Health and Care Jersey Report

Public Health Intelligence

Public Health Jersey

Subject:	Births and Breastfeeding Profile 2024
Date of report:	3 July 2025

Introduction

This annual report contains the latest births and breastfeeding statistics for Jersey, for the calendar year 2024. Data is drawn primarily from hospital computer systems (TRAK, Maxims) and the child health Careplus database server, alongside information from the superintendent registrar.

It includes key statistics on birth numbers, birth rates, birth weights, C-section rates and breastfeeding patterns. The report provides a comprehensive overview of these indicators to offer insights into maternal and infant health in Jersey. Additionally, it examines how these trends have evolved over time within Jersey and, where appropriate, compare the findings with data from England to provide wider context and highlight similarities or differences.

Data Quality Issues

Whilst reviewing the quality of this year's data, differences were found in how Caesarean sections (C-sections) were recorded across data sources – specifically whether they were classified as elective or emergency. This contributed to the delay in publishing this report. Corrections have now been made to improve the accuracy of this year's statistics. However, earlier versions of the Births and Breastfeeding Profile have not yet been updated, so previous reports may contain minor inaccuracies in how C-sections were categorised. The overall number of C-sections remains accurate throughout.

Additionally, the Apgar score data for this year was not recorded in the dataset for all births. Efforts are underway to address these data quality issues in future reporting cycles.

Contents

A total of **720** births to Jersey resident mothers were recorded in **2024**

The **total fertility rate** in Jersey averaged **1.20** births per woman
(2022-2024)

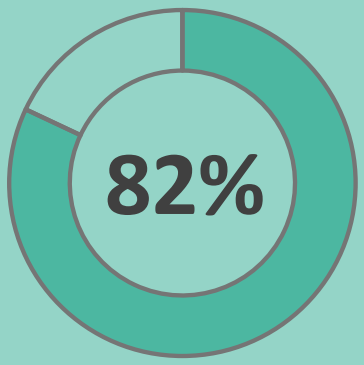
Nearly half of all deliveries were **C-sections**
(2022–2024)

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

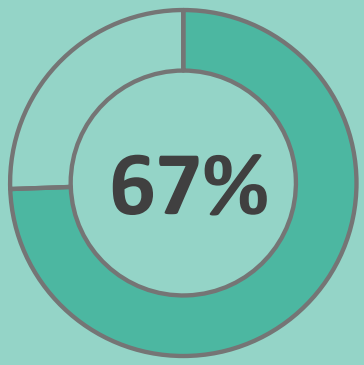
31% of mothers were aged **35 years and over** at delivery

Around **1 in 10** babies were born **preterm**
(before 37 weeks)

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

A total of 720 births to Jersey resident mothers were recorded in 2024, representing the lowest number in the data held from 1995 to 2024.

The number of live births in 2024 is almost 10% lower than in 2023 (799), and 36% lower than the latest peak in birth numbers seen in 2012 (1,124).

Figure 1. Annual number of live births (1995 to 2024)

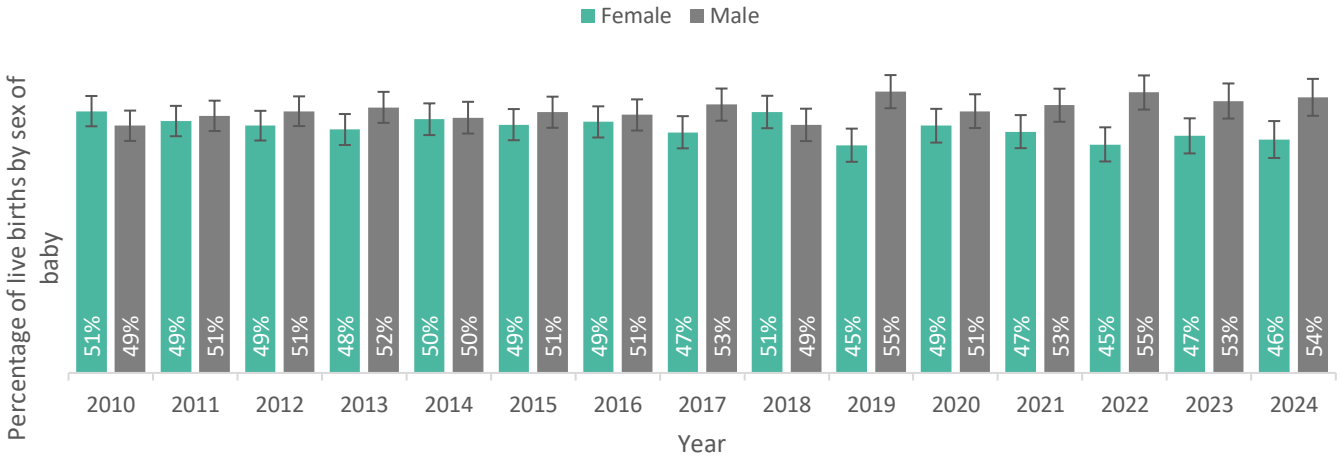
Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

Sex of Baby at Birth

Of the 720 live births recorded in Jersey, 330 babies (46%) were female and 390 (54%) were male. The sex ratio was 1,182 males per 1,000 females, compared to 1,053 in England and Wales in 2024.

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 (46% female, 54% male) have been similar over time (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Percentage of live births by sex of baby (2010 to 2024)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

Place of Birth

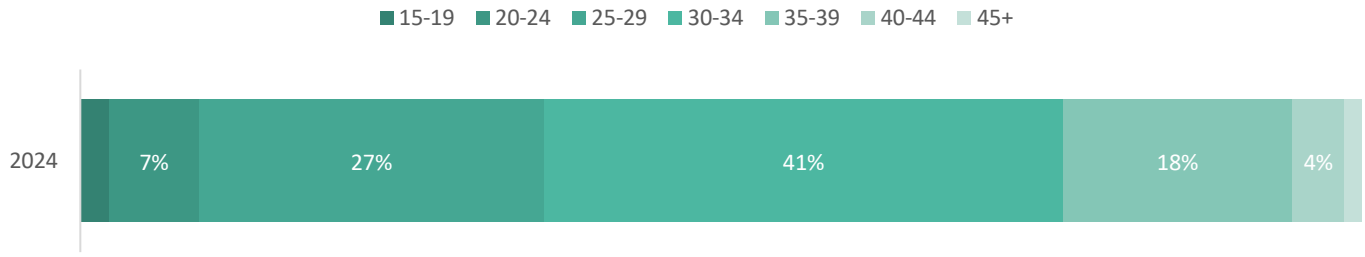
In 2024, 2%[1] of live births to Jersey resident mothers took place at home. However, the home birth service was suspended during the course of the year. Less than 5 babies (<1% of all live births) were born to Jersey resident mothers in hospitals in the UK in 2024. This is similar to the number of births that have occurred outside of Jersey each year since 2017.

