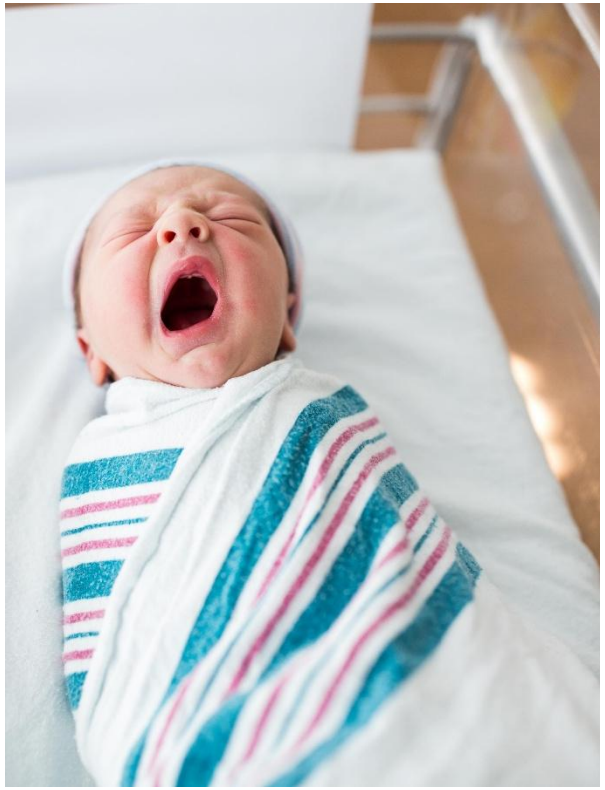





JSNA – Children in North East Lincolnshire

Healthy Birth

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
www.nelincs.gov.uk

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Key findings

- **Birth rate** - the number of births is decreasing with almost 500 fewer births per year than 10 years ago.
- **Ethnicity** - the proportion of babies born to mothers from an ethnic minority has increased.
- **The teenage conception** rate remains significantly higher than England ranking 7th highest in the country. There has been no significant reduction in the last 5 years.
- **For teenage births**, NEL ranks 3rd highest in England with a rate (9/1,000) significantly higher than the national average (3/1,000). Teenage mums in North East Lincolnshire are more likely to go on to give birth to their baby than have an abortion.
- **The repeat abortion rate** in the under 25's is high but has decreased significantly reducing the gap between the local and national rate.
- **Booking with maternity services** - NEL has a rate (71.8%) significantly better than the England rate (63.5%) for those accessing maternity care by 10 completed weeks of pregnancy.
- **Obesity in pregnancy** – NEL has the 4th highest rate of obesity in pregnancy in England with 34.4% (480) women obese at booking.
- **Smoking in pregnancy** remains a significant issue in NEL and has the 3rd highest rate in England. In the last 2 years there has been a significant reduction in rate following years of little or no change.
- **Premature birth** has decreased in the last 2 years, however the rate remains 2nd highest in England.
- **Infant mortality** – although the most recent published rate is lower than the England rate, the rate fluctuates from year to year. Local data shows a higher than average number of infant deaths for 25/26 and should remain a local priority.
- **Breastfeeding** – for half of North East Lincolnshire babies born in 23/24 their first feed was breastmilk, this is significantly lower than the national average of 71.9%. There has been no significant change to the rate over the last 5 years.

