ystadegau ar gyfer cymru statistics for wales

Statistical First Release

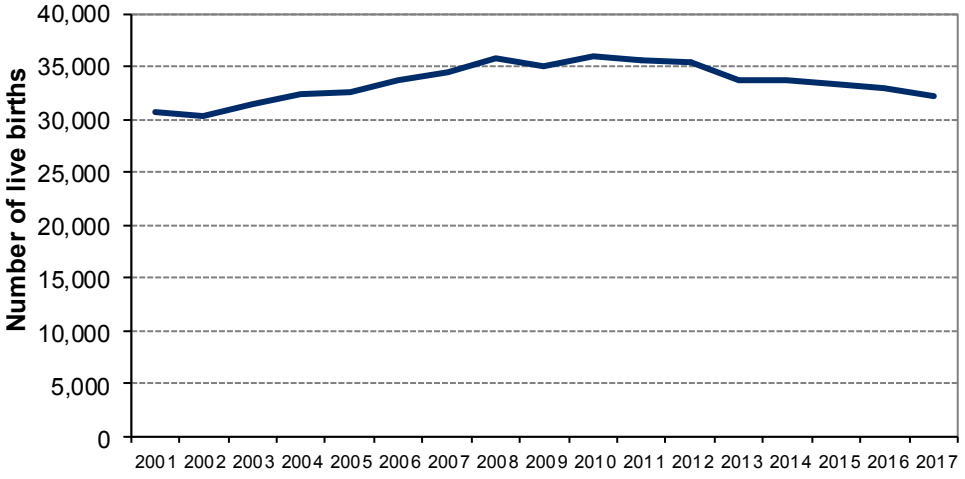
Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

Births in Wales 2017: Data from the National Community Child Health Database

15 August 2018
SFR 67/2018

Wales' National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 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, 2001-2017



Key points

- The NCCHD recorded 32,236 live births in 2017 to Welsh residents, an increase of 5 per cent since 2001 but a fall of 2 per cent since 2016.
- Mother's age: the proportion of young mothers has fallen since 2007 with 4.4 per cent of live births in 2017 being born to mothers aged under 20, half of what it was in 2007 (8.8 per cent).
- Gestation: 7.9 per cent of live births in 2017 took place at less than 37 weeks gestational age, this proportion has fluctuated between 7 per cent and 7.9 per cent since 2007.
- Birth weight: 6.9 per cent of all live births in 2017 had a low birth weight (less than 2,500g) compared to 5.6 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.

In this release

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Time Series - Live births to Welsh residents 2007- 2017

The National Community Child Health Database recorded 32,236 live births in 2017 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 2017 but 1,184 (or 4 per cent of) live births to Welsh residents were delivered in English hospitals. A further 310 babies whose mothers were non-Welsh 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

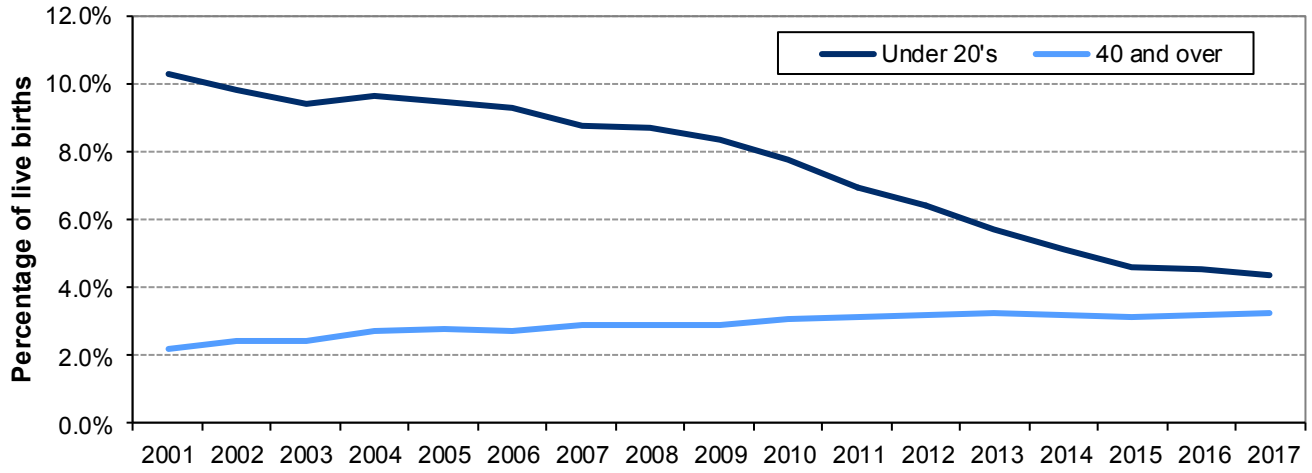
	Births in Wales				Births outside Wales	
	Hospital	Home	Ambulance	Not stated	English Hospital	All births
Births to Welsh residents	30,140	770	48	94	1,184	32,236
Births to non-Welsh residents	310	0	0	0	..	310

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017

.. Data item not available. Maternity statistics for England.

Data for the following charts are available in Table 6 and on StatsWales.

Chart 2: Percentage of live births by age of mother, 2001-2017



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017

The percentages are of the total live births minus births with no stated mother's age. These are very few however with only 10 births having no mother's age stated in 2017.

Summary: There is well accepted evidence that teenage pregnancy is associated with poor health and social outcomes for both the mother and the child. The percentage of live births to young mothers has fallen every year since 2004, while the percentage of live births to older mothers has increased slightly over the longer term. The vast majority of live births are born to women aged 20 to 39 (92 per cent in 2017).

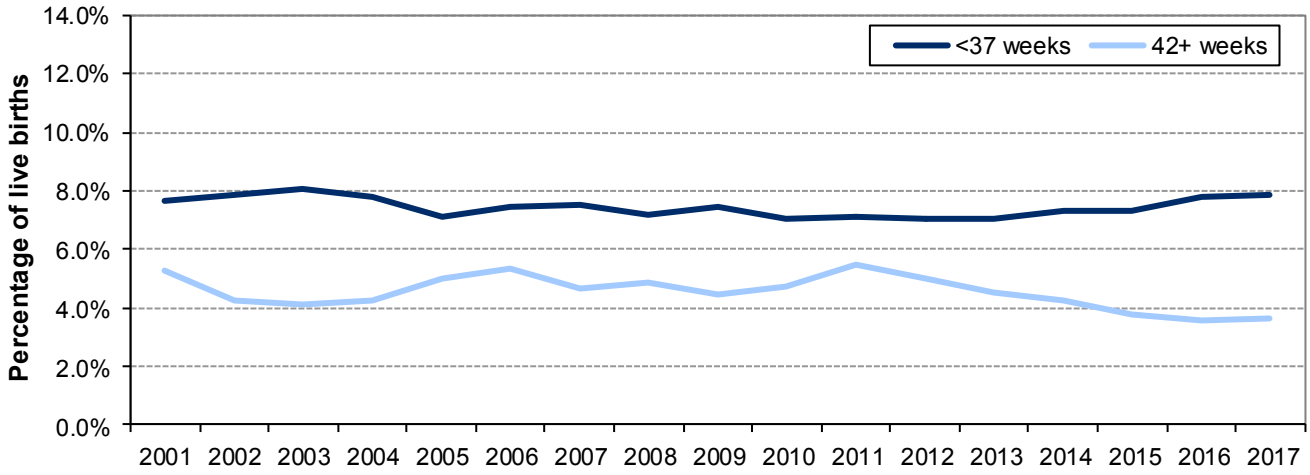
Latest Data: 4.4 per cent (or 1,410) of live births in 2017 were to mothers aged under 20. 3.2 per cent (or 1,038) of all live births in 2017 were to mothers aged 40 or older.

Annual Change: The percentage of live births to younger mothers fell by 0.2 percentage points since 2016 and the number of live births to younger mothers fell by 85. The percentage of live births to older mothers remained unchanged to 2016 and the number of live births to older mothers fell by 13.

10 Year Change: The percentage of live births to younger mothers fell by 4.4 percentage points since 2007, and the number of live births to younger mothers fell by 1,614. The percentage of live births to older mothers increased by 0.3 percentage points since 2007, and the number of live births to older mothers increased by 48.

Change since first year of data: The percentage of live births to younger mothers fell by 5.9 percentage points since 2001, and the number of live births to younger mothers fell by 1,747. The percentage of live births to older mothers increased by 1.1 percentage points since 2001, and the number of live births to older mothers increased by 373.

Chart 3: Percentage of live births by gestational age[1], 2001-2017



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017
[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 minus births with no stated gestational age: 141(or 0.4% of) births had no stated gestational age in 2017 (includes gestations of less than 20 weeks and more than 45 weeks).

Summary: It is known that babies born prematurely or "pre-term" (before 37 weeks of pregnancy) may have a higher risk of immediate or longer-term health problems. The proportion of live births born prematurely has fluctuated over the years, between 7 and 8 per cent, with a gradual increase being apparent in more recent years. Conversely the proportion of live births being born at 42 weeks or more has decreased over the past 6 years.

Latest Data: 88.5 per cent (or 28,391) of live births in 2017 were born at 37-41 weeks gestation. 7.9 per cent (or 2,533) of live births were pre-term in 2017. 3.6 per cent (or 1,171) of live births were born at 42 weeks or more.