Delivery Statistics

Among live births to Jersey resident mothers:

- just under 1 in 10 (8%) were classified as preterm, occurring before 37 weeks' gestation
- around half (51%) of all births were first births, with just over one third (36%) second births, and the remaining 13% third or later births
- for first time mothers, just over a quarter (27%) were aged 25 to 29 years, over two-fifths (41%) were aged 30 to 34 years, and just under one-fifth (18%) were aged 35 to 39 years (Figure 3)

Figure 3. Percentage of first live births by age of mother (2024)



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 2024:

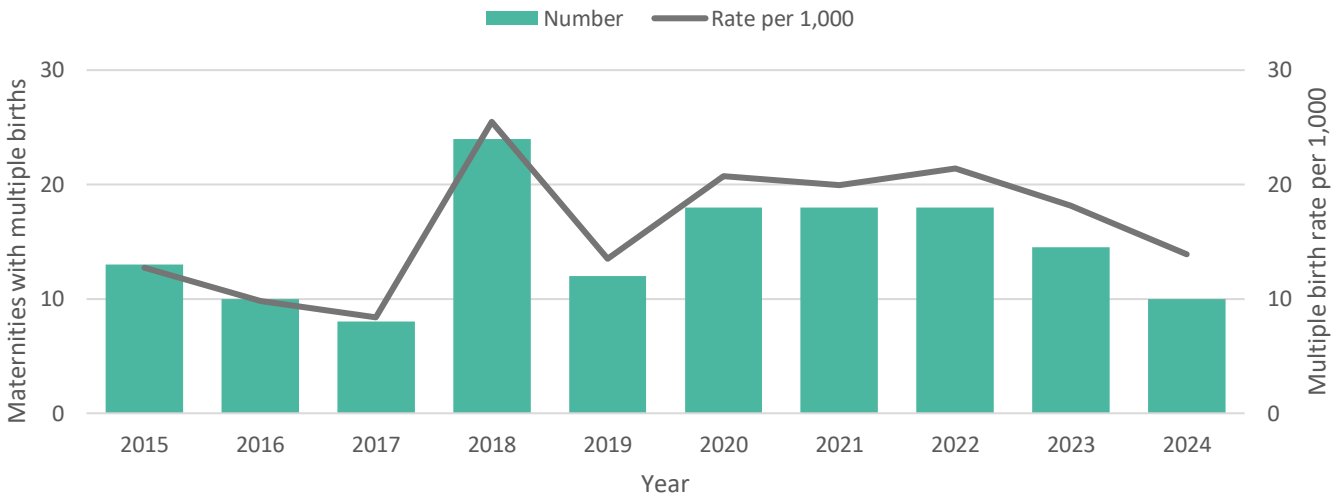
- 6% of all live births to Jersey resident mothers (46 babies) were classified as being of low birth weight[2]; less than 1% of these births were recorded as being of very low birth weight[3]
- 2% (15 babies) of full-term live births (born after 37 weeks gestation) were classified as low birth weight.[4] This proportion hasn't changed significantly since 2012 and is similar to that of 2.9% seen in England in 2022.[5]

[1] The place of birth was not recorded for 10 babies
[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, available from www.fingertips.phe.org.uk

Multiple Births

Ten Jersey resident mothers had a multiple live birth (e.g. twins). The rate of maternities with multiple live births in Jersey was 13.9 per 1,000 births in 2024 (Figure 4). For comparison, in England and Wales the rate was 13.8 per 1,000 births in 2024.[6]

Figure 4. Maternities with multiple live births and multiple birth rate per 1,000 maternities (2015 to 2024)



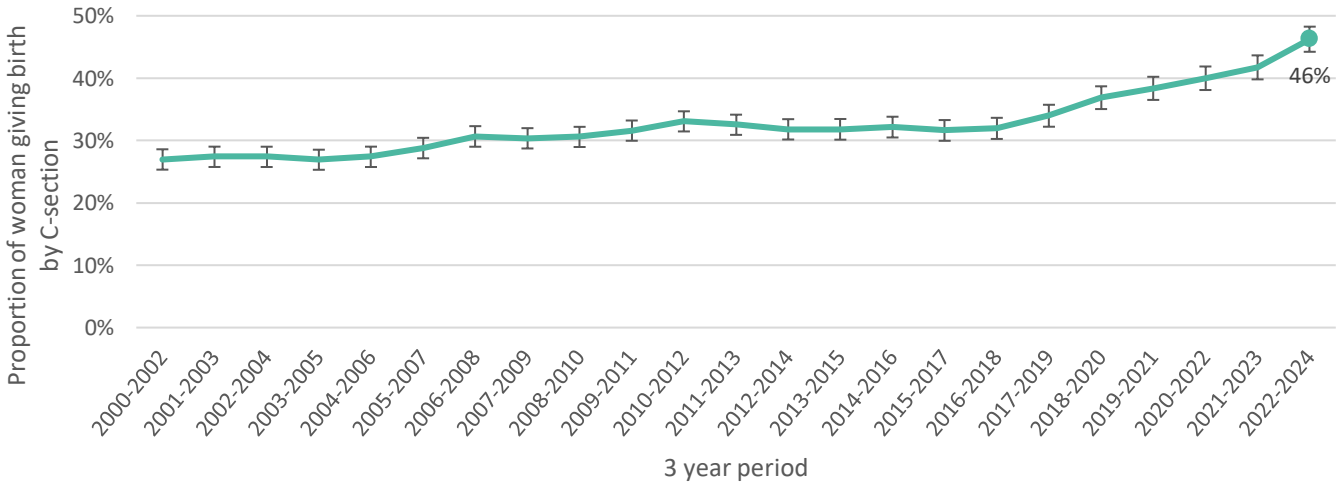
Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

Caesarean Sections (C-Sections)

During the three-year period 2022-2024, 46% of all live births to Jersey resident mothers were delivered by C-section. This is 19% higher than in 2000-2002 (Figure 5).

