



## Official Statistics Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks after birth (Experimental Statistics)

### 2015/16 Quarter 1 Statistical Commentary

#### Main findings

- The aggregate breastfeeding rate for England for quarter 1 2015/16 is 43.4% (with confidence intervals of 43.1 - 43.7%) This is based on 89 out of 152 local authorities submitting a return and passing initial validation (59%).
- NHS England reported a value of 45.2% for the same quarter, however their collection was based on 105 out of 108 provider submissions from Child Health Information Systems (CHIS) (97%).
- Breastfeeding prevalence at a PHE centre level cannot be published as they all fail to meet validation at stage 3 (known breastfeeding status for infants age 6-8 weeks is lower than the 95% quality standard).
- Breastfeeding prevalence can be published for 43 local authorities (passing all 3 stages of validation) and percentages range from 20.2% (Halton) to 79.5% (Brighton and Hove).

Note: Please treat the figures with caution.

Although totals are presented for England and PHE centres, please note these are aggregate totals of the areas that submitted information and passed initial validation. (Please see the section 'Validation Rules' within the publication for further details.)

## Background

In October 2015 the responsibility for commissioning children's public health for the 0-5 years population transferred from NHS England to local authorities. There are a number of key performance indicators associated with these services which it is critical to monitor and report. In the longer term the Health and Social Care Information Centre will collect data on these performance indicators as part of the Maternity and Children's Dataset (MCDS).

The MCDS infrastructure will support the flow of standardised information on children's health from local IT systems to the HSCIC on a monthly basis. The Children and Young People's Health Services data set infrastructure (which is part of the MCDS) was made available in October and data has just begun to flow, however it is expected to take some time for all providers of children's and young people's services to flow complete and accurate data.

Until such time as the MCDS has reached full coverage and maturity, possibly even until 2017, an interim reporting system is required.

The breastfeeding information within this publication has therefore been obtained via the new interim reporting system to collect health visiting activity at a local authority resident level. Quarter 1 of 2015/16 is the first reporting period and the information contained within this report has been submitted to Public Health England by local authorities on a voluntary basis.

Caution should be exercised when interpreting this information as it is a new data collection and there is not full coverage. Any totals shown at a PHE centre or England level are based on an aggregate total of local authorities who submitted (and passed stage 1 validation) within those areas.

The decision has been taken to publish the information as 'experimental statistics' on the basis that there has been a significant change to the method, both in units of collection and the mandatory/voluntary nature. This will be reviewed after one year.

## Data Collection Method

The interim reporting system, hosted on the Local Government Association (LGA) site was made available from 31 August 2015 to collect the data on health visiting indicators and outcomes relating to activity in quarter 1 2015/16.

To use this system each local authority was provided with a unique organisational link which was required by the local authority nominated representative to submit their organisation's data onto the system.

The reporting window for quarter 1 data was 31 August - 25 September 2015. To support local authorities to submit data detailed full guidance was published which explained what analysts and commissioners in local authorities needed to do to submit health visiting indicators.

To further support local authorities with this new reporting system a dedicated mailbox ([interimreporting@phe.gov.uk](mailto:interimreporting@phe.gov.uk)) was established to respond to questions and comments and a number of tools were produced which were made available at [www.chimat.org.uk/transfer](http://www.chimat.org.uk/transfer).

Once the collection window had closed the data received was centrally collated, validated and reported. This process will be repeated quarterly. Local authorities will have the option to revise previous quarters up to the end of the reporting period for quarter four and revised statistics will be re-published.

Validation rules applied may be subject to change in future quarters.

## Data Quality Findings

Out of 152 local authorities 114 submitted a return for the interim reporting collection for Quarter 1 2015-16 (a response rate of 75%).

Barking and Dagenham made a formal submission but recorded DK “Don’t Know” for every data item so on this basis their submission was excluded (they were not counted in the 114).

Of the 38 returns that did not make a submission 13 local authorities had made contact to inform they were unable to make a submission in quarter 1 but were working towards completing this in quarter 2.

