

# Births, fertility and breastfeeding, 2018



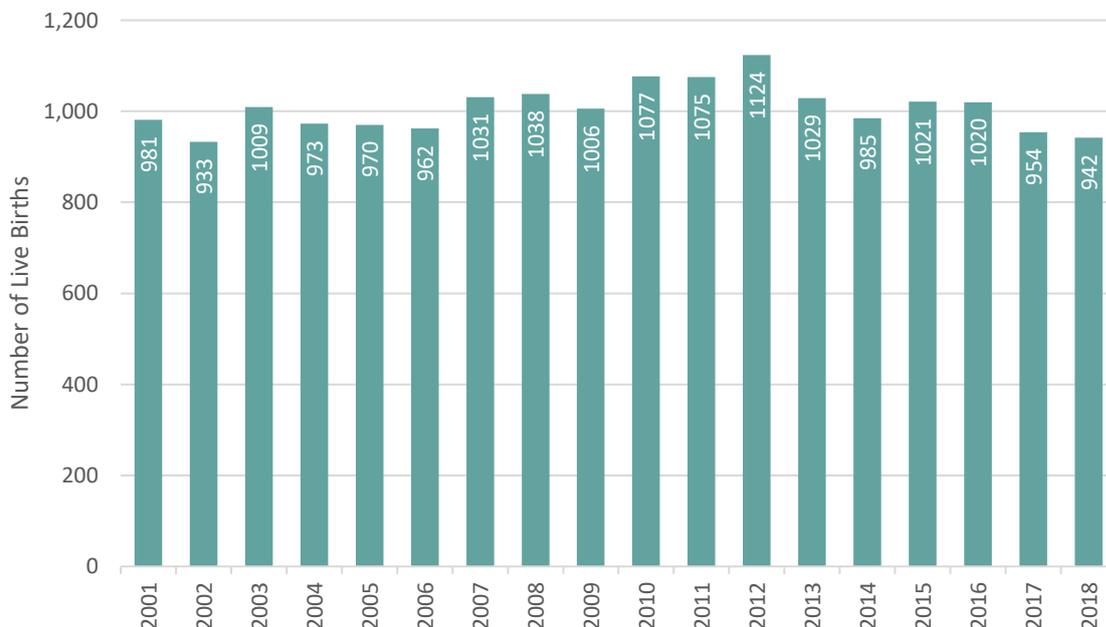
## Summary

- there were 942 live births notified in Jersey<sup>1</sup> during 2018; this was the lowest number of births recorded since 2002
- the age group with the highest age-specific fertility rates (number of live births per 1,000 women of each age group) in Jersey was the cohort of women aged 30-34 years
- the proportion of births by caesarean section remains similar to previous years, and continues to be higher in Jersey (33%) than England (27%)<sup>2</sup>; older mothers were more likely to have an elective caesarean section
- 8% of newborns were classified as 'low' birthweight, a similar rate when compared to England
- the proportion of mothers aged 35 and over in Jersey has increased slightly from around a quarter (24%) in 2001 to three in ten (30%) in 2018
- 76% of babies were breastfed at discharge from maternity care
- three out of five babies (60%) were being breastfed at 6-8 weeks of age
- at the 9 month to 1 year check, around one in four (24%) babies were receiving breastmilk
- over the period 2015-2017 infant mortality in Jersey was 1.7 deaths in infants aged under 1 year of age, per 1,000 live births; similar to the rate of 3.9 per 1,000 live births in England

## Births

- in 2018, there were 942 live births, a slight decrease on the previous year (954) and the lowest number of live births since 2002 (see Figure 1)
- in 2017 the provisional number of live births in the UK also declined when compared to the previous year
- 40% of all live births were first births, 32% were second births and 16% were third births

Figure 1: Number of annual births per 1,000 people, 2001-2018



<sup>1</sup> Details of births refer to all births in Jersey including those babies born off-Island to Jersey resident mothers and transferred back. These details differ slightly to the information collected by the Superintendent Registrar who collects details of all babies registered on-Island.

<sup>2</sup> Public Health England (PHE) Overview of Child-Health updated March 2019, available from <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/child-health/profile/child-health-overview>

## Crude birth rate

The crude birth rate is the number of live births in a year per 1,000 people in the population.

- the crude birth rate in Jersey decreased slightly from 11.4 births per 1,000 people in 2012 to 8.9 per 1,000 people in 2018
- in 2016, the crude birth rate in the European Union (EU-28) was 10.1 per 1,000 people<sup>3</sup>

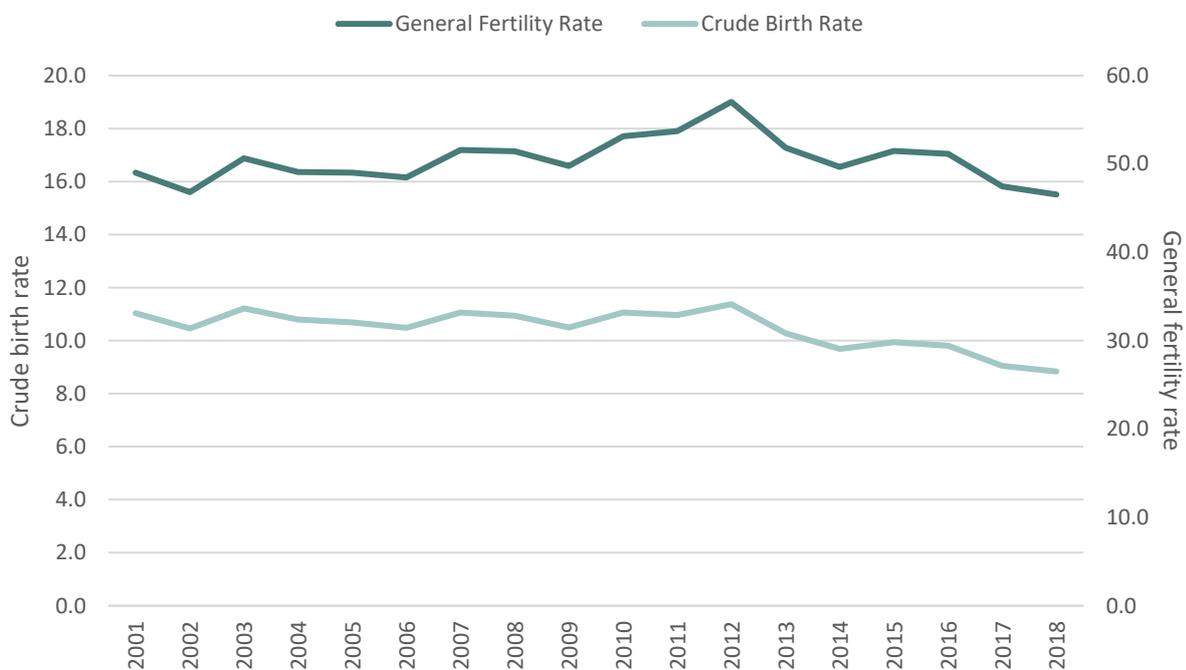
## General fertility rate

The general fertility rate (GFR) is defined as the number of live births in a year per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years in the population<sup>4</sup>.