The proportion of births by c-section in Jersey was higher than in England, where 41% of births in 2023-2024 were by C-section.[7]

Figure 5. 3-yearly percentage of women giving birth by C-section (2000-2002 to 2022-2024)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

[6] Multiple births, available from www.fingertips.phe.org.uk
[7] C-Section, available from www.fingertips.phe.org.uk

C-sections can either be an emergency (urgent) or elective (planned). Of first births in Jersey during 2022-2024:

- 30% were delivered by an emergency (urgent) C-section
- 18% were delivered by elective (planned) C-section

Of second births in Jersey during 2022-2024:

- 20% were delivered by an emergency (urgent) C-section
- 26% were delivered by elective (planned) C-section

Table 1. Percentage of women giving birth by C-section type and birth order (2022-2024)

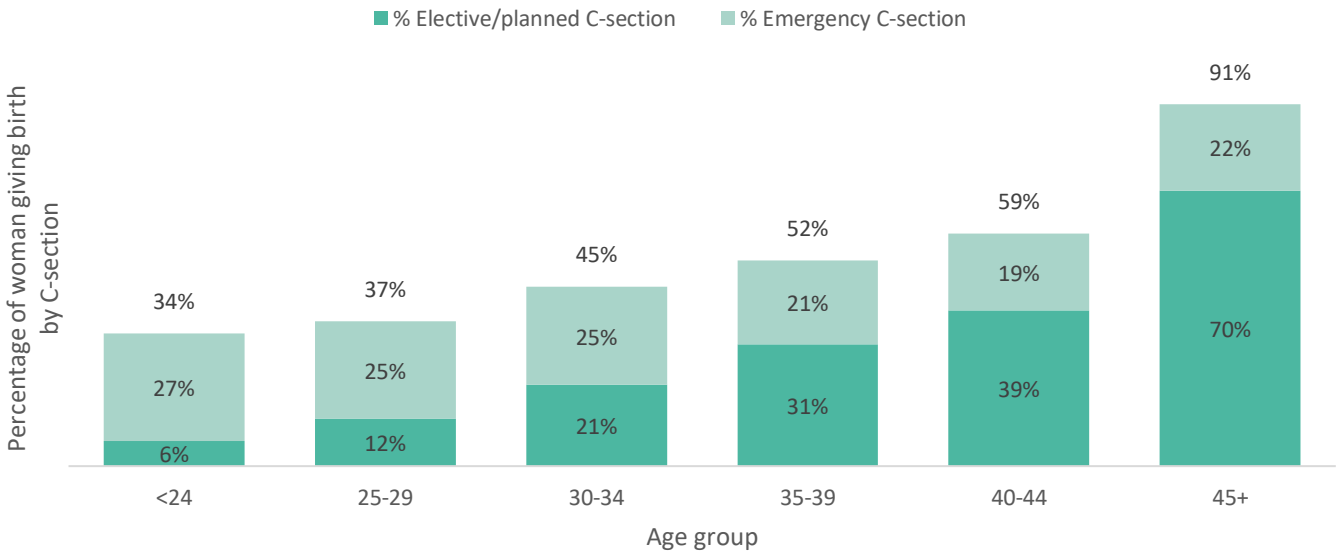
	First Births	*Second Births*	*Third or more Births*
Emergency (urgent) C-section	30%	20%	16%
Elective (planned) C-section	18%	26%	26%
Total	**48%**	**46%**	**42%**

Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

The proportion of C-section deliveries in Jersey increased with the mother's age. Figure 6 presents the types of C-section deliveries by age of mother, including the overall percentage of C-section deliveries.

Around 1 in 8 (12%) mothers in Jersey aged 25-29 years delivered by an elective (planned) C-section, a smaller proportion compared to mothers aged 35-39 years (31%) and 40-44 years (39%).

Figure 6. Proportion of deliveries by C-section type and age of mother (2022-2024)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

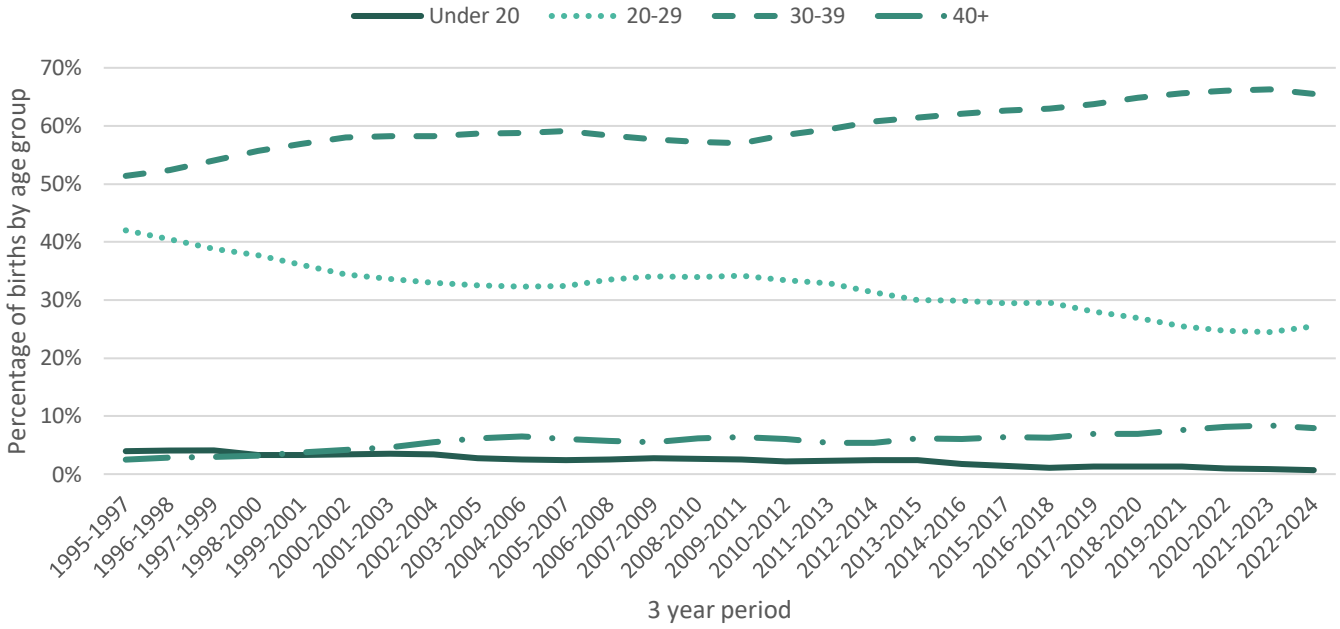
Age of Mothers at Delivery

The average age of mothers giving birth in Jersey was 32 years. For comparison, in 2022 the average age of women giving birth in England and Wales was 31 years.[8]

A declining trend in younger mothers giving birth in Jersey has been observed since 1995-1997, with the percentage of mothers aged 20 to 29 years falling from 42% to 25% by 2022-2024.