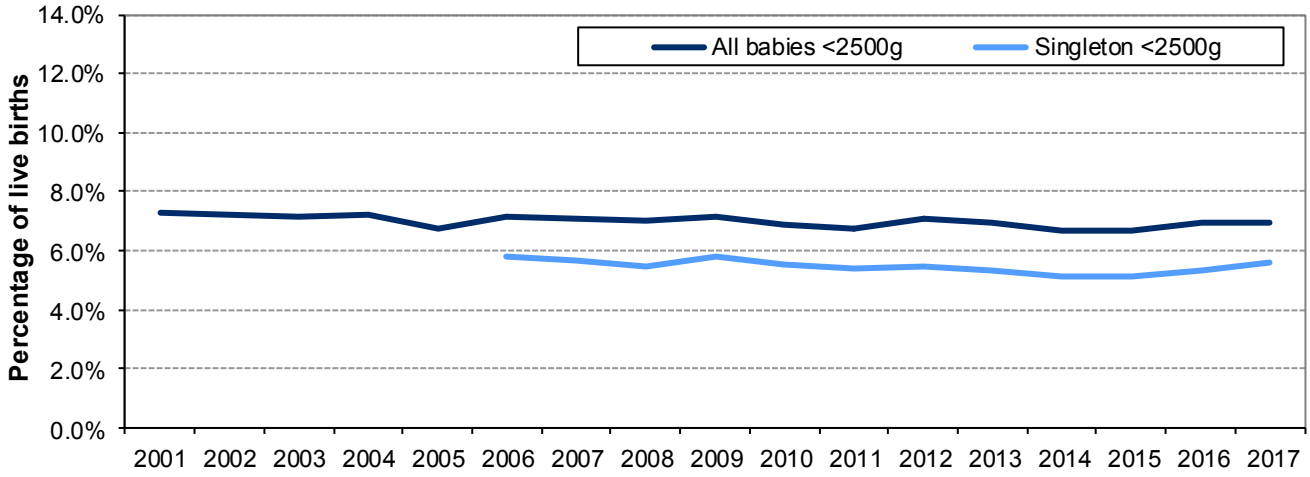
Annual Change: The percentage of live births born pre-term increased by 0.1 percentage points since 2016 but the number of live births born pre-term fell by 23. The percentage of live births born at 42 weeks or more increased by 0.1 percentage points since 2016 but the number of live births born at 42 weeks or more fell by 10.

10 Year Change: There has been little overall change in the distribution of births by gestational age at birth over the last 10 years. Completeness of gestation data has generally improved since 2007, with the

proportion of live births with no stated gestation having fallen from 0.7 per cent in 2007 to 0.4 per cent in 2017.

Change since first year of data: The percentage of live births born pre-term increased slightlly by 0.3 percentage points since 2001, and the number of live births born pre-term increased by 332. The percentage of live births born at 42 weeks or more fell by 1.6 percentage points since 2001, and the number of live births born at 42 weeks or more fell by 356.

Chart 4: Percentage of live births by birth weight, 2001-2017



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017
The percentages are of the total live births minus births with no stated birth weight: 77(or 0.2% of) births had no stated birth weight in 2017 (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.

Summary: Low birth weight (less than 2,500g) is associated with health risks in an infant's first year of life. The proportion of all live births (including both singleton and multiple births) born with low birth weight has fluctuated slightly long term at around 7 per cent.

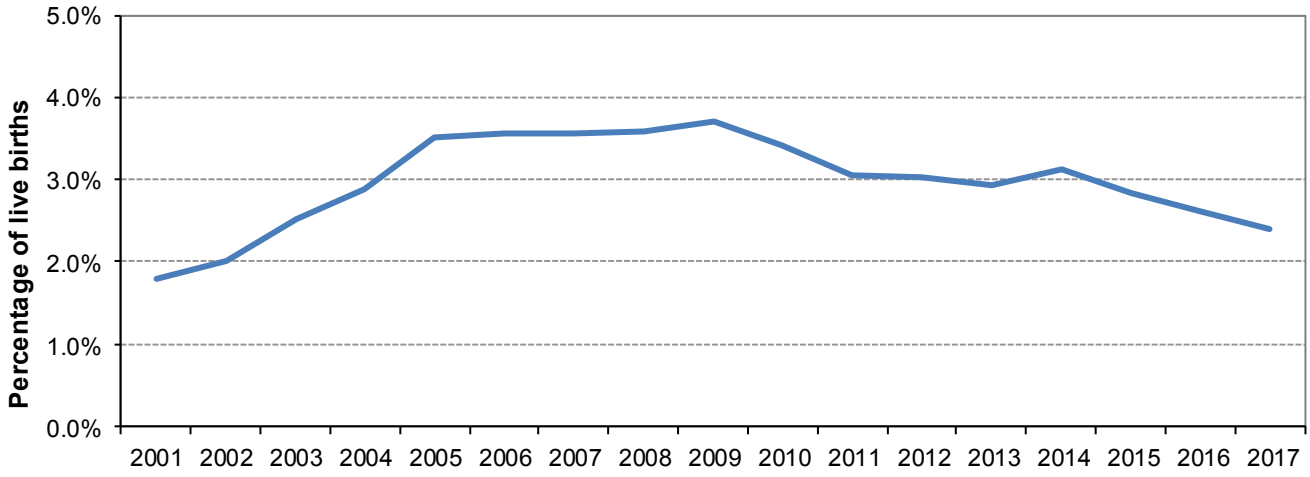
Latest Data: 81.3 per cent (or 26,140) of all live births in 2017 were born with healthy birth weights of between 2500-3999g. 6.9 per cent of all live births (or 2,232) and 5.6 per cent of singleton live births (or 1,763) were of low birth weight.

Annual Change: The percentage of all live births born with low birth weight remained the same since 2016 but the number of live births born with low birth weight fell by 44. The percentage of singleton live births born with low birth weight increased by 0.3 percentage points since 2016 and the number of singleton live births born with low birth weight increased by 57.

10 Year Change: There has been little change in the distribution of births by birth weight over the last 10 years. The proportion of low birth weight singleton babies however has fallen marginally in the last decade, from 5.7 per cent in 2007 to 5.6 per cent in 2017.

Change since first year of data: The percentage of all live births born with low birth weight fell slightly by 0.3 percentage points since 2001, but the number of all live births born with low birth weight increased by 11. Birth weight data for singleton live births prior to 2006 is not available.

Chart 5: Percentage of live births born at home, 2001-2017



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017
The percentages are of the total live births minus births with no stated place of birth: 94(or 0.3% of) births had no stated place of birth in 2017.

Summary: Health Boards in Wales are expected to provide access to a range of services for women to give birth including at home. The proportion of all live births born at home has been decreasing recently following a period of higher homebirth rates in the mid to late 2000's.

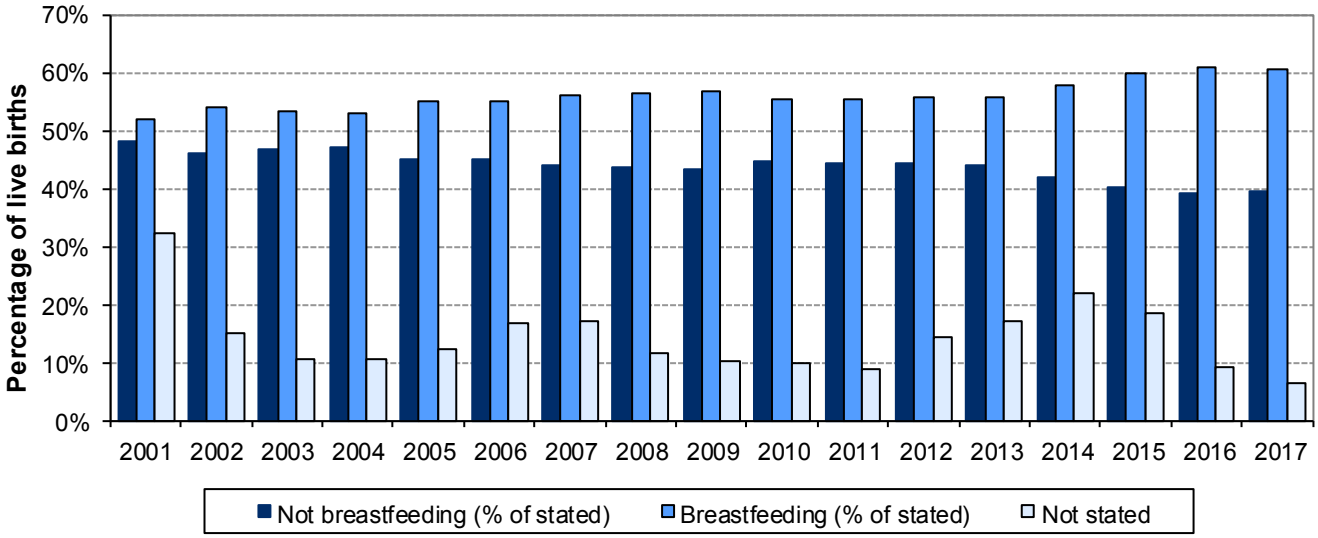
Latest Data: 2.4 per cent (or 770) of all live births in 2017 were born at home.

Annual Change: The percentage of all live births born at home fell by 0.2 percentage points since 2016 and the number of live births born at home fell by 88.

10 Year Change: The proportion of all live births born at home has generally fallen in the last decade, from 3.6 per cent in 2007 to 2.4 per cent in 2017. The number of births with place of birth not stated increased from a total of 21 in 2007 to 94 in 2017.

Change since first year of data: The percentage of all live births born at home increased by 0.6 percentage points since 2001, and the number of all live births born at home increased by 226.

Chart 6: Breastfeeding at birth, percentage of live births, 2001-2017



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017

Summary: Breastfeeding is recognised as being of crucial importance for the health of babies and their mothers. The percentage of all live births with a breastfeeding status who were breastfed at birth has increased over the longer term. While there are still a relatively large percentage of births without a breastfeeding status recorded, it was lower in 2017 than in any other previous year.

Latest Data: 60.5 per cent (or 18,276) of all live births in 2017 were breastfed at birth. The proportion of records with no breastfeeding status recorded at birth was 6.3 per cent in 2017

Annual Change: The percentage of all live births breastfed at birth fell slightly by 0.4 percentage points since 2016 but the number of all live births breastfed at birth increased by 22.

10 Year Change: The percentage of all live births breastfed at birth with a known breastfeeding status increased from 56.0 per cent (or 15,959) in 2007 to 60.5 per cent (or 18,276) in 2017.

