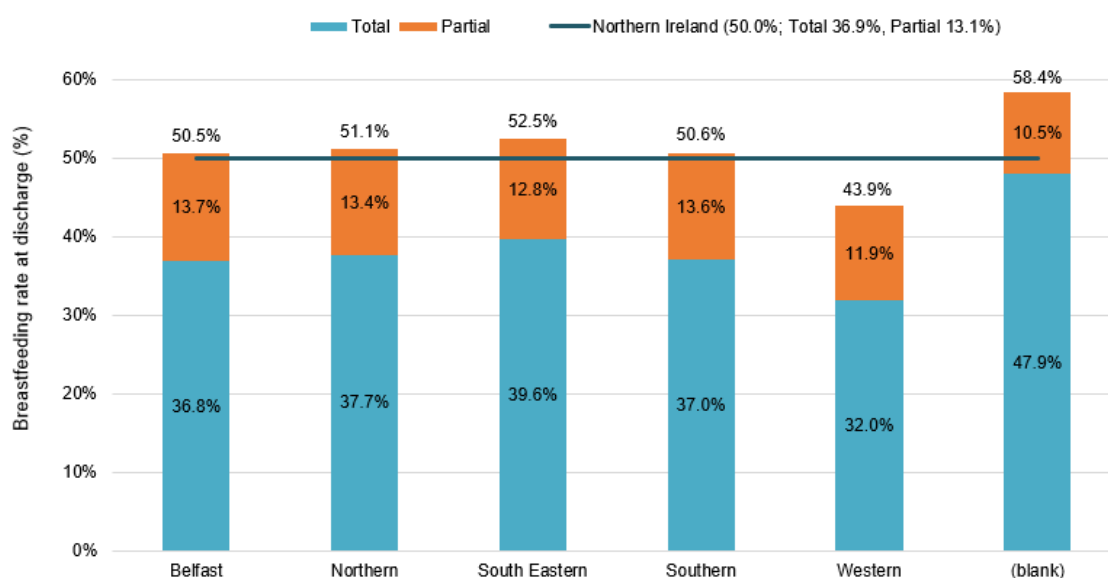


Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births.

## Health and Social Care Trust

CHS data for 2020 shows that the South Eastern HSCT/LCG^ has the highest breastfeeding rates at discharge (52.5%) followed by the Northern HSCT (51.1%), Southern HSCT (50.6%), Belfast HSCT (50.5%) and Western (43.9%) (Figure 19, [Appendix Table O](#)). For definitions of 'Total' and 'Partial' breastfeeding refer to Page 51.

**Figure 19: Breastfeeding rate at discharge (%) by HSCT / LCG^, 2020**



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

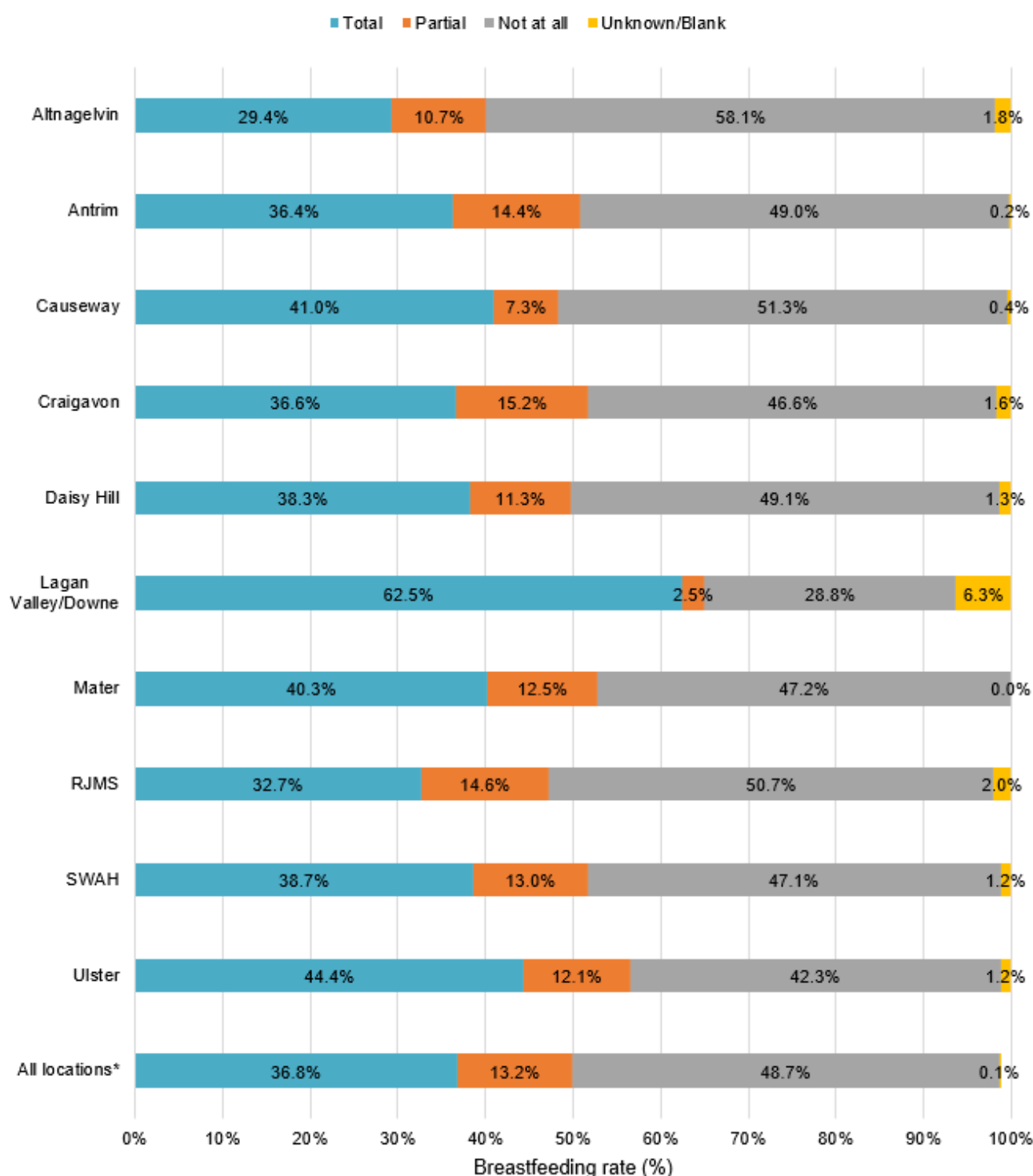
\* Data includes infants receiving only breast milk and those receiving both breast milk and formula.

† 2020 data includes 37 births: At home (n=19), ROI Hospital (n=16), Scottish Hospital (n=1), Overseas Hospital (n=1).

## Place of birth

In 2020 the highest rates of any breastfeeding at discharge from hospital were for Lagan Valley/Downe (65.0%), Ulster (56.5%), Mater 52.8%, Craigavon 51.8% and South West Acute (51.7%) (Figure 20, [Appendix Table P](#)).

**Figure 20: Breastfeeding rate at discharge (%) by hospital, 2020**



Source: CHS; live births to NI resident mothers.

All locations\* - Excludes 35 births - At home (n=18) ROI Hospital (n=15) Scottish Hospital (n=1), Overseas Hospital (n=1)

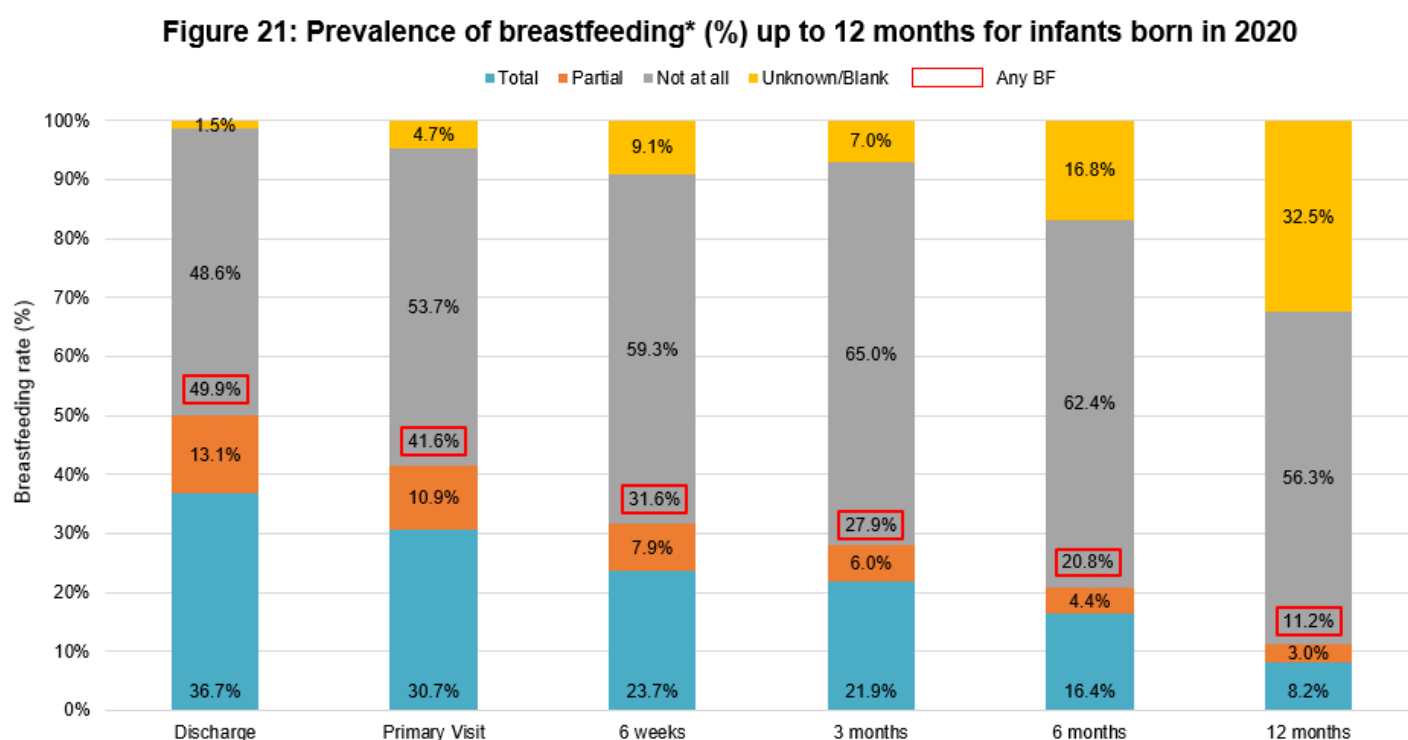
Further data on breastfeeding rates at discharge (%) by maternal age group and deprivation quintile (SOA) are available in [Appendix Table Q](#) and [Appendix Table R](#) respectively.

## Prevalence of breastfeeding

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

**There is a time lag in reporting data on breastfeeding prevalence for example, 12 month data for an infant born in December 2020 will not be due for collection until December 2021.**

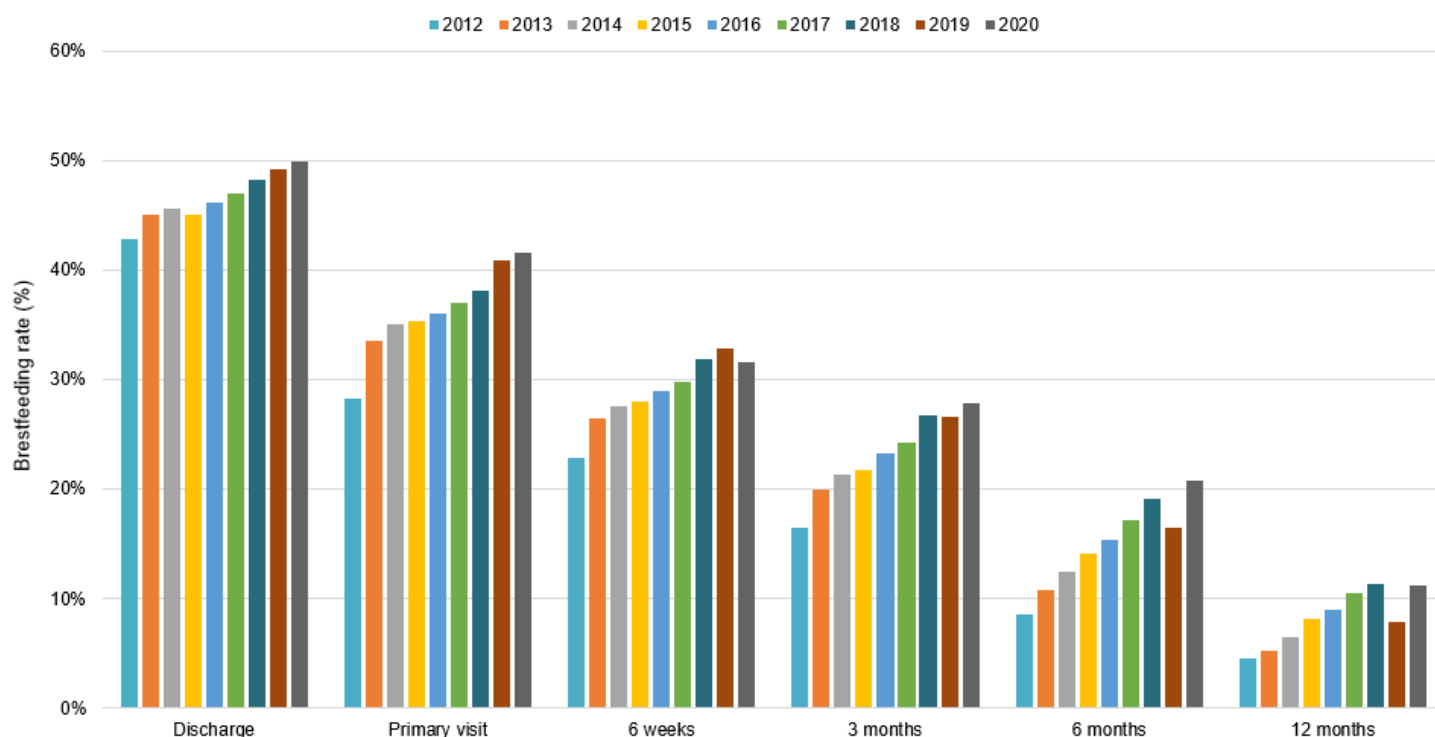
Figure 21 ([Appendix Table S](#)) shows the prevalence of breastfeeding for births in 2020. Data shows a drop in the number of infants receiving any breast milk from 49.9% at discharge to 41.6% at the primary visit, 31.6% at 6 weeks, 26.9% at 3 months, 20.8% at 6 months and 11.2% at 12 months.



Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; live births to NI resident mothers; \*Any BF - Combined Total and Partial breastfeeding

Figure 22 ([Appendix Table S](#)) shows breastfeeding prevalence for births in years 2012 to 2020. It highlights the general increasing trend in breastfeeding rates at time points up to 12 months. However, it also shows decreases in breastfeeding rates for births in 2019 at 3, 6 and 9 month time points and in 2020 at 6 weeks. A reduction in visits due to the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have impacted on data quality, with higher levels of missing data particularly at 6 and 12 months visits, which may have contributed to the decreased breastfeeding rates reported for these time points.<sup>30</sup>

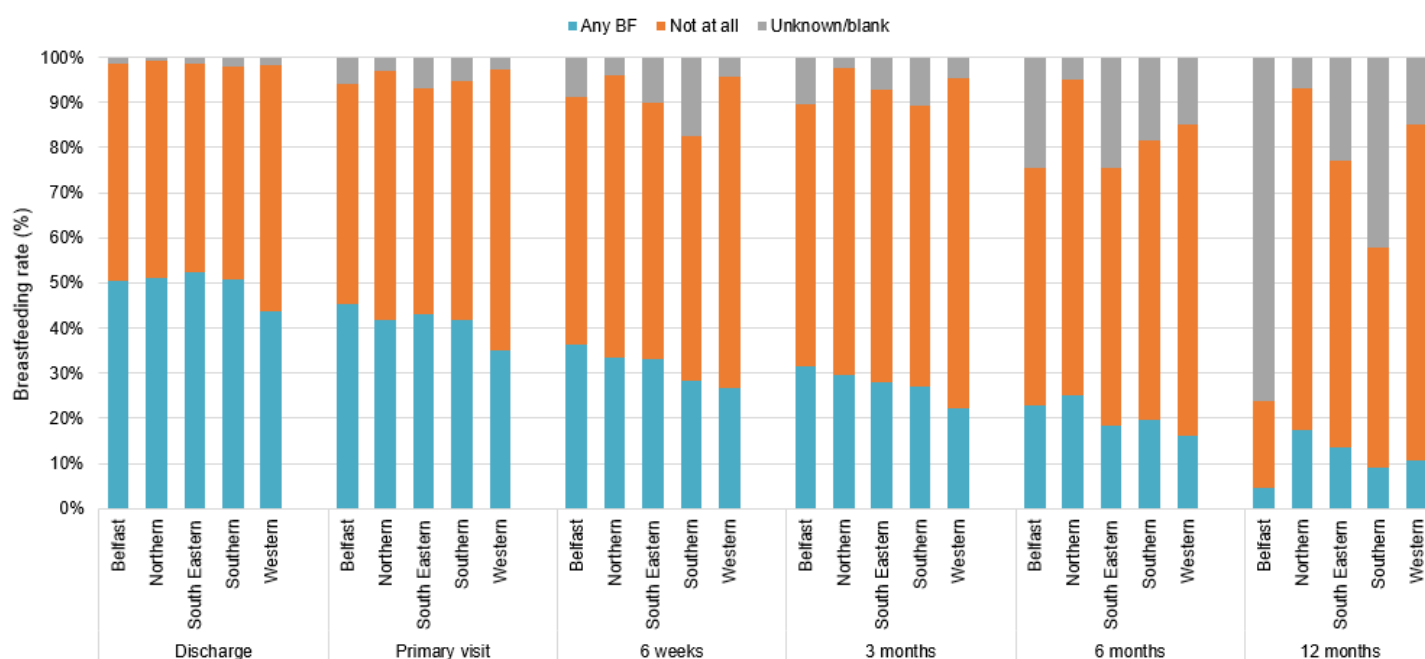
**Figure 22: Prevalence of breastfeeding\* (%) up to 12 months by stage and year of birth, 2012-2020**



Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; live births to NI resident mothers; \*Any breastfeeding - Combined Total and Partial breastfeeding

Figure 23 ([Appendix Table T](#)) shows the variation in breastfeeding rates up to 12 months for births in 2020 by HSC Trust of residence.

**Figure 23: Prevalence of breastfeeding\* (%) up to 12 months for births by stage and HSCT for births in 2020**

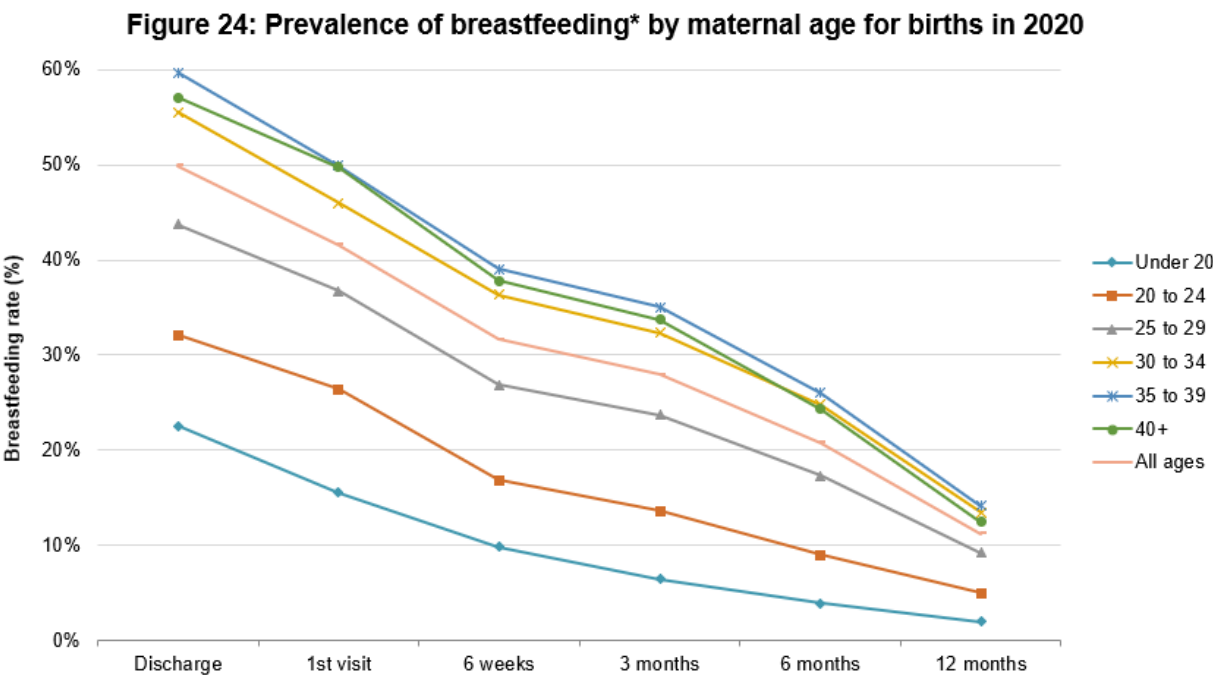


Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; live births to NI resident mothers; \*Any breastfeeding - Combined Total and Partial breastfeeding



Maternal age

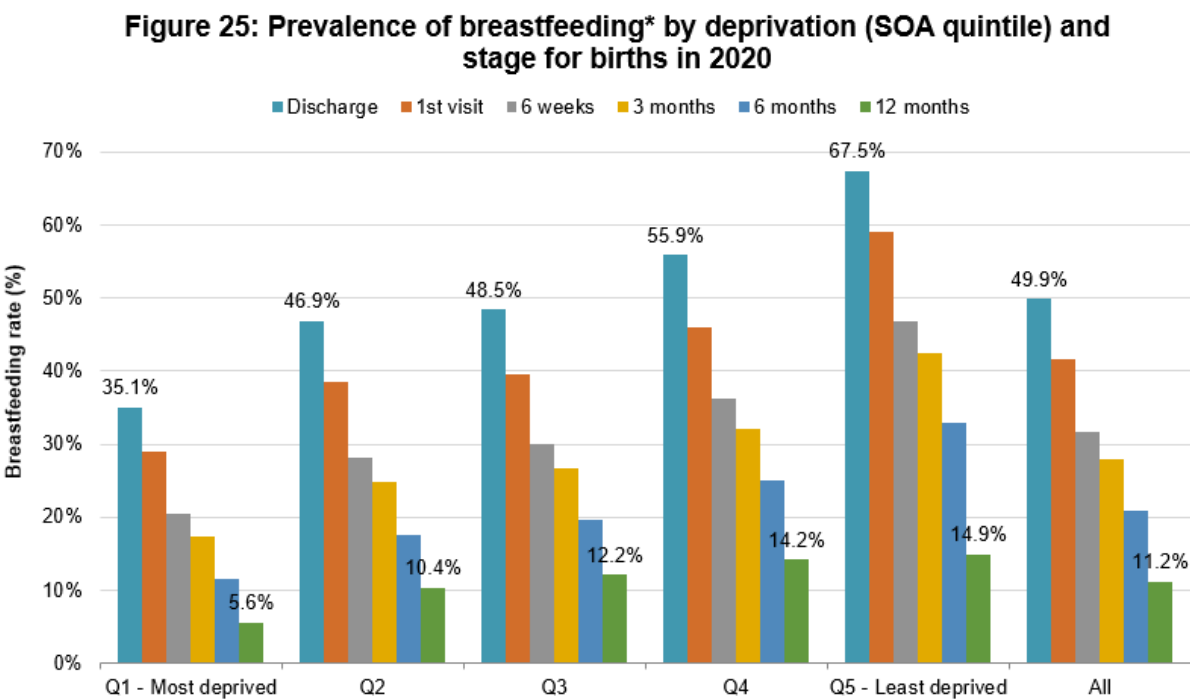
Figure 24 ([Appendix Table U](#)) shows the prevalence of breastfeeding by maternal age for infants born in 2020. Mothers aged over 30 years are more likely to be breastfeeding compared to those under 30 years at each recording time point; for example, those over 30 years are 1.8 times more likely to report breastfeeding at 6 and 12 month time points compared with those under 30 years of age.



Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers. \* Any breastfeeding - combined total and partial breastfeeding  
All ages includes 2 births where maternal age unknown

Deprivation

Figure 25 ([Appendix Table V](#)) shows that the rate of breastfeeding is higher in the least deprived areas and this pattern is consistent at each recording time point.

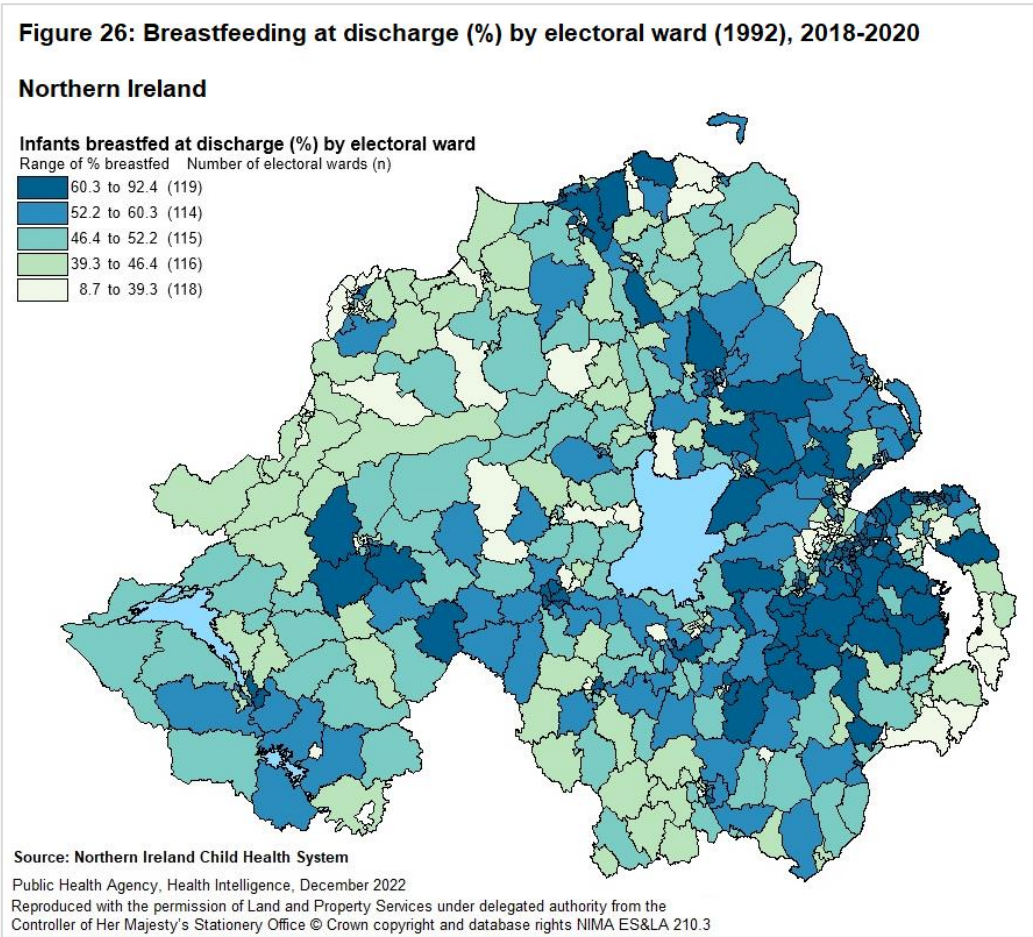


Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers. \* Any breastfeeding - combined total and partial breastfeeding  
Deprivation status as per Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 for Super Output Area (SOA)

# Breastfeeding and inequality

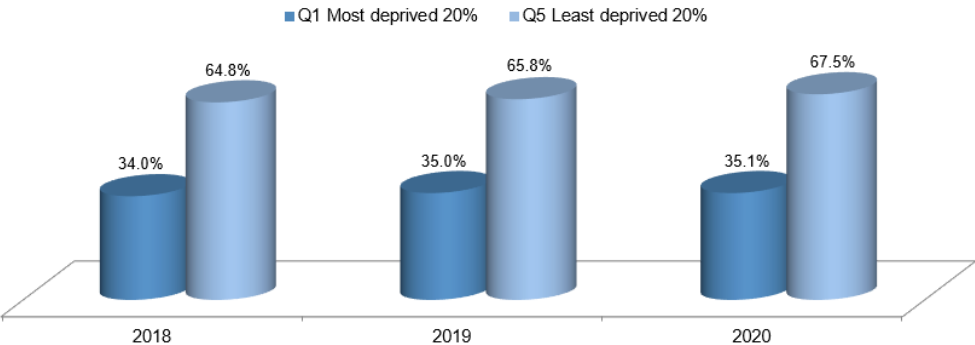
Using data from the Child Health System it is possible to map the variation in average breastfeeding rates for 2018-2020 at local ward level (1992) across Northern Ireland (Figure 26). Due to small numbers a three-year period is used to provide some stability in rates.

At a Northern Ireland regional level, the lowest breastfeeding rates are found in Bushmills (8.7%, n=2, NHSCT), Upper Springfield (15.6%, BHSCT), Ardoyne (17.8%, BHSCT), Collin Glen (18.8%, SEHSCT) and Shankill (20.8%, BHSCT). The highest breastfeeding rates are observed in Malone (92.4%, BHSCT), Crawfordsburn (90.2%, SEHSCT), Hillsborough (85.8%, SEHSCT), Dunseverick (85.7%, NHSCT) and Craigavad (85.1%, SEHSCT).



The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) provides a relative measure of deprivation for Super Output Areas (SOAs) across Northern Ireland. Figure 27 shows that breastfeeding rates at discharge are almost twice as high among those living in the 20% least deprived SOAs compared to the 20% most deprived SOAs.

