

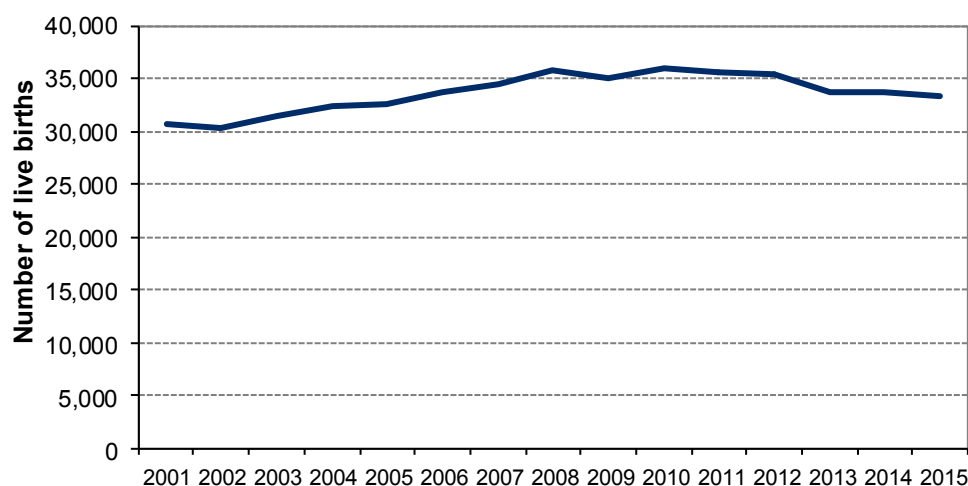


Births in Wales 2005 - 2015: Data from the National Community Child Health Database

10 August 2016
SFR 98/2016

The National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) is Wales' national community child health database and consists of anonymised records for all children born, resident or treated in Wales and born after 1987. It brings together data from local Child Health System databases which are held by Local Health Boards and used by them to administer child immunisation and health surveillance programmes. This release aims to provide an overview of Welsh births and to inform the delivery of maternity services and strategy. The analyses are for **live births only** and do not include stillbirths.

Chart 1: Number of live births, 2001-2015



Key Points:

- The NCCHD recorded 33,361 live births in 2015 to Welsh residents, an increase of 9 per cent since 2001 but a fall of 1 per cent since 2014.
- Mother's age: the proportion of young mothers has fallen since 2005 with 4.6 per cent of live births in 2015 being born to mothers aged under 20, less than half of what it was in 2005 (9.5 per cent).
- Gestation: 7.3 per cent of live births in 2015 took place at less than 37 weeks gestational age, this proportion has fluctuated between 7 per cent and 7.5 per cent since 2005.
- Birth weight: 6.7 per cent of all live births in 2015 had a low birth weight (less than 2,500g) compared to 5.1 per cent of singleton live births. This is one of the 46 National Indicators, for more information see page 32.

About this release

This annual release covers data items which are recorded at birth. It is not meant to replace Office for National Statistics birth registration statistics which should be used for basic births statistics for Wales. For further explanation of the Welsh Government's publication of birth statistics see the notes pages.

The release provides statistics on where and when babies were born, their birth weight, whether they were pre-term and about their mothers - their age and whether the babies were breastfed.

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Time Series - Live births to Welsh residents 2005- 2015

The National Community Child Health Database recorded 33,361 live births in 2015 to Welsh residents.

This release profiles live births to Welsh residents. However births occurring in Wales (whether to Welsh or non Welsh residents) can also be counted from the database and these are shown in the table below and also by maternity unit in a StatsWales table.

The table below shows that the vast majority of live births to Welsh residents took place in Welsh hospitals in 2015 but 1,146 (3 per cent) live births to Welsh residents were delivered in English hospitals. A further 339 babies whose mothers were English residents were delivered in Welsh hospitals. See table 8 on page 25 for a breakdown by Health Board.

Live births to Welsh and non-Welsh residents by place of birth

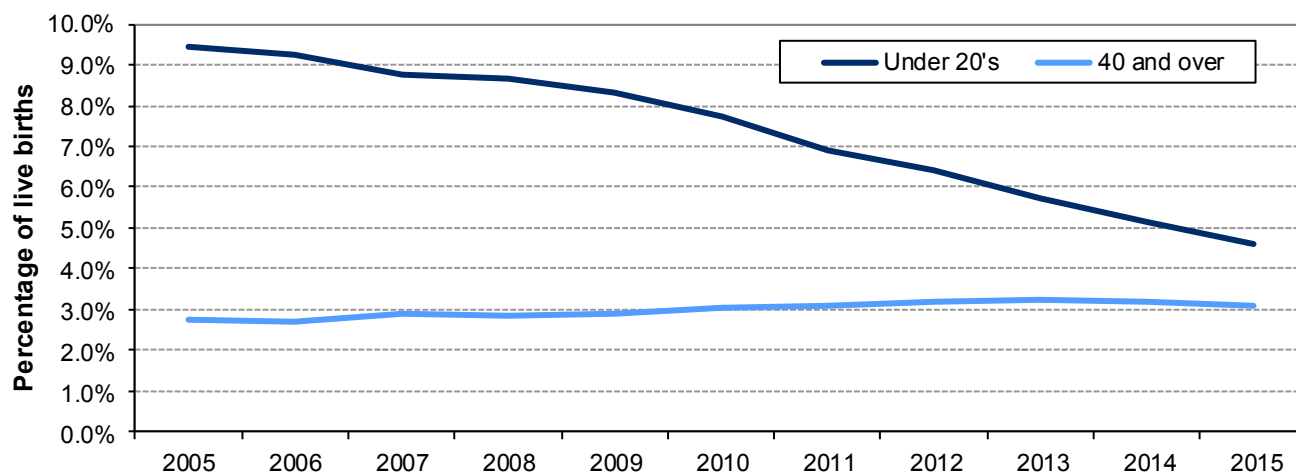
	Births in Wales				Births outside Wales	
	Hospital	Home	Ambulance	Not stated	English Hospital	All births
Births to Welsh residents	31,116	944	56	99	1,146	33,361
Births to non-Welsh residents	339	0	0	0	..	339

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

.. Data item not available. [Maternity statistics for England](#).

Base data for the following charts are available in Table 6 on page 23 and on the [StatsWales website](#).

Chart 2: Percentage of live births by age of mother, 2005-2015

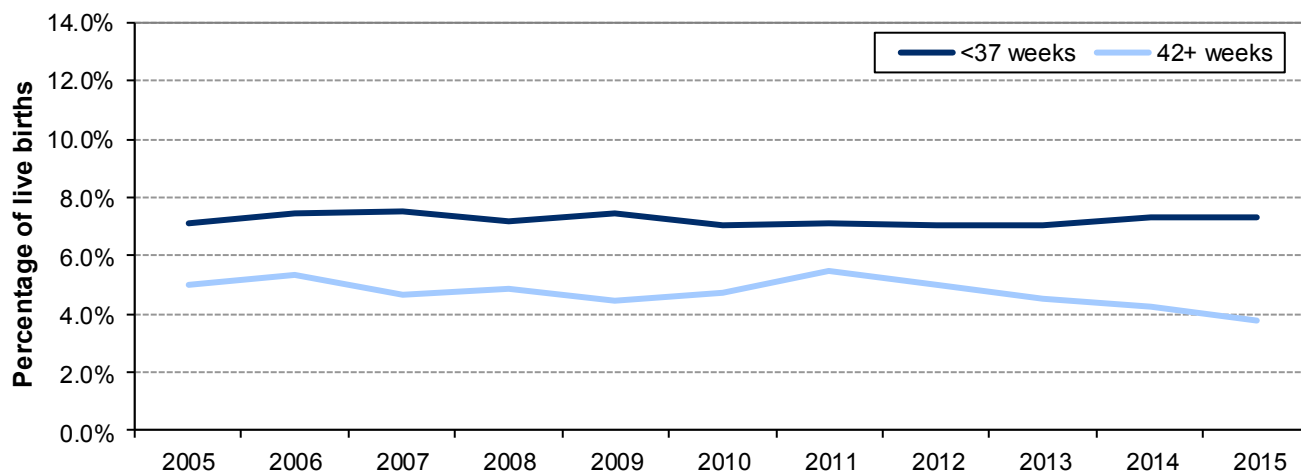


Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated mother's age. These are very few however with only 15 births having no mother's age stated in 2015.

The vast majority of live births are born to women aged 20 to 39 (92 per cent in 2015). Chart 2 shows recent trends for younger and older mothers. There is well accepted evidence that teenage pregnancy is associated with poor health and social outcomes for both the mother and the child. Chart 2 indicates a fall in proportionate terms in numbers of births to teenage mothers since 2005, from 9 per cent to 5 per cent in 2015. However the number of births to older mothers rose very slightly over the last 10 years.

Chart 3: Percentage of live births by gestational age¹, 2005-2015



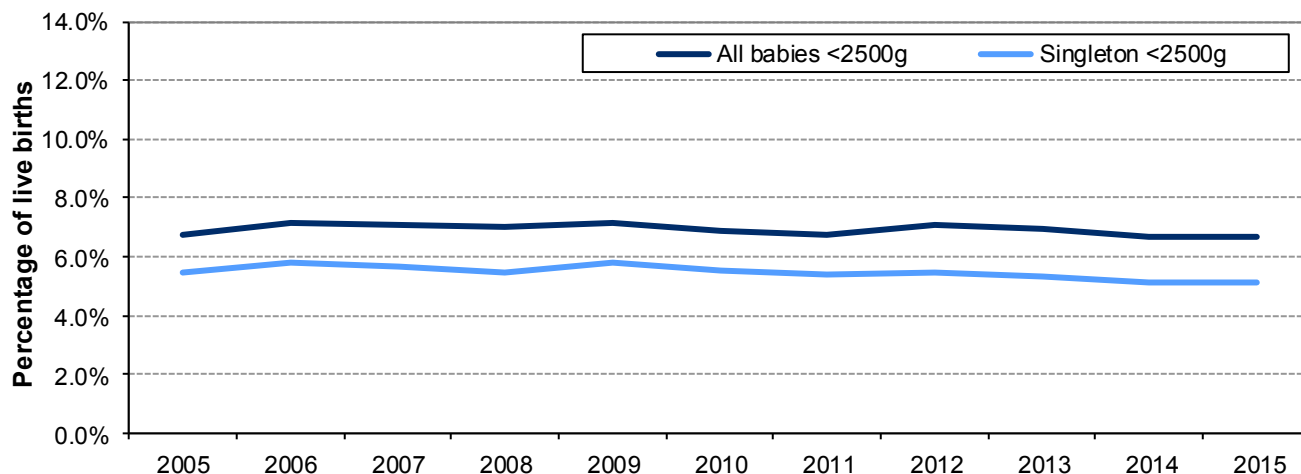
Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

¹ Best estimate available: based on either date of last menstrual period or from an ultrasound scan.

The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated gestational age: 46 births had no stated gestational age in 2015 (includes gestations of less than 20 weeks and more than 45 weeks).

89 per cent of live births in 2015 were born at 37-41 weeks gestation, a slight increase since 2014. It is known that babies born prematurely (before 37 weeks of pregnancy) may have a higher risk of immediate or longer-term health problems. There has been no notable change in the distribution of births by gestational age at birth over the last 10 years. 7.3 per cent of all live births were "pre-term", that is, at less than 37 weeks gestation in 2015. Completeness of gestation improved since 2005, with the proportion of live births with no stated gestation having fallen from 0.9 per cent in 2005 to 0.1 per cent in 2015.

