About this Release

The Scottish Perinatal and Infant Mortality and Morbidity Report (SPIMMR) is published annually. The Scottish Stillbirth and Infant Death Survey (SSBIDS) and the production of the report are managed jointly by the Reproductive Health Programme of Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Information Services Division (ISD) of NHS National Services Scotland with collaboration from the National Records of Scotland (NRS).

The report includes information on rates, causes and associated factors for all stillbirths, neonatal deaths (up to 28 days of age), post-neonatal infant deaths (from 28 days to one year) registered in 2011 and for late fetal deaths (pregnancy losses from 20 to 23+6 weeks gestation) reported to the Survey. The incidence of certain specified congenital anomalies is also reported.

In 2011, a more detailed data collection form was used and a new system for classifying the cause of death was introduced. The quality and completeness of information has improved and causes of death now reflect modern practice and knowledge.

Key Points

- **Rates of stillbirths and deaths:**
  - Stillbirth rate 5.1 per 1000 births
  - Neonatal death rate 2.7 per 1000 live births
  - Perinatal mortality rate 6.9 per 1000 births
  - Post-neonatal deaths 1.3 per 1000 live births
  - Infant mortality rate 4.0 per 1000 live births

  All rates are lower than in most recent years. The perinatal mortality rate in 2011 was the same as 2010’s record low rate.

- **Total births and deaths in 2011:**
  There were 58,889 births, 193 fewer than in 2010, continuing the slight decline in births since the recent peak of 60,366 in 2008. A total of 689 deaths were notified to the SSBIDS, comprising 153 late fetal deaths, 299 stillbirths, 159 neonatal deaths and 78 post-neonatal deaths.
• **Causes of stillbirths and neonatal deaths:**
The revised system for classifying causes of death identified specific placental disorders, generally associated with fetal growth restriction, as the most frequent cause of death among singleton stillbirths (38%), followed by antepartum haemorrhage (15%) and congenital anomalies of the baby (12%). Conditions associated with prematurity were the most frequent cause of neonatal deaths (41% of singletons) among whom congenital anomalies (29%) were also important.

• **Other findings**
  - Babies of low birth weight and who deliver prematurely continue to be at highest risk of stillbirth and neonatal death.
  - Maternal obesity, smoking and deprivation are associated with raised rates of stillbirth and infant death. Maternal age over 40 is also associated with an increased risk of stillbirth.
  - A post mortem was offered for almost all stillbirths; 61% of stillbirths had a post mortem performed.

• **NHS Board variations:**
  Variations in the rates of stillbirths and neonatal deaths between NHS Boards are likely to be related to random variation and local sociodemographic factors.

• **Commentary:**
  Commentary is provided on the revised classification system and on new data collected for each death.

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**Further Information**

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

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**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/](www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/)