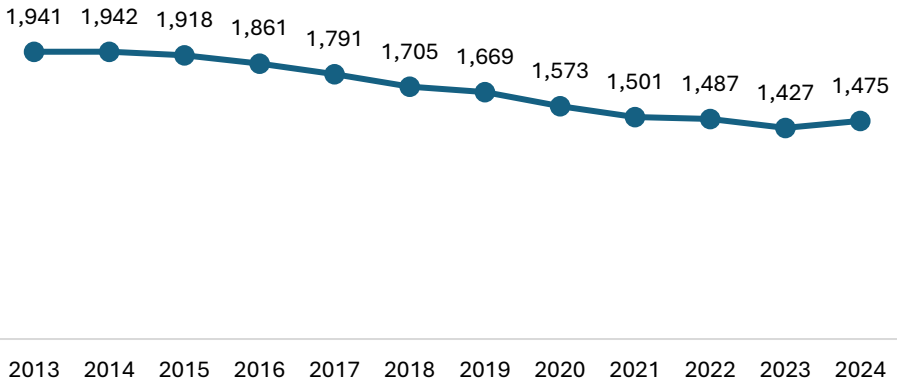


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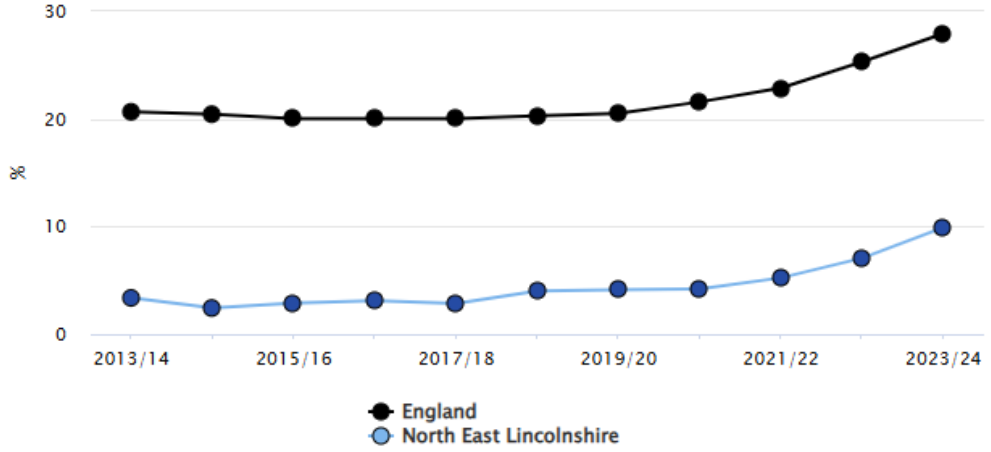
1. Birth trends

- The **number of births has decreased** from 1,941 in 2013 to 1,427 in 2023. In 2024, there was a slight increase, although still lower than any year prior to 2023.
- Ethnicity – **the proportion of babies being born to mothers with an ethnicity other than White British has increased** locally and nationally. In 2013/14 only 3.4% (60) of babies were born to mothers of ethnic minority groups, in 2023/24 this had increased to 9.9% (135 babies). This is a lower proportion than the national average of 27.9%.

Number of live births by year, North East Lincolnshire



Deliveries to women from ethnic minorities, trend



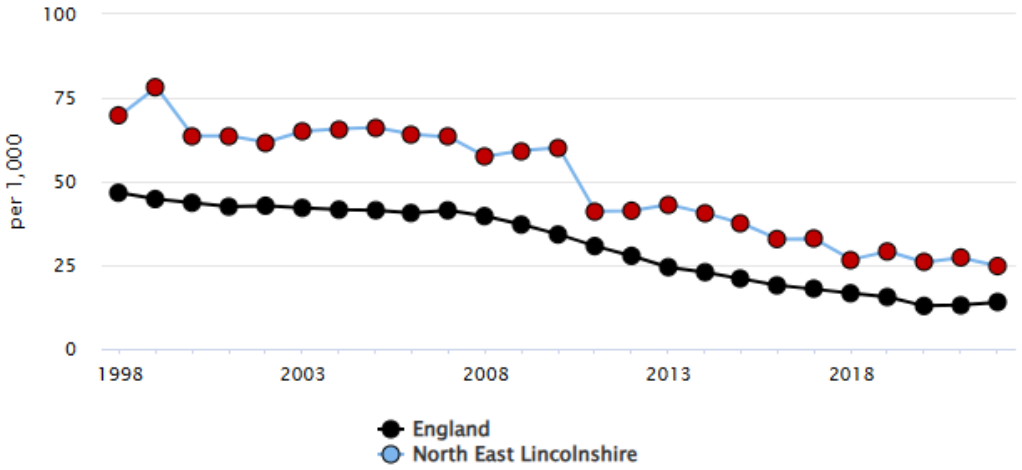
NO RESTRICTIONS

2. Teenage pregnancy - conceptions

Research shows that teenage pregnancy is associated with poorer outcomes for both young parents and their children. Teenage mothers are less likely to finish their education, are more likely to bring up their child alone and in poverty and have a higher risk of poor mental health than older mothers. Infant mortality rates for babies born to teenage mothers are around 60% higher than for babies born to older mothers. The children of teenage mothers have an increased risk of living in poverty and poor quality housing and are more likely to have accidents and behavioural problems (OHID).

- Following a large decrease in 2011, the teenage pregnancy rate has continued to decline at a steady rate. In the most recent published data, North East Lincolnshire had an under 18's conception rate of 24.7/1,000. Compared to the England rate of 13.9/1,000 North East Lincolnshire is significantly higher and ranks **7th highest in England**.
- Although there has been a significant reduction since 1998, in **the last 5 years the reduction has been slower** and the gap between the local and national rate remains. Local trends are similar to many statistical neighbours with very few closing the gap with England or making any significant reduction in the last 5 years.

