

The Infant Feeding Survey has been discontinued

This follows a decision by the Department of Health and the health departments in Northern Ireland and Wales to focus resources on providing more up to date, high quality information from electronic care records in line with the government's information strategy for health and care.

Alternative sources of official statistics about breastfeeding and other infant feeding practices can be found at:

England

Initiation of Breastfeeding

Statistics published by NHS England on initiation of breastfeeding and breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8wks in England. Information is published at National, Regional and Trust level: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/maternity-and-breastfeeding/>

NB: The most recent data available are for Q1 2015/16. Future arrangements for production and publication of these statistics are being considered by Public Health England and NHS England.

Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks

Data collected by Public Health England on prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8wks in England by local authority:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/breastfeeding-at-6-to-8-weeks-after-birth-2015-to-2016-quarterly-data>.

Maternity Services Dataset (MSDS);

Data on whether a baby's first feed was breast milk and on a baby's breast milk status at discharge from hospital are being collected for England as part of MSDS. These data are undergoing evaluation and the HSCIC plan to publish them as 'Experimental Statistics' within the next 6 months.

Information on the dataset can be found here:

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/maternityandchildren/maternity>

The most recent publication from the MSDS can be found here:

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB19869>

Scotland

Breastfeeding data, gathered by health visitors, are published by the NHS Information Services Division. See <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Child-Health/Infant-feeding/>.

The Scottish Public Health Observatory: www.scotpho.org.uk

Wales

Public Health Wales Observatory: www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/922/home

The National Statistician has been informed of the cessation of these National Statistics.