**Figure 27: Breastfeeding rates at discharge (%) by deprivation quintile (Super Output Area), 2018-2020**



Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers; Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017

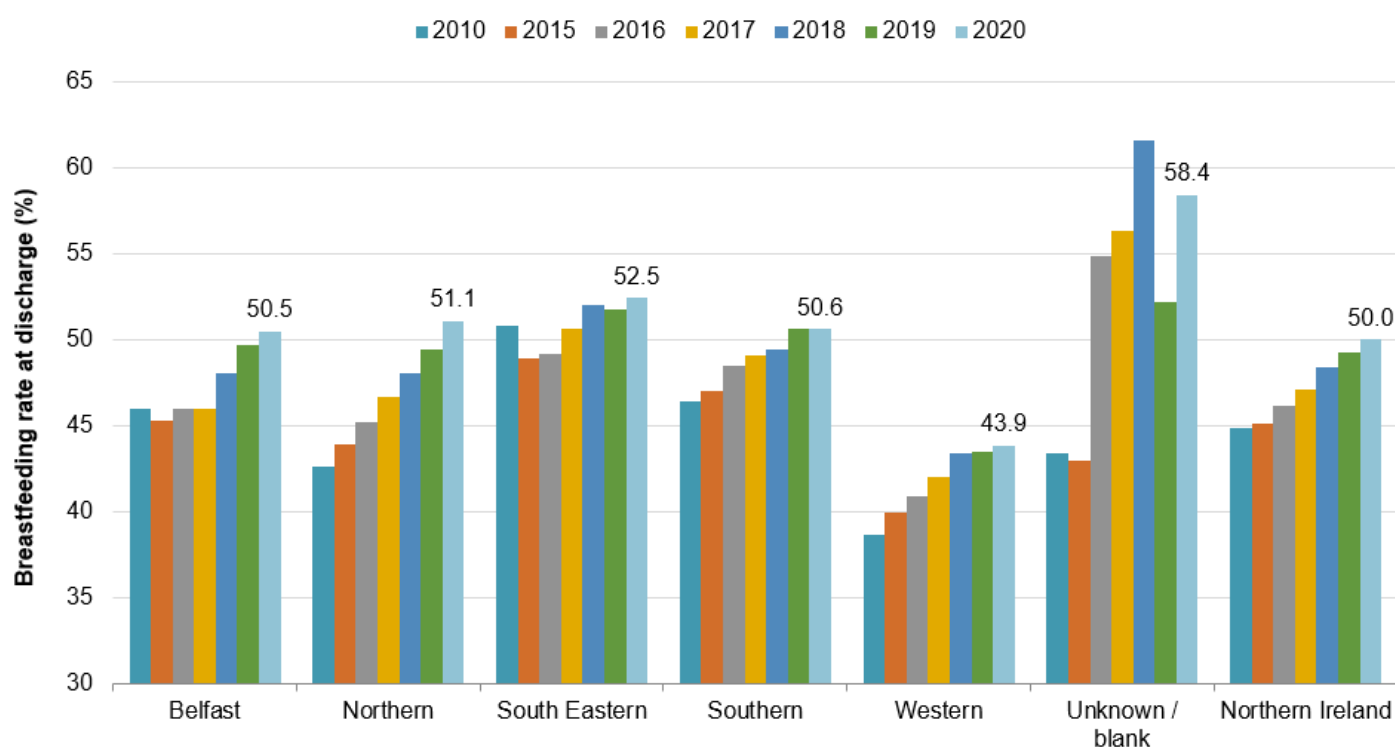
## Breastfeeding rates at discharge by Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT) / Local Commissioning Group (LCG)

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

At a Northern Ireland regional level, the rate of breastfeeding at discharge has increased from 44.9% in 2010 to 50.0% in 2020 (an average yearly increase of 0.51%).

At HSCT/ LCG level, between 2010 and 2020, the Northern HSCT showed the largest increase in breastfeeding rates at discharge, with an increase of 8.5 percentage points, compared to 5.2 for the Western HSCT, 4.5 for the Belfast HSCT, 4.2 for the Southern HSCT and 1.7 for South Eastern HSCT.

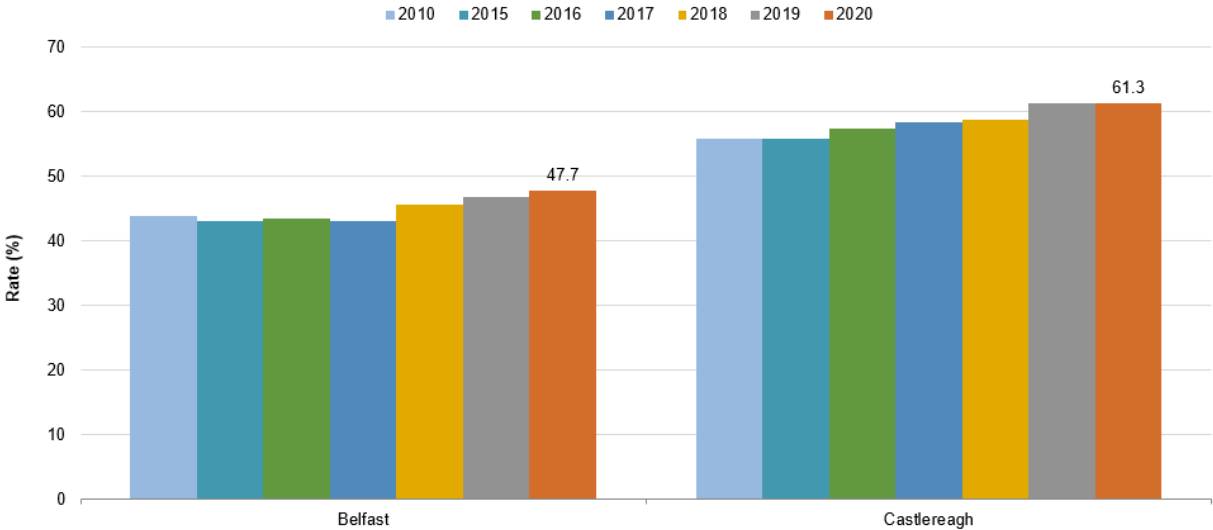
**Figure 28: Breastfeeding rate at discharge by Health and Social Care Trust / Local Commissioning Group, 2010 & 2015-2020**



Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI residents  
Note: Non-zero axis

The following pages provide breakdowns by HSCT and Local Government District (LGD1992) areas for comparative purposes.

Figure 29: Belfast LCG breastfeeding at discharge, 2010 and 2015-2020



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

Figure 30

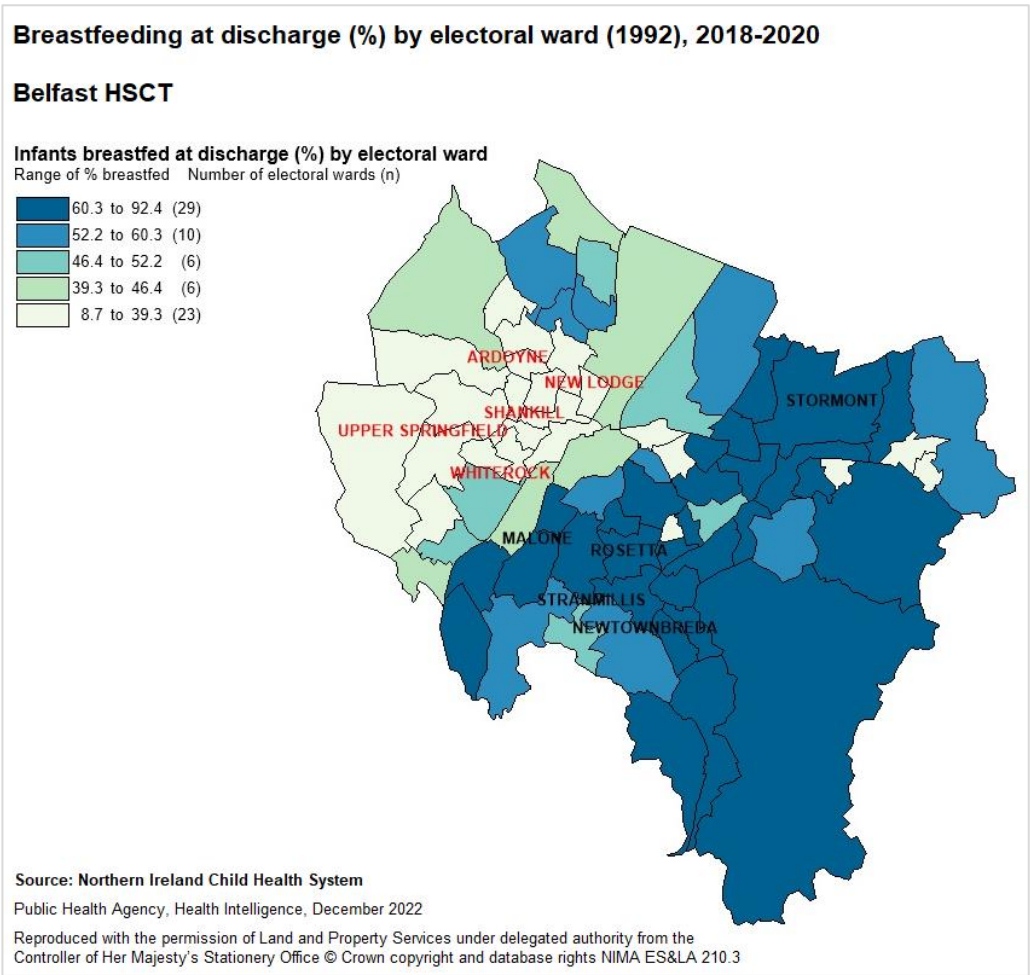
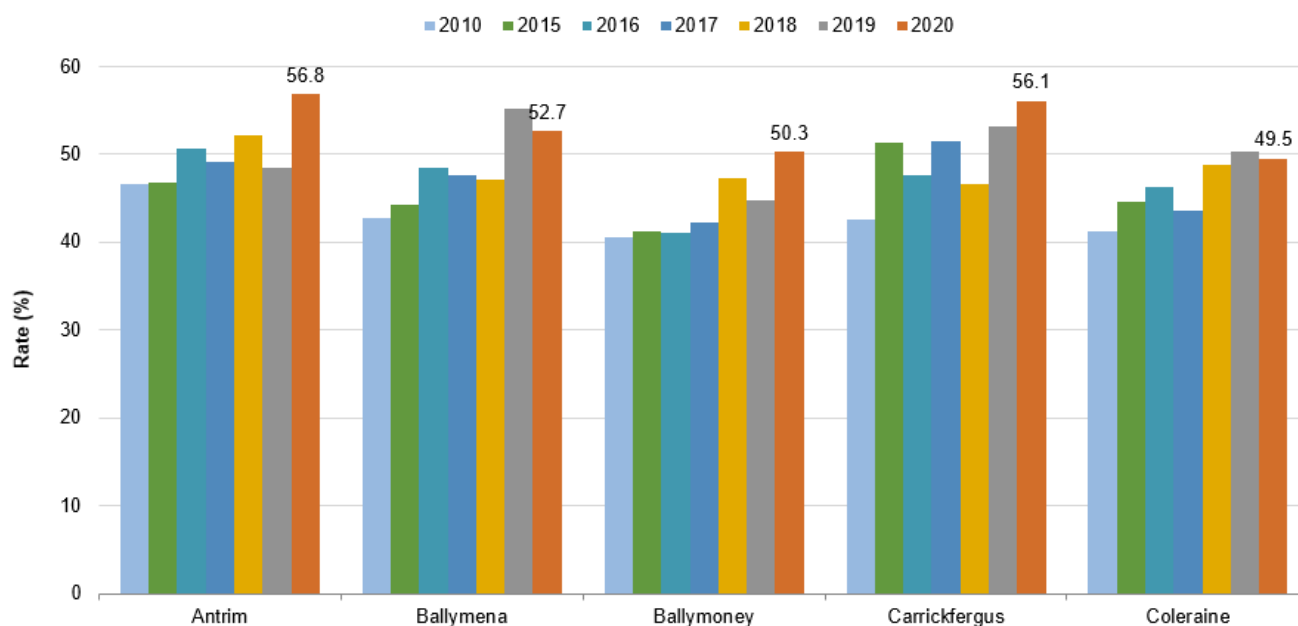


Table 2: Belfast HSCT / LCG

Wards with highest breastfeeding rates 2018 - 2020		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Malone	92.4
2	Stranmillis	84.7
3	Stormont	84.4
4	Newtownbreda	82.9
5	Rosetta	82.5

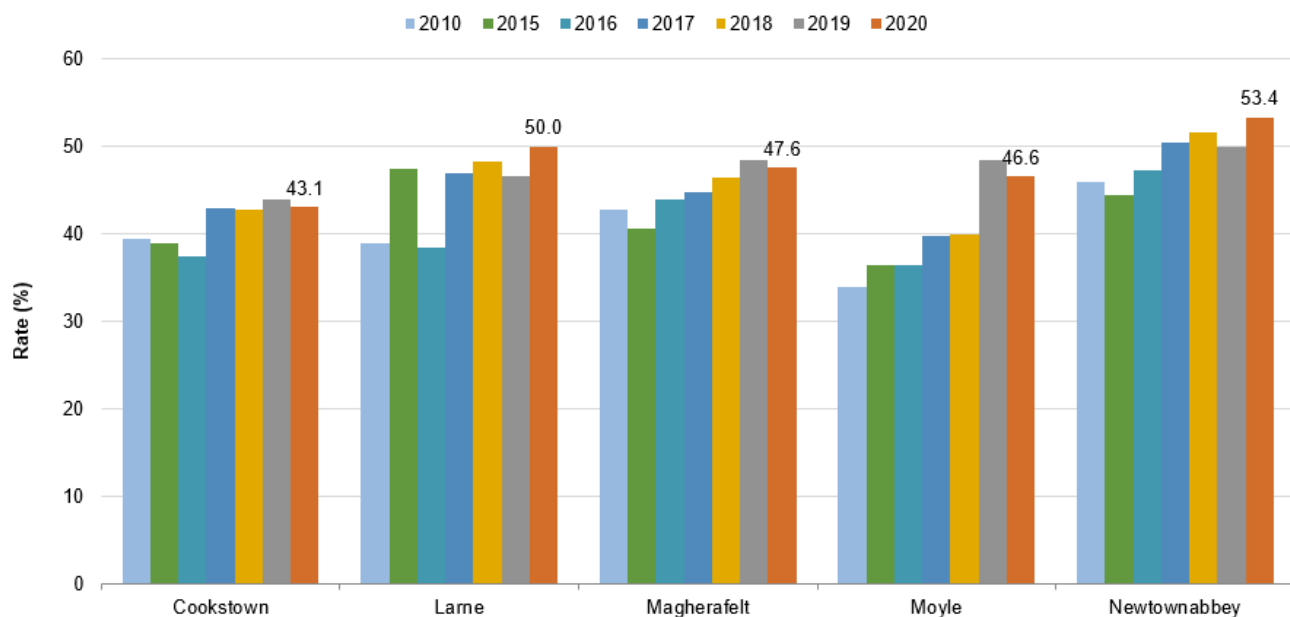
Wards with lowest breastfeeding rates 2018 - 2020		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Upper Springfield	15.6
2	Ardoyne	17.8
3	Shankill	20.8
4	Whiterock	23.5
5	New Lodge	25.3

**Figure 31: Northern LCG breastfeeding at discharge, 2010 and 2015-2020**



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

**Figure 32: Northern LCG breastfeeding at discharge, 2010 and 2015-2020**



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



Figure 33

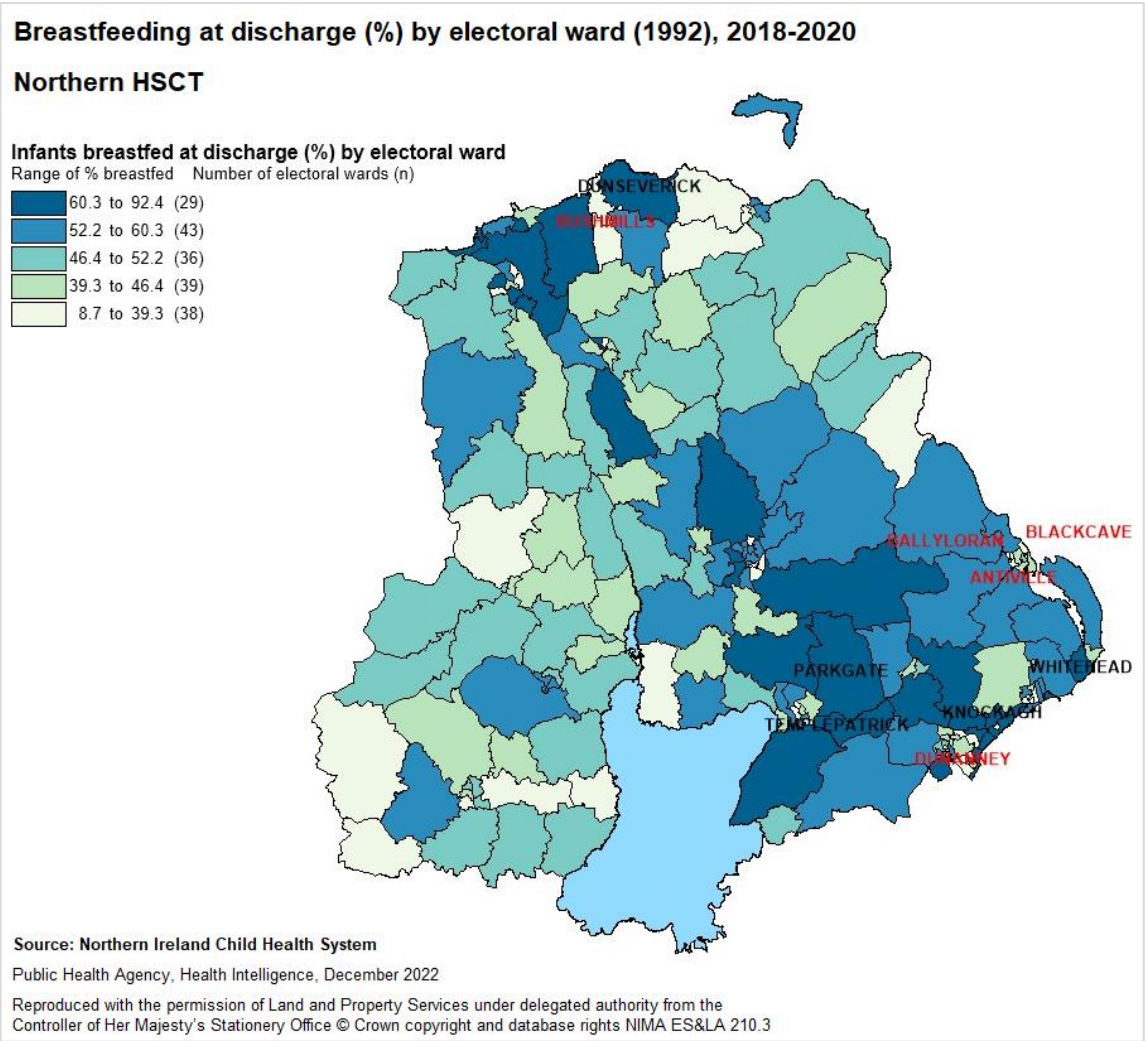
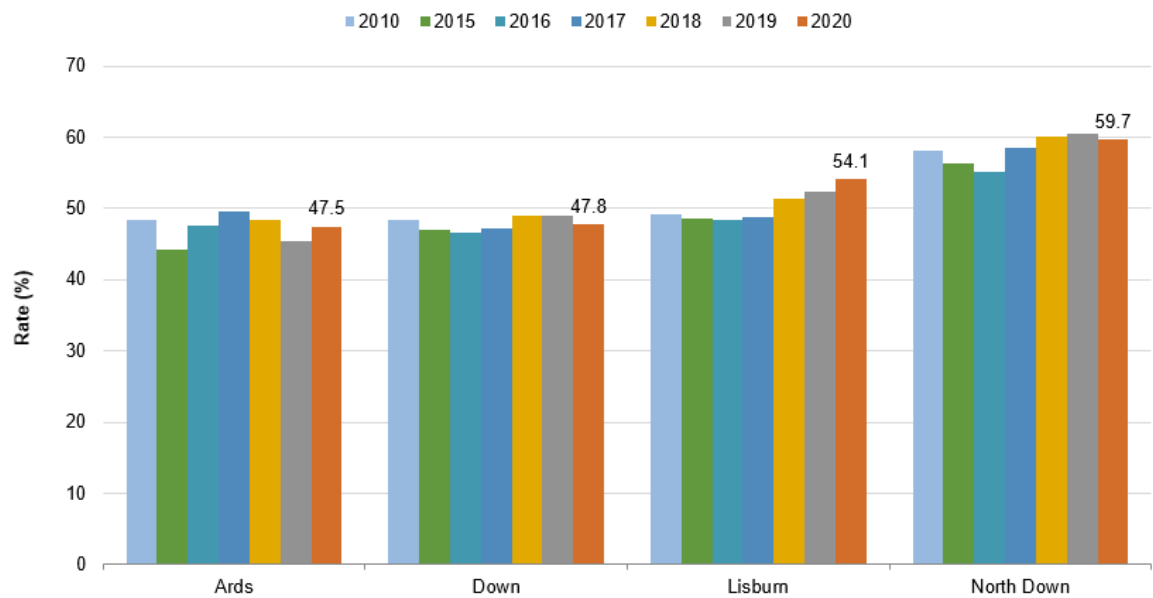


Table 3: Northern HSCT / LCG

Wards with highest breastfeeding rates 2018 - 2020		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Dunseverick	85.7 (n=12)
2	Whitehead	76.9 (n=30)
3	Templepatrick	75.9
4	Knockagh	75.0
5	Parkgate	74.1

Wards with lowest breastfeeding rates 2018 - 2020		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Bushmills	8.7 (n=2)
2	Blackcave	21.7 (n=10)
3	Dunanney	22.5 (n=16)
4	Antiville	23.5 (n=12)
5	Ballyloran	23.8 (n=10)

Figure 34: South Eastern LCG breastfeeding at discharge, 2010 and 2015-2020



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

Figure 35

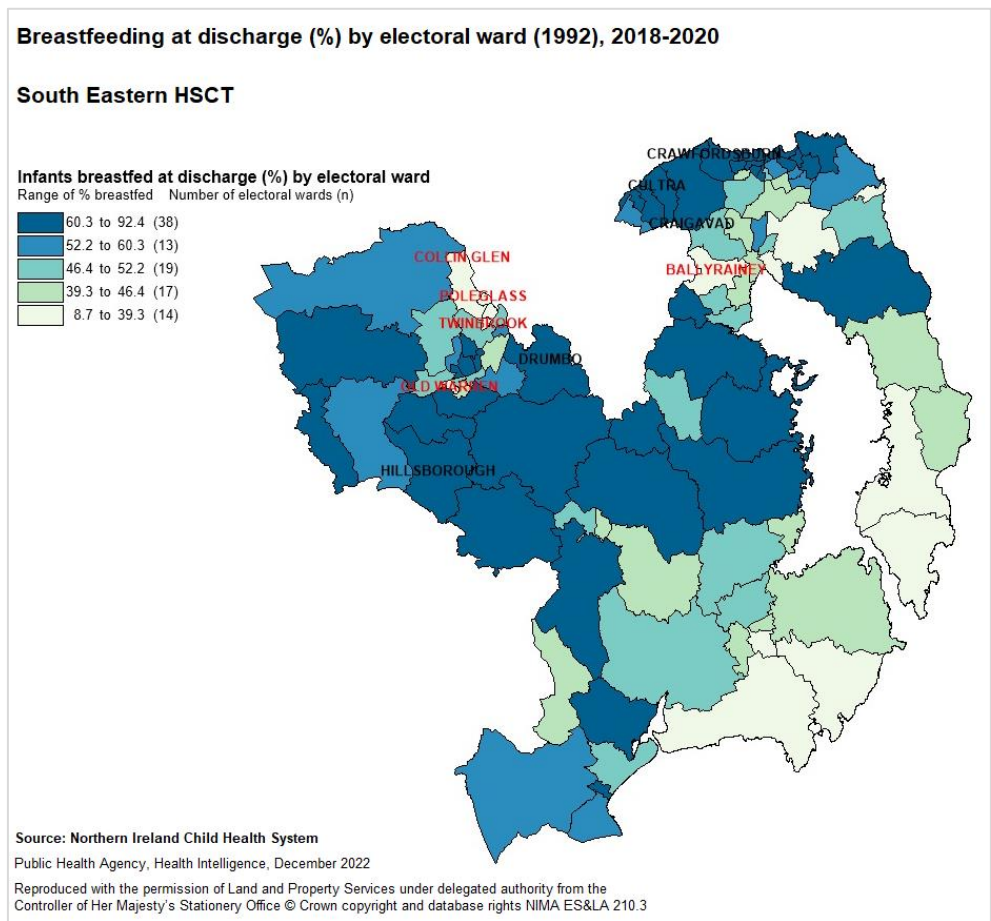
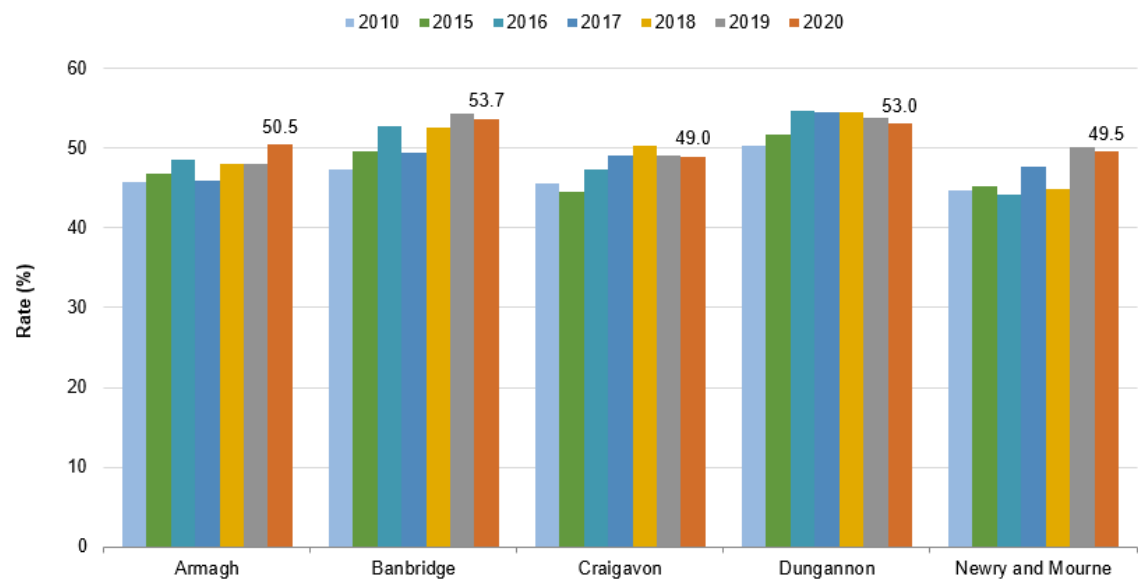


Table 4: South Eastern HSCT / LCG

Wards with highest breastfeeding rates 2018 - 2020			Wards with lowest breastfeeding rates 2018 - 2020		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)		Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Crawfordsburn	90.2	1	Collin Glen	18.8
2	Hillsborough	85.8	2	Poleglass	22.7
3	Craigavad	85.1	3	Twinbrook	24.4
4	Cultra	84.8	4	Old Warren	30.0
5	Drumbo	84.5	5	Ballyrainey	31.7

Figure 36: Southern LCG breastfeeding at discharge, 2010 and 2015-2020



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

Figure 37

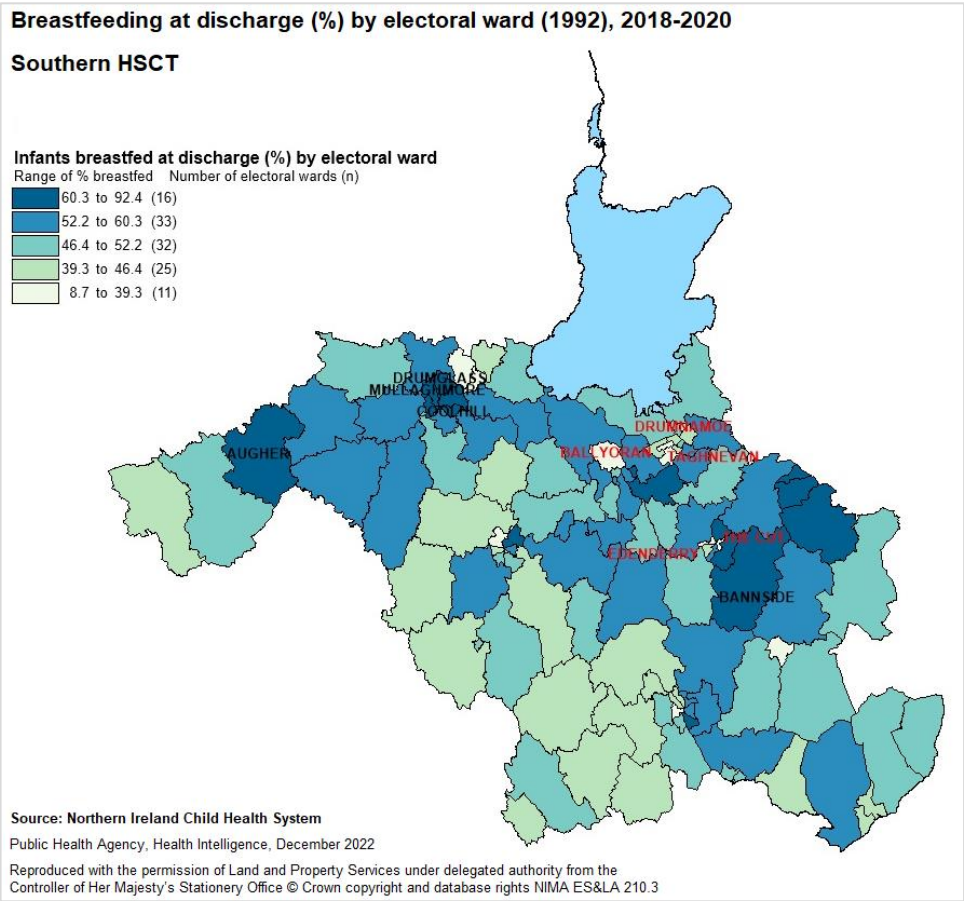


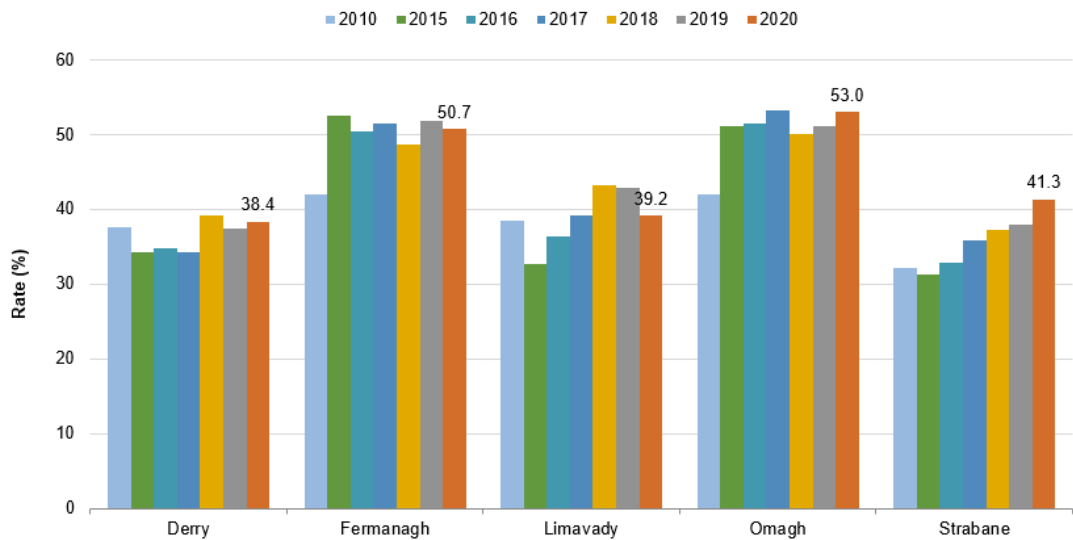
Table 5: Southern HSCT / LCG

Wards with highest breastfeeding rates 2018 - 2020		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Augher	68.0
2	Mullaghmore	67.5
3	Bannside	67.1
4	Coolhill	65.8
5	Drumglass	65.3