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

- the general fertility rate shows a similar pattern to the crude birth rate since the turn of the century, although slightly less pronounced
- in 2018, for every 1,000 women of childbearing age (defined for the GFR as those aged 15 to 44 years) there were 47 births
- for comparison, the general fertility rate in England was 63 per 1,000 women of childbearing age in 2016

Figure 2: General fertility rate and crude birth rate, 2001-2018, Jersey



## Total fertility rate (TFR)

The total fertility rate (TFR) refers to the total number of children born to a woman in her life time if she were subject to the current rates of age-specific fertility in the population. See Table 1 to show how the rate has been calculated for 2016-2018.

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 fall if women start having fewer children overall, but it will also fall if women generally start delaying child-bearing to later years. Similarly, a rise in TFR could be due to women having more children, and/or women moving towards having children earlier in their life.

<sup>3</sup> Eurostat, Fertility statistics, Europa.eu

<sup>4</sup> Number of females in each age-group were estimated using Statistics Jersey's population projections data

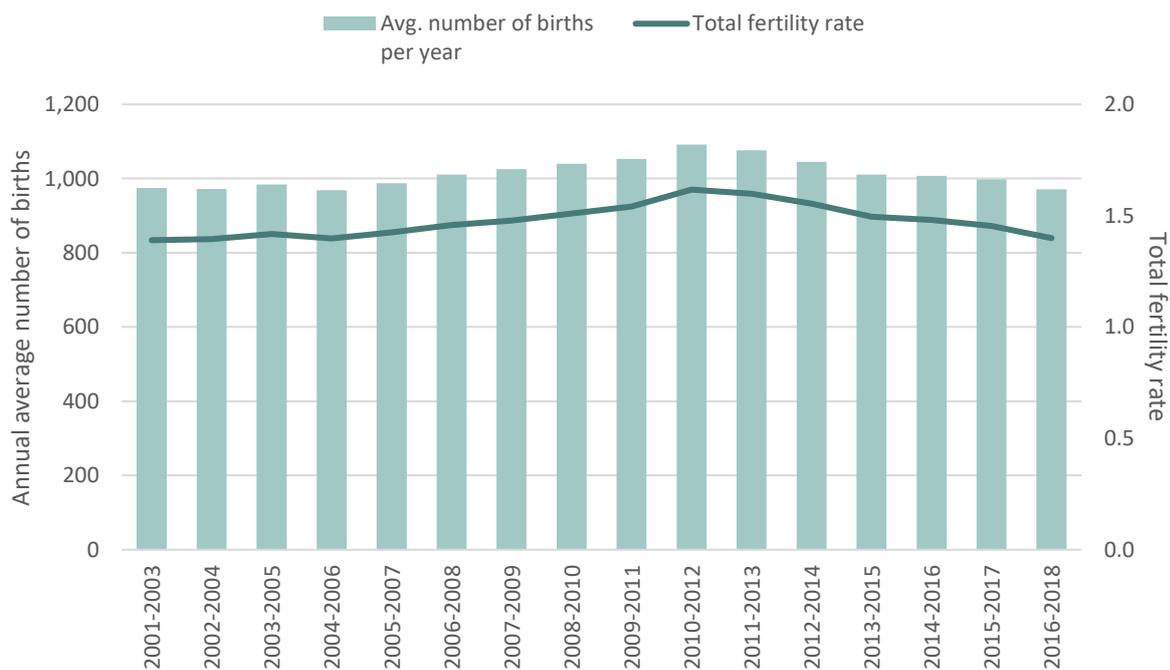
**Table 1: Calculating the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for Jersey, 2016-2018**

| Age of women (years) | Estimated number of women in age group | Births to women in age group* | Age specific birth rate = births to women in age group / number of women in age group |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|
| 15-19                | 8,280                                  | 33                            | 0.00  |
| 20-24                | 8,720                                  | 238                           | 0.03  |
| 25-29                | 10,240                                 | 622                           | 0.06  |
| 30-34                | 10,480                                 | 1,104                         | 0.11  |
| 35-39                | 11,240                                 | 733                           | 0.07  |
| 40-44                | 10,920                                 | 183                           | 0.02  |
|                      |  | Sum                           | 0.28  |
|                      |  | TFR = Sum x 5                 | 1.40  |

\*the small number of births to women aged 45 years and over are included in the number of births to women aged 40-44 years

- the TFR in 2016-18 was 1.40 births per woman (or 1,400 births per 1,000 women)

**Figure 3: Average number of live births and total fertility rate (TFR), 3 year periods, 2001-03 to 2016-18, Jersey**



- between 2004-2006 and 2010-2012 the total fertility rate (TFR) increased slightly from 1.40 to 1.62 (see Figure 3)
- during the period 2010-2012 to 2016-2018, the TFR returned to a similar level to that at the beginning of the century
- the TFR in England has declined over the previous five years (from 1.94 in 2012 to 1.76 children per woman in 2017)<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> ONS Births in England and Wales: 2017

## Age of mothers

- the mean average age of all mothers giving birth in Jersey during 2018 was 32.4 years; in England and Wales the mean age of women at childbirth was 30.5 years<sup>6</sup> in 2017
- the mean average age of women having a first birth in Jersey in 2018 was 31.0 years; in England and Wales the mean age of first time mothers was 28.8 years in 2017
- the proportion of mothers aged 35 and over in Jersey has increased slightly from around a quarter (24%) in 2000 to three in ten (30%) in 2018 (see Figure 4)
- in England, the proportion of mothers aged 35 and over was significantly lower (22%) in financial year 2016-2017<sup>7</sup> than the 2018 figure for Jersey (30%)

