
Subject: Births and Breastfeeding Profile 2023
Date of report: 25 April 2024

Introduction

This annual report contains the latest births and breastfeeding statistics for Jersey, for the calendar year 2023.

The information presented is derived primarily from hospital computer systems (TRAK, Maxims) and the child health CAREPLUS database server, with some data from the superintendent registrar.

The report considers trends over time in Jersey and compares Jersey with England where appropriate.

The information presented includes:

- Number of Births
- Birth Rates
 - Crude Birth Rate
 - General Fertility Rate (GFR)
 - Total Fertility Rate (TFR)
 - Age-Specific Fertility Rates
- Birth weight
- C-Sections
- Breastfeeding
- Apgar Score
- Exposure to second-hand smoke
- Mortality of Babies

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Births and Breastfeeding 2023

In 2023

799



Births were to Jersey resident mothers



The total fertility rate (TFR) over the period 2021-2023 was **1.29** births per woman



30-34 year old women had the highest age-specific fertility rate

35%



of mothers were aged **35 years and over** at delivery

42%



of births were by c-section (during 2021-2023)



2% of babies born at full term in Jersey were classified as 'low' birthweight



Breastfed **at discharge** from maternity care



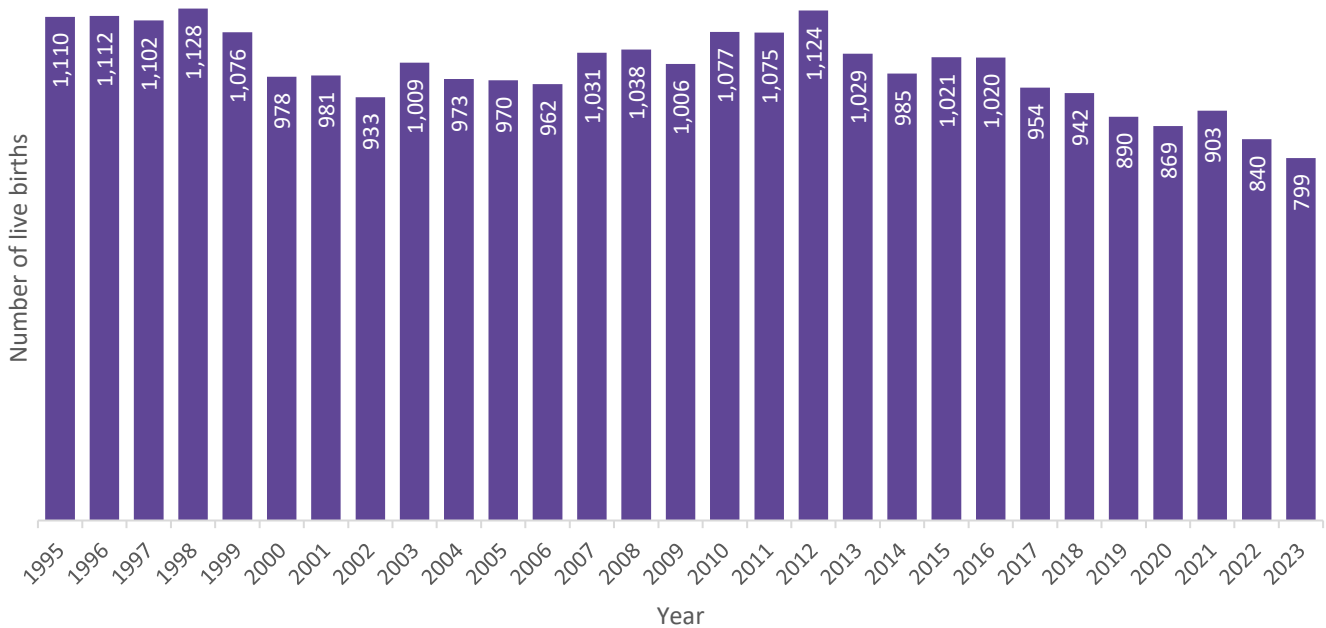
Breastfed **at 6-8 week** review

Births

In 2023, there were 799 live births to Jersey resident mothers. This is the lowest number of births for Jersey recorded between the period of 1995 to 2023.

The number of live births in 2023 is 5% lower than in 2022 (840), and 29% lower than the latest peak in birth numbers seen in 2012 (1,124).

Figure 1. Annual number of live births (Jersey, 1995 to 2023)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

Sex of Baby at Birth

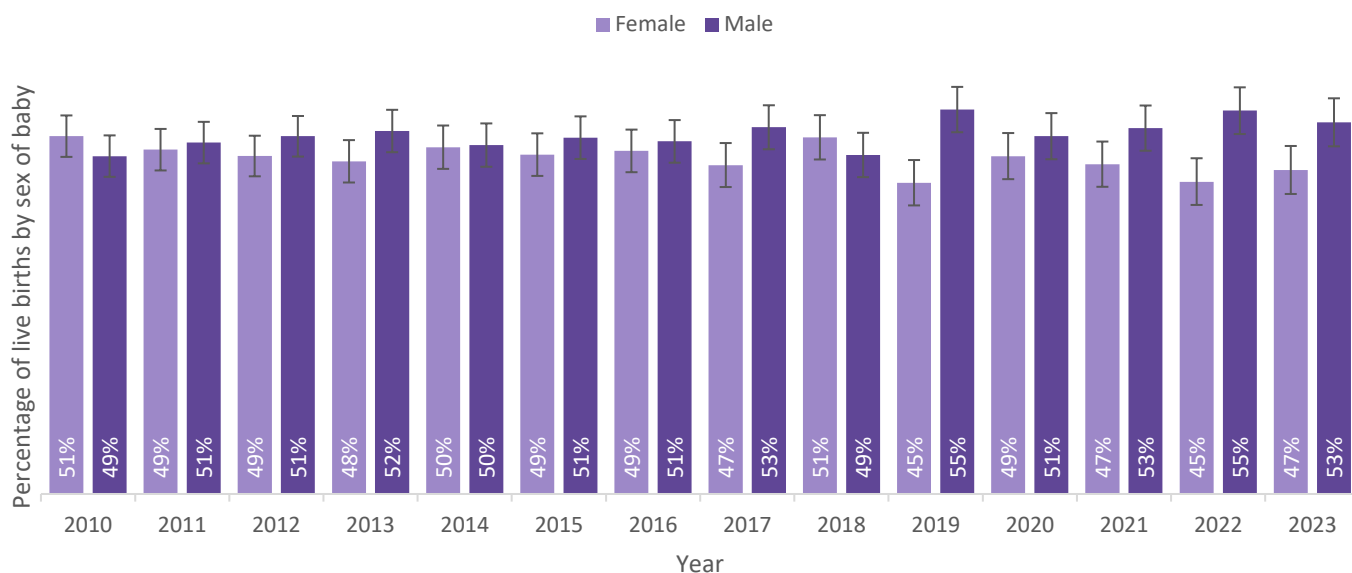
In 2023, of the 799 live births to Jersey resident mothers:

- 372 babies (47%) were female and 427 (53%) were male
- the sex ratio was 1,148 males per 1,000 females (in England and Wales, the sex ratio was 1,053 in 2022¹)

Over the preceding decade, whilst there have been fluctuations in the actual numbers of boys and girls born each year to Jersey resident mothers, the relative proportions (49% female, 51% male) have been similar over time (Figure 2).