Wards with lowest breastfeeding rates 2018 - 2020		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Drumnamoe	25.8 (n=24)
2	Edenderry	27.6 (n=21)
3	Taghnevan	27.9
4	Ballyoran	31.7
5	The Cut	32.8 (n=22)



Figure 38: Western LCG breastfeeding at discharge, 2010 and 2015-2020p



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

Figure 39

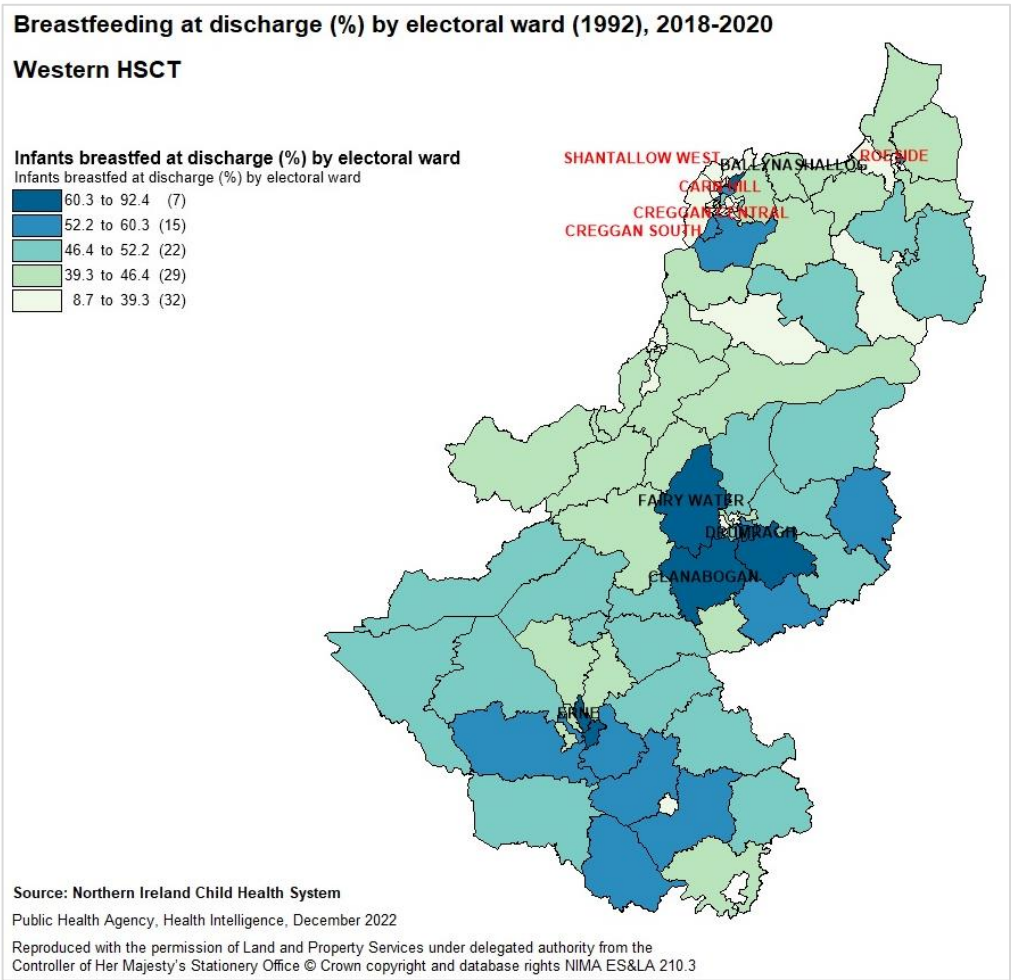


Table 6: Western HSCT / LCG

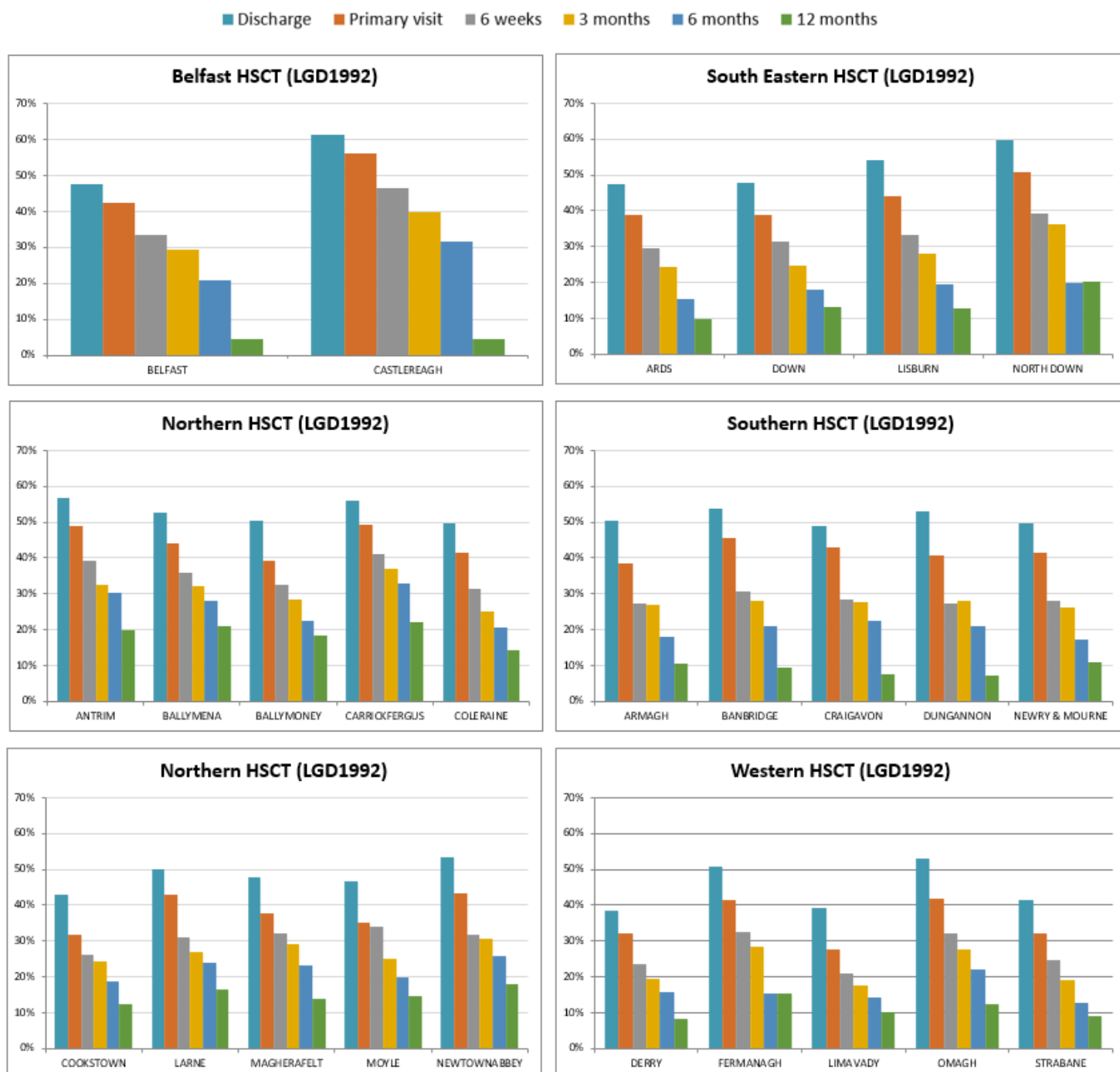
Wards with highest breastfeeding rates 2018 - 2020		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Clanabogan	66.1
2	Erne	65.1
3	Fairy Water	63.5
4	Ballynashallog	62.2
5	Drumragh	61.7

Wards with lowest breastfeeding rates 2018 - 2020p		
	Ward	Breastfeeding rate (%)
1	Carn Hill	23.3 (n=24)
2	Creggan South	23.4 (n=30)
3	Creggan Central	24.1 (n=28)
4	Shantallow West	24.5
5	Roeside	26.1 (n=6)

## Breastfeeding prevalence by HSCT / LCG and Local Government District (LGD1992), 2020

Figure 40 ([Appendix Table AC](#)) shows the prevalence of breastfeeding (%) by HSCT / LCG and Local Government District (LGD1992) for 2020.

**Figure 40: Breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Local Government District (LGD1992), 2020**

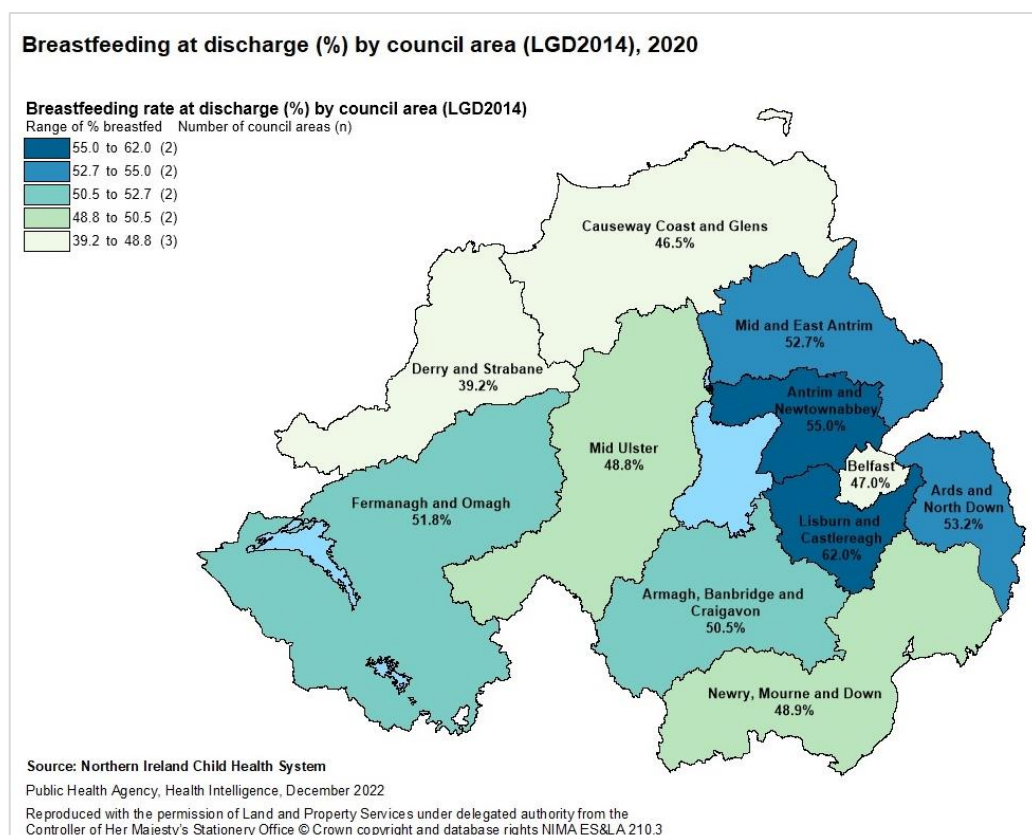


Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers

## Council (LGD2014) Areas

Data for 2020 shows the highest rates of breastfeeding at discharge among residents of Lisburn and Castlereagh (62.0%) and Antrim and Newtownabbey (52.7%) with the lowest rates among those living in Derry City and Strabane (39.2%) and Causeway Coast and Glens (46.5%) (Figure 41; Table 7; [Appendix Table AD](#)).

**Figure 41**



**Table 7: Breastfeeding at discharge (%) by Council area (LGD2014), 2018, 2019 and 2020**

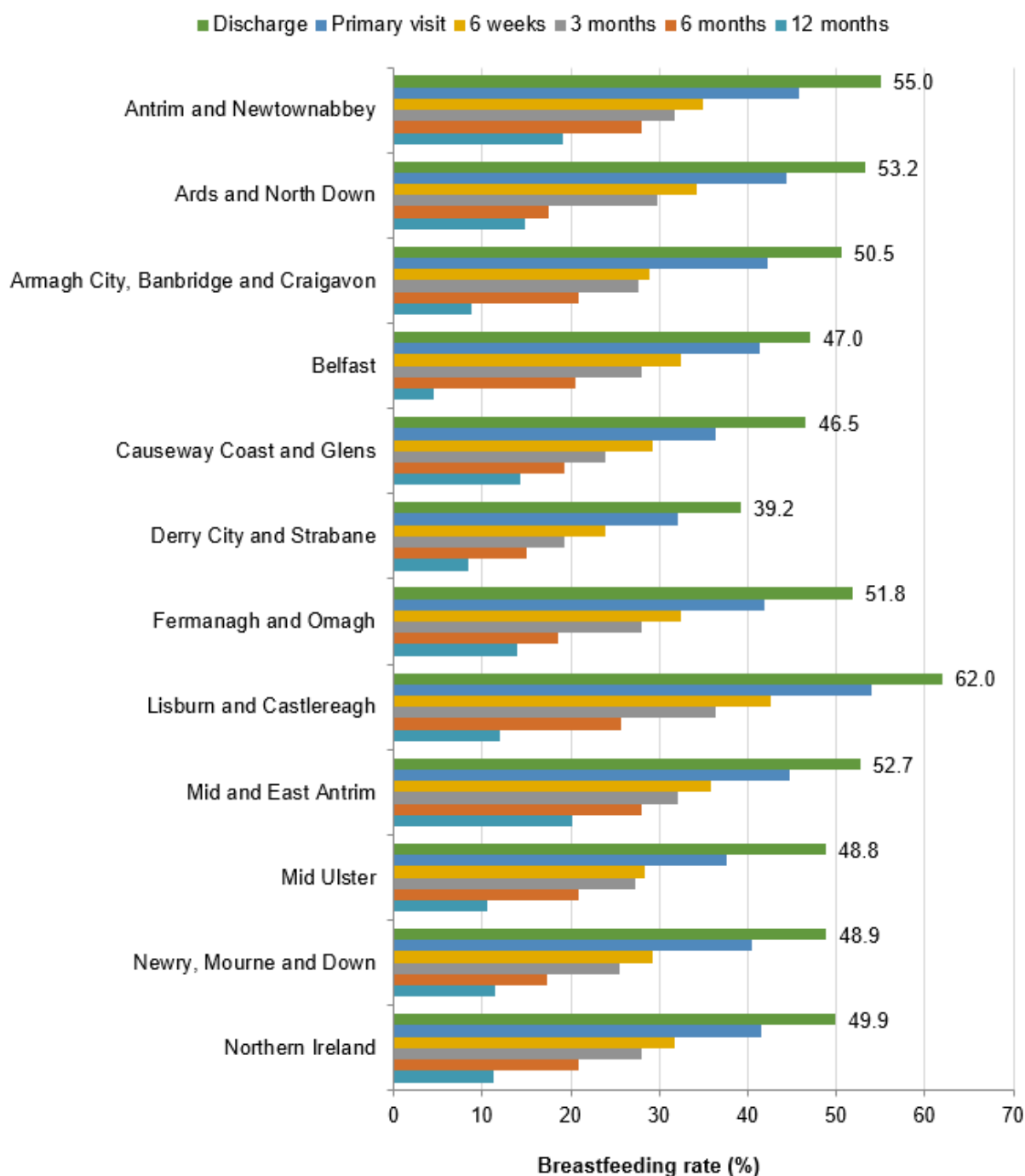
Council (LGD2014)	2018			2019			2020		
	Births	Breastfeeding at discharge		Births	Breastfeeding at discharge		Births	Breastfeeding at discharge	
		N	%		N	%		N	%
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,626	845	52.0	1,648	816	49.5	1,526	839	55.0
Ards and North Down	1,510	818	54.2	1,535	809	52.7	1,405	748	53.2
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	2,851	1,429	50.1	2,732	1,362	49.9	2,545	1,286	50.5
Belfast	4,292	1,936	45.1	4,197	1,955	46.6	3,975	1,870	47.0
Causeway Coast and Glens	1,500	689	45.9	1,515	709	46.8	1,433	667	46.5
Derry City and Strabane	1,837	711	38.7	1,820	684	37.6	1,868	732	39.2
Fermanagh and Omagh	1,461	720	49.3	1,391	716	51.5	1,326	687	51.8
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1,809	1,054	58.3	1,720	1,027	59.7	1,668	1,034	62.0
Mid and East Antrim	1,474	693	47.0	1,465	770	52.6	1,363	718	52.7
Mid Ulster	2,055	1,013	49.3	2,087	1,039	49.8	1,993	972	48.8
Newry, Mourne and Down	2,376	1,102	46.4	2,278	1,133	49.7	2,232	1,091	48.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,791</b>	<b>11,010</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>22,388</b>	<b>11,020</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>21,334</b>	<b>10,644</b>	<b>49.9</b>

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers, council area assigned on maternal residence.

\* Any breastfeeding (Combined Total and Partial)

Figure 42 ([Appendix Table AE](#)) shows the variation in breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Council area (LGD2014) for 2020.

**Figure 42: Breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Council area (LGD2014), 2020**



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

Further breakdowns on the rates of breastfeeding at discharge (%) by Council area (LGD2014) and District Electoral Ward (DEA2014) are available at [Appendix Table AF](#).

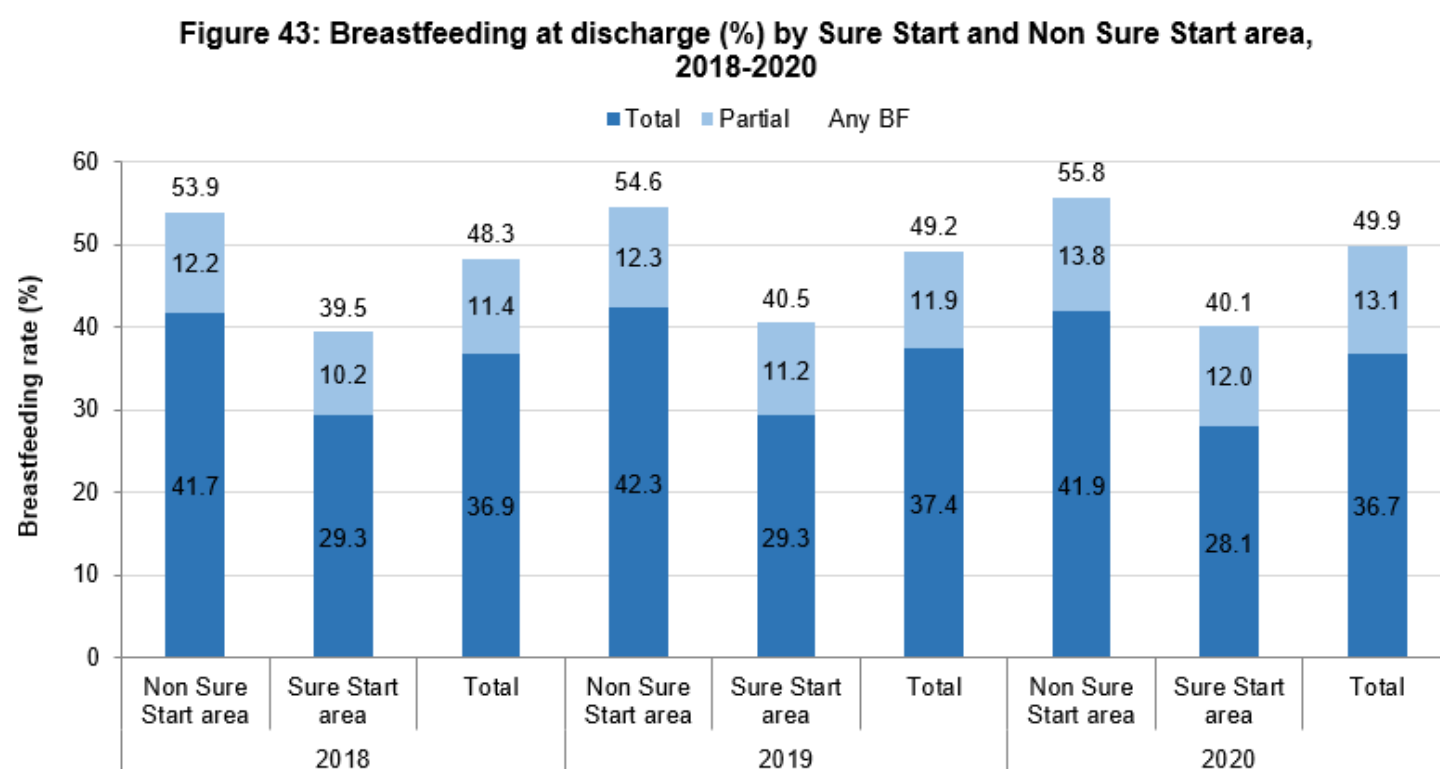
## Sure Start Services

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

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

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

Figure 43 ([Appendix Table AG](#)) shows the rates of breastfeeding at discharge (%) categorised by Sure Start and Non Sure Start area for the years 2018 to 2020. Data for 2020 shows that 55.8% of mothers resident in Non Sure Start areas were breastfeeding on discharge from hospital compared to 40.1% of mothers resident in Sure Start Areas.



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

Table 8 shows breastfeeding rates at discharge (%) by Child Care Partnership and Sure Start areas for the three year period 2018-2020 (combined) with the highest rates at a Northern Ireland level recorded for Clogher Valley (55.9%), Dungannon (54.8%), South Belfast (50.8%), Newry City (50.1%) and Blossom (49.9%) Sure Starts.

**Table 8: Breastfeeding at discharge (%) by Sure Start area, 2018 - 2020 (combined)**

Child Care Partnership Area	Sure Start Area	Total live births (n)	Any Breastfeeding at discharge	
			n	%
Belfast CCP	Beechmount	255	96	37.6
	Clan Mor	327	102	31.2
	East Belfast	1,330	528	39.7
	Glenbrook	798	225	28.2
	Outer West Belfast	886	345	38.9
	Saol Ur	643	178	27.7
	Shankill	1,085	312	28.8
	Smile	766	272	35.5
	South Belfast	1,107	562	50.8
	<b>Belfast CCP Total</b>	<b>7,197</b>	<b>2,620</b>	<b>36.4</b>
Northern CCP	Abbey	782	342	43.7
	Antrim	191	75	39.3
	Ballymena	622	277	44.5
	Coleraine	524	171	32.6
	Dalriada	453	193	42.6
	Gold	764	303	39.7
	Horizon	440	155	35.2
	<b>Northern CCP Total</b>	<b>3,776</b>	<b>1,516</b>	<b>40.1</b>
South Eastern CCP	Ards	630	260	41.3
	Bangor	281	129	45.9
	Colin	948	276	29.1
	Downpatrick	833	338	40.6
	Lisburn	289	119	41.2
	<b>South Eastern CCP</b>	<b>2,981</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>37.6</b>
Southern CCP	ArKe	507	229	45.2
	Blossom	683	341	49.9
	Clogher Valley	469	262	55.9
	Dungannon	953	522	54.8
	Kilkeel	156	67	42.9
	Newry City	788	395	50.1
	South Armagh	1,121	504	45.0
	Splash	842	300	35.6
	Star	147	46	31.3
	<b>Southern CCP Total</b>	<b>5,666</b>	<b>2,666</b>	<b>47.1</b>
Western CCP	Cherish	704	330	46.9
	Dungiven	628	263	41.9
	Edenballymore	580	186	32.1
	LAST	665	307	46.2
	Little Hands	503	189	37.6
	Rainbow	416	180	43.3
	Shantallow	823	250	30.4
	Strabane	824	297	36.0
	Waterside	643	242	37.6
	<b>Western CCP Total</b>	<b>5,786</b>	<b>2,244</b>	<b>38.8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>Non Sure Start</b>	<b>41,107</b>	<b>22,506</b>	<b>54.7</b>
	<b>Sure Start</b>	<b>25,406</b>	<b>10,168</b>	<b>40.0</b>
	<b>NI Total</b>	<b>66,513</b>	<b>32,674</b>	<b>49.1</b>

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

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

## Belfast Child Care Partnership Area

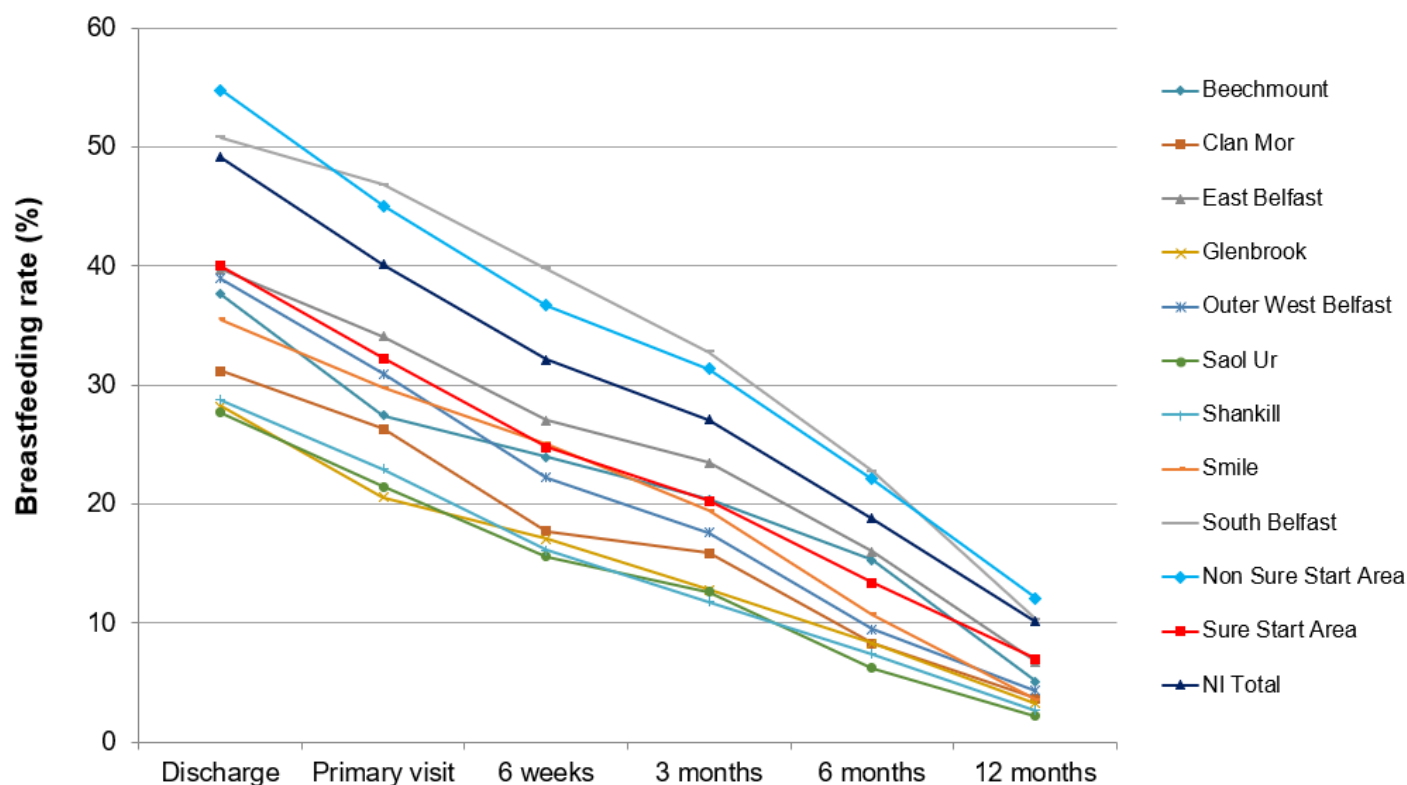
Within the Belfast Child Care Partnership area the highest rate of breastfeeding at discharge was recorded for South Belfast Sure Start (50.8%) compared with the lowest for Saol Ur Sure Start (27.7%) (Table 9, Figure 44).