Meanwhile, the proportion of births to mothers in older age groups has increased since 1995–1997. Between 1995–1997 and 2022–2024, the percentage of mothers aged 30 to 39 years rose from 51% to 65%, while births to mothers aged 40 and over increased from 2% to 8%.

Figure 7. Proportion of births by age-group (1995-1997 to 2022-2024)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

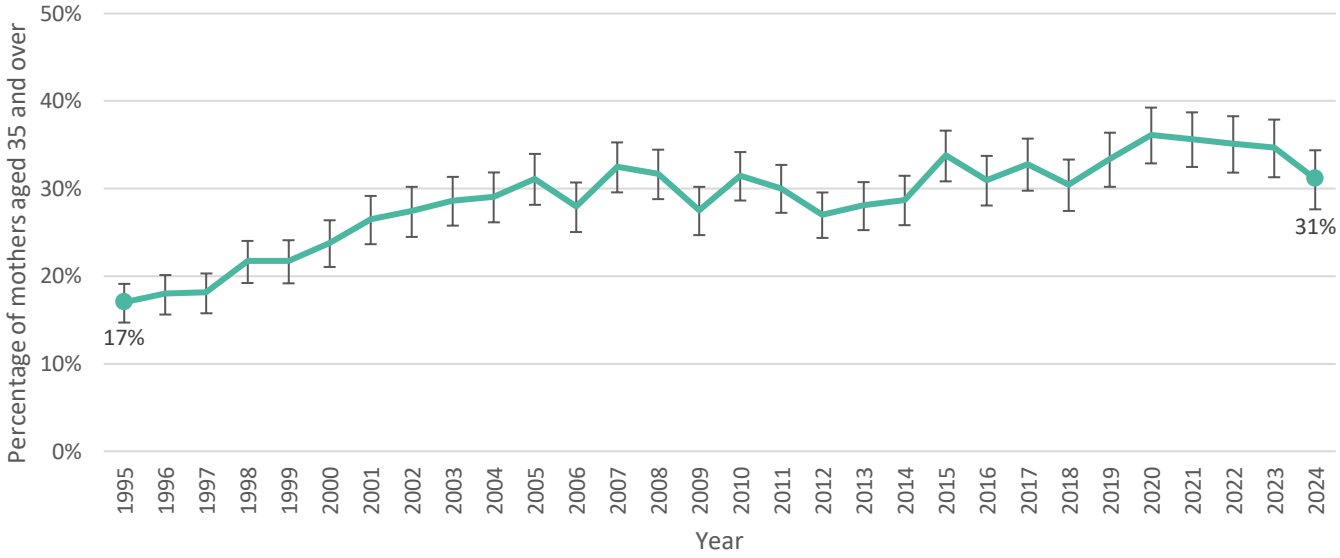
Mothers aged 35 and over

The percentage of mothers giving birth aged 35 years and over in Jersey was 31% in 2024. This has increased from 17% in 1995.

The percentage of mothers giving birth aged 35 and over in England and Wales was lower than in Jersey, at 26% in 2024.[9]

[8] Births in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics, available from www.ons.gov.uk
[9] Percentage of deliveries to women aged 35 years or above, available from www.fingertips.phe.org.uk

Figure 8. Proportion of mothers aged 35 years and over at time of birth (1995 to 2024)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

Teenage Mothers (Under 18)

Just over the last two decades (2000 to 2024), births to teenage mothers under 18 have consistently accounted for less than 1% of all births in each three-year period. Comparing to the latest data in England, 0.6% of births were to mothers aged 17 and under in 2023-2024.[10]

Birth Rates

Crude Birth Rate

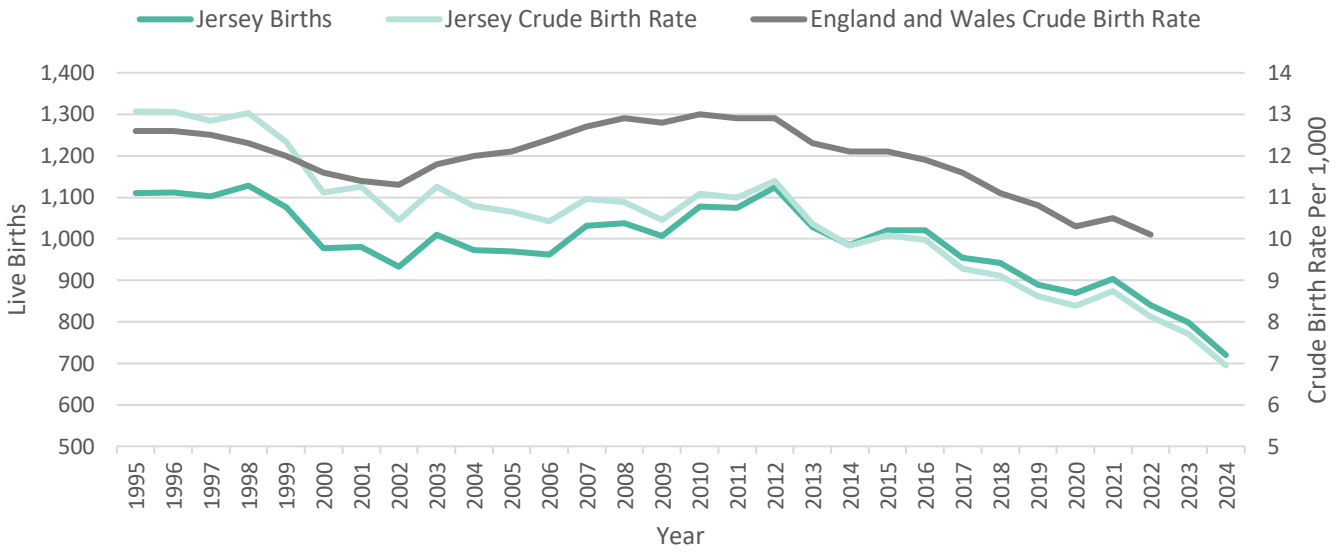
The crude birth rate is the total annual number of live births per 1,000 people in the population overall.