¹ [Births in England and Wales](https://www.ons.gov.uk), available from www.ons.gov.uk

Figure 2. Percentage of live births by sex of baby (Jersey, 2010 to 2023)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

Place of Birth

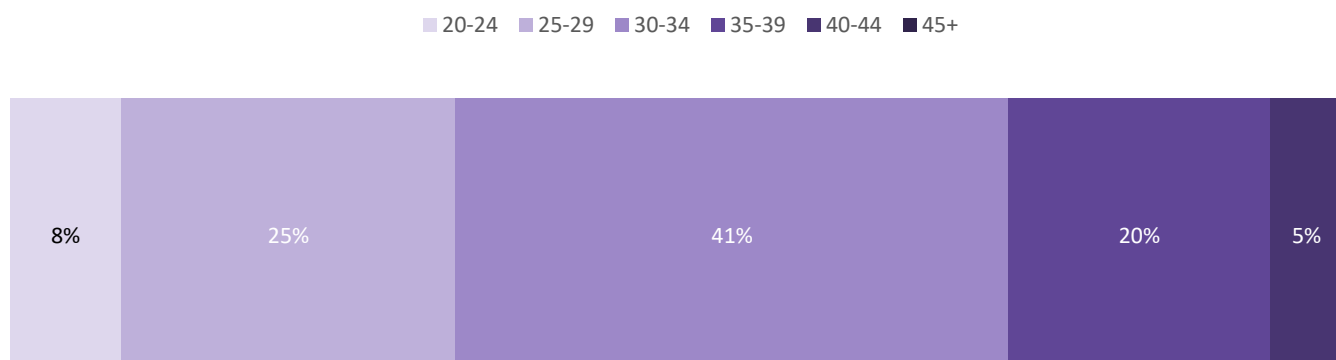
In 2023, 43 babies (5% of all live births) were born at home to Jersey resident mothers. Less than 5 babies (0.1% of all live births) were born to Jersey resident mothers in hospitals in the UK in 2023. This is similar to the number of births that have occurred outside of Jersey each year since 2017.

Delivery Statistics

In 2023:

- 9% of all live births to Jersey resident mothers (70 babies) occurred before 37 weeks gestation, and were classed as preterm
- 39% of all live births were first births; 44% were second births; and 17% were third or later births
- 25% of first live births were to mothers aged 25-29 years; 41% were to mothers aged 30-34 years; and 20% were to mothers aged 35-39 years (Figure 3)

Figure 3. Percentage of first live births by age of mother (Jersey, 2023)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

Birth Weight

A baby's weight at birth can be influenced by several factors, including the gestational age at which the child is born, the health of the mother, and genetics.

In 2023:

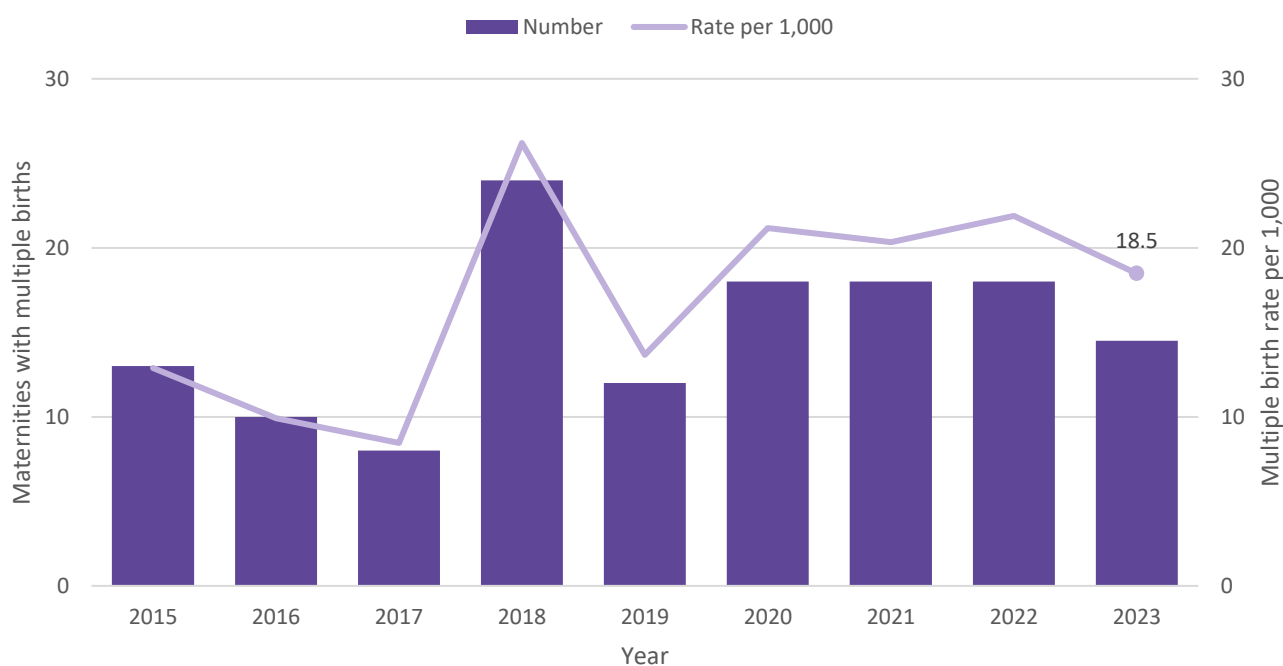
- 6% of all live births to Jersey resident mothers (50 babies) were classified as being of low birth weight²; 0.4% of these births (less than 5 babies) were recorded as being of very low birth weight³
- 2% (12 babies) of full-term live births (born after 37 weeks gestation) were classified as low birth weight⁴. This proportion hasn't changed significantly since 2012 and is similar to that of 2.8% seen in England in 2021⁵.

Multiple Births

In 2023, 15 Jersey resident mothers had a multiple live birth (e.g. twins). This is a similar number to 2022 when 18 mothers had a multiple live birth.

The rate of maternities with multiple live births in Jersey was 18.5 per 1,000 births in 2023 (Figure 5). For comparison, in England the rate was 13.7 per 1,000 births in 2021⁶.

Figure 5. Maternities with multiple live births and multiple birth rate per 1,000 maternities (Jersey, 2015 to 2023)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

² 'Low birthweight' is a term used to describe babies who are born weighing less than 2500g

³ 'Very low birthweight' is a term used to describe babies who are born weighing less than 1500g

⁴ Live births with a recorded birth weight under 2500g and a gestational age of at least 37 complete weeks

⁵ [Low birth weight of term babies](http://www.fingertips.phe.org.uk), available from www.fingertips.phe.org.uk

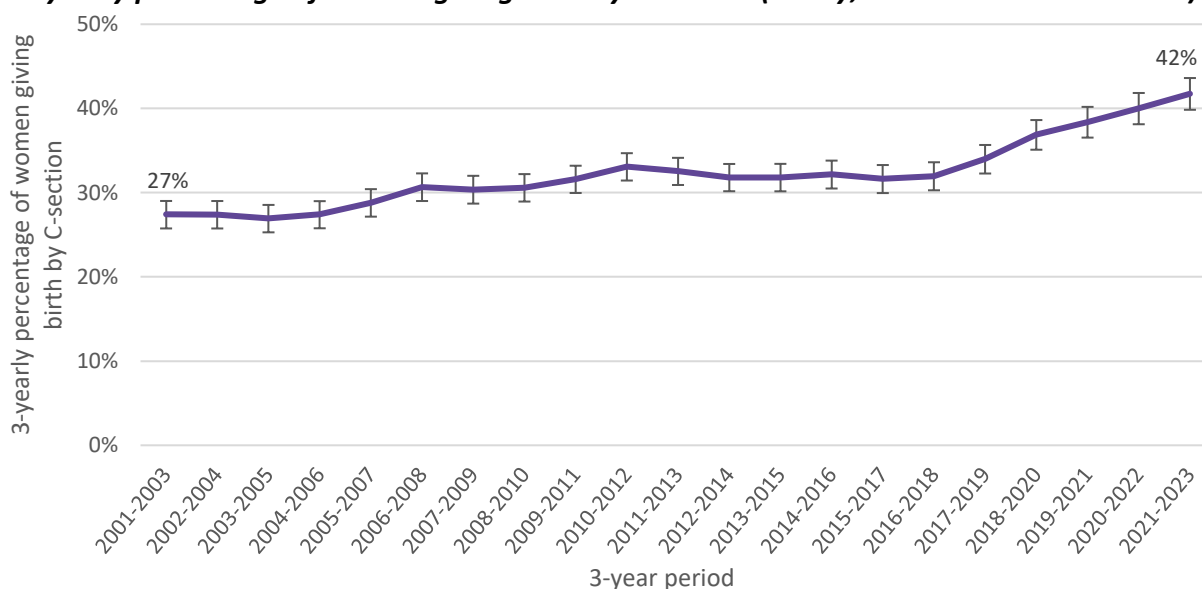
⁶ [Multiple births](http://www.fingertips.phe.org.uk), available from www.fingertips.phe.org.uk