**Table 9: Breastfeeding prevalence by Sure Start, combined data 2018-2020**

Belfast CCP	Total live births	Discharge	Primary visit	6 weeks	3 months	6 months	12 months
Beechmount	255	37.6	27.5	23.9	20.4	15.3	5.1
Clan Mor	327	31.2	26.3	17.7	15.9	8.3	3.7
East Belfast	1,330	39.7	34.1	27.0	23.5	16.0	6.8
Glenbrook	798	28.2	20.6	17.0	12.8	8.3	3.3
Outer West	886	38.9	30.9	22.2	17.6	9.5	4.3
Saol Ur	643	27.7	21.5	15.6	12.6	6.2	2.2
Shankill	1,085	28.8	22.9	16.1	11.8	7.4	2.7
Smile	766	35.5	29.8	25.1	19.5	10.7	3.5
South Belfast	1,107	50.8	46.8	39.7	32.8	22.8	10.3
<b>Belfast CCP</b>	<b>7,197</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>5.0</b>
NI Non Sure Start	41,107	54.7	45.0	36.7	31.3	22.1	12.1
NI Sure Start	25,406	40.0	32.2	24.8	20.2	13.4	7.0
NI Total	66,513	49.1	40.1	32.1	27.1	18.8	10.1

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

**Figure 44: Belfast CCP breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Sure Start, 2018-2020 (combined)**



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



## Northern Child Care Partnership Area

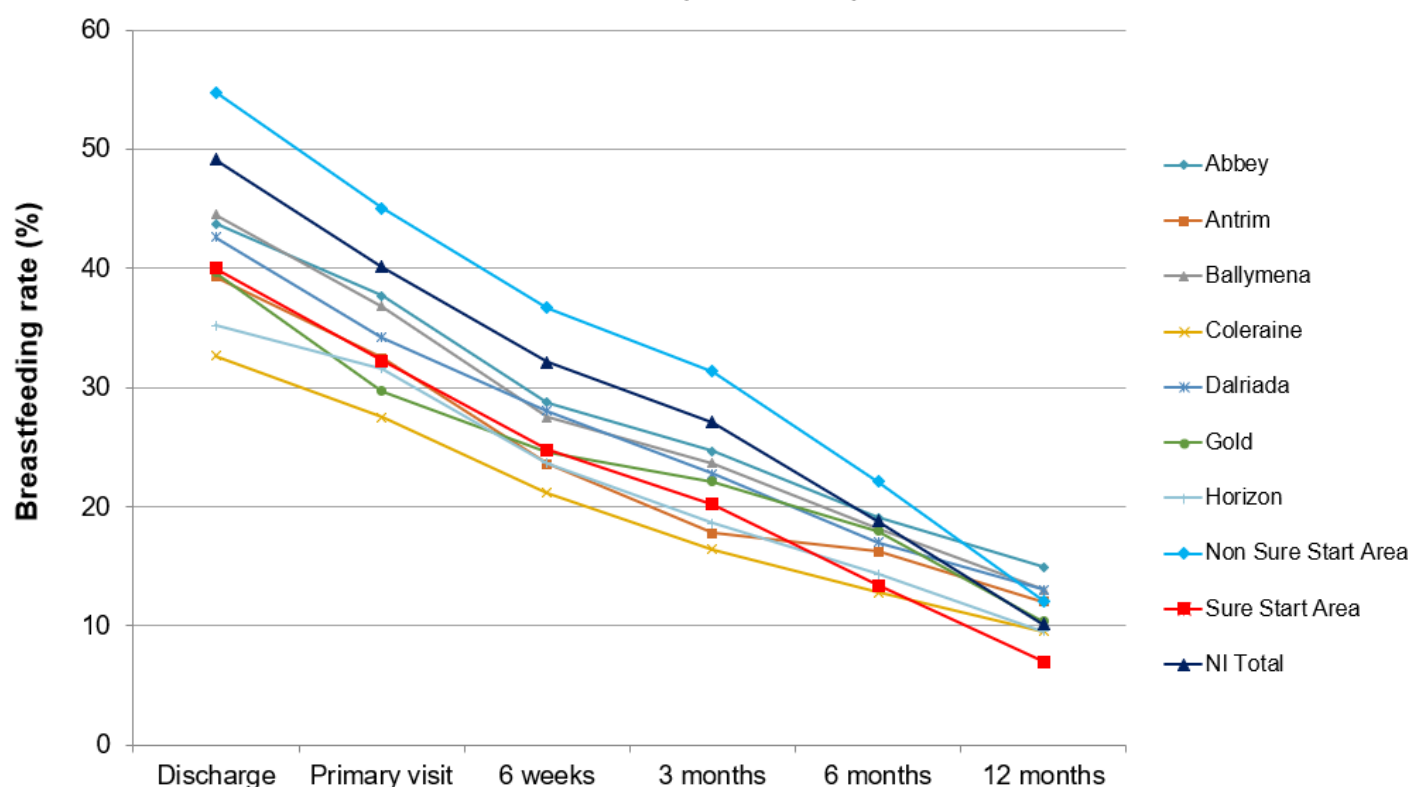
Within the Northern Child Care Partnership area the highest rate of breastfeeding at discharge was recorded for Ballymena (44.5%) compared to the lowest for Coleraine Sure Start (32.6%) (Table 10, Figure 45).

**Table 10: Breastfeeding prevalence by Sure Start, combined data 2018-2020**

Northern CCP	Total live births	Discharge	Primary visit	6 weeks	3 months	6 months	12 months
Abbey	782	43.7	37.7	28.8	24.7	19.1	15.0
Antrim	191	39.3	32.5	23.6	17.8	16.2	12.0
Ballymena	622	44.5	36.8	27.5	23.6	18.2	13.0
Coleraine	524	32.6	27.5	21.2	16.4	12.8	9.5
Dalriada	453	42.6	34.2	28.0	22.7	17.0	13.0
Gold	764	39.7	29.7	24.6	22.1	17.9	10.3
Horizon	440	35.2	31.6	23.6	18.6	14.3	9.5
<b>Northern CCP</b>	<b>3,776</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>11.9</b>
NI Non Sure Start	41,107	54.7	45.0	36.7	31.3	22.1	12.1
NI Sure Start	25,406	40.0	32.2	24.8	20.2	13.4	7.0
NI Total	66,513	49.1	40.1	32.1	27.1	18.8	10.1

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

**Figure 45: Northern CCP breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Sure Start, 2018-2020 (combined)**



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



## South Eastern Child Care Partnership Area

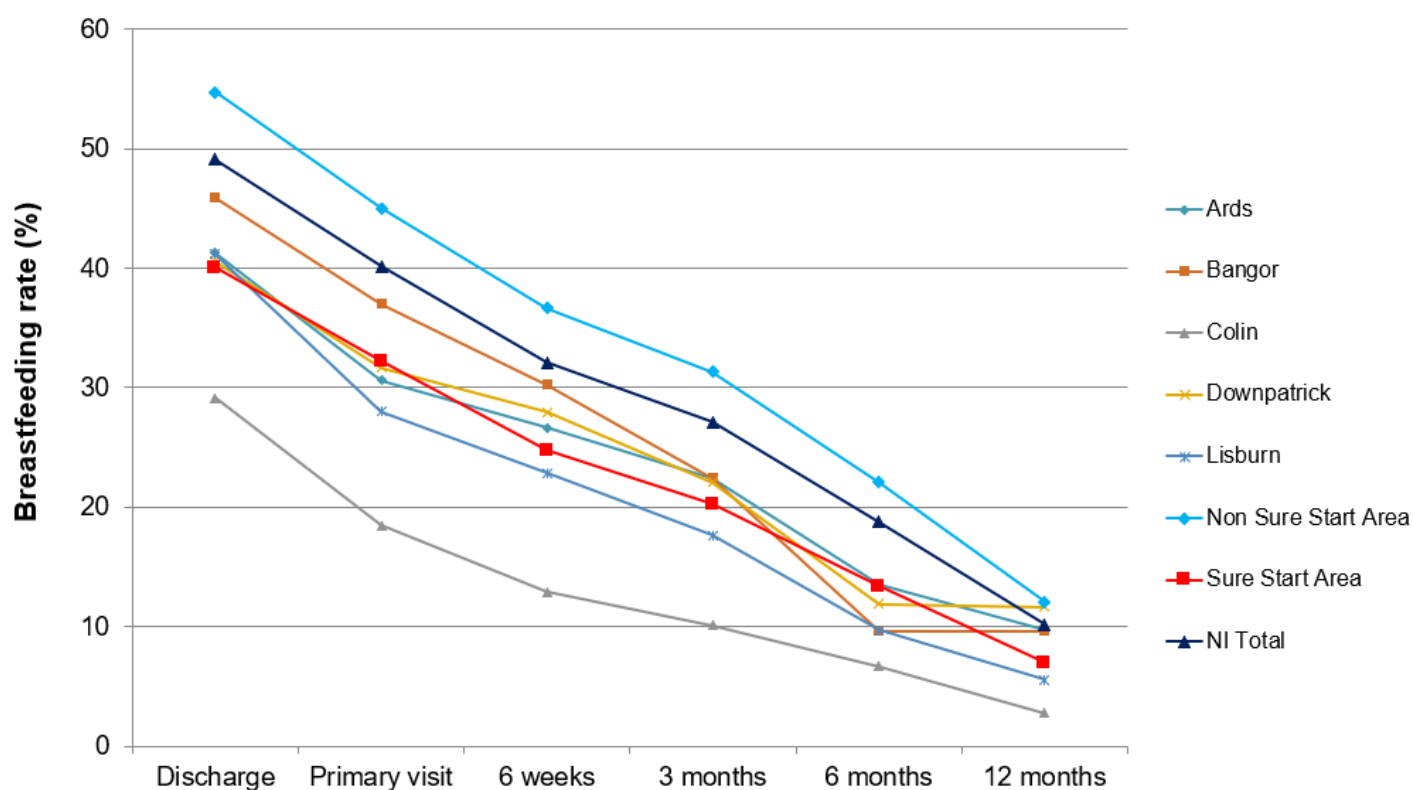
Within the South Eastern Child Care Partnership area the highest rate of breastfeeding at discharge was recorded for Bangor Sure Start (45.9%) compared to the lowest for Colin Sure Start (29.1%) (Table 11, Figure 46).

**Table 11: Breastfeeding prevalence by Sure Start, combined data 2018-2020**

South Eastern CCP	Total live births	Discharge	Primary visit	6 weeks	3 months	6 months	12 months
Ards	630	41.3	30.6	26.7	22.4	13.5	9.7
Bangor	281	45.9	37.0	30.2	22.4	9.6	9.6
Colin	948	29.1	18.5	12.9	10.1	6.6	2.7
Downpatrick	833	40.6	31.7	28.0	22.1	11.9	11.6
Lisburn	289	41.2	28.0	22.8	17.6	9.7	5.5
<b>South Eastern CCP</b>	<b>2,981</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>7.6</b>
NI Non Sure Start	41,107	54.7	45.0	36.7	31.3	22.1	12.1
NI Sure Start	25,406	40.0	32.2	24.8	20.2	13.4	7.0
NI Total	66,513	49.1	40.1	32.1	27.1	18.8	10.1

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

**Figure 46: South Eastern CCP breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Sure Start, 2018-2020 (combined)**



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

## Southern Child Care Partnership Area

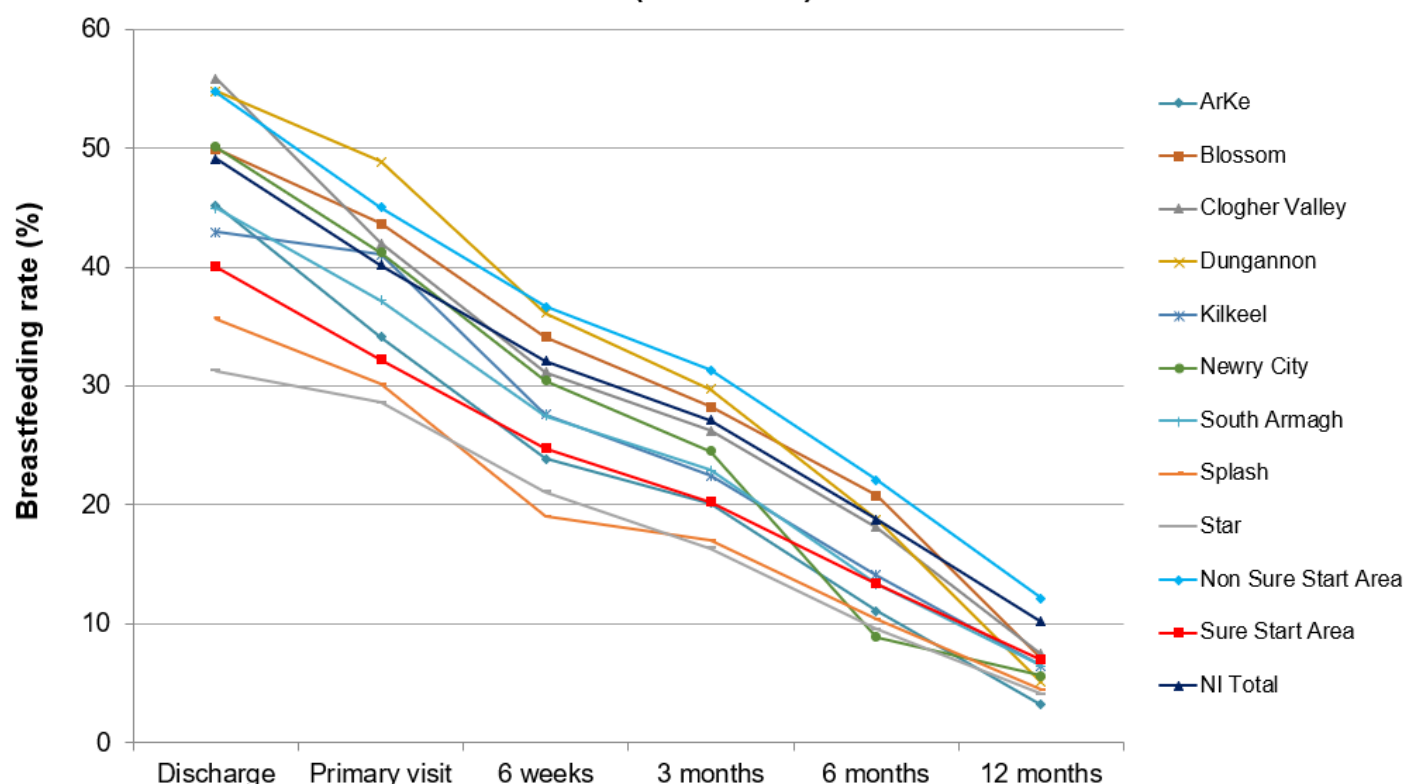
Within the Southern Child Care Partnership area the highest rate of breastfeeding at discharge was recorded for Clogher Valley Sure Start (55.9%) compared to the lowest for Star Sure Start (31.3%) (Table 12, Figure 47).

**Table 12: Breastfeeding prevalence by Sure Start, combined data 2018-2020**

Southern CCP	Total live births	Discharge	Primary visit	6 weeks	3 months	6 months	12 months
ArKe	507	45.2	34.1	23.9	20.1	11.0	3.2
Blossom	683	49.9	43.6	34.1	28.3	20.8	7.0
Clogher Valley	469	55.9	42.0	31.1	26.2	18.1	7.5
Dungannon	953	54.8	48.9	36.1	29.7	18.8	5.0
Kilkeel	156	42.9	41.0	27.6	22.4	14.1	6.4
Newry City	788	50.1	41.2	30.5	24.5	8.9	5.6
South Armagh	1,121	45.0	37.2	27.5	22.9	13.3	6.4
Splash	842	35.6	30.2	19.0	17.0	10.3	4.4
Star	147	31.3	28.6	21.1	16.3	9.5	4.1
<b>Southern CCP</b>	<b>5,666</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>5.6</b>
NI Non Sure Start	41,107	54.7	45.0	36.7	31.3	22.1	12.1
NI Sure Start	25,406	40.0	32.2	24.8	20.2	13.4	7.0
NI Total	66,513	49.1	40.1	32.1	27.1	18.8	10.1

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

**Figure 47: Southern CCP breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Sure Start, 2018-2020 (combined)**



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

## Western Child Care Partnership Area

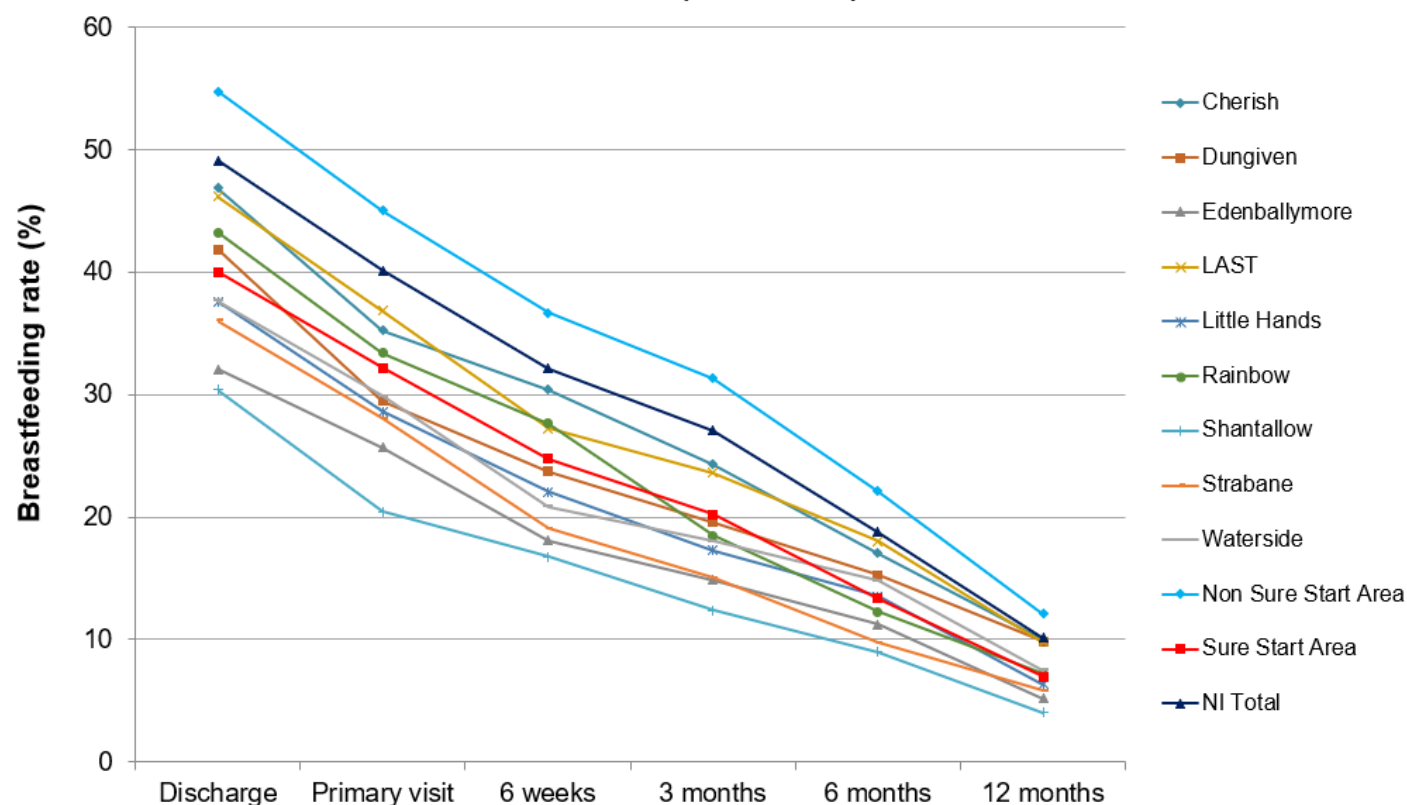
Within the Western Child Care Partnership area the highest rate of breastfeeding at discharge was recorded for Cherish Sure Start (46.9%) compared to the lowest for Shantallow Sure Start (30.4%) (Table 13, Figure 48).

**Table 13: Breastfeeding prevalence by Sure Start, combined data 2018-2020**

Western CCP	Total live births	Discharge	Primary visit	6 weeks	3 months	6 months	12 months
Cherish	704	46.9	35.2	30.4	24.3	17.0	9.9
Dungiven	628	41.9	29.5	23.7	19.6	15.3	9.9
Edenballymore	580	32.1	25.7	18.1	14.8	11.2	5.2
LAST	665	46.2	36.8	27.2	23.6	18.0	9.8
Little Hands	503	37.6	28.6	22.1	17.3	13.5	6.4
Rainbow	416	43.3	33.4	27.6	18.5	12.3	7.2
Shantallow	823	30.4	20.4	16.8	12.4	9.0	4.0
Strabane	824	36.0	28.0	19.1	15.0	9.7	5.8
Waterside	643	37.6	29.9	20.8	18.0	14.8	7.5
<b>Western CCP</b>	<b>5,786</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>7.2</b>
NI Non Sure Start	41,107	54.7	45.0	36.7	31.3	22.1	12.1
NI Sure Start	25,406	40.0	32.2	24.8	20.2	13.4	7.0
NI Total	66,513	49.1	40.1	32.1	27.1	18.8	10.1

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

**Figure 48: Western CCP breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Sure Start, 2018-2020 (combined)**



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

## Breastfeeding in neonatal units

There is evidence that feeding breast milk to infants in neonatal units has benefits for health.<sup>31,32,33</sup> Mother's own milk is associated with reduced risk of necrotising enterocolitis (NEC) and infection.<sup>34,35</sup> In November 2022 the WHO published recommendations for the care of preterm and low birth weight infants.<sup>36</sup> The guideline includes 25 recommendations and 1 good practice statement on interventions relating to Preventive and promotive care, Care for complications, and Family involvement and support.

Among the 16 recommendations relating to Preventative and promotive care (Figure 49) are a number relevant to breastfeeding. For example, recommendation A.2 highlights the immune and nutritional advantages of antibodies and immune modulators and primers present in human milk and states that **'Mother's own milk is recommended for feeding of preterm or low-birth-weight (LBW) infants, including very preterm (< 32 weeks' gestation) or very LBW (< 1.5 kg) infants. (Strong recommendation, low-certainty evidence)'**. In addition, recommendation A.9 made strong recommendation in favour of exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) until 6 months of age **'Preterm or low-birth-weight infants should be exclusively breastfed until 6 months of age. (Strong recommendation, very-low-certainty evidence)'**.

Figure 49: WHO recommendations for care of the preterm or low-birth-weight infant: Preventive and promotive care

A. PREVENTIVE AND PROMOTIVE CARE				Domain	Recommendation	Status	Strength/type
A.1a Any KMC	Kangaroo mother care (KMC) is recommended as routine care for all preterm or low-birth-weight infants. KMC can be initiated in the health-care facility or at home and should be given for 8-24 hours per day (as many hours as possible). (Strong recommendation, high-certainty evidence)	Updated	Strong	A.9 Duration of exclusive breastfeeding	Preterm or low-birth-weight infants should be exclusively breastfed until 6 months of age. (Strong recommendation, very-low-certainty evidence)	Updated	Strong
A.1b Immediate KMC	Kangaroo mother care (KMC) for preterm or low-birth-weight infants should be started as soon as possible after birth. (Strong recommendation, high-certainty evidence)	New	Strong	A.10a Iron supplementation	Enteral iron supplementation is recommended for human milk-fed preterm or low-birth-weight infants who are not receiving iron from another source. (Strong recommendation, moderate-certainty evidence)	Updated	Strong
A.2 Mother's own milk	Mother's own milk is recommended for feeding of preterm or low-birth-weight (LBW) infants, including very preterm (< 32 weeks' gestation) or very LBW (< 1.5 kg) infants. (Strong recommendation, low-certainty evidence)	Updated	Strong	A.10b Zinc supplementation	Enteral zinc supplementation may be considered for human milk-fed preterm or low-birth-weight infants who are not receiving zinc from another source. (Conditional recommendation, low-certainty evidence)	Updated	Conditional
A.3 Donor human milk	When mother's own milk is not available, donor human milk may be considered for feeding of preterm or low-birth-weight (LBW) infants, including very preterm (< 32 weeks' gestation) or very LBW (< 1.5 kg) infants. (Conditional recommendation, moderate-certainty evidence)	Updated	Conditional	A.10c Vitamin D supplementation	Enteral vitamin D supplementation may be considered for human milk-fed preterm or low-birth-weight infants who are not receiving vitamin D from another source. (Conditional recommendation, low-certainty evidence)	Updated	Conditional
A.4 Multicomponent fortification of human milk	Multicomponent fortification of human milk is not routinely recommended for all preterm or low-birth-weight (LBW) infants but may be considered for very preterm (< 32 weeks' gestation) or very LBW (< 1.5 kg) infants who are fed mother's own milk or donor human milk. (Conditional recommendation, low-to-moderate-certainty evidence)	Updated	Conditional	A.10d Vitamin A supplementation	Enteral vitamin A supplementation may be considered for human milk-fed very preterm (< 32 weeks' gestation) or very low-birth-weight (< 1.5 kg) infants who are not receiving vitamin A from another source. (Conditional recommendation, low-certainty evidence)	Updated	Conditional
A.5 Preterm formula	When mother's own milk and donor human milk are not available, nutrient-enriched preterm formula may be considered for very preterm (< 32 weeks' gestation) or very low-birth-weight (< 1.5 kg) infants. (Conditional recommendation, low-certainty evidence)	Updated	Conditional	A.11 Probiotics	Probiotics may be considered for human-milk-fed very preterm infants (< 32 weeks' gestation). (Conditional recommendation, moderate-certainty evidence)	New	Conditional
A.6 Early initiation of enteral feeding	Preterm and low-birth-weight (LBW) infants, including very preterm (< 32 weeks' gestation) and very LBW (< 1.5 kg) infants, should be fed as early as possible from the first day after birth. Infants who are able to breastfeed should be put to the breast as soon as possible after birth. Infants who are unable to breastfeed should be given expressed mother's own milk as soon as it becomes available. If mother's own milk is not available, donor human milk should be given wherever possible. (Strong recommendation, moderate-certainty evidence)	Updated	Strong	A.12 Emollients	Application of topical oil to the body of preterm or low-birth-weight infants may be considered. (Conditional recommendation, low-certainty evidence)	New	Conditional
A.7 Responsive and scheduled feeding	In health-care facilities, scheduled feeding may be considered rather than responsive feeding for preterm infants born before 34 weeks' gestation, until the infant is discharged. (Conditional recommendation, low-certainty evidence)	Updated	Conditional				
A.8 Fast and slow advancement of feeding	In preterm or low-birth-weight (LBW) infants, including very preterm (< 32 weeks' gestation) or very LBW (< 1.5 kg) infants, who need to be fed by an alternative feeding method to breastfeeding (e.g. gastric tube feeding or cup feeding), feed volumes can be increased by up to 30 ml/kg per day. (Conditional recommendation, moderate-certainty evidence)	Updated	Conditional				

## Neonatal Data

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

## National Neonatal Audit Programme (NNAP)

The National Neonatal Audit Programme (NNAP) is a national clinical audit of NHS-funded care for babies admitted to neonatal services. The audit reports on key measures of optimal perinatal care, parent partnership, care processes and clinical outcomes. The 2022 report examines care provided to babies with a final discharge from neonatal care in England and Wales between January 2021 and December 2021. The report does not include Scottish data, however Scottish neonatal services will re-join the audit from the 2022 data year.<sup>37</sup>

The 2022 NNAP report pertaining to 2021 data includes two measures relating to breastmilk feeding:

**Breastmilk feeding at discharge:** Does a baby born at less than 32 weeks' gestational age receive any of their own mother's milk at discharge to home from a neonatal unit?

- For very preterm babies who are discharged home alive this measure describes the proportion receiving any of their own mother's milk when they were discharged.
- Rates of breastmilk feeding at discharge remain static. In 2021, 60.6% of babies born at less than 32 weeks were receiving any of their own mother's milk at the time of discharge compared to 60.1% in 2020.

**Early Breastmilk Feeding:** Does a baby born at less than 32 weeks' gestational age receive any of their own mother's milk on day 14 of life?

- This measure is designed to help units understand their rates of own mother's milk feeding during babies' stay in the neonatal unit.
- In 2021, 80.5% of babies born at less than 32 weeks were receiving any of their own mother's milk at day 14 compared with 82.2% in 2020. The report suggests that this decline may be related to COVID-19 related impacts on unrestricted parental access to neonatal units.

The report recommended that NHS England and the Welsh Government work with Neonatal units and networks to ensure they:

- Identify an infant feeding lead to train and support staff
- Use the following tools and resources to support their maternal breastmilk focussed quality improvement initiatives: BAPM and NNAP Maternal Breast Milk Toolkits, UNICEF Neonatal Baby Friendly Initiative, Bliss resources (including information for families, support services and the Bliss Baby Charter), PERIPrem bundle (Maternal Early Breast Milk), Neonatal Network Care Coordinators (England).
- Ensure unrestricted access for parents to the neonatal unit and their baby
- Ensure that parent presence on the consultant ward round is recorded daily
- Seek to learn from neonatal units that are achieving high rates of parent involvement, making use of available resources including those provided by Bliss
- Ask parents for their views and suggestions for how to improve parental partnership in care

Tables 14 and 15 show the proportion of babies born at less than 32 weeks' gestational age receiving any of their own mother's milk on day 14 of life and at discharge to home from a neonatal unit in Northern Ireland.

**Table 14: Neonatal Network Northern Ireland Early breastmilk feeding (Day 14 of life), 2019 to 2021**

Bench marking Audit Question - Early breastmilk feeding: Does a baby born at less than 32 weeks' gestational age receive any of their own mother's milk on day 14 of life?							
	Northern Ireland (NNNI)					NNAP	
	Eligible babies	Data outcome	BM on day 14 of life	#No BM at day 14 of life	Missing Data		
2021	195	185	145/185 (78.4%)	40	10	Rate only published	(80.5%)
2020	178	174	137/174 (78.7%)	37	4	5,273 / 6,416	(82.2%)
2019	206	196	152/196 (77.6%)	44	10	6,054 / 7,345	(82.4%)
Source: NICORE, Badger Net data 2021 (NNNI Quarterly Dashboards)							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Inclusion criteria:</b> Babies born at less than 32 weeks' gestational age who survive to their 14<sup>th</sup> day of life, babies who experienced their final neonatal discharge in the calendar year of analysis.</li> <li>– <b>Attribution:</b> Babies will be attributed to their location of care at 48 hours of life, which is intended as a proxy measure of the intention to provide ongoing care for a baby in a given neonatal unit. When a baby is in transit between units at 48 hours the baby will be assigned to the transferring hospital. When multiple admission locations exist at 48 hours of life, the baby will be attributed to the earliest associated admission time.</li> <li>– Babies will be classified as meeting NNAP standard if they are noted to have received any of the following types of enteral feed on their 14th day of life: suckling at the breast, mother's fresh expressed breastmilk, or mother's frozen expressed breastmilk.</li> </ul>							

- Data for 2021 shows that 78.4% of babies born at less than 32 weeks' gestational age were receiving any of their own mother's milk on day 14 of life (Table 14).
- The 2021 comparable figure reported by NNAP was 80.5%, ranging from 75.9% to 86.3% between neonatal networks.

**Table 15: Neonatal Network Northern Ireland Breast feeding at discharge home, 2013 to 2021**

Bench marking Audit Question - Breastmilk (BM) feeding at discharge home:  
Does a baby born at less than 32 weeks' gestational age receive any of their own mother's milk at discharge to home from a neonatal unit?

	Northern Ireland (NNNI)					NNAP	
	Eligible babies	Data outcome	BM at discharge home	#No BM at discharge home	Missing Data		
2021	177	162	91/162 (56.2%)	71	15	Rate only published	(60.6%)
2020	161	158	90/158 (57.0%)	68	3	3,514 / 5,844 (60.1%)	
2019	166	154	87/154 (56.5%)	67	12	3,935 / 6,747 (58.3%)	
2018	193	183	90/183 (49.2%)	93	10		
2017	189	183	89/183 (48.6%)	94	6		
2016	203	184	84/184 (45.7%)	100	19		
2015	214	189	80/189 (42.3%)	109	25		
2014	216	192	81/192 (42.2%)	111	24		
2013	243	227	103/227 (45.4%)	124	16		

Source: NICORE; Badger Net data 2021 (NNNI Quarterly Dashboards)

– \*All data as per 2019 criteria. # Performance = (BM at discharge home / Data Outcome) x 100

**Note:** From the 2019 data year, change of gestational age upper limit to babies born at less than 32 weeks' gestational age and change of inclusion criteria so that babies transferred during their neonatal care are no longer excluded.