- in 2024, the crude birth rate in was 6.9 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 9)
- the crude birth rate in England and Wales was higher than in Jersey, at 10.1 live births per 1,000 total population in 2022[11]

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.

[10] Teenage mothers, available from www.fingertips.phe.org.uk
[11] Births in England and Wales, available from www.ons.gov.uk

Figure 9. Crude birth rate (1995 to 2024)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

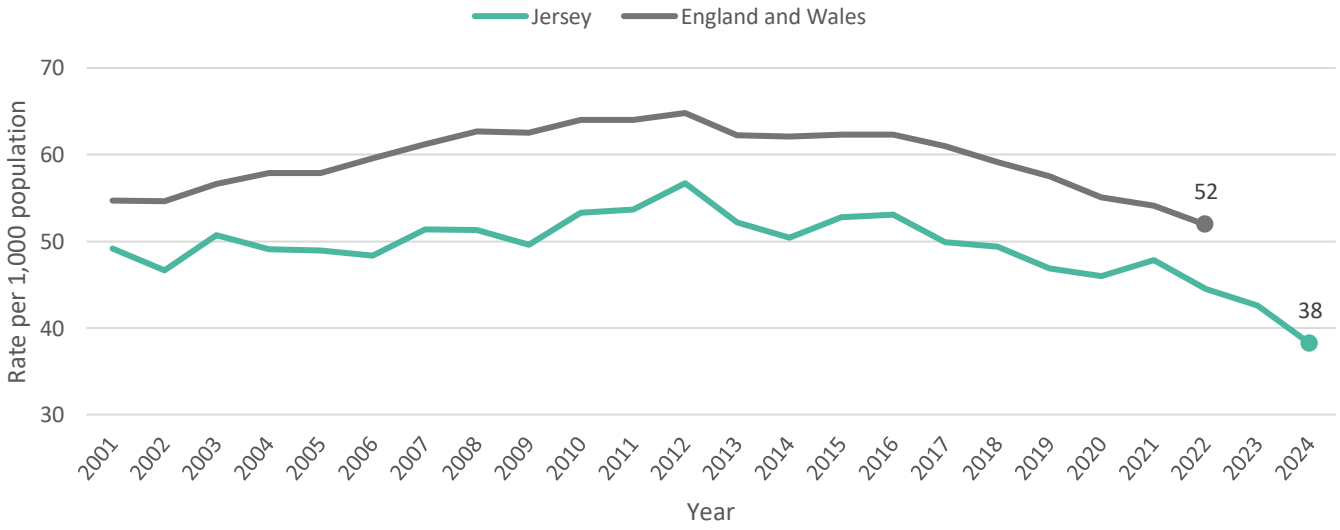
General Fertility Rate (GFR)

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).

The GRF in Jersey in 2024 was 38 births for every 1,000 women of childbearing age. For comparison, the GFR in England and Wales was higher than in Jersey, at 52 births per 1,000 women of childbearing age in 2022.[12]

Figure 10. General fertility rate (2001 to 2024)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

[12] Births in England and Wales, available from www.ons.gov.uk

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.

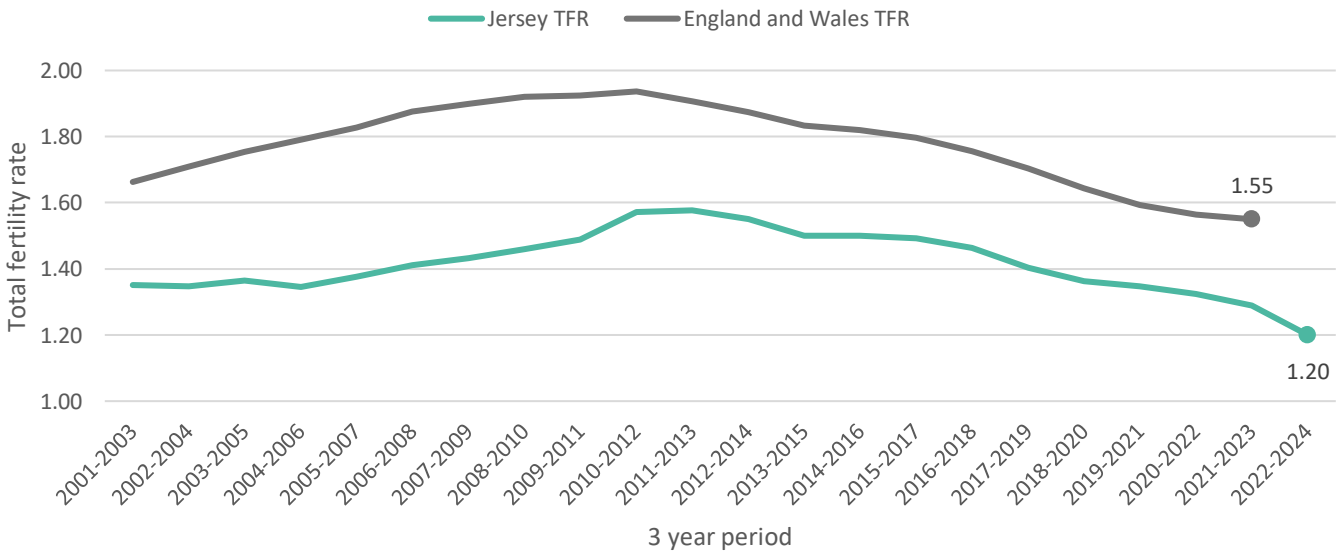
- the TFR in Jersey during the period 2022-2024 was 1.20 births per woman (Table 2), equivalent to 1,200 births per 1,000 women, this is lower than the latest available 3-yearly rate for England and Wales,[13] where the TFR was 1.54 births per woman (2022-2023, Figure 11)
- the latest TFR for Jersey represents the lowest number recorded in the data held from 2001 to 2024
- between 2001-2003 and 2011-2013, the total fertility rate (TFR) in Jersey had increased from 1.35 to 1.58. However, since reaching this peak, it has been decreasing

Table 2. Calculation of the total fertility rate (2022-2024)

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	7,850	23	0.00
20-24	7,430	135	0.02
25-29	8,730	465	0.05
30-34	10,030	936	0.09
35-39	10,820	608	0.06
40-44*	11,650	165	0.01
**Includes small number of births to women aged 45+*		**Sum**	**0.24**
		TFR = Sum x5	**1.20**

Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

Figure 11. Three-yearly total fertility rate (2001-2003 to 2022-2024)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

