Publication Summary

Births in Scottish Hospitals
Year ending 31st March 2012
Publication date – 27th August 2013

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. For the first time in this publication, we have used data from the Scottish Birth Record (SBR) to display the numbers and percentages of babies requiring different types of care. Also new to this publication, although previously published in Drug Misuse Statistics Scotland, are data on drug misuse in pregnancy.

Key Points

- There were 57,911 births (including live and still births) recorded on SMR02 for the year ending March 2012. Data from SMR02 represent approximately 99% of the births registered by the National Records Service. Some of this shortfall will be due to data on home births not being available from SMR02 data.

- Mothers are getting older: Births to mothers aged 30-34 have risen steadily, accounting for 28.8% of all maternities. Since 1976 there has also been a steady rise in the proportion of mothers aged 35+ (from 6.0% to 19.9% in 2011/12).

- Smoking in pregnancy: The number of women who were smokers at the time of their booking appointment fell from 25.4% in 2000/01 to 19.3% in 2011/12. The level of ‘Not Known’ has decreased from 13.5% in 2000/01 to 5.3% in 2011/12. It should be noted that the percentage of ‘unknowns’ may include a proportion of smokers and it is also known that there is considerable under-reporting of smoking by pregnant women themselves.

- Caesarean section: In singleton births, elective and emergency caesarean section rates have both increased steadily since 1975/76 (from 4.7% to 11.9% and 3.9% to 15.9%
respectively). The overall caesarean section rate has risen from 8.6% in 1975/76 to 27.8% in 2011/12.

- Forceps deliveries: Forceps deliveries fell from 13.3% in 1975/76 to a low of 6.8% in 2001/02 before rising to 9.8% in 2011/12. Deliveries by Ventouse (vacuum extraction) show a contrasting trend with deliveries rising to 5.6% in 2002/03 and then falling to 3.1% in 2011/12.

- Deprivation: Mothers in the category of highest deprivation most commonly start a family around ages 19 to 22 years. This is in contrast to those in the category of least deprivation where the most common age for a first birth is 30 years.

- Drug misuse: In 2011/12, 2.0% (nearly 1 in 50) of maternities in Scotland recorded drug misuse. Nearly half of those (552) recorded misuse of opioids.

**Background**

Hospital based maternity and birth data are derived from the maternity inpatient and day case record (SMR02). Data on neonatal discharges and level of care are derived from the Scottish Birth Record (SBR).

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**Further Information**

Further information can be found in the Full Publication Report or on the ISD website.