Local Authority	PHE Centre
Northumberland	North East
Blackpool	North West
Liverpool	North West
Wigan	North West
Barnsley	Yorkshire and The Humber
Doncaster	Yorkshire and The Humber
Rotherham	Yorkshire and The Humber
Sheffield	Yorkshire and The Humber
Luton	East of England
Ealing	London
Hackney	London
Worcestershire	West Midlands
Isle of Wight	South East

25 local authorities did not submit a return in quarter 1 and did not provide any information regarding their future ability to provide the data (this includes authorities that accessed the system but did not make a final submission). It also includes Barking and Dagenham who made a formal submission but recorded DK “Don’t Know” for every data item (therefore excluded).

Local Authority	PHE Centre
Hartlepool	North East
Stockton on Tees	North East
Bolton	North West
Cheshire West and Chester	North West
Manchester	North West
Trafford	North West
Kirklees	Yorkshire and The Humber
Northamptonshire	East Midlands
Staffordshire	West Midlands
Stoke on Trent	West Midlands
Barking and Dagenham	London
Bexley	London
City of London	London
Greenwich	London
Hammersmith and Fulham	London
Kensington and Chelsea	London
Kingston upon Thames	London
Lambeth	London
Southwark	London
Westminster	London
Medway	South East
Bristol	South West
Devon	South West
North Somerset	South West
South Gloucestershire	South West

Of the 114 local authorities that made a submission for quarter 1 a set of 3 validation rules was applied in order to calculate the breastfeeding measure.

### Stage 1 Validation

Local authorities have to submit an integer for the ‘number of infants totally or partially breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks’ which has to be lower than or equal to the integer for the ‘number of infants due a 6-8 week check’. DK “Don’t Knows” are automatic fails.

Out of 114 local authorities that made a submission for quarter 1, 89 successfully passed stage 1 validation by providing information on the number of infants recorded as being totally or partially breastfed at 6-8 weeks after birth.

The 25 local authorities that failed stage 1 validation are listed in the table below (this includes 6 local authorities answering DK “Don’t Know” to each of the breastfeeding questions).

Local Authority	PHE Centre
Darlington*	North East
Newcastle upon Tyne	North East
Blackburn with Darwen	North West
Cumbria	North West
Lancashire	North West
Wakefield	Yorkshire and The Humber
York	Yorkshire and The Humber
Coventry	West Midlands
Solihull	West Midlands
Warwickshire*	West Midlands
Enfield	London
Haringey	London
Hounslow	London
Newham	London
Tower Hamlets	London
Waltham Forest*	London
Kent*	South East
Surrey	South East
West Sussex	South East
Bournemouth	South West
Cornwall*	South West
Dorset	South West
Isles of Scilly*	South West
Plymouth	South West
Poole	South West

*\*LA provided DK “Don’t Know” for all of the breastfeeding data items.*

The values for areas that did not pass stage 1 validation are excluded from the PHE centre and England aggregated calculations.

## Stage 2 Validation

The value submitted for infants due a 6-8 week review has to be within 20% of the resident population of babies aged zero for that local authority. This is based on the 2014 mid-year ONS population estimates by local authority for babies aged zero. The annual figure is divided by four to provide a quarterly estimate. Any values within 20% tolerance of the mid-year population figure for the quarter will pass this check.

Of the 89 local authorities that passed stage 1 validation, 87 went on to pass stage 2.

The 2 areas that failed are:

Local Authority	PHE Centre
Havering	London
Portsmouth	South East

Portsmouth informed they were only able to submit data from a minor provider so were aware their return wasn't representative of their area. Havering provided information for 37% more 'resident' infants than should be expected, which is outside of the 20% tolerance.

## Stage 3 Validation

The percentage of infants whose breastfeeding status was recorded must meet the data quality standard of 95% (any area reporting over 100% is also assumed to be an error and will be classed as a fail). This means the sum of those infants totally breastfed, partially breastfeed and not breastfed should be greater than or equal to 95% of the number of infants due a 6-8 week review. (Note: for the aggregated England level this is 85%, but for local authority and PHE centres it has to meet the 95% standard).

Of the 87 local authorities passing stage 1 and stage 2 validation, 43 went on to pass stage 3 validation.