**Figure 4: Proportion of mothers in Jersey aged 35 years or over at the time of birth 2000-2018**

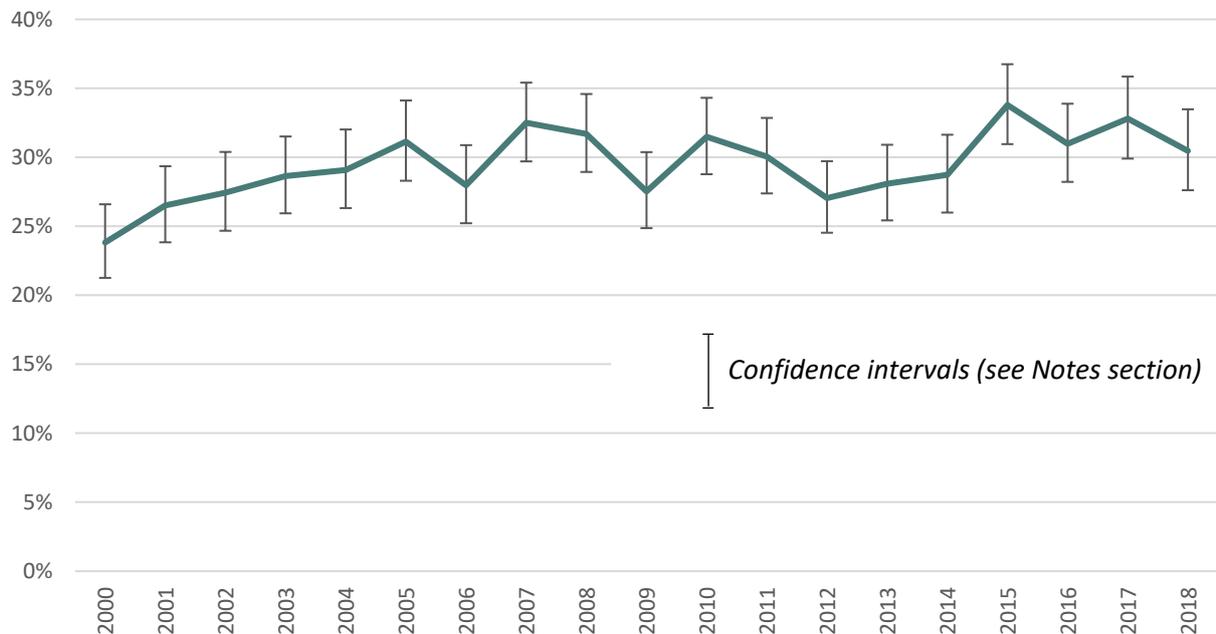


Table 2 shows the comparative figures for the proportion of mothers aged 35 years and over in Jersey, the EU and selected European countries for 2015 (the year for which comparison data is most recently available).

- Jersey has a higher proportion than the EU average, Poland, France, the UK and Portugal; and a lower proportion than Spain

**Table 2: Proportion of mothers aged 35 years or over at the time of birth, European countries and Jersey 2015**

| Country                 | Percentage of mothers aged 35 or over |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Poland                  | 15.4                                  |
| France                  | 19.0                                  |
| UK                      | 21.5                                  |
| EU average <sup>8</sup> | 24.0                                  |
| Portugal                | 29.6                                  |
| Jersey                  | 33.8                                  |
| Ireland                 | 34.5                                  |
| Spain                   | 37.7                                  |

Source: Statistics Jersey and WHO Europe Region<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk)

<sup>7</sup> Public Health England (PHE) Overview of Child-Health updated March 2019, available from <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/child-health/profile/child-health-overview>

<sup>8</sup> Does not include figures for Belgium, Italy, Malta and Slovakia which are at present unavailable for 2015

<sup>9</sup> World Health Organisation Europe Region, European health for all database, updated January 2019, available from <http://gateway.euro.who.int/en/hfa-explorer/>

## Teenage mothers under 18 years of age

- since 2000 there has been an average of 5 births per year where the mother has been under 18 years; over the period 2016-2018, less than 1% (0.2%) of births were to mothers aged under 18 years
- the proportion of teenage mothers in Jersey was lower than in England (0.7%)<sup>10</sup>

## Teenage mothers under 20 years of age

The World Health Organisation defines teenage pregnancy as the proportion of births to mothers under 20 years of age<sup>11</sup>. Using this definition and data from a similar time period, Table 3 shows the comparative figures for teenage pregnancies across Jersey, the EU and selected European countries.

- Jersey has a lower proportion than the EU average, Poland, Portugal and the UK; and a similar proportion to France, Ireland and Spain

**Table 3: Proportion of teenage mothers (aged under 20), European countries (2015) and Jersey (2015-2017)**

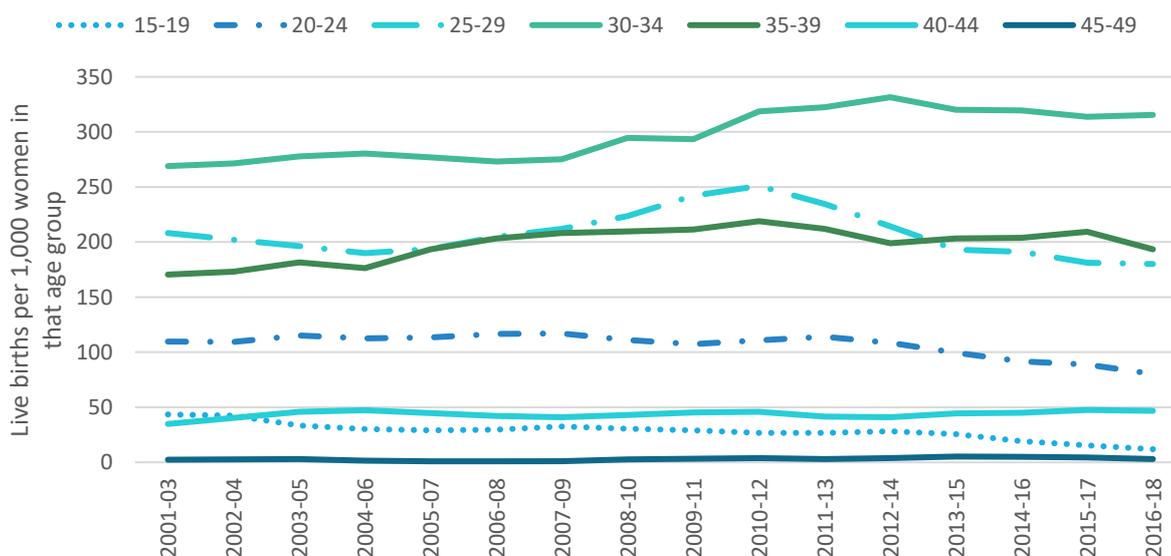
| Country    | Percentage of mothers under 20 years of age |
|------------|---|
| Jersey     | 1.5   |
| France     | 1.8   |
| Ireland    | 1.8   |
| Spain      | 2.0   |
| EU average | 2.7   |
| Portugal   | 2.7   |
| Poland     | 3.3   |
| UK         | 3.5   |

