

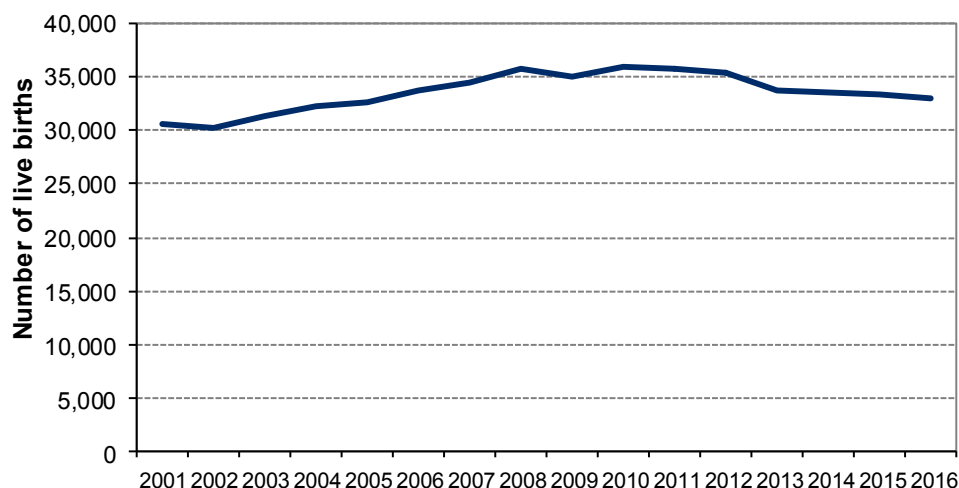


Births in Wales 2006 - 2016: Data from the National Community Child Health Database

16 August 2017
SFR 92/2017

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, 2001-2016



Key points

- The NCCHD recorded 33,004 live births in 2016 to Welsh residents, an increase of 8 per cent since 2001 but a fall of 1 per cent since 2015.
- Mother's age: the proportion of young mothers has fallen since 2006 with 4.5 per cent of live births in 2016 being born to mothers aged under 20, less than half of what it was in 2006 (9.3 per cent).
- Gestation: 7.8 per cent of live births in 2016 took place at less than 37 weeks gestational age, this proportion has fluctuated between 7 per cent and 7.8 per cent since 2006.
- Birth weight: 6.9 per cent of all live births in 2016 had a low birth weight (less than 2,500g) compared to 5.4 per cent of singleton live births. This is one of the [46 National Indicators](#).

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 2006- 2016

The National Community Child Health Database recorded 33,004 live births in 2016 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 2016 but 1,224 (4 per cent) live births to Welsh residents were delivered in English hospitals. A further 322 babies whose mothers were English residents were delivered in Welsh hospitals. See [table 8](#) for a breakdown by Health Board.

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

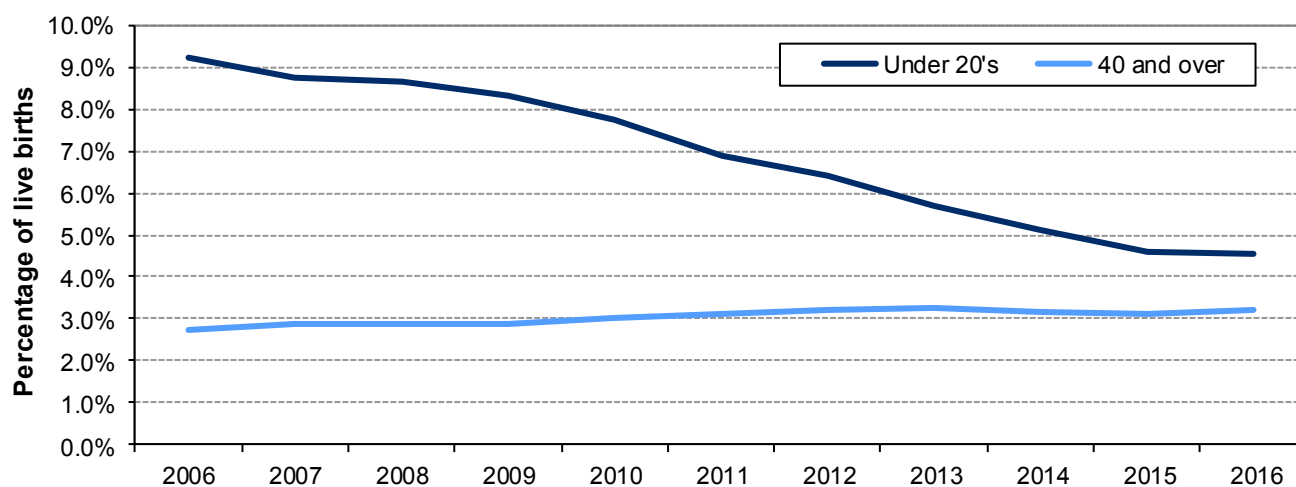
	Births in Wales				Births outside Wales	
	Hospital	Home	Ambulance	Not stated	English Hospital	All births
Births to Welsh residents	30,804	858	38	80	1,224	33,004
Births to non-Welsh residents	322	0	0	0	..	322

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

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

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

Chart 2: Percentage of live births by age of mother, 2006-2016

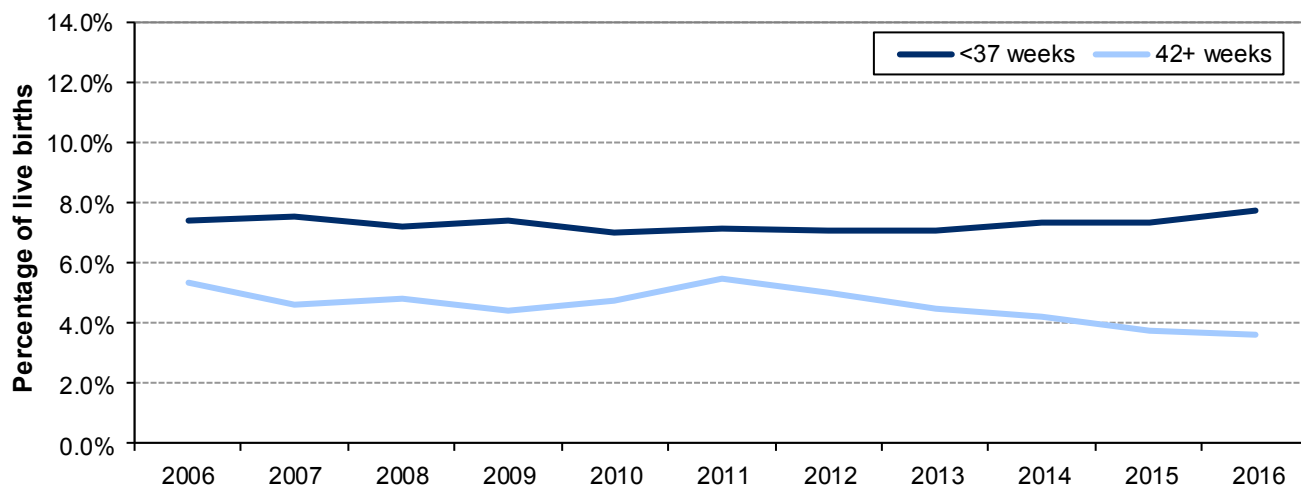


Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated mother's age. These are very few however with only 10 births having no mother's age stated in 2016.

The vast majority of live births are born to women aged 20 to 39 (92 per cent in 2016). 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 2006, from 9 per cent to 5 per cent in 2016. 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, 2006-2016



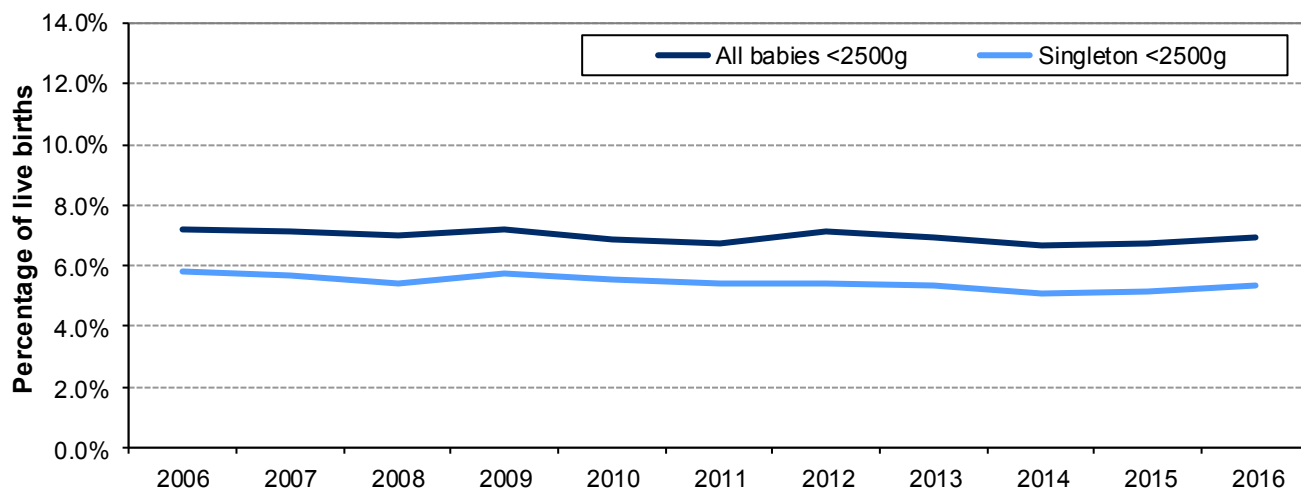
Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

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: 155 births had no stated gestational age in 2016 (includes gestations of less than 20 weeks and more than 45 weeks).

89 per cent of live births in 2016 were born at 37-41 weeks gestation, no change since 2015. 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. 7.8 per cent of all live births were "pre-term", that is, at less than 37 weeks gestation in 2016. Completeness of gestation data has generally improved since 2006, with the proportion of live births with no stated gestation having fallen from 0.9 per cent in 2006 to 0.5 per cent in 2016.