Chart 4: Percentage of live births by birth weight, 2005-2015



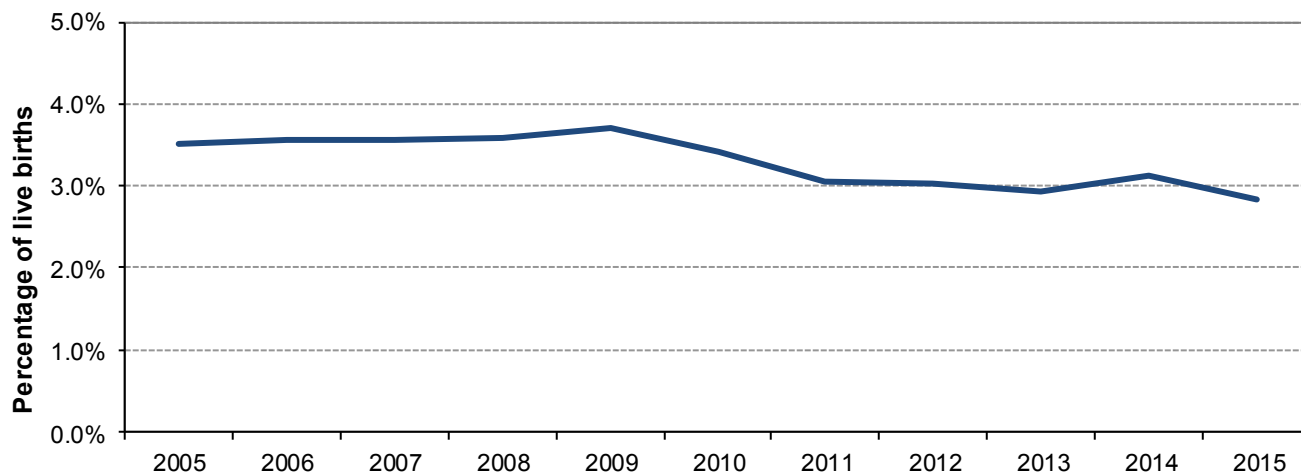
Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated birth weight: 75 births had no stated birth weight in 2015 (includes birth weights of less than 0.5kg or more than 6kg).

Percentage of live single births with a birth weight of under 2,500g is one of 46 National Indicators, for further information see page 33.

81 per cent of live births in 2015 were born with birth weights of between 2500-3999g. Low birth weight is associated with health risks in an infant's first year of life. Chart 4 shows that there was no notable change in the distribution of births by birth weight over the last 10 years. 6.7 per cent of all live births were of low birth weight, that is, less than 2,500g. The proportion of low birth weight singleton babies however has generally fallen in the last decade, from 5.5 per cent in 2005 to 5.1 per cent in 2015.

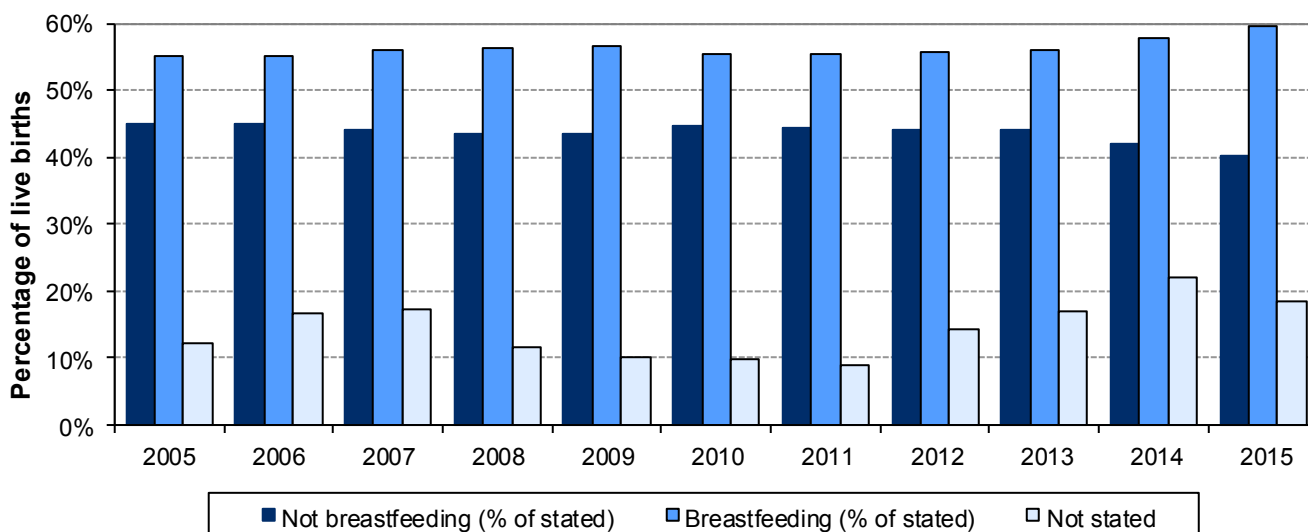
Chart 5: Percentage of live births born at home, 2005-2015



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015
 The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated place of birth: 99 births had no stated place of birth in 2015.

Health Boards in Wales are expected to provide access to a range of services for women to give birth including at home. Recent trends in the proportion of births occurring at home in Wales are shown in Chart 5. The homebirth rate rose from around 2 per cent in the early 2000s to almost 4 per cent in 2009, though it has fallen since then, to under 3 per cent by 2015. The number of births with place of birth not stated increased from a total of 19 in 2005 to 99 in 2015.

Chart 6: Breastfeeding at birth, percentage of live births, 2005-2015



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

Breastfeeding is recognised as being of crucial importance for the health of babies and their mothers. Chart 6 shows breastfeeding data recorded on the database from 2005 to 2015. The proportion of records with no breastfeeding status recorded at birth saw a decrease from 2007 but since 2012 has increased. In 2015 this figure was 18 per cent. There have been technical problems in Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMU) resulting in a failure of breastfeeding at birth data to be recorded on the Child Health system. Due to this, breastfeeding data for ABMU has been omitted from Charts 10 to 14, Charts 16, 17 and from Table 3. The percentage at birth of breastfed babies of those with a stated breastfeeding status increased from 55 per cent in 2005 to 60 per cent in 2015.

Key characteristics / outcomes - live births to Welsh residents 2015

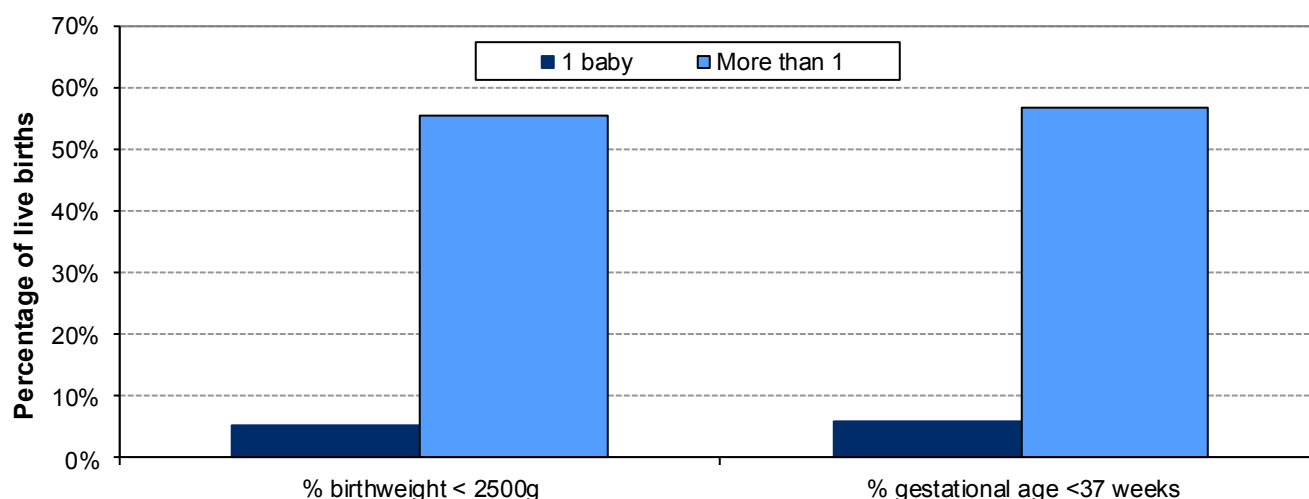
Multiple births, birth weight and gestational age

Base data for these charts are available on the [StatsWales website](#).

Giving birth to twins or triplets can be associated with increased health risks. There has been no change in the distribution of births by number of babies born over the last 10 years (Table 6). Multiple births (twins, triplets or higher order multiple births) have accounted for 3% of all live births each year since 2005.

Low birth weight is associated with health risks in an infant's first year of life. The percentage of live single births with a birth weight of under 2,500g is one of 46 national indicators put in place under the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. The indicator will be based on singleton births and will be calculated as the percentage of births that are less than 2,500 grams. Data for this National indicator is available on the [StatsWales website](#) by local authority area and LHB.

Chart 7: Percentage of live births by number of babies: low birth weight and low gestational age



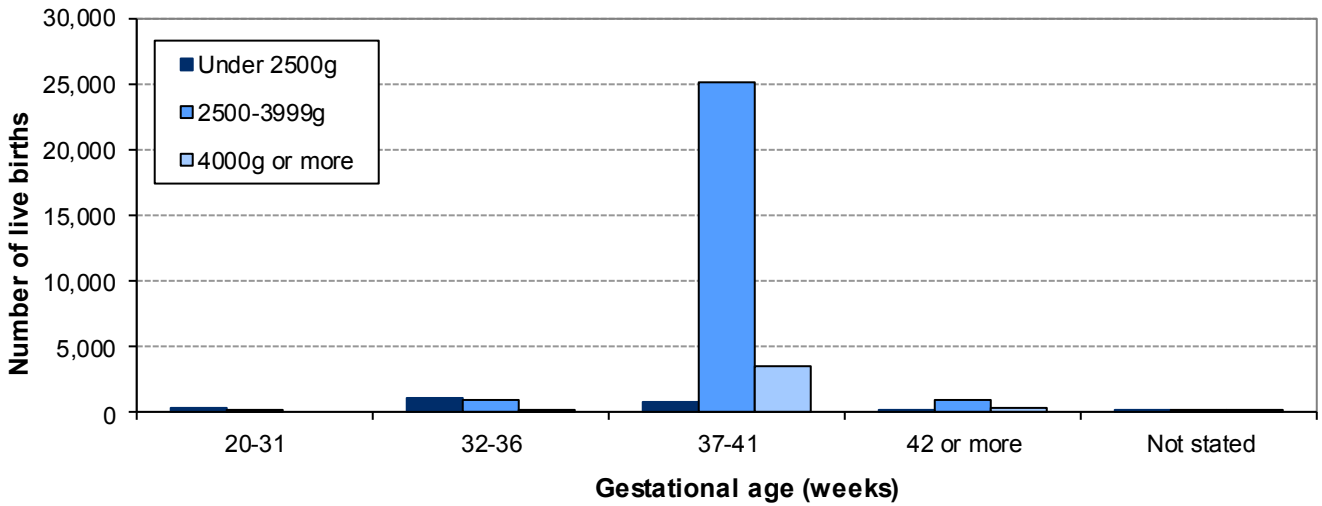
Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated birth weight or gestational age: 75 births had no stated birth weight in 2015 (includes birth weights of less than 0.5kg or more than 6kg). 46 births had no stated gestational age in 2015 (includes gestations of less than 20 weeks and more than 45 weeks).

Chart 7 shows the birth weight profiles of singleton and multiple births. 5 per cent of single births had birth weights of less than 2,500g compared to 55 per cent of multiple births (7 per cent of all live births).

7 per cent of all live births were at less than 37 weeks gestation. More than half of multiples (57 per cent) were born at less than 37 weeks, compared to just 6 per cent of singleton births.

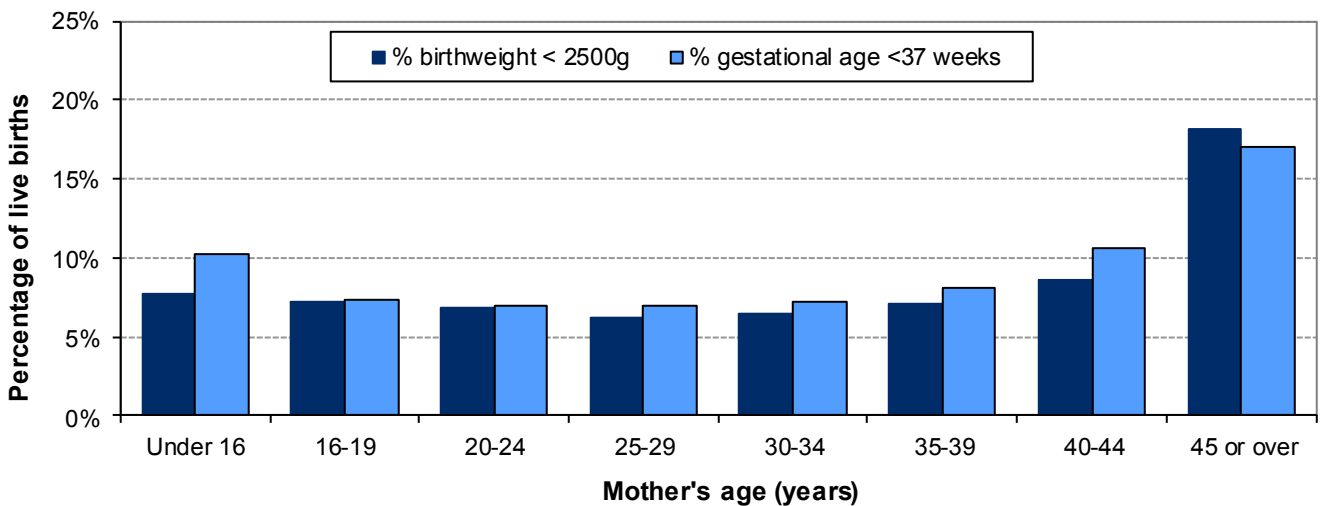
Chart 8: Live births by birth weight and gestational age



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

93 per cent of births took place at 37 weeks gestation or more. The majority of these had a birth weight of 2500g or over. However 96 per cent of births born at gestations less than 32 weeks and 52 per cent of those born at 32-36 weeks had low birth weights, that is, less than 2500g. See also Table 1.

