Child Health 27-30 Month Review Statistics
Scotland 2016/17
An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release
This release from the Information Services Division (ISD) provides an update on children’s development as assessed during 27-30 month child health reviews. The latest information presented comes from reviews provided to children turning 27 months between April 2016 and March 2017.

Main Points
• In 2016/17, 18% of children undergoing a 27-30 month child health review had a concern recorded about at least one area of their development.

![Percentage of children with any developmental concern recorded at their 27-30 month review, Scotland, 2016/17](image)

• Concerns were most commonly recorded about children’s speech, language and communication (13% of children), and their emotional and behavioural development (6% of children).

• Boys (23%) were almost twice as likely as girls (12%) to have a concern recorded about their development.

• Children living in the most deprived areas of Scotland were much more likely to have a concern recorded about their development (24%) than those living in the least deprived areas (11%).

• The percentage of children with any concern recorded about their development ranged from 7% in NHS Grampian to 23% in NHS Ayrshire & Arran. These results should be interpreted with some caution as it is likely that this degree of variation reflects different approaches to assessing child development in different areas.
Background

Early child development is influenced by both biological factors (such as being born premature) and environmental factors (such as the parenting and learning opportunities children receive). Problems with early child development are important as they are strongly associated with long-term health, educational, and wider social difficulties.

Detecting developmental problems early provides the best opportunity to support children and families to improve outcomes. There is good evidence that parenting support and enriched early learning opportunities can improve outcomes for children with, or at risk of, developmental delay. There is also increasing evidence that intensive early interventions for children with serious developmental problems can also improve outcomes.

All children in Scotland are offered the child health programme which includes a series of child health reviews. Health Visitors usually provide reviews for preschool children. A review for children aged 27-30 months was introduced in Scotland in April 2013. As part of this review, Health Visitors assess children’s development by asking parents about their child’s progress, carefully observing the child, and supporting parents to complete a structured questionnaire about the child’s development. At the end of the review Health Visitors record whether they have any concerns about each area of the child’s development.

In 2016/17, a total of 51,327 27-30 month reviews were provided to 57,485 eligible children, giving an overall review coverage rate of 89%. 41,000 of the reviews (80%) provided information on every area of the child’s development.

Information for parents on early child development, and promoting good development, is available through Ready Steady Baby, Ready Steady Toddler, and Play, Talk, Read.

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Further Information

Find out more in the 27-30 Month Review Statistics Financial Year 2016/17 report, and in the interactive data visualisation. Background information and metadata can be found in the technical report.

ISD Scotland publishes a wide range of information on Child Health including infant feeding, immunisations, and Primary 1 Body mass Index (BMI). Further information is available on our website

The next release of this publication will be in February 2019.

ISD and Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Further information about our statistics.