Under 18's conception rate



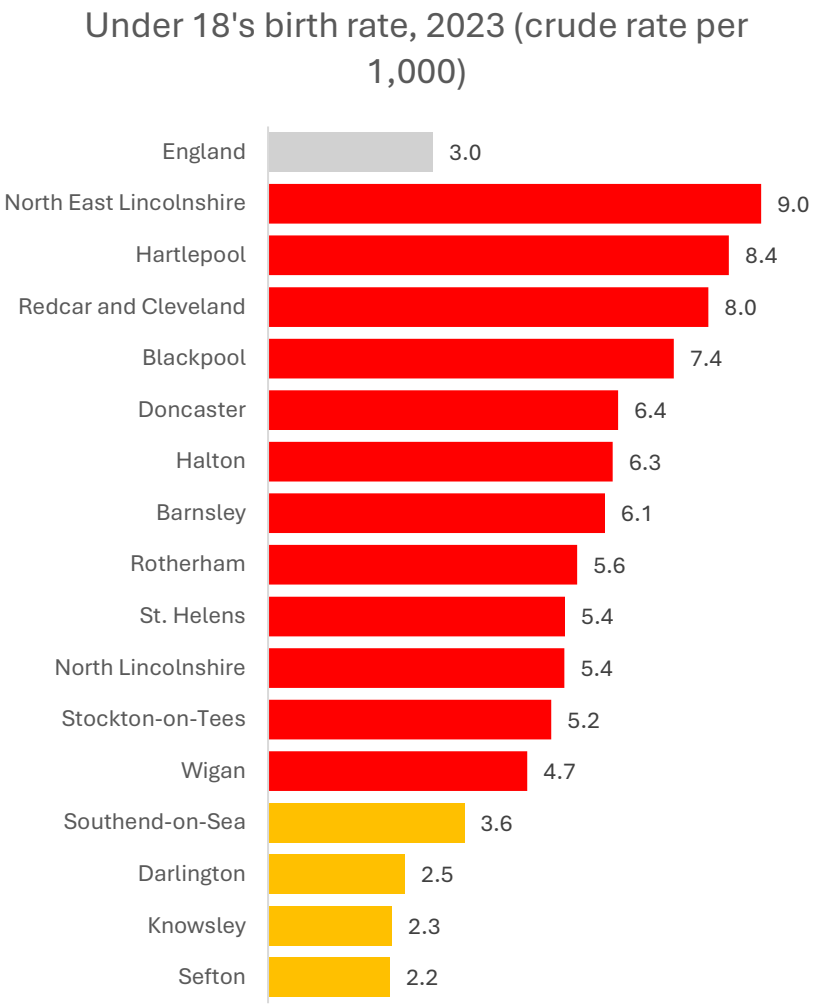


Child and Maternal Health - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care

NO RESTRICTIONS

Teenage pregnancy – births

- With a rate of 9/1,000 North East Lincolnshire is **significantly higher than the England rate** of 3/1,000.
- North East Lincolnshire has the **third highest** teenage birth rate in the country and the highest rate compared to statistical neighbours.
- The trend has **no recent significant change** since 2015 and the gap between local and national rates remain.
- Due to relatively small numbers, statistical neighbour trends have shown some fluctuation over the last ten years with only a few closing the gap with England (Southend-on-Sea, Darlington, Knowsley and Sefton).



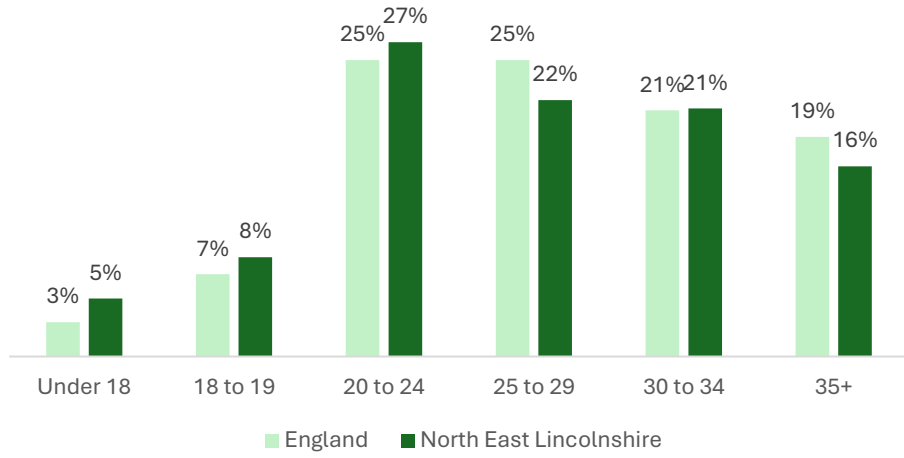
43.1% of teenage conceptions in North East Lincolnshire are terminated, this is significantly lower than the England average of 58.2%. Teenage mothers in North East Lincolnshire are more likely to go on to give birth than have an abortion.