Note: Jersey data is for three years due to small numbers: Source: Statistics Jersey and WHO Europe Region<sup>12</sup>

## Age-specific fertility rates

- since 2001, the age group with the highest age-specific fertility rate in Jersey has been women aged 30-34 years
- in 2018 the rates decreased, or remained stable, for every age category (Figure 5)
- rates have decreased to the lowest recorded since 2001 for women aged 29 years and under

**Figure 5: Age-specific fertility rates (3 year averages), 2001-03 to 2016-2018, Jersey**



<sup>10</sup> Public Health England (PHE) Overview of Child-Health updated March 2019, available from <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/child-health/profile/child-health-overview>

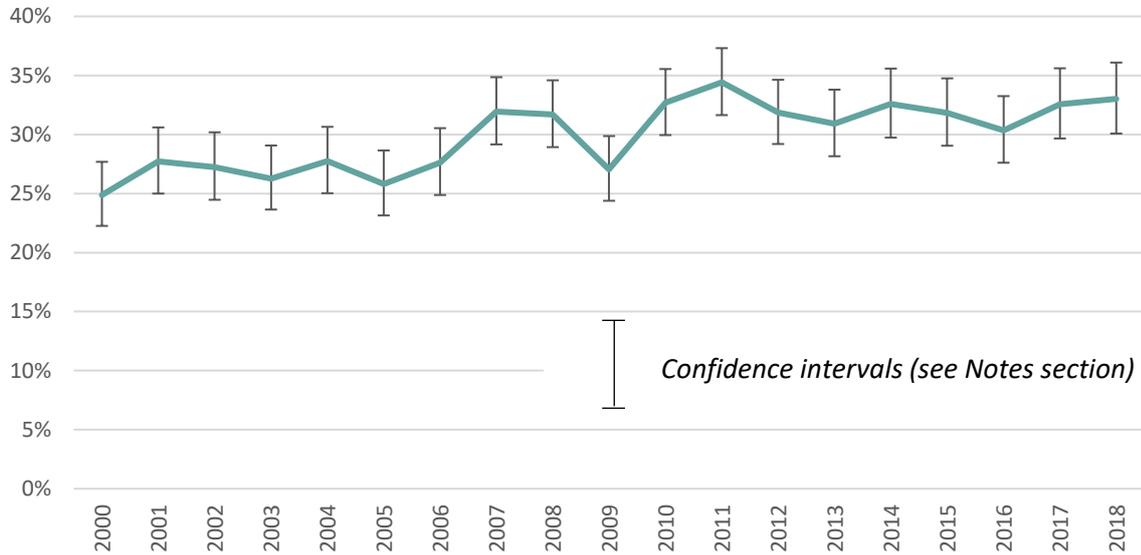
<sup>11</sup> World Health Organisation, Factsheet - Adolescent pregnancy

<sup>12</sup> Public Health England, Pregnancy and Birth Benchmarking tool, updated March 2019, available from <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/child-health/profile/child-health-pregnancy/>

## Caesarean sections

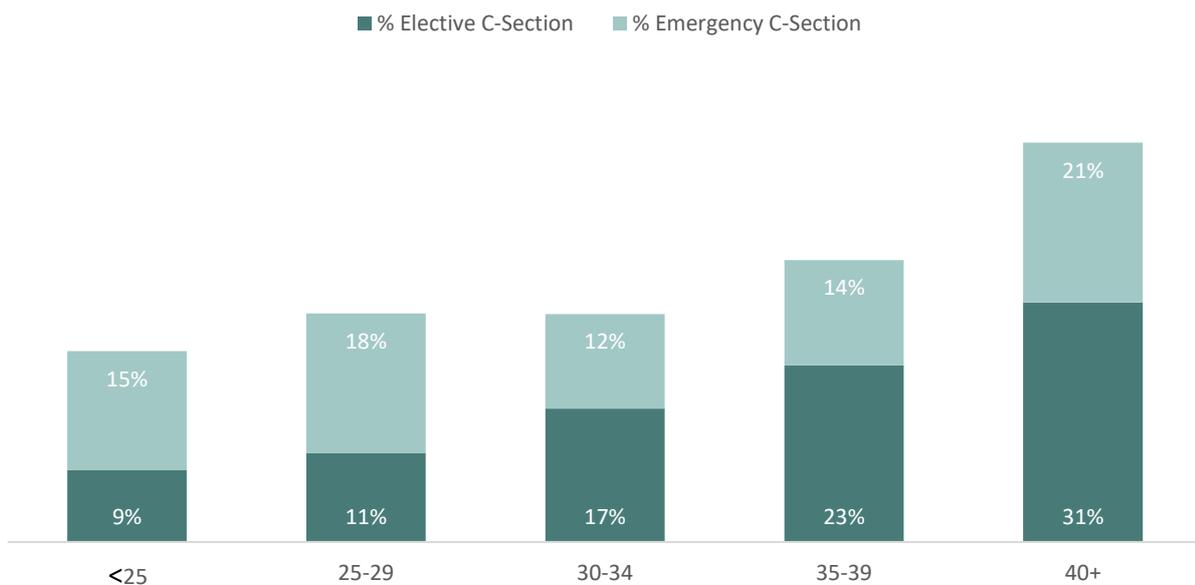
- one in three births (33%) in 2018 were delivered by caesarean section<sup>13</sup>
- the proportion of caesarean births have been slightly higher in the latest decade than at the beginning of the century, varying between 25% in 2000 and 34% in 2011 (see Figure 6)
- the proportion of caesarean births was significantly higher in Jersey than England (27%<sup>14</sup> of births in the financial year 2016-2017)

**Figure 6: Proportion of women having caesarean sections, by year, 2000-2018**



- over the three-year period 2016-2018, one in four mothers (25%) under the age of 25 gave birth via caesarean section, rising to one in two (51%) for mothers aged 40 and over (Figure 7)
- one in ten mothers aged under 30 (11%) had an elective caesarean in 2016-2018; around one in five (19%) of mothers in the 30-39 cohort, and around one in three (31%) of those aged over 40 had an elective caesarean