– **NNAP Developmental standard:** Eighty percent (80%) of babies born at less than 32 weeks' gestational age should receive at least some of their mother's milk at discharge home from the neonatal unit. **Source of standard:** By consensus, in consultation with BAPM.

– **Inclusion criteria:** Babies born at less than 32 weeks' gestational age; • Babies who are discharged home alive; • Babies who experienced their final neonatal discharge in the calendar year of analysis.

– Attribution will be to the neonatal unit of final discharge.

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

- Data for 2021 shows that 56.2% of babies born at less than 32 weeks' gestational age were receiving any of their own mother's milk at discharge to home from a neonatal unit in Northern Ireland, highlighting an increasing trend since 2014 (42.2%) (Table 15).
- The 2021 comparable figure reported by NNAP was 60.6%.

Table 16 provides information on the proportion of babies born at **less than 33 weeks' gestational age** discharged on any of their mother's milk and those discharged breastfeeding.

Data for 2021 shows that while 54.0% of babies are discharged on mother's milk, under two fifths of these (20.6%) are discharged breastfeeding.

**Table 16: Babies <33 weeks' gestation receiving any mother's milk at discharge by year of discharge, 2013 to 2021**

Year	Babies discharged	Babies discharged on mother's milk		Babies discharged breastfeeding	
	N	N	%	N	%
2021	252	136	54.0	52	20.6
2020	223	114	51.1	49	22.0
2019	256	127	49.6	58	22.7
2018	259	128	49.4	58	22.4
2017	262	123	46.9	51	19.5
2016	289	128	44.3	48	16.6
2015	315	122	38.7	44	14.0
2014	294	117	39.8	56	19.0
2013	336	145	43.2	52	15.5

Source: BadgerNet Standardised Feeding Reports: Note: Discharge to home / ward / foster care; babies admitted any time  
2021 data extracted from BadgerNet: 08/11/2022

## Comparing Northern Ireland breastfeeding rates to other regions

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

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

### Breastfeeding in England

The Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) for England sets out a vision for public health in England.<sup>38</sup> The framework sets out high-level outcomes supported by a broad set of indicators to measure how well public health is being improved and protected at national and local level. Two breastfeeding indicators (C05) are included within the Health Improvement domain as follows:

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

#### Breastfeeding initiation (Experimental statistics)

Data relating to breastfeeding status immediately after birth is captured and reported by NHS Digital via the Maternity Services Data Set (MSDS). The MSDS records whether a baby's first feed was maternal breast milk, donor breast milk or not breast milk.

In August 2022, 66.0% of babies received maternal or donor breast milk, 27% were recorded as not breast milk and 7% were categorised as missing/outside reporting parameters.<sup>39</sup> [Annual figures published for England for 01 Apr 2021 to 31 Mar 2022 report that 73.1% of babies with a recorded feeding type received breast milk for their first milk, however this excludes missing values.<sup>40</sup> Adjusting this for all 492,160 babies; 66% received breast milk, 24.2% did not receive breast milk with 9.8% where first feed was unknown/missing].

#### Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks after birth (Experimental statistics)<sup>41</sup>

- The aggregate breastfeeding rate for England for 2021/22 is 49.3% (with confidence intervals of 49.2% to 49.4%).<sup>‡</sup> This is based on 145 reporting local authorities who provided sufficient quarterly data for annual figures to be calculated.  
This compares to 47.6% in 2020/21, 48% in 2019/20, 46.2% in 2018/19, 43.1% in 2017/18, 44.4% in 2016/17, 43.2% in 2015/16, and 43.8% for 2014/15. 2014/15 data was collected by NHS England.

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<sup>‡</sup> **Note:** An issue has been identified with the local authority data used to produce the annual 2021 to 2022 breastfeeding at 6 to 8 weeks figures. This impacts the annual figures for the North East, with the current figures representing a slight overestimate for this region. An updated version will be published in February 2023.



## Breastfeeding in Wales

The annual Maternity and Birth Statistics publication provides statistics on maternity and births in Wales, and replaces the two previous individual statistical releases on maternity and births.<sup>42</sup> The two primary data sources for this release are the Maternity Indicators dataset (MI ds) and the National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD).

Table 17 presents breastfeeding statistics by age of child from the 2021 report.<sup>43</sup>

- The Maternity Indicators dataset records the mother's intention to breastfeed prior to birth. Data refers to the 27,657 mothers who delivered in 2021, rather than children born in 2021.
- Data on breastfeeding at birth and on babies turning 10 days, 6 weeks and 6 months recorded in the NCCHD refers to **any** breastfeeding, including babies fed with solely breastmilk, and those who were combination fed.
- For breastfeeding at birth, data presented refers to the 28,879 live births in 2021. For breastfeeding at the other age points, **data refers to the babies turning that age in 2021**: 28,621 babies turned 10 days, 28,295 turned 6 weeks and 27,945 turned 6 months. Only records with a known breastfeeding status are recorded in the rate calculations.

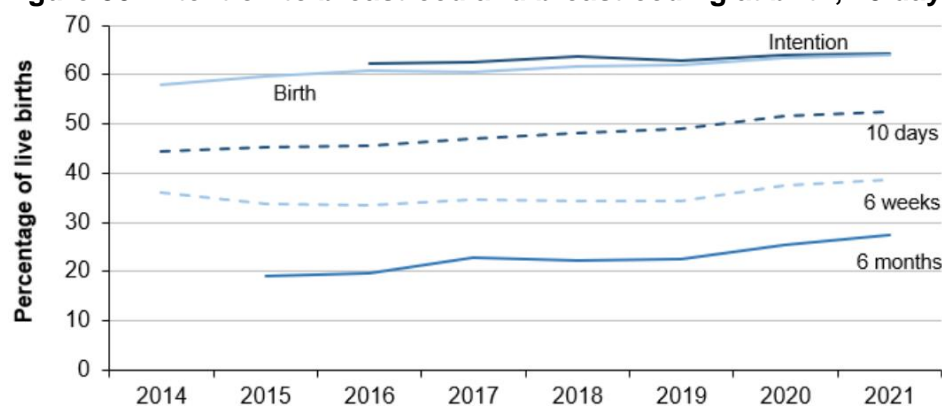
**Table 17: Intention to breastfeed and breastfeeding at birth, 10 days, 6 weeks, 6 months, 2021**

	Maternity Indicator dataset	National Community Child Health Database Breastfeeding at:			
	Intention to breastfeed	Birth	10 days	6 weeks	6 months
Number (n)	27,657	28,879	28,672	28,872	29,319
Any breastfeeding (%)	64.3%	63.9%	52.4%	38.6%	27.5%
Missing records (n)	641	3,262	3,502	7,357	8,323
Valid data (%)	97.7%	88.7%	87.8%	74.0%	70.2%

\* The percentages are of the total records less records with no stated breastfeeding status: 641 records for intention to breastfeed, 3,262 records at birth, 3,502 records at 10 days, 7,357 records at 6 weeks, 8,323 records at 6 months.  
Note that breastfeeding data at all points in time is subject to data quality issues as not all records are complete. Annual and quarterly breastfeeding data with data completeness percentages are published on [StatsWales](#), by local health board.

Breastfeeding rates at all points of data collection show an upward trend over the short and longer term, and annual breastfeeding rates are the highest on record in 2021 (Figure 46).

**Figure 50: Intention to breastfeed and breastfeeding at birth, 10 days, 6 weeks, 6 months 2014-2021**



Source: Maternity Indicators dataset, National Community Child Health Database

(a) The percentages are of the total records less records with no stated breastfeeding status: In 2021 there were no data for breastfeeding for 641 records at intention; 3,262 records at birth; 3,502 records at 10 days; 7,357 records at 6 weeks; and 8,323 records at 6 months.

(b) Breastfeeding rates at birth are available from 2002 on StatsWales. Data for all other age points is available from 2015 or later only.



## Breastfeeding in Scotland

NHS Scotland provides a universal health promotion programme to all children and their families known as the Child Health Programme.<sup>44</sup> Breastfeeding rates in Scotland are monitored and published annually. The information is collected at Health Visitor reviews of children at around 10-14 days (First Visit), 6-8 weeks, and 13-15 months of age.

At each review, the Health Visitor asks the caregiver:

- Whether the baby has ever been breastfed<sup>§</sup>;
- Whether the baby has always been exclusively breastfed<sup>\*\*</sup>; and
- The type of milk feeding the baby is currently receiving (i.e. over the 24 hours leading up to the review)<sup>††</sup>

The most recent results are for babies becoming eligible for the relevant child health reviews in the year April 2021 to March 2022:<sup>45</sup>

- Two thirds (65%) of babies eligible for review in Scotland in 2021/22 were “ever breastfed” i.e. breastfed for at least some time after their birth. This has remained almost constant over the last four years.
- At the health visitor first visit at around 10-14 days of age:
  - 55% of babies eligible for review in 2021/22 were receiving any breastfeeding.
  - 38% were being exclusively breastfed (receiving breast milk only) and a further 18% were mixed feeding (receiving both breast and formula milk).
  - The proportion of babies receiving any breastfeeding at this stage has increased from 44% in 2002/03, mainly due to more babies receiving mixed feeding, up from 5% in 2002/03 to 18% in 2021/22.
- At the time of the 6-8 week review:
  - 46% of babies eligible for review in 2021/22 were receiving any breastfeeding.
  - 32% were being exclusively breastfed and a further 14% were mixed breast and formula feeding.
  - 28% of babies eligible for review in 2021/22 were reported as always exclusively breastfed from birth to the time of the 6-8 week review.
- At the time of the 13-15 month review:
  - 22% of babies eligible for review in 2021/22 were receiving any breastfeeding.
  - 9% were being exclusively breastfed for their milk feeds, 12% were receiving mixed breast and formula/cow's milk feeding, 42% of babies were being fed cow's milk, with 25% of babies recorded as being fed 'other' milk.

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<sup>§</sup> 'Breastfeeding' includes being fed at the breast and being fed expressed breast milk. Being 'always exclusively' breastfed means that the baby has only ever been breastfed from birth up to the time of their review, and has never received fluids or food (except medicines) apart from breast milk. Current milk feeding method is recorded as breast only, formula only, mixed (i.e. both breast and formula milk), or other (i.e. the very small number of children on specialist non-milk feeding for medical reasons). There is also the option to record cow's milk at the 13-15 month review.

<sup>\*\*</sup> This question is not asked at the 13-15 Month review.

<sup>††</sup> Information Services Division. CHSP-PS: Pre-School screening and reviews.

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Child-Health/Child-Health-Programme/Child-Health-Systems-Programme-Pre-School.asp>

# Breastfeeding in the Republic of Ireland

The Perinatal Statistics Report 2020 presents national statistics on perinatal events in Ireland. This report is based on data collected from Part 3 of the Birth Notification Form (BNF01) for the National Perinatal Reporting System (NPRS) and provides information on mothers giving birth and babies born in 2020.<sup>46</sup>

## Breastfeeding at discharge

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

**Table 18: Trends in breastfeeding at discharge, 2011-2020**

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Change	
											2011 - 2020	2019 - 2020
Any breastfeeding 1,2,5,6	55.3	55.4	55.9	57.0	58.0	59.9	59.8	60.4	60.9	61.4	11.0	0.8
Exclusive breastfeeding 1,2,5	47.0	46.9	46.6	46.6	48.0	49.8	48.6	47.3	45.9	44.5	-5.3	-3.1

Notes: Percentages are subject to rounding. 1 Based on live births. 2 Based on maternities. 5 Excludes early neonatal deaths. 6 Any breastfeeding includes type of feeding recorded as either breast or combined.

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

- 61% of babies recorded any breastfeeding in 2020, compared to 55% in 2011;
- 44% of babies were exclusively breastfed in 2020;
- Breastfeeding rates increased with mothers' age up to the 35-39 year age group, after which the rate declined. Mothers in the 35-39 year age group reported the highest exclusive breastfeeding rate at 50.4%; just under one-fifth (18.9%) of infants born to mothers aged under 20 years were exclusively breastfed.
- Exclusive breastfeeding was more common:
  - for singleton births compared to multiple births (44.9% vs 26.3%);
  - among mothers in the 'higher professional' (61.2%) socio-economic group; exclusive breastfeeding was least common among 'unemployed' mothers (27.8%).

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

The Health Service Executive's National Service Plan 2020 includes the following Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in relation to breastfeeding. The following highlights the position as outlined in the quarterly performance report for June 2022 (activity YTD):<sup>47,48</sup>

- % babies breastfed (exclusively & not exclusively) at first PHN Visit – **66.3%** (PC135, Target 64%)
- % babies breastfed exclusively at first PHN visit – **39.8%** (PC143, Target 50%)
- % babies breastfed (exclusively & not exclusively) at 3 month PHN visit – **42.5%** (PC136, Target 46%)
- % babies breastfed exclusively at 3 month PHN visit – **30.1%** (PC144, Target 36%)<sup>††</sup>

Quarterly performance reports are available.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>††</sup> The denominator for KPI calculations is the total number of babies seen by PHN.

## Appendix 1: Data sources

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

### 1. Northern Ireland Maternity System (NIMATS)

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

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

### New NIMATS fields

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

HSC Business Services Organisation  
Information Technology Services

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

Back Save

Casenote No [ ] DoB [ ] Gender [ ] HCN [ ]  
Previous Patient Address [ ] Email and Phone [ ] Allergies [ ]

Infant Feeding

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

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

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

Previous

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

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

HSC Business Services Organisation  
Information Technology Services

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

Back Save

Infants  
Casenote No [ ] DoB [ ] Gender Male [ ] HCN [ ]  
Address [ ] Email and Phone [ ] Allergies [ ]

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

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

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

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

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

Previous Next

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

## 2. Northern Ireland Child Health System

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

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

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

### Up to 6 months

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

### From 6 months

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

Any Breastfeeding (Any BF): babies receiving breast milk only (TOTAL) **or** a combination of breastmilk and formula milk (PARTIAL)

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

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

## 4. BadgerNet™ neonatal system (BNNS)

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

## Appendix 2: Data tables

**Table A: Breastfeeding offered at birth by hospital, 2021 NIMATS Experimental Data**

Year	Hospital	Yes – breastfeeding offered at birth		No, breastfeeding not offered at birth		Missing		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2021	Altnagelvin	2,016	85.9	331	14.1	1	0.0%	2,348	100.0
	Antrim	2,335	80.5	567	19.5	-	0.0%	2,902	100.0
	Craigavon	2,155	65.6	1127	34.3	1	0.0%	3,283	100.0
	Causeway	629	72.1	243	27.9	-	0.0%	872	100.0
	Daisyhill	1,311	66.1	672	33.9	-	0.0%	1,983	100.0
	Lagan Valley/Downe	76	80.0	19	20.0	0	0.0	95	100.0
	Mater	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	RJMS	3,167	65.7	1657	34.3	-	0.0%	4,824	100.0
	SWAH	1,025	80.5	249	19.5	-	0.0%	1,274	100.0
	Ulster	3,037	75.4	992	24.6	1	0.0%	4,030	100.0
	<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>15,751</b>	<b>72.9</b>	<b>5,857</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>21,611</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<p>Source: NIMATS; Live births to NI residents; excludes infants who died in the delivery suite, home births and babies born before arrival at hospital. Disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Lagan Valley and Downe due to small numbers.</p> <p>Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal on 30 March 2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.</p>									

**Table B: Infant feeding at birth by hospital, 2021 NIMATS Experimental data**

Hospital	Breast feeding initiated at birth	Formula fed at birth by mother							
		Yes		No		Missing		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Altnagelvin	Y	0	0.0	1,376	58.6	0	0.0	1,376	58.6
	N	745	31.7	225	9.6	0	0.0	970	41.3
	Missing	0	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0	2	0.1
	Total	745	31.7	1,602	68.2	1	0.0	2,348	100.0
Antrim	Y	0	0.0	1,586	54.7	0	0.0	1,586	54.7
	N	942	32.5	374	12.9	0	0.0	1,316	45.3
	Total	942	32.5	1,960	67.5	0	0.0	2,902	100.0
Causeway	Y	0	0.0	517	59.3	0	0.0	517	59.3
	N	282	32.3	73	8.4	0	0.0	355	40.7
	Total	282	32.3	590	67.7	0	0.0	872	100.0
Craigavon	Y	0	0.0	1,847	56.3	0	0.0	1,847	56.3
	N	1,054	32.1	381	11.6	1	0.0	1,436	43.7
	Total	1,054	32.1	2,228	67.9	1	0.0	3,283	100.0
Daisyhill	Y	0	0.0	1,063	53.6	0	0.0	1,063	53.6
	N	724	36.5	196	9.9	0	0.0	920	46.4
	Total	724	36.5	1,259	63.5	0	0.0	1,983	100.0
Lagan Valley / Downe	Y	0	0.0	69	72.6	0	0.0	69	72.6
	N	17	17.9	9	9.5	0	0.0	26	27.4
	Total	17	17.9	78	82.1	0	0.0	95	100.0
RJMS	Y	0	0.0	2,359	48.9	0	0.0	2,359	48.9
	N	1,654	34.3	811	16.8	0	0.0	2,465	51.1
	Total	1,654	34.3	3,170	65.7	0	0.0	4,824	100.0
SWAH	Y	0	0.0	784	61.5	0	0.0	784	61.5
	N	327	25.7	163	12.8	0	0.0	490	38.5
	Total	327	25.7	947	74.3	0	0.0	1,274	100.0
Ulster	Y	0	0.0	2,578	64.0	0	0.0	2,578	64.0
	N	938	23.3	513	12.7	0	0.0	1,451	36.0
	Missing	0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
	Total	938	23.3	3,092	76.7	0	0.0	4,030	100.0
Northern Ireland	Y	0	0.0	12,179	56.4	0	0.0	12,179	56.4
	N	6,683	30.9	2,745	12.7	1	0.0	9,429	43.6
	Missing	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	3	0.0
	Total	6,683	30.9	14,926	69.1	2	0.0	21,611	100.0

Source: NIMATS; Live births, NI resident mothers; excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and infants born before arrival.  
Disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Lagan Valley and Downe due to small numbers.  
Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal on 30 March 2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.

**Table C: Skin-To-Skin (STS) contact at birth by feeding type at birth, 2021 NIMATS Experimental data**

Year	Feeding at birth	Skin-To-Skin (STS) contact	Yes		Total	
			N	%	N	%
2021	All births	STS	19,011	88.0	21,611	100
		STS at least 1 hour	15,548	71.9	21,611	100
		STS until after first feed	14,717	68.1	21,611	100
		STS at least 1 hour & until after first feed	14,188	65.7	21,611	100
	Breastfed	STS	11,493	94.4	12,179	100
		STS at least 1 hour	10,322	84.8	12,179	100
		STS until after first feed	10,008	82.2	12,179	100
		STS at least 1 hour & until after first feed	9,771	80.2	12,179	100
	Formula fed	STS	5,939	88.9	6,683	100
		STS at least 1 hour	4,464	66.8	6,683	100
		STS until after first feed	4,102	61.4	6,683	100
		STS at least 1 hour & until after first feed	3,872	57.9	6,683	100
	Neither breastfed nor formula fed	STS	1,579	57.4	2,749*	100
		STS at least 1 hour	762	27.7	2,749*	100
		STS until after first feed	607	22.1	2,749*	100
		STS at least 1 hour & until after first feed	545	19.8	2,749*	100

Source: NIMATS; Live births, NI resident mothers; excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and infants born before arrival.  
 \* includes two births where feeding at birth blank



**Table D: Skin-to-skin contact at birth by hospital, 2021 NIMATS Experimental data**

Year	Hospital	Births	Skin-to-skin		Skin-to-skin for at least 1 hour		Skin-to-skin until after first feed		Skin-to-skin for at least 1 hour & skin-to-skin until after first feed	
		N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2021	Altnagelvin	2,348	2,085	88.8	1,734	73.9	1,711	72.9	1,569	66.8
	Antrim	2,902	2,440	84.1	1,962	67.6	1,849	63.7	1,777	61.2
	Causeway	872	839	96.2	793	90.9	748	85.8	741	85.0
	Craigavon	3,283	2,864	87.2	2,272	69.2	2,143	65.3	2,079	63.3
	Daisyhill	1,983	1,670	84.2	1,449	73.1	1,408	71.0	1,365	68.8
	Lagan Valley/Downe	95	92	96.8	82	86.3	79	83.2	78	82.1
	RJMS	4,824	4,248	88.1	3,389	70.3	3,186	66.0	3,076	63.8
	SWAH	1,274	1,124	88.2	1,045	82.0	1,020	80.1	1,005	78.9
	Ulster	4,030	3,649	90.5	2,822	70.0	2,573	63.8	2,498	62.0
	<b>All births</b>	<b>21,611</b>	<b>19,011</b>	<b>88.0</b>	<b>15,548</b>	<b>71.9</b>	<b>14,717</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>14,188</b>	<b>65.7</b>

Source: NIMATS; Live births, NI resident mothers Excludes infants who died in delivery suite, home births and infants born before arrival. Disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Lagan Valley and Downe due to small numbers.

Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal on 30 March 2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.

**Table E: Breastfeeding attempted (%) by Health and Social Care Trust\*, 2012-2021**

HSCT	Year	Y		N		Missing		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Belfast	2021	2,413	58.2	1,717	41.4	16	0.4	4,146	100.0
	2020	2,464	59.6	1,654	40.0	18	0.4	4,136	100.0
	2019	2,569	59.3	1,749	40.3	17	0.4	4,335	100.0
	2018	2,519	56.8	1,903	42.9	15	0.3	4,437	100.0
	2017	2,383	54.7	1,965	45.1	11	0.3	4,359	100.0
	2016	2,495	53.4	2,173	46.6	-	-	4,668	100.0
	2015	2,485	53.4	2,171	46.6	-	-	4,656	100.0
	2014	2,531	53.8	2,176	46.2	-	-	4,707	100.0
	2013	2,454	52.2	2,249	47.8	-	-	4,703	100.0
	2012	2,463	49.6	2,506	50.4	-	-	4,969	100.0
Northern	2021	3,148	61.7	1,932	37.9	20	0.4	5,100	100.0
	2020	3,232	63.1	1,870	36.5	22	0.4	5,124	100.0
	2019	3,278	61.5	2,027	38.1	22	0.4	5,327	100.0
	2018	3,185	60.6	2,051	39.0	22	0.4	5,258	100.0
	2017	3,295	59.3	2,238	40.3	23	0.4	5,556	100.0
	2016	3,206	56.4	2,474	43.6	-	-	5,680	100.0
	2015	3,118	54.3	2,620	45.7	-	-	5,738	100.0
	2014	3,192	54.7	2,647	45.3	-	-	5,839	100.0
	2013	3,161	54.9	2,598	45.1	-	-	5,759	100.0
	2012	3,071	51.6	2,878	48.4	-	-	5,949	100.0
South Eastern	2021	2,471	65.0	1,289	33.9	40	1.1	3,800	100.0
	2020	2,371	64.7	1,273	34.7	23	0.6	3,667	100.0
	2019	2,491	64.7	1,341	34.8	21	0.5	3,853	100.0
	2018	2,586	64.2	1,419	35.2	26	0.6	4,031	100.0
	2017	2,444	61.6	1,494	37.7	28	0.7	3,966	100.0
	2016	2,533	59.9	1,693	40.1	-	-	4,226	100.0
	2015	2,536	58.9	1,766	41.1	-	-	4,302	100.0
	2014	2,472	57.4	1,834	42.6	-	-	4,306	100.0
	2013	2,471	57.2	1,846	42.8	-	-	4,317	100.0
	2012	2,540	56.9	1,927	43.1	-	-	4,467	100.0
Southern	2021	3,088	60.9	1,954	38.6	26	0.5	5,068	100.0
	2020	2,963	61.3	1,849	38.2	23	0.5	4,835	100.0
	2019	3,145	60.9	2,002	38.8	15	0.3	5,162	100.0
	2018	3,144	59.7	2,087	39.6	39	0.7	5,270	100.0
	2017	3,232	60.2	2,122	39.5	18	0.3	5,372	100.0
	2016	3,247	59.0	2,253	41.0	-	-	5,500	100.0
	2015	3,125	56.7	2,390	43.3	-	-	5,515	100.0
	2014	3,197	58.3	2,285	41.7	-	-	5,482	100.0
	2013	3,056	57.3	2,279	42.7	-	-	5,335	100.0
	2012	3,168	55.5	2,536	44.5	-	-	5,704	100.0
Western	2021	2,330	63.9	1,294	35.5	23	0.6	3,647	100.0
	2020	2,330	64.5	1,262	34.9	23	0.6	3,615	100.0
	2019	2,400	65.3	1,249	34.0	25	0.7	3,674	100.0
	2018	2,483	65.8	1,272	33.7	17	0.5	3,772	100.0
	2017	2,524	64.7	1,355	34.8	20	0.5	3,899	100.0
	2016	2,427	61.6	1,514	38.4	-	-	3,941	100.0
	2015	2,487	62.3	1,503	37.7	-	-	3,990	100.0
	2014	2,405	60.1	1,594	39.9	-	-	3,999	100.0
	2013	2,321	59.7	1,565	40.3	-	-	3,886	100.0
	2012	2,395	58.3	1,714	41.7	-	-	4,109	100.0
Northern Ireland	2021	13,450	61.8	8,186	37.6	125	0.6	21,761	100.0
	2020	13,360	62.5	7,908	37.0	109	0.5	21,377	100.0
	2019	13,883	62.1	8,368	37.4	100	0.4	22,351	100.0
	2018	13,917	61.1	8,732	38.4	119	0.5	22,768	100.0
	2017	13,878	59.9	9,174	39.6	100	0.4	23,152	100.0
	2016	13,908	57.9	10,107	42.1	-	-	24,015	100.0
	2015	13,751	56.8	10,450	43.2	-	-	24,201	100.0
	2014	13,797	56.7	10,536	43.3	-	-	24,333	100.0
	2013	13,463	56.1	10,537	43.9	-	-	24,000	100.0
	2012	13,637	54.1	11,561	45.9	-	-	25,198	100.0

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

**Table F: Breastfeeding attempted by maternal age, 2017-2021**

Year	Age group	Yes		No		Missing		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2021	Under 20	186	41.7	259	58.1	1	0.2	446	100.0
	20-24	1,098	44.9	1,334	54.6	11	0.5	2,443	100.0
	25-29	3,128	58.0	2,230	41.3	35	0.6	5,393	100.0
	30-34	5,246	65.2	2,762	34.3	39	0.5	8,047	100.0
	35-39	3,118	69.6	1,331	29.7	34	0.8	4,483	100.0
	40+	674	71.0	270	28.5	5	0.5	949	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,450</b>	<b>61.8</b>	<b>8,186</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>21,761</b>	<b>100.0</b>
2020	Under 20	180	35.4	326	64.0	3	0.6	509	100.0
	20-24	1,137	45.6	1,344	54.0	10	0.4	2,491	100.0
	25-29	3,170	57.9	2,271	41.5	30	0.5	5,471	100.0
	30-34	5,118	67.3	2,455	32.3	33	0.4	7,606	100.0
	35-39	3,072	71.2	1,214	28.1	29	0.7	4,315	100.0
	40+	683	69.3	298	30.3	4	0.4	985	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,360</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>7,908</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>21,377</b>	<b>100.0</b>
2019	Under 20	252	40.5	368	59.2	2	0.3	622	100.0
	20-24	1,315	47.1	1,458	52.3	17	0.6	2,790	100.0
	25-29	3,394	58.7	2,360	40.8	27	0.5	5,781	100.0
	30-34	5,149	66.4	2,574	33.2	29	0.4	7,752	100.0
	35-39	3,079	69.8	1,312	29.8	19	0.4	4,410	100.0
	40+	694	69.7	296	29.7	6	0.6	996	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,883</b>	<b>62.1</b>	<b>8,368</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>22,351</b>	<b>100.0</b>
2018	Under 20	261	40.7	378	59.0	2	0.3	641	100.0
	20-24	1,257	44.7	1,541	54.8	13	0.5	2,811	100.0
	25-29	3,455	57.1	2,565	42.4	31	0.5	6,051	100.0
	30-34	5,279	66.4	2,620	33.0	51	0.6	7,950	100.0
	35-39	3,054	68.9	1,365	30.8	16	0.4	4,435	100.0
	40+	611	69.4	263	29.9	6	0.7	880	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,917</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>8,732</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>22,768</b>	<b>100.0</b>
2017	Under 20	267	39.4	401	59.2	9	1.3	677	100.0
	20-24	1,252	43.5	1,613	56.1	12	0.4	2,877	100.0
	25-29	3,495	55.7	2,753	43.9	30	0.5	6,278	100.0
	30-34	5,213	65.5	2,720	34.2	29	0.4	7,962	100.0
	35-39	3,057	68.2	1,407	31.4	18	0.4	4,482	100.0
	40+	594	67.8	280	32.0	2	0.2	876	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,878</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>9,174</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>23,152</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

**Table G: Breastfeeding attempted by deprivation quintile (SOA), 2017-2021**

Year	Deprivation quintile	Yes		No		Missing		Total	
	1 – Most deprived 20% 5 – Least deprived 20%	Breastfeeding attempted	Breastfeeding not attempted	Breastfeeding not attempted					
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
2021	1	2,218	47.6	2,414	51.8	24	0.5	4,656	100.0
	2	2,661	57.7	1,922	41.7	26	0.6	4,609	100.0
	3	2,772	62.3	1,648	37.1	28	0.6	4,448	100.0
	4	2,942	68.3	1,341	31.1	22	0.5	4,305	100.0
	5	2,857	76.3	861	23.0	25	0.7	3,743	100.0
	Total	13,450	61.8	8,186	37.6	125	0.6	21,761	100.0
2020	1	2,318	48.7	2,419	50.8	24	0.5	4,761	100.0
	2	2,746	60.5	1,774	39.1	21	0.5	4,541	100.0
	3	2,714	62.9	1,575	36.5	23	0.5	4,312	100.0
	4	2,821	68.0	1,300	31.3	26	0.6	4,147	100.0
	5	2,761	76.4	840	23.2	15	0.4	3,616	100.0
	Total	13,360	62.5	7,908	37.0	109	0.5	21,377	100.0
2019	1	2,408	48.4	2,544	51.1	25	0.5	4,977	100.0
	2	2,804	58.8	1,940	40.7	25	0.5	4,769	100.0
	3	2,837	62.5	1,679	37.0	20	0.4	4,536	100.0
	4	3,048	69.2	1,342	30.5	16	0.4	4,406	100.0
	5	2,786	76.1	863	23.6	14	0.4	3,663	100.0
	Total	13,883	62.1	8,368	37.4	100	0.4	22,351	100.0
2018	1	2,364	46.8	2,664	52.8	20	0.4	5,048	100.0
	2	2,878	58.8	1,986	40.6	30	0.6	4,894	100.0
	3	2,904	62.3	1,734	37.2	24	0.5	4,662	100.0
	4	2,983	67.0	1,445	32.5	23	0.5	4,451	100.0
	5	2,788	75.1	903	24.3	22	0.6	3,713	100.0
	Total	13,917	61.1	8,732	38.4	119	0.5	22,768	100.0
2017	1	2,329	45.9	2,729	53.8	19	0.4	5,077	100.0
	2	2,969	58.2	2,101	41.2	29	0.6	5,099	100.0
	3	2,865	60.3	1,863	39.2	22	0.5	4,750	100.0
	4	2,965	65.7	1,529	33.9	20	0.4	4,514	100.0
	5	2,750	74.1	952	25.6	10	0.3	3,712	100.0
	Total	13,878	59.9	9,174	39.6	100	0.4	23,152	100.0

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

Note: Deprivation status as per Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 for Super Output Area (SOA).