Caesarean Sections (C-Sections)

During the three-year period 2021-2023, 42% of all live births to Jersey resident mothers were delivered by C-section. This is 15% higher than in 2001-2003 (Figure 6).

The proportion of births by c-section in Jersey was higher than in England, where 35% of births in 2021-2022 were by C-section⁷.

Figure 6. 3-yearly percentage of women giving birth by C-section (Jersey, 2001-2003 to 2021-2023)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

C-sections can either be an emergency (urgent) or elective (planned). Of first births in Jersey during 2021-2023:

- 23% were delivered by an emergency (urgent) C-section
- 14% were delivered by elective (planned) C-section

Of second births in Jersey during 2021-2023:

- 16% were delivered by an emergency (urgent) C-section
- 25% were delivered by elective (planned) C-section

Table 1. Percentage of women giving birth by C-section type and birth order (Jersey, 2021-2023)

	First Births	Second Births	Third or more Births
Emergency (urgent) C-section	23%	16%	18%
Elective (planned) C-section	14%	25%	35%
Total	38%	41%	53%

Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

The proportion of C-section deliveries in Jersey increased with the age of the mother (Figure 7).

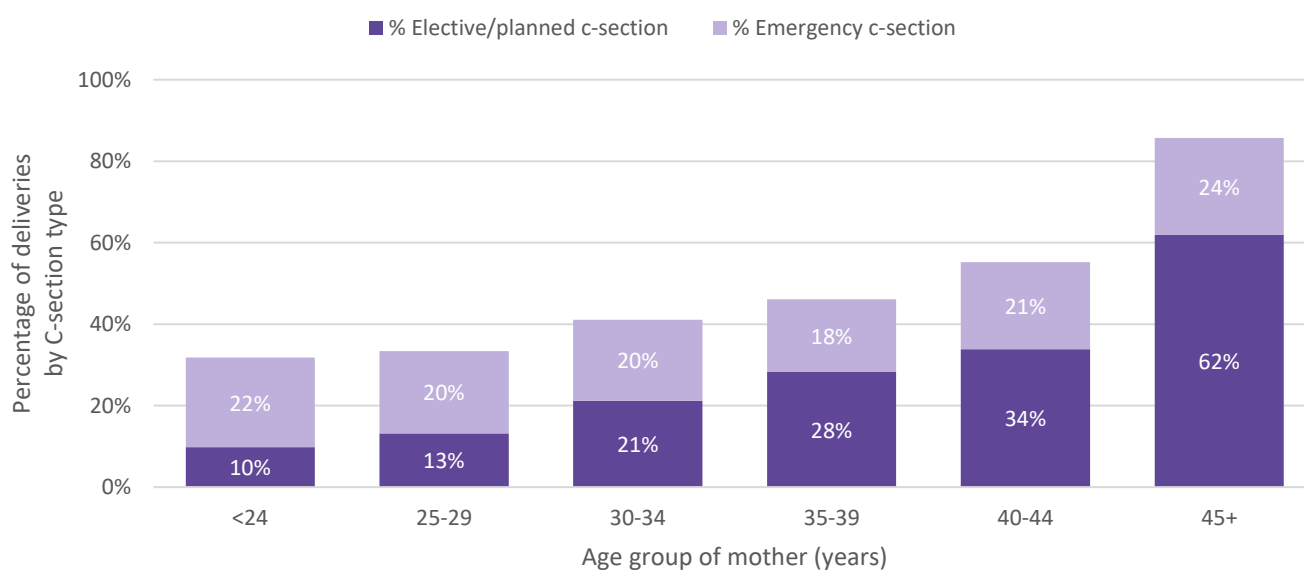
⁷ [C-Section](http://www.fingertips.phe.org.uk), available from www.fingertips.phe.org.uk

In 2021-2023, C-section births accounted for:

- 32% of deliveries by mothers aged 24 years and under
- 33% of deliveries by mothers aged between 25 and 29 years
- 41% of deliveries by mothers aged between 30 and 34 years
- 46% of deliveries by mothers aged between 35 and 39 years
- 55% of deliveries by mothers aged between 40 and 44 years
- 86% of deliveries by mothers aged 45 and over

Around 13% of mothers in Jersey aged 25-29 years delivered by an elective (planned) c-section, a smaller proportion than for mothers aged 35-39 years (28%) and 40-44 years (34%).

Figure 7. Proportion of deliveries by C-section type and age of mother (Jersey, 2021-2023)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

Age of Mothers at Delivery

In 2023, the average age of mothers giving birth in Jersey, was 33 years. For comparison, the average age of women giving birth in England and Wales was 31 years in 2021⁸.

The number of mothers giving birth at younger ages in Jersey has been declining since 1995-1997:

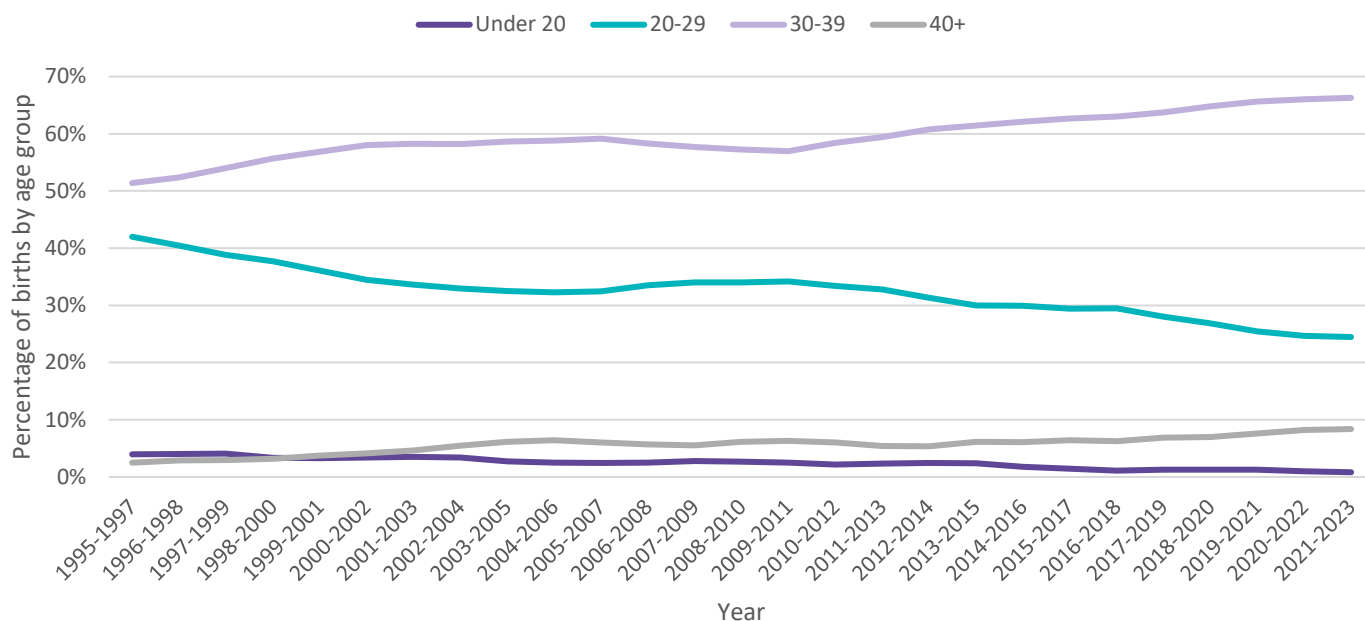
- mothers giving birth aged under 20 years saw a decline from 4% to 1% in 2021-2023
- mothers giving birth aged 20 to 29 years saw a decline from 42% to 24% in 2021-2023