Chart 9: Percentage of live births by mother’s age: low birth weight and low gestational age



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

Chart 9 shows that the proportion of low birth weight live births (less than 2500g) rose for mothers aged 45 or over, as did the proportion of babies born at less than 37 weeks gestation. See also Table 2.

Key characteristics / outcomes - live births to Welsh residents 2015

Breastfeeding at birth

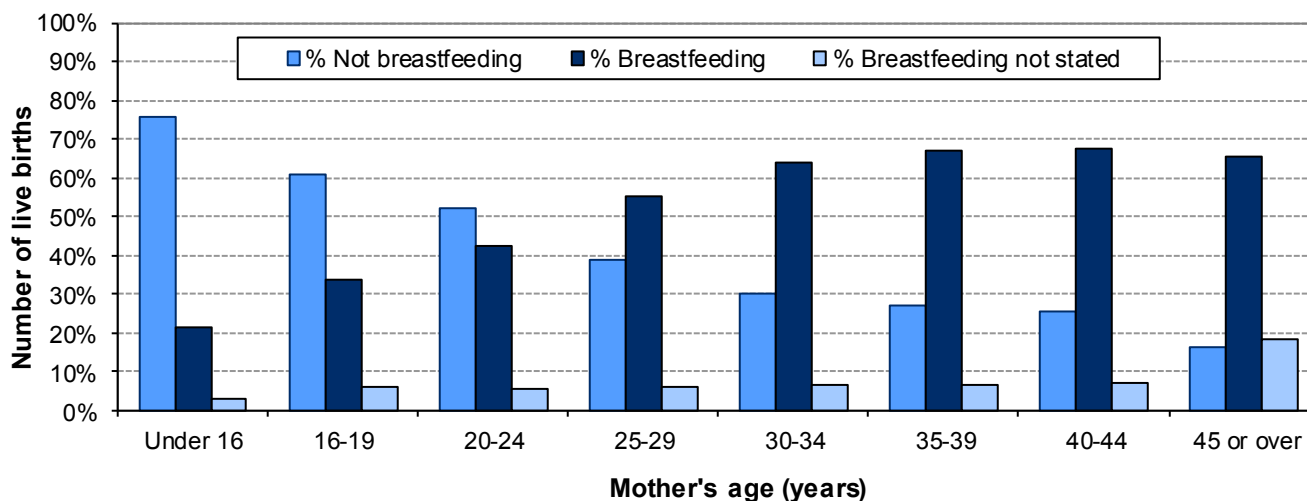
Base data for these charts are available in Table 3 on page 21 and on the [StatsWales website](#).

At least 16,246 babies were breastfed at birth in 2015, 60 per cent of all births with known breastfeeding status. The true number is not known as there is much missing data - 18 per cent of birth records had no breastfeeding status recorded, an increase on rates seen over recent years. As described on page 6, this figure will have been greatly affected by the fact that there was much missing breastfeeding data at one local health board since 2014, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University LHB. When data for this health board is removed, the percentage of records in Wales for which no breastfeeding status is recorded drops to 6 per cent.

Charts and commentary for this section of the release only will exclude Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University LHB, that is, the charts relate only to 6 Health Boards.

For these 6 LHBs, the proportion of births who received any breast milk at birth, was 60 per cent. Data about the type of breastfeeding occurring at birth was known for more than half (57 per cent) of those babies which were stated as breastfed at birth, which is an increase since last year (45 per cent in 2014) and a substantial improvement on the 2012 figure of 8 per cent. Of this small group, almost all, 96 per cent, were fed exclusive breast milk. The remaining 4 per cent had combined milk feeding (either partially or predominantly breast milk with some artificial milk). This is based on the new data collection which only began towards the end of 2012 and was introduced at different dates by Health Boards.

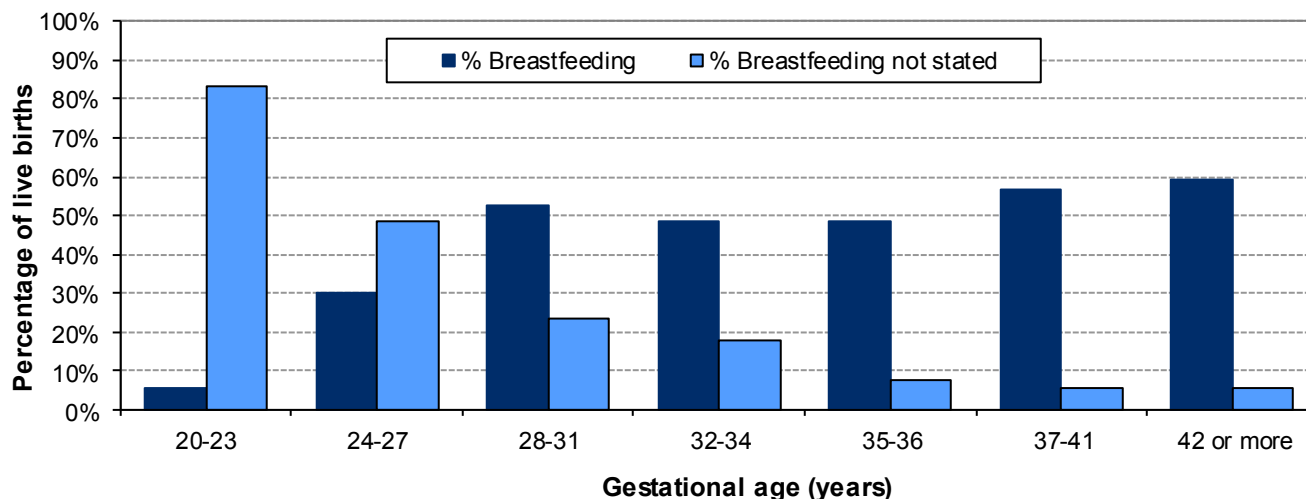
Chart 10: Breastfeeding at birth by mother's age



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015
Note that ABMU Local Health Board is excluded from this chart

Chart 10 shows the numbers of babies who were breastfed at birth by age of mother. Overall the percentage of babies breastfed at birth can be estimated as 56 per cent (percentage of all births) or 60 per cent (percentage of all births with known breastfeeding status). Babies of older mothers were more likely to be breastfed than those with younger mothers.

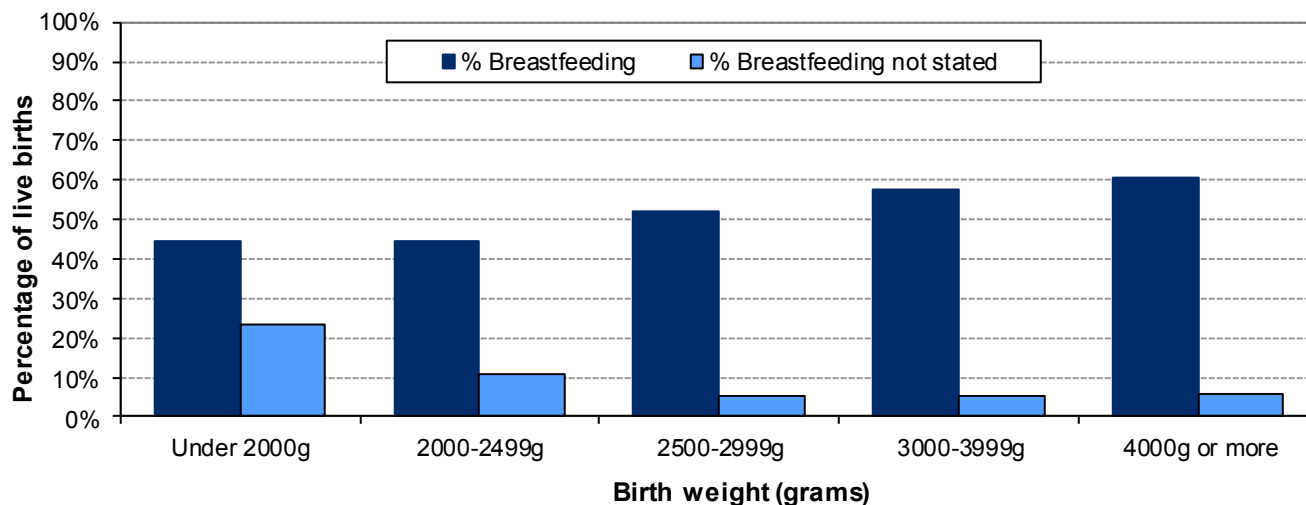
Chart 11: Percentage of live births by breastfeeding status at birth and gestational age



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015
 Note that ABMU Local Health Board is excluded from this chart

Chart 11 shows the percentage of births which were recorded as breastfed at birth by gestational age, and the proportion for which no breastfeeding status was stated for each group. Babies born at low gestational ages were more likely to have no record of breastfeeding on the database. The proportion (of births with a stated breastfeeding status) of breastfed babies was lower for babies born at low gestational ages.

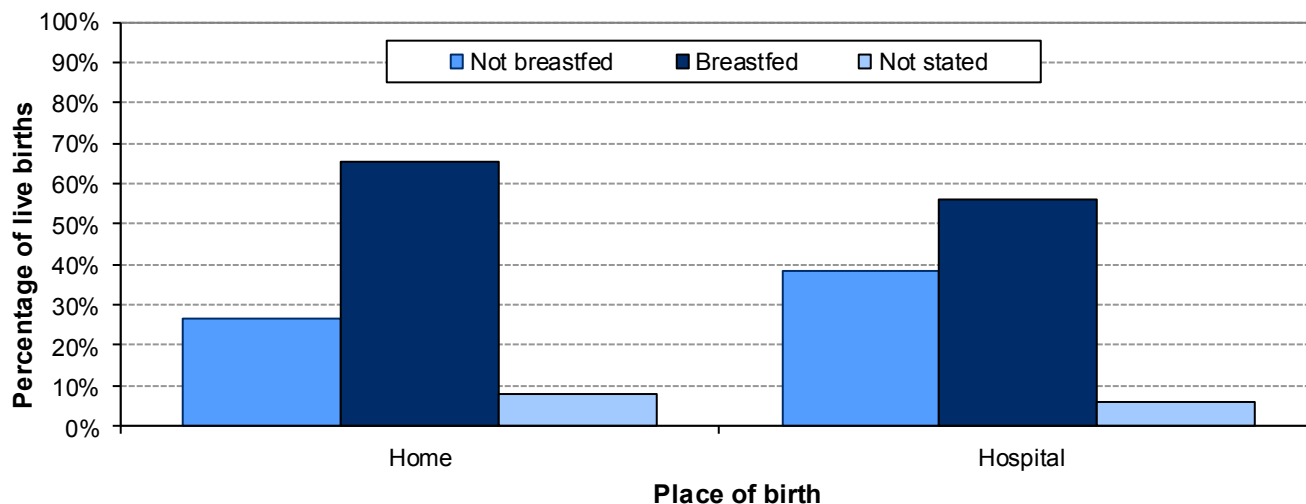
Chart 12: Percentage of live births by breastfeeding status at birth and birth weight



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015
 Note that ABMU Local Health Board is excluded from this chart

Chart 12 shows the percentage of all births which were recorded as breastfed at birth, by birth weight, as well as the proportion of the records which were missing for each group. Proportionately babies with low birth weights were more likely to have no record of breastfeeding on the database. Of the births with breastfeeding status, those with higher birth weights were more likely to be breastfed.