Chart 4: Percentage of live births by birth weight, 2006-2016



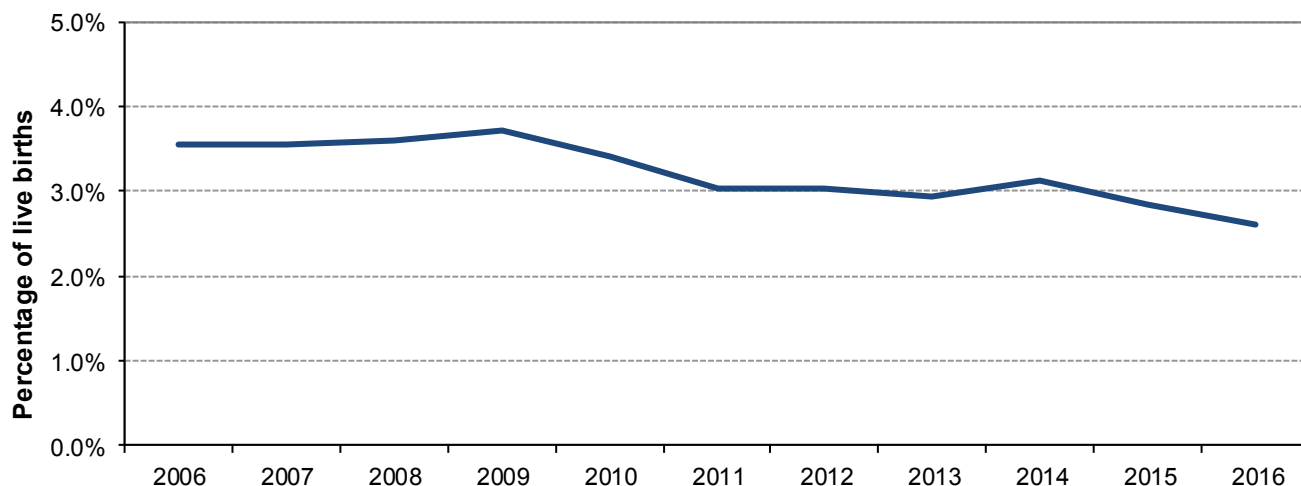
Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated birth weight: 140 births had no stated birth weight in 2016 (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](#).

81 per cent of live births in 2016 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. 6.9 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 5.8 per cent in 2006 to 5.4 per cent in 2016.

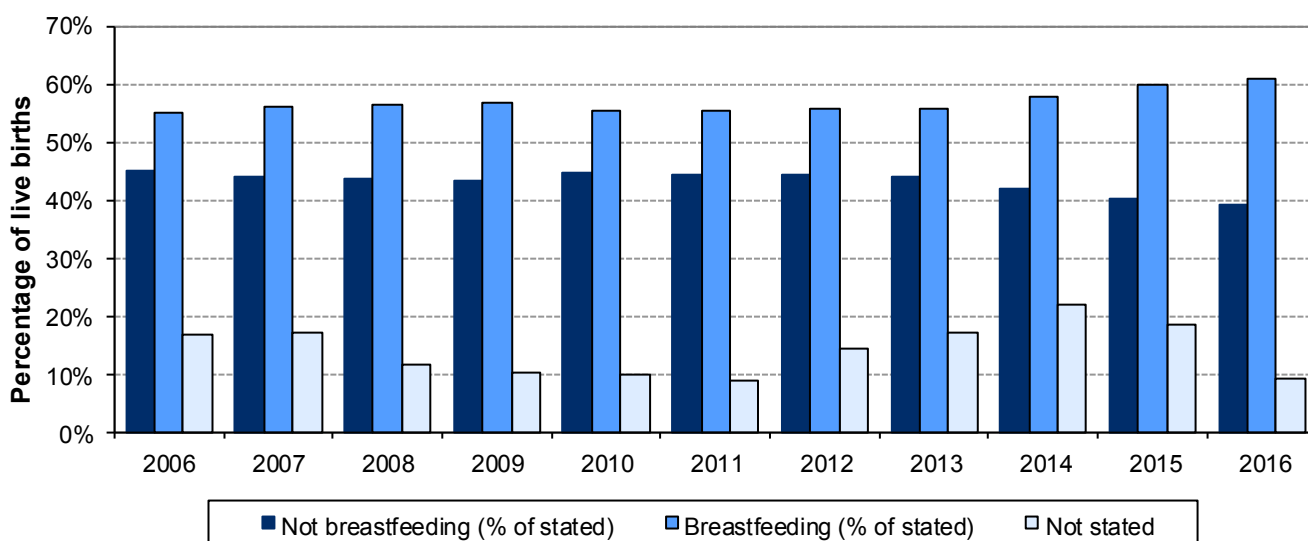
Chart 5: Percentage of live births born at home, 2006-2016



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016
 The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated place of birth: 80 births had no stated place of birth in 2016.

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 in 2016. The number of births with place of birth not stated increased from a total of 28 in 2006 to 80 in 2016.

Chart 6: Breastfeeding at birth, percentage of live births, 2006-2016



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

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 2006 to 2016. The proportion of records with no breastfeeding status recorded at birth was 9 per cent in 2016. There have been technical problems in Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMU) since 2014 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 2006 to 61 per cent in 2016.

Key characteristics / outcomes - live births to Welsh residents 2016

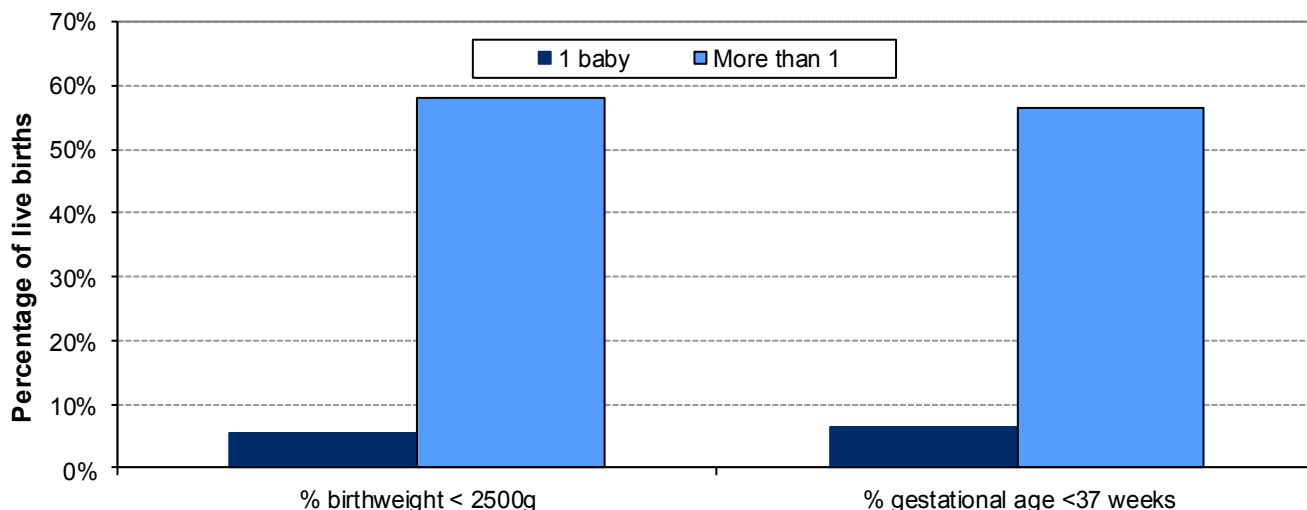
Multiple births, birth weight and gestational age

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 2006.

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 is based on singleton births and is 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, 2016



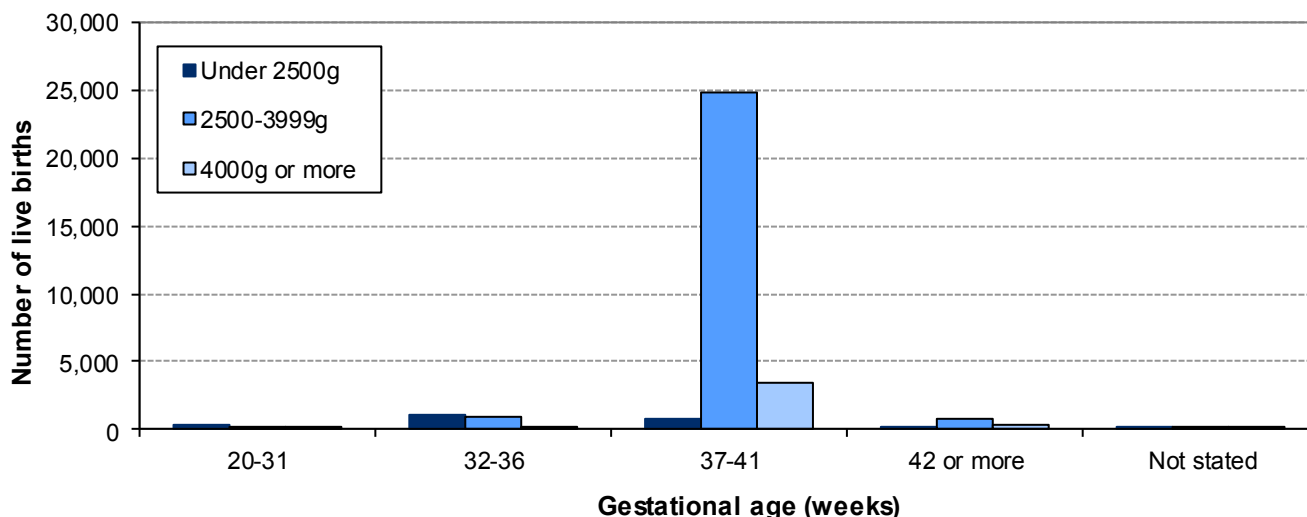
Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated birth weight or gestational age: 140 births had no stated birth weight in 2016 (includes birth weights of less than 0.5kg or more than 6kg). 155 births had no stated gestational age in 2016 (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 in 2016 compared to 58 per cent of multiple births (7 per cent of all live births).