Child and Maternal Health - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care

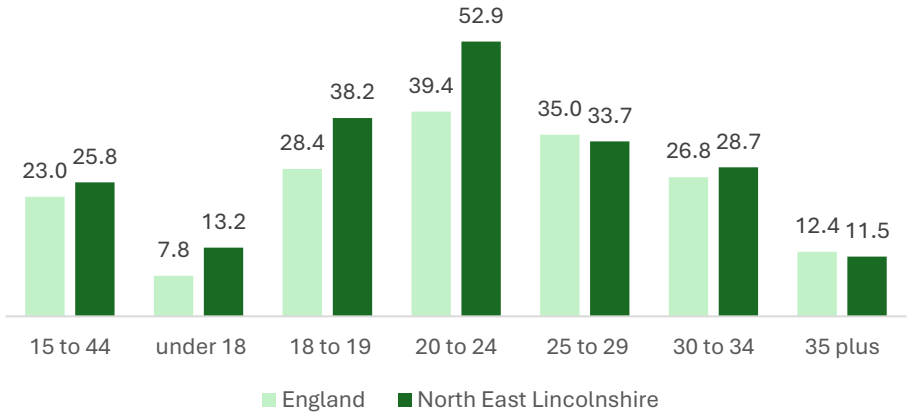
3. Termination of pregnancy

- In 2023, there were **710** legal abortions for North East Lincolnshire residents. Locally, 40% of those who had an abortion were aged under 25, nationally this was slightly lower with 35%.
- In North East Lincolnshire the highest rate of abortions is for women aged **20-24 years** with a rate of 52.9/1,000, higher than the England average of 39.4/1,000.
- North East Lincolnshire has a high rate of under 25 abortions after birth with 34.5%, significantly higher than the England rate of 21.5%. However, the trend is **showing significant reduction** in the last ten years from 51.6% in 2014 and a reduction of the gap between the local and national rates.