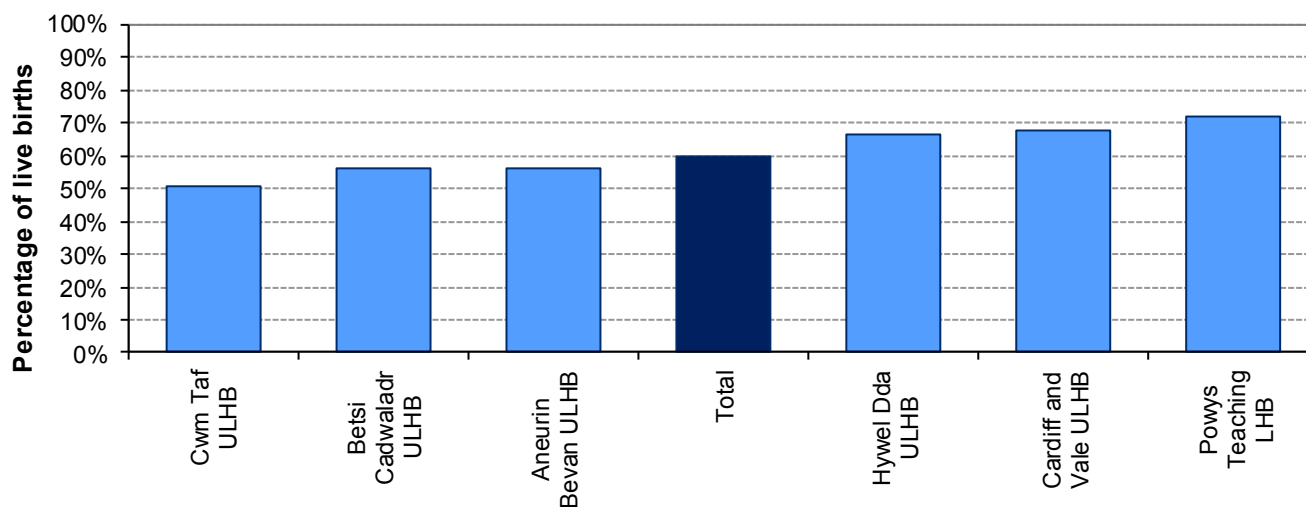
Chart 13: Percentage of live births by breastfeeding status at birth and place of birth



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015
 Note that ABMU Local Health Board is excluded from this chart

Chart 13 shows the proportion of births breastfed at birth by place of birth. Breastfeeding status was not stated for 8 per cent of live births born at home and 6 per cent in hospital, in 2015. 65 per cent of home births and 56 per cent of hospital births were recorded as breastfed (71 per cent and 59 per cent respectively of births with a stated breastfeeding status). For 44 births the place of birth recorded was "ambulance" and 95 had no stated place of birth.

Chart 14: Percentage of live births that were breastfed at birth by Local Health Board



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015
 Note that ABMU Local Health Board is excluded from this chart, see notes

Highest breastfeeding rates were seen for babies of women resident in Powys Teaching LHB (72 per cent) and lowest for those in Cwm Taf University LHB (50 per cent). Across all Health Boards 60 per cent of births were recorded as being breastfed at birth (of births with stated breastfeeding status).

Breastfeeding after birth (10 days and 6-8 weeks)

Following a new mandate in August 2012, data on infant feeding at 10 days, 6 weeks and 6 months has been recorded on the Child Health System. Completeness has improved and a summary of information about infant feeding at 10 days and 6-8 weeks is presented below. Data for 6 months is insufficiently complete as yet to present. Note that the data relates to births occurring in 2015.

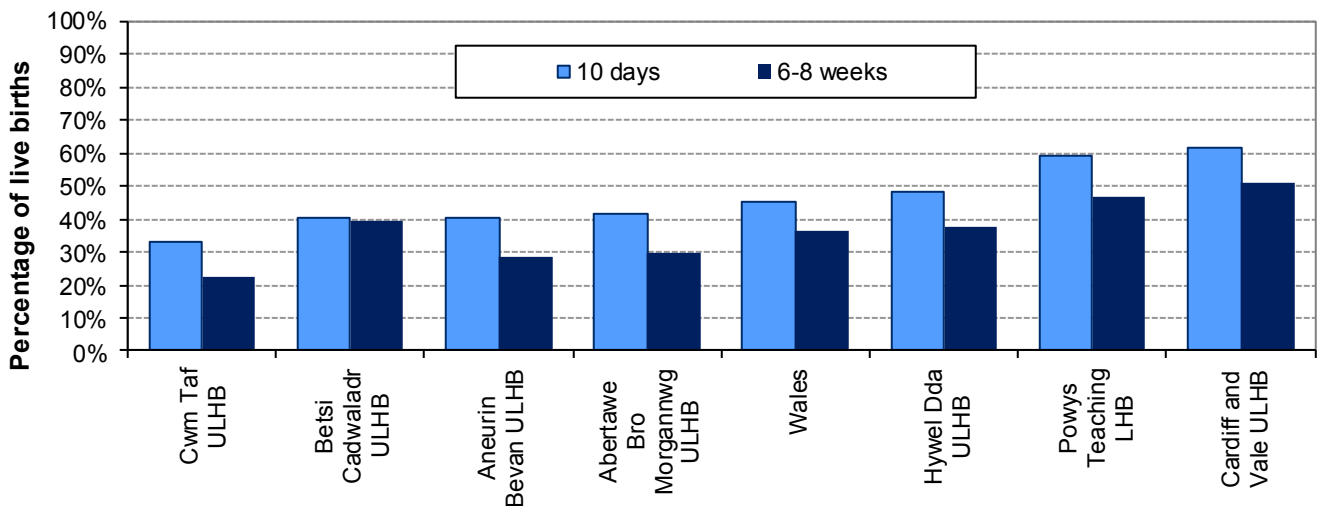
The percentage of babies exclusively breastfed at 10 days of age is one of a set of maternity indicators developed following the publication of the '[Strategic Vision for Maternity Services in Wales](#)' in 2011. The indicators are available from Public Health Wales' '[Pregnancy and childhood surveillance tool](#)'.

The newly recorded data includes the following categories of infant feeding:

- Artificial Milk Feeding
- Combined Milk Feeding - Partially Breast
- Combined Milk Feeding - Predominantly Breast
- Exclusive Milk

For more detail of this data collection, see notes on page 29.

Chart 15: Percentage of babies receiving any breast milk at 10 days and 6-8 weeks by Local Health Board

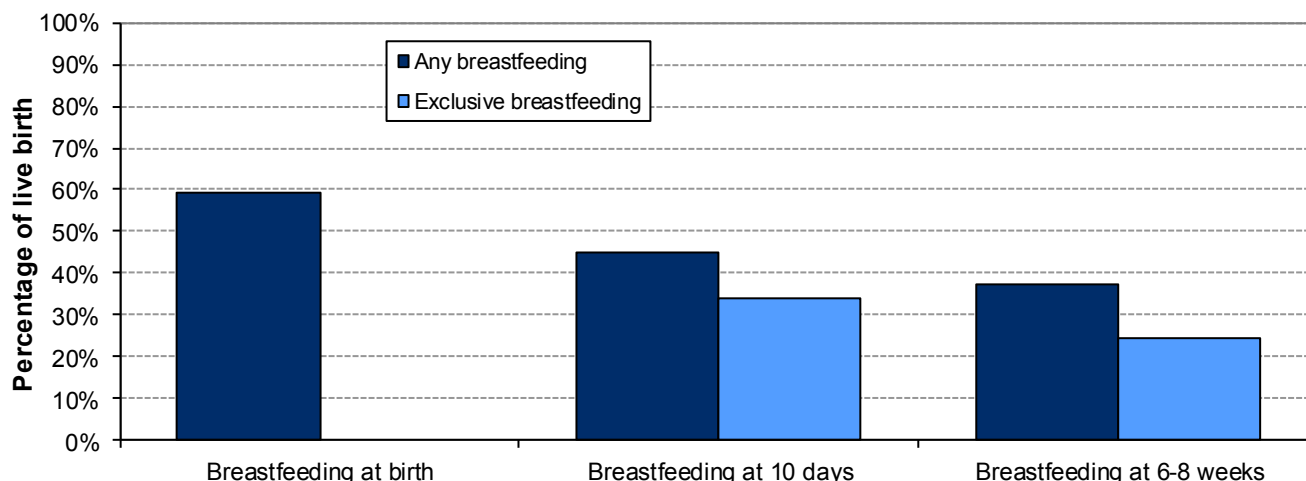


Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated breastfeeding status: 4% had no stated breastfeeding status at 10 days and 7% had no stated breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks in 2015.

Chart 15 illustrates the proportions of babies at 10 days and 6-8 weeks who are recorded as receiving *any* breast milk, e.g. combined milk feeding (that is, breast milk plus artificial milk) plus those who receive exclusively breast milk (that is, nothing else except water). A similar pattern can be seen amongst Health Boards to that seen with breastfeeding at birth rates in Chart 14: Cardiff and Vale University LHB having the highest rates at both 10 days and 6-8 weeks (62 per cent and 51 per cent respectively) and Cwm Taf University LHB having the lowest (33 per cent and 23 per cent respectively).

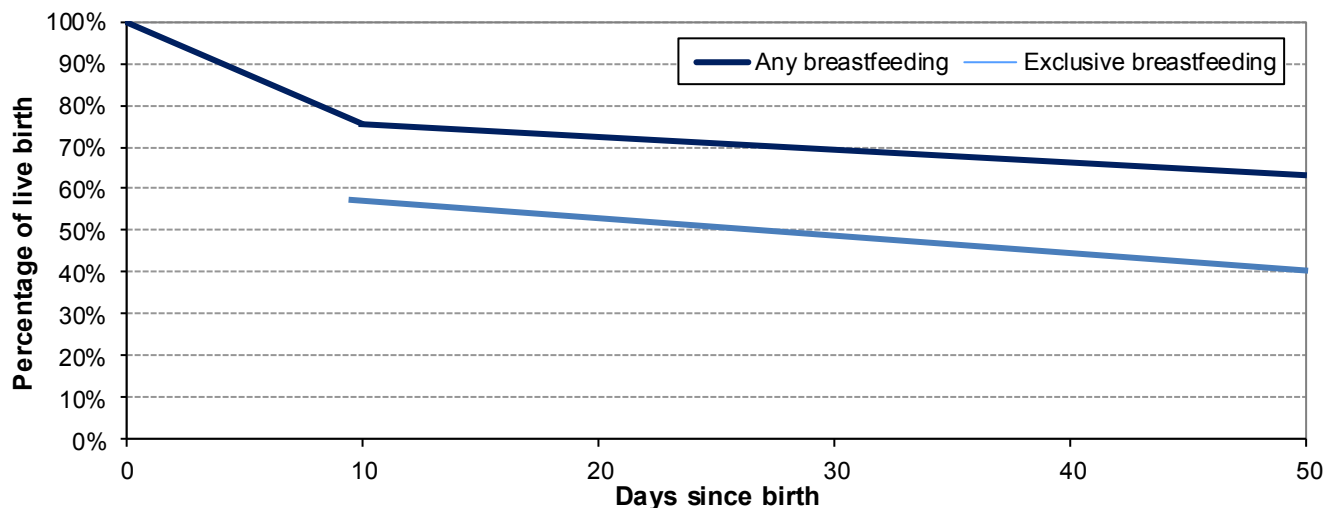
Chart 16: Percentage of babies exclusively breastfed or receiving any breast milk from birth to age 6-8 weeks



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015
 Note that ABMU Local Health Board is excluded from this chart, see notes.
 Note that the percentage is of 24,052 records with complete data for infant feeding at birth, 10 days and 6-8 weeks

Chart 16 considers the 24,052 records with complete data for infant feeding at birth, 10 days and 6-8 weeks. It shows how the percentage of babies which were recorded as being exclusively breastfed at birth, 10 days and 6-8 weeks compares to those who were recorded as being fed any breast milk at the same time markers. Current guidelines are that babies should be exclusively breastfed until 6 months of age. Note that the recording of detailed infant feeding data at birth is not complete and so exclusive breastfeeding is only shown for 10 days and 6-8 weeks.

Chart 17: Duration of breastfeeding: percentage of babies who were breastfed at birth who were exclusively breastfed or receiving any breast milk at 10 days and 6-8 weeks



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015
 Note that ABMU Local Health Board is excluded from this chart, see notes.
 Note that the percentage is of 14,263 records which at birth were recorded as receiving any breast milk and which had complete data for infant feeding at birth, 10 days and 6-8 weeks
 Note that for convenience 6-8 weeks is plotted as 50 days.

Chart 17 considers only those babies (14,263 records) which at birth were recorded as receiving any breast milk (i.e. a subset of the 24,052 records which had recorded infant feeding data for all three times). After the first 10 days, of these 14,263 records (100 per cent of babies breastfed of birth), only 10,789 (76 per cent) were still being breastfed, and 8,983 (63 per cent) at 6-8 weeks. Note that the

recording of detailed infant feeding data at birth is not complete and so exclusive breastfeeding is only shown for 10 days and 6-8 weeks.