8 per cent of all live births were at less than 37 weeks gestation in 2016. More than half of multiples (56 per cent) were born at less than 37 weeks, compared to just 6 per cent of singleton births.

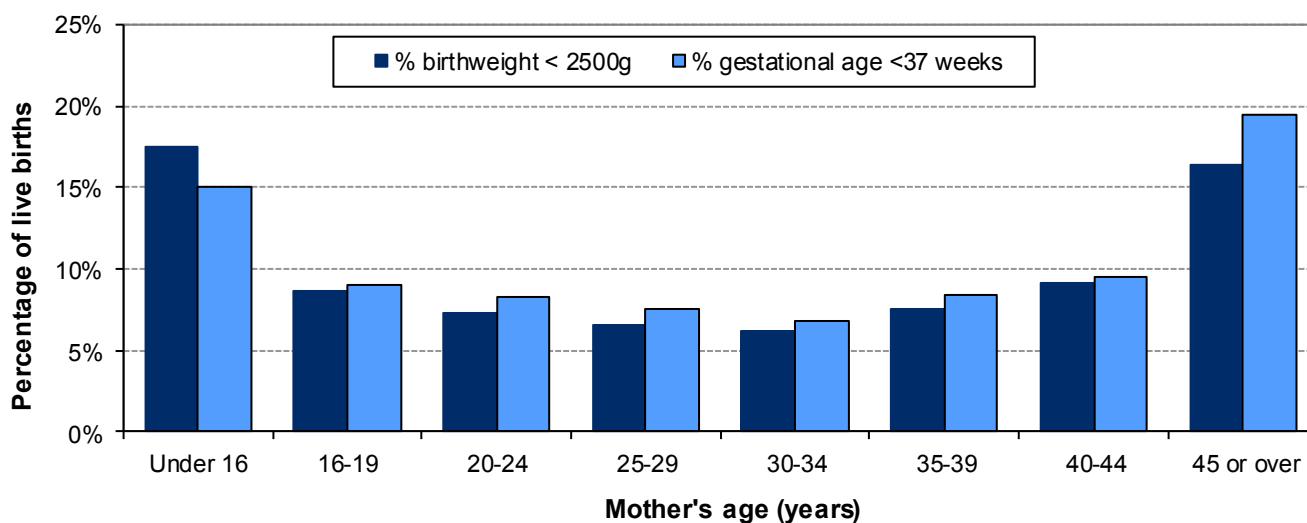
Chart 8: Live births by birth weight and gestational age, 2016



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

92 per cent of births in 2016 took place at 37 weeks gestation or more. The majority of these had a birth weight of 2500g or over. However 97 per cent of births born at gestations less than 32 weeks and 53 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, 2016



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

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 2016

Breastfeeding at birth

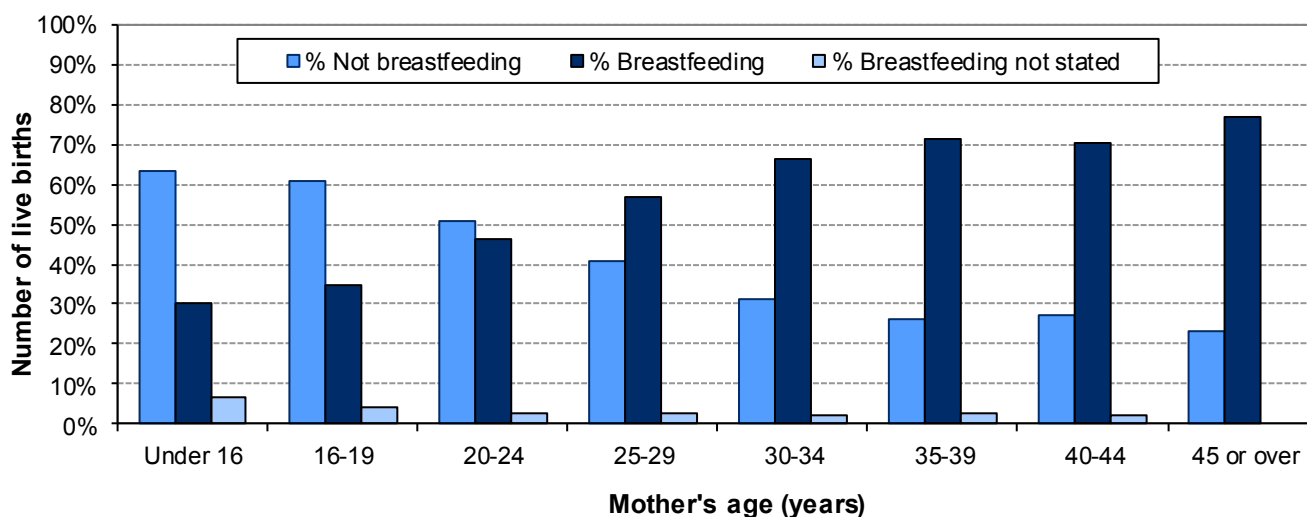
Base data for these charts are available in [Table 3](#) and on the [StatsWales website](#).

At least 18,254 babies were breastfed at birth in 2016, 61 per cent of all births with known breastfeeding status. The true number is not known as there is much missing data - 9 per cent of birth records had no breastfeeding status recorded. As [earlier described](#), 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 3 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 61 per cent. Data about the type of breastfeeding occurring at birth was known for three-quarters (75 per cent) of those babies which were stated as breastfed at birth, which is an increase since last year (57 per cent in 2015) and a substantial improvement on the 2012 figure of 8 per cent. Of this small group, almost all, 97 per cent, were fed exclusive breast milk. The remaining 3 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.

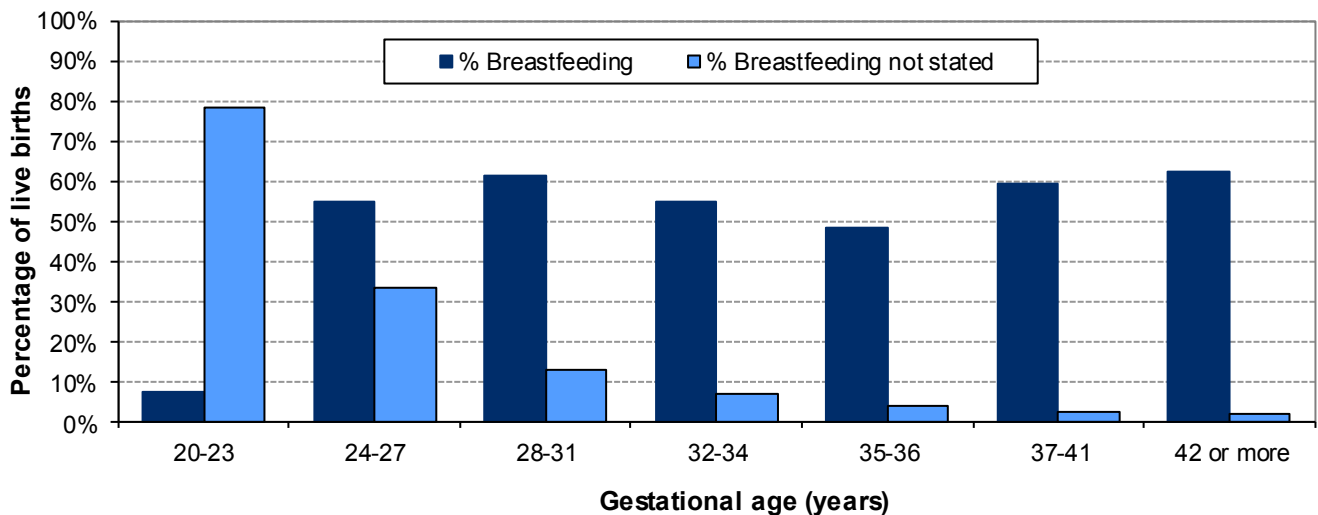
Chart 10: Breastfeeding at birth by mother's age, 2016



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016
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 59 per cent (percentage of all births) or 61 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.

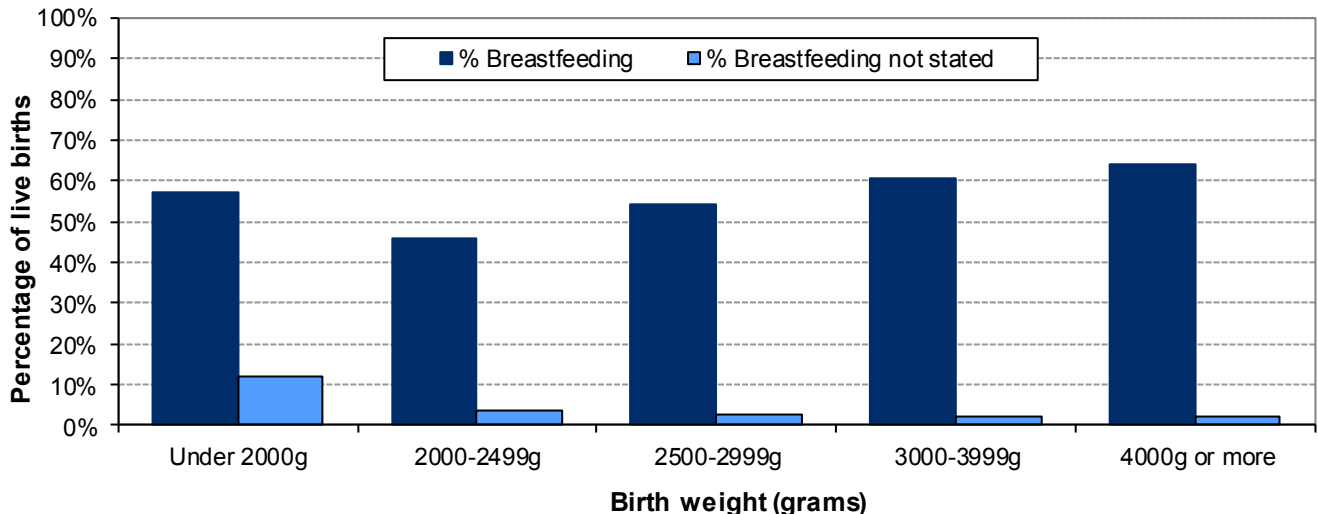
Chart 11: Percentage of live births by breastfeeding status at birth and gestational age, 2016



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016
 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 very low gestational ages.