The 44 local authorities that failed stage 3 validation are:

Local Authority	PHE Centre
Redcar and Cleveland	North East
South Tyneside	North East
Sunderland	North East
Bury	North West
Sefton	North West
St Helens	North West
Wirral	North West

Local Authority	PHE Centre
Calderdale	Yorkshire and The Humber
East Riding of Yorkshire	Yorkshire and The Humber
North East Lincolnshire	Yorkshire and The Humber
North Lincolnshire	Yorkshire and The Humber
North Yorkshire	Yorkshire and The Humber
Leicester	East Midlands
Leicestershire	East Midlands
Nottinghamshire	East Midlands
Rutland	East Midlands
Sandwell	West Midlands
Shropshire	West Midlands
Telford and Wrekin	West Midlands
Wolverhampton	West Midlands
Essex	East of England
Hertfordshire	East of England
Barnet	London
Brent	London
Bromley	London
Camden	London
Harrow	London
Islington	London
Merton	London
Redbridge	London
Richmond upon Thames	London
Wandsworth	London
Buckinghamshire	South East
East Sussex	South East
Hampshire	South East
Milton Keynes	South East
Reading	South East
Slough	South East
Southampton	South East
Windsor and Maidenhead	South East
Wokingham	South East
Bath and North East Somerset	South West
Gloucestershire	South West
Wiltshire	South West

Each local authority has to pass all three stages in order for all of the calculations to be made and percentages shown. If they fail any stage the numbers the local authority submitted will be presented but the percentages and confidence intervals will not be calculated for their area.

Full information is therefore presented in the Excel data file for the 43 local authorities that passed all validation, they are as follows:

Local Authority	PHE Centre
County Durham	North East
Gateshead	North East
Middlesbrough	North East
North Tyneside	North East
Cheshire East	North West
Halton	North West
Knowsley	North West
Oldham	North West
Rochdale	North West
Salford	North West
Stockport	North West
Tameside	North West
Warrington	North West
Bradford	Yorkshire and The Humber
Kingston upon Hull	Yorkshire and The Humber
Leeds	Yorkshire and The Humber
Derby	East Midlands
Derbyshire	East Midlands
Lincolnshire	East Midlands
Nottingham	East Midlands
Birmingham	West Midlands
Dudley	West Midlands
Herefordshire	West Midlands
Walsall	West Midlands
Bedford	East of England
Cambridgeshire	East of England
Central Bedfordshire	East of England
Norfolk	East of England
Peterborough	East of England
Southend on Sea	East of England
Suffolk	East of England
Thurrock	East of England
Croydon	London
Hillingdon	London
Lewisham	London
Sutton	London

Local Authority	PHE Centre
Bracknell Forest	South East
Brighton and Hove	South East
Oxfordshire	South East
West Berkshire	South East
Somerset	South West
Swindon	South West
Torbay	South West

## Summary

**Note: Although totals are presented for England and PHE centres, these are aggregate totals of the areas that submitted information that passed stage 1 of the validation. Therefore these should be treated with caution when interpreting results.**

In order to be included in the aggregated totals for each PHE centre and the aggregated England total, local authorities only had to pass stage 1 of the validation as the PHE centres and England had to pass their own validation (based on the aggregate population estimates and values given for the areas submitting).

Of the 114 local authorities who made a submission 25 failed stage 1 validation (failing to provide either the infants due a 6-8 week check or the number of infants totally or partially being breastfed). The aggregated total for each PHE centre and the England value is therefore based on the values of 89 local authorities.

Breastfeeding rates at a PHE centre level cannot be published as they all fail to meet validation at stage 3 (the known breastfeeding status for infants age 6-8 weeks is lower than the 95% quality standard).

An aggregate England value can however be published based on the 89 local authorities that submitted a return and passed stage 1 validation due to the England threshold being lower at 85%.

The aggregate breastfeeding rate for England based on 89 local authorities is 43.4% (with confidence intervals of 43.1 - 43.7%)

Of the 89 local authorities passing stage 1 validation, a further two failed stage 2 validation (children due 6-8 week checks not within 20% of the resident population of babies aged zero for that local authority).

Of the 87 local authorities passing stages 1 and 2 validation, 44 were unable to provide breastfeeding information for 95% of their infants age 6-8 weeks (therefore failing stage 3) so full data is only presented for 43 local authorities.

This is the first collection via the interim reporting process and it is acknowledged that some local authorities have experienced difficulties in obtaining the information required. From correspondence received to the Interimreporting mailbox it is anticipated that the coverage and quality of the data will improve in subsequent quarters, including revisions for quarter 1.

A comparison of how the data received through the interim process compares to NHS England's publication for quarter 1 is due to be published in the near future.

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