Legal abortions by age band, 2023



Legal abortions by age, 2023. Rate per 1,000 women

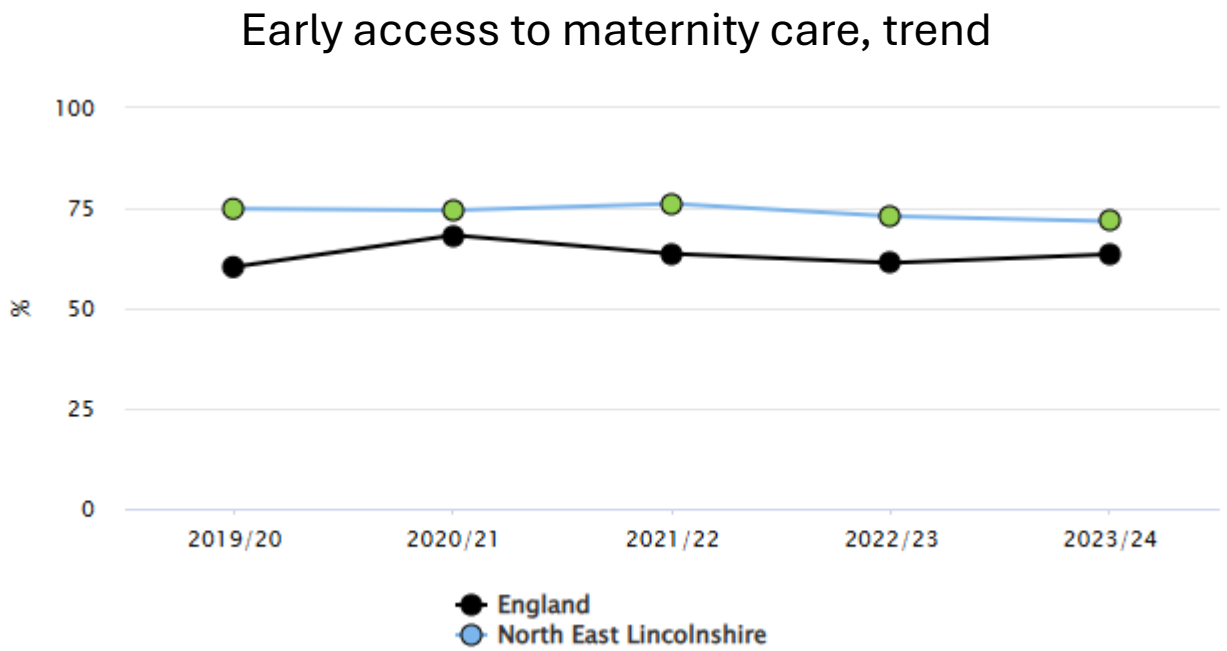


Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care
Abortion statistics in England and Wales - GOV.UK

NO RESTRICTIONS

4. Booking with maternity services





NICE recommends booking with maternity services by 10 weeks of pregnancy.

- In North East Lincolnshire in 23/24 71.8% of women booked with maternity services by 10 completed weeks of pregnancy, this is **significantly higher (better) than the England** average of 63.5%.
- The proportion of women booking by 10 weeks hasn't changed significantly in the last 5 years and has remained above the England average.
- Although our local rate is above the national, in the most recent year **440** (28.2%) pregnant women hadn't booked with maternity services by 10 completed weeks of pregnancy.

Child and Maternal Health - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care

5. Obesity in pregnancy

- North East Lincolnshire has the **4th highest rate of obesity in pregnancy in England**.
- In 2023/24 34.4% (**480**) of pregnant women in North East Lincolnshire were obese at booking with maternity services, significantly higher than the England rate of 26.2%.



Trend data is not available.

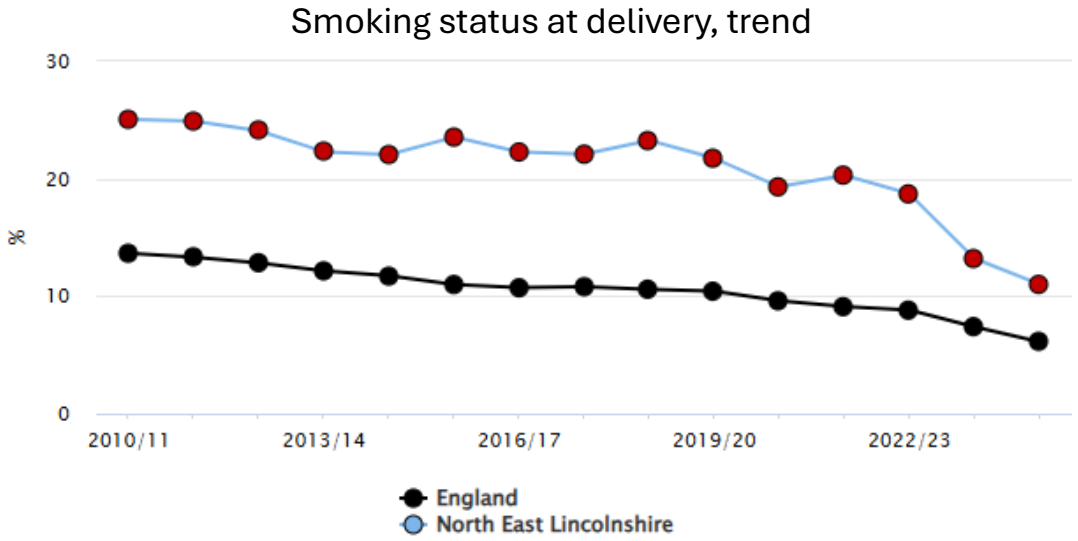
Child and Maternal Health - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care