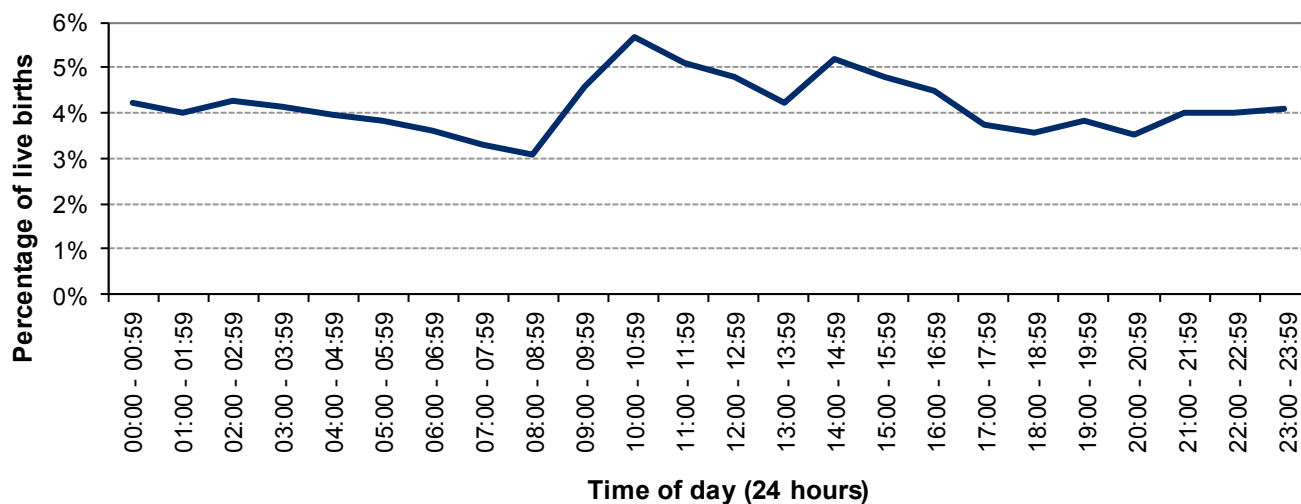
Additional breastfeeding data for babies born in Neonatal Units (born at less than 33 weeks gestation) is published in the [National Neonatal Audit Programme \(NNAP\) 2015 Annual Report](#), and shows that only 46 per cent of babies born in Welsh Neonatal Units under 33 weeks are discharged from the units receiving any breast milk, compared with 60 per cent of babies in all the England and Wales neonatal units in the audit.

Key characteristics / outcomes - live births to Welsh residents 2015

Time of birth, place of birth, Apgar scores

Base data for these charts are available in Tables 4 and 5 on page 22 and on the [StatsWales website](#).

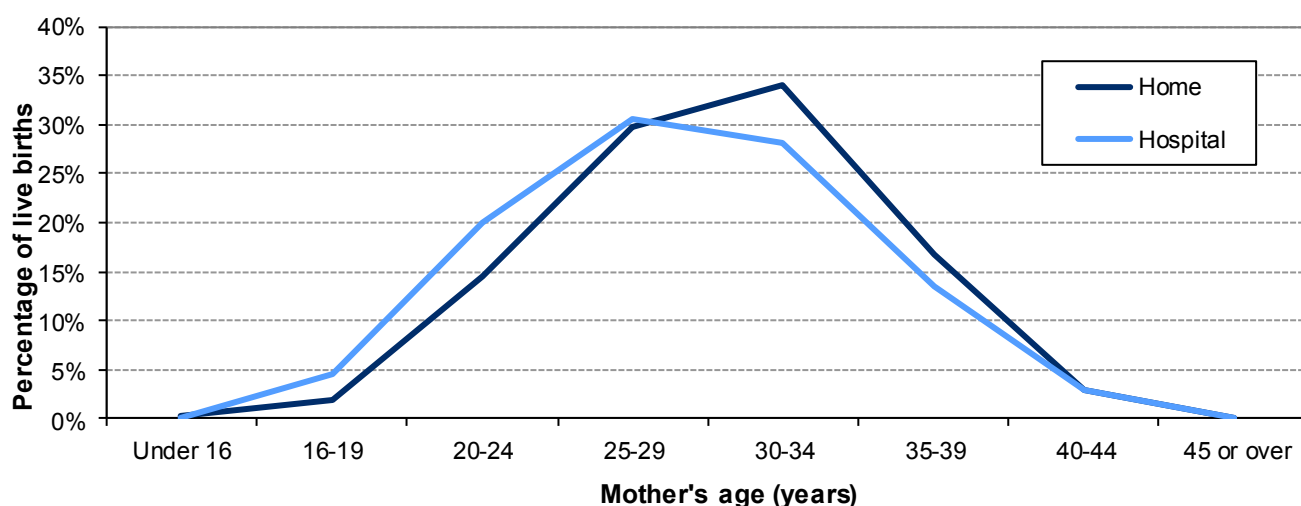
Chart 18: Percentage of live births by time of birth



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

The distribution of live births by hour of the day is shown in Chart 18. By hour, fewest births in 2015 occurred between 8am and 9am and most between 10am and 11am. There was another low point between 1pm and 2pm followed by a peak between 2pm and 3pm. Seven live births had no time of birth recorded.

Chart 19: Percentage of live births by place of birth and mother's age



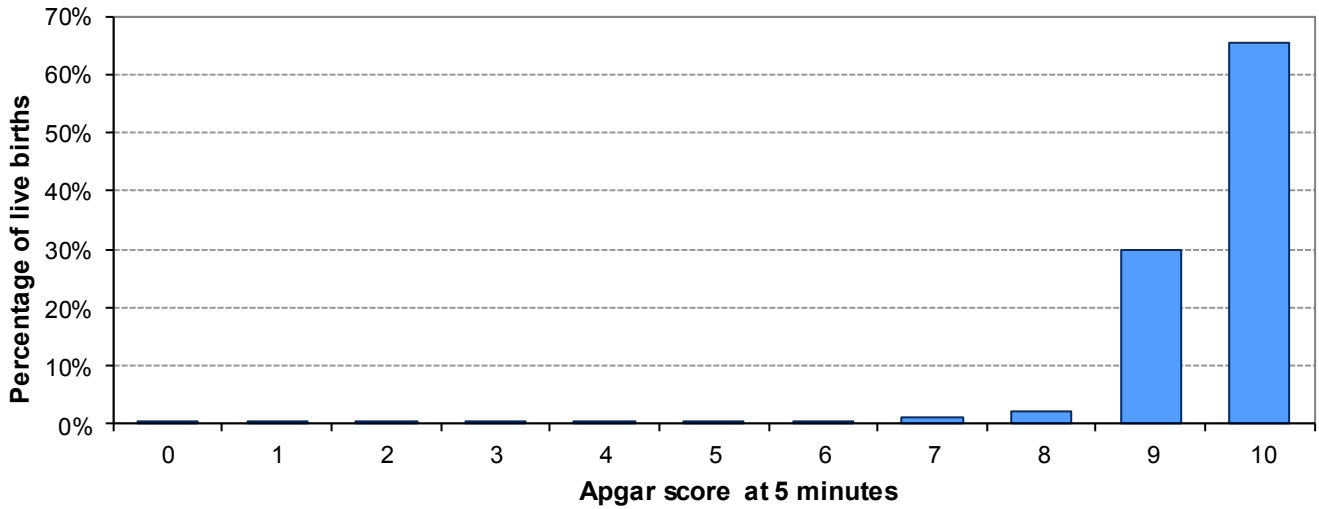
Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated place of birth 99 births had no stated place of birth in 2015. In addition, for 56 births, the place of birth recorded was "ambulance".

The distribution of live births by place of birth (home or hospital) is shown in Chart 19.

In 2015, 3 per cent of all live births took place at home. Women giving birth at home were on average older than those giving birth in hospital.

Chart 20: Percentage of live births by APGAR score at 5 minutes



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015
The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated Apgar score: For 1,716 births (5 per cent of all live births), the Apgar score at 5 minutes was recorded as "not stated" in 2015.

APGAR is a quick test performed on a baby at 1 and 5 minutes after birth. The 1-minute score determines how well the baby tolerated the birthing process. The 5-minute score tells the doctor how well the baby is doing outside the mother's womb. A score of 7 or above is a sign that the newborn is in good health.

Chart 20 shows that for the majority of births (99%), babies had high Apgar scores (7 or over) recorded at 5 minutes.

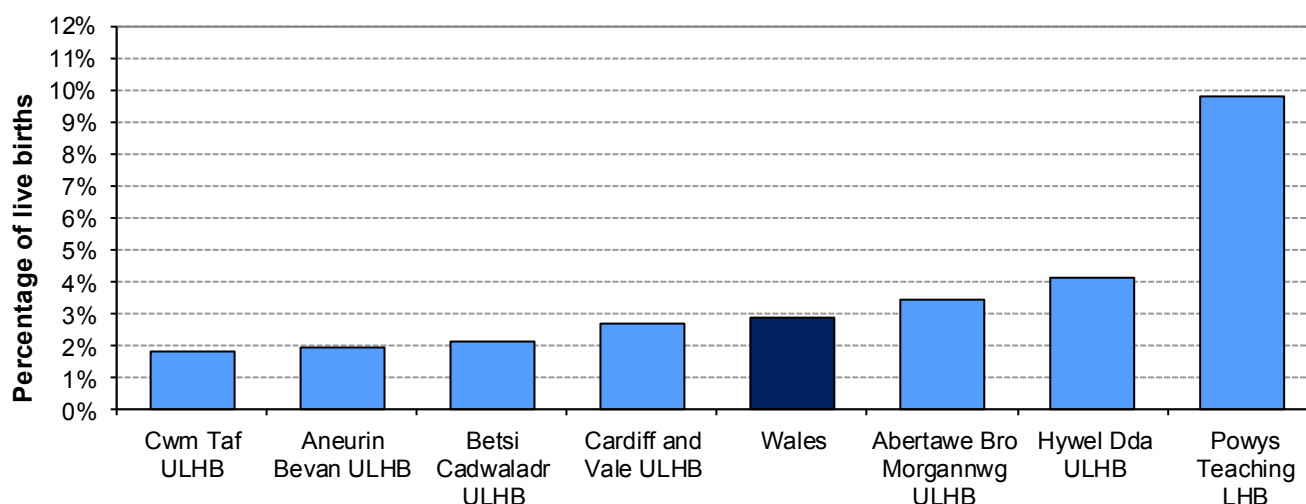
Key characteristics / outcomes - live births to Welsh residents 2015

Local Health Board of residence

Base data for these charts are available on the [StatsWales website](http://StatsWales.gov.wales).

The following charts show some key outcomes of live births to Welsh residents by Local Health Board. Table 7 on page 24 shows the proportion of live births to both Welsh and non-Welsh residents, by Local Health Board and by place of birth, whether within Wales or outside Wales.

Chart 21: Percentage of live births born at home by Local Health Board

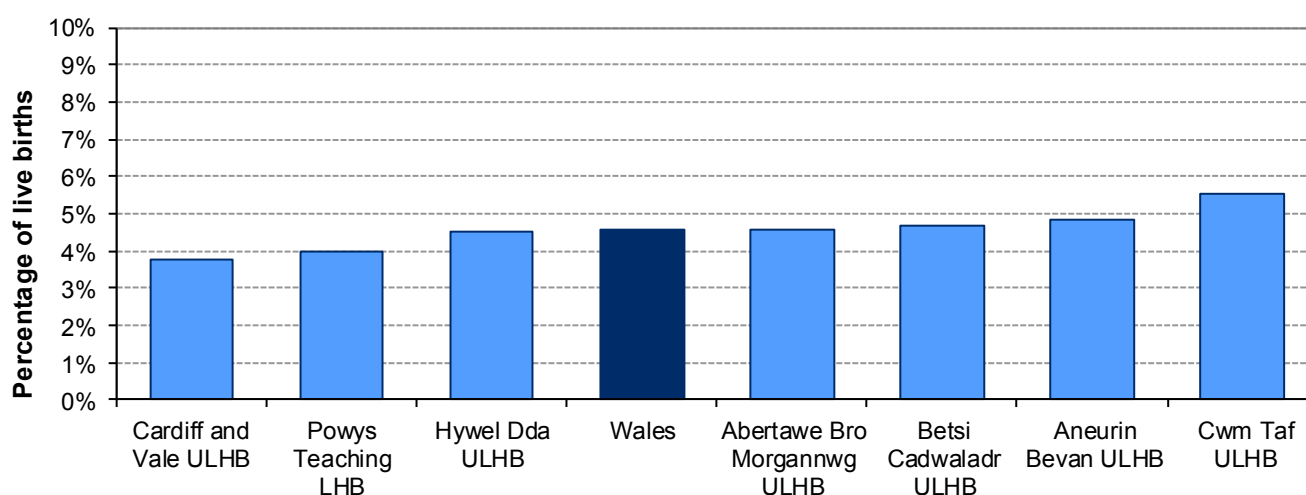


Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated place of birth: For 56 births, the place of birth recorded was "ambulance" and 99 births had "not stated" place of birth in 2015.