[13] Births in England and Wales, available from www.ons.gov.uk

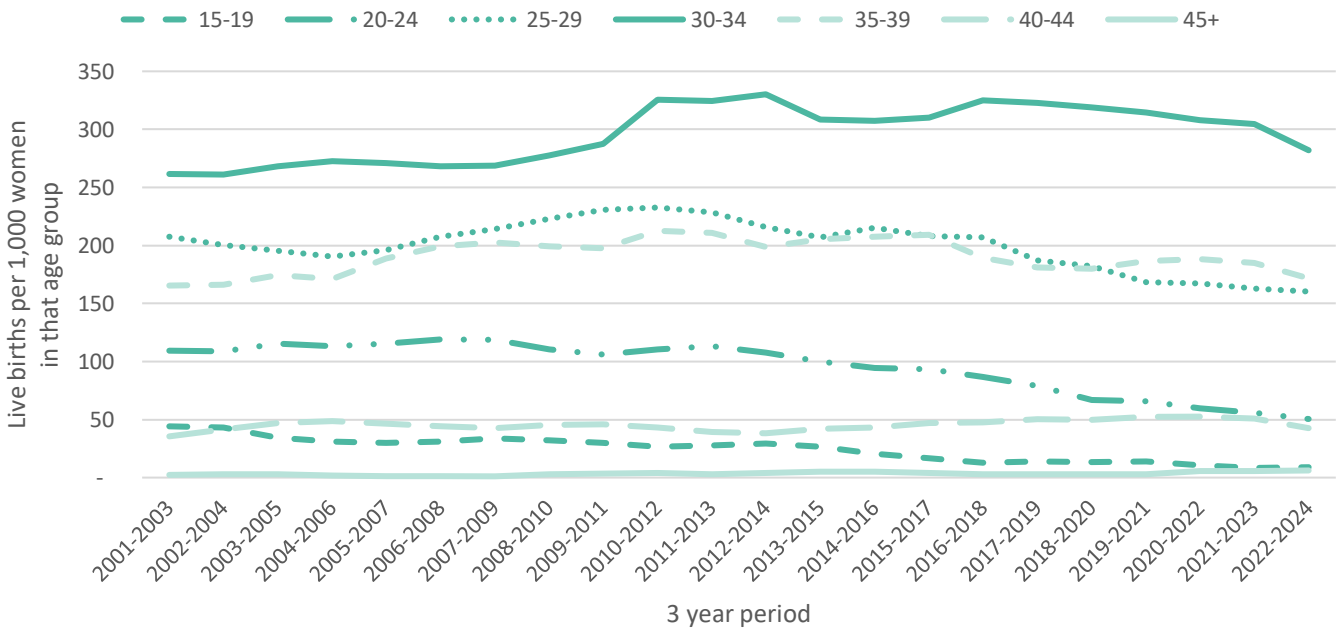
Age-Specific Fertility Rates

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 12. Three-year average age-specific fertility rates (2001-2003 to 2022-2024)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

Breastfeeding

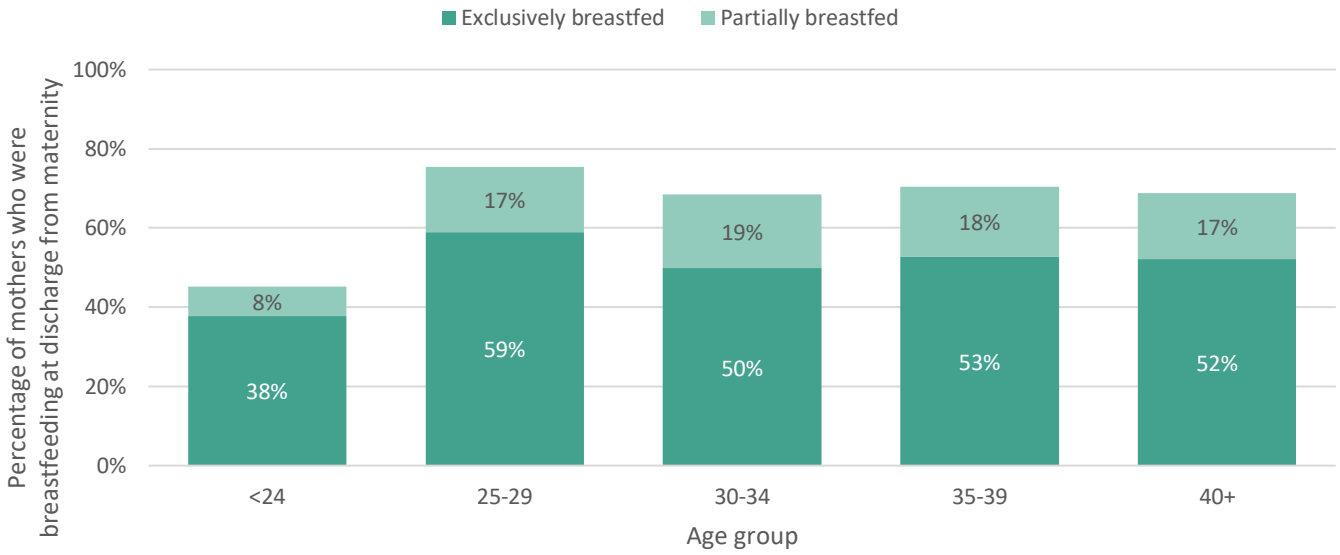
Breastfeeding at Discharge

Of the babies for whom data was recorded, 82%[14] were being breastfed at discharge from maternity in 2024. This has gradually increased since 2011 (75%).

Of these babies, 52% of mothers were recorded to be exclusively breastfeeding (babies receiving breast milk only) and a further 17% 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 13).

[14] The way breastfeeding statistics have been calculated 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.