Change since first year of data: The percentage of all live births breastfed at birth increased by 8.6 percentage points since 2001, and the number of all live births breastfed at birth, with a known breastfeeding status increased by 7,510.

Key characteristics / outcomes - live births to Welsh residents 2017

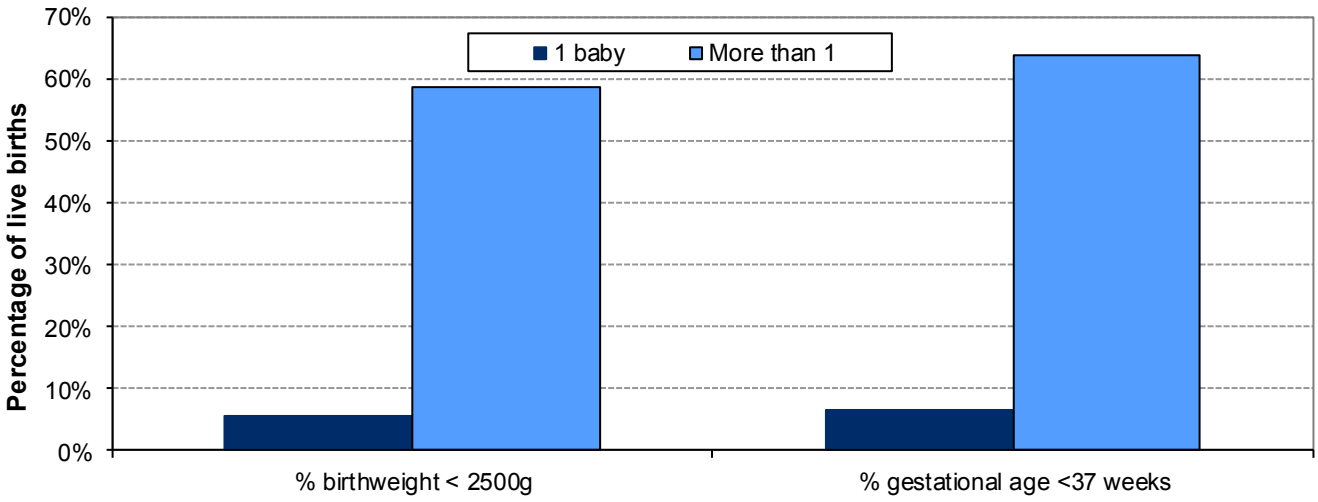
Multiple births, birth weight and gestational age

Data for these charts are available on StatsWales.

Giving birth to twins or triplets can be associated with increased health risks. There has been little change in the distribution of births by number of babies born over the last 10 years (Table 6). In 2017, 2.5% of all births were multiple births (twins, triplets or higher order multiple births)

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 StatsWales by local authority area and local health board. Low birth weights are often linked to low gestational age (i.e. where the baby is born before 37 weeks of gestation).

Chart 7: Percentage of live births by number of babies: low birth weight and low gestational age, 2017

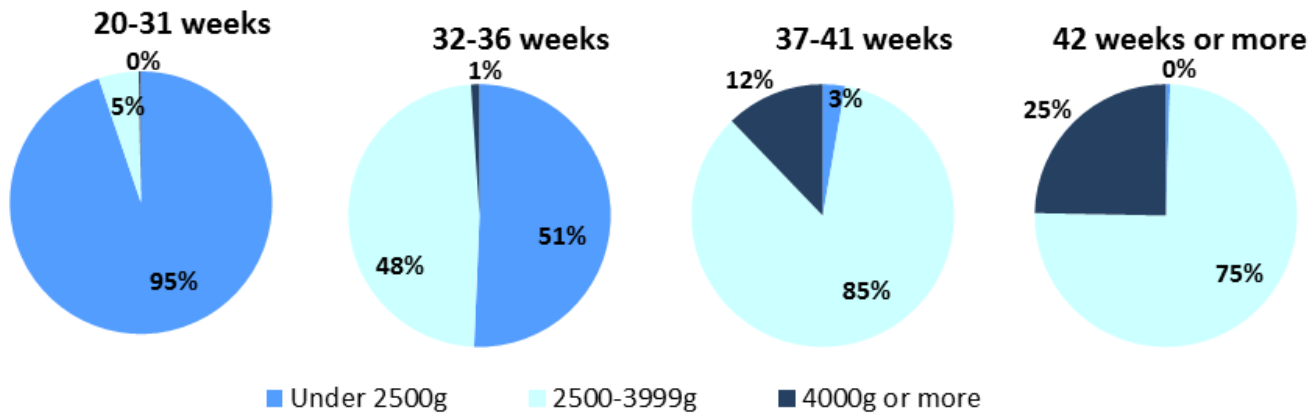


Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017
The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated birth weight or gestational age: 77 births had no stated birth weight in 2017 (includes birth weights of less than 0.5kg or more than 6kg). 141 births had no stated gestational age in 2017 (includes gestations of less than 20 weeks and more than 45 weeks).

Chart 7 shows the birth weight profiles of singleton and multiple births. 5.6 per cent of single births had birth weights of less than 2,500g in 2017 compared to 58.7 per cent of multiple births. 7 per cent of all live births are to multiple babies.

7.9 per cent of all live births were at less than 37 weeks gestation in 2017, whereas almost two-thirds of multiples births (63.7 per cent) were born at less than 37 weeks, compared to just 6.4 per cent of singleton births.

Chart 8: Live births by birth weight and gestational age, 2017



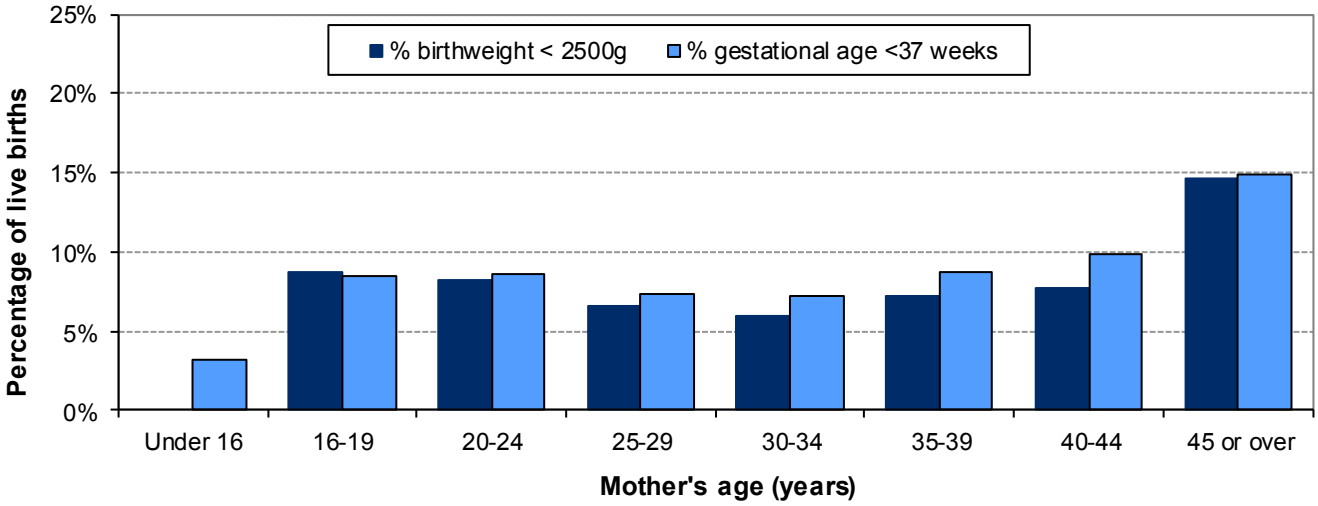
Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017

Chart 8 shows how birth weights can be affected by gestational age.

95 per cent of births (or 363 babies) born at gestations less than 32 weeks and 51 per cent (or 1,071 babies) born at 32-36 weeks had low birth weights, that is, less than 2500g.

Conversely, 0% (or 6 babies) born at gestations 42 weeks or more had low birth weights, but 25% (or 288 babies) weighed more than 4,000g. See also Table 1.

Chart 9: Percentage of live births by mother's age: low birth weight and low gestational age, 2017



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017

Chart 9 shows that the proportion of low birth weight (less than 2500g) live births is greater for mothers aged under 20, or aged 40 or over. Similarly, the proportion of babies born at less than 37 weeks gestation is greater in mothers aged under 20 or aged 40 or over.

Note this data can be volatile from year to year for mothers aged under 16 as there are so few live births to mothers of this age (in 2017, 31 live births). See also Table 2.

Key characteristics / outcomes - live births to Welsh residents 2017

Breastfeeding at birth

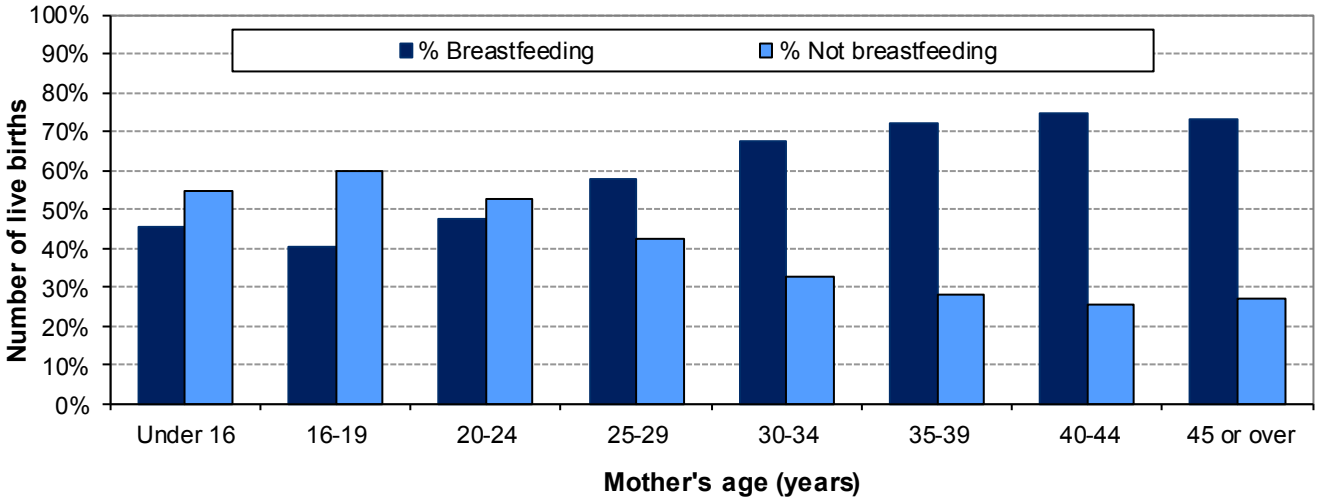
Data for these charts are available in Table 3 and on StatsWales.