**Figure 7: Proportion of women having a caesarean section by age (three-year period, 2016 to 2018)**

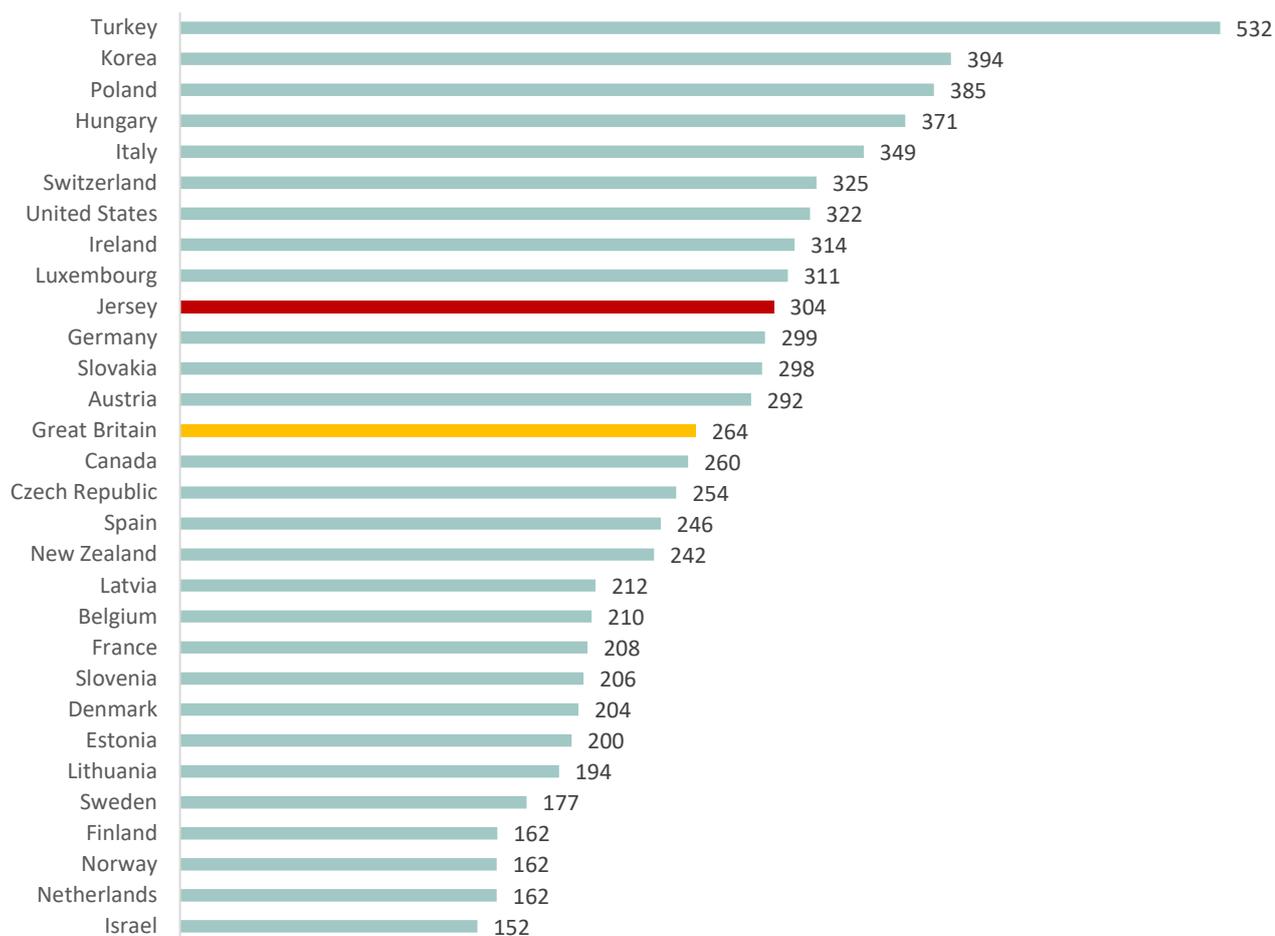


<sup>13</sup> Prior to 2015 and again in 2018, caesarean information was recorded on the child health system. In 2016 and 2017 caesarean information was no longer recorded on the child health system and information was taken from the TRAK system. This data only records numbers of caesarean sections, not numbers of live births. For these two years, the percentage was calculated by dividing the number of caesarean sections recorded on TRAK by the number of mothers giving birth to live babies

<sup>14</sup> Public Health England, Overview of Child-Health, updated March 2019, available from [fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/child-health/profile/child-health-overview/](http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/child-health/profile/child-health-overview/)

- in Jersey, around 300 out of every 1,000 live births were performed by caesarean section in 2018; Figure 8 shows the number of caesarean sections per 1,000 live births across OECD countries in 2016

**Figure 8: The number of caesarean sections per 1,000 births across OECD countries, 2016 or nearest year**

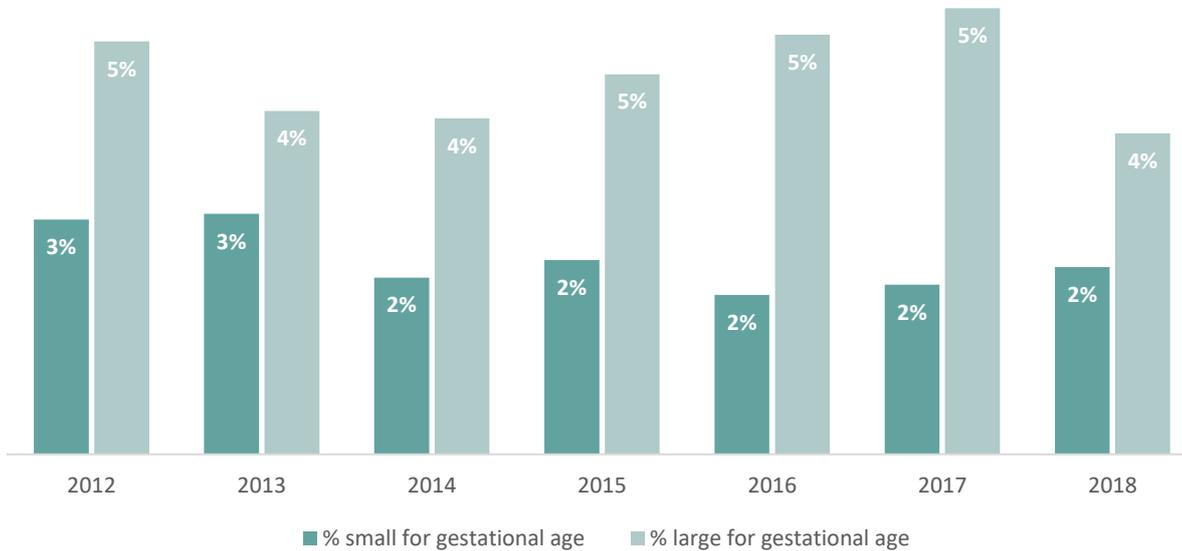


Source: Statistics Jersey and OECD *Health Statistics: Health care utilisation* OECD (2019), *Caesarean sections (indicator)*. doi: 10.1787/adc3c39f-en (Accessed on 22 February 2019)