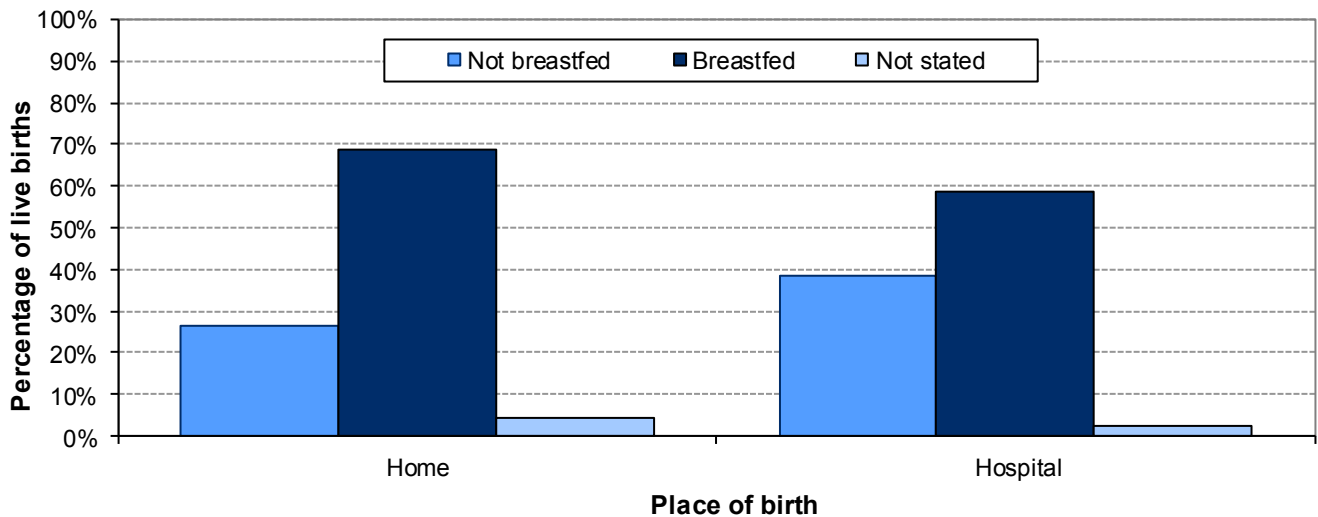
Chart 12: Percentage of live births by breastfeeding status at birth and birth weight, 2016



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016
 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.

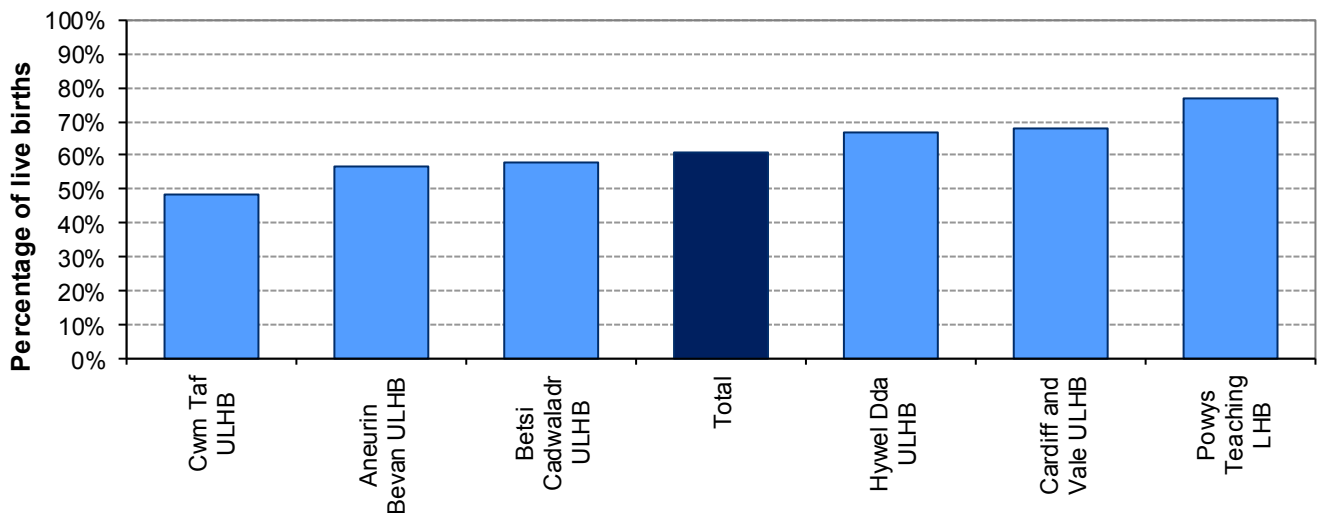
Chart 13: Percentage of live births by breastfeeding status at birth and place of birth, 2016



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016
 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 5 per cent of live births born at home and 3 per cent in hospital, in 2016. 69 per cent of home births and 59 per cent of hospital births were recorded as breastfed (72 per cent and 60 per cent respectively of births with a stated breastfeeding status). For 33 births the place of birth recorded was "ambulance" and 74 had no stated place of birth.

Chart 14: Percentage of live births that were breastfed at birth by Local Health Board, 2016



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016
 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 (77 per cent) and lowest for those in Cwm Taf University LHB (48 per cent). Across all Health Boards 61 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 2016.

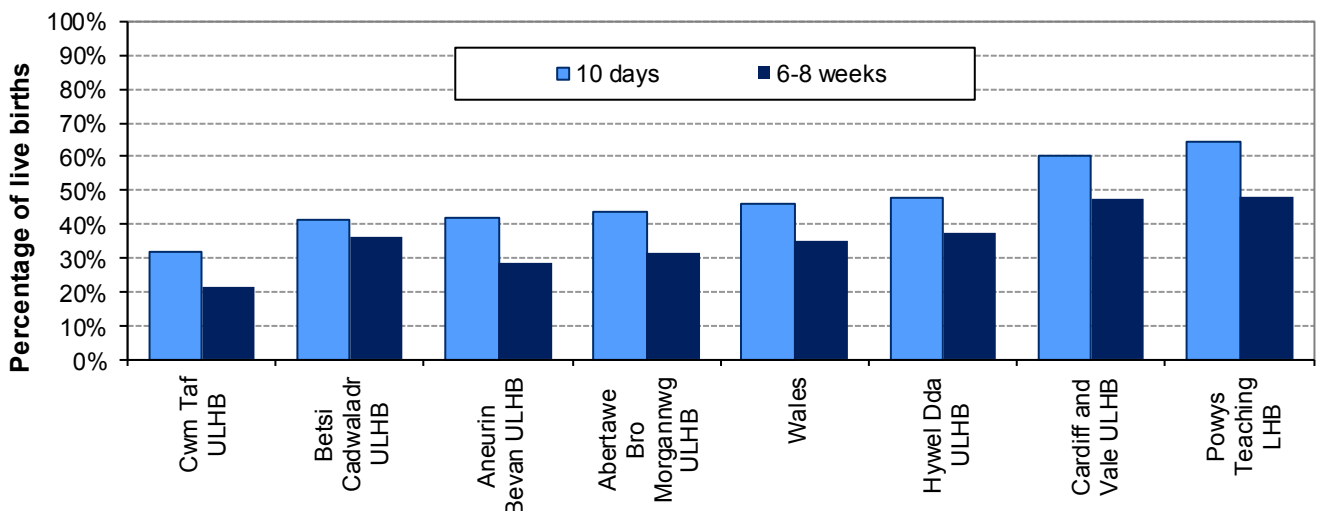
The percentage of babies exclusively breastfed at 10 days of age is one of a set of maternity indicators developed following the publication of the '[Strategic Vision for Maternity Services in Wales](#)' in 2011. The indicators are available from Public Health Wales' '[Pregnancy and childhood surveillance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

Chart 15: Percentage of babies receiving any breast milk at 10 days and 6-8 weeks by Local Health Board, 2016

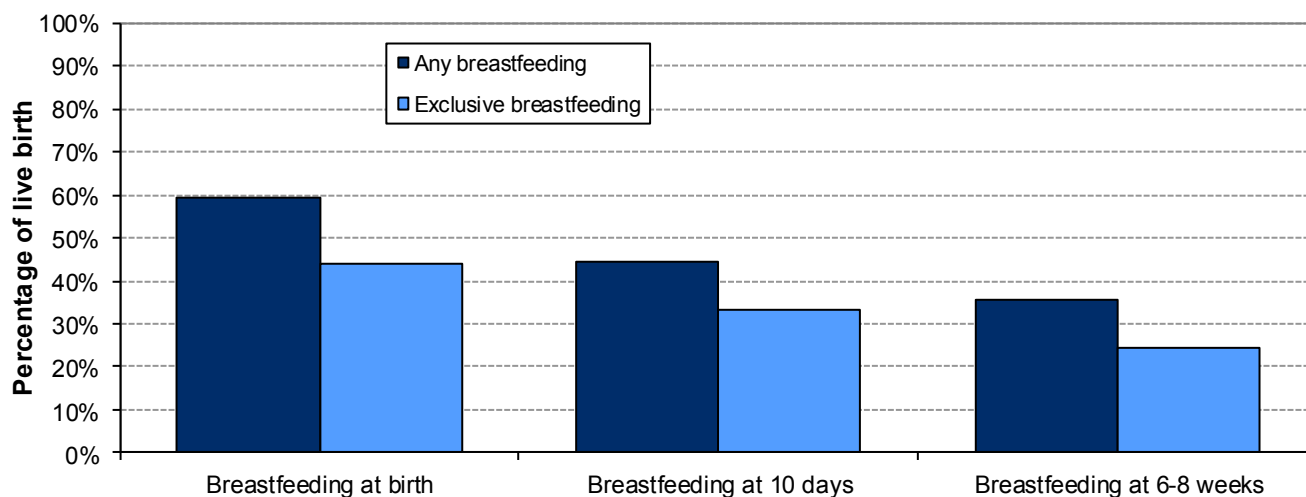


Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

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 13% had no stated breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks in 2016.