At least 18,276 babies were breastfed at birth in 2017, which was 60.5 per cent of all births with known breastfeeding status. The true number is not known as there is much missing data – 6.3 per cent (or 2,029) of birth records had no breastfeeding status recorded. 52% of births without a breastfeeding status in Wales come from Abertawe Bro Morgannwg health board. Completeness of breastfeeding data has been an issue in this health board since 2014, but has been improving every year.

Of the 18,276 babies who were breast fed at birth, 98% at least 17,478 fed exclusively on breast milk (97.7% of babies breastfed at birth with a known breastfeeding type); 271 were predominantly fed breast milk (1.5% of babies breastfed at birth with a known breastfeeding type); 140 were partially fed breast milk (0.8% of babies breastfed at birth with a known breastfeeding type); and the remaining 387 did not have a known breastfeeding type.

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, 2017

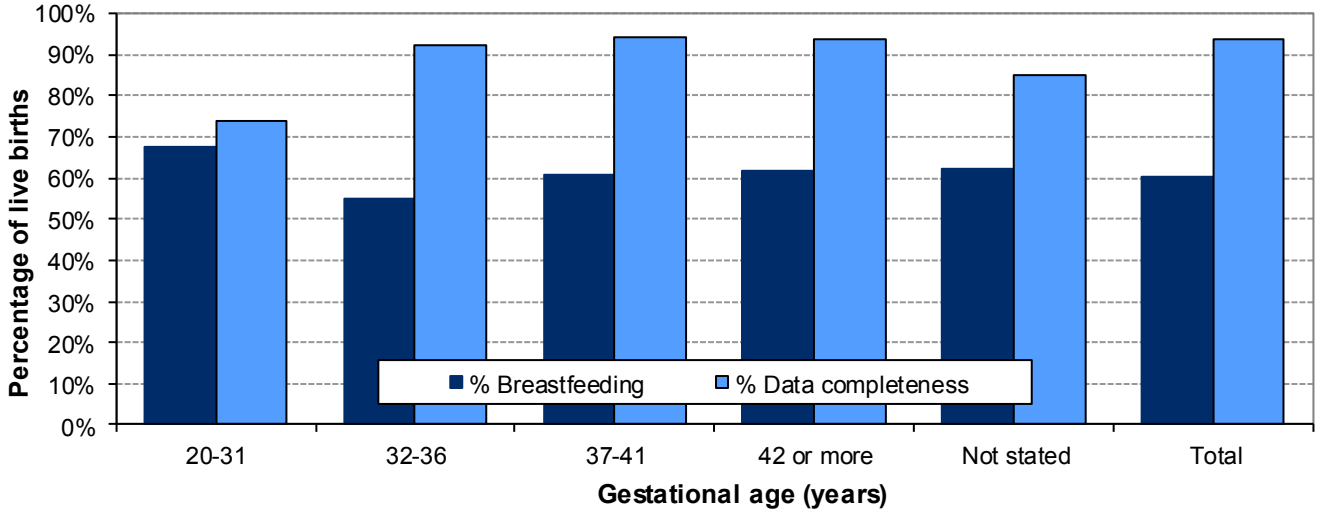


Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017

Chart 10 shows the percentage of babies who were breastfed at birth by age of mother.

Babies of older mothers were more likely to be breastfed than those with younger mothers; the highest rates of breastfeeding at birth were in the 40-44 age group where 74.4% of babies with a known breastfeeding status were breastfed, while the highest rate of not breast fed at birth was in the 16-19 age group where 59.7% of babies with a known breastfeeding status were not breastfed.

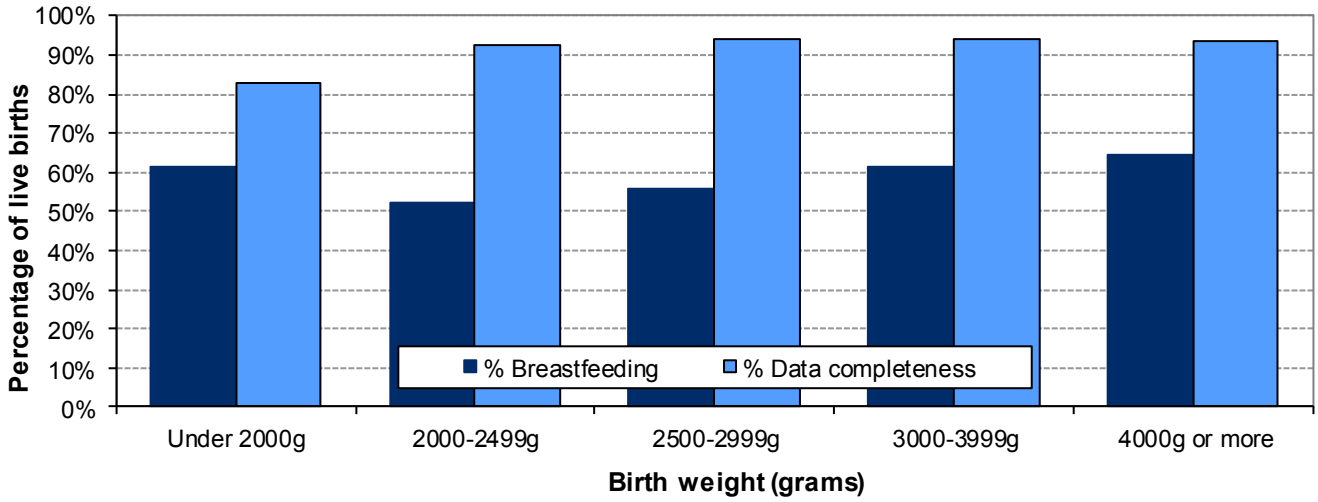
Chart 11: Percentage of live births by breastfeeding status at birth and gestational age, 2017



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017

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. While the highest percentage of breastfeeding at birth happened at gestational ages between 20 and 31 weeks, this group also has the lowest data completion (26% had no breastfeeding status), so this should be considered when using this data. Where data completeness is greater than 90%, the lowest breastfeeding at birth rate was in the 32-36 week gestational age group (54.7%).

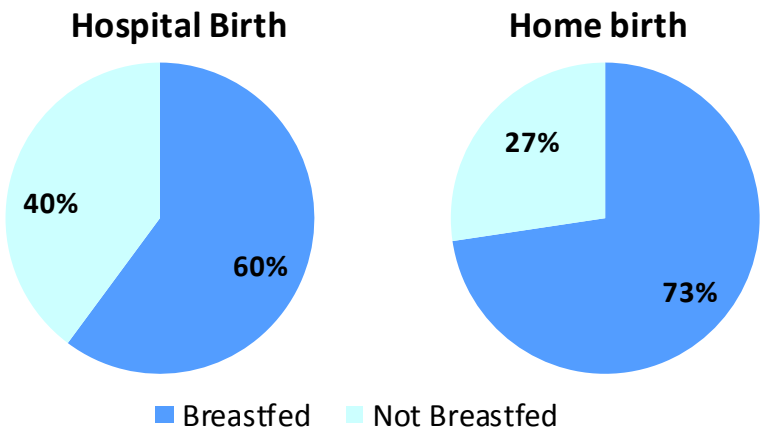
Chart 12: Percentage of live births by breastfeeding status at birth and birth weight, 2017



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017

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. Babies with birth weights under 2,000g were more likely to have no record of breastfeeding on the database. Of the births with breastfeeding status, where data completeness was above 90%, babies 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, 2017



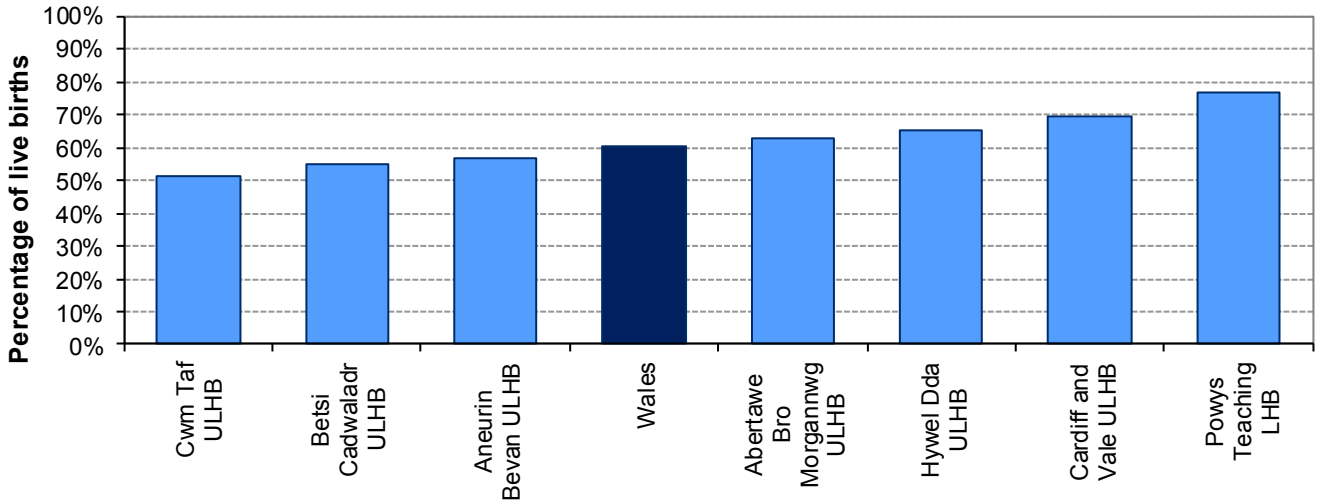
Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017

Chart 13 shows the percentage of births breastfed at birth by place of birth.

