About this release
This annual release from the Information Services Division reports on maternity and birth data up to financial year 2015/16.

Main Points
- Caesarean sections are increasing: the percentage of live single births in 2015/16 delivered by caesarean section has more than tripled since 1975/76.

Live single births by method of delivery (excluding normal vaginal); year ending 31 March

- Mothers are getting older: the number of women giving birth aged 30 or over in 2015/16 has more than doubled since 1975/76.

- Mothers from deprived areas tend to give birth at a younger age: the most common age for mothers living in the most deprived areas to start a family in 2015/16 was 22 years compared to 31 years for mothers living in the least deprived areas.
More mothers are overweight or obese than are of healthy weight: in 2015/16, 45.5% of mothers were of a healthy weight when they booked for antenatal care compared to 49.6% of mothers who were overweight or obese.

Fewer women are smoking in pregnancy: the percentage of women known to be current smokers at the time of antenatal booking was 15.5% in 2015/16 compared to 20.8% in 2006/07.

**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.

Historically, births recorded on SMR02 represent approximately 98% of the births recorded by National Records of Scotland. Some of this shortfall will be due to data on home births not being available from SMR02. Live births recorded on SMR02 represented approximately 98.5% of the births recorded by National Records of Scotland for the year 2015.

NHS Lothian experienced problems submitting some of their maternity inpatient and day case records which particularly impacted on the number of stillbirths. Further information is provided in the appendix section of the publication report.

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**Further Information**

Further information can be found in the full Births in Scottish Hospitals Report. For the first time in this publication we have included some new interactive visual content in the Births in Scottish Hospitals Dashboard. Information on live births is presented over time, by deprivation area, maternal age group and method of delivery.

The Information Services Division publishes a wide range of information on birth, pregnancy and sexual health including teenage pregnancies and terminations of pregnancy in Scotland. Further information can be found on our Maternity and Births and Sexual Health pages.

The next release of this publication will be in November 2017.

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**ISD and 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. Further information about our statistics.