About this release
This annual release from the Information Services Division reports on maternity and birth data up to financial year 2016/17.

Main Points

- Deprivation continues to influence the health of mothers and babies across Scotland. In 2016/17 mothers from deprived areas were more likely to smoke, be overweight or obese, book late for antenatal care and deliver their babies early compared to mothers from less deprived areas. Although there is evidence of a narrowing in the inequalities gap for smoking over time, the gap is increasing for maternal Body Mass Index (BMI).

- Fewer women are smoking in pregnancy. In 2016/17 the percentage of women who were current smokers at the time of their antenatal booking appointment was 15%, down from 29% in 1997/98.

- More mothers are overweight or obese. In 2016/17 fewer than half of pregnant women (45%) had a BMI within the healthy range at their booking appointment and more than half (51%) were overweight or obese.

- Caesarean sections continue to increase. In 2016/17 the percentage of live singleton babies delivered by caesarean section was 32%, up from 9% in 1975/76.
Preterm multiple births are increasing while preterm singleton births show little change. In 2016/17 6% of singleton babies and 68% of babies from a multiple pregnancy were born preterm.

**Background**
Hospital-based maternity and birth data are derived from the maternity inpatient and day case record (SMR02). Comparison of SMR02 with the number of births registered by National Records of Scotland confirms the high completeness of SMR02 (99% for live births in 2016/17). Data on neonatal discharges and level of care are derived from the Scottish Birth Record (SBR).

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**Further Information**
Find out more in the full [Births in Scottish Hospitals Report](#), and in the interactive data visualisation. Background information and metadata can be found in the [technical report](#).

The Information Services Division publishes a wide range of information on births and maternal health. Further information is available on our [website](#).

The next release of this publication will be in November 2018.

**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](#).