Breastfeeding status was not stated for 12 per cent of live births born at home and 6 per cent in hospital. In 2017, 48 babies' place of birth was recorded was "ambulance" and 94 had no stated place of birth.

Of those with a place of birth recorded, babies born at home were more likely to be breastfed than those born in hospitals.

Chart 14: Percentage of live births that were breastfed at birth by Local Health Board, excluding births with unknown breastfeeding status, 2017



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017

There is considerable variation in breastfeeding rates between local health boards in Wales. The highest breastfeeding rates were for babies of women resident in Powys Teaching LHB (76.7 per cent) and lowest for those in Cwm Taf University LHB (51.3 per cent).

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, with only 56% of births having a status recorded at this stage.

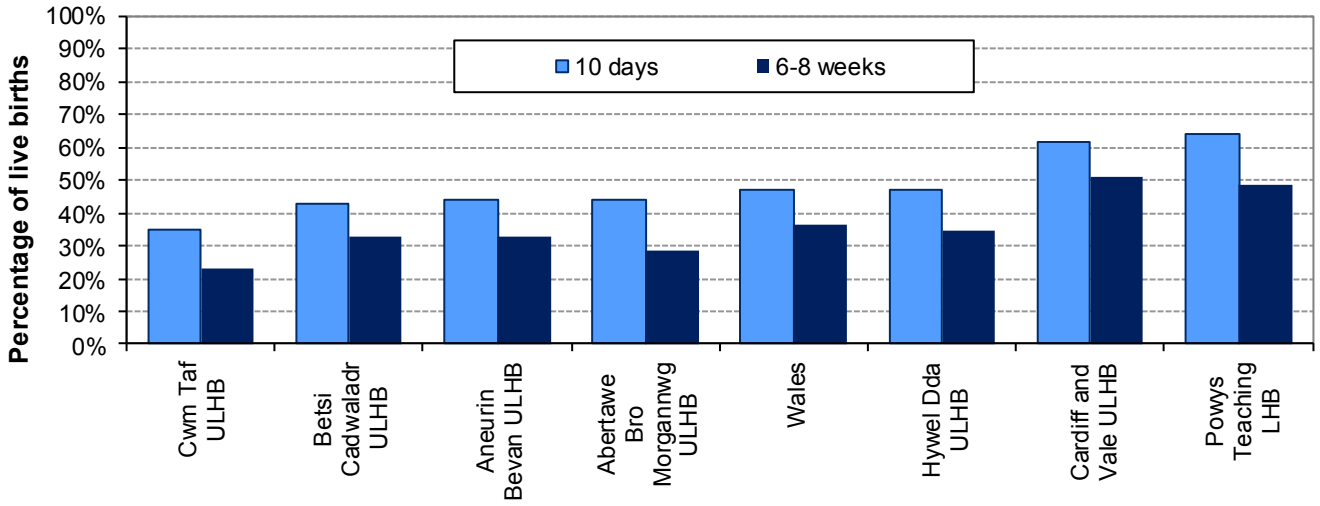
The percentage of babies exclusively breastfed at 10 days of age is one of a set of maternity indicators developed following the publication of the 'Strategic Vision for Maternity Services in Wales' in 2011. The indicators are available from Public Health Wales' 'Pregnancy and childhood surveillance 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; and
- 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, 2017

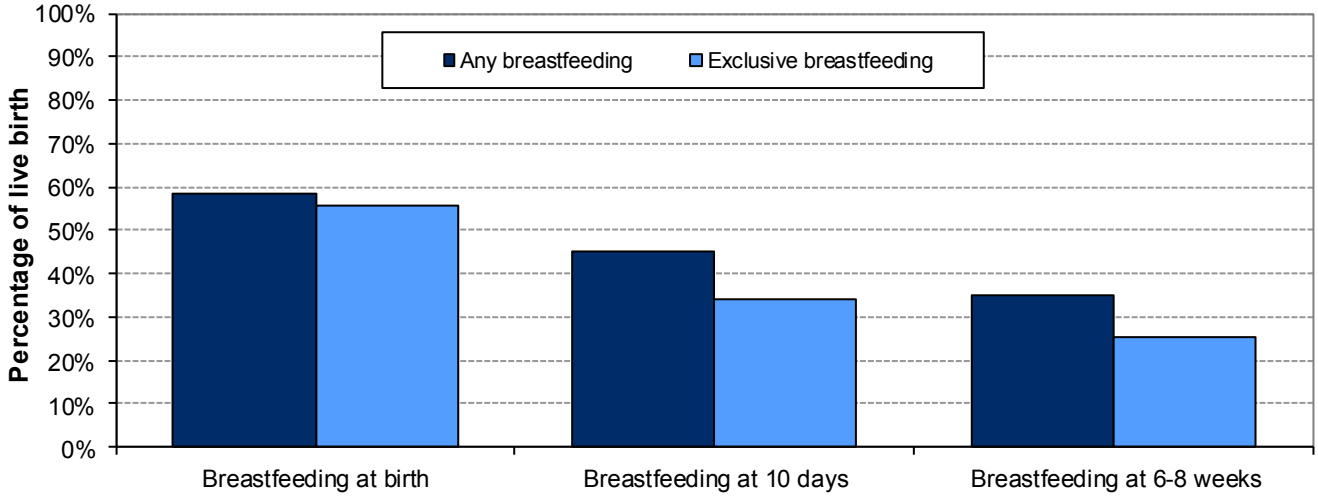


Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017
The percentages are of the total live births minus births with no stated breastfeeding status: 9% had no stated breastfeeding status at 10 days and 15% had no stated breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks in 2017.

Chart 15 illustrates the percentages of babies at 10 days and 6-8 weeks who are recorded as receiving *any* breast milk, that is, combined milk feeding which includes breast milk plus artificial milk, and those who receive exclusively breast milk (and nothing else except water).

At health board level, the pattern is similar to breastfeeding at birth: Powys Teaching LHB have the highest rates at 10 days (64.0 per cent) and Cardiff and Vale University LHB having the highest rates at 6-8 weeks (50.9 per cent); Cwm Taf University LHB have the lowest at both of these time markers (35 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, 2017



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017
Note that the percentage is of 24,436 records with complete data for infant feeding at birth, 10 days and 6-8 weeks

Chart 16 considers the 24,436 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.

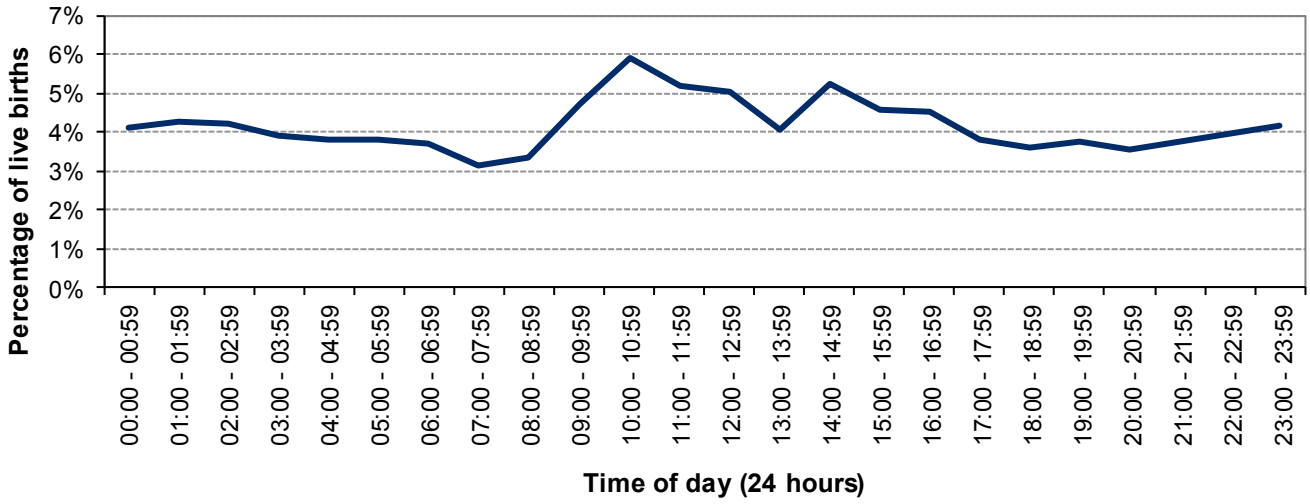
Additional breastfeeding data for babies born in Neonatal Units (born at less than 33 weeks gestation) is published in the National Neonatal Audit Programme (NNAP) 2017 Annual Report, and shows that for 2016, 51 per cent of babies born under 33 weeks in Welsh Neonatal Units were discharged from the units receiving any breast milk, compared with 59 per cent of babies in all the England, Wales and Scotland neonatal units in the audit. This was an increase on the 2015 figure of 43 per cent for babies in Welsh units.

Key characteristics / outcomes - live births to Welsh residents 2017

Time of birth, place of birth, Apgar scores

Data for these charts are available in Tables 4 and 5 and on StatsWales.