Whereas the proportion of births to mothers in older age groups has increased since 1995-1997:

- mothers giving birth aged 30 to 39 years saw an increase from 51% to 66% in 2021-2023
- mothers giving birth aged 40 and over saw an increase from 2% to 8% in 2021-2023

⁸ [Birth characteristics](https://www.ons.gov.uk), available from www.ons.gov.uk

Figure 8. Proportion of births by age-group (Jersey, 1995-1997 to 2021-2023)



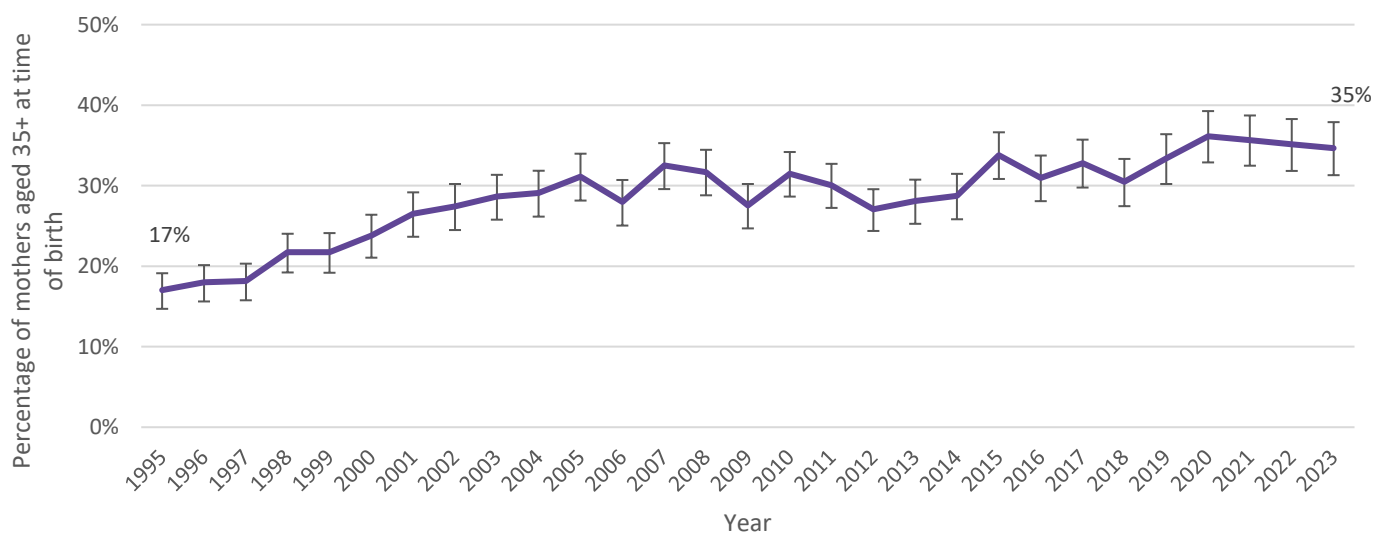
Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

Mothers aged 35 and over

The percentage of mothers giving birth aged 35 years and over in Jersey was 35% in 2023. This has increased from 17% in 1995.

The percentage of mothers giving birth aged 35 and over in England was lower than in Jersey, at 24% in 2021-2022⁹.

Figure 9. Proportion of mothers aged 35 years and over at time of birth (Jersey, 1995 to 2023)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

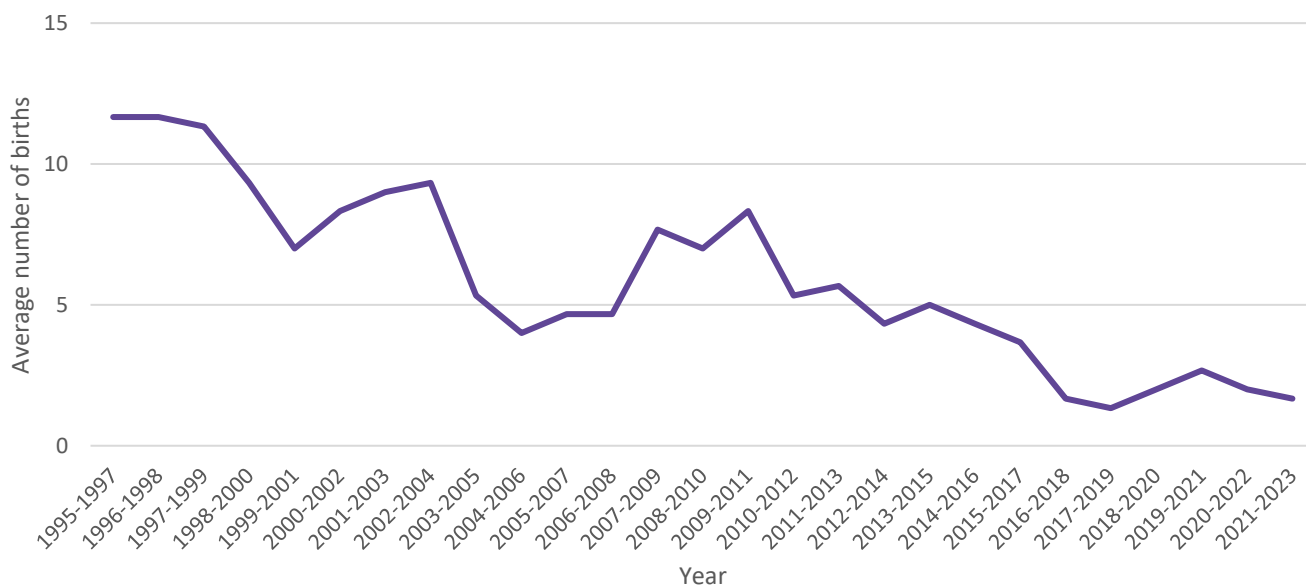
⁹ [Percentage of deliveries to women aged 35 years or above](http://www.fingertips.phe.org.uk), available from www.fingertips.phe.org.uk

Teenage Mothers (Under 18)

Over the three-year period 2021-2023, on average there were 2 births (0.1%) per year to mothers aged 17 years and under in Jersey. This has decreased over time, from 12 births (0.4%) per year during the period 1995-1997.

For comparison, 0.6% of births in England were to mothers aged 17 and under in 2022-2023¹⁰.

