

# Publication Summary



## **Births in Scottish Hospitals**

**Year ending 31 March 2010**

**Publication date – 30/08/2011**

### **About this Release**

The data presented here are mainly obtained from the Scottish Morbidity Record 02 (SMR02) submitted by maternity hospitals to ISD, who have collected this information since 1975. Although there is no legal requirement to submit these data to ISD, the level of submission falls only slightly short of the known total number of births occurring each year

### **Key Points**

- **Babies born in Scotland:** There were 58,356 births recorded on SMR02 for year ending March 2010. This compares to 58,884 (provisional) births registered in Scotland by the National Records Service in the same time period.
- **Mothers are getting older:** There was a steady increase in the proportion of births to mothers aged 30-34, from 13% in 1976 to a peak of 31% in 2002, but this has now declined slightly to 27% in 2010. The proportion of births to mothers in the 35-39 group climbed steadily to 17% in 2008 from 4% twenty years ago and has now decreased to 16%. Nearly 4% of births are to mothers aged forty and over compared to less than 1% during the 1980s.
- **Smoking in pregnancy:** The overall percentage of women who reported smoking at the time of their first antenatal booking has decreased consistently from 29.0% in 1995 to 18.8% in 2010. However, it should be noted that the percentage of 'unknowns' has risen from 5% in 1995 to 10.7% in 2010 and that this may include a proportion of smokers. This is an improvement on 2009, when 'unknowns' accounted for 14.2%. There is known to be considerable under-reporting of smoking by pregnant women themselves.
- **Caesarean section:** In singleton births, the emergency caesarean section rate increased from 3.9% in 1976 to a peak of 15.4% in 2006, followed by a slight drop in the last 4 years to 14.8%. The rate of elective\* or planned caesarean sections has continued to rise from 4.7% in 1976, to 10.5% in 2010. Together this has resulted in an overall increase in caesarean section rates from 8.6% in 1976 to 25.4% in 2010.

[\*An elective caesarean section refers to a caesarean section which has been planned in advance and in most cases will have been recommended for clinical reasons such as breech or multiple births or previous caesarean section. It may also be the case that the woman will have chosen this method of delivery for non-clinical reasons.]

## Revision of smoking at First Visit figures

The smoking in pregnancy section also includes figures on maternal smoking as recorded at the public health nurse/health visitor's First Visit review. This information is recorded on the pre-school component of the Child Health Systems Programme (CHSP-PS). A new methodology has been implemented to improve the accuracy of the NHS Board and Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 2009) quintile statistics on maternal smoking at the First Visit. The overall Scotland figures and data by maternal age are not affected by the new methodology. This revision does not affect the overall interpretation or conclusions to be drawn from previously published data.

## Background

### Maternity Data Source (inpatients and day cases)

Hospital based maternity and birth data are derived from the maternity inpatient and day case record (SMR02).

## Contact

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## Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

### About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up. Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

### 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. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#) [www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/)