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: Powys Teaching LHB having the highest rates at both 10 days and 6-8 weeks (64 per cent and 48 per cent respectively) and Cwm Taf University LHB having the lowest (32 per cent and 22 per cent respectively).

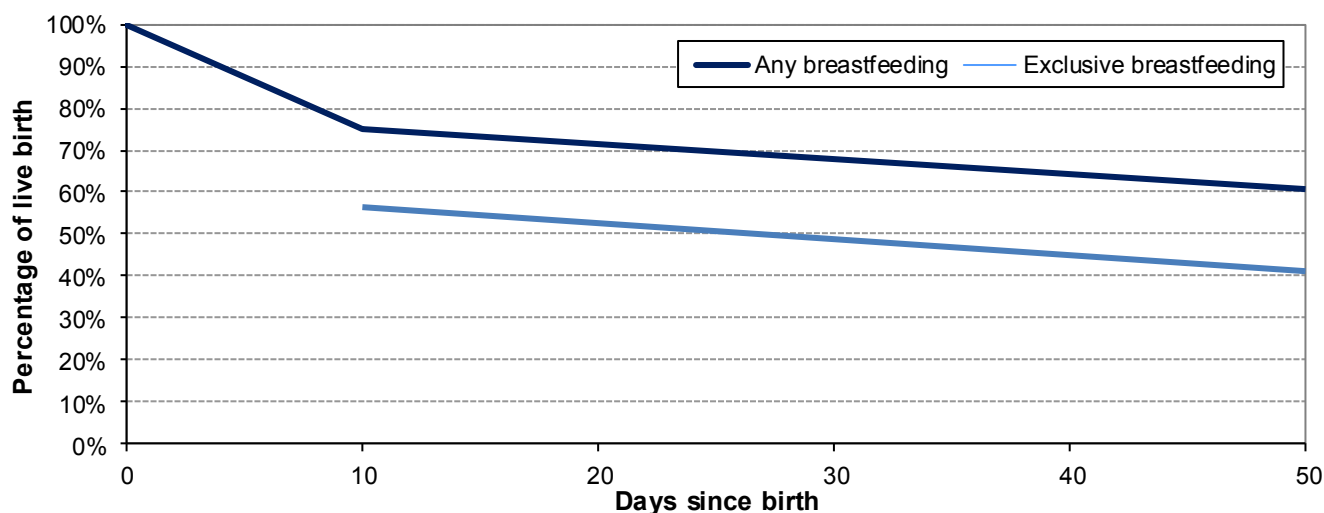
Chart 16: Percentage of babies exclusively breastfed or receiving any breast milk from birth to age 6-8 weeks, 2016



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016
 Note that ABMU Local Health Board is excluded from this chart, see notes.
 Note that the percentage is of 23,396 records with complete data for infant feeding at birth, 10 days and 6-8 weeks

Chart 16 considers the 23,396 records with complete data for infant feeding at birth, 10 days *and* 6-8 weeks (and at only 6 Health Boards as per Charts 10-14). 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, 2016



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016
 Note that ABMU Local Health Board is excluded from this chart, see notes.
 Note that the percentage is of 13,868 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 (13,868 records) which at birth were recorded as receiving any breast milk (i.e. a subset of the 23,396 records which had recorded infant feeding data for all three times). After the first 10 days, of these 13,868 records (100 per cent of babies breastfed of birth), only 10,373 (75 per cent) were still being breastfed, and 8,332 (60 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.

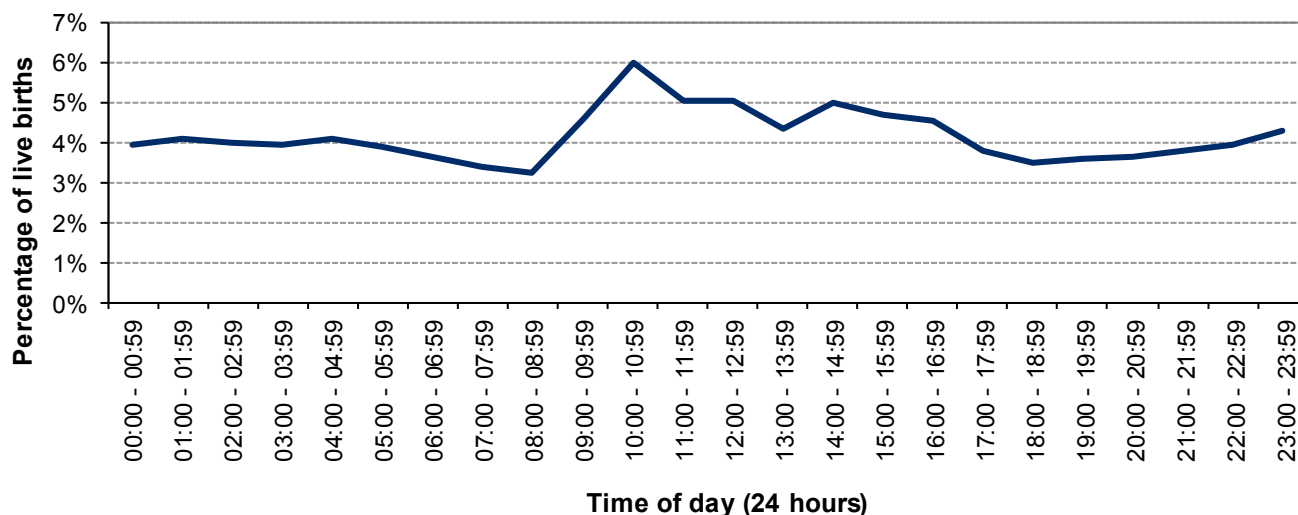
Additional breastfeeding data for babies born in Neonatal Units (born at less than 33 weeks gestation) is published in the [National Neonatal Audit Programme \(NNAP\) 2016 Annual Report](#), and shows that for 2015 only 43 per cent of babies born under 33 weeks in Welsh Neonatal Units were discharged from the units receiving any breast milk, compared with 58 per cent of babies in all the England, Wales and Scotland neonatal units in the audit.

Key characteristics / outcomes - live births to Welsh residents 2016

Time of birth, place of birth, Apgar scores

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

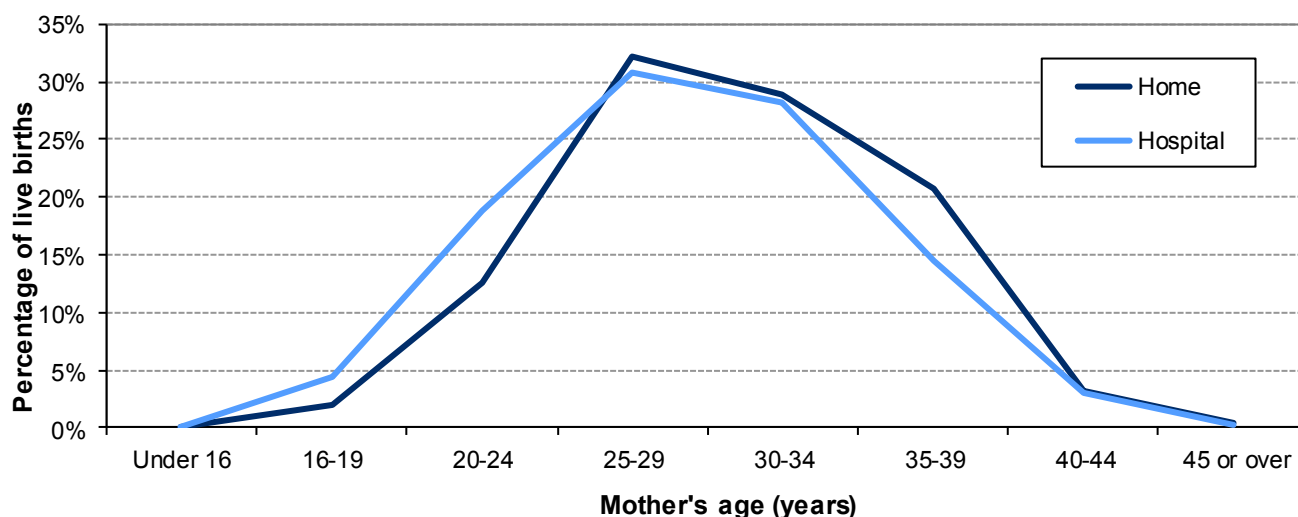
Chart 18: Percentage of live births by time of birth, 2016



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

The distribution of live births by hour of the day is shown in Chart 18. By hour, fewest births in 2016 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. Five live births had no time of birth recorded.

