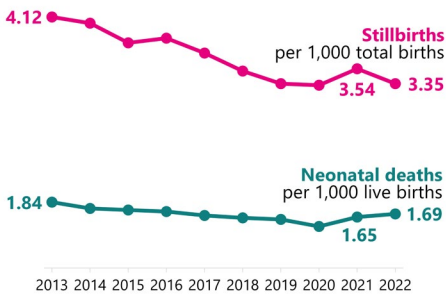


# State of the nation report

## UK perinatal deaths of babies born in 2022

### 1. Stillbirth rates decreased across the UK in 2022, but neonatal mortality increased



| Stillbirths per 1,000 total births |             |             | Neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births |             |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Country                            | 2021        | 2022        | Country                               | 2021        | 2022        |
| <b>UK &amp; Crown Dependencies</b> | <b>3.54</b> | <b>3.35</b> | <b>UK &amp; Crown Dependencies</b>    | <b>1.65</b> | <b>1.69</b> |
| England                            | 3.52        | 3.33        | England                               | 1.60        | 1.67        |
| Scotland                           | 3.27        | 3.31        | Scotland                              | 1.91        | 1.59        |
| Wales                              | 3.88        | 3.63        | Wales                                 | 1.70        | 1.91        |
| Northern Ireland                   | 4.09        | 3.49        | Northern Ireland                      | 2.46        | 2.29        |

### 2. There was wide variation in neonatal mortality rates

Percentage of organisations with mortality rates within 5% of the group average

| Comparator group                          | Stillbirths |  | Neonatal deaths |  |
|---|-------------|--|-----------------|--|
|   | All deaths  | Excluding deaths due to congenital anomalies | All deaths      | Excluding deaths due to congenital anomalies |
| Level 3 NICU with surgery                 | 100%        | 100%   | 12%             | 31%  |
| Level 3 NICU                              | 100%        | 100%   | 12%             | 16%  |
| 4,000 or more births (No Level 3 NICU)    | 100%        | 100%   | 22%             | 19%  |
| 2,000 to 3,999 births (No Level 3 NICU)   | 100%        | 100%   | 26%             | 24%  |
| Fewer than 2,000 births (No Level 3 NICU) | 100%        | 100%   | 37%             | 58%  |

#### What is a stillbirth or neonatal death?

A **stillbirth** is the death of a baby before or during birth once a pregnancy has reached 24 completed weeks.

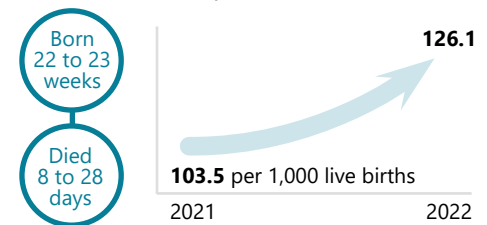
A **neonatal death** is a baby born at any gestation who lives, even briefly, but dies within 28 days of birth.

All rates in this report are for babies born from 24 completed weeks and include deaths due to congenital anomalies, unless otherwise stated.

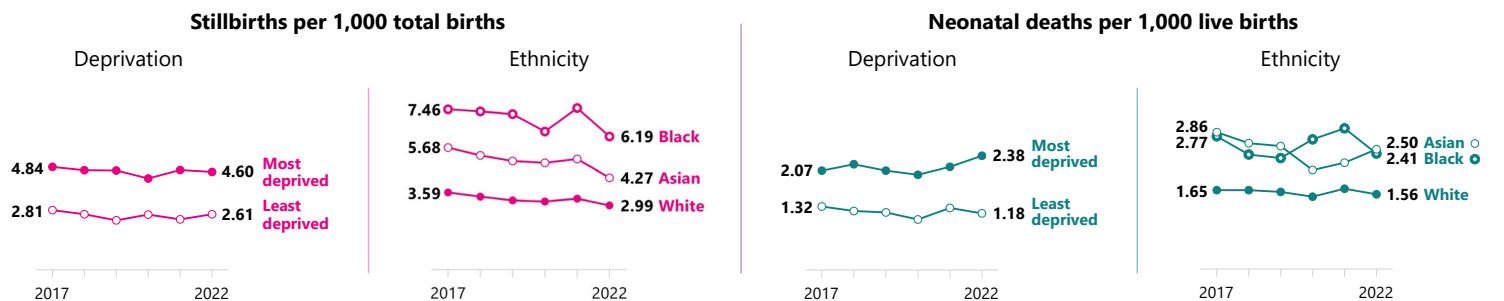
### 3. Stillbirth and neonatal mortality rates decreased in almost all gestational age groups

| Stillbirths per 1,000 total births |       |           | Neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births |       |          |
|------------------------------------|-------|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Gestational age                    | 2021  | 2022      | Gestational age                       | 2021  | 2022     |
| 22 to 23 weeks                     | 472.7 | 405.5     | 22 to 23 weeks                        | 660.5 | 625.2    |
| 24 to 27 weeks                     | 212.1 | ↑ 216.0 ↑ | 24 to 27 weeks                        | 160.0 | 139.6    |
| 28 to 31 weeks                     | 81.7  | 74.4      | 28 to 31 weeks                        | 34.0  | 29.5     |
| 32 to 36 weeks                     | 16.4  | 12.7      | 32 to 36 weeks                        | 5.35  | ↑ 6.58 ↑ |
| 37 to 41 weeks                     | 1.19  | 1.09      | 37 to 41 weeks                        | 0.66  | 0.62     |

Late neonatal mortality increased for the very smallest babies

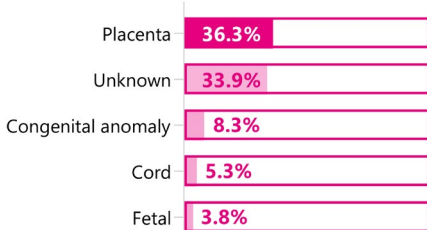


### 4. Despite recent improvements, inequalities in mortality rates by deprivation and ethnicity remain

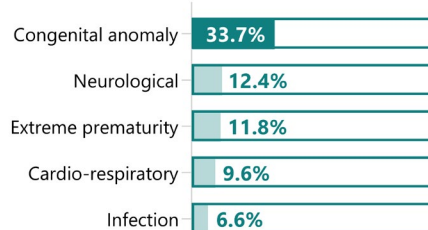


### 5. The most common causes of stillbirth and neonatal death were unchanged

#### Most common causes of stillbirth



#### Most common causes of neonatal death



When stillbirths and neonatal deaths are combined, congenital anomalies contributed to 17% of deaths