Births in Scottish Hospitals
Year ending 31 March 2019
A National Statistics publication for Scotland
Publication date: 26 November 2019

About this release
This release by Information Services Division (ISD) reports on pregnancy, childbirth and the early care of babies born in Scotland.

The health of a pregnant woman and her baby are closely linked and are influenced by a number of different factors during pregnancy, childbirth and the early period after birth. These include the mother’s social and economic circumstances, her previous and current health and health related behaviours such as diet, exercise and smoking, and the medical care provided.

Main Points
In 2018/19:

- Just over 50,000 babies were born in Scotland which equates to roughly one baby born every ten minutes.

- Caesarean sections continue to increase with one in three (33.5%) live singleton babies delivered by caesarean section, the highest proportion since reporting began.

- While older women are more likely to have a delivery by caesarean section than younger women, there is an increasing tendency for caesarean sections across all age groups.

Live singleton births delivered by caesarean section, by maternal age
• Deprivation continued to influence the health of mothers and babies across Scotland. Mothers from deprived areas were more likely to be overweight or obese, smoke, book later for antenatal care and deliver their babies early compared to mothers from less deprived areas.

• Fewer women now smoke in pregnancy, continuing the downward trend. Around 1 in 7 (14.6%) expectant women were current smokers at the time of their antenatal booking appointment, the lowest since reporting began. In comparison, around 1 in 3 (31%) expectant women were current smokers in 1997/98.

• Maternal obesity continues to increase. More than half (52.7%) of expectant women were overweight or obese compared with 48.5% in 2010/11. Furthermore, one in four expectant women are now classified as obese.

• Women are attending their first antenatal booking appointment earlier on in pregnancy. More than 9 out of every 10 expectant women (90.8%) had their booking appointment within the first twelve weeks of pregnancy, compared with 75.5% in 2010/11.

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 (98.4% for live births in 2018/19). Data on neonatal discharges and level of neonatal care required are derived from the Scottish Birth Record (SBR).

Please see News and Updates section of our website for more details.

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

Stuart Wrigglesworth  
Senior Information Analyst  
0131 275 7128

Further Information
Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication is available to download from our web page along with a technical report which contains background information and metadata.

ISD 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.

Maternity and birth information has also been made available in open data format on the NHS Scotland open data platform. This enables users to conduct their own analysis across a range of topic areas rather than being presented fixed data tables.

The next release of this publication will be November 2020.