Chart 21 shows the proportion of births born at home in 2015 by Local Health Board where the mother lived, ranging from under 2 per cent in Cwm Taf University LHB to almost 10 per cent in Powys Teaching LHB. Overall in Wales 3 per cent of births were born at home.

Chart 22: Percentage of live births to mothers aged under 20 years by Local Health Board



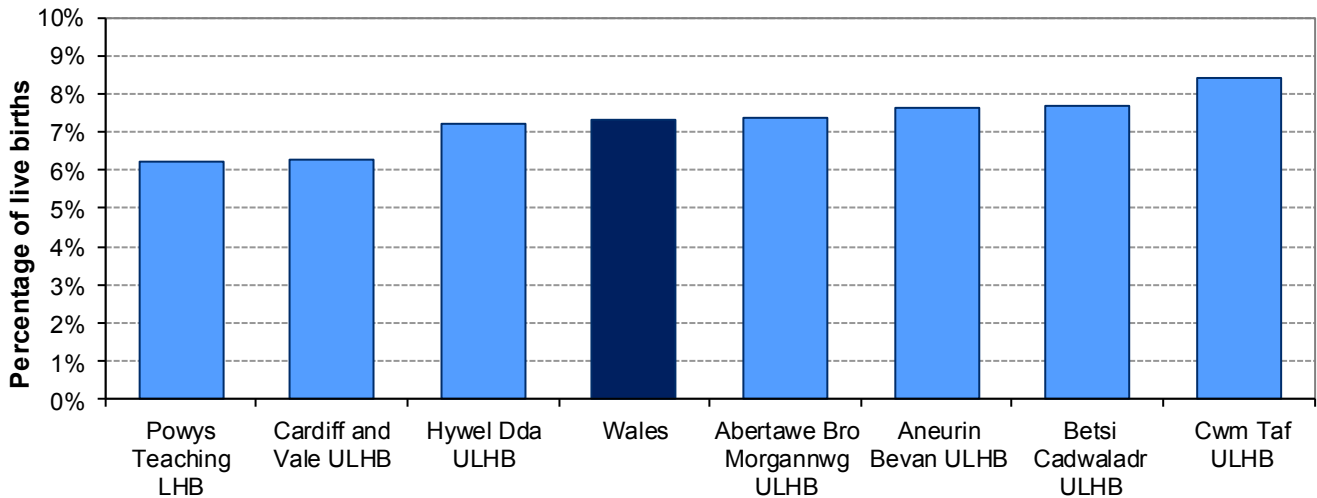
Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated mother's age. These are very few however with only 15 births having no mother's age stated in 2015.

Chart 22 shows that Cwm Taf University LHB had the highest percentage of births to mothers under 20 years old (6 per cent) and Cardiff and Vale University LHB the lowest (4 per cent). In Wales as a whole 5 per cent of births were recorded to mothers aged under 20.

No account is taken of differing LHB age distributions.

Chart 23: Percentage of live births less than 37 weeks gestational age by Local Health Board

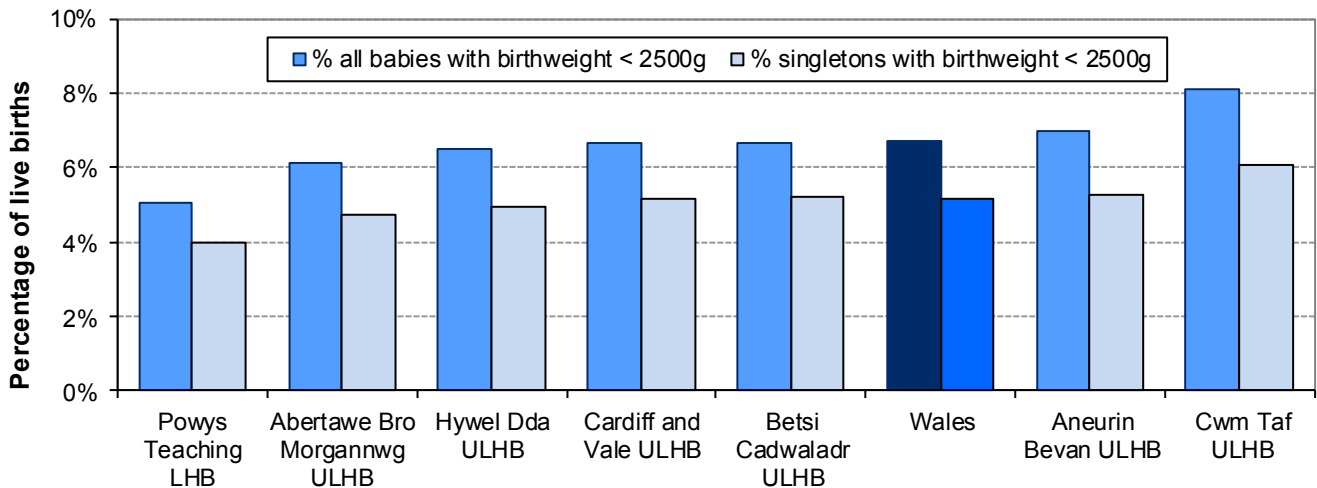


Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015
 The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated gestational age: 46 births had no stated gestational age in 2015 (includes gestations of less than 20 weeks and more than 45 weeks).

Chart 23 shows the proportion of births born at less than 37 weeks gestation by Local Health Board, most ranging from slightly below 7 per cent to slightly above, with the exception of over 8 per cent in Cwm Taf University LHB. Overall in Wales, 7 per cent of births were born before 37 weeks gestation.

No account is taken of differing LHB age distributions.

Chart 24: Percentage of live births less than 2,500g birth weight by Local Health Board



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015
 The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated birth weight: 75 births had no stated birth weight in 2015 (includes birth weights of less than 0.5kg or more than 6kg).

Chart 24 shows the proportion of all live births and singleton live births weighing less than 2,500g at birth by Local Health Board of residence. The proportions (of all live births) varied from 5 per cent in Powys Teaching LHB (4 per cent of singletons) to 8 per cent in Cwm Taf University LHB (6 per cent of singletons). Overall in Wales 7 per cent of all live births and 5 per cent of singletons weighed less than 2,500g at birth, no change on the 2014 figures (Table 7).

No account is taken of differing LHB age distributions.

Table 1: Live births by gestational age and selected indicators, Wales 2015

Birthweight	Number of weeks gestation:					Total
	20-31	32-36	37-41	42 or more	Not stated	
Under 2500g	353	1,061	809	4	5	2,232
2500-3999g	15	964	25,169	915	35	27,098
4000g or more	0	18	3,604	331	3	3,956
Not stated	22	14	34	2	3	75
Total	390	2,057	29,616	1,252	46	33,361

Mother's age (years)	Number of weeks gestation:					Total
	20-31	32-36	37-41	42 or more	Not stated	
Under 16	0	4	33	2	0	39
16-19	19	91	1,318	60	2	1,490
20-24	66	390	5,851	269	6	6,582
25-29	118	593	9,115	368	18	10,212
30-34	106	576	8,357	380	11	9,430
35-39	64	306	4,024	162	6	4,562
40-44	16	88	861	11	0	976
45 or over	1	8	44	0	2	55
Not stated	0	1	13	0	1	15
Total	390	2,057	29,616	1,252	46	33,361

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

Gestations less than 20 weeks or more than 45 weeks included as "not stated"

Mother's age less than 10 and more than 54 included as "not stated"

Birthweight less than 0.5kg or more than 6kg included as "not stated"

Table 2: Live births by birth weight and mother's age, Wales 2015

Mother's age (years)	Birth weight						Total
	Under 2000g	2000-2499g	2500-2999g	3000-3999g	4000g or more	Not stated	
Under 16	0	3	7	26	3	0	39
16-19	42	66	300	984	96	2	1,490
20-24	145	307	1,182	4,284	658	6	6,582
25-29	224	415	1,586	6,752	1212	23	10,212
30-34	213	399	1,322	6,206	1262	28	9,430
35-39	113	210	673	2,926	625	15	4,562
40-44	36	48	188	606	97	1	976
45 or over	4	6	14	29	2	0	55
Not stated	0	1	4	9	1	0	15
Total	777	1,455	5,276	21,822	3956	75	33,361

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

Mother's age less than 10 and more than 54 included as "not stated"

Table 3: Live births by breastfeeding (a) and selected indicators, Wales (b) 2015

Mother's age (years)	Breastfeeding	Not breastfeeding	Not stated	Total
Under 16	7	25	1	33
16-19	416	753	74	1,243
20-24	2,339	2,878	298	5,515
25-29	4,642	3,281	496	8,419
30-34	5,060	2,363	493	7,916
35-39	2,575	1,027	249	3,851
40-44	547	204	58	809
45 or over	32	8	9	49
Not stated	6	6	3	15
Total	15,624	10,545	1,681	27,850

Gestational age (weeks)	Breastfeeding	Not breastfeeding	Not stated	Total
20-31	140	74	113	327
32-36	829	703	182	1,714
37-41	14,019	9,384	1,322	24,725
42 or more	617	367	56	1,040
Not stated	19	17	8	44
Total	15,624	10,545	1,681	27,850

Birthweight	Breastfeeding	Not breastfeeding	Not stated	Total
Under 2000g	292	210	155	657
2000-2499g	552	551	134	1,237
2500-2999g	2,287	1,906	221	4,414
3000-3999g	10,506	6,764	959	18,229
4000g or more	1,973	1,090	180	3,243
Not stated	14	24	32	70
Total	15,624	10,545	1,681	27,850

Place of birth	Breastfeeding	Not breastfeeding	Not stated	Total
Home	494	202	60	756
Hospital	15,072	10,307	1,576	26,955
Ambulance	18	20	6	44
Not stated	40	16	39	95
Total	15,624	10,545	1,681	27,850

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

(a) Breastfeeding data based on new breastfeeding definitions introduced in September 2012, see notes on page 20.

(b) Excludes Abertawe Bro Morgannwg ULHB breastfeeding at birth data - see notes.

Gestations less than 20 weeks or more than 45 weeks included as "not stated"

Mother's age less than 10 and more than 54 included as "not stated"

Birthweight less than 0.5kg or more than 6kg included as "not stated"

Table 4: Live births by time of birth, Wales 2015

<u>Time (24 hour clock)</u>	<u>Live births</u>
00:00-00:59	1,408
01:00-01:59	1,337
02:00-02:59	1,428
03:00-03:59	1,374
04:00-04:59	1,322
05:00-05:59	1,282
06:00-06:59	1,202
07:00-07:59	1,105
08:00-08:59	1,034
09:00-09:59	1,522
10:00-10:59	1,895
11:00-11:59	1,698
12:00-12:59	1,604
13:00-13:59	1,404
14:00-14:59	1,729
15:00-15:59	1,597
16:00-16:59	1,496
17:00-17:59	1,249
18:00-18:59	1,183
19:00-19:59	1,280
20:00-20:59	1,169
21:00-21:59	1,329
22:00-22:59	1,336
23:00-23:59	1,371
Not stated	7
Total	33,361

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

Table 5: Live births by place of birth and mother's age, Wales 2015

<u>Mother's age (years)</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Hospital</u>	<u>Ambulance</u>	<u>Not stated</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 16	2	37	0	0	39
16-19	18	1,464	1	7	1,490
20-24	137	6,423	7	15	6,582
25-29	280	9,886	20	26	10,212
30-34	321	9,061	20	28	9,430
35-39	159	4,379	8	16	4,562
40-44	27	945	0	4	976
45 or over	0	53	0	2	55
Not stated	0	14	0	1	15
Total	944	32,262	56	99	33,361

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

Mother's age less than 10 and more than 54 included as "not stated"

