About this release
This release by Information Services Division (ISD) provides an annual update on teenage pregnancy statistics in Scotland. This is based on age at conception and presented by year of conception and the most recent information is for the calendar year ending 31 December 2017. In the full report, data are presented by NHS Board and council area for the age groups: under 16, under 18 and under 20.

Main Points
For women aged under 20 years:

- Teenage pregnancy rates in Scotland are at their lowest level since reporting began in 1994. Rates decreased for the tenth consecutive year from 31.7 per 1,000 women in 2016 to 30.2 in 2017.

- In 2017 NHS Grampian recorded the lowest overall rate of teenage pregnancy while NHS Fife recorded the highest (23.8 and 37.0 per 1,000 women respectively).
The absolute gap in teenage pregnancy rates between the most and least deprived areas is narrowing. While rates have reduced across all levels of deprivation in recent years, rates in the most deprived areas have fallen more.

Deliveries are more common than terminations, but delivery rates have fallen faster than termination rates. In 2017 the percentage of teenage pregnancies that ended in termination was the highest since reporting began (45%).

Teenagers from the most deprived areas are more likely to deliver than to terminate their pregnancy. In contrast, teenagers from the least deprived areas are more likely to terminate than to deliver. This difference in outcome of pregnancy between the most and least deprived has not changed in recent years.

Background
The source data are (i) registrations of live and stillbirths from the National Records of Scotland (NRS) with multiple births counted as one event, and (ii) the number of legal abortions notified to the Chief Medical Officer (Scotland) in accordance with the Abortion (Scotland) Regulations 1991.

Many teenage women experience unintended or unwanted pregnancies, although for some women this may be a planned, positive life choice. Scotland has historically had a higher rate of teenage pregnancy than most other Northern and Western European countries and reducing unintended teenage pregnancy remains a priority for the Scottish Government.

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Further Information
Find out more in the full Teenage Pregnancy Report. There is additional interactive visual content in the Teenage Pregnancy Dashboard where information is presented over time, by deprivation area, maternal age group and outcome of pregnancy.

ISD publishes a wide range of information on births, pregnancy and sexual health. Further information can be found on the Maternity and Births and Sexual Health pages.

This report will be updated in July 2020.