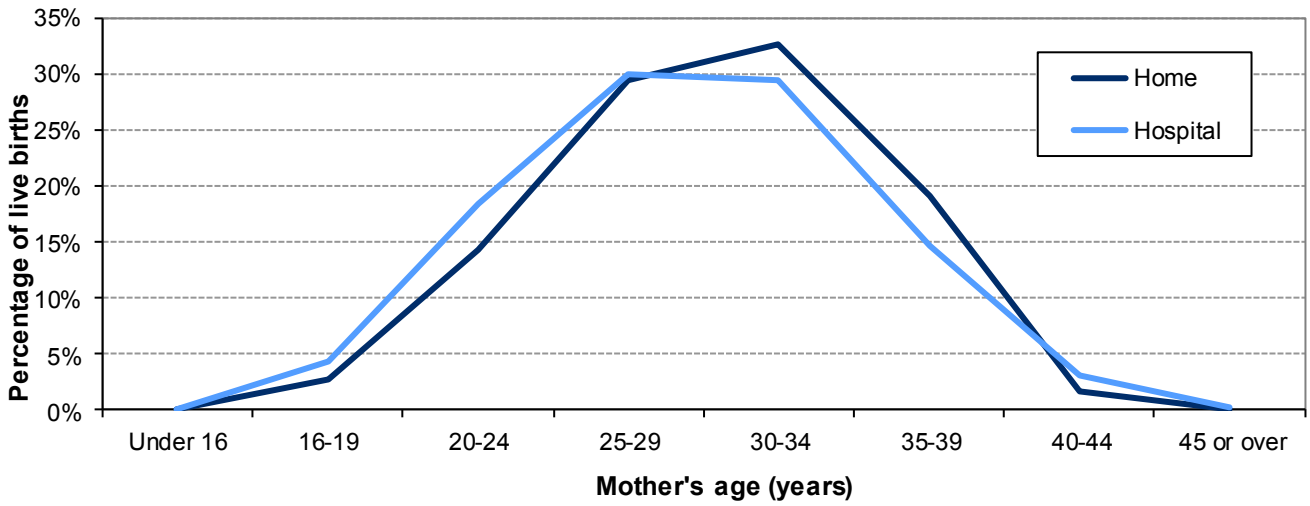
Chart 17: Percentage of live births by time of birth, 2017



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017

The distribution of live births by hour of the day is shown in Chart 17. By hour, the fewest births in 2017 occurred between 7am and 8am and most between 10am and 11am. There was another low point between 1pm and 2pm followed by a peak between 2pm and 3pm. Eight live births had no time of birth recorded.

Chart 18: Percentage of live births by place of birth and mother's age, 2017

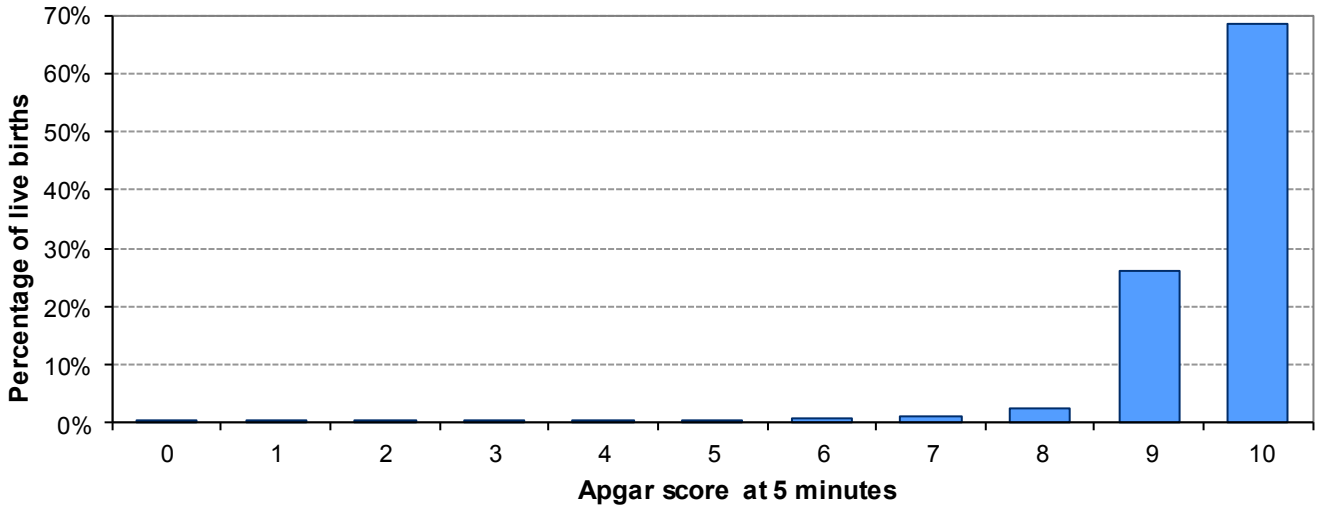


Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017
The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated place of birth 94 births had no stated place of birth in 2017. In addition, for 48 births, the place of birth recorded was "ambulance".

The distribution of live births by place of birth (home or hospital) is shown in Chart 18.

In 2017, 2 per cent of all live births took place at home. A slightly higher proportion of older mothers gave birth at home than younger mothers.

Chart 19: Percentage of live births by APGAR score at 5 minutes, 2017



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017
The percentages are of the total live births minus births with no stated Apgar score: For 1,853 births (6 per cent of all live births), the Apgar score at 5 minutes was recorded as "not stated" in 2017.

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 new born is in good health.

Chart 19 shows that for the majority of births (98.5%), babies had high Apgar scores (7 or over) recorded at 5 minutes.

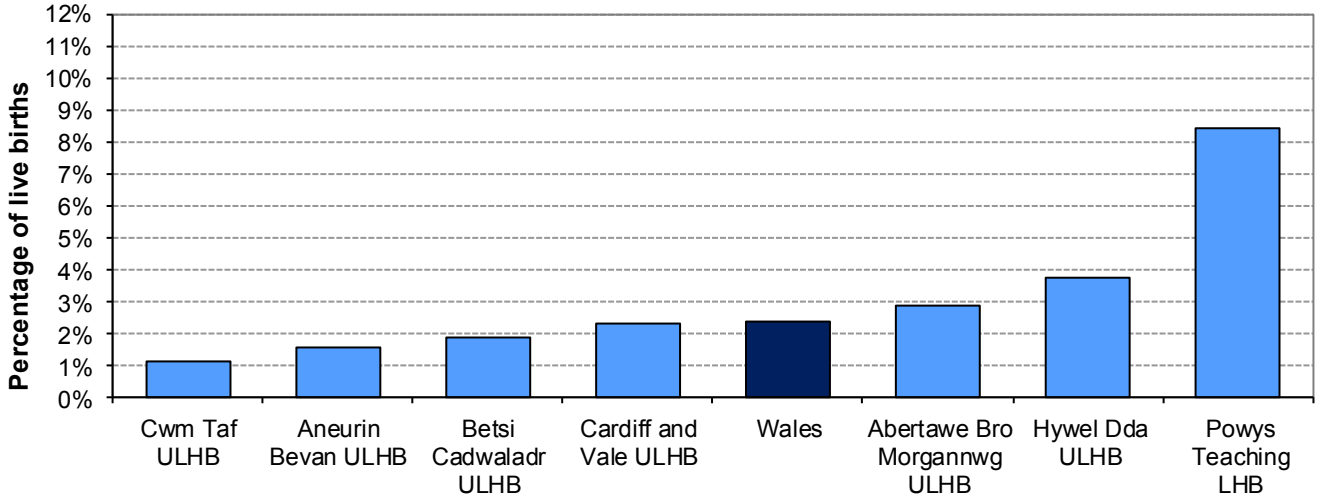
Key characteristics / outcomes - live births to Welsh residents 2017

Local Health Board of residence

Data for these charts are available on StatsWales.

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.

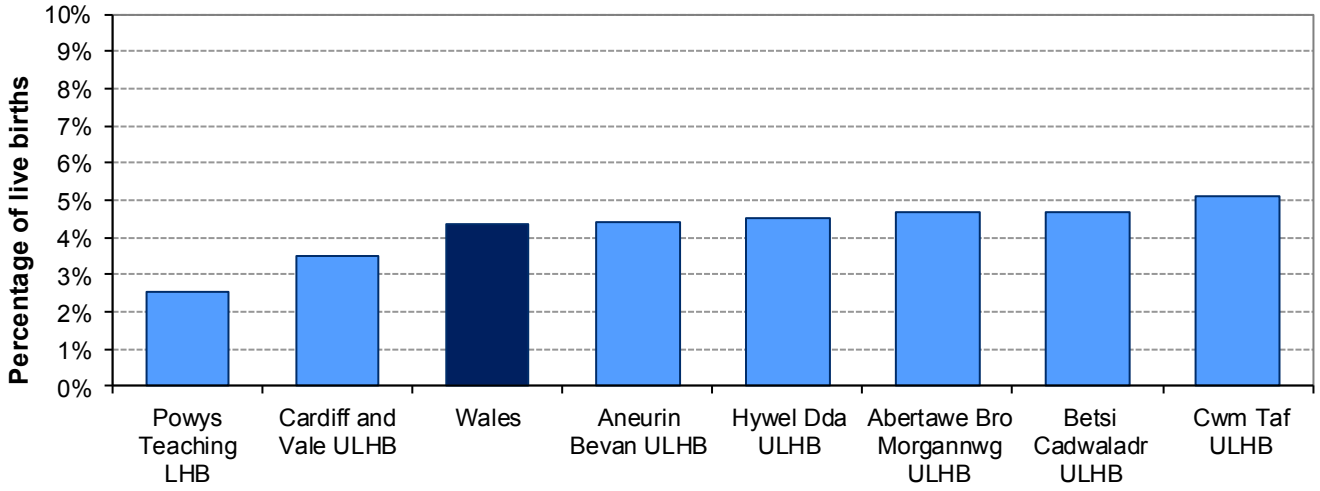
Chart 20: Percentage of live births born at home by Local Health Board, 2017



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017
The percentages are of the total live births minus births with no stated place of birth: For 48 births, the place of birth recorded was "ambulance" and 94 births had "not stated" place of birth in 2017.

