

Clinical report 2022

Key findings

Glossary of terms can be found in the full report, available [here](#).

What is the National Maternity and Perinatal Audit?

The National Maternity and Perinatal Audit is a large-scale project established to provide data and information to those working in and using maternity services.

We do this to evaluate and improve NHS maternity services, as well as to support women, birthing people and their families to use the data within their decision making.



SCAN ME

Where do the data come from?

The NMPA uses information routinely collected as part of women's maternity care, combined with information collected when women are admitted to hospital and information recorded about their babies.

The NMPA dataset for 2018/19 contains records for about 89% of all the births that took place in England and Wales. Only records and maternity services which passed detailed data quality checks were included in the audit results. This means not every maternity service has results for every topic.

Included in the NMPA results



137 trusts/boards
585,653 babies born

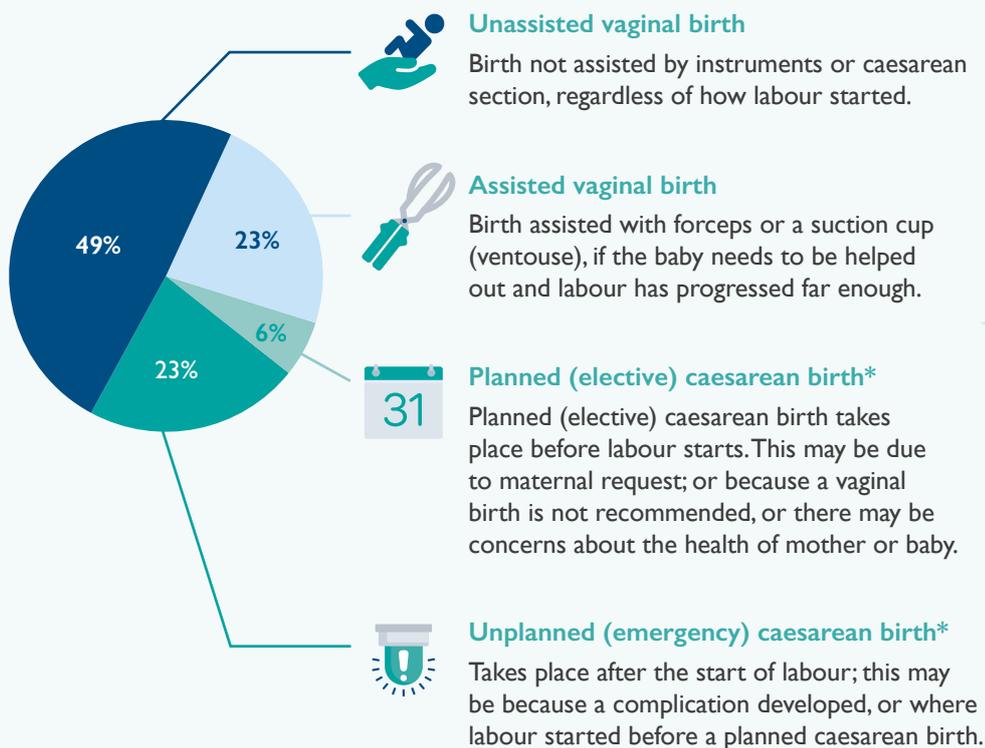


ENGLAND
130 trusts
555,206 babies born



WALES
7 boards
30,447 babies born

How do women and birthing people having their first baby give birth?



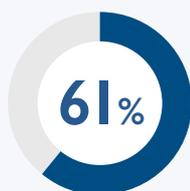
44%

of those having their first baby vaginally underwent an episiotomy.

For all women, the postnatal readmission rates were higher following a caesarean birth compared with a vaginal birth in both England (4% vs 3%) and Wales (5% vs 3%).

*It is important to note that there is no 'ideal' rate for births by caesarean and these figures must not be used to assess the performance of a trust/board

Additional findings



Vaginal birth after caesarean (VBAC)

For those who had their first baby by caesarean and try for a vaginal birth for their second baby, **61%** actually gave birth vaginally.



Induction of labour

Overall, **34%** of women and birthing people had their labour induced.



Forceps assisted birth and episiotomy

As many as **1 in 20 (5%)** vaginal births assisted by forceps occurred without an episiotomy. Of those, **31%** resulted in an obstetric anal sphincter injury (OASI).



Small-for-gestational-age babies

50% of babies identified as small-for-gestational-age (SGA) were born after their due date.

Data and information

- There remains scope to improve data quality and availability. Further alignment of data captured by nations would allow even greater comparability.
- Individualised information provided to families relating to possible interventions during labour and birth should be made easily available in accessible language and formats.