**Table H: Breastfeeding attempted (%) by maternal age and deprivation quintile (SOA), 2021**

Maternal age group at birth	Deprivation quintile (SOA)	Yes		No		Missing		Total	
	1 – Most deprived 20%								
	5 – Least deprived 20%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<20 years	1	62	37.6	103	62.4	-	0.0	165	100.0
	2	41	39.8	62	60.2	-	0.0	103	100.0
	3	36	43.9	45	54.9	1	1.2	82	100.0
	4	33	45.8	39	54.2	-	0.0	72	100.0
	5	14	58.3	10	41.7	-	0.0	24	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>58.1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>100.0</b>
20-24 years	1	334	37.8	546	61.8	3	0.3	883	100.0
	2	252	45.6	298	53.9	3	0.5	553	100.0
	3	231	49.4	233	49.8	4	0.9	468	100.0
	4	162	49.5	165	50.5	-	0.0	327	100.0
	5	119	56.1	92	43.4	1	0.5	212	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>44.9</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2,443</b>	<b>100.0</b>
25-29 years	1	595	45.3	706	53.8	12	0.9	1313	100.0
	2	655	56.0	505	43.2	9	0.8	1169	100.0
	3	688	60.7	441	38.9	5	0.4	1134	100.0
	4	667	64.2	369	35.5	3	0.3	1039	100.0
	5	523	70.9	209	28.3	6	0.8	738	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,128</b>	<b>58.0</b>	<b>2,230</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>5,393</b>	<b>100.0</b>
30-34 years	1	738	51.7	683	47.9	6	0.4	1427	100.0
	2	975	59.6	659	40.3	2	0.1	1636	100.0
	3	1077	64.0	598	35.5	9	0.5	1684	100.0
	4	1200	70.4	492	28.9	12	0.7	1704	100.0
	5	1256	78.7	330	20.7	10	0.6	1596	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,246</b>	<b>65.2</b>	<b>2,762</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>8,047</b>	<b>100.0</b>
35-39 years	1	393	55.8	308	43.8	3	0.4	704	100.0
	2	593	64.4	320	34.7	8	0.9	921	100.0
	3	619	67.9	284	31.1	9	1.0	912	100.0
	4	744	75.5	236	23.9	6	0.6	986	100.0
	5	769	80.1	183	19.1	8	0.8	960	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,118</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>4,483</b>	<b>100.0</b>
40+ years	1	96	58.5	68	41.5	-	0.0	164	100.0
	2	145	63.9	78	34.4	4	1.8	227	100.0
	3	121	72.0	47	28.0	-	0.0	168	100.0
	4	136	76.8	40	22.6	1	0.6	177	100.0
	5	176	82.6	37	17.4	-	0.0	213	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>71.0</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>		<b>13,450</b>	<b>61.8</b>	<b>8,186</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>21,761</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

**Table I: Breastfeeding attempted by place of birth, 2017-2021**

Place of birth	Year	Breastfeeding attempted				Missing		Total	
		Yes		No					
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Altnagelvin	2021	1,510	63.6	849	35.8	15	0.6	2,374	100.0
	2020	1,507	61.9	913	37.5	13	0.5	2,433	100.0
	2019	1,534	63.1	880	36.2	16	0.7	2,430	100.0
	2018	1,588	64.2	873	35.3	13	0.5	2,474	100.0
	2017	1,592	61.5	985	38.0	12	0.5	2,589	100.0
Antrim	2021	1,758	60.3	1,144	39.2	13	0.4	2,915	100.0
	2020	2,032	63.2	1,169	36.4	12	0.4	3,213	100.0
	2019	1,796	61.3	1,120	38.2	13	0.4	2,929	100.0
	2018	1,701	59.8	1,129	39.7	14	0.5	2,844	100.0
	2017	1,723	58.8	1,190	40.6	17	0.6	2,930	100.0
Craigavon	2021	2,052	62.2	1,233	37.4	12	0.4	3,297	100.0
	2020	2,016	61.5	1,240	37.8	22	0.7	3,278	100.0
	2019	2,400	61.8	1,468	37.8	14	0.4	3,882	100.0
	2018	2,439	61.4	1,507	38.0	24	0.6	3,970	100.0
	2017	2,450	60.7	1,574	39.0	13	0.3	4,037	100.0
Causeway	2021	556	63.1	322	36.5	3	0.3	881	100.0
	2020	326	61.9	200	38.0	1	0.2	527	100.0
	2019	544	60.4	352	39.1	4	0.4	900	100.0
	2018	552	61.5	342	38.1	3	0.3	897	100.0
	2017	559	58.4	395	41.3	3	0.3	957	100.0
Daisyhill	2021	1,173	59.0	802	40.3	13	0.7	1,988	100.0
	2020	1,138	61.1	718	38.5	8	0.4	1,864	100.0
	2019	993	58.8	689	40.8	6	0.4	1,688	100.0
	2018	939	57.4	688	42.1	9	0.6	1,636	100.0
	2017	1,053	59.7	705	40.0	6	0.3	1,764	100.0
Lagan Valley / Downe	2021	71	74.0	21	21.9	4	4.2	96	100.0
	2020	53	69.7	17	22.4	6	7.9	76	100.0
	2019	74	66.7	32	28.8	5	4.5	111	100.0
	2018	76	65.5	27	23.3	13	11.2	116	100.0
	2017	100	68.0	34	23.1	13	8.8	147	100.0
Mater	2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2020	45	60.0	30	40.0	-	0.0	75	100.0
	2019	196	65.8	101	33.9	1	0.3	298	100.0
	2018	206	68.0	95	31.4	2	0.7	303	100.0
	2017	160	60.4	105	39.6	-	0.0	265	100.0
RJMS	2021	2,649	54.5	2,198	45.2	18	0.4	4,865	100.0
	2020	2,706	56.3	2,085	43.3	19	0.4	4,810	100.0
	2019	2,676	55.4	2,134	44.2	16	0.3	4,826	100.0
	2018	2,724	53.2	2,388	46.6	12	0.2	5,124	100.0
	2017	2,653	51.5	2,493	48.4	2	0.0	5,148	100.0
SWAH	2021	855	66.6	421	32.8	8	0.6	1,284	100.0
	2020	829	71.8	318	27.6	7	0.6	1,154	100.0
	2019	860	72.0	326	27.3	8	0.7	1,194	100.0
	2018	877	70.6	359	28.9	6	0.5	1,242	100.0
	2017	921	73.7	322	25.8	6	0.5	1,249	100.0
Ulster	2021	2,826	69.6	1,196	29.5	39	1.0	4,061	100.0
	2020	2,708	68.6	1,218	30.9	21	0.5	3,947	100.0
	2019	2,810	68.7	1,266	30.9	17	0.4	4,093	100.0
	2018	2,815	67.6	1,324	31.8	23	0.6	4,162	100.0
	2017	2,667	65.6	1,371	33.7	28	0.7	4,066	100.0
Northern Ireland	2021	13,450	61.8	8,186	37.6	125	0.6	21,761	100.0
	2020	13,360	62.5	7,908	37.0	109	0.5	21,377	100.0
	2019	13,883	62.1	8,368	37.4	100	0.4	22,351	100.0
	2018	13,917	61.1	8,732	38.4	119	0.5	22,768	100.0
	2017	13,878	59.9	9,174	39.6	100	0.4	23,152	100.0

Source: NIMATS: Live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births and infants who died in the delivery suite. Disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Lagan Valley and Downe due to small numbers.

Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal on 30 March 2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.

**Table J: At least one effective breastfeed during postnatal stay by hospital, 2021 NIMATS experimental data**

Site	Effective breastfeed during postnatal stay				Total Base n = 13,360 infants attempted breastfeeding	
	Yes		No		N	%
	N	%	N	%		
Altnagelvin	1,280	85.5	217	14.5	1,497	100.0
Antrim	1,534	87.8	213	12.2	1,747	100.0
Causeway	524	95.4	25	4.6	549	100.0
Craigavon	1,724	84.4	319	15.6	2,043	100.0
Daisyhill	1,046	89.3	125	10.7	1,171	100.0
Lagan Valley	65	92.9	5	7.1	70	100.0
RJMS	2,303	87.7	324	12.3	2,627	100.0
SWAH	746	87.9	103	12.1	849	100.0
Ulster	2,518	89.7	289	10.3	2,807	100.0
<b>Total attempted breastfeeding</b>	<b>11,740</b>	<b>87.9</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>13,360</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: NIMATS experimental data; Live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births, babies born before arrival at hospital and infants who died in the delivery suite.  
Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal 30/03/2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.

**Table K: Breastfeeding at discharge by hospital and feeding method, 2021 NIMATS experimental data**

Site / Milk type at discharge	Method of feeding at discharge							
	Breast		Expressed		Both breast and expressed		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Altnagelvin	787	77.4	186	18.3	44	4.3	1,017	100.0
Antrim	1,173	83.8	190	13.6	36	2.6	1,399	100.0
Causeway	395	84.4	68	14.5	5	1.1	468	100.0
Craigavon	1,345	78.1	311	18.0	67	3.9	1,723	100.0
Daisy Hill	857	84.1	141	13.8	21	2.1	1,019	100.0
Lagan Valley	55	93.2	4	6.8	0	0.0	59	100.0
RJMS	1,681	73.8	461	20.2	136	6.0	2,278	100.0
SWAH	496	77.5	123	19.2	21	3.3	640	100.0
Ulster	1,918	80.5	381	16.0	85	3.6	2,384	100.0
<b>Total - Any breastmilk</b>	<b>8,707</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>1,865</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>10,987</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<i>Totally breastfeeding</i>	<i>7,424</i>	<i>91.7</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>552</i>	<i>6.8</i>	<i>8,095</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<i>Breast and formula feeding</i>	<i>1,283</i>	<i>44.4</i>	<i>296</i>	<i>10.2</i>	<i>1,313</i>	<i>45.4</i>	<i>2,892</i>	<i>100.0</i>

Source: NIMATS experimental data; Live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births, babies born before arrival at hospital, infants who died in the delivery suite, neonatal unit or postnatal ward.  
Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal 30/03/2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.



**Table L: Supplementation by hospital, 2021 NIMATS Experimental data**

<b>Hospital</b>	<b>Supplementation of breastfed infants during post-natal stay</b>	<b>Total (Base = 8,095 infants totally breastfed at discharge)</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>
Altnagelvin	20.9	714
Antrim	12.8	1,008
Causeway	8.3	385
Craigavon	14.3	1,249
Daisyhill	17.6	751
Lagan Valley	17.6	51
RJMS	14.6	1,595
SWAH	16.2	458
Ulster	9.8	1,884
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>8,095</b>

Source: NIMATS experimental data; Live births to NI resident mothers; excludes home births, babies born before arrival at hospital, infants who died in the delivery suite, neonatal unit or postnatal ward.

Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal 30/03/2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.

**Table M: Breastfeeding support at discharge with hospital range, 2021 NIMATS experimental data**

Feeding type at discharge	Site	Effective Positioning		Recognise Enough		Hand Expression		Help At Home		Total	
		N	% mothers	N	% mothers	N	% mothers	N	% mothers	N	% mothers
<b>Totally breastfed</b>	Altnagelvin	706	99.2	705	99.0	706	99.2	705	99.0	712	100.0
	Antrim	994	99.2	996	99.4	980	97.8	995	99.3	1,002	100.0
	Craigavon	1,229	99.0	1,229	99.0	1,206	97.2	1,212	97.7	1,241	100.0
	Causeway	382	99.2	383	99.5	383	99.5	382	99.2	385	100.0
	Daisyhill	742	98.9	743	99.1	676	90.1	650	86.7	750	100.0
	Lagan Valley	51	100.0	51	100.0	51	100.0	51	100.0	51	100.0
	RJMS	1,551	97.7	1,564	98.5	1,564	98.5	1,559	98.2	1,588	100.0
	SWAH	455	99.3	456	99.6	455	99.3	456	99.6	458	100.0
	Ulster	1,856	98.9	1,860	99.1	1,855	98.8	1,858	99.0	1,877	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,966</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>7,987</b>	<b>99.0</b>	<b>7,876</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>7,868</b>	<b>97.6</b>	<b>8,064</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Partially breastfed</b>	Altnagelvin	293	98.0	299	100.0	298	99.7	298	99.7	299	100.0
	Antrim	365	95.1	375	97.7	371	96.6	377	98.2	384	100.0
	Craigavon	436	94.0	454	97.8	450	97.0	448	96.6	464	100.0
	Causeway	82	98.8	82	98.8	82	98.8	81	97.6	83	100.0
	Daisyhill	254	95.8	256	96.6	243	91.7	248	93.6	265	100.0
	Lagan Valley	8	100.0	8	100.0	8	100.0	8	100.0	8	100.0
	RJMS	619	93.2	643	96.8	648	97.6	642	96.7	664	100.0
	SWAH	169	96.0	173	98.3	172	97.7	173	98.3	176	100.0
	Ulster	458	95.6	470	98.1	464	96.9	469	97.9	479	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,684</b>	<b>95.1</b>	<b>2,760</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>2,736</b>	<b>97.0</b>	<b>2,744</b>	<b>97.2</b>	<b>2,822</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Any breastfeeding</b>	Altnagelvin	999	98.8	1,004	99.3	1,004	99.3	1,003	99.2	1,011	100.0
	Antrim	1,359	98.1	1,371	98.9	1,351	97.5	1,372	99.0	1,386	100.0
	Craigavon	1,665	97.7	1,683	98.7	1,656	97.1	1,660	97.4	1,705	100.0
	Causeway	464	99.1	465	99.4	465	99.4	463	98.9	468	100.0
	Daisyhill	996	98.1	999	98.4	919	90.5	898	88.5	1,015	100.0
	Lagan Valley	59	100.0	59	100.0	59	100.0	59	100.0	59	100.0
	RJMS	2,170	96.4	2,207	98.0	2,212	98.2	2,201	97.7	2,252	100.0
	SWAH	624	98.4	629	99.2	627	98.9	629	99.2	634	100.0
	Ulster	2,314	98.2	2,330	98.9	2,319	98.4	2,327	98.8	2,356	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,650</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>10,747</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>10,612</b>	<b>97.5</b>	<b>10,612</b>	<b>97.5</b>	<b>10,886</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal on 30/03/2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.

**Table N: Formula feeding support at discharge with hospital range, 2021 NIMATS experimental data**

Feeding type at discharge	Site	Sterilise		Make Up Feed		Discuss Milk		Total	
		N	% mothers	N	% mothers	N	% mothers	N	% mothers
Formula fed	Altnagelvin	1,282	98.8	1,283	98.9	1,284	99.0	1,297	100.0
	Antrim	1,415	97.9	1,417	98.1	1,415	97.9	1,445	100.0
	Craigavon	1,501	98.8	1,510	99.4	1,475	97.1	1,519	100.0
	Causeway	388	96.8	389	97.0	388	96.8	401	100.0
	Daisyhill	914	97.6	913	97.5	886	94.7	936	100.0
	Lagan Valley / Downe	31	96.9	31	96.9	31	96.9	32	100.0
	RJMS	2,421	98.1	2,419	98.0	2,422	98.1	2,469	100.0
	SWAH	607	98.1	607	98.1	607	98.1	619	100.0
	Ulster	1,564	99.1	1,563	99.0	1,559	98.7	1,579	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,123</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>10,132</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>10,067</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>10,297</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: NIMATS experimental data; Live births to NI residents; excludes home births, babies born before arrival at hospital, infants who died in delivery suite, neonatal unit or postnatal ward. Disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Lagan Valley and Downe due to small numbers.

Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal on 30/03/2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.

**Table O: Breastfeeding at discharge by Health and Social Care Trust, 2020**

HSCT / LCG	Number of births						Rate (%)					
	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All
Belfast	1,523	565	2,088	1,983	64	4,135	36.8	13.7	50.5	48.0	1.5	100.0
Northern	1,903	676	2,579	2,433	36	5,048	37.7	13.4	51.1	48.2	0.7	100.0
South Eastern	1,464	473	1,937	1,699	57	3,693	39.6	12.8	52.5	46.0	1.5	100.0
Southern	1,805	664	2,469	2,314	93	4,876	37.0	13.6	50.6	47.5	1.9	100.0
Western	1,145	426	1,571	1,947	64	3,582	32.0	11.9	43.9	54.4	1.8	100.0
Unknown	128	28	156	107	4	267	47.9	10.5	58.4	40.1	1.5	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,968</b>	<b>2,832</b>	<b>10,800</b>	<b>10,483</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>21,601</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers. 2020 data includes 37 births: At home (n=19), ROI Hospital (n=16), Scottish Hospital (n=1), Overseas Hospital (n=1).

**Table P: Breastfeeding at discharge by hospital, 2020**

Birthplace	Number of births						Rate (%)					
	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown/ blank	All
Altnagelvin	708	259	967	1,401	43	2,411	29.4	10.7	40.1	58.1	1.8	100.0
Antrim	1,148	455	1,603	1,547	7	3,157	36.4	14.4	50.8	49.0	0.2	100.0
Causeway	215	38	253	269	2	524	41.0	7.3	48.3	51.3	0.4	100.0
Craigavon	1,205	499	1,704	1,533	53	3,290	36.6	15.2	51.8	46.6	1.6	100.0
Daisyhill	712	210	922	911	24	1,857	38.3	11.3	49.6	49.1	1.3	100.0
Lagan Valley/Downe	50	2	52	23	5	80	62.5	2.5	65.0	28.8	6.3	100.0
Mater	29	9	38	34	-	72	40.3	12.5	52.8	47.2	0.0	100.0
RJMS	1,568	702	2,270	2,436	96	4,802	32.7	14.6	47.3	50.7	2.0	100.0
SWAH	443	149	592	540	14	1,146	38.7	13.0	51.7	47.1	1.2	100.0
Ulster	1,758	479	2,237	1,675	48	3,960	44.4	12.1	56.5	42.3	1.2	100.0
<b>All locations*</b>	<b>7,840</b>	<b>2,804</b>	<b>10,644</b>	<b>10,376</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>21,334</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers; All locations\* Excludes 35 births – At home (n=18), ROI Hospital (n=15), Scottish Hospital (n=1), Overseas Hospital (n=1)  
Disclosure controls have been applied by combining data for Lagan Valley and Downe due to small numbers.  
Note: Due to the pandemic, Mater deliveries were relocated to Royal on 30 March 2020 and the Causeway delivery suite closed to deliveries between 08/04/2020 and 23/08/2020. Downe closed to births shortly before the pandemic.

**Table Q: Breastfeeding at discharge by maternal age group, 2020**

Age group	Number of births						Rate (%)					
	Total BF	Partial BF	<i>Any BF</i>	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All	Total BF	Partial BF	<i>Any BF</i>	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All
Under 20	79	36	115	382	12	509	15.5	7.1	22.6	75.0	2.4	100.0
20-24	550	245	795	1,653	30	2,478	22.2	9.9	32.1	66.7	1.2	100.0
25-29	1,736	656	2,392	2,995	82	5,469	31.7	12.0	43.7	54.8	1.5	100.0
30-34	3,183	1,038	4,221	3,286	98	7,605	41.9	13.6	55.5	43.2	1.3	100.0
35-39	1,884	682	2,566	1,657	75	4,298	43.8	15.9	59.7	38.6	1.7	100.0
40+	408	147	555	403	15	973	41.9	15.1	57.0	41.4	1.5	100.0
Unknown	-	-	-	-	2	2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,840</b>	<b>2,804</b>	<b>10,644</b>	<b>10,376</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>21,334</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

**Table R: Breastfeeding at discharge by deprivation quintile (SOA), 2020**

Deprivation quintile	Number of births						Rate (%)					
	Total BF	Partial BF	<i>Any BF</i>	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All	Total BF	Partial BF	<i>Any BF</i>	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All
1 - Most deprived	1,144	495	1,639	2,968	69	4,676	24.5	10.6	35.1	63.5	1.5	100.0
2	1,555	573	2,128	2,331	77	4,536	34.3	12.6	46.9	51.4	1.7	100.0
3	1,539	557	2,096	2,168	60	4,324	35.6	12.9	48.5	50.1	1.4	100.0
4	1,723	606	2,329	1,779	55	4,163	41.4	14.6	55.9	42.7	1.3	100.0
5 - Least deprived	1,879	573	2,452	1,130	53	3,635	51.7	15.8	67.5	31.1	1.5	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,840</b>	<b>2,804</b>	<b>10,644</b>	<b>10,376</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>21,334</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers.  
Deprivation status as per Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 for Super Output Area (SOA).

**Table S: Prevalence of breastfeeding (%) up to 12 months for infants born 2012 to 2020**

Year	Stage	Number of births						Rate (%)					
		Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown/ Blank	All	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown/ Blank	All
2020	Discharge	7,840	2,804	10,644	10,376	314	21,334	36.7	13.1	49.9	48.6	1.5	100.0
	Primary visit	6,539	2,329	8,868	11,465	1,001	21,334	30.7	10.9	41.6	53.7	4.7	100.0
	6 weeks	5,056	1,693	6,749	12,641	1,944	21,334	23.7	7.9	31.6	59.3	9.1	100.0
	3 months	4,669	1,288	5,957	13,875	1,502	21,334	21.9	6.0	27.9	65.0	7.0	100.0
	6 months	3,501	934	4,435	13,312	3,587	21,334	16.4	4.4	20.8	62.4	16.8	100.0
	12 months	1,750	641	2,391	12,002	6,941	21,334	8.2	3.0	11.2	56.3	32.5	100.0
2019	Discharge	8,363	2,657	11,020	11,009	359	22,388	37.4	11.9	49.2	49.2	1.6	100.0
	Primary visit	6,923	2,226	9,149	11,864	1,375	22,388	30.9	9.9	40.9	53.0	6.1	100.0
	6 weeks	5,501	1,834	7,335	14,001	1,052	22,388	24.6	8.2	32.8	62.5	4.7	100.0
	3 months	4,628	1,327	5,955	14,332	2,101	22,388	20.7	5.9	26.6	64.0	9.4	100.0
	6 months	2,869	810	3,679	12,002	6,707	22,388	12.8	3.6	16.4	53.6	30.0	100.0
	12 months	1,254	492	1,746	10,125	10,517	22,388	5.6	2.2	7.8	45.2	47.0	100.0
2018	Discharge	8,406	2,604	11,010	11,411	370	22,791	36.9	11.4	48.3	50.1	1.6	100.0
	Primary visit	6,651	2,030	8,681	11,968	2,142	22,791	29.2	8.9	38.1	52.5	9.4	100.0
	6 weeks	5,504	1,776	7,280	13,581	1,930	22,791	24.1	7.8	31.9	59.6	8.5	100.0
	3 months	4,746	1,362	6,108	14,028	2,655	22,791	20.8	6.0	26.8	61.6	11.6	100.0
	6 months	3,465	899	4,364	13,184	5,243	22,791	15.2	3.9	19.1	57.8	23.0	100.0
	12 months	1,910	698	2,608	13,948	6,235	22,791	8.4	3.1	11.4	61.2	27.4	100.0
2017	Discharge	8,381	2,518	10,899	11,964	313	23,176	36.2	10.9	47.0	51.6	1.4	100.0
	Primary visit	6,518	2,068	8,586	12,878	1,712	23,176	28.1	8.9	37.0	55.6	7.4	100.0
	6 weeks	5,145	1,763	6,908	14,459	1,809	23,176	22.2	7.6	29.8	62.4	7.8	100.0
	3 months	4,370	1,240	5,610	15,072	2,494	23,176	18.9	5.4	24.2	65	10.8	100.0
	6 months	3,132	836	3,968	13,779	5,429	23,176	13.5	3.6	17.1	59.5	23.4	100.0
	12 months	1,734	701	2,435	14,925	5,816	23,176	7.5	3	10.5	64.4	25.1	100.0
2016	Discharge	8,801	2,310	11,111	12,659	323	24,093	36.5	9.6	46.1	52.5	1.3	100.0
	Primary visit	6,586	2,078	8,664	13,323	2,106	24,093	27.3	8.6	36.0	55.3	8.7	100.0
	6 weeks	5,216	1,755	6,971	14,981	2,141	24,093	21.6	7.3	28.9	62.2	8.9	100.0
	3 months	4,345	1,245	5,590	15,668	2,835	24,093	18.0	5.2	23.2	65	11.8	100.0
	6 months	2,827	882	3,709	13,939	6,445	24,093	11.7	3.7	15.4	57.9	26.8	100.0
	12 months	1,440	725	2,165	15,083	6,845	24,093	6.0	3	9.0	62.6	28.4	100.0
2015	Discharge	9,160	1,811	10,971	13,014	328	24,313	37.7	7.4	45.1	53.5	1.3	100.0
	Primary visit	6,543	2,044	8,587	13,541	2,185	24,313	26.9	8.4	35.3	55.7	9.0	100.0
	6 weeks	5,048	1,759	6,807	14,975	2,531	24,313	20.8	7.2	28	61.6	10.4	100.0
	3 months	4,097	1,215	5,312	15,524	3,477	24,313	16.9	5	21.8	63.9	14.3	100.0
	6 months	2,455	962	3,417	13,136	7,760	24,313	10.1	4	14.1	54	31.9	100.0
	12 months	1,180	778	1,958	15,558	6,797	24,313	4.9	3.2	8.1	64	28.0	100.0
2014	Discharge	9,338	1,820	11,158	12,931	363	24,452	38.2	7.4	45.6	52.9	1.5	100.0
	Primary visit	6,691	1,881	8,572	13,522	2,358	24,452	27.4	7.7	35.1	55.3	9.6	100.0
	6 weeks	5,010	1,728	6,738	15,164	2,550	24,452	20.5	7.1	27.6	62	10.4	100.0
	3 months	3,907	1,308	5,215	15,316	3,921	24,452	16.0	5.3	21.3	62.6	16.0	100.0
	6 months	2,060	999	3,059	12,672	8,721	24,452	8.4	4.1	12.5	51.8	35.7	100.0
	12 months	798	801	1,599	14,875	7,978	24,452	3.3	3.3	6.5	60.8	32.6	100.0
2013	Discharge	9,056	1,820	10,876	12,922	335	24,133	37.5	7.5	45.1	53.5	1.4	100.0
	Primary visit	6,279	1,794	8,073	12,908	3,152	24,133	26.0	7.4	33.5	53.5	13.1	100.0
	6 weeks	4,611	1,767	6,378	14,462	3,293	24,133	19.1	7.3	26.4	59.9	13.6	100.0
	3 months	3,503	1,305	4,808	15,275	4,050	24,133	14.5	5.4	19.9	63.3	16.8	100.0
	6 months	1,676	936	2,612	11,410	10,111	24,133	6.9	3.9	10.8	47.3	41.9	100.0
	12 months	532	730	1,262	13,434	9,437	24,133	2.2	3.0	5.2	55.7	39.1	100.0
2012	Discharge	9,106	1,727	10,833	14,022	463	25,318	36.0	6.8	42.8	55.4	1.8	100.0
	Primary visit	5,632	1,539	7,171	12,604	5,543	25,318	22.2	6.1	28.3	49.8	21.9	100.0
	6 weeks	4,231	1,568	5,799	14,173	5,346	25,318	16.7	6.2	22.9	56.0	21.1	100.0
	3 months	3,088	1,102	4,190	14,454	6,674	25,318	12.2	4.4	16.5	57.1	26.4	100.0
	6 months	1,351	830	2,181	11,911	11,226	25,318	5.3	3.3	8.6	47.0	44.3	100.0
	12 months	454	694	1,148	14,480	9,690	25,318	1.8	2.7	4.5	57.2	38.3	100.0