Chart 19: Percentage of live births by place of birth and mother's age, 2016



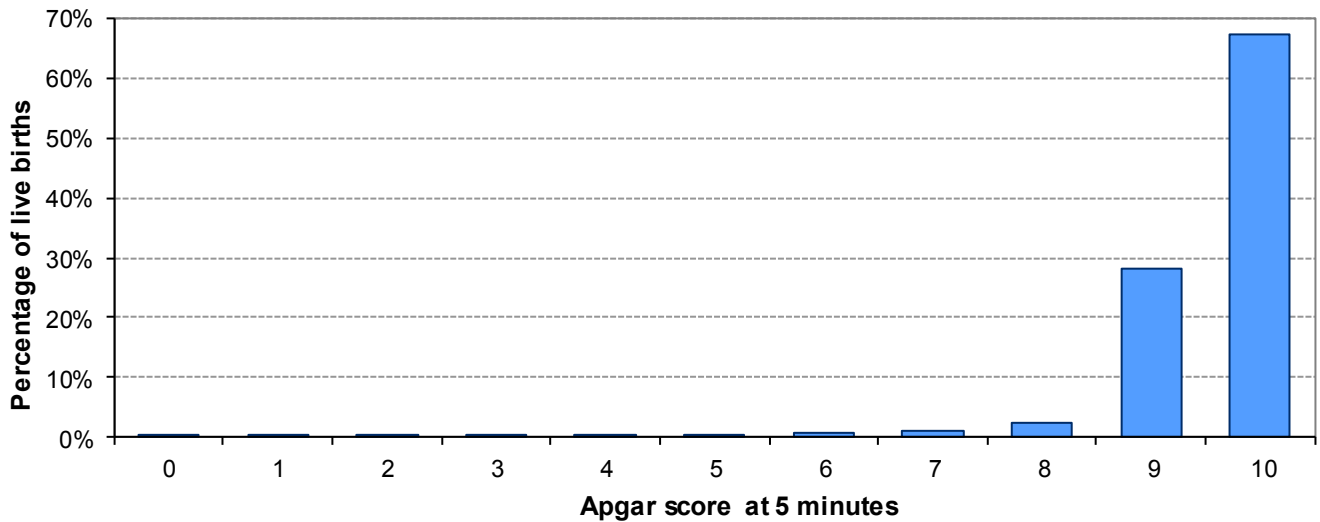
Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated place of birth 80 births had no stated place of birth in 2016. In addition, for 38 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 2016, 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, 2016



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016
The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated Apgar score: For 1,623 births (5 per cent of all live births), the Apgar score at 5 minutes was recorded as "not stated" in 2016.

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.

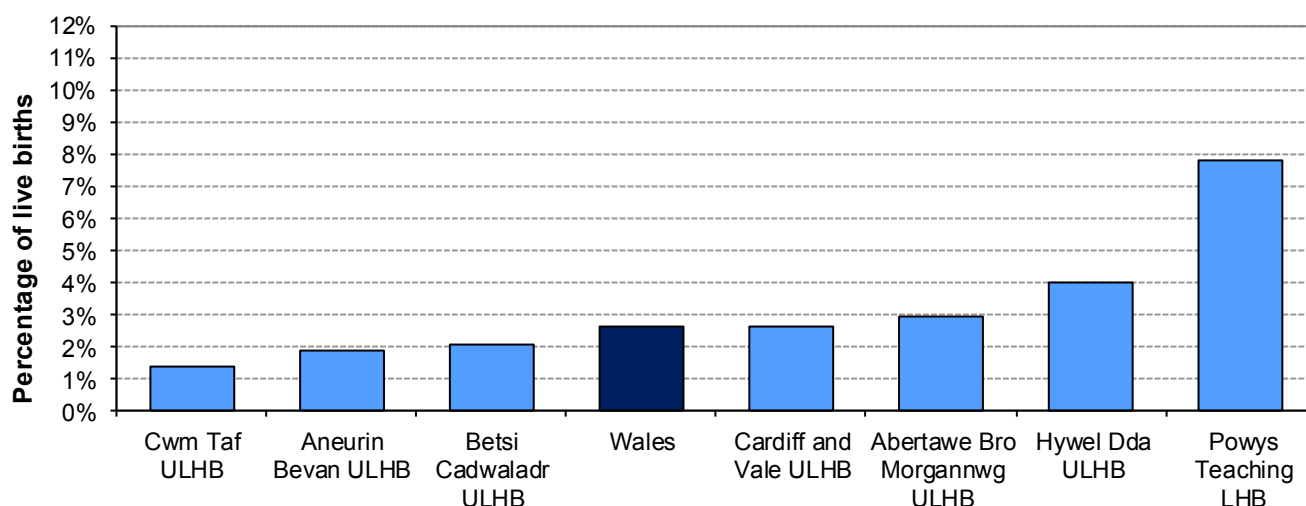
Key characteristics / outcomes - live births to Welsh residents 2016

Local Health Board of residence

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

The following charts show some key outcomes of live births to Welsh residents by Local Health Board. [Table 7](#) 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, 2016

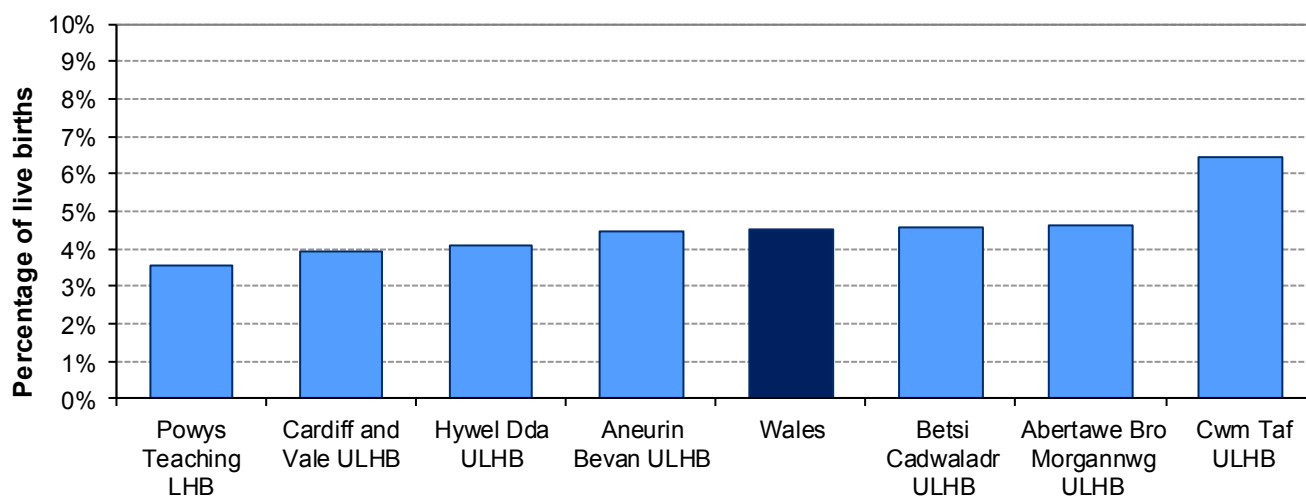


Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated place of birth: For 38 births, the place of birth recorded was "ambulance" and 80 births had "not stated" place of birth in 2016.

Chart 21 shows the proportion of births born at home in 2016 by Local Health Board where the mother lived, ranging from 1 per cent in Cwm Taf University LHB to 8 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, 2016

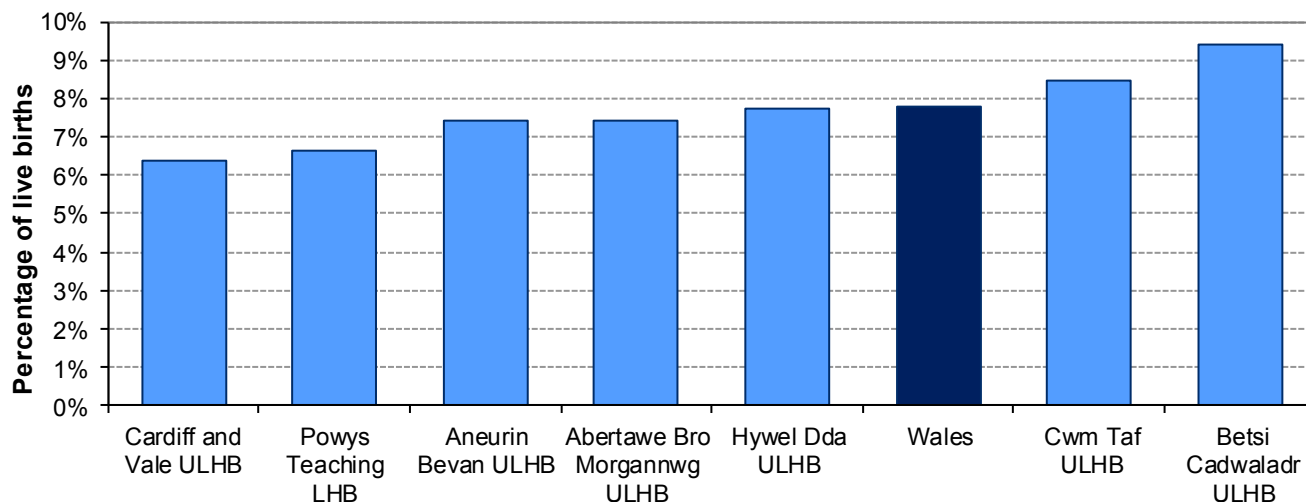


Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated mother's age. These are very few however with only 10 births having no mother's age stated in 2016.