Figure 10. Three-yearly average annual births to mothers aged 17 and under (Jersey, 1995-1997 to 2021-2023)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

¹⁰ [Teenage mothers](http://www.fingertips.phe.org.uk), available from www.fingertips.phe.org.uk

Birth Rates

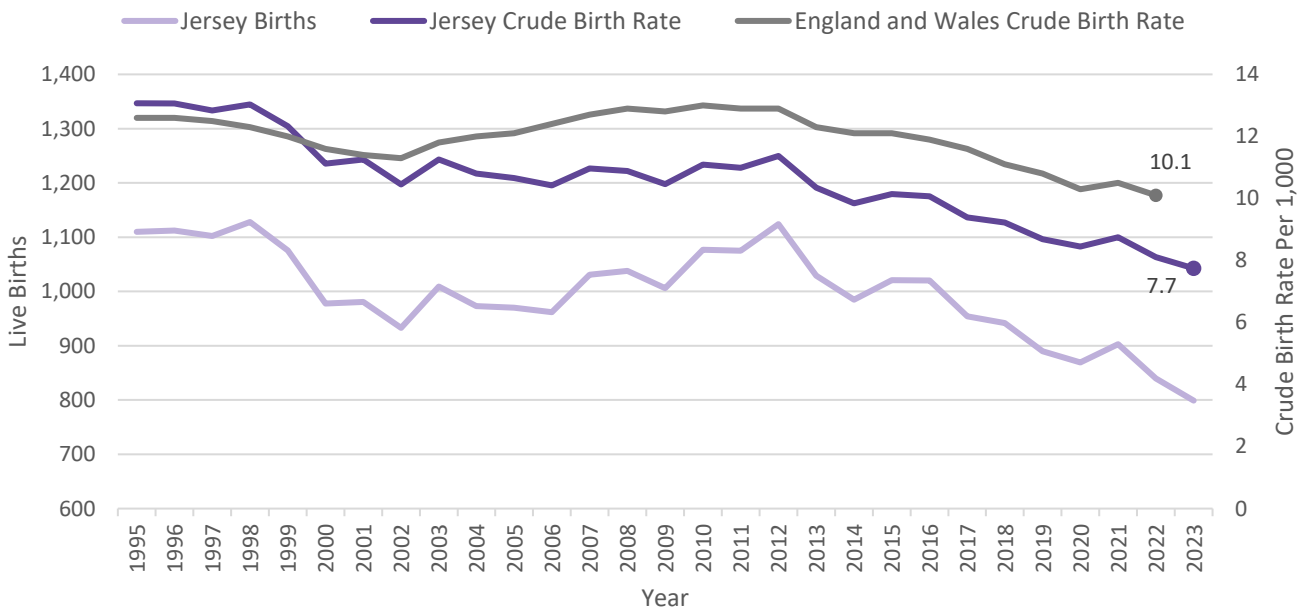
Crude Birth Rate

The crude birth rate is the total annual number of live births per 1,000 people in the population overall.

- the crude birth rate in Jersey in 2023 was 7.7 live births per 1,000 population
- there has been a continuing decline since 2012 when the birth rate was 11.4 births per 1,000 population (Figure 11)
- the crude birth rate in England and Wales was higher than in Jersey, at 10.1 live births per 1,000 total population in 2022¹¹

It is important to note that the crude birth rate is affected by the population structure, so the general and total fertility rate are more informative measures for understanding births in the population.

Figure 11. Crude birth rate (Jersey, 1995 to 2023)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

General Fertility Rate (GFR)

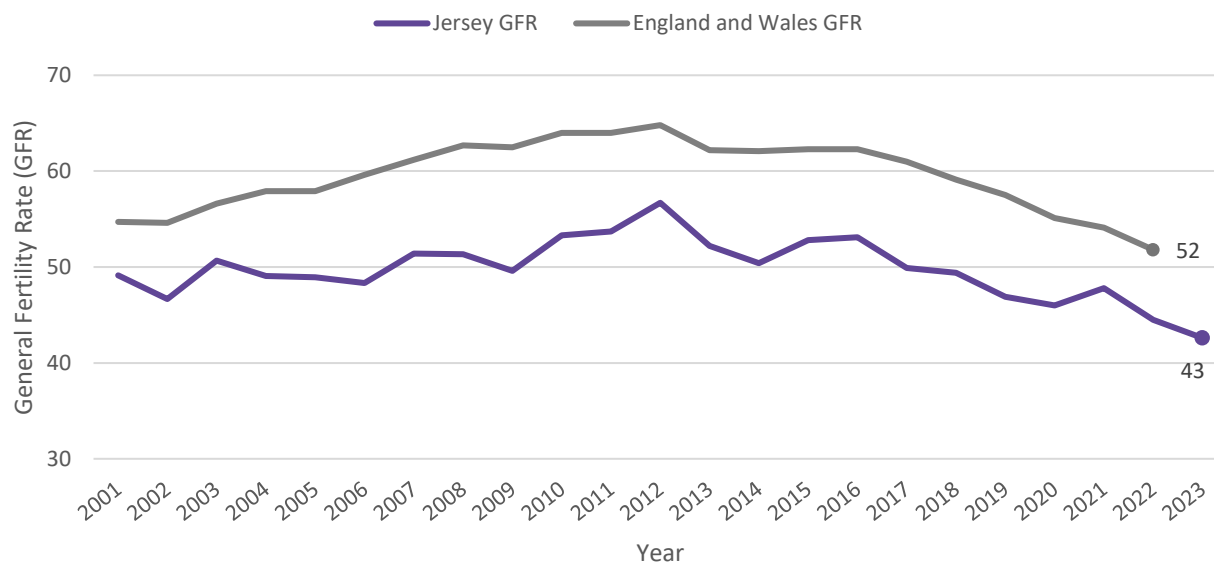
The general fertility rate (GFR) is defined as the number of live births in a year per 1,000 women in the population who are aged 15-44 years.

The GFR is a more considered way to measure fertility than the crude birth rate because the GFR is not affected by changes in the size of sub-groups of the population which generally would not bear children (e.g. pensioners).

¹¹ [Births in England and Wales](https://www.ons.gov.uk), available from www.ons.gov.uk

The GRF in Jersey in 2023 was 43 births for every 1,000 women of childbearing age. For comparison, the GRF in England and Wales was higher than in Jersey, at 52 births per 1,000 women of childbearing age in 2022¹².

Figure 12. General fertility rate (Jersey, 2001 to 2023)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

The total fertility rate (TFR) refers to the total number of children born to a woman in her lifetime if she were subject to the current rates of age-specific fertility in the population.

- the TFR in Jersey during the period 2021-2023 was 1.29 births per woman (Table 1), equivalent to 1,290 births per 1,000 women, this is lower than the latest available 3-yearly rate for England and Wales¹³, where the TFR was 1.54 births per woman (2020-2022, Figure 13)
- the latest TFR for Jersey is the lowest recorded since 2001-2003
- between 2001-2003 and 2011-2013 the total fertility rate (TFR) in Jersey had increased from 1.35 to 1.58, but since 2012-2014 has been decreasing