Figure 13. Percentage of mothers recorded as breastfeeding at discharge from maternity, by age (2024)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

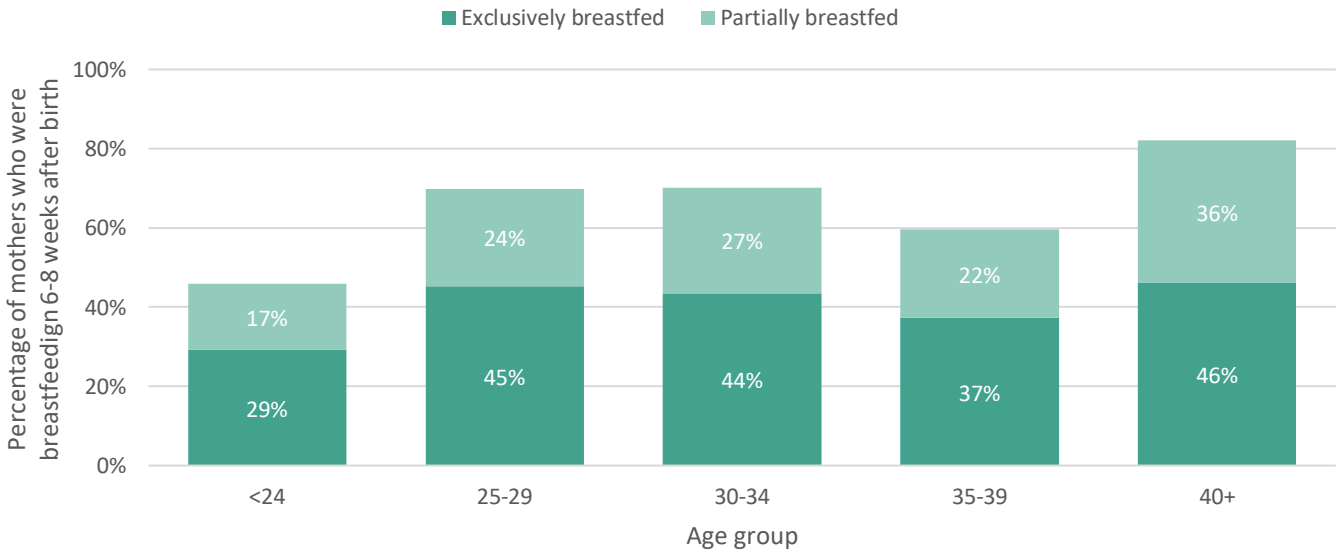
Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks

Of the babies for whom data was recorded, 67% were being breastfed 6-8 weeks after birth in 2024. This is higher than in England, where just 53% were being breastfed 6-8 weeks after birth in 2023-2024.[15]

Around two-fifths (42%) of mothers were exclusively breastfeeding and a further 25% 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.

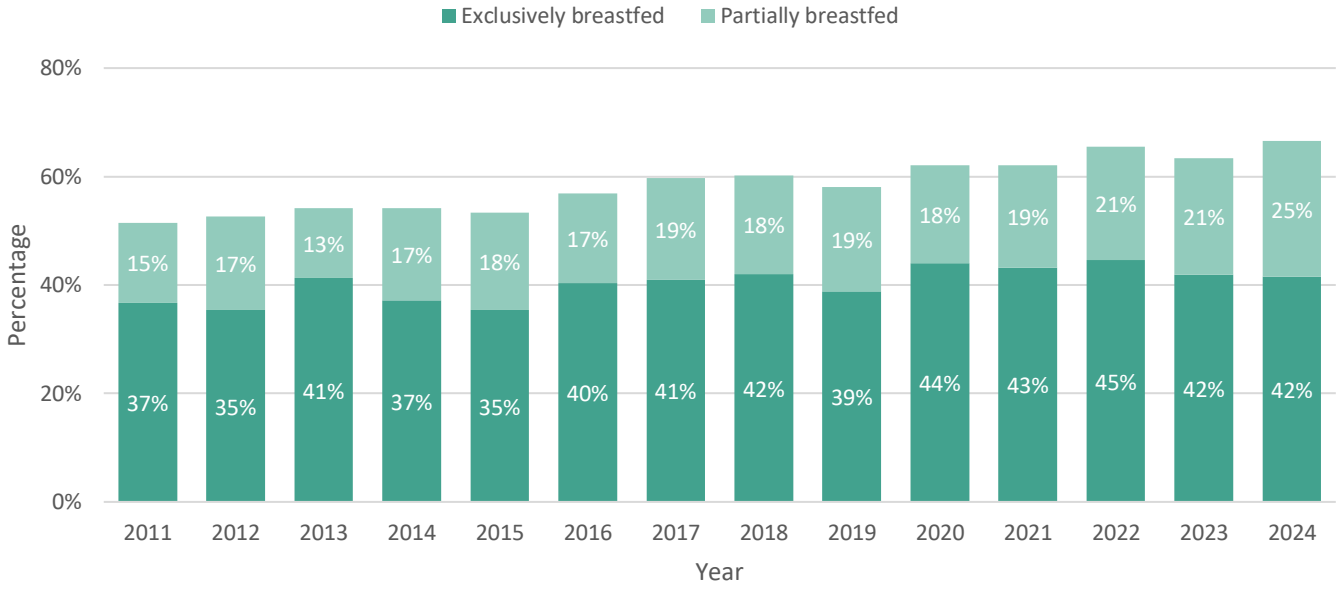
Figure 14. Percentage of mothers recorded as breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks after birth, by age (2024)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

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

Figure 15. Percentage of babies recorded as being breastfed at 6-8 weeks after birth (2011 to 2024)



Source: Trak/Maxims/Careplus

Breastfeeding at 12 Month (Developmental Assessment)

- 734 12-month developmental checks were carried out by Family Nursing and Home Care (FNHC) health visitors in 2024 (at baby's age of between 9 and 12 months)
- 25% were being breastfed at the 12-month developmental assessment
- 20% were exclusively receiving breastmilk, with a further 5% receiving a combination of breast and formula milk

Hospital Admissions

During the period 2022-2024:

- around 470 children aged four years and under were admitted each year, on average, to hospital for emergency medical care
- around 190 individual infants (under the age of one) were admitted each year, on average to hospital for emergency medical care