Chart 22 shows that Cwm Taf University LHB had the highest percentage of births to mothers under 20 years old (6 per cent) and Powys Teaching 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, 2016

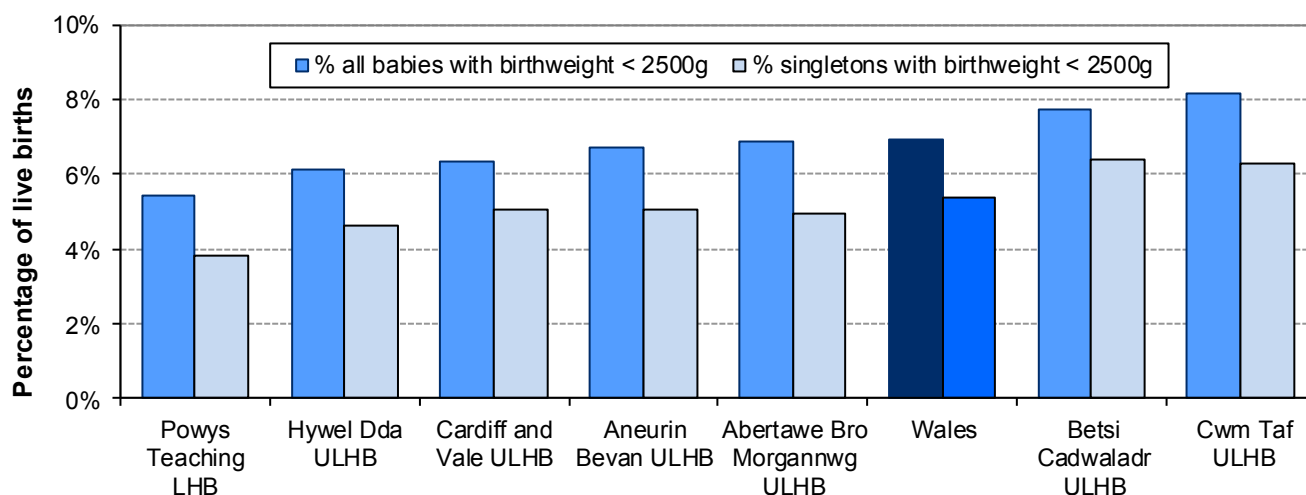


Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016
The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated gestational age: 155 births had no stated gestational age in 2016 (includes gestations of less than 20 weeks and more than 45 weeks).

Chart 23 shows the proportion of births born at less than 37 weeks gestation by Local Health Board, most ranging from 6 per cent in Cardiff and Vale University LHB to 9 per cent in Betsi Cadwaladr University LHB. Overall in Wales, 8 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, 2016



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016
The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated birth weight: 117 (single) births and 140 (all live) births had no stated birth weight in 2016 (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, a small increase on the 2015 figures ([Table 7](#)).

No account is taken of differing LHB age distributions.

Table 1: Live births by gestational age and selected indicators, Wales 2016

Birthweight	Number of weeks gestation:					Total
	20-31	32-36	37-41	42 or more	Not stated	
Under 2500g	338	1,126	788	4	20	2,276
2500-3999g	8	973	24,831	852	115	26,779
4000g or more	2	32	3,437	321	17	3,809
Not stated	37	40	56	4	3	140
Total	385	2,171	29,112	1,181	155	33,004

Mother's age (years)	Number of weeks gestation:					Total
	20-31	32-36	37-41	42 or more	Not stated	
Under 16	0	6	30	4	0	40
16-19	26	105	1,258	57	9	1,455
20-24	76	430	5,386	224	24	6,140
25-29	116	647	8,962	368	58	10,151
30-34	95	540	8,313	339	41	9,328
35-39	57	350	4,227	177	18	4,829
40-44	14	79	872	10	3	978
45 or over	1	13	56	2	1	73
Not stated	0	1	8	0	1	10
Total	385	2,171	29,112	1,181	155	33,004

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

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 2016

Mother's age (years)	Birthweight						Total
	Under 2000g	2000-2499g	2500-2999g	3000-3999g	4000g or more	Not stated	
Under 16	5	2	3	28	2	0	40
16-19	44	82	328	890	104	7	1,455
20-24	166	279	1,105	4,029	539	22	6,140
25-29	220	438	1,549	6,747	1,153	44	10,151
30-34	182	394	1,378	6,073	1,265	36	9,328
35-39	121	240	714	3,105	624	25	4,829
40-44	30	59	157	609	117	6	978
45 or over	8	4	18	38	5	0	73
Not stated	1	1	2	6	0	0	10
Total	777	1,499	5,254	21,525	3,809	140	33,004

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

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) 2016

Mother's age (years)	Breastfeeding	Not breastfeeding	Not stated	Total
Under 16	9	19	2	30
16-19	422	739	50	1,211
20-24	2,372	2,615	149	5,136
25-29	4,752	3,408	233	8,393
30-34	5,197	2,458	184	7,839
35-39	2,853	1,046	100	3,999
40-44	586	228	18	832
45 or over	50	15	0	65
Not stated	4	4	1	9
Total	16,245	10,532	737	27,514

Gestational age (weeks)	Breastfeeding	Not breastfeeding	Not stated	Total
20-31	180	68	65	313
32-36	924	824	87	1,835
37-41	14,427	9,225	556	24,208
42 or more	626	360	21	1,007
Not stated	88	55	8	151
Total	16,245	10,532	737	27,514

Birthweight	Breastfeeding	Not breastfeeding	Not stated	Total
Under 2000g	369	196	78	643
2000-2499g	579	633	44	1,256
2500-2999g	2,386	1,912	112	4,410
3000-3999g	10,807	6,666	408	17,881
4000g or more	2,053	1,078	69	3,200
Not stated	51	47	26	124
Total	16,245	10,532	737	27,514

Place of birth	Breastfeeding	Not breastfeeding	Not stated	Total
Home	479	185	32	696
Hospital	15,705	10,308	698	26,711
Ambulance	18	15	0	33
Not stated	43	24	7	74
Total	16,245	10,532	737	27,514

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

(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 2016

Time (24 hour clock)	Live births
00:00-00:59	1,297
01:00-01:59	1,348
02:00-02:59	1,323
03:00-03:59	1,294
04:00-04:59	1,343
05:00-05:59	1,277
06:00-06:59	1,209
07:00-07:59	1,118
08:00-08:59	1,077
09:00-09:59	1,513
10:00-10:59	1,986
11:00-11:59	1,667
12:00-12:59	1,661
13:00-13:59	1,431
14:00-14:59	1,651
15:00-15:59	1,545
16:00-16:59	1,499
17:00-17:59	1,243
18:00-18:59	1,153
19:00-19:59	1,187
20:00-20:59	1,208
21:00-21:59	1,257
22:00-22:59	1,303
23:00-23:59	1,409
Not stated	5
Total	33,004

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

Table 5: Live births by place of birth and mother's age, Wales 2016

Mother's age (years)	Home	Hospital	Ambulance	Not stated	Total
Under 16	0	40	0	0	40
16-19	17	1,434	0	4	1,455
20-24	108	6,003	10	19	6,140
25-29	276	9,843	14	18	10,151
30-34	248	9,049	8	23	9,328
35-39	178	4,635	5	11	4,829
40-44	28	946	1	3	978
45 or over	3	69	0	1	73
Not stated	0	9	0	1	10
Total	858	32,028	38	80	33,004

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

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

Table 6: Live births by selected indicators, Wales 2006-2016

Place of birth	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Home	1,144	1,224	1,281	1,291	1,227	1,080	1,063	987	1,048	944	858
Hospital	32,391	33,120	34,324	33,559	34,657	34,366	34,059	32,632	32,380	32,262	32,028
Ambulance	127	104	25	17	16	18	19	19	53	56	38
Not stated	28	21	125	135	133	218	209	184	167	99	80
Total	33,690	34,469	35,755	35,002	36,033	35,682	35,350	33,822	33,648	33,361	33,004
Mother's age (years)	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Under 16	89	79	86	74	66	57	58	46	37	39	40
16-19	3,027	2,945	3,016	2,839	2,720	2,409	2,214	1,887	1,690	1,490	1,455
20-24	7,614	7,780	8,194	8,195	8,325	8,115	7,965	7,363	6,893	6,582	6,140
25-29	8,656	9,301	9,894	10,035	10,350	10,268	10,137	10,055	10,125	10,212	10,151
30-34	8,605	8,463	8,518	8,214	8,779	9,107	9,396	9,014	9,429	9,430	9,328
35-39	4,764	4,884	5,018	4,620	4,690	4,618	4,438	4,334	4,399	4,562	4,829
40-44	875	941	974	970	1,022	1,053	1,066	1,031	1,010	976	978
45 or over	40	49	46	41	72	51	63	69	54	55	73
Not stated	20	27	9	14	9	4	13	23	11	15	10
Total	33,690	34,469	35,755	35,002	36,033	35,682	35,350	33,822	33,648	33,361	33,004
Gestational age (weeks)	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<24	22	24	25	25	29	32	21	20	21	22	22
24-27	117	127	104	132	126	132	130	125	100	120	91
28-31	292	265	333	300	305	279	305	273	248	248	272
32-36	2,048	2,168	2,094	2,120	2,067	2,094	2,031	1,917	2,092	2,057	2,171
37-41	29,122	30,072	31,199	30,592	31,654	31,036	30,946	29,264	29,697	29,616	29,112
42+	1,780	1,588	1,718	1,546	1,700	1,949	1,767	1,487	1,420	1,252	1,181
Not stated	309	225	282	287	152	160	150	736	70	46	155
Total	33,690	34,469	35,755	35,002	36,033	35,682	35,350	33,822	33,648	33,361	33,004
Birth weight	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Under 2000g	887	880	916	882	911	861	932	853	754	777	777
2000-2499g	1,524	1,563	1,591	1,623	1,552	1,542	1,580	1,492	1,488	1,455	1,499
2500-2999g	5,352	5,485	5,576	5,586	5,589	5,604	5,657	5,341	5,162	5,276	5,254
3000-3999g	21,915	22,358	23,334	22,811	23,557	23,387	23,010	22,081	22,091	21,822	21,525
4000g or more	3,909	4055	4,271	4,023	4,345	4,249	4,138	4,010	4,095	3,956	3,809
Not stated	103	128	67	77	79	39	33	45	58	75	140
Total (a)	33,690	34,469	35,755	35,002	36,033	35,682	35,350	33,822	33,648	33,361	33,004
Singleton birth <2500g	1,896	1,892	1,878	1,954	1,929	1,877	1,861	1,750	1,665	1,660	1,706
Total singleton with stated birth weight	32,677	33,381	34,599	33,903	34,945	34,690	34,246	32,784	32,595	32,251	-117
Breastfeeding (a)	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Breastfeeding	15,445	15,959	17,810	18,032	17,983	18,062	16,918	15,677	15,171	16,246	18,254
Not breastfeeding	12,580	12,551	13,777	13,793	14,524	14,469	13,406	12,367	11,041	10,956	11,722
Not stated	5,665	5,959	4,168	3,177	3,526	3,151	5,026	5,778	7,436	6,159	3,028
Total	33,690	34,469	35,755	35,002	36,033	35,682	35,350	33,822	33,648	33,361	33,004
Number of Babies	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1 Baby	32,769	33,503	34,658	33,968	35,019	34,723	34,276	32,823	32,646	32,318	32,001
More than 1 Baby	916	966	1,097	1,034	1,014	959	1,074	999	1,002	1,043	1,003
Not stated	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	33,690	34,469	35,755	35,002	36,033	35,682	35,350	33,822	33,648	33,361	33,004