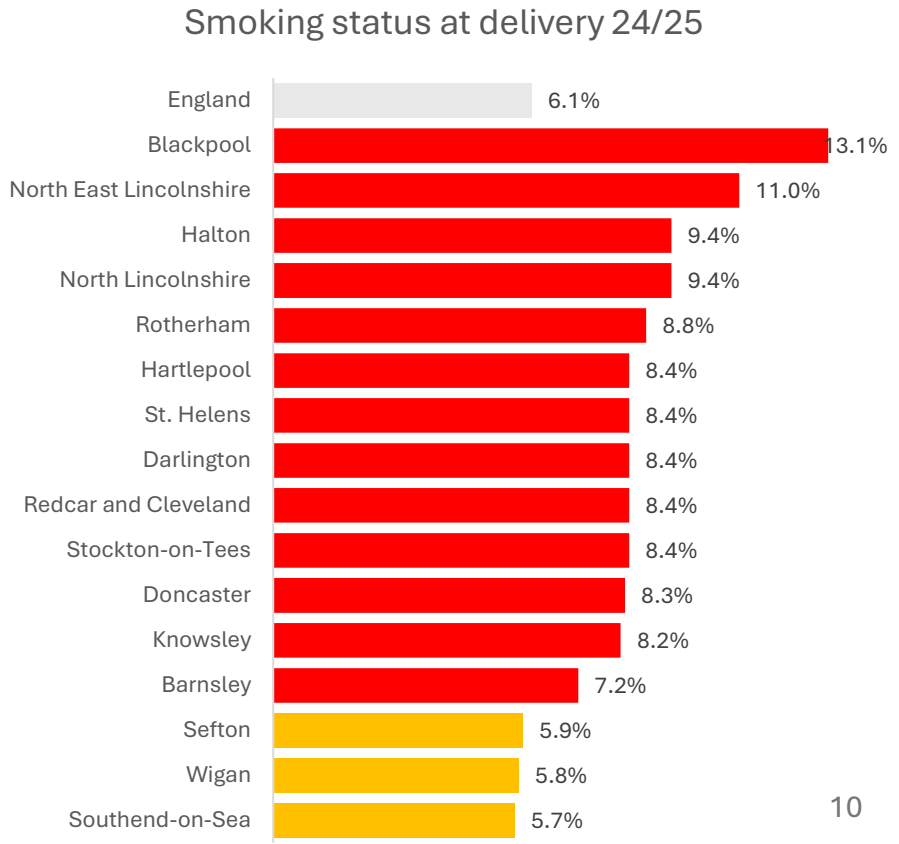
NO RESTRICTIONS

6. Smoking in pregnancy

Smoking during pregnancy can cause serious pregnancy-related health problems. These include complications during labour and an increased risk of miscarriage, premature birth, stillbirth, low birth-weight and sudden unexpected death in infancy. (OHID)

- In North East Lincolnshire, over the last 2 years the proportion of women smoking in pregnancy (recorded at delivery) has seen a **significant decrease.**
- The current proportion of women smoking in pregnancy is 11% after the rate being between 20% and 25% for many years.
- Although, this is a large reduction, the rate remains **significantly higher than the national average** of 6.1% and is **2nd highest compared to statistical and 3rd highest in the whole of England**.
- Compared to statistical neighbours, North East Lincolnshire ranks 2nd highest after Blackpool and follows a similar trend pattern to many statistical neighbours, seeing the more recent reduction.





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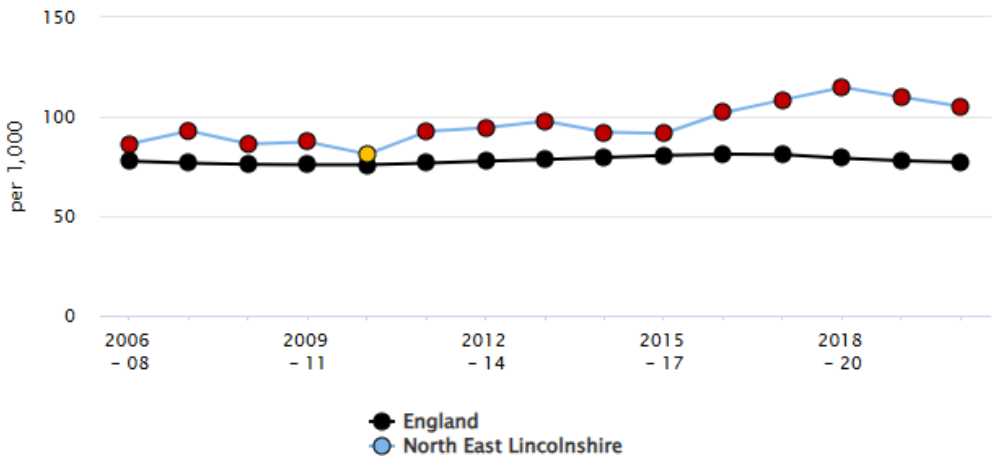
NO RESTRICTIONS

7. Premature birth

- North East Lincolnshire has the **second highest rate of premature birth in England.** With a rate of 105.1/1,000 North East Lincolnshire has a rate significantly higher than the England rate of 77/1,000.
- Between 2020 and 2022, **481** babies were born prematurely in North East Lincolnshire.
- Between 2016-18 and 2018-2020 the rate of premature births was increasing exponentially reaching a high of 114.8/1,000. Since 2018-20 the trend has **gradually decreased,** however the rate remains high.