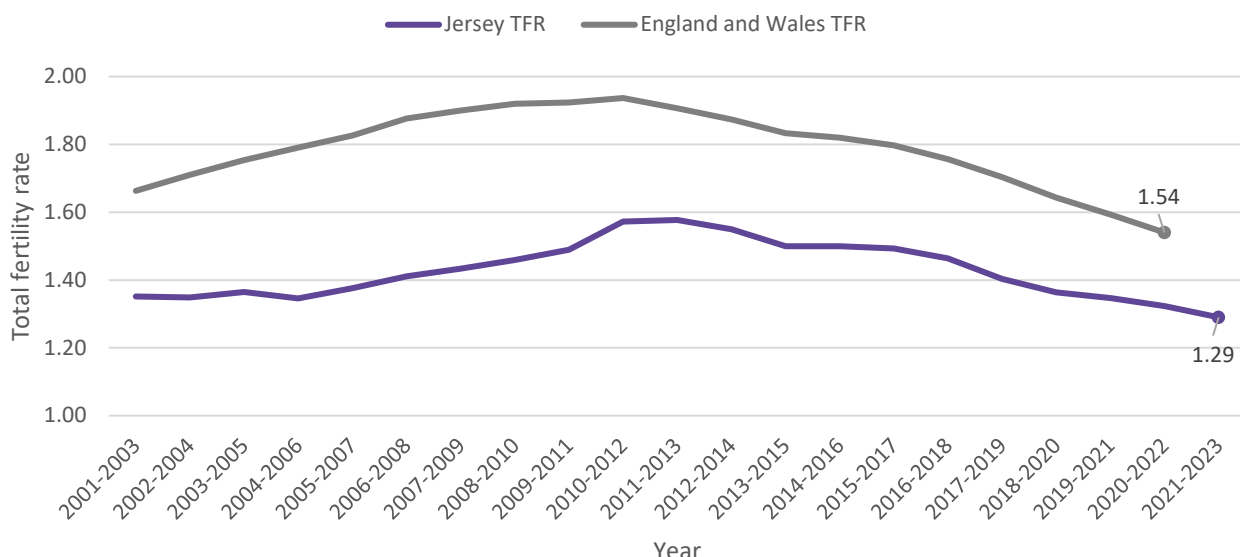
Table 2. Calculation of the total Fertility Rate (Jersey, 2021-2023)

Age of woman (years)	Estimated number of women in age group	Births to women in age group	Age specific birth rate = births to woman in age group/number of woman in age group
15-19	7,700	21	0.00
20-24	7,560	152	0.02
25-29	8,750	470	0.05
30-34	10,010	1,004	0.10
35-39	10,770	681	0.06
40-44*	11,540	213	0.02
*Includes small number of births to women aged 45+		Sum	0.26
		TFR = Sum x5	1.29

¹² [Births in England and Wales](https://www.ons.gov.uk), available from www.ons.gov.uk

¹³ [Births in England and Wales](https://www.ons.gov.uk), available from www.ons.gov.uk

Figure 13. Three-yearly total fertility rate (Jersey, 2001-2003 to 2021-2023)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

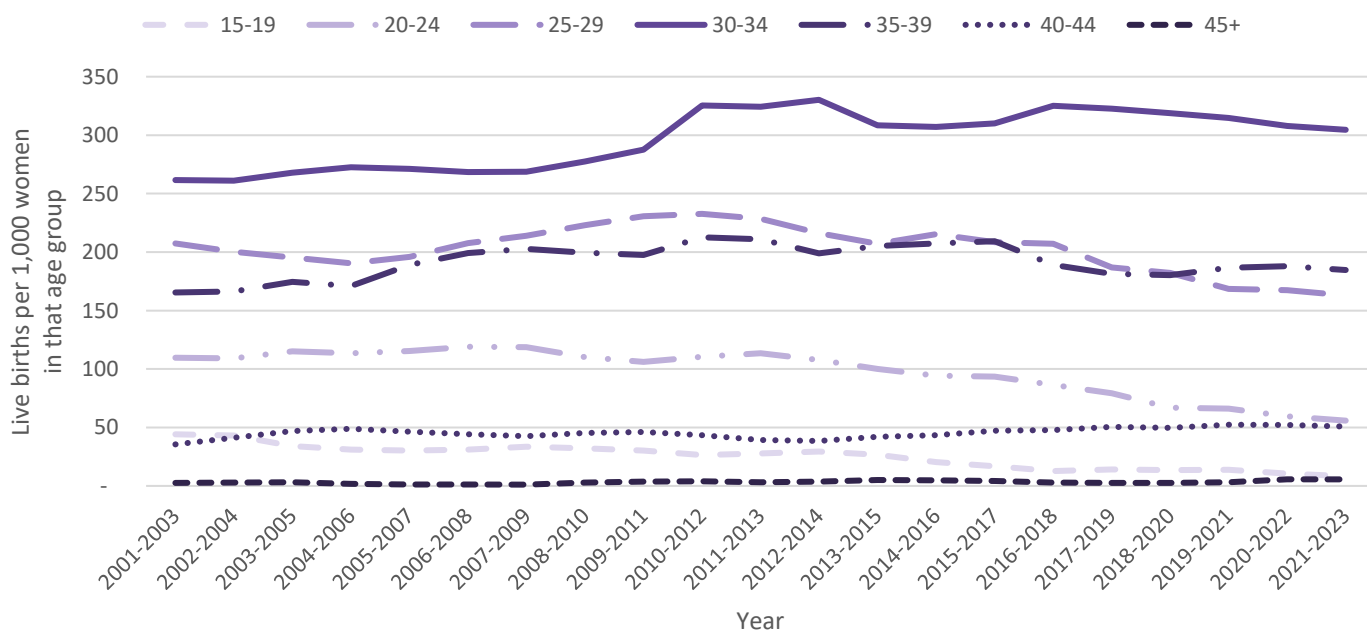
Age-Specific Fertility Rates

The age-specific fertility rate (ASFR) is the annual number of births to women of a specified age or age group per 1,000 women in that age group.

Since 2001-2003, women aged 30-34 years have had the highest age-specific fertility rate in Jersey, whereas those aged 45 and over have had the lowest.

Fertility rates of women aged under 29 years have decreased since 2011-2013.

Figure 14. Three-year average age-specific fertility rates in Jersey (2001-2003 to 2021-2023)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

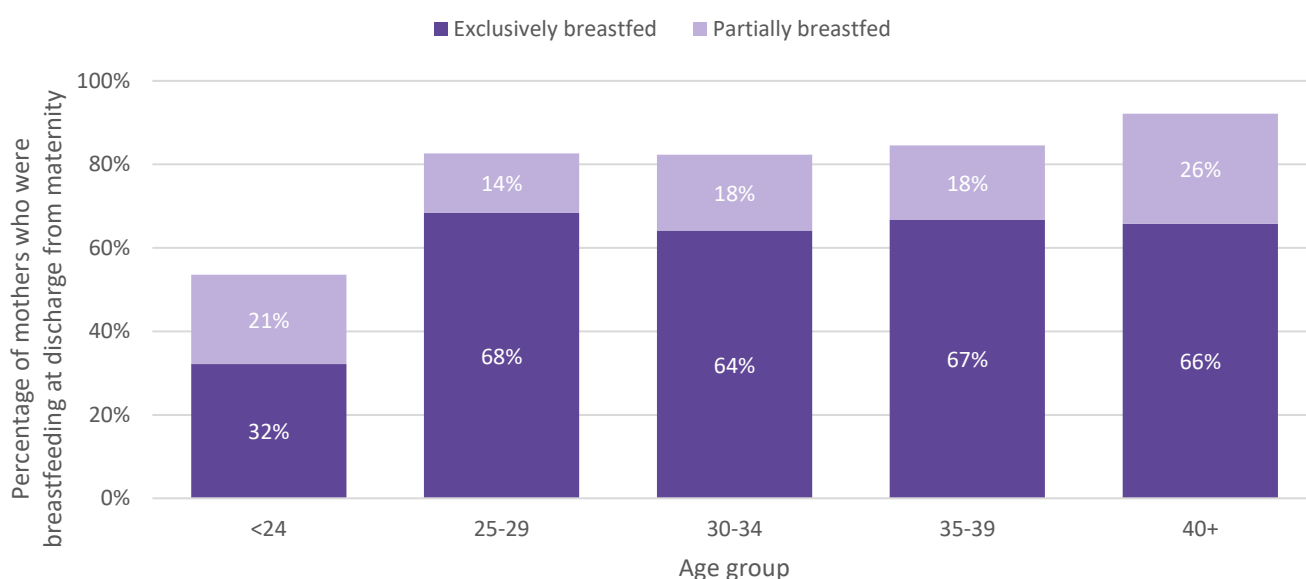
Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding at Discharge

Of the babies for whom data was recorded, 82%¹⁴ were being breastfed at discharge from maternity in 2023. This is a similar proportion to that seen each year since 2011.