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

(a) 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"

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

Table 7: Key statistics for live births, Wales 2006-16

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Live births	33,690	34,469	35,755	35,002	36,033	35,682	35,350	33,822	33,648	33,361	33,004
Homebirths	3.4%	3.6%	3.6%	3.7%	3.4%	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%	3.1%	2.8%	2.6%
Mothers aged under 20	9.3%	8.8%	8.7%	8.3%	7.7%	6.9%	6.4%	5.7%	5.1%	4.6%	4.5%
Gestational age < 37 weeks	7.4%	7.5%	7.2%	7.4%	7.0%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.3%	7.3%	7.8%
All babies - Low birth weight (<2500g)	7.2%	7.1%	7.0%	7.2%	6.9%	6.7%	7.1%	6.9%	6.7%	6.7%	6.9%
Singleton - Low birth weight (<2500g)	5.8%	5.7%	5.4%	5.8%	5.5%	5.4%	5.4%	5.3%	5.1%	5.1%	5.4%
Breastfeeding (a)	55.1%	56.0%	56.4%	56.7%	55.3%	55.5%	55.8%	55.9%	57.9%	59.7%	60.9%
Multiple births	2.7%	2.8%	3.1%	3.0%	2.8%	2.7%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.1%	3.0%

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

(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, 2016

LHB / LA of residence	Number						Per cent (a)			
	Place of birth					All births	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	6,072	10	142	11	738	6,973	87%	0%	2%	11%
Isle of Anglesey	683	1	16	0	6	706	97%	0%	2%	1%
Gwynedd	1,103	3	35	2	10	1,153	96%	0%	3%	1%
Conwy	1,027	0	15	3	4	1,049	98%	0%	1%	0%
Denbighshire	974	1	16	2	10	1,003	97%	0%	2%	1%
Flintshire	870	4	34	4	662	1,574	55%	0%	2%	42%
Wrexham	1,415	1	26	0	46	1,488	95%	0%	2%	3%
Powys Teaching LHB	705	1	90	7	354	1,157	61%	0%	8%	31%
Hywel Dda University LHB	3,418	17	142	3	8	3,588	95%	0%	4%	0%
Ceredigion	586	1	18	2	4	611	96%	0%	3%	1%
Pembrokeshire	1,056	7	52	1	0	1,116	95%	1%	5%	0%
Carmarthenshire	1,776	9	72	0	4	1,861	95%	0%	4%	0%
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg										
University LHB	5,300	5	162	6	17	5,490	97%	0%	3%	0%
Swansea	2,383	3	78	1	14	2,479	96%	0%	3%	1%
Neath Port Talbot	1,473	1	39	0	3	1,516	97%	0%	3%	0%
Bridgend	1,444	1	45	5	0	1,495	97%	0%	3%	0%
Cardiff and Vale										
University LHB	5,579	0	150	32	0	5,761	97%	0%	3%	0%
Vale of Glamorgan	1,233	0	63	6	0	1,302	95%	0%	5%	0%
Cardiff	4,346	0	87	26	0	4,459	98%	0%	2%	0%
Cwm Taf University LHB	3,408	0	48	9	7	3,472	98%	0%	1%	0%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	2,704	0	44	7	6	2,761	98%	0%	2%	0%
Merthyr Tydfil	704	0	4	2	1	711	99%	0%	1%	0%
Aneurin Bevan										
University LHB	6,159	5	117	11	41	6,333	97%	0%	2%	1%
Caerphilly	1,953	0	38	2	7	2,000	98%	0%	2%	0%
Blaenau Gwent	715	1	5	0	3	724	99%	0%	1%	0%
Torfaen	974	0	25	3	4	1,006	97%	0%	2%	0%
Monmouthshire	697	0	23	2	14	736	95%	0%	3%	2%
Newport	1,820	4	26	4	13	1,867	98%	0%	1%	1%
Not stated	163	0	7	1	59	230	71%	0%	3%	26%
Wales	30,804	38	858	80	1,224	33,004	94%	0%	3%	4%
Not Welsh resident	322	-	-	-	-	322	100%	-	-	-

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

(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 2015-16: This new series of statistical releases provides statistics on maternity services in Wales including antenatal care, care at delivery and outcomes for babies. Data analysed in this release relates to births delivered in Welsh maternity units together with the relevant record of antenatal care. The source is the Maternity Indicators data set. See [Maternity Statistics 2015-16](#).

Births in Wales: data from the National Community Child Health Database, 2006-2016: 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):

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 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). 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 have worked with colleagues to identify and collect additional data relating to births in Wales in the context of the [Maternity Strategy](#) and published the first (experimental) statistical release from a new series in May 2017 (see 'Published statistics on births in Wales').

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 33,279 recorded in 2015 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 2009-2015 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		2015	
	NCCHD	ONS	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	4.6	4.6
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	19.7	19.5
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	30.6	30.6
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	28.3	28.5
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	13.7	13.7
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	3.1	3.1
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	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	33,346	33,279

Live births by birthweight

% of births with stated birthweight

Birth weight	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	NCCHD	ONS	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	6.7	6.8
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	81.4	81.3
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	11.9	11.9
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	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	33,286	33,152

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 continuing to work 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](#), and first data from the Maternity Indicators data set has been published in the first of a new series of statistical releases (see 'Published statistics on births in Wales').

2. Validation

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. In addition, sense checking is carried out and selected amendments to a small number of individual records may be made to improve consistency.

3. Completeness

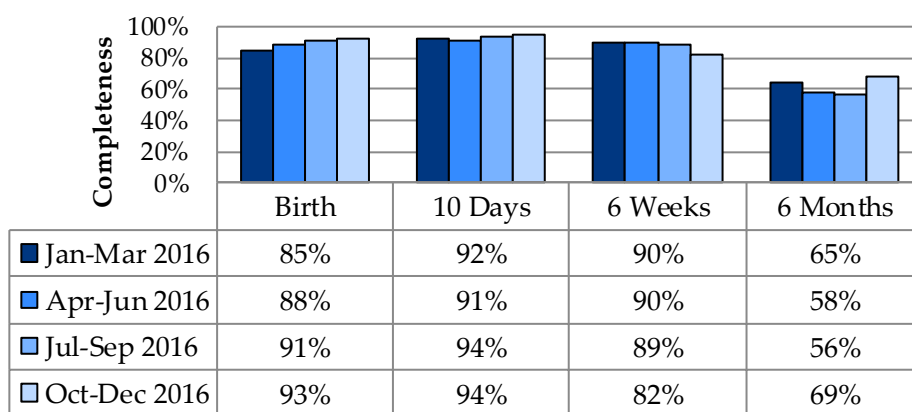
Completeness and data quality of the items held on NCCHD vary depending on the extent to which Health Boards use the items for administrative purposes. Improving data quality with the help of Health Boards is an ongoing process. With the exception of breastfeeding and Apgar score data, items in this release were more than 99% complete in 2016. 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 to 2016 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 10 to 14, 16 to 17 and from Table 3.

4. 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 in 2016.

Completeness of breastfeeding data at birth, 10 days, 6-8weeks and 6 months, 2016



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@gov.wales

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: Gareth.John@wales.nhs.uk

Next update

August 2018 (provisional)

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to

stats.healthinfo@gov.wales.

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Completeness of data items 2009-2016

Data Item Name	Data ItemTerm	% Completeness							
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Trust Number	Unique number identifying the Trust	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Date of Birth	Date of Birth of Child	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Time of Birth	Time of Birth of Child	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Sex	Gender of the Child	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Ward Code	Electoral and Census	99%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	100%	100%
LHB	The Local Health Board with responsibility for the Child based on residence.	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	100%	100%
Initial Status	The reason why the record was initially created and the date of creation	100%	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%	100%
GP Practice	The OCS code for the current GP practice of the child	99%	99%	99%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%
HV Code	The current Health Visitor code for the child	99%	99%	99%	98%	99%	98%	98%	99%
Number Born	The number of births resulting from the pregnancy	100%	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%	100%
Birth Weight	First weight of baby following delivery, preferably in the first hour of life.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Age of Mother	Mother's age at time of birth	100%	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%	100%
Mode of Delivery	The procedure by which the mother is delivered of the baby.	65%	69%	70%	70%	63%	63%	62%	62%
Onset of Labour	The method by which the process of labour began	69%	69%	69%	69%	62%	61%	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%	90%
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%	88%
Smoking History	The number of cigarettes that the mother smokes each day	65%	65%	65%	66%	60%	57%	59%	60%
Maternal Care	The type of maternal care	58%	58%	60%	60%	60%	56%	58%	56%
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%	100%
Apgar Score 1 min	The total apgar score for a baby at 1 minute after birth.	70%	70%	70%	70%	94%	95%	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%	95%
Place of Birth	Actual place of child's birth, i.e. hospital number or home	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%