Publication Summary

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 presented developmental data on mother’s body mass index (BMI). This has been derived from data on mother’s height and weight which have been mandatory data collection items on SMR02 since April 2011.

Key Points

- Births: There were 56,346 births (including live and still births) recorded on SMR02 for the year ending March 2013. Data from SMR02 represent approximately 98% of the births registered by National Records of Scotland. Some of this shortfall will be due to data on home births not being available from SMR02 data.

- Mothers are getting older: There has been a steady increase in births to mothers in the over 30 age groups since 1975/76, with contrasting decreases in births to mothers in younger age groups. In 1975/76 the percentage of mothers aged over 30 was 19.4% compared to 49.0% in 2012/13.

- Age and deprivation: In the most deprived areas mothers most commonly start a family at around 20 years old, in contrast to those in less deprived areas where the most common age for a first birth is 30.

- 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 18.4% in 2012/13. The level of ‘Not Known’ has decreased from 13.5% in 2000/01 to 4.6% in 2012/13. 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 caesarean section rates have increased steadily since 1975/76 (from 4.7% to 12.0). Emergency caesarean section rates have also seen a general increase since 1975/76, but have decreased in the last year to 15.3%.

- Body Mass Index: Using mother’s height and weight allowed for developmental data on body mass index (BMI) to be explored for the first time in this publication. Of the 55,542 women delivering in 2012/13, 7,850 (14.1%) had unknown BMI at antenatal booking. For those with known BMI, overweight and obese women were less likely to have a vaginal delivery and more likely to have a caesarean section delivery than underweight or healthy weight women.

**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).

**Contact**

Celina Davis  
Principal Information Analyst  
*nss.isdmaternity@nhs.net* 0131 275 6199

Kenny McIntyre  
Senior Information Analyst  
*Nss.isdmaternity@nhs.net* 0131 275 6557

Stuart Wrigglesworth  
Information Analyst  
*Nss.isdmaternity@nhs.net* 0131 275 7128

**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/](#).