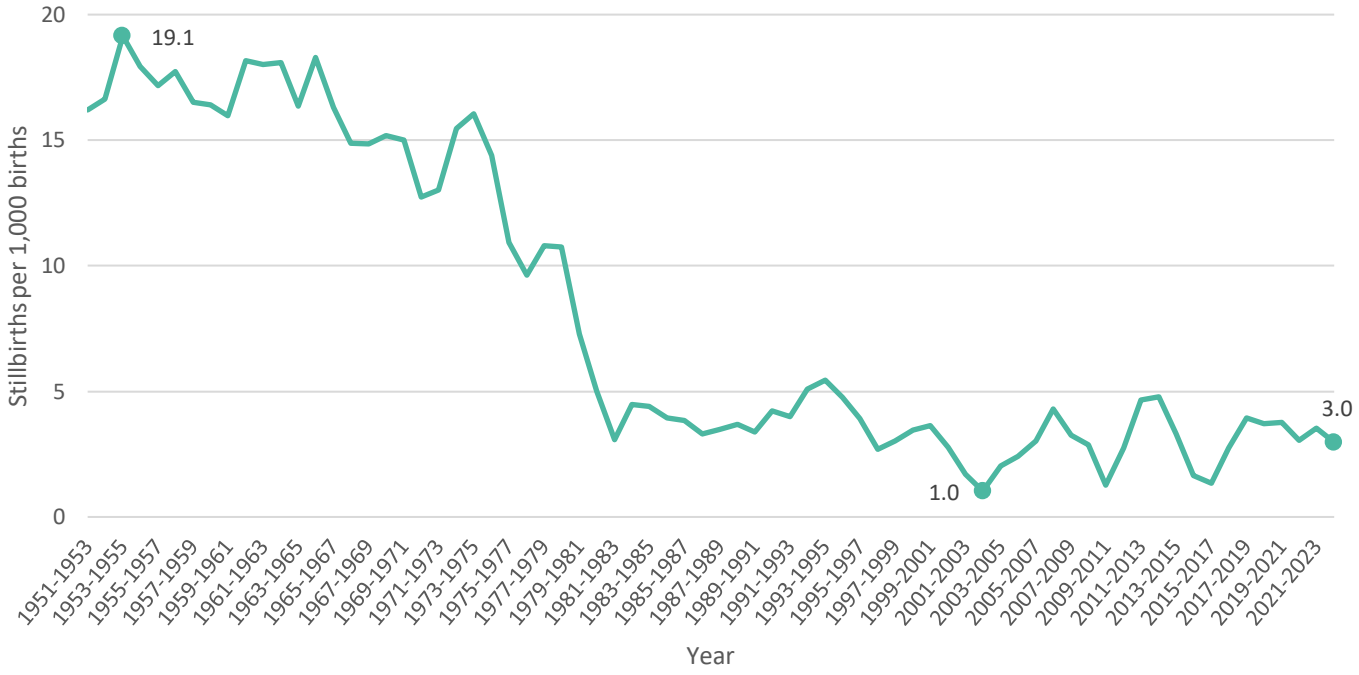
Mortality

Stillbirths

The stillbirth[16] rate in Jersey for the period of 2022-2024 was 3.0 per 1,000 births. This is lower than in England, where there were 3.8 stillbirths per 1,000 births in 2024.[17]

There were 25 stillbirths in Jersey throughout the 10-year period of 2015 to 2024.

Figure 16. 3-year average stillbirth rate per 1,000 births (Jersey, 1951-1953 to 2022-2024)



Source: Superintendent registrar/TRAK

Neonatal Deaths

There were less than 10 neonatal deaths[18] in Jersey during the ten-year period 2015-2024

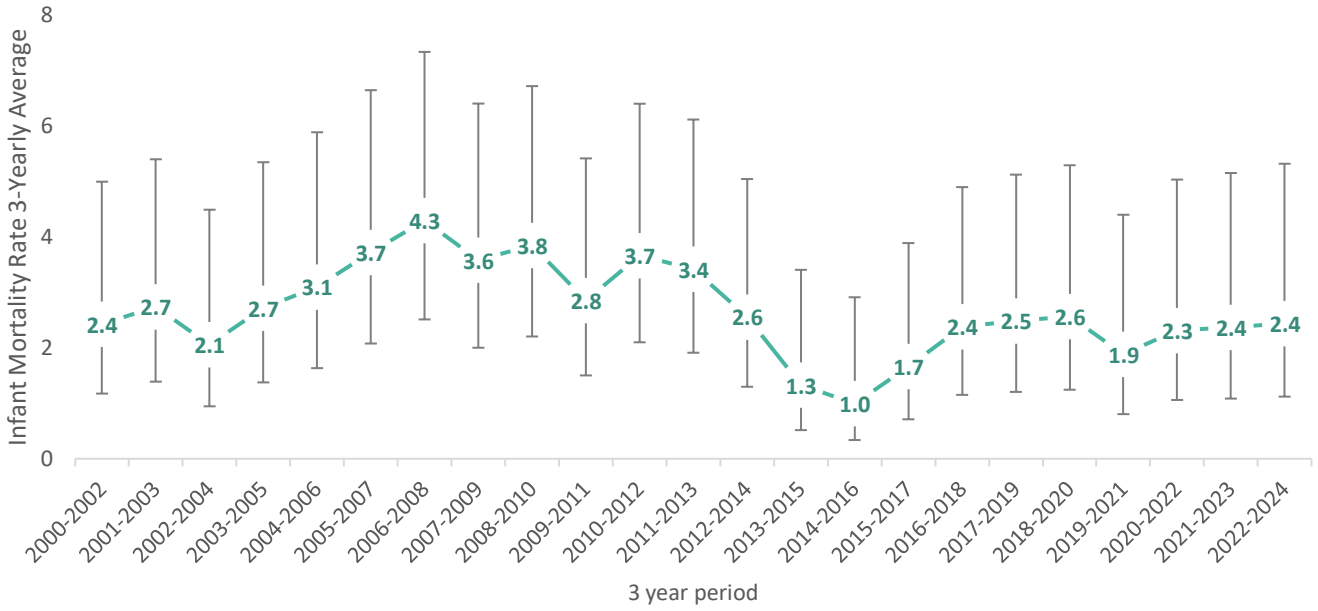
Infant Mortality

The infant mortality[19] rate in Jersey was 2.4 deaths per 1,000 live births during the three-year period 2022-2024 (Figure 17).

For comparison, this is lower than in England where there was an infant mortality rate of 4.0 per 1,000 live births in 2021-2023.[20]

[16] Stillbirth is the delivery, after the 24th week of pregnancy, of a baby who has died.
[17] Stillbirths rates in England
[18] Neonatal deaths are babies who were born after 24 weeks' gestation who died in their first 28 days of life.
[19] 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.
[20] Infant mortality rate, available from www.fingertips.phe.org.uk

Figure 17. 3-year average infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2000-2002 to 2022-2024)



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 2022-2024, 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. Public Health Intelligence 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 Government of Jersey to provide care for all families in Jersey
- figures on infant mortality use 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 2011 and 2024. These estimates were produced by Statistics Jersey. This report uses 2023 population estimates in lieu of 2024 estimates, which have not yet been produced by Statistics Jersey. Calculated rates might change from year to year as population estimates are updated.

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

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