Chart 20 shows the proportion of births born at home in 2017 by local health board where the mother lived, ranging from 1.1 per cent in Cwm Taf University LHB to 8.4 per cent in Powys Teaching LHB (where there are no major hospitals). Overall in Wales 2.4 per cent of births were born at home.

Chart 21: Percentage of live births to mothers aged under 20 years by Local Health Board, 2017

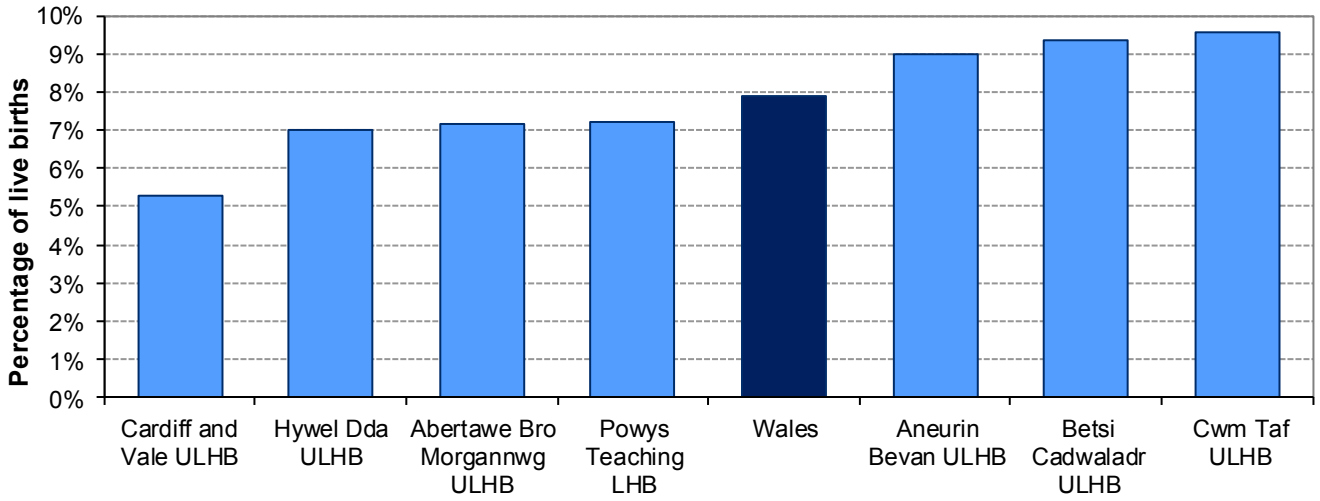


Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017
The percentages are of the total live births minus births with no stated mother's age. These are very few however with only 10 births having no mother's age stated in 2017.

Chart 21 shows that Cwm Taf University LHB had the highest percentage of births to mothers under 20 years old (5.1 per cent) and Powys Teaching LHB the lowest (2.5 per cent). In Wales, as a whole 4.4 per

cent of births were recorded to mothers aged under 20. No adjustments are made for different age distributions in health board areas.

Chart 22: Percentage of live births less than 37 weeks gestational age by Local Health Board, 2017

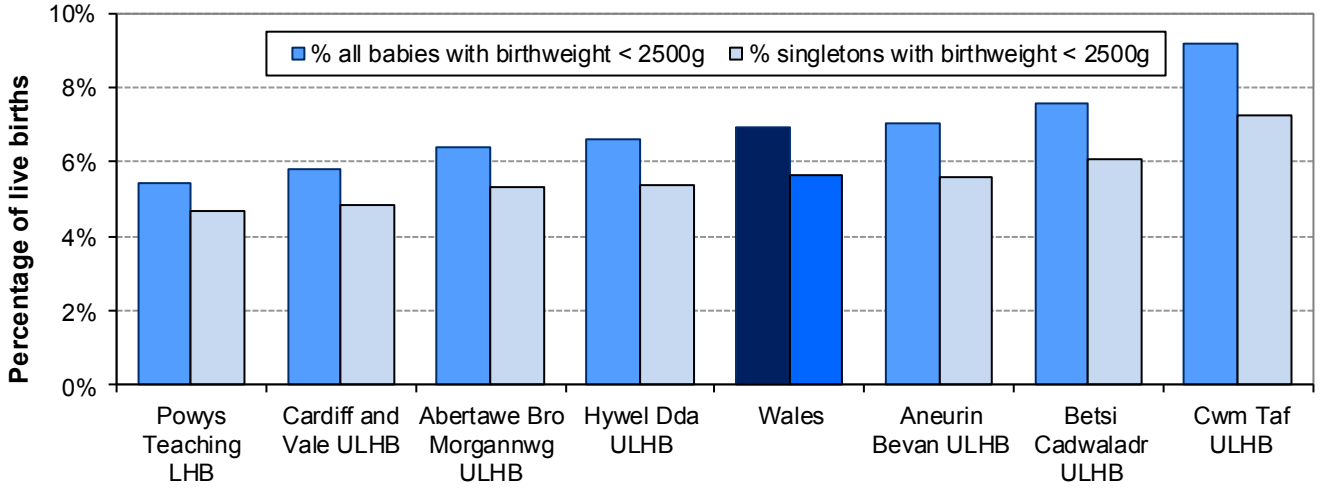


Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017
The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated gestational age: 141 births had no stated gestational age in 2017 (includes gestations of less than 20 weeks and more than 45 weeks).

Chart 22 shows the proportion of births born at less than 37 weeks gestation by local health board.

Cardiff and Vale University LHB had the lowest percentage with 5.3 per cent, while Cwm Taf University LHB had the highest percentage with 9.6 per cent. Overall in Wales, 7.9 per cent of births were born before 37 weeks gestation.

Chart 23: Percentage of live births less than 2,500g birth weight by Local Health Board, 2017



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017
The percentages are of the total live births minus births with no stated birth weight: 62 (single) births and 77 (all live) births had no stated birth weight in 2017 (includes birth weights of less than 0.5kg or more than 6kg).

Chart 23 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 5.4 per cent in Powys Teaching LHB (4.7 per cent of singletons) to 9.2 per cent in Cwm Taf University LHB (7.2 per cent of singletons). In Wales, 6.9 per cent of all live births and 5.6 per cent of singletons weighed less than 2,500g at birth, a small increase on the 2016 figures (Table 7).

Table 1: Live births by gestational age and selected indicators, Wales 2017

	Number of weeks gestation:					
Birthweight	**20-31**	**32-36**	**37-41**	**42 or more**	**Not stated**	**Total**
Under 2500g	363	1,071	781	6	11	2,232
2500-3999g	19	1,021	24,125	872	103	26,140
4000g or more	1	22	3,461	288	15	3,787
Not stated	23	13	24	5	12	77
Total	**406**	**2,127**	**28,391**	**1,171**	**141**	**32,236**

	Number of weeks gestation:					
Mother's age (years)	**20-31**	**32-36**	**37-41**	**42 or more**	**Not stated**	**Total**
Under 16	0	1	28	2	0	31
16-19	20	96	1,200	54	9	1,379
20-24	91	414	5,121	229	19	5,874
25-29	122	585	8,539	371	38	9,655
30-34	96	590	8,402	352	45	9,485
35-39	67	345	4,176	154	22	4,764
40-44	7	88	861	9	5	970
45 or over	2	8	57	0	1	68
Not stated	1	0	7	0	2	10
Total	**406**	**2,127**	**28,391**	**1,171**	**141**	**32,236**

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017
Gestations less than 20 w eeks or more than 45 w eeks included as "not stated"
Mother's age less than 10 and more than 54 included as "not stated"
Birthw eight less than 0.5kg or more than 6kg included as "not stated"

Table 2: Live births by birth weight and mother's age, Wales 2017

Mother's age (years)	**Under 2000g**	**2000-2499g**	**2500-2999g**	**3000-3999g**	**4000g or more**	**Not stated**	**Total**
Under 16	0	0	3	26	2	0	31
16-19	33	88	296	859	102	1	1,379
20-24	173	306	979	3,829	571	16	5,874
25-29	249	387	1,491	6,445	1064	19	9,655
30-34	173	393	1,330	6,289	1274	26	9,485
35-39	120	224	698	3,043	666	13	4,764
40-44	27	48	160	634	101	0	970
45 or over	3	7	15	37	6	0	68
Not stated	1	0	2	4	1	2	10
Total	**779**	**1,453**	**4,974**	**21,166**	**3787**	**77**	**32,236**

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017
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 2017

Mother's age (years)	Breastfeeding	Not breastfeeding	Not stated	Total
Under 16	14	17	0	31
16-19	517	767	95	1,379
20-24	2,591	2,886	397	5,874
25-29	5,226	3,826	603	9,655
30-34	5,988	2,921	576	9,485
35-39	3,218	1,260	286	4,764
40-44	670	230	70	970
45 or over	49	18	1	68
Not stated	3	6	1	10
Total	**18,276**	**11,931**	**2,029**	**32,236**

Gestational age (weeks)	Breastfeeding	Not breastfeeding	Not stated	Total
20-31	203	97	106	406
32-36	1,078	891	158	2,127
37-41	16,240	10,481	1,670	28,391
42 or more	680	417	74	1,171
Not stated	75	45	21	141
Total	**18,276**	**11,931**	**2,029**	**32,236**

Birthweight	Breastfeeding	Not breastfeeding	Not stated	Total
Under 2000g	396	251	132	779
2000-2499g	701	646	106	1,453
2500-2999g	2,607	2,075	292	4,974
3000-3999g	12,259	7,674	1,233	21,166
4000g or more	2,285	1,262	240	3,787
Not stated	28	23	26	77
Total	**18,276**	**11,931**	**2,029**	**32,236**

Place of birth	Breastfeeding	Not breastfeeding	Not stated	Total
Home	494	186	90	770
Hospital	17,696	11,711	1,917	31,324
Ambulance	28	11	9	48
Not stated	58	23	13	94
Total	**18,276**	**11,931**	**2,029**	**32,236**

