Publication Summary

Births in Scottish Hospitals
Year ending 31 March 2015
Publication date – 24 November 2015

About this Release
This release from the Information Services Division (ISD) reports on data mostly obtained from the Scottish Morbidity Record 02 (SMR02) submitted by maternity hospitals to ISD, who have collected this information since 1975. This update includes data for births in financial years 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Key Points
- Mothers are getting older: There has been a steady increase in births to mothers in the over 30 age groups since 1975/76. In the most deprived areas mothers most commonly start a family at around 22 years old, in contrast to those in less deprived areas where the most common age for a first birth is 31.

- Caesarean section: In singleton births, planned caesarean section rates have increased steadily since 1975/76 (from 4.7% to 13.4%). Emergency caesarean section rates have also seen a general increase since 1975/76 (from 3.9% to 16.5%)

- Body Mass Index: Of the 53,222 women delivering in 2014/15, 25,891 (48.6%) were overweight or obese. 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.

- Smoking: The percentage of mothers smoking during pregnancy and after delivery continues to fall. In 2014/15 the percentage of women known to be current smokers at the time of antenatal booking was 17.3%.

- Antenatal booking: In 2014/15 over 80% of women from each Scotland level deprivation quintile booked for their antenatal care before 12 weeks of pregnancy.

- Premature and low birthweight babies: The percentage of babies born prematurely (before 37 weeks) or with a low birthweight has decreased slightly over the last 10 years. In 2014/15, 7.3% of babies were born prematurely compared to 8.2% in 2005/06 and 6.2% had a low birthweight in 2014/15 compared to 7.6% in 2005/06.
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).

There were 53,976 births (including live and still births) recorded on SMR02 for the year ending March 2015.

Historically births recorded on SMR02 represent approximately 98% of the births recorded by National Records of Scotland (NRS). Some of this shortfall will be due to data on home births not being available from SMR02. For the year 2014, births recorded on SMR02 represented approximately 96% of the births recorded on NRS, due to lower SMR02 submissions from some NHS Boards.

SMR02 submission levels based on NHS Board of residence for 2014/15 are estimated to be 97% complete for Scotland. Boards with submission levels lower than 95% are NHS Lothian (93%), NHS Borders (90%) and NHS Western Isles (19%).

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.

Find out more in the Births in Scottish Hospitals Report.

ISD Scotland publishes a wide range of information on Maternities and Sexual Health including teenage pregnancies and terminations of pregnancy. Further information can be found on the ISD website.