Table 6: Live births by selected indicators, Wales 2005-2015

Place of birth	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Home	1,146	1,144	1,224	1,281	1,291	1,227	1,080	1,063	987	1,048	944
Hospital	31,346	32,391	33,120	34,324	33,559	34,657	34,366	34,059	32,632	32,380	32,262
Ambulance	122	127	104	25	17	16	18	19	19	53	56
Not stated	19	28	21	125	135	133	218	209	184	167	99
Total	32,633	33,690	34,469	35,755	35,002	36,033	35,682	35,350	33,822	33,648	33,361
Mother's age (years)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Under 16	88	89	79	86	74	66	57	58	46	37	39
16-19	3,000	3,027	2,945	3,016	2,839	2,720	2,409	2,214	1,887	1,690	1,490
20-24	7,254	7,614	7,780	8,194	8,195	8,325	8,115	7,965	7,363	6,893	6,582
25-29	8,406	8,656	9,301	9,894	10,035	10,350	10,268	10,137	10,055	10,125	10,212
30-34	8,560	8,605	8,463	8,518	8,214	8,779	9,107	9,396	9,014	9,429	9,430
35-39	4,416	4,764	4,884	5,018	4,620	4,690	4,618	4,438	4,334	4,399	4,562
40-44	862	875	941	974	970	1,022	1,053	1,066	1,031	1,010	976
45 or over	38	40	49	46	41	72	51	63	69	54	55
Not stated	9	20	27	9	14	9	4	13	23	11	15
Total	32,633	33,690	34,469	35,755	35,002	36,033	35,682	35,350	33,822	33,648	33,361
Gestational age (weeks)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<24	18	22	24	25	25	29	32	21	20	21	22
24-27	131	117	127	104	132	126	132	130	125	100	120
28-31	297	292	265	333	300	305	279	305	273	248	248
32-36	1,860	2,048	2,168	2,094	2,120	2,067	2,094	2,031	1,917	2,092	2,057
37-41	28,429	29,122	30,072	31,199	30,592	31,654	31,036	30,946	29,264	29,697	29,616
42+	1,620	1,780	1,588	1,718	1,546	1,700	1,949	1,767	1,487	1,420	1,252
Not stated	278	309	225	282	287	152	160	150	736	70	46
Total	32,633	33,690	34,469	35,755	35,002	36,033	35,682	35,350	33,822	33,648	33,361
Birth weight	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Under 2000g	847	887	880	916	882	911	861	932	853	754	777
2000-2499g	1,347	1,524	1,563	1,591	1,623	1,552	1,542	1,580	1,492	1,488	1,455
2500-2999g	5,267	5,352	5,485	5,576	5,586	5,589	5,604	5,657	5,341	5,162	5,276
3000-3999g	21,164	21,915	22,358	23,334	22,811	23,557	23,387	23,010	22,081	22,091	21,822
4000g or more	3,842	3,909	4,055	4,271	4,023	4,345	4,249	4,138	4,010	4,095	3,956
Not stated	166	103	128	67	77	79	39	33	45	58	75
Total (a)	32,633	33,690	34,469	35,755	35,002	36,033	35,682	35,350	33,822	33,648	33,361
Singleton birth <2500g	1,732	1,896	1,892	1,878	1,954	1,929	1,877	1,861	1,750	1,665	1,660
Total singleton with stated birth weight	31,619	32,677	33,381	34,599	33,903	34,945	34,690	34,246	32,784	32,595	32,251
Breastfeeding (b)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Breastfeeding	15,780	15,445	15,959	17,810	18,032	17,983	18,062	16,918	15,677	15,171	16,246
Not breastfeeding	12,867	12,580	12,551	13,777	13,793	14,524	14,469	13,406	12,367	11,041	10,956
Not stated	3,986	5,665	5,959	4,168	3,177	3,526	3,151	5,026	5,778	7,436	6,159
Total	32,633	33,690	34,469	35,755	35,002	36,033	35,682	35,350	33,822	33,648	33,361
Number of Babies	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1 Baby	31,731	32,769	33,503	34,658	33,968	35,019	34,723	34,276	32,823	32,646	32,318
More than 1 Baby	856	916	966	1,097	1,034	1,014	959	1,074	999	1,002	1,043
Not stated	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (a)	32,587	33,690	34,469	35,755	35,002	36,033	35,682	35,350	33,822	33,648	33,361

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

(a) Note that the data for birth weight and numbers of babies for 2005 was extracted from a more recent version of the database than the other parts of Table 6 and therefore are not consistent.

(b) Breastfeeding data based on new breastfeeding definitions introduced in September 2012, see notes on page 20.

Gestations less than 20 weeks or more than 45 weeks included as "not stated"

Mother's age less than 10 and more than 54 included as "not stated"

Birthweight less than 0.5kg or more than 6kg included as "not stated"

Table 7: Key statistics for live births, Wales 2005-15

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Live births	32,633	33,690	34,469	35,755	35,002	36,033	35,682	35,350	33,822	33,648	33,361
Homebirths	3.5%	3.4%	3.6%	3.6%	3.7%	3.4%	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%	3.1%	2.8%
Mothers aged under 20	9.5%	9.3%	8.8%	8.7%	8.3%	7.7%	6.9%	6.4%	5.7%	5.1%	4.6%
Gestational age < 37 weeks	7.1%	7.4%	7.5%	7.2%	7.4%	7.0%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.3%	7.3%
All babies - Low birth weight (<2500g)	6.8%	7.2%	7.1%	7.0%	7.2%	6.9%	6.7%	7.1%	6.9%	6.7%	6.7%
Singleton - Low birth weight (<2500g)	5.5%	5.8%	5.7%	5.4%	5.8%	5.5%	5.4%	5.4%	5.3%	5.1%	5.1%
Breastfeeding (a)	55.1%	55.1%	56.0%	56.4%	56.7%	55.3%	55.5%	55.8%	55.9%	57.9%	59.7%
Multiple births	2.6%	2.7%	2.8%	3.1%	3.0%	2.8%	2.7%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.1%

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

(a) Breastfeeding data for 2012 onwards is based on new breastfeeding definitions introduced in September 2012, see notes on page 20 of Statistical Release.

Percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated place of birth / mother's age / gestational age / birth weight / breastfeeding status. In addition:

Gestations less than 20 weeks or more than 45 weeks included as "not stated"

Mother's age less than 10 and more than 54 included as "not stated"

Birthweight less than 0.5kg or more than 6kg included as "not stated"

Table 8: Live births by LHB of residence and place of birth, 2015

LHB / LA of residence	Number						Per cent (a)			
	Place of birth						Place of birth			
	Births in Wales			Births outside Wales			Births in Wales			Births outside Wales
	Welsh hospital	Ambulance	Home	Not stated	English hospital	All births	Welsh hospital	Ambulance	Home	English hospital
Betsi Cadwaladr										
University LHB	6,127	16	150	14	748	7,055	87%	0%	2%	11%
Isle of Anglesey	656	1	28	1	7	693	95%	0%	4%	1%
Gwynedd	1,112	2	29	1	8	1,152	97%	0%	3%	1%
Conwy	1,073	4	24	4	1	1,106	97%	0%	2%	0%
Denbighshire	1,015	0	16	7	17	1,055	97%	0%	2%	2%
Flintshire	865	4	22	1	670	1,562	55%	0%	1%	43%
Wrexham	1,406	5	31	0	45	1,487	95%	0%	2%	3%
Powys Teaching LHB	703	4	108	7	289	1,111	64%	0%	10%	26%
Hywel Dda University LHB	3,486	15	151	0	8	3,660	95%	0%	4%	0%
Ceredigion	602	4	26	0	1	633	95%	1%	4%	0%
Pembrokeshire	1,116	7	53	0	1	1,177	95%	1%	5%	0%
Carmarthenshire	1,768	4	72	0	6	1,850	96%	0%	4%	0%
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg										
University LHB	5,288	12	188	4	19	5,511	96%	0%	3%	0%
Swansea	2,406	6	91	2	12	2,517	96%	0%	4%	0%
Neath Port Talbot	1,441	6	42	0	4	1,493	97%	0%	3%	0%
Bridgend	1,441	0	55	2	3	1,501	96%	0%	4%	0%
Cardiff and Vale										
University LHB	5,721	0	156	38	1	5,916	97%	0%	3%	0%
Vale of Glamorgan	1,268	0	64	10	1	1,343	95%	0%	5%	0%
Cardiff	4,453	0	92	28	0	4,573	98%	0%	2%	0%
Cwm Taf University LHB	3,340	0	61	6	10	3,417	98%	0%	2%	0%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	2,607	0	54	5	8	2,674	98%	0%	2%	0%
Merthyr Tydfil	733	0	7	1	2	743	99%	0%	1%	0%
Aneurin Bevan										
University LHB	6,379	7	126	16	25	6,553	98%	0%	2%	0%
Caerphilly	1,996	2	33	2	10	2,043	98%	0%	2%	0%
Blaenau Gwent	736	0	15	2	1	754	98%	0%	2%	0%
Torfaen	972	1	18	0	4	995	98%	0%	2%	0%
Monmouthshire	747	0	21	11	10	789	96%	0%	3%	1%
Newport	1,928	4	39	1	0	1,972	98%	0%	2%	0%
Not stated	72	2	4	14	46	138	58%	2%	3%	37%
Wales	31,116	56	944	99	1,146	33,361	94%	0%	3%	3%
Not Welsh resident	339	-	-	-	-	339	100%	-	-	-

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

(a) Percentage of records with a stated place of birth

.. Data item not available

Key Quality Information

Source

Operational Child Health System (CCH2000) databases held by LHBs. Completeness and data quality of the items held on NCCHD vary depending on the extent to which LHBs use the items for administrative purposes. Improving data quality with the help of LHBs is an ongoing process.

Please see the "[Births in Wales: Data from the National Community Child Health Database Quality Report](#)" for further background and quality information.

Coverage

Statistics in the release relate to live births born to Welsh residents during the relevant calendar year. The release profiles live births to Welsh residents. However births occurring **in** Wales (whether to Welsh or non Welsh residents) can also be counted by the NCCHD and these are shown by maternity unit in a StatsWales table.

Published Statistics on births in Wales

Knowledge & Analytical Services currently publishes two main annual outputs on births and deliveries in Wales. These utilise different sources of data and will be used in different circumstances:

Maternity Statistics: Method of Delivery, 2005-2015: This release summarises deliveries occurring in Welsh hospitals by method of delivery. The data source is PEDW (Patient Episode Data Wales) and is for hospital deliveries only. The release includes information on length of stay, inductions, complications and so on. See [Maternity Statistics: Method of Delivery, 2005-2015](#).

Births in Wales: data from the National Community Child Health Database, 2005-2015: The current release summarises birth data items on the NCCHD including data which is not available for Wales from other sources such as births by gestation and breastfeeding. The release covers live births to Welsh residents but NCCHD can also provide counts of births in Welsh maternity units and these are included in a StatsWales table.

Registered births and infant mortality statistics are routinely produced by the Office for National Statistics and should be used as the main source of birth statistics for Wales.

Other published birth data for Wales includes Health Maps Wales published by NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS) and the All Wales Perinatal Survey:

Health Maps Wales is an interactive tool that can be used to explore a variety of health indicators. The maps allow the user to explore data at their geographic area of choice (where available), to look at trends and to compare areas against a Wales comparison figure. Indicators are available at Middle Super Output Area (MSOA), Upper Super Output Area (USOA) and Unitary Authority (UA) level subject to rules of disclosure and small numbers. Data from the NCCHD include indicators for birth and baby information such as birth weight, maternal age, gestational age and breastfeeding.

See [Health Maps Wales](#).

Data from the NCCHD is also used by the [All Wales Perinatal Survey](#) to analyse early child deaths.

Data access, confidentiality and disclosure control

NCCHD is a database containing information about individual children in Wales and it is paramount that their confidentiality be protected. The possibility of identifying confidential information about individuals from this data has been considered. Some data items may be of a sensitive nature and as a result published tables are designed so as to not contain many dimensions and low cell counts. Users may request tabulated data from the Information Services Department in NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS). In order to ensure the correct data is supplied users will be asked to refine the request and describe the use they intend to make of the data. They also may be asked to collapse groups if the team fear that the resulting table may be disclosive e.g. aggregated age groups rather than single years of age. Any requests for data (including individual record level data) that the team feels may be potentially disclosive will be referred to the database Caldicott Guardian and, if necessary, to the Welsh Information Governance Board (WIGB). At this stage an extract of micro-data (individual record level data) will only be available in a limited way and only when sufficient reassurance has been received that access, confidentiality and disclosure issues have been fully addressed by the potential user, including the completion a Data Access Agreement.

Our statistics take into account our disclosure control guidance and follow ONS confidentiality guidelines for Health statistics available from: [ONS best-practice guidelines](#).

Revisions

NCCHD is a live database and is refreshed quarterly. If reports are run from subsequent versions of the database counts will differ from published figures. Historical data is not revised unless errors are discovered.