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

**Table T: Prevalence of breastfeeding (%) by Health and Social Care Trust / Local Commissioning Group, 2020**

HSCT / LCG	Stage	Number of births (N)						Rate (%)					
		Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Blank	All	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Blank	All
BHSCT	Discharge	1,523	565	2,088	1,983	64	4,135	36.8	13.7	50.5	48.0	1.5	100.0
	Primary visit	1,404	469	1,873	2,020	242	4,135	34.0	11.3	45.3	48.9	5.9	100.0
	6 weeks	1,131	367	1,498	2,275	362	4,135	27.4	8.9	36.2	55.0	8.8	100.0
	3 months	1,002	297	1,299	2,409	427	4,135	24.2	7.2	31.4	58.3	10.3	100.0
	6 months	741	208	949	2,177	1,009	4,135	17.9	5.0	23.0	52.6	24.4	100.0
	12 months	144	45	189	797	3,149	4,135	3.5	1.1	4.6	19.3	76.2	100.0
NHSCT	Discharge	1,903	676	2,579	2,433	36	5,048	37.7	13.4	51.1	48.2	0.7	100.0
	Primary visit	1,597	516	2,113	2,777	158	5,048	31.6	10.2	41.9	55.0	3.1	100.0
	6 weeks	1,314	373	1,687	3,160	201	5,048	26.0	7.4	33.4	62.6	4.0	100.0
	3 months	1,207	290	1,497	3,431	120	5,048	23.9	5.7	29.7	68.0	2.4	100.0
	6 months	1,013	253	1,266	3,533	249	5,048	20.1	5.0	25.1	70.0	4.9	100.0
	12 months	643	236	879	3,818	351	5,048	12.7	4.7	17.4	75.6	7.0	100.0
SEHSCT	Discharge	1,464	473	1,937	1,699	57	3,693	39.6	12.8	52.5	46.0	1.5	100.0
	Primary visit	1,140	451	1,591	1,845	257	3,693	30.9	12.2	43.1	50.0	7.0	100.0
	6 weeks	889	338	1,227	2,096	370	3,693	24.1	9.2	33.2	56.8	10.0	100.0
	3 months	817	220	1,037	2,393	263	3,693	22.1	6.0	28.1	64.8	7.1	100.0
	6 months	533	144	677	2,114	902	3,693	14.4	3.9	18.3	57.2	24.4	100.0
	12 months	352	149	501	2,348	844	3,693	9.5	4.0	13.6	63.6	22.9	100.0
SHSCT	Discharge	1,805	664	2,469	2,314	93	4,876	37.0	13.6	50.6	47.5	1.9	100.0
	Primary visit	1,493	539	2,032	2,593	251	4,876	30.6	11.1	41.7	53.2	5.1	100.0
	6 weeks	1,032	347	1,379	2,641	856	4,876	21.2	7.1	28.3	54.2	17.6	100.0
	3 months	1,028	297	1,325	3,022	529	4,876	21.1	6.1	27.2	62.0	10.8	100.0
	6 months	752	210	962	3,021	893	4,876	15.4	4.3	19.7	62.0	18.3	100.0
	12 months	313	128	441	2,372	2,063	4,876	6.4	2.6	9.0	48.6	42.3	100.0
WHSCT	Discharge	1,145	426	1,571	1,947	64	3,582	32.0	11.9	43.9	54.4	1.8	100.0
	Primary visit	905	354	1,259	2,230	93	3,582	25.3	9.9	35.1	62.3	2.6	100.0
	6 weeks	690	268	958	2,469	155	3,582	19.3	7.5	26.7	68.9	4.3	100.0
	3 months	615	184	799	2,620	163	3,582	17.2	5.1	22.3	73.1	4.6	100.0
	6 months	462	119	581	2,467	534	3,582	12.9	3.3	16.2	68.9	14.9	100.0
	12 months	298	83	381	2,667	534	3,582	8.3	2.3	10.6	74.5	14.9	100.0
Total NI Residents	Discharge	7,840	2,804	10,644	10,376	314	21,334	36.7	13.1	49.9	48.6	1.5	100.0
	Primary visit	6,539	2,329	8,868	11,465	1,001	21,334	30.7	10.9	41.6	53.7	4.7	100.0
	6 weeks	5,056	1,693	6,749	12,641	1,944	21,334	23.7	7.9	31.6	59.3	9.1	100.0
	3 months	4,669	1,288	5,957	13,875	1,502	21,334	21.9	6.0	27.9	65.0	7.0	100.0
	6 months	3,501	934	4,435	13,312	3,587	21,334	16.4	4.4	20.8	62.4	16.8	100.0
	12 months	1,750	641	2,391	12,002	6,941	21,334	8.2	3.0	11.2	56.3	32.5	100.0
Source: Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers. Advise caution: feeding status not fully recorded													



**Table U: Prevalence of breastfeeding by maternal age, 2020**

Mothers age group	Total births	Discharge		Primary visit		6 weeks		3 months		6 months		12 months	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Under 20	509	115	22.6	79	15.5	50	9.8	33	6.5	20	3.9	10	2.0
20 to 24	2,478	795	32.1	654	26.4	417	16.8	337	13.6	223	9.0	123	5.0
25 to 29	5,469	2,392	43.7	2,008	36.7	1,468	26.8	1,297	23.7	949	17.4	503	9.2
30 to 34	7,605	4,221	55.5	3,497	46.0	2,766	36.4	2,457	32.3	1,888	24.8	1,025	13.5
35 to 39	4,298	2,566	59.7	2,145	49.9	1,679	39.1	1,505	35.0	1,118	26.0	609	14.2
40+	973	555	57.0	484	49.7	368	37.8	328	33.7	237	24.4	121	12.4
Not known	2	0	0.0	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,334</b>	<b>10,644</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>8,868</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>6,749</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>5,957</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>4,435</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>11.2</b>

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

**Table V: Prevalence of breastfeeding by deprivation quintile (SOA), 2020**

Deprivation quintile	Total births	Discharge		Primary visit		6 weeks		3 months		6 months		12 months	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1 Most deprived	4,676	1,639	35.1	1,354	29.0	957	20.5	808	17.3	544	11.6	260	5.6
2	4,536	2,128	46.9	1,744	38.4	1,279	28.2	1,125	24.8	795	17.5	470	10.4
3	4,324	2,096	48.5	1,707	39.5	1,302	30.1	1,151	26.6	851	19.7	527	12.2
4	4,163	2,329	55.9	1,918	46.1	1,509	36.2	1,333	32.0	1,045	25.1	591	14.2
5 Least deprived	3,635	2,452	67.5	2,145	59.0	1,702	46.8	1,540	42.4	1,200	33.0	543	14.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,334</b>	<b>10,644</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>8,868</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>6,749</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>5,957</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>4,435</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>11.2</b>

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers; Advise caution: feeding status not fully recorded  
Deprivation status as per Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 for Super Output Area (SOA)

**Table W: Breastfeeding at discharge by Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT) / Local Commissioning Group (LCG), 2007-2020**

Year		HSCT / LCG						Total
		Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western	Unknown / blank	
2020	Total births (n)	4,135	5,048	3,693	4,876	3,582	267	21,601
	Any BF (n)	2,088	2,579	1,937	2,469	1,571	156	10,800
	Rate (%)	50.5	51.1	52.5	50.6	43.9	58.4	50.0
2019	Total births (n)	4,340	5,364	3,879	5,192	3,613	203	22,591
	Any BF (n)	2,157	2,651	2,009	2,631	1,572	106	11,126
	Rate (%)	49.7	49.4	51.8	50.7	43.5	52.2	49.2
2018	Total births (n)	4,442	5,300	4,050	5,299	3,700	198	22,989
	Any BF (n)	2,136	2,547	2,104	2,618	1,605	122	11,132
	Rate (%)	48.1	48.1	52.0	49.4	43.4	61.6	48.4
2017	Total births (n)	4,361	5,585	3,995	5,392	3,843	199	23,375
	Any BF (n)	2,006	2,608	2,020	2,650	1,615	112	11,011
	Rate (%)	46.0	46.7	50.6	49.1	42.0	56.3	47.1
2016	Total births (n)	4,665	5,710	4,269	5,519	3,930	175	24,268
	Any BF (n)	2,145	2,580	2,099	2,679	1,608	96	11,207
	Rate (%)	46.0	45.2	49.2	48.5	40.9	54.9	46.2
2015	Total births (n)	4,660	5,773	4,334	5,535	4,011	179	24,492
	Any BF (n)	2,112	2,536	2,120	2,600	1,603	77	11,048
	Rate (%)	45.3	43.9	48.9	47.0	40.0	43.0	45.1
2014	Total births (n)	4,711	5,875	4,336	5,502	4,028	167	24,619
	Any BF (n)	2,190	2,627	2,089	2,692	1,560	59	11,217
	Rate (%)	46.5	44.7	48.2	48.9	38.7	35.3	45.6
2013	Total births (n)	4,719	5,800	4,336	5,362	3,916	200	24,333
	Any BF (n)	2,086	2,613	2,113	2,518	1,546	113	10,989
	Rate (%)	44.2	45.1	48.7	47.0	39.5	56.5	45.2
2012	Total births (n)	5,047	5,855	4,981	5,288	4,152	280	25,603
	Any BF (n)	2,014	2,499	2,233	2,359	1,674	133	10,912
	Rate (%)	39.9	42.7	44.8	44.6	40.3	47.5	42.6
2011	Total births (n)	4,840	5,887	4,551	5,546	4,310	475	25,609
	Any BF (n)	2,139	2,461	2,174	2,554	1,698	245	11,271
	Rate (%)	44.2	41.8	47.8	46.1	39.4	51.6	44.0
2010	Total births (n)	4,834	6,066	4,452	5,765	4,253	228	25,598
	Any BF (n)	2,225	2,587	2,262	2,674	1,646	99	11,493
	Rate (%)	46.0	42.6	50.8	46.4	38.7	43.4	44.9
2009	Total births (n)	4,699	5,877	4,502	5,625	4,235	145	25,083
	Any BF (n)	2,037	2,489	2,162	2,647	1,731	68	11,134
	Rate (%)	43.3	42.4	48.0	47.1	40.9	46.9	44.4
2008	Total births (n)	4,746	6,225	4,641	5,583	4,255	75	25,525
	Any BF (n)	1,943	2,617	2,172	2,570	1,787	27	11,116
	Rate (%)	40.9	42	46.8	46	42	36	43.6
2007	Total births (n)	4,435	6,031	4,445	5,422	4,126	123	24,582
	Any BF (n)	1,788	2,516	2,035	2,366	1,679	50	10,434
	Rate (%)	40.3	41.7	45.8	43.6	40.7	40.7	42.4

Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births

**Table X: Belfast HSCT breastfeeding at discharge by Local Government District (LGD1992), 2007-2020**

Year		Belfast	Castlereagh	BHSCT
2020	Total births (n)	3,291	844	4,135
	Any BF (n)	1,571	517	2,088
	Rate (%)	47.7	61.3	50.5
2019	Total births (n)	3,494	846	4,340
	Any BF (n)	1,638	519	2,157
	Rate (%)	46.9	61.3	49.7
2018	Total births (n)	3,594	848	4,442
	Any BF (n)	1,638	498	2,136
	Rate (%)	45.6	58.7	48.1
2017	Total births (n)	3,525	836	4,361
	Any BF (n)	1,518	488	2,006
	Rate (%)	43.1	58.4	46.0
2016	Total births (n)	3,843	822	4,665
	Any BF (n)	1,672	473	2,144
	Rate (%)	43.5	57.5	46
2015	Total births (n)	3,862	798	4,660
	Any BF (n)	1,666	446	2,112
	Rate (%)	43.1	55.9	45.3
2014	Total births (n)	3,897	814	4,711
	Any BF (n)	1,732	458	2,190
	Rate (%)	44.4	56.3	46.5
2013	Total births (n)	3,911	808	4,719
	Any BF (n)	1,635	451	2,086
	Rate (%)	41.8	55.8	44.2
2012	Total births (n)	4,343	704	5,047
	Any BF (n)	1,626	388	2,014
	Rate (%)	37.4	55.1	39.9
2011	Total births (n)	4,032	808	4,840
	Any BF (n)	1,687	452	2,139
	Rate (%)	41.8	55.9	44.2
2010	Total births (n)	3,991	843	4,834
	Any BF (n)	1,754	471	2,225
	Rate (%)	43.9	55.9	46
2009	Total births (n)	3,869	830	4,699
	Any BF (n)	1,581	456	2,037
	Rate (%)	40.9	54.9	43.3
2008	Total births (n)	3,894	852	4,746
	Any BF (n)	1,509	434	1,943
	Rate (%)	38.8	50.9	40.9
2007	Total births (n)	3,647	788	4,435
	Any BF (n)	1,383	405	1,788
	Rate (%)	37.9	51.4	40.3
Source: Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers				

**Table Y: Northern HSCT breastfeeding at discharge by Local Government District (LGD1992), 2007-2020**

Year		Antrim	Ballymena	Ballymoney	Carrickfergus	Coleraine	NHSCT
2020	Total births (n)	611	733	362	346	507	5,048
	Any BF (n)	347	386	182	194	251	2,579
	Rate (%)	56.8	52.7	50.3	56.1	49.5	51.1
2019	Total births (n)	638	742	364	400	584	5,364
	Any BF (n)	308	409	163	213	294	2,651
	Rate (%)	48.3	55.1	44.8	53.3	50.3	49.4
2018	Total births (n)	635	784	342	358	582	5,300
	Any BF (n)	331	369	162	167	284	2,547
	Rate (%)	52.1	47.1	47.4	46.6	48.8	48.1
2017	Total births (n)	669	782	400	433	609	5,585
	Any BF (n)	329	372	169	223	265	2,608
	Rate (%)	49.2	47.6	42.3	51.5	43.5	46.7
2016	Total births (n)	678	877	375	392	628	5,710
	Any BF (n)	344	425	154	187	290	2,580
	Rate (%)	50.7	48.5	41.1	47.7	46.2	45.2
2015	Total births (n)	711	786	407	395	664	5,773
	Any BF (n)	332	348	168	203	296	2,536
	Rate (%)	46.7	44.3	41.3	51.4	44.6	43.9
2014	Total births (n)	705	798	400	440	685	5,875
	Any BF (n)	343	362	164	216	297	2,627
	Rate (%)	48.7	45.4	41.0	49.1	43.4	44.7
2013	Total births (n)	695	753	418	389	726	5,800
	Any BF (n)	336	359	166	177	326	2,613
	Rate (%)	48.3	47.7	39.7	45.5	44.9	45.1
2012	Total births (n)	803	884	434	327	689	5,855
	Any BF (n)	358	378	177	153	292	2,499
	Rate (%)	44.6	42.8	40.8	46.8	42.4	42.7
2011	Total births (n)	753	818	378	438	642	5,887
	Any BF (n)	343	328	121	182	270	2,461
	Rate (%)	45.6	40.1	32.0	41.6	42.1	41.8
2010	Total births (n)	754	776	410	469	673	6,066
	Any BF (n)	351	332	166	200	278	2,587
	Rate (%)	46.6	42.8	40.5	42.6	41.3	42.6
2009	Total births (n)	792	790	400	437	615	5,877
	Any BF (n)	367	324	152	199	276	2,489
	Rate (%)	46.3	41.0	38.0	45.5	44.9	42.4
2008	Total births (n)	854	824	407	500	717	6,225
	Any BF (n)	390	349	148	230	312	2,617
	Rate (%)	45.7	42.4	36.4	46.0	43.5	42.0
2007	Total births (n)	822	822	382	443	645	6,031
	Any BF (n)	388	319	128	198	271	2,516
	Rate (%)	47.2	38.8	33.5	44.7	42.0	41.7

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

**Table Y (continued): Northern HSCT breastfeeding at discharge by Local Government District (LGD1992), 2007-2020**

Year		Cookstown	Larne	Magherafelt	Moyle	Newtownabbey	NHSCT
2020	Total births (n)	520	294	594	176	905	5,048
	Any BF (n)	224	147	283	82	483	2,579
	Rate (%)	43.1	50.0	47.6	46.6	53.4	51.1
2019	Total births (n)	534	332	604	165	1,001	5,364
	Any BF (n)	235	155	293	80	500	2,650
	Rate (%)	44.0	46.7	48.5	48.5	50.0	49.4
2018	Total births (n)	510	342	591	175	981	5,300
	Any BF (n)	218	165	275	70	506	2,547
	Rate (%)	42.7	48.2	46.5	40.0	51.6	48.1
2017	Total births (n)	550	318	636	176	1,012	5,585
	Any BF (n)	236	149	285	70	510	2,608
	Rate (%)	42.9	46.9	44.8	39.8	50.4	46.7
2016	Total births (n)	557	323	622	195	1,063	5,710
	Any BF (n)	209	124	273	71	503	2,579
	Rate (%)	37.5	38.4	43.9	36.4	47.3	45.2
2015	Total births (n)	564	331	663	173	1,079	5,773
	Any BF (n)	220	157	269	63	480	2,536
	Rate (%)	39.0	47.4	40.6	36.4	44.5	43.9
2014	Total births (n)	565	370	661	186	1,065	5,875
	Any BF (n)	228	163	289	78	487	2,627
	Rate (%)	40.4	44.1	43.7	41.9	45.7	44.7
2013	Total births (n)	566	371	663	206	1,013	5,800
	Any BF (n)	224	154	291	81	499	2,613
	Rate (%)	39.6	41.5	43.9	39.3	49.3	45.1
2012	Total births (n)	525	364	701	196	932	5,855
	Any BF (n)	223	151	290	67	410	2,499
	Rate (%)	42.5	41.5	41.4	34.2	44.0	42.7
2011	Total births (n)	537	341	645	201	1,134	5,887
	Any BF (n)	210	137	270	82	518	2,461
	Rate (%)	39.1	40.2	41.9	40.8	45.7	41.8
2010	Total births (n)	607	342	699	203	1,133	6,066
	Any BF (n)	239	133	299	69	520	2,587
	Rate (%)	39.4	38.9	42.8	34.0	45.9	42.6
2009	Total births (n)	537	332	680	206	1,088	5,877
	Any BF (n)	222	130	267	77	475	2,489
	Rate (%)	41.3	39.2	39.3	37.4	43.7	42.4
2008	Total births (n)	515	326	693	203	1,186	6,225
	Any BF (n)	217	116	274	81	500	2,617
	Rate (%)	42.1	35.6	39.5	39.9	42.2	42.0
2007	Total births (n)	543	362	652	224	1,136	6,031
	Any BF (n)	185	133	280	92	522	2,516
	Rate (%)	34.1	36.7	42.9	41.1	46.0	41.7

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

**Table Z: South Eastern HSCT breastfeeding at discharge by Local Government District (LGD1992). 2007-2020**

Year		Ards	Down	Lisburn	North Down	SEHSCT
2020	Total births (n)	739	780	1506	668	3,693
	Any BF (n)	351	373	814	399	1,937
	Rate (%)	47.5	47.8	54.1	59.7	52.5
2019	Total births (n)	802	767	1,572	738	3,879
	Any BF (n)	365	375	822	447	2,009
	Rate (%)	45.5	48.9	52.3	60.6	51.8
2018	Total births (n)	755	881	1,656	758	4,050
	Any BF (n)	365	432	851	456	2,104
	Rate (%)	48.3	49.0	51.4	60.2	52.0
2017	Total births (n)	750	870	1,575	800	3,995
	Any BF (n)	371	411	769	469	2,020
	Rate (%)	49.5	47.2	48.8	58.6	50.6
2016	Total births (n)	798	903	1,701	867	4,269
	Any BF (n)	379	421	821	478	2,099
	Rate (%)	47.5	46.6	48.3	55.1	49.2
2015	Total births (n)	877	911	1,667	879	4,334
	Any BF (n)	388	429	808	495	2,120
	Rate (%)	44.2	47.1	48.5	56.3	48.9
2014	Total births (n)	862	910	1,678	886	4,336
	Any BF (n)	394	389	821	485	2,089
	Rate (%)	45.7	42.7	48.9	54.7	48.2
2013	Total births (n)	849	932	1,665	890	4,336
	Any BF (n)	397	426	783	507	2,113
	Rate (%)	45.1	46.8	45.7	47.0	57
2012	Total births (n)	1,053	1,204	1,657	1,067	4,981
	Any BF (n)	446	502	757	528	2,233
	Rate (%)	42.4	41.7	45.7	49.5	44.8
2011	Total births (n)	904	930	1,756	961	4,551
	Any BF (n)	405	443	800	526	2,174
	Rate (%)	44.8	47.6	45.6	54.7	47.8
2010	Total births (n)	861	926	1,704	961	4,452
	Any BF (n)	417	447	839	559	2,262
	Rate (%)	48.4	48.3	49.2	58.2	50.8
2009	Total births (n)	871	975	1,741	915	4,502
	Any BF (n)	380	427	850	505	2,162
	Rate (%)	43.6	43.8	48.8	55.2	48.0
2008	Total births (n)	958	998	1,736	949	4,641
	Any BF (n)	448	433	782	509	2,172
	Rate (%)	46.8	43.4	45	53.6	46.8
2007	Total births (n)	964	919	1,643	919	4,445
	Any BF (n)	428	393	741	473	2,035
	Rate (%)	44.4	42.8	45.1	51.5	45.8

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

**Table AA: Southern HSCT breastfeeding at discharge by Local Government District (LGD1992), 2007-2020**

Year		Armagh	Banbridge	Craigavon	Dungannon	Newry and Mourne	SHSCT
2020	Total births (n)	771	531	1,248	903	1,423	4,876
	Any BF (n)	389	285	611	479	705	2,469
	Rate (%)	50.5	53.7	49.0	53.0	49.5	50.6
2019	Total births (n)	821	565	1,350	966	1,490	5,192
	Any BF (n)	394	307	662	519	747	2,629
	Rate (%)	48.0	54.3	49.0	53.7	50.1	50.6
2018	Total births (n)	876	606	1,378	970	1,469	5,299
	Any BF (n)	420	319	692	529	658	2,618
	Rate (%)	47.9	52.6	50.2	54.5	44.8	49.4
2017	Total births (n)	901	619	1,391	963	1,518	5,392
	Any BF (n)	414	306	681	525	724	2,650
	Rate (%)	45.9	49.4	49.0	54.5	47.7	49.1
2016	Total births (n)	885	638	1,419	988	1,589	5,519
	Any BF (n)	430	337	672	540	700	2,679
	Rate (%)	48.6	52.8	47.4	54.7	44.1	48.5
2015	Total births (n)	971	645	1,396	974	1,549	5,535
	Any BF (n)	454	320	621	504	701	2,600
	Rate (%)	46.8	49.6	44.5	51.7	45.3	47
2014	Total births (n)	865	660	1,438	924	1,615	5,502
	Any BF (n)	428	329	668	509	758	2,692
	Rate (%)	49.5	49.8	46.5	55.1	46.9	48.9
2013	Total births (n)	838	648	1,397	948	1,531	5,362
	Any BF (n)	397	305	636	510	670	2,518
	Rate (%)	47.4	47.1	45.5	53.8	43.8	47.0
2012	Total births (n)	925	619	1,519	999	1,226	5,288
	Any BF (n)	427	293	638	488	513	2,359
	Rate (%)	46.2	47.3	42	48.8	41.8	44.6
2011	Total births (n)	942	667	1,468	906	1,563	5,546
	Any BF (n)	435	321	677	466	655	2,554
	Rate (%)	46.2	48.1	46.1	51.4	41.9	46.1
2010	Total births (n)	915	754	1,551	918	1,627	5,765
	Any BF (n)	419	357	708	462	728	2,674
	Rate (%)	45.8	47.3	45.6	50.3	44.7	46.4
2009	Total births (n)	920	688	1,477	934	1,606	5,625
	Any BF (n)	444	352	659	465	727	2,647
	Rate (%)	48.3	51.2	44.6	49.8	45.3	47.1
2008	Total births (n)	878	738	1,470	892	1,605	5,583
	Any BF (n)	378	361	677	450	704	2,570
	Rate (%)	43.1	48.9	46.1	50.4	43.9	46.0
2007	Total births (n)	873	712	1,411	879	1,547	5,422
	Any BF (n)	360	357	578	429	642	2,366
	Rate (%)	41.2	50.1	41	48.8	41.5	43.6

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



**Table AB: Western HSCT breastfeeding at discharge by Local Government District (LGD1992), 2007-2020**

Year		Derry	Fermanagh	Limavady	Omagh	Strabane	WHSCT
2020	Total births (n)	1,348	692	388	634	520	3,582
	Any BF (n)	517	351	152	336	215	1,571
	Rate (%)	38.4	50.7	39.2	53.0	41.3	43.9
2019	Total births (n)	1,333	753	402	638	487	3,613
	Any BF (n)	499	389	172	326	185	1,571
	Rate (%)	37.4	51.7	42.8	51.1	38.0	43.5
2018	Total births (n)	1,369	795	401	667	468	3,700
	Any BF (n)	537	387	173	334	174	1,605
	Rate (%)	39.2	48.7	43.1	50.1	37.2	43.4
2017	Total births (n)	1,408	791	437	694	513	3,843
	Any BF (n)	483	407	171	370	184	1,615
	Rate (%)	34.3	51.5	39.1	53.3	35.9	42.0
2016	Total births (n)	1,408	791	437	694	513	3,843
	Any BF (n)	509	418	157	354	170	1,608
	Rate (%)	34.8	50.4	36.3	51.4	32.9	40.9
2015	Total births (n)	1,562	788	477	640	544	4,011
	Any BF (n)	536	414	156	327	170	1,603
	Rate (%)	34.3	52.5	32.7	51.1	31.3	40.0
2014	Total births (n)	1,575	800	428	711	514	4,028
	Any BF (n)	541	382	138	340	159	1,560
	Rate (%)	34.3	47.8	32.2	47.8	30.9	38.7
2013	Total births (n)	1,572	822	407	615	500	3,916
	Any BF (n)	541	402	139	293	171	1,546
	Rate (%)	34.4	48.9	34.2	47.6	34.2	39.5
2012	Total births (n)	1,832	656	504	579	581	4,152
	Any BF (n)	685	301	198	270	220	1,674
	Rate (%)	37.4	45.9	39.3	46.6	37.9	40.3
2011	Total births (n)	1,684	814	494	747	571	4,310
	Any BF (n)	574	393	177	368	186	1,698
	Rate (%)	34.1	48.3	35.8	49.3	32.6	39.4
2010	Total births (n)	1,621	897	450	746	539	4,253
	Any BF (n)	610	377	173	313	173	1,646
	Rate (%)	37.6	42	38.4	42	32.1	38.7
2009	Total births (n)	1,665	427	601	720	822	4,235
	Any BF (n)	665	165	213	337	351	1,731
	Rate (%)	39.9	38.6	35.4	46.8	42.7	40.9
2008	Total births (n)	1,644	467	570	699	875	4,255
	Any BF (n)	630	178	215	358	406	1,787
	Rate (%)	38.3	38.1	37.7	51.2	46.4	42.0
2007	Total births (n)	1,603	489	523	688	823	4,126
	Any BF (n)	626	186	184	312	371	1,679
	Rate (%)	39.1	38	35.2	45.3	45.1	40.7

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

**Table AC: Breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Local Government District (LGD1992), 2020**

LCG/ HSCT	LGD (1992)	Stage	Total	Partial	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All
BHSCT	BELFAST	Discharge	34.2	13.5	47.7	50.7	1.5	100.0
		Primary visit	31.2	11.3	42.5	51.9	5.7	100.0
		6 weeks	24.9	8.7	33.6	57.3	9.1	100.0
		3 months	22.5	6.7	29.2	59.7	11.0	100.0
		6 months	16.1	4.6	20.8	52.8	26.4	100.0
		12 months	3.5	1.1	4.6	20.6	74.7	100.0
	CASTLEREAGH	Discharge	46.9	14.3	61.3	37.2	1.5	100.0
		Primary visit	44.7	11.6	56.3	37.1	6.6	100.0
		6 weeks	36.7	9.7	46.4	46.1	7.5	100.0
		3 months	30.8	9.1	39.9	52.5	7.6	100.0
		6 months	24.9	6.6	31.5	52.0	16.5	100.0
		12 months	3.3	1.1	4.4	14.0	81.6	100.0
	BHSCT TOTAL	Discharge	36.8	13.7	50.5	48.0	1.5	100.0
		Primary visit	34.0	11.3	45.3	48.9	5.9	100.0
		6 weeks	27.4	8.9	36.2	55.0	8.8	100.0
		3 months	24.2	7.2	31.4	58.3	10.3	100.0
		6 months	17.9	5.0	23.0	52.6	24.4	100.0
		12 months	3.5	1.1	4.6	19.3	76.2	100.0
NHSCT	ANTRIM	Discharge	38.8	18.0	56.8	42.1	1.1	100.0
		Primary visit	35.4	13.7	49.1	49.3	1.6	100.0
		6 weeks	29.1	10.1	39.3	58.4	2.3	100.0
		3 months	24.2	8.2	32.4	65.3	2.3	100.0
		6 months	22.7	7.7	30.4	65.5	4.1	100.0
		12 months	13.6	6.4	20.0	66.4	13.6	100.0
	BALLYMENA	Discharge	39.8	12.8	52.7	46.8	0.5	100.0
		Primary visit	33.0	10.9	43.9	54.3	1.8	100.0
		6 weeks	28.4	7.5	35.9	62.6	1.5	100.0
		3 months	27.4	4.9	32.3	65.6	2.0	100.0
		6 months	23.3	4.6	28.0	69.3	2.7	100.0
		12 months	16.2	4.9	21.1	72.9	6.0	100.0
	BALLYMONEY	Discharge	39.5	10.8	50.3	49.4	0.3	100.0
		Primary visit	33.7	5.5	39.2	59.9	0.8	100.0
		6 weeks	26.8	5.8	32.6	66.3	1.1	100.0
		3 months	23.5	5.0	28.5	69.3	2.2	100.0
		6 months	18.8	3.6	22.4	68.0	9.7	100.0
		12 months	13.5	5.0	18.5	76.2	5.2	100.0
	CARRICKFERGUS	Discharge	38.4	17.6	56.1	41.9	2.0	100.0
		Primary visit	39.6	9.5	49.1	48.3	2.6	100.0
		6 weeks	34.4	6.6	41.0	57.2	1.7	100.0
		3 months	30.3	6.6	37.0	62.4	0.6	100.0
		6 months	27.7	5.2	32.9	64.2	2.9	100.0
		12 months	16.8	5.2	22.0	70.8	7.2	100.0
	COLERAINE	Discharge	38.7	10.8	49.5	49.5	1.0	100.0
		Primary visit	28.6	13.0	41.6	56.0	2.4	100.0
		6 weeks	24.9	6.5	31.4	66.5	2.2	100.0
		3 months	20.9	4.3	25.2	72.4	2.4	100.0
		6 months	16.0	4.7	20.7	68.4	10.8	100.0
		12 months	9.3	4.9	14.2	76.9	8.9	100.0

**Table AC (continued): Breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Local Government District (LGD1992), 2020**

LCG/ HSCT	LGD (1992)	Stage	Total	Partial	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All
NHSCT	COOKSTOWN	Discharge	33.1	10.0	43.1	56.5	0.4	100.0
		Primary visit	25.0	6.7	31.7	63.8	4.4	100.0
		6 weeks	19.6	6.7	26.3	68.5	5.2	100.0
		3 months	18.5	6.0	24.4	74.0	1.5	100.0
		6 months	14.8	4.0	18.8	77.7	3.5	100.0
		12 months	8.1	4.4	12.5	82.5	5.0	100.0
	LARNE	Discharge	36.1	13.9	50.0	49.3	0.7	100.0
		Primary visit	29.3	13.6	42.9	53.1	4.1	100.0
		6 weeks	23.8	7.1	31.0	66.3	2.7	100.0
		3 months	22.1	4.8	26.9	71.4	1.7	100.0
		6 months	19.4	4.4	23.8	71.8	4.4	100.0
		12 months	11.6	5.1	16.7	81.0	2.4	100.0
	MAGHERAFELT	Discharge	35.9	11.8	47.6	51.7	0.7	100.0
		Primary visit	31.6	6.1	37.7	57.4	4.9	100.0
		6 weeks	25.1	6.9	32.0	64.3	3.7	100.0
		3 months	23.1	6.2	29.3	68.9	1.9	100.0
		6 months	18.5	4.5	23.1	73.7	3.2	100.0
		12 months	10.1	3.9	14.0	81.1	4.9	100.0
	MOYLE	Discharge	32.4	14.2	46.6	52.8	0.6	100.0
		Primary visit	27.3	8.0	35.2	59.7	5.1	100.0
		6 weeks	23.3	10.8	34.1	64.8	1.1	100.0
		3 months	20.5	4.5	25.0	71.6	3.4	100.0
		6 months	17.0	2.8	19.9	71.6	8.5	100.0
		12 months	13.1	1.7	14.8	81.3	4.0	100.0
	NEWTOWNABBEY	Discharge	39.1	14.3	53.4	46.3	0.3	100.0
		Primary visit	31.3	11.9	43.2	52.6	4.2	100.0
		6 weeks	24.8	7.0	31.7	57.7	10.6	100.0
		3 months	25.2	5.6	30.8	64.9	4.3	100.0
		6 months	20.3	5.6	26.0	69.7	4.3	100.0
		12 months	14.1	4.0	18.1	74.6	7.3	100.0
	NHSCT TOTAL	Discharge	37.7	13.4	51.1	48.2	0.7	100.0
		Primary visit	31.6	10.2	41.9	55.0	3.1	100.0
		6 weeks	26.0	7.4	33.4	62.6	4.0	100.0
		3 months	23.9	5.7	29.7	68.0	2.4	100.0
		6 months	20.1	5.0	25.1	70.0	4.9	100.0
		12 months	12.7	4.7	17.4	75.6	7.0	100.0
SEHSCT	ARDS	Discharge	37.3	10.1	47.5	51.0	1.5	100.0
		Primary visit	26.9	11.8	38.7	57.0	4.3	100.0
		6 weeks	21.2	8.3	29.5	63.3	7.2	100.0
		3 months	18.3	6.0	24.2	70.0	5.8	100.0
		6 months	11.5	3.9	15.4	62.0	22.6	100.0
		12 months	6.6	3.2	9.9	68.1	22.1	100.0
	DOWN	Discharge	36.5	11.3	47.8	50.5	1.7	100.0
		Primary visit	28.5	10.3	38.7	51.0	10.3	100.0
		6 weeks	22.6	9.0	31.5	60.8	7.7	100.0
		3 months	20.1	4.7	24.9	69.2	5.9	100.0
		6 months	14.0	3.8	17.8	67.6	14.6	100.0
		12 months	10.0	3.1	13.1	69.9	17.1	100.0