## Birth weight

- in 2018, 20 newborn babies (2%) were considered small<sup>15</sup> for gestational age<sup>16</sup>, a proportion similar to that for England (3%)
- around 35 newborns in Jersey (4%) were large for gestational age (see Figure 9)
- in Jersey, 8% of newborns (around 90) were classified as 'low' birthweight<sup>17</sup> (under 2.5kg) in 2018; this is similar to the proportion of 'low' birthweight babies in England (7.3%) in 2016

Figure 9: Proportion of all newborns who had small or large birthweight for gestational age, 2012-2018



## Multiple births

- 24 mothers had a multiple birth in 2018 compared to 9 in 2017 (see Figure 10); 50 children were born as part of a multiple birth (twins, triplets etc.) compared to 18 children in 2017
- the rate of multiple births increased from 9.5 per 1,000 births in 2017 to 26.2 in 2018
- the rate of multiple births in Jersey in 2018 was significantly higher than the latest available rate for England (16.9 per 1,000 maternities)

Figure 10: Multiple number of live births and multiple birth rate per 1,000 maternities, 2015-2018



<sup>15</sup> Calculated using the LMS growth add-in charts based on the WHO – British 1990 birth cohort. A baby is considered to have a healthy birthweight if it lies between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> centile of weight for their gestational age. Babies whose birthweights lie above the 95<sup>th</sup> centile are considered 'large for gestational age', while those below the 5<sup>th</sup> centile are considered 'small for gestational age'

<sup>16</sup> Gestational age is estimated from first ultrasound scan or based on last menstrual period

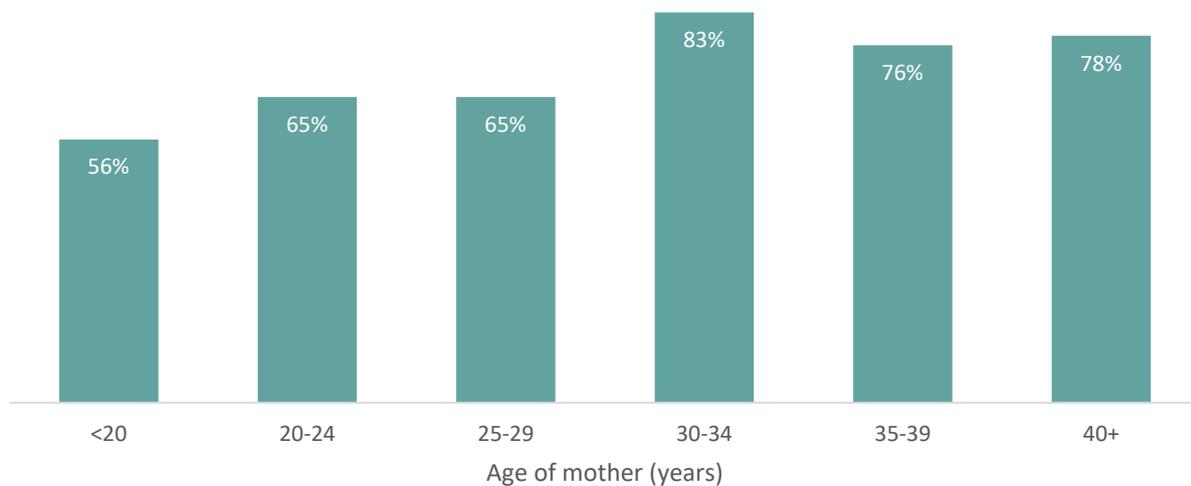
<sup>17</sup> Low birthweight is a term used to describe babies who are born weighing less than 2.5kg

## Breastfeeding patterns

### Breastfeeding at discharge<sup>18</sup>

- over three-quarters (76%) of mothers breastfed their babies at discharge from maternity in 2018; a similar proportion seen each year since 2010
- the proportion of those breastfeeding at discharge in Jersey was similar to the average for breastfeeding initiation in England for the financial year 2016-17 (74.5%); the English regions<sup>19</sup> range from 37.9% to 96.7%
- at discharge, babies whose mothers were younger were less likely to have been breastfed; breastfeeding rates among mothers aged 30 years and older were significantly higher than those of younger mothers (see Figure 11)

Figure 11: Proportion of mothers who are breastfeeding at discharge by age of mother, 2018



### Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks

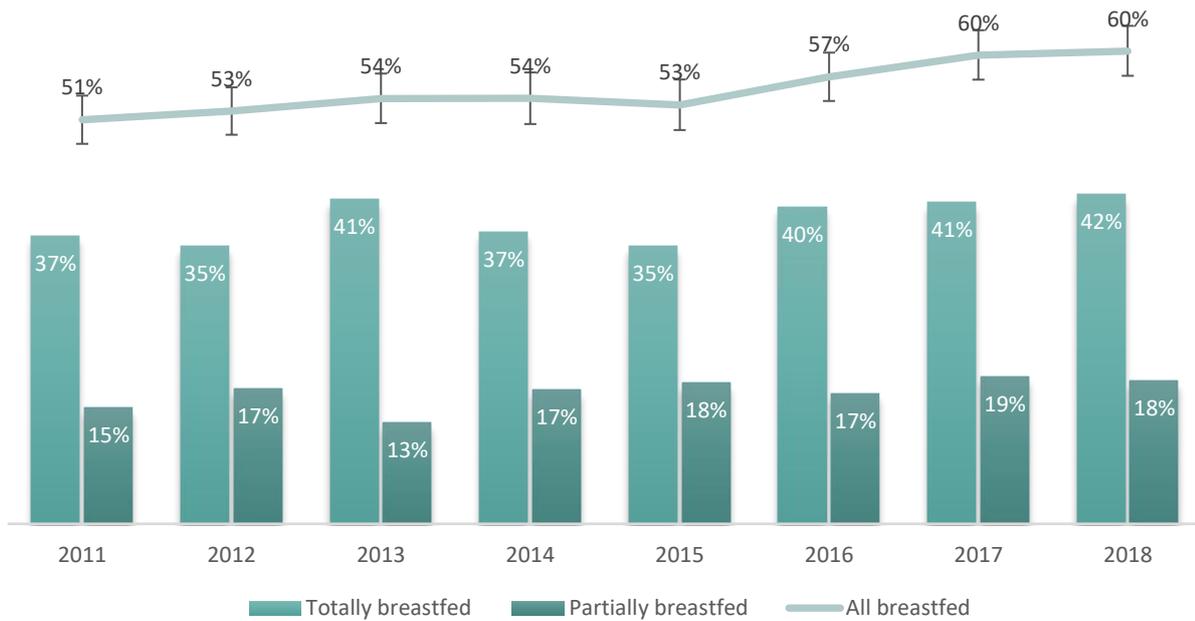
- in 2018, the proportion of mothers who were breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks after birth was 60% (42% exclusively, and 18% partially), see Figure 12; rates for breastfeeding babies between 6 and 8 weeks old have remained essentially unchanged for the past five years
- the rate in Jersey is higher than England where breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks was 43% on average for 2017-2018 financial year (including both partial and total breastfeeding); rates in England ranged from 19% to 82% across the English regions<sup>20</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Breastfeeding at birth is the proportion of mothers who give their babies breastmilk soon after delivery, and was the measure used from 2010 to 2014. From October 2015, mothers in Jersey have been assessed on whether they were breastfeeding on discharge, a change from the previous assessment of 'feeding initiated at birth' which was defined as the 48 hours following delivery. In practice, these two definitions of breastfeeding at birth are very similar.