Premature births (less than 37 weeks gestation)



Premature Birth

Obesity in pregnancy, smoking in pregnancy and teenage pregnancy are all **risk factors** for premature birth.

Premature births are the **leading cause** of infant **mortality** and are the fastest increasing cohort of children with **SEN**.

Children born prematurely are more likely to have a range of **health problems** from dental health to hearing and sight to more complex health needs.

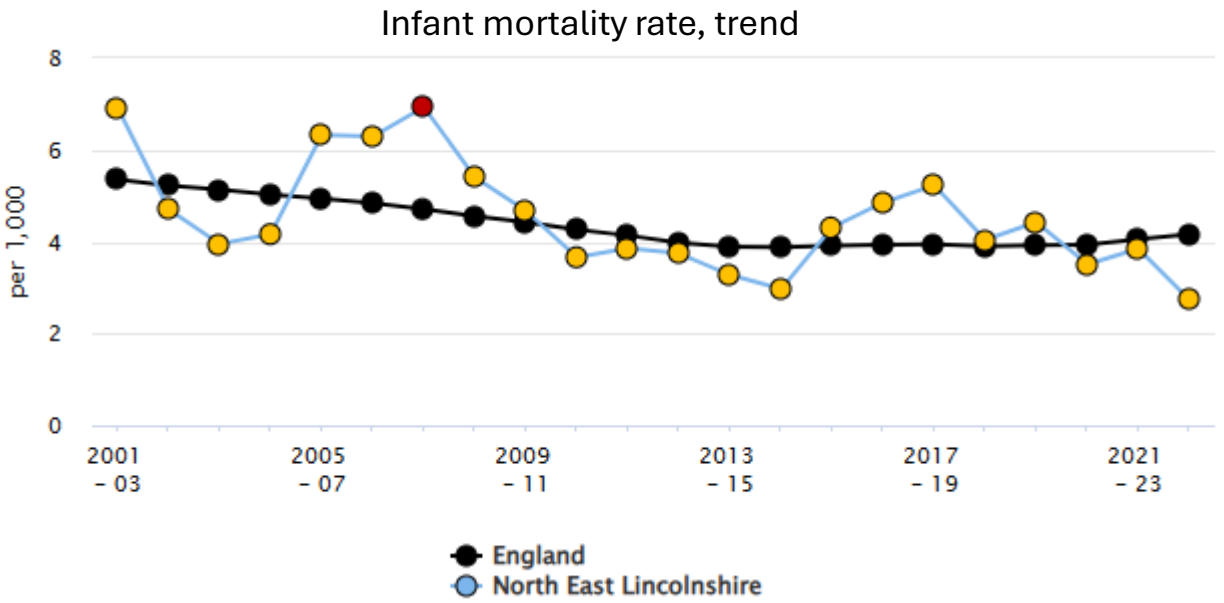
Children born prematurely are less likely to get a degree level **education** than those born at 40 weeks.

Child and Maternal Health - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care

NO RESTRICTIONS

8. Infant mortality

- The infant mortality rate for 2022-2024 for North East Lincolnshire is 2.7/1,000, **lower than the England rate of 4.2/1,000**.
- The local rate fluctuates, mainly due to the relatively small numbers.
- North East Lincolnshire has the lowest rate compared to statistical neighbours for 2022-2024.