**Table AC (continued): Breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Local Government District (LGD1992), 2020**

LCG/ HSCT	LGD (1992)	Stage	Total	Partial	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All
SEHSCT	LISBURN	Discharge	39.1	14.9	54.1	44.6	1.4	100.0
		Primary visit	31.3	12.9	44.2	49.4	6.4	100.0
		6 weeks	23.3	9.9	33.2	54.7	12.1	100.0
		3 months	22.0	6.1	28.1	64.1	7.8	100.0
		6 months	15.9	3.5	19.4	56.4	24.2	100.0
		12 months	8.2	4.4	12.6	59.1	28.3	100.0
	NORTH DOWN	Discharge	47.0	12.7	59.7	38.5	1.8	100.0
		Primary visit	37.1	13.5	50.6	42.2	7.2	100.0
		6 weeks	30.7	8.7	39.4	49.4	11.2	100.0
		3 months	29.0	7.0	36.1	55.4	8.5	100.0
		6 months	15.0	4.8	19.8	41.9	38.3	100.0
		12 months	15.1	5.2	20.4	61.4	18.3	100.0
	SEHSCT TOTAL	Discharge	39.6	12.8	52.5	46.0	1.5	100.0
		Primary visit	30.9	12.2	43.1	50.0	7.0	100.0
		6 weeks	24.1	9.2	33.2	56.8	10.0	100.0
		3 months	22.1	6.0	28.1	64.8	7.1	100.0
		6 months	14.4	3.9	18.3	57.2	24.4	100.0
		12 months	9.5	4.0	13.6	63.6	22.9	100.0
SHSCT	ARMAGH	Discharge	35.3	15.2	50.5	48.4	1.2	100.0
		Primary visit	29.2	9.5	38.7	55.3	6.1	100.0
		6 weeks	21.1	6.4	27.5	54.7	17.8	100.0
		3 months	21.4	5.6	27.0	63.9	9.1	100.0
		6 months	15.3	2.7	18.0	64.7	17.3	100.0
		12 months	8.7	1.7	10.4	50.6	39.0	100.0
	BANBRIDGE	Discharge	37.7	16.0	53.7	45.0	1.3	100.0
		Primary visit	31.3	14.1	45.4	50.5	4.1	100.0
		6 weeks	20.9	9.8	30.7	49.5	19.8	100.0
		3 months	20.7	7.2	27.9	62.9	9.2	100.0
		6 months	15.3	5.6	20.9	65.0	14.1	100.0
		12 months	5.8	3.6	9.4	49.0	41.6	100.0
	CRAIGAVON	Discharge	35.5	13.5	49.0	48.9	2.2	100.0
		Primary visit	31.1	11.7	42.8	53.5	3.7	100.0
		6 weeks	21.2	7.3	28.4	54.4	17.1	100.0
		3 months	22.3	5.4	27.7	62.7	9.6	100.0
		6 months	18.4	3.9	22.4	62.6	15.1	100.0
		12 months	5.4	2.1	7.5	40.5	52.1	100.0
	DUNGANNON	Discharge	37.9	15.2	53.0	44.9	2.1	100.0
		Primary visit	29.5	11.4	40.9	52.7	6.4	100.0
		6 weeks	20.6	6.9	27.5	54.2	18.4	100.0
		3 months	20.0	7.9	27.9	59.9	12.2	100.0
		6 months	15.3	5.5	20.8	65.0	14.2	100.0
		12 months	4.4	2.8	7.2	45.8	47.0	100.0
	NEWRY & MOURNE	Discharge	38.5	11.0	49.5	48.3	2.2	100.0
		Primary visit	31.5	10.0	41.5	53.1	5.5	100.0
		6 weeks	21.6	6.5	28.2	55.4	16.4	100.0
		3 months	20.7	5.4	26.1	61.3	12.6	100.0
		6 months	13.0	4.2	17.2	56.9	25.9	100.0
		12 months	7.6	3.2	10.8	56.4	32.8	100.0

**Table AC (continued): Breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Local Government District (LGD1992), 2020**

LCG/ HSCT	LGD (1992)	Stage	Total	Partial	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All
	SHSCT TOTAL	Discharge	37.0	13.6	50.6	47.5	1.9	100.0
		Primary visit	30.6	11.1	41.7	53.2	5.1	100.0
		6 weeks	21.2	7.1	28.3	54.2	17.6	100.0
		3 months	21.1	6.1	27.2	62.0	10.8	100.0
		6 months	15.4	4.3	19.7	62.0	18.3	100.0
		12 months	6.4	2.6	9.0	48.6	42.3	100.0
WHSCT	DERRY	Discharge	26.9	11.4	38.4	59.8	1.9	100.0
		Primary visit	21.7	10.2	32.0	65.1	2.9	100.0
		6 weeks	16.7	6.9	23.6	72.6	3.8	100.0
		3 months	14.5	4.8	19.4	76.7	3.9	100.0
		6 months	12.0	3.9	15.9	75.7	8.5	100.0
		12 months	6.0	2.2	8.2	73.1	18.7	100.0
	FERMANAGH	Discharge	36.7	14.0	50.7	48.4	0.9	100.0
		Primary visit	30.3	11.3	41.6	56.1	2.3	100.0
		6 weeks	23.7	9.0	32.7	62.1	5.2	100.0
		3 months	22.5	5.8	28.3	66.5	5.2	100.0
		6 months	13.2	2.2	15.3	49.0	35.7	100.0
		12 months	13.3	2.0	15.3	68.6	16.0	100.0
	LIMAVADY	Discharge	28.6	10.6	39.2	58.2	2.6	100.0
		Primary visit	20.6	7.0	27.6	70.4	2.1	100.0
		6 weeks	17.0	3.9	20.9	76.3	2.8	100.0
		3 months	14.9	2.6	17.5	79.1	3.4	100.0
		6 months	13.1	1.3	14.4	81.4	4.1	100.0
		12 months	8.0	2.3	10.3	80.9	8.8	100.0
	OMAGH	Discharge	39.4	13.6	53.0	44.8	2.2	100.0
		Primary visit	30.8	11.2	42.0	55.0	3.0	100.0
		6 weeks	22.9	9.5	32.3	61.8	5.8	100.0
		3 months	20.5	7.1	27.6	67.2	5.2	100.0
		6 months	16.9	5.0	21.9	60.7	17.4	100.0
		12 months	9.6	2.7	12.3	75.6	12.1	100.0
	STRABANE	Discharge	32.1	9.2	41.3	56.9	1.7	100.0
		Primary visit	24.4	7.7	32.1	65.8	2.1	100.0
		6 weeks	17.3	7.3	24.6	71.5	3.8	100.0
		3 months	14.4	4.6	19.0	75.6	5.4	100.0
		6 months	9.8	2.9	12.7	78.3	9.0	100.0
		12 months	6.3	2.7	9.0	79.4	11.5	100.0
	WHSCT TOTAL	Discharge	32.0	11.9	43.9	54.4	1.8	100.0
		Primary visit	25.3	9.9	35.1	62.3	2.6	100.0
		6 weeks	19.3	7.5	26.7	68.9	4.3	100.0
		3 months	17.2	5.1	22.3	73.1	4.6	100.0
		6 months	12.9	3.3	16.2	68.9	14.9	100.0
		12 months	8.3	2.3	10.6	74.5	14.9	100.0
NORTHERN IRELAND	Total NI Residents	Discharge	36.7	13.1	49.9	48.6	1.5	100.0
		Primary visit	30.7	10.9	41.6	53.7	4.7	100.0
		6 weeks	23.7	7.9	31.6	59.3	9.1	100.0
		3 months	21.9	6.0	27.9	65.0	7.0	100.0
		6 months	16.4	4.4	20.8	62.4	16.8	100.0
		12 months	8.2	3.0	11.2	56.3	32.5	100.0

**Table AD: Breastfeeding at discharge by Council Area (LGD2014), 2012-2020**

<b>Council Area (LGD2014)</b>		<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Antrim and Newtownabbey	Total births (n)	1,878	1,714	1,772	1,799	1,748	1,694	1,626	1,648	1,526
	Any BF (n)	818	838	831	819	853	850	845	816	839
	<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>48.9</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>55.0</b>
Ards and North Down	Total births (n)	1,772	1,736	1,742	1,755	1,661	1,546	1,510	1,535	1,405
	Any BF (n)	875	902	874	883	855	837	818	809	748
	<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>53.2</b>
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Total births (n)	3,137	2,865	2,931	2,995	2,932	2,901	2,851	2,732	2,545
	Any BF (n)	1,423	1,330	1,405	1,386	1,431	1,398	1,429	1,362	1,286
	<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>45.4</b>	<b>46.4</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>50.5</b>
Belfast	Total births (n)	4,932	4,687	4,649	4,591	4,616	4,218	4,292	4,197	3,975
	Any BF (n)	1,900	1,912	2,019	1,949	1,983	1,795	1,936	1,955	1,870
	<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>42.6</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>47.0</b>
Causeway Coast and Glens	Total births (n)	1,766	1,759	1,699	1,721	1,631	1,622	1,500	1,515	1,433
	Any BF (n)	696	712	677	683	672	675	689	709	667
	<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>46.5</b>
Derry City and Strabane	Total births (n)	2,159	2,072	2,089	2,106	1,978	1,921	1,837	1,820	1,868
	Any BF (n)	682	712	700	706	679	667	711	684	732
	<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>39.2</b>
Fermanagh and Omagh	Total births (n)	1,551	1,436	1,508	1,428	1,517	1,485	1,461	1,391	1,326
	Any BF (n)	704	695	720	741	771	777	720	716	687
	<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>45.4</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>47.7</b>	<b>51.9</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>51.8</b>
Lisburn and Castlereagh	Total births (n)	1,767	1,701	1,747	1,737	1,755	1,722	1,809	1,720	1,668
	Any BF (n)	930	959	997	971	986	983	1,054	1,027	1,034
	<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>56.4</b>	<b>57.1</b>	<b>55.9</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>57.1</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>59.7</b>	<b>62.0</b>
Mid and East Antrim	Total births (n)	1,574	1,506	1,605	1,503	1,585	1,520	1,474	1,465	1,363
	Any BF (n)	688	687	740	701	730	733	693	770	718
	<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>43.7</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>46.1</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>46.1</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>52.7</b>
Mid Ulster	Total births (n)	2,187	2,159	2,139	2,186	2,148	2,126	2,055	2,087	1,993
	Any BF (n)	996	1,020	1,022	987	1,012	1,036	1,013	1,039	972
	<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>48.8</b>
Newry, Mourne and Down	Total births (n)	2,591	2,497	2,569	2,492	2,522	2,421	2,376	2,278	2,232
	Any BF (n)	1,119	1,109	1,172	1,145	1,139	1,148	1,102	1,133	1,091
	<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>46.4</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>48.9</b>
<b>Total NI Residents</b>	Total births (n)	25,318	24,133	24,452	24,313	24,093	23,176	22,791	22,388	21,334
	Any BF (n)	10,833	10,876	11,158	10,971	11,111	10,899	11,010	11,020	10,644
	<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>46.1</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>49.9</b>

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

**Table AE: Breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Council area (LGD2014), 2020**

Council area	Number of births (N)							Rate (%)					
	Stage	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All
Antrim and Newtownabbey	Discharge	597	242	839	677	10	1,526	39.1	15.9	55.0	44.4	0.7	100.0
	Primary visit	507	192	699	779	48	1,526	33.2	12.6	45.8	51.0	3.1	100.0
	6 weeks	409	125	534	882	110	1,526	26.8	8.2	35.0	57.8	7.2	100.0
	3 months	383	101	484	989	53	1,526	25.1	6.6	31.7	64.8	3.5	100.0
	6 months	330	98	428	1,034	64	1,526	21.6	6.4	28.0	67.8	4.2	100.0
	12 months	216	75	291	1,085	150	1,526	14.2	4.9	19.1	71.1	9.8	100.0
Ards and North Down	Discharge	588	160	748	634	23	1,405	41.9	11.4	53.2	45.1	1.6	100.0
	Primary visit	446	177	623	702	80	1,405	31.7	12.6	44.3	50.0	5.7	100.0
	6 weeks	361	119	480	797	128	1,405	25.7	8.5	34.2	56.7	9.1	100.0
	3 months	328	91	419	887	99	1,405	23.3	6.5	29.8	63.1	7.0	100.0
	6 months	184	61	245	738	422	1,405	13.1	4.3	17.4	52.5	30.0	100.0
	12 months	150	59	209	911	285	1,405	10.7	4.2	14.9	64.8	20.3	100.0
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Discharge	915	371	1,286	1,216	43	2,545	36.0	14.6	50.5	47.8	1.7	100.0
	Primary visit	777	297	1,074	1,356	115	2,545	30.5	11.7	42.2	53.3	4.5	100.0
	6 weeks	538	195	733	1,356	456	2,545	21.1	7.7	28.8	53.3	17.9	100.0
	3 months	555	150	705	1,602	238	2,545	21.8	5.9	27.7	62.9	9.4	100.0
	6 months	431	102	533	1,619	393	2,545	16.9	4.0	20.9	63.6	15.4	100.0
	12 months	164	59	223	1,154	1,168	2,545	6.4	2.3	8.8	45.3	45.9	100.0
Belfast	Discharge	1,342	528	1,870	2,043	62	3,975	33.8	13.3	47.0	51.4	1.6	100.0
	Primary visit	1,211	429	1,640	2,083	252	3,975	30.5	10.8	41.3	52.4	6.3	100.0
	6 weeks	961	328	1,289	2,304	382	3,975	24.2	8.3	32.4	58.0	9.6	100.0
	3 months	861	255	1,116	2,428	431	3,975	21.7	6.4	28.1	61.1	10.8	100.0
	6 months	636	177	813	2,149	1,013	3,975	16.0	4.5	20.5	54.1	25.5	100.0
	12 months	133	45	178	946	2,851	3,975	3.3	1.1	4.5	23.8	71.7	100.0
Causeway Coast and Glens	Discharge	507	160	667	749	17	1,433	35.4	11.2	46.5	52.3	1.2	100.0
	Primary visit	395	127	522	879	32	1,433	27.6	8.9	36.4	61.3	2.2	100.0
	6 weeks	330	88	418	987	28	1,433	23.0	6.1	29.2	68.9	2.0	100.0
	3 months	285	58	343	1,051	39	1,433	19.9	4.0	23.9	73.3	2.7	100.0
	6 months	230	47	277	1,035	121	1,433	16.1	3.3	19.3	72.2	8.4	100.0
	12 months	150	55	205	1,123	105	1,433	10.5	3.8	14.3	78.4	7.3	100.0
Derry City and Strabane	Discharge	530	202	732	1,102	34	1,868	28.4	10.8	39.2	59.0	1.8	100.0
	Primary visit	420	178	598	1,220	50	1,868	22.5	9.5	32.0	65.3	2.7	100.0
	6 weeks	315	131	446	1,351	71	1,868	16.9	7.0	23.9	72.3	3.8	100.0
	3 months	271	89	360	1,427	81	1,868	14.5	4.8	19.3	76.4	4.3	100.0
	6 months	213	67	280	1,427	161	1,868	11.4	3.6	15.0	76.4	8.6	100.0
	12 months	114	43	157	1,399	312	1,868	6.1	2.3	8.4	74.9	16.7	100.0

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



**Table AE (continued): Breastfeeding prevalence (%) by Council area (LGD2014), 2020**

Council area	Number of births (N)							Rate (%)					
	Stage	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All	Total BF	Partial BF	Any BF	Not at all	Unknown / blank	All
Fermanagh and Omagh	Discharge	504	183	687	619	20	1,326	38.0	13.8	51.8	46.7	1.5	100.0
	Primary visit	405	149	554	737	35	1,326	30.5	11.2	41.8	55.6	2.6	100.0
	6 weeks	309	122	431	822	73	1,326	23.3	9.2	32.5	62.0	5.5	100.0
	3 months	286	85	371	886	69	1,326	21.6	6.4	28.0	66.8	5.2	100.0
	6 months	198	47	245	724	357	1,326	14.9	3.5	18.5	54.6	26.9	100.0
	12 months	153	31	184	954	188	1,326	11.5	2.3	13.9	71.9	14.2	100.0
Lisburn and Castlereagh	Discharge	772	262	1,034	611	23	1,668	46.3	15.7	62.0	36.6	1.4	100.0
	Primary visit	665	234	899	682	87	1,668	39.9	14.0	53.9	40.9	5.2	100.0
	6 weeks	522	188	710	796	162	1,668	31.3	11.3	42.6	47.7	9.7	100.0
	3 months	473	134	607	947	114	1,668	28.4	8.0	36.4	56.8	6.8	100.0
	6 months	345	84	429	877	362	1,668	20.7	5.0	25.7	52.6	21.7	100.0
	12 months	135	66	201	743	724	1,668	8.1	4.0	12.1	44.5	43.4	100.0
Mid and East Antrim	Discharge	525	193	718	632	13	1,363	38.5	14.2	52.7	46.4	1.0	100.0
	Primary visit	457	153	610	719	34	1,363	33.5	11.2	44.8	52.8	2.5	100.0
	6 weeks	390	99	489	849	25	1,363	28.6	7.3	35.9	62.3	1.8	100.0
	3 months	364	73	437	904	22	1,363	26.7	5.4	32.1	66.3	1.6	100.0
	6 months	317	65	382	938	43	1,363	23.3	4.8	28.0	68.8	3.2	100.0
	12 months	206	69	275	1,013	75	1,363	15.1	5.1	20.2	74.3	5.5	100.0
Mid Ulster	Discharge	716	256	972	996	25	1,993	35.9	12.8	48.8	50.0	1.3	100.0
	Primary visit	578	170	748	1,136	109	1,993	29.0	8.5	37.5	57.0	5.5	100.0
	6 weeks	431	135	566	1,216	211	1,993	21.6	6.8	28.4	61.0	10.6	100.0
	3 months	409	136	545	1,323	125	1,993	20.5	6.8	27.3	66.4	6.3	100.0
	6 months	320	95	415	1,415	163	1,993	16.1	4.8	20.8	71.0	8.2	100.0
	12 months	141	70	211	1,313	469	1,993	7.1	3.5	10.6	65.9	23.5	100.0
Newry, Mourne and Down	Discharge	844	247	1,091	1,097	44	2,232	37.8	11.1	48.9	49.1	2.0	100.0
	Primary visit	678	223	901	1,172	159	2,232	30.4	10.0	40.4	52.5	7.1	100.0
	6 weeks	490	163	653	1,281	298	2,232	22.0	7.3	29.3	57.4	13.4	100.0
	3 months	454	116	570	1,431	231	2,232	20.3	5.2	25.5	64.1	10.3	100.0
	6 months	297	91	388	1,356	488	2,232	13.3	4.1	17.4	60.8	21.9	100.0
	12 months	188	69	257	1,361	614	2,232	8.4	3.1	11.5	61.0	27.5	100.0
<b>Total Northern Ireland residents</b>	<b>Discharge</b>	<b>7,840</b>	<b>2,804</b>	<b>10,644</b>	<b>10,376</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>21,334</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	<b>Primary visit</b>	<b>6,539</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>8,868</b>	<b>11,465</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>21,334</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>53.7</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	<b>6 weeks</b>	<b>5,056</b>	<b>1,693</b>	<b>6,749</b>	<b>12,641</b>	<b>1,944</b>	<b>21,334</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>59.3</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	<b>3 months</b>	<b>4,669</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>5,957</b>	<b>13,875</b>	<b>1,502</b>	<b>21,334</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	<b>6 months</b>	<b>3,501</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>4,435</b>	<b>13,312</b>	<b>3,587</b>	<b>21,334</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>62.4</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	<b>12 months</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>12,002</b>	<b>6,941</b>	<b>21,334</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

**Table AF: Breastfeeding at discharge (%) by Council area (LGD2014) and District Electoral Area (DEA2014), 2018-2020**

Council area LGD2014	District Electoral Area DEA 2014	2018			2019			2020		
		Total births	Any BF		Total births	Any BF		Total births	Any BF	
		N	N	%	N	N	%	N	N	%
Antrim and Newtownabbey	Airport	251	155	61.8	283	161	56.9	246	157	63.8
	Antrim	283	140	49.5	294	120	40.8	262	144	55.0
	Ballyclare	212	117	55.2	195	103	52.8	198	119	60.1
	Dunsilly	214	103	48.1	172	92	53.5	200	106	53.0
	Glengormley Urban	244	126	51.6	229	118	51.5	217	120	55.3
	Macedon	215	97	45.1	252	103	40.9	203	91	44.8
	Three Mile Water	207	107	51.7	223	119	53.4	200	102	51.0
Ards and North Down	Ards Peninsula	241	124	51.5	215	84	39.1	193	91	47.2
	Bangor Central	309	173	56.0	269	146	54.3	250	142	56.8
	Bangor East and Donaghadee	176	92	52.3	184	98	53.3	170	90	52.9
	Bangor West	182	98	53.8	197	124	62.9	169	99	58.6
	Comber	167	95	56.9	198	111	56.1	184	106	57.6
	Hollywood and Clandeboye	163	120	73.6	149	105	70.5	151	103	68.2
	Newtownards	272	116	42.6	323	141	43.7	288	117	40.6
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Armagh	469	233	49.7	445	203	45.6	382	182	47.6
	Banbridge	429	217	50.6	421	217	51.5	361	185	51.2
	Craigavon	399	199	49.9	362	195	53.9	367	180	49.0
	Cusher	338	157	46.4	317	164	51.7	322	171	53.1
	Lagan River	298	169	56.7	251	142	56.6	281	174	61.9
	Lurgan	489	225	46.0	513	222	43.3	470	217	46.2
	Portadown	429	229	53.4	423	219	51.8	362	177	48.9
Belfast	Balmoral	253	169	66.8	281	188	66.9	257	174	67.7
	Black Mountain	496	150	30.2	509	159	31.2	511	189	37.0
	Botanic	453	262	57.8	452	278	61.5	375	251	66.9
	Castle	375	181	48.3	396	198	50.0	380	183	48.2
	Collin	504	175	34.7	482	171	35.5	454	148	32.6
	Court	460	131	28.5	436	119	27.3	415	101	24.3
	Lisnasharragh	345	222	64.3	326	232	71.2	333	224	67.3
	Oldpark	524	147	28.1	489	158	32.3	485	155	32.0
	Ormiston	360	238	66.1	326	219	67.2	354	245	69.2
	Titanic	522	261	50.0	500	233	46.6	411	200	48.7

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

**Table AF (continued): Breastfeeding at discharge (%) by Council area (LGD2014) and District Electoral Area (DEA2014), 2018-2020**

Council area LGD2014	District Electoral Area DEA 2014	2018			2019			2020		
		Total births	Any BF		Total births	Any BF		Total births	Any BF	
		N	N	%	N	N	%	N	N	%
Causeway Coast and Glens	Ballymoney	268	128	47.8	274	124	45.3	281	143	50.9
	Bann	176	99	56.3	196	97	49.5	157	73	46.5
	Benbradagh	240	108	45.0	235	110	46.8	238	93	39.1
	Causeway	200	116	58.0	184	97	52.7	200	111	55.5
	Coleraine	272	100	36.8	266	124	46.6	225	99	44.0
	Limavady	161	65	40.4	167	62	37.1	150	59	39.3
	The Glens	183	73	39.9	193	95	49.2	182	89	48.9
Derry City and Strabane	Ballyarnett	378	123	32.5	316	93	29.4	353	118	33.4
	Derg	198	75	37.9	232	92	39.7	218	104	47.7
	Faughan	204	94	46.1	201	78	38.8	217	100	46.1
	Foyleside	191	80	41.9	188	80	42.6	193	77	39.9
	Sperrin	300	111	37.0	291	117	40.2	330	126	38.2
	The Moor	221	70	31.7	229	70	30.6	179	53	29.6
	Waterside	345	158	45.8	363	154	42.4	378	154	40.7
Fermanagh and Omagh	Enniskillen	190	93	48.9	194	111	57.2	158	95	60.1
	Erne East	235	110	46.8	197	101	51.3	190	80	42.1
	Erne North	172	75	43.6	192	87	45.3	163	83	50.9
	Erne West	197	108	54.8	170	91	53.5	181	93	51.4
	Mid Tyrone	220	113	51.4	233	124	53.2	229	114	49.8
	Omagh	213	99	46.5	201	92	45.8	198	103	52.0
	West Tyrone	234	122	52.1	204	110	53.9	207	119	57.5
Lisburn and Castlereagh	Castlereagh East	278	140	50.4	275	148	53.8	269	157	58.4
	Castlereagh South	291	208	71.5	270	195	72.2	270	186	68.9
	Downshire East	178	115	64.6	154	114	74.0	164	110	67.1
	Downshire West	199	136	68.3	178	126	70.8	185	139	75.1
	Killultagh	304	176	57.8	254	143	56.3	242	145	59.9
	Lisburn North	266	139	52.3	289	164	56.7	279	168	60.2
	Lisburn South	293	140	47.8	300	137	45.7	259	129	49.8
Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers.										

**Table AF (continued): Breastfeeding at discharge (%) by Council area (LGD2014) and District Electoral Area (DEA2014), 2018-2020**

Council area LGD2014	District Electoral Area (DEA 2014)	2018			2019			2020		
		Total births	Any BF		Total births	Any BF		Total births	Any BF	
		N	N	%	N	N	%	N	N	%
Mid and East Antrim	Ballymena	273	130	47.6	271	150	55.4	234	118	50.4
	Bannside	231	101	43.7	216	123	56.9	243	124	51.0
	Braid	283	139	49.1	260	138	53.1	263	148	56.3
	Carrick Castle	153	70	45.8	198	105	53.0	166	93	56.0
	Coast Road	170	74	43.5	180	69	38.3	150	57	38.0
	Knockagh	164	73	44.5	180	94	52.2	140	73	52.1
	Larne Lough	200	106	53.0	160	91	56.9	167	105	62.9
Mid Ulster	Carntogher	234	101	43.2	220	103	46.8	236	100	42.4
	Clogher Valley	333	186	55.9	338	182	53.8	287	149	51.9
	Cookstown	318	140	44.0	325	141	43.4	309	132	42.7
	Dungannon	373	229	61.4	364	229	62.9	366	215	58.7
	Magherafelt	252	125	49.6	244	122	50.0	255	127	49.8
	Moyola	220	100	45.5	251	121	48.2	224	101	45.1
	Torrent	325	132	40.6	345	141	40.9	316	148	46.8
Newry, Mourne and Down	Crotlieve	357	181	50.7	362	197	54.4	324	167	51.5
	Downpatrick	293	124	42.3	248	102	41.1	224	88	39.3
	Newry	360	160	44.4	411	217	52.8	367	178	48.5
	Rowallane	231	122	52.8	218	123	56.4	241	120	49.8
	Slieve Croob	251	126	50.2	215	107	49.8	224	111	49.6
	Slieve Gullion	486	202	41.6	456	210	46.1	481	226	47.0
	The Mournes	398	187	47.0	368	177	48.1	371	201	54.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>22,791</b>	<b>11,010</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>22,388</b>	<b>11,020</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>21,334</b>	<b>10,644</b>	<b>49.9</b>

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

**Table AG: Breastfeeding at discharge by Sure Start and Non Sure Start areas, 2018-2020**

Year		Number of births (N)						Rate (%)					
		Total BF	Partial BF	<i>Any BF</i>	Not at all	Unknown / blank	Total	Total BF	Partial BF	<i>Any BF</i>	Not at all	Unknown / blank	Total
2020	Non Sure Start area	5,601	1,844	<i>7,445</i>	5,735	175	13,355	41.9	13.8	<i>55.7</i>	42.9	1.3	100.0
	Sure Start area	2,239	960	<i>3,199</i>	4,640	141	7,980	28.1	12.0	<i>40.1</i>	58.1	1.8	100.0
	All	7,840	2,804	<i>10,644</i>	10,375	316	21,335	36.7	13.1	<i>49.9</i>	48.6	1.5	100.0
2019	Non Sure Start area	5,850	1,698	<i>7,548</i>	6,056	220	13,824	42.3	12.3	<i>54.6</i>	43.8	1.6	100.0
	Sure Start area	2,513	959	<i>3,472</i>	4,953	139	8,564	29.3	11.2	<i>40.5</i>	57.8	1.6	100.0
	All	8,363	2,657	<i>11,020</i>	11,009	359	22,388	37.4	11.9	<i>49.2</i>	49.2	1.6	100.0
2018	Non Sure Start area	5,810	1,703	<i>7,513</i>	6,207	209	13,929	41.7	12.2	<i>53.9</i>	44.6	1.5	100.0
	Sure Start area	2,596	901	<i>3,497</i>	5,204	161	8,862	29.3	10.2	<i>39.5</i>	58.7	1.8	100.0
	All	8,406	2,604	<i>11,010</i>	11,411	370	22,791	36.9	11.4	<i>48.3</i>	50.1	1.6	100.0
Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System; Live births to NI resident mothers.													

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