<sup>19</sup> Public Health England, Overview of Child-Health, Updated February 2019, available from: [fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/child-health/profile/child-health-overview](http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/child-health/profile/child-health-overview)

<sup>20</sup> Public Health England, Overview of Child-Health, Updated February 2019, available from: [fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/child-health/profile/child-health-overview](http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/child-health/profile/child-health-overview)

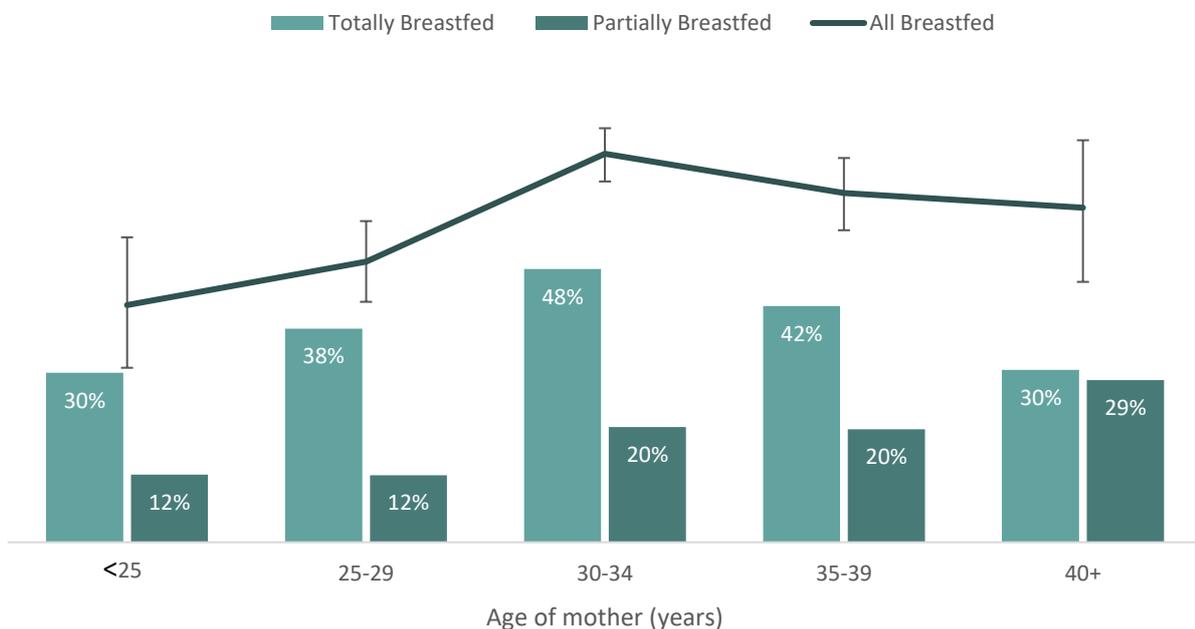
**Figure 12: Proportion of babies who are breastfed at 6-8 weeks, 2011-2018\***



\*Numbers may not sum due to rounding

- breastfeeding rates at 6-8 weeks are lowest among mothers aged under 25 years (42%) and highest among mothers aged 30-34 years (68%), as shown in Figure 13