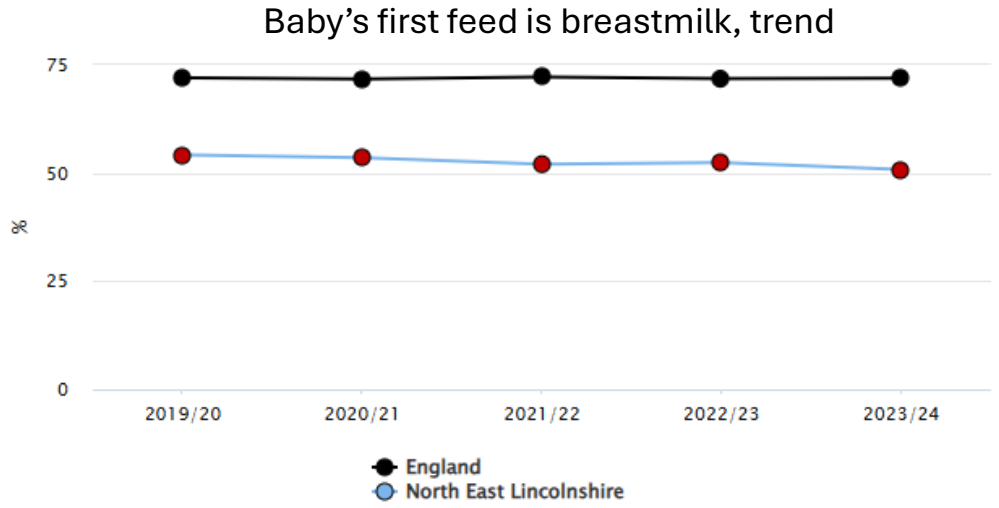


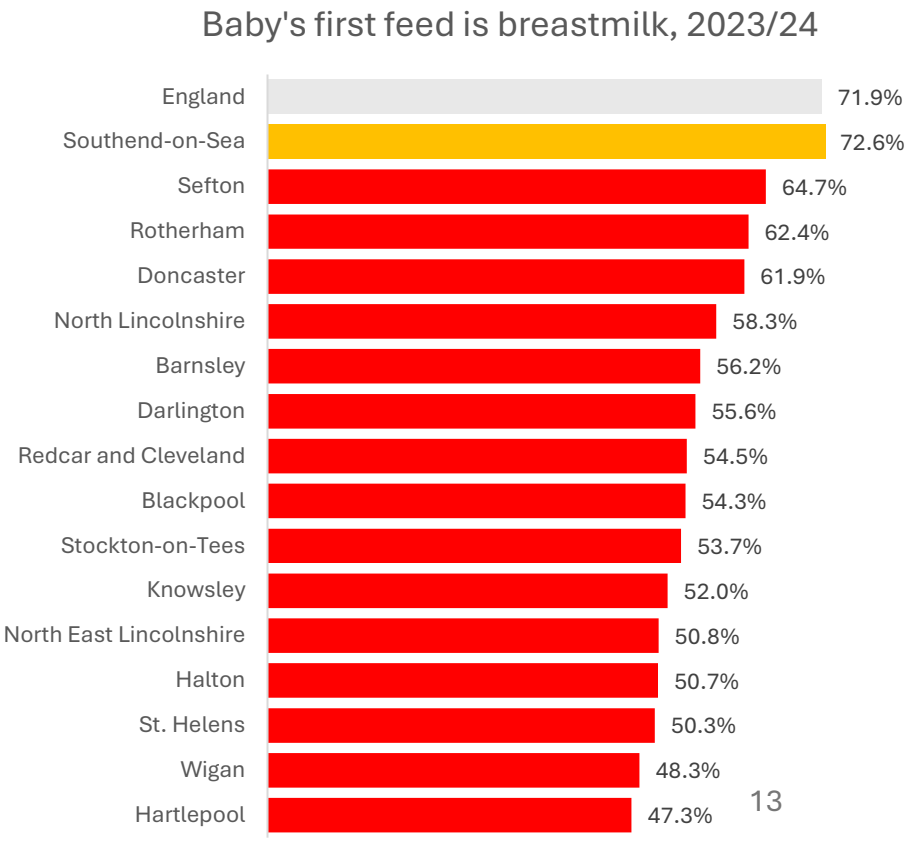
Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs) were established in 2008 to review all child deaths up to the age of 18 and identify actions that could reduce the risk of future loss.
Whilst the most recent published rate for infant mortality shows a low rate, **local child death notifications for the year 2025/26 show a higher number of infant deaths than the previous 5 years**. Neonatal and maternity care remain a key area for learning and future focus for the Northern Lincolnshire CDOP.

Child and Maternal Health - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care

9. Breastfeeding initiation

- In North East Lincolnshire, **half of babies had breastmilk for their first feed**. This is significantly **lower than the national rate** of 71.9% and there has been **no significant change to the trend** over the last 5 years.
- Compared to statistical neighbours, North East Lincolnshire ranks 5th lowest. Like North East Lincolnshire, most statistical neighbours have not closed the gap with England or made much change to the proportion of babies being breastfed at birth.





Child and Maternal Health - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care



Useful links

- Under 18 conceptions - Children's JSNA briefing - UTLA | North East Lincolnshire | Report Builder for ArcGIS
- Pregnancy - Best Start in Life
- Baby (0-2 years) - Best Start in Life
- Child and Maternal Health - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care
- Accessing maternity services data - NHS England Digital
- Abortion statistics in England and Wales - GOV.UK