A **stillbirth** is a death occurring before or during birth once a pregnancy has reached 24 weeks.

A **neonatal death** is a baby born at any gestation who lives, even briefly, but dies within 4 weeks of birth.

MBRRACE-UK reports most mortality rates for babies who were born at 24 weeks or later, because there is currently no legal requirement to register babies born before 24 weeks with no signs of life at birth. However, because we know that babies born before 24 weeks are at a high risk of dying, we sometimes look at those babies separately so we have a better idea of how high that risk is.
Reduced by 15% over five years, from 6.04 per 1,000 total births in 2013 to 5.13 per 1,000 total births in 2018. This is equivalent to 670 fewer baby deaths in 2018 compared with 2013.

Extended perinatal deaths
Reduced by 15% over five years, from 6.04 per 1,000 total births in 2013 to 5.13 per 1,000 total births in 2018. This is equivalent to 670 fewer baby deaths in 2018 compared with 2013.

Stillbirths
Reduced by 16% from 4.20 per 1,000 total births in 2013 to 3.51 per 1,000 total births in 2018. This is equivalent to 500 fewer stillbirths in 2018 compared with 2013.

Neonatal deaths
Reduced by 11% from 1.84 per 1,000 live births in 2013 to 1.64 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018. This is equivalent to 170 fewer neonatal deaths in 2018 compared with 2013.
Baby deaths by gestational age for babies born from 22 weeks

Almost 3/4 of babies who died were born before 37 weeks.

- **17%** 22+0 - 23+6 weeks
- **22%** 24+0 - 27+6 weeks
- **15%** 28+0 - 31+6 weeks
- **21%** 32+0 - 36+6 weeks
- **25%** 37 weeks +

- **23%** 22+0 - 23+6 weeks
- **22%** 24+0 - 27+6 weeks
- **11%** 28+0 - 31+6 weeks
- **16%** 32+0 - 36+6 weeks
- **28%** 37 weeks +

The greatest reduction in the neonatal mortality rate is in births at 32 to 36 weeks.
**Fell by a fifth** between 2014 and 2018.

The overall reduction in the stillbirth rate is mainly due to a fall in the rate of term stillbirths.
**Fell by a quarter** between 2014 and 2018.

- **3,085** stillbirths (incl. 22-23 week losses)
- **4,638** babies died in 2018
- **1,553** neonatal deaths
Effect of ethnicity and living in a deprived area on baby deaths

Stillbirth rates for Black and Black British babies are over twice those for White babies.

Women living in the most deprived areas are at an 80% higher risk of stillbirth and neonatal death compared to women living in the least deprived areas.

Stillbirths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Least deprived</th>
<th>Most deprived</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1 in 295 babies</td>
<td>1 in 214 babies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black, Black British</td>
<td>1 in 380 babies</td>
<td>1 in 136 babies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian, Asian British</td>
<td>1 in 188 babies</td>
<td>1 in 136 babies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Neonatal deaths

Asian and Asian British newborn babies are 60% more likely to die than White babies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Least deprived</th>
<th>Most deprived</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1 in 606 babies</td>
<td>1 in 455 babies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black, Black British</td>
<td>1 in 380 babies</td>
<td>1 in 136 babies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian, Asian British</td>
<td>1 in 188 babies</td>
<td>1 in 136 babies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mortality rates for Trusts and Health Boards

Comparing different organisations

Mortality rates vary between hospitals, particularly if those hospitals care for larger numbers of babies or very sick babies. MBRRACE-UK use the number of babies born in an organisation, as well as whether they have either a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) or a NICU and facilities for surgery for newborn babies, in order to group together similar Trusts and Health Boards. We then compare the mortality rates for each organisation to the average mortality rates for their own particular group.

Stillbirths

After making allowances for the number of babies they look after, and the complexity of the care they deliver, most Trusts and Health Boards have stillbirth rates which are close to the average for their group. If you don't include babies born with congenital anomalies which aren't compatible with life, all Trusts and Health Boards have stillbirth rates which are close to the average.

### Percentage of Trusts and Health Boards with a stillbirth rate within 5% of their group average

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All stillbirths</th>
<th>Stillbirths, not including congenital anomalies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>83%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Trusts & Health Boards

Neonatal deaths

After making the same adjustments, the difference in the rates of newborn babies who die is much wider. Even if you allow for the fact that some hospitals look after higher numbers of babies who are born with congenital anomalies which are not compatible with life, this big difference remains. This means there is more we need to understand about these women and babies and the care they receive.

### Percentage of Trusts and Health Boards with a neonatal mortality rate within 5% of their group average

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All neonatal deaths</th>
<th>Neonatal deaths, not including congenital anomalies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Level 3 NICU with neonatal surgery

Level 3 NICU

4,000 or more births

2,000 to 3,999 births

Fewer than 2,000 births

Stillbirth and neonatal mortality rates for individual Trusts and Health Boards can be found in the accompanying “Tables and Figures” document, available at www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/mbrrace-uk/reports/.
Offer of post-mortem examination

Stillbirths

- What proportion of stillbirths had **placental histology** investigations carried out? 97%

- What proportion of stillbirths had **problems with the placenta or cord** identified as the main cause of death? 89%

Neonatal deaths

- When a baby died on day one after birth, or where the death was related to events during birth, what proportion had **placental histology** investigations carried out? 84%

- What proportion of neonatal deaths had placental histology investigations carried out? 74%

- What proportion of parents were offered a **post-mortem examination** after the death of their baby? 97%
Reporting information about baby deaths

How many baby deaths were notified within the MBRRACE-UK benchmark time?

MBRRACE-UK benchmark

- Stillbirths: 69%
- Neonatal deaths: 64%

30 days

How does this vary for all baby deaths across the UK?

2017

- England: 59%
- Wales: 59%
- Northern Ireland: 37%
- Scotland: 24%

UK-wide average: 56%

2018

- England: 71%
- Wales: 57%
- Northern Ireland: 50%
- Scotland: 36%

UK-wide average: 67%

How complete is key information?

MBRRACE-UK receives high quality information from Trusts & Health Boards.

- Smoking status: 92%
- Booking date: 94%
- Alive at the start of labour: 87%

Information about carbon monoxide monitoring is improving.

Over 95% complete

43% complete in 2016 to 56% complete in 2018
What can we do to reduce baby deaths?

We need...

... more public health measures for women at greater risk of their baby dying.

... to focus on what national programmes already exist to reduce baby deaths and understand their impact on reducing the number of babies born before term (37 weeks).

... to support poorer women throughout pregnancy, childbirth and early parenting, by ensuring different agencies who support them, from social care to health services, work together.

... to understand what support women from Black and Asian communities specifically need around conception, pregnancy and childbirth.

... organisations to routinely use the MBRRACE-UK tool that’s been developed and helps units record and monitor their deaths, as and when they happen in real-time, to understand why there are high rates of deaths.

... to understand which neonatal deaths are potentially avoidable in those areas where rates are high.

... to understand why less than half of parents consent to post mortem and ensure that staff are trained to understand the concerns and needs parents may have when making these decisions.

... to ensure an examination of the placenta is carried out by a specialist pathologist for every baby who dies in a neonatal unit.

... all deaths to be notified to MBRRACE-UK within a week, and ideally within 2 days of the death occurring.

... information about every death to be fully completed and reported to MBRRACE-UK within 2 months so that a local hospital review can be completed to help parents understand why their baby died.