**Figure 13: Proportion of babies who are breastfed at 6-8 weeks old by age of the mother, 2018**



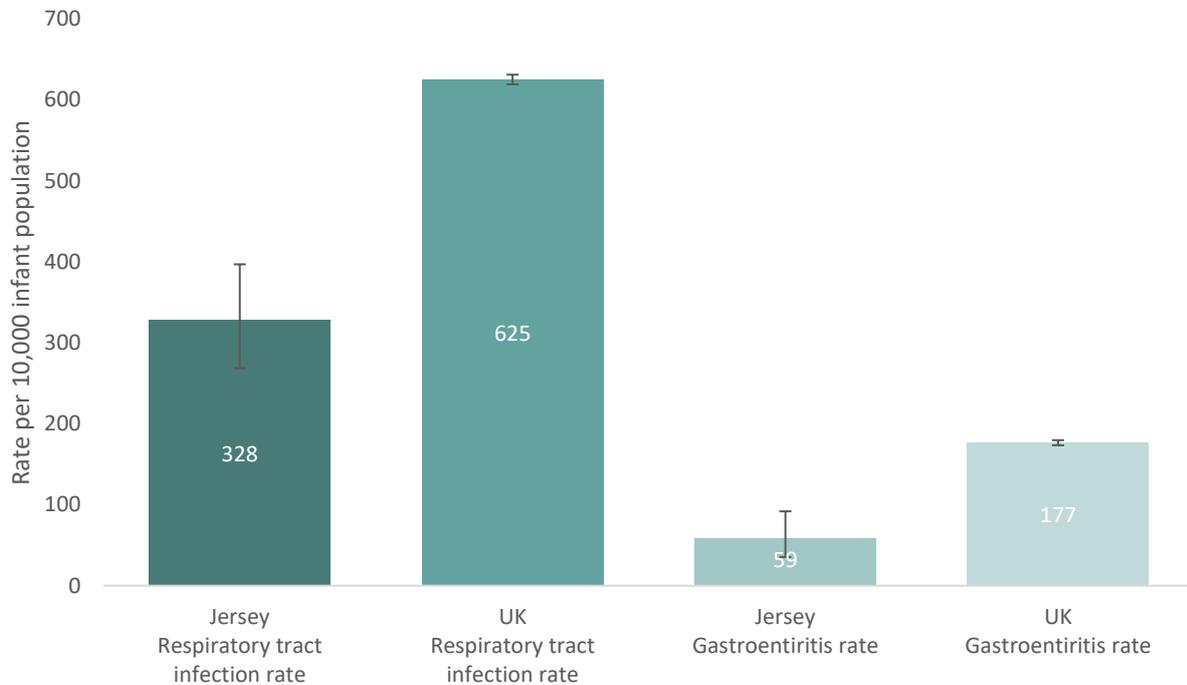
### Breastfeeding at 9 months to 1 year

- around 820 developmental checks were carried out by Family Nursing and Home Care health visitors in 2018 (at babies' ages of 9 months – 1 year), and a 'feeding status' recorded for 810 of them
- a quarter of children (23%) were still being breastfed at 9 months – 1 year; a fifth of children (22%) were exclusively receiving breastmilk, with a further 2% receiving a combination of breast and formula milk

## Hospital admissions

- over the period 2016-2018 in Jersey, the average number of infants (aged under 1) admitted to hospital for medical care was around 180 per year
- one in five (20%) admissions for those aged under 1 were primarily caused by infections of the respiratory tract, a rate of 328 admissions per 10,000 population per year; this rate is significantly lower than the English rate of 625 admissions per 10,000 population (see Figure 14)
- the rate of admissions primarily due to gastroenteritis in those aged under 1 was 59 per 10,000 population, which is significantly lower than the English rate of 177 per 10,000

**Figure 14: Rates (per 10,000 infant population) of admissions to hospital for infants under 1 year old with respiratory tract infection or gastroenteritis: 2016-2018**



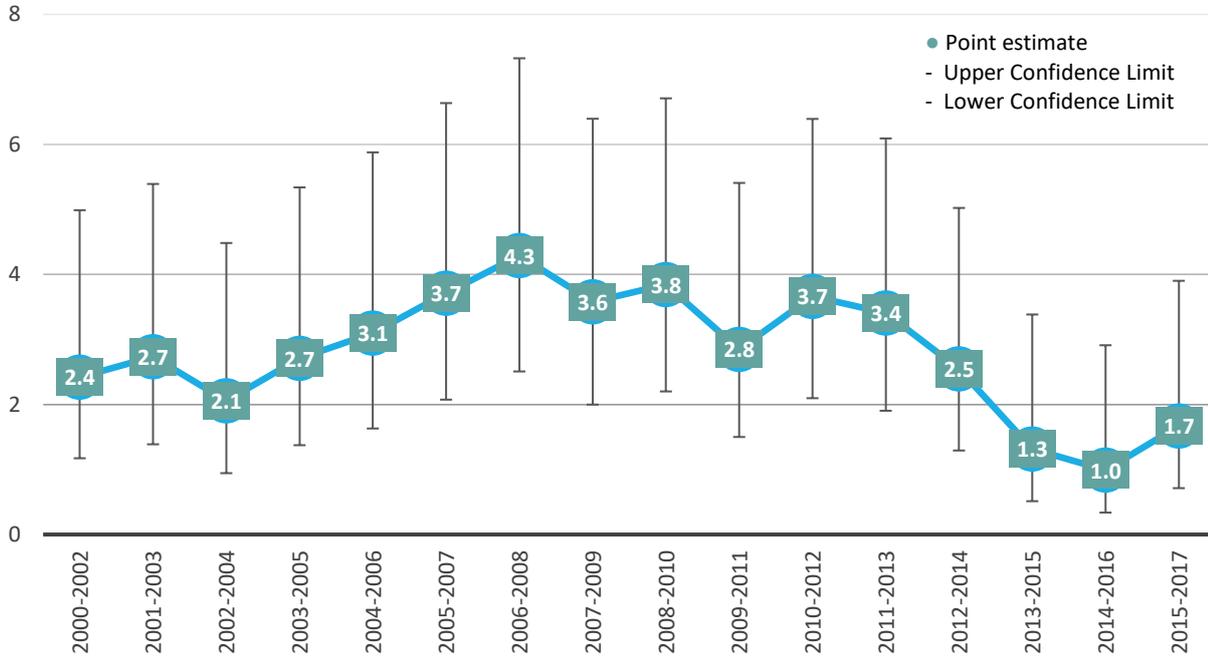
Source: Statistics Jersey and Public Health England

Note: Based on primary diagnosis; Jersey data 2016-2018, English data 2016/17

## Infant mortality

- the infant mortality rate<sup>21</sup> for Jersey was 1.7 per 1,000 live births during the three-year period 2015-2017; the rate was similar to those reported in previous periods (Figure 15)
- over the last decade (2009-2018) 89% of all deaths of children under five years old have occurred within the first year of life
- the latest English infant mortality rate (2015-2017) of 3.9 per 1,000 live births (confidence intervals ranging from 3.8 to 4.0)<sup>22</sup> is similar to that in Jersey

Figure 15: Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births (3 year average), 2000-2017



<sup>21</sup> The infant mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths to children under 1 year, divided by the number of live births in that year. At the time of publication, complete mortality data for Jersey is only available up to 2017.

<sup>22</sup> Public Health England, Child and Maternal Health, Updated February 2019, available from: [fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/child-health/profile/child-health-overview](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/child-health/profile/child-health-overview)

## Notes

### Data Sources

- 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) health visitor at a child health clinic at 9 months to 1 year old for their one year review.
- 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 tracks 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 (hospital patient healthcare information system), or by GPs.
- Data on caesarean sections comes from the Child Health System, together with data from the Hospital system, TRAK.
- Information on breast-feeding at the 9 month check is provided by FNHC staff.
- Data on hospital admissions is taken from the hospital computer system TRAK. Admissions data are classified using the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10); each admission can have up to 20 diagnosis fields which provide the reasons why the patient was admitted to hospital. Data for this report was pulled from TRAK in March 2018.
- 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.

### Confidence intervals

Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. The confidence interval indicates the range that could be expected from 'random fluctuations'. A number outside of the range of the confidence interval would be termed as 'significantly different', as statistically it would be likely to be attributed to random fluctuations.