What are the potential uses of these statistics?

These statistics will be used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- advice to Ministers;
- to inform debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond;
- to make publicly available data on child health statistics in Wales;
- monitoring service delivery;
- policy development;
- providing advice on birth choices.

Who are the key potential users of this data?

Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;

- Local Health Boards;
- The research community;
- Students, academics and universities;
- Those concerned with child health, Individual citizens and private hospitals.

- NHS organisations
- Voluntary birth organisations

Relevance

The statistics provide an overview of key birth indicators in Wales. We are working with colleagues to identify and collect additional data relating to births in Wales in the context of the [Maternity Strategy](#) and are making plans for improved statistical publication.

In our statistical outputs we provide background to our statistics and information for users. We encourage users of the statistics to contact us to let us know how they use the data.

We consult with key users prior to making changes, and where possible publicise changes on the internet, at committees and other networks to consult with users more widely. We aim to respond quickly to policy changes to ensure our statistics remain relevant.

Accuracy

1. Data quality

The number of live births to Welsh residents recorded on NCCHD for 2015 compares well with the 33,544 recorded in 2014 registration statistics by ONS. This emphasises the completeness of the NCCHD data at the all-Wales level. However, there remain data quality issues to be addressed at lower level geographies, especially for small areas. See Annex A.

The tables below shows a percentage comparison between NCCHD and ONS registered live births for 2009-2014 by mother's age and birth weight:

Live births by mother's age

% of births with stated mother's age

Mother's age	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	NCCHD	ONS	NCCHD	ONS	NCCHD	ONS	NCCHD	ONS	NCCHD	ONS	NCCHD	ONS
Under 20	8.3	8.2	7.7	7.6	6.9	6.8	6.4	6.4	5.7	5.7	5.1	5.1
20-24	23.4	23.4	23.1	23.0	22.7	22.7	22.5	22.4	21.8	21.7	20.5	20.2
25-29	28.7	28.8	28.7	28.9	28.8	28.9	28.7	28.8	29.7	29.8	30.1	30.1
30-34	23.5	23.5	24.4	24.4	25.5	25.6	26.6	26.7	26.7	26.8	28.0	28.2
35-39	13.2	13.3	13.0	13.0	12.9	13.0	12.6	12.6	12.8	12.8	13.1	13.1
40 and over	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2
Total	91.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total stated	34,858	34,937	36,024	35,952	35,678	35,598	35,337	35,238	33,799	33,747	33,637	33,544

Live births by birthweight

% of births with stated birthweight

Birth weight	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	NCCHD	ONS	NCCHD	ONS	NCCHD	ONS	NCCHD	ONS	NCCHD	ONS	NCCHD	ONS
Under 2500g	7.1	7.2	6.9	7.0	6.7	6.8	7.1	7.3	6.9	7.1	6.7	6.7
2500-3999g	81.3	81.2	81.1	81.0	81.3	81.4	81.2	81.1	81.2	81.1	81.1	81.1
4000g or more	11.5	11.5	12.1	12.0	11.9	11.8	11.7	11.7	11.9	11.8	12.2	12.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total stated	34,801	34,652	35,954	35,475	35,643	35,337	35,317	35,180	33,777	33,679	33,590	33,403

There is recognition that there are a number of sources of birth and maternity data which are not integrated. Work to improve, rationalise and better integrate birth statistics in Wales has been ongoing for some time. In the context of the [Maternity Strategy](#) we are working with NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS) and Public Health Wales to improve maternity data collection and statistical publication. The first set of Maternity indicators has been published by Public Health Wales in the [Pregnancy and Childhood Surveillance Tool](#).

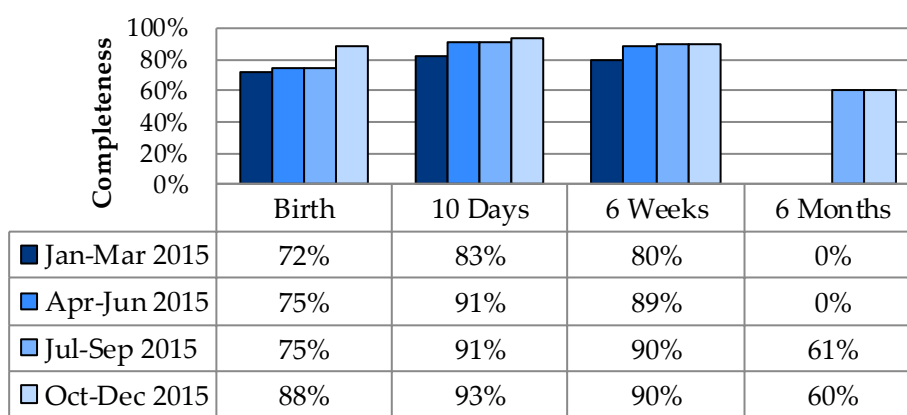
2. Completeness

Completeness and data quality of the items held on NCCHD vary depending on the extent to which Health Boards use the items for administrative purposes. Improving data quality with the help of Health Boards is an ongoing process. With the exception of breastfeeding and Apgar score data, items in this release were more than 99% complete in 2015. Note that the accompanying charts and tables may include categories for not stated data. Calculated percentages exclude not stated values from the denominator unless otherwise stated. 2014 and 2015 births: we are aware that there have been technical problems in Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMU) resulting in a failure of breastfeeding at birth data to be recorded on the Child Health system. Due to this breastfeeding data for ABMU has been omitted from Charts 9 to 16 and from Table 3.

3. Introduction of new breastfeeding definitions

From September 2012 Health Boards started to record infant feeding data on to the Child Health System according to revised definitions, which, as time progresses, is providing more detailed breastfeeding data. During the changes being made from the old recording method to the new, NWIS have combined the data fields to utilise as much data as possible. Information on infant feeding at birth uses data recorded in two possible fields in the child health system i.e. from the old 'yes/no' birth data entry screen and from the new detailed data entry screen which records information on type of breastfeeding. The same is true for infant feeding at 6-8 weeks i.e. data from the old 'yes/no' 8 week screen is combined with data from the new detailed 6 week screen.

The chart below shows percentage completeness of breastfeeding data at birth, 10 days, 6-8 weeks and 6 months for each quarter 1 in 2015. Note that completeness at 6 months wasn't collected before the July to September 2015 quarter.



The charts and tables in the statistics may include categories for not stated data. Calculated percentages exclude not stated values from the denominator unless otherwise stated. The quantity of missing data for each data item is referred to throughout the text.

Following each quarterly refresh of the database, completeness tables for key variables are posted on the NHS Wales Intranet for LHBS to review.

Non-sampling error is reduced by standards and guidance is provided about the data collections (see above). Where non-sampling error affects the data, we provide full information for users to allow them to make informed judgements on the quality of the statistics, particularly if there are limitations of the data.

NCCHD is a live database and is refreshed quarterly. If reports are run from subsequent versions of the database counts will differ from published figures. Historical data is not revised unless errors are discovered. In the case of incorrect data being published, revisions would be made and users informed. This happens infrequently but occasionally does happen, for example the 2009 data in these statistics were revised following the discovery that a small number of live births had been omitted from the 2009 dataset when first published. The subsequent re-run of the data resulted in a net addition of 126 live births; this revision was highlighted in the 2010 release and the associated StatsWales tables revised.

Timeliness and punctuality

The Health Statistics and Analysis Unit of the Welsh Government receives an extract of data from NWIS annually in May for births occurring in the previous calendar year. The NCCHD is refreshed from local Child Health System databases every quarter (end January, April, July and October) and, in order to allow for any late recording of births, the April refresh rather than the January refresh is utilised.

All outputs adhere to the Code of Practice by pre-announcing the date of publication through the [Upcoming calendar](#) web pages. Furthermore, should the need arise to postpone an output this would follow our standard arrangements on [Revisions, errors and postponements](#).

We publish releases as soon as practical after the relevant time period. Births in Wales: Data from the National Community Child Health Database is published annually in July/August.

Accessibility and clarity

The statistics are published in an accessible, orderly, pre-announced manner on the Welsh Government website at 9:30am on the day of publication. An RSS feed alerts registered users to this publication. Simultaneously the releases are also published on the National Statistics Publication Hub. We also publicise our outputs on [Twitter](#). All releases are available to download for free.

More detailed data is available at the same time on the [StatsWales website](#) and this can be manipulated online or downloaded into spreadsheets for use offline.

We aim to use Plain English in our outputs and all outputs adhere to the Welsh Government's [accessibility policy](#). Furthermore, all our headlines are published in Welsh and English.

Further information regarding the statistics can be obtained by contacting the relevant staff detailed on the release or via stats.healthinfo@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Comparability and coherence

Where there are changes to the data provided, this is shown clearly in the outputs. Where advance warning is known of future changes these will be pre-announced in accordance with Welsh Government arrangements.

Other countries do not have an equivalent national community child health database although they do publish statistics on related areas, for example [Public Health England publishes infant feeding data for England](#).

The [ISD publishes information for Scotland on child health](#) and on [maternity & births](#).

Northern Ireland statistics on public health are available from the [Northern Ireland Public Health Agency](#) and demography statistics from the [Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency \(NISRA\)](#).

All countries publish maternity statistics; more information on their comparability across the UK is provided in the [Maternity Statistics Quality Report](#).

Every year the data are all collected from the same source and adhere to the national standard; they will also be coherent within and across health organisations. However work continues to improve consistency of standards and definition guided by a steering group for the database.

National Statistics status

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics

Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016 and this releases includes 1 of the national indicators namely

- Percentage of live single births with a birth weight of under 2,500g.

Low birth weight is associated with health risks in an infant's first year of life. The indicator will be based on singleton births and will be calculated as the percentage of births that are less than 2,500 grams.

Numerator: Singleton live births with a birth weight less than 2500g.

Denominator: All singleton live births.

Information on indicators and associated technical information - [How do you measure a nation's progress? - National Indicators](#)

As a national indicator under the Act they must be referred to in the analyses of local well-being produced by public services boards when they are analysing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their areas.

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

Further details

The document is available at: <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/births-national-community-child-health-database/?lang=en>

NWIS run a request service from the National Community Child Health Database:

Contact details: Louise.Richards7@wales.nhs.uk

Next update

August 2017 (provisional)

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to stats.healthinfo@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

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Completeness of data items 2009-2014

Data Item Name	Data Item Term	% Completeness						
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Trust Number	Unique number identifying the Trust	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Date of Birth	Date of Birth of Child	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Time of Birth	Time of Birth of Child	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Sex	Gender of the Child	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Ward Code	Electoral and Census	99%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	100%
LHB	The Local Health Board with responsibility for the Child based on residence.	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	100%
Initial Status	The reason why the record was initially created and the date of creation	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Current Status	The reason why the child has reached its current status and the date it reached this status	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
GP Practice	The OCS code for the current GP practice of the child	99%	99%	99%	98%	99%	99%	99%
HV Code	The current Health Visitor code for the child	99%	99%	99%	98%	99%	98%	98%
Number Born	The number of births resulting from the pregnancy	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Birth Order	The order of the birth where more than one birth resulted from the pregnancy	100%	93%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%
Birth Weight	First weight of baby following delivery, preferably in the first hour of life.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Age of Mother	Mother's age at time of birth	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Ethnic Group	The ethnicity of the child as defined by the mother	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Mode of Delivery	The procedure by which the mother is delivered of the baby.	65%	69%	70%	70%	63%	63%	62%
Onset of Labour	The method by which the process of labour began	69%	69%	69%	69%	62%	61%	61%
Breast Feeding at Birth (a)	Indicator of mother's intention to breast or bottle feed, baby being breast or bottle fed at birth.	89%	89%	90%	92%	82%	77%	82%
Breast Feeding at 8 weeks. (a)	Indicator of mother's actual feeding, either breast or bottle age of 8 weeks	61%	63%	62%	71%	65%	86%	93%
Smoking History	The number of cigarettes that the mother smokes each day	65%	65%	65%	66%	60%	57%	59%
Maternal Care	The type of maternal care	58%	58%	60%	60%	60%	56%	58%
Gestational Age	Best estimate of gestation at time of delivery, normally based on post menstrual age but may be modified on the basis of ultrasound scan.	99%	100%	100%	100%	98%	100%	100%
Apgar Score 1 min	The total apgar score for a baby at 1 minute after birth.	70%	70%	70%	70%	94%	95%	95%
Apgar Score 5 min	The total apgar score for a baby at 5 minutes after birth.	91%	90%	93%	93%	94%	94%	94%
Place of Birth	Actual place of child's birth, i.e. hospital number or home	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%