Of these babies, 64% of mothers were recorded to be exclusively breastfeeding (babies receiving breast milk only) and a further 18% were mixed feeding (babies receiving both breast and formula milk). Mothers aged under 24 years had the lowest recorded rates of breastfeeding at discharge, in comparison to other age groups (Figure 15).

Figure 15. Percentage of mothers recorded as breastfeeding at discharge from maternity, by age (Jersey, 2023)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks

Of the babies for whom data was recorded, 63% were being breastfed 6-8 weeks after birth in 2023. This is higher than in England, where just 49% were being breastfed 6-8 weeks after birth in 2022-2023¹⁵.

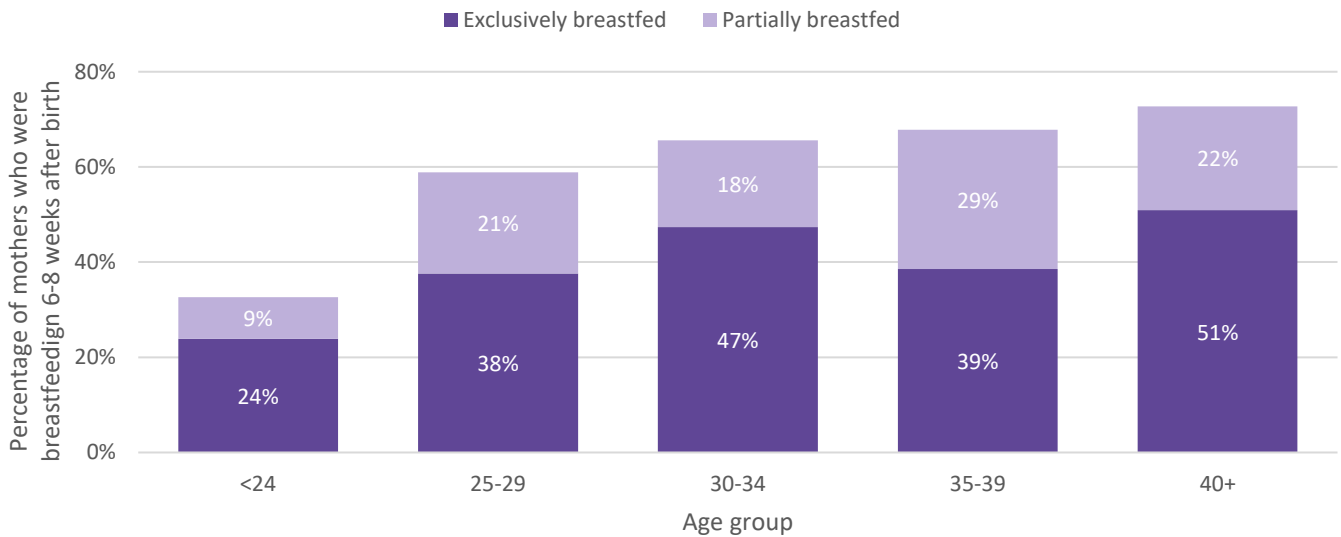
42% of mothers were exclusively breastfeeding and a further 21% were mixed feeding at 6-8 weeks after birth.

Across all age groups, a smaller percentage of mothers continued to exclusively breastfeed at 6-8 weeks after birth than at discharge, however, a higher percentage were partially breastfeeding.

¹⁴ The way breastfeeding statistics have been calculated has changed in 2023. The percentage of babies recorded as breastfeeding is now calculated as a proportion of those for whom breastfeeding data was recorded, whereas previously it was calculated as a proportion of all babies.

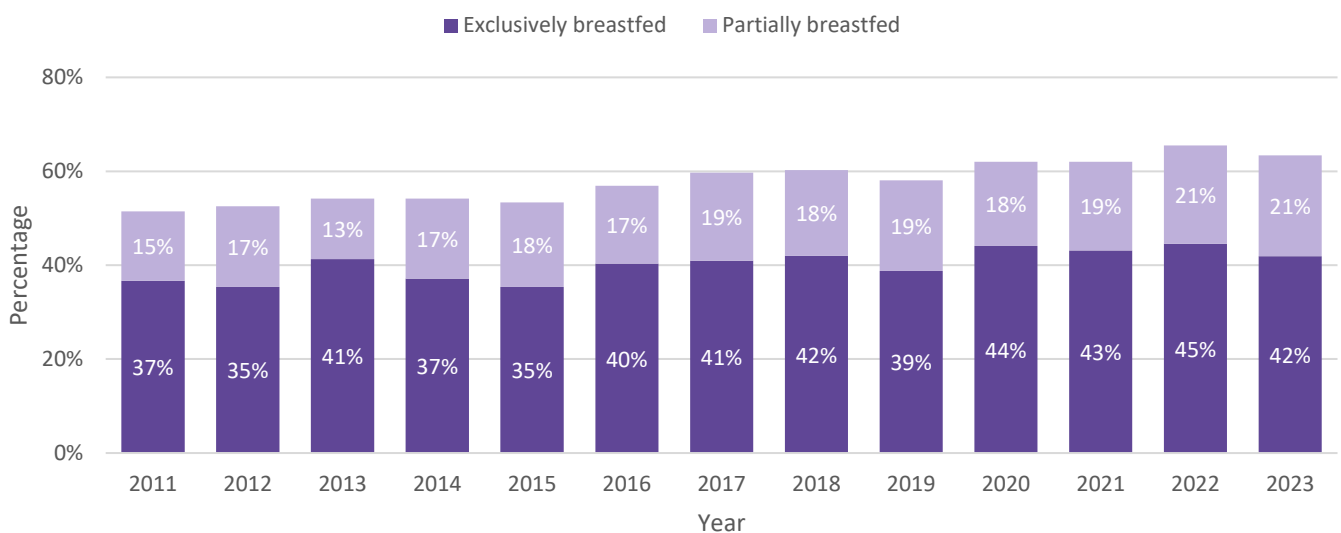
¹⁵ [Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks after birth](http://www.fingertips.phe.org.uk), available from www.fingertips.phe.org.uk

Figure 16. Percentage of mothers recorded as breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks after birth, by age (Jersey, 2023)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

Figure 17. Percentage of babies recorded as being breastfed at 6-8 weeks after birth (Jersey, 2011-2023)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

Breastfeeding at 12 Month (Developmental Assessment)

- around 878 12-month developmental checks were carried out by Family Nursing and Home Care (FNHC) health visitors in 2023 (at baby's age of between 9 and 21 months)
- 26% were being breastfed at the 12-month developmental assessment
- 21% were exclusively receiving breastmilk, with a further 5% receiving a combination of breast and formula milk.

Apgar Score

Medical professionals assess the Apgar score for a baby at five minutes after birth by scoring the baby between zero and two for each of five criteria (Appearance, Pulse, Grimace, Activity and Respiration) and summing to give a score between zero and ten.

A score of seven or above is considered normal, and a score below seven is regarded as low.

In 2023, of the term babies with an Apgar score recorded, 2% (less than 15) had a score below seven, a similar proportion to England in 2021-2022 (1.1%)¹⁶

Smoking

- 6% of women were recorded as being a current smoker at their booking appointment
- 22% of women recorded that their partner was a current smoker

As part of the 6-8 week check of newborns, the risk of exposure to second-hand smoke is assessed by GPs.