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017

(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"

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

Table 4: Live births by time of birth, Wales 2017

Time (24 hour clock)	Live births
00:00-00:59	1,323
01:00-01:59	1,366
02:00-02:59	1,356
03:00-03:59	1,266
04:00-04:59	1,230
05:00-05:59	1,221
06:00-06:59	1,195
07:00-07:59	1,012
08:00-08:59	1,072
09:00-09:59	1,516
10:00-10:59	1,899
11:00-11:59	1,674
12:00-12:59	1,617
13:00-13:59	1,311
14:00-14:59	1,683
15:00-15:59	1,481
16:00-16:59	1,455
17:00-17:59	1,233
18:00-18:59	1,164
19:00-19:59	1,201
20:00-20:59	1,141
21:00-21:59	1,210
22:00-22:59	1,268
23:00-23:59	1,334
Not stated	8
Total	**32,236**

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017

Table 5: Live births by place of birth and mother's age, Wales 2017

Mother's age (years)	Home	Hospital	Ambulance	Not stated	Total
Under 16	0	31	0	0	31
16-19	21	1,352	1	5	1,379
20-24	110	5,739	9	16	5,874
25-29	226	9,384	17	28	9,655
30-34	251	9,199	6	29	9,485
35-39	147	4,600	9	8	4,764
40-44	13	949	5	3	970
45 or over	1	65	0	2	68
Not stated	1	5	1	3	10
Total	**770**	**31,324**	**48**	**94**	**32,236**

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017
Mother's age less than 10 and more than 54 included as "not stated"

Table 6: Live births by selected indicators, Wales 2007-2017

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**	**31,884**

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) 2017

(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"

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

Table 7: Key statistics for live births, Wales 2007-17

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Live births	33,690	34,469	35,755	35,002	36,033	35,682	35,350	33,822	33,648	33,361	33,004	32,236
Homebirths	3.4%	3.6%	3.6%	3.7%	3.4%	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%	3.1%	2.8%	2.6%	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%	4.4%
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%	7.9%
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%	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%	5.6%
Breastfeeding (a)	55.1%	56.0%	56.4%	56.7%	55.3%	55.5%	55.8%	55.9%	57.9%	59.7%	60.9%	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%	2.5%

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017

(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, 2017

Number *Per cent (a)*

	Place of birth						Place of birth			
	Births in Wales				Births outside Wales		Births in Wales			Births outside Wales
LHB / LA of residence	Welsh hospital	Ambulance	Home	Not stated	English hospital	All births	Welsh hospital	Ambulance	Home	English hospital
Betsi Cadwaladr University LHB	**6,064**	**15**	**130**	**14**	**758**	**6,981**	**87%**	**0%**	**2%**	**11%**
Isle of Anglesey	642	0	12	2	3	659	98%	0%	2%	0%
Gwynedd	1,082	2	30	3	10	1,127	96%	0%	3%	1%
Conwy	1,000	0	13	1	2	1,016	99%	0%	1%	0%
Denbighshire	946	1	13	6	13	979	97%	0%	1%	1%
Flintshire	890	6	31	1	696	1,624	55%	0%	2%	43%
Wrexham	1,504	6	31	1	34	1,576	95%	0%	2%	2%
Powys Teaching LHB	**697**	**3**	**93**	**6**	**310**	**1,109**	**63%**	**0%**	**8%**	**28%**
Hywel Dda University LHB	**3,326**	**11**	**130**	**2**	**11**	**3,480**	**96%**	**0%**	**4%**	**0%**
Ceredigion	532	2	14	1	1	550	97%	0%	3%	0%
Pembrokeshire	1,064	5	44	0	0	1,113	96%	0%	4%	0%
Carmarthenshire	1,730	4	72	1	10	1,817	95%	0%	4%	1%
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University LHB	**5,134**	**2**	**152**	**7**	**13**	**5,308**	**97%**	**0%**	**3%**	**0%**
Swansea	2,292	2	68	2	5	2,369	97%	0%	3%	0%
Neath Port Talbot	1,411	0	38	2	3	1,454	97%	0%	3%	0%
Bridgend	1,431	0	46	3	5	1,485	97%	0%	3%	0%
Cardiff and Vale University LHB	**5,365**	**1**	**127**	**37**	**0**	**5,530**	**98%**	**0%**	**2%**	**0%**
Vale of Glamorgan	1,300	0	54	7	0	1,361	96%	0%	4%	0%
Cardiff	4,065	1	73	30	0	4,169	98%	0%	2%	0%
Cwm Taf University LHB	**3,258**	**1**	**37**	**9**	**10**	**3,315**	**99%**	**0%**	**1%**	**0%**
Rhondda Cynon Taf	2,564	1	32	6	5	2,608	99%	0%	1%	0%
Merthyr Tydfil	694	0	5	3	5	707	99%	0%	1%	1%
Aneurin Bevan University LHB	**6,211**	**14**	**99**	**17**	**35**	**6,376**	**98%**	**0%**	**2%**	**1%**
Caerphilly	1,869	6	23	6	5	1,909	98%	0%	1%	0%
Blaenau Gwent	717	2	5	4	2	730	99%	0%	1%	0%
Torfaen	989	2	19	0	8	1,018	97%	0%	2%	1%
Monmouthshire	687	3	21	2	16	729	94%	0%	3%	2%
Newport	1,949	1	31	5	4	1,990	98%	0%	2%	0%
Not stated	85	1	2	2	47	137	63%	1%	1%	35%
Wales	**30,140**	**48**	**770**	**94**	**1,184**	**32,236**	**94%**	**0%**	**2%**	**4%**
Not Welsh resident	310	-	-	-		310	100%	-	-	-

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2017

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

.. Data item not available

Key Quality Information

Source

Data in this release comes from the National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) which draws data from the Operational Child Health System (CCH2000) databases held by local health boards (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

Welsh Government 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. The next update will be in September 2018.

Births in Wales: data from the National Community Child Health Database, 2007-2017: 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?

The main users are:

- Ministers, policy officials 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 2017 (32,236) compares well with the 32,176 recorded in 2017 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 for the latest available data between NCCHD and ONS registered live births for 2009-2016 by mother's age and birth weight:

Live births by mother's age

% of births with stated mother's age

	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
Mother's age	**NCCHD**	**ONS**	**NCCHD**	**ONS**	**NCCHD**	**ONS**	**NCCHD**	**ONS**	**NCCHD**	**ONS**	**NCCHD**	**ONS**	**NCCHD**	**ONS**
Under 20	7.7	7.6	6.9	6.8	6.4	6.4	5.7	5.7	5.1	5.1	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6
20-24	23.1	23.0	22.7	22.7	22.5	22.4	21.8	21.7	20.5	20.2	19.7	19.5	18.6	18.4
25-29	28.7	28.9	28.8	28.9	28.7	28.8	29.7	29.8	30.1	30.1	30.6	30.6	30.8	30.7
30-34	24.4	24.4	25.5	25.6	26.6	26.7	26.7	26.8	28.0	28.2	28.3	28.5	28.3	28.4
35-39	13.0	13.0	12.9	13.0	12.6	12.6	12.8	12.8	13.1	13.1	13.7	13.7	14.6	14.7
40 and over	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2
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	36,024	35,952	35,678	35,598	35,337	35,238	33,799	33,747	33,637	33,544	33,346	33,279	32,994	32,936

Live births by birthweight

% of births with stated birthweight

	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
Birth weight	**NCCHD**	**ONS**	**NCCHD**	**ONS**	**NCCHD**	**ONS**	**NCCHD**	**ONS**	**NCCHD**	**ONS**	**NCCHD**	**ONS**	**NCCHD**	**ONS**
Under 2500g	6.9	7.0	6.7	6.8	7.1	7.3	6.9	7.1	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.9	7.0
2500-3999g	81.1	81.0	81.3	81.4	81.2	81.1	81.2	81.1	81.1	81.1	81.4	81.3	81.5	81.4
4000g or more	12.1	12.0	11.9	11.8	11.7	11.7	11.9	11.8	12.2	12.1	11.9	11.9	11.6	11.6
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	35,954	35,475	35,643	35,337	35,317	35,180	33,777	33,679	33,590	33,403	33,286	33,152	32,864	32,420

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.

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.

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.

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 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 StatsWales 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 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 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 the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the Well-being of Wales report.

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 2019 (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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Annex A

Completeness of data items 2009-2017

		% Completeness								
Data Item Name	**Data ItemTerm**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**
Trust Number	Unique number identifying the Trust	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Date of Birth	Date of Birth of Child	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Time of Birth	Time of Birth of Child	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Sex	Gender of the Child	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Ward Code	Electoral and Census	99%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%
LHB	The Local Health Board with responsibility for the Child based on residence	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	100%	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%	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%	100%
GP Practice	The OCS code for the current GP practice of the child	99%	99%	99%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%
HV Code	The current Health Visitor code for the child	99%	99%	99%	98%	99%	98%	98%	99%	99%
Number Born	The number of births resulting from the pregnancy	100%	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%	100%
Birth Weight	First weight of baby following delivery, preferably in the first hour of life	100%	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%	100%
Ethnic Group	The ethnicity of the child as defined by the mother	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%
Mode of Delivery	The procedure by which the mother is delivered of the baby	65%	69%	70%	70%	63%	63%	62%	62%	61%
Onset of Labour	The method by which the process of labour began	69%	69%	69%	69%	62%	61%	61%	61%	60%
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%	93%
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%	85%
Smoking History	The number of cigarettes that the mother smokes each day	65%	65%	65%	66%	60%	57%	59%	60%	59%
Maternal Care	The type of maternal care	58%	58%	60%	60%	60%	56%	58%	56%	52%
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%	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%	94%
Apgar Score 5 min	The total apgar score for a baby at 5 minutes after birth.	91%	90%	93%	93%	94%	94%	94%	95%	94%
Place of Birth	Actual place of child's birth, i.e. hospital number or home	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%