- In 2023, around 12% of all babies assessed were living in a household where they were likely to be exposed to tobacco smoke by an adult.

Hospital Admissions

During the period 2021-2023:

- around 460 children aged four years and under were admitted each year, on average, to hospital for emergency medical care
- around 185 individual infants (under the age of one) were admitted each year, on average to hospital for emergency medical care

¹⁶ [Apgar Score](http://www.digital.nhs.uk), available from www.digital.nhs.uk

Mortality

Stillbirths

The stillbirth¹⁷ rate in Jersey for the period of 2021-2023 was 3.5 per 1,000 births. This is lower than in England, where there were 3.9 stillbirths per 1,000 births in 2022¹⁸.

There were 26 stillbirths in Jersey throughout the 10-year period of 2014 to 2023.

Figure 18. 3-year average stillbirth rate per 1,000 births (Jersey, 1951-1953 to 2021-2023)



Source: Superintendent registrar/TRAK

Neonatal Deaths

There were less than 10 neonatal deaths¹⁹ in Jersey during the ten-year period 2014-2023

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality²⁰ rate in Jersey was 1.6 deaths per 1,000 live births during the three-year period 2021-2023 (Figure 19).

For comparison, this is lower than in England where there was an infant mortality rate of 3.9 per 1,000 live births in 2020-2022²¹.

¹⁷ Stillbirth is the delivery, after the 24th week of pregnancy, of a baby who has died.

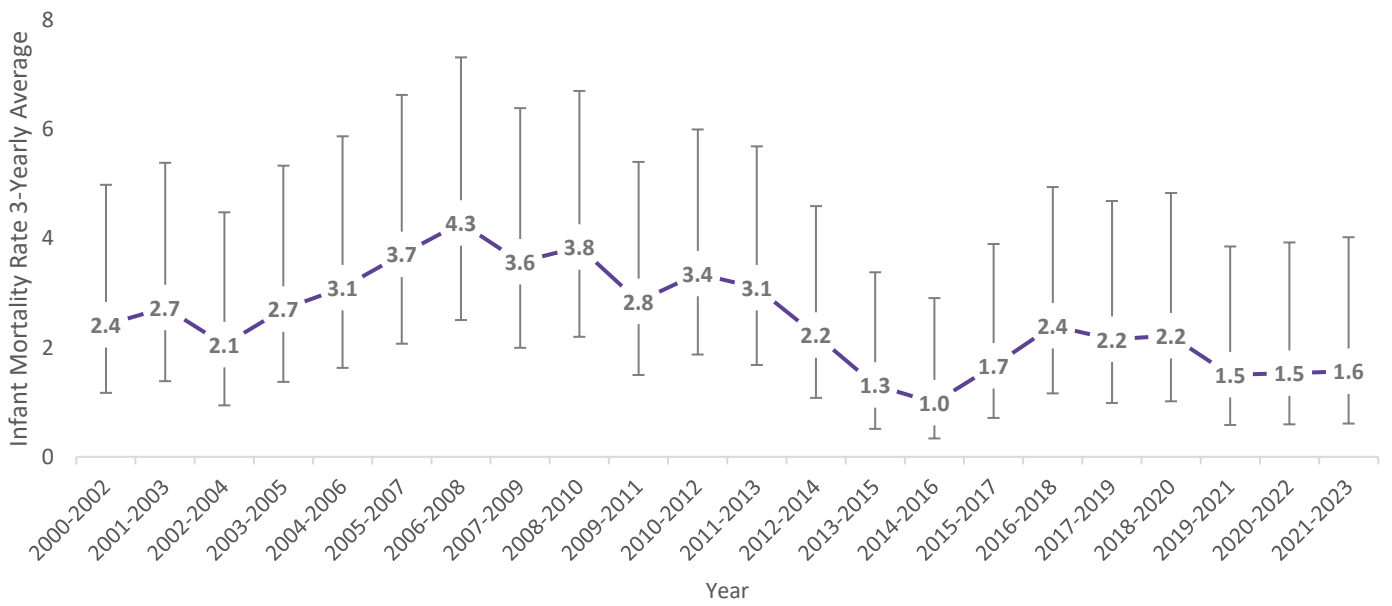
¹⁸ [Stillbirths rates in England](http://www.ons.gov.uk) available from www.ons.gov.uk

¹⁹ Neonatal deaths are babies who were born after 24 weeks' gestation who died in their first 28 days of life.

²⁰ Infant mortality is defined as all deaths occurring within the first year of life. The number of infants who die each year in Jersey is subject to variation from year to year; the data is therefore presented on a three-year rolling average basis.

²¹ [Infant mortality rate](http://www.fingertips.phe.org.uk), available from www.fingertips.phe.org.uk

Figure 19. 3-year average infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (Jersey, 2000-2002 to 2021-2023)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

Deaths of Children (Under 5)

There were less than 10 deaths to children under 5 years of age in Jersey during the three-year period 2021-2023, which has remained similar, over the last 10 years.

Sources of Data

- all babies born in Jersey are offered a six-week check by a GP to check the baby's development. Babies are then seen again by a Family Nursing and Health Care (FNHC) visitor at a child health clinic for a 12-month developmental assessment
- birth and breastfeeding data (up to and including the six-week check) comes from the Child Health System, which is administered by the Preventative Programmes, Child Health Team. This system monitors a child's development and immunisation history throughout their childhood. Statistics Jersey extracts data from this system for statistical purposes. Data on breastfeeding is also gathered by the Maternity Unit through TRAK and Maxims (hospital patient healthcare information systems), and/or by GPs
- data on caesarean sections comes from the Child Health System, together with data from the hospital systems TRAK and Maxims. Information on breastfeeding at the 12-month developmental assessment is provided by Family Nursing Home Care (FNHC). FNHC is a Jersey charity who provide nursing and home care in the community, they have a team of health visitors and work closely with the States of Jersey to provide care for all families in Jersey
- figures on infant mortality uses information from the notifications and registrations reported by Parish Registrars to the Superintendent Registrar, as required by the Marriage and Civil Status (Jersey) Law 2001

Methods

Population Estimates

This report uses estimates for yearly population figures between 2010 and 2022. These estimates were produced by Statistics Jersey. This report uses 2022 population estimates in lieu of 2023 estimates, which have not yet been produced by Statistics Jersey.

Crude Rates

A crude rate refers to the number of events per 1,000 or 100,000 population.

Confidence Intervals and Statistical Significance

Confidence intervals have been used in this report to compare Jersey rates and numbers over time, and with those of England and Wales. Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. The confidence interval indicates the range within which the true value for the population as a whole can be expected to lie, taking natural random variation into account.

Confidence intervals are often expressed as a percentage whereby a population mean lies between an upper and lower interval. The 95% confidence interval is a range of values that one can be 95% confident contains the true mean of the population.

Comparisons between rates or over time have been tested to determine whether differences are likely to be statistically significant or the result of natural random variation. Only those differences deemed as

statistically significant have been described in this report using terms such as 'increase', 'decrease', 'higher' or 'lower'.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

The TFR is affected both by the number of children women have across their child-bearing years as well as the specific timing. The TFR will decline if women start having fewer children overall and/or if women generally start delaying childbearing to later years.

Similarly, a rise in TFR would result from women having more children and/or women moving towards having children earlier in their life.

Feedback

If you would like to provide feedback, then please contact us on the following address or email us at:

healthintelligence@gov.je

Public Health Intelligence

19-21 Broad Street

St Helier

Jersey

JE4 8QT