

INFORMATION
ANALYSIS
DIRECTORATE



Healthy Child, Healthy Future

Health Review Statistics for Northern Ireland

2019/20



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte
Máinystrie O Poustie
www.health-ni.gov.uk



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Target Audience	Health Visitors, Directors of Nursing, Directors of Children's Services, Chief Executives of HSC Board, PHA and Trusts in Northern Ireland.
Main use of document	Data from this report is used to monitor the delivery of services to children, to help assess Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust performance, corporate monitoring, to inform and monitor related policy, and to respond to parliamentary/assembly questions.

The statisticians within IAD are out posted from the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA) and the statistics are produced in accordance with the principles and protocols set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).



IAD comprises four statistical sections: Hospital Information, Community Information, Public Health Information & Research and Project Support Analysis.

This report is produced by Community Information Branch.

About the Community Information Branch

The purpose of Community Information Branch (CIB) is to promote effective decision making in children and adult social services and community health by providing quality information and analysis.

We collect, analyse and publish a wide range of community information that is used to help monitor the delivery of personal social services policy. Information collected by CIB is used to assess HSC Trust performance, for corporate monitoring, policy evaluation, and to respond to parliamentary/assembly questions.

Information is widely disseminated through a number of regular key statistical publications and ad hoc reports, details of which are available online.

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/dhssps-statistics-and-research-social-services/social-care-statistics>

Our Vision and Values

- *Provide up-to-date, quality information on children and adult social services and community health;*
- *To disseminate findings widely with a view to stimulating debate, promoting effective decision-making and improvement in service provision; and*
- *Be an expert voice on health and social care information.*

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Child Health Promotion Programme

[Healthy Child, Healthy Future \(HCHF\)](#) is a framework for the universal Child Health Promotion Programme within Northern Ireland. It is recognised as being central to improving child health across a range of issues and giving every child and young person the best start in life.

Effective implementation of the programme will lead to:

- Strong parent-child attachments resulting in better social and emotional well being;
- Care that keeps a child healthy and safe;
- Early detection of and actions to address developmental delay, abnormalities, ill health and concerns about safety;
- Identification of factors that could influence health and well being in families;
- Increased rates of breast feeding;
- Early recognition of growth disorders and risk factors for obesity;
- Healthy eating and increased activity leading to a reduction in obesity;
- Prevention of serious and communicable diseases;
- Better short and long term outcomes for children at risk of social exclusion;
- Increased learning and readiness for school.

In order to meet these goals, the framework sets out a programme of child health reviews that every family can expect. This statistical bulletin details the number of preschool health reviews completed within the accepted timeframe (tolerance), outside the tolerance (both earlier and later) and the number that were not completed^{1, 2}.

Health Visitor Reviews	Timing / Tolerance
New Baby Review /First Visit	10 - 14 days
6 - 8 Week Review	6 - 11 weeks
14 - 16 Week Health Review	14 - 19 weeks
6 - 9 Month Contact	26 - 42 weeks
Health Review at 1 Year	52 - 60 weeks
Health Review at 2 - 2 ½ Years	104 - 140 weeks

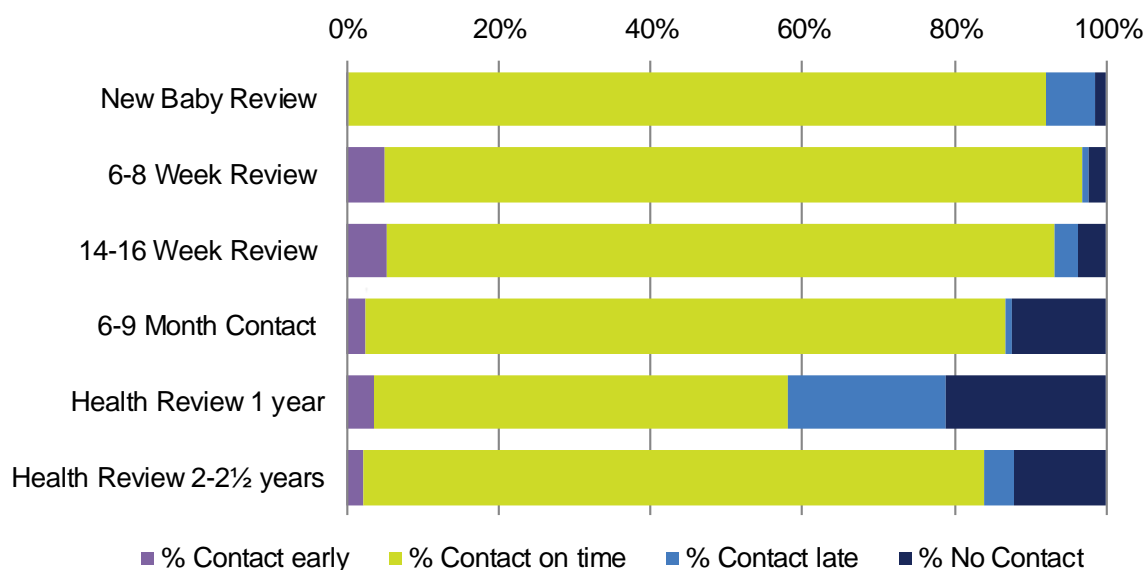
1 - This publication does not cover Antenatal visits, 3 Year Contact information or the 4 Year Record Review.
2 - As a result of workforce pressures the Public Health Agency issued interim measure guidance to HSC Trusts where the 1 Year contact may be omitted if the 6-9 month visit had been delivered by a health visitor who determined in consultation with a parent or guardian that a planned 1 Year contact is not required or can be delegated to a member of the health visiting team. This should be borne in mind when considering the following data.

Summary Statistics – 2019/20

During 2019/20, Health Visitors were expected to have completed 137,141 reviews of children across Northern Ireland³.

- Some 112,392 of these (82%) were completed within the recommended time frame (contact on time).
- An additional 9% (12,481) were completed, but outside the recommended time frame (contact early or late).
- Some 9% of the reviews did not take place.

Percentage (%) of health reviews completed by timing of the contact



³ These figures exclude Antenatal Visits, 3 Year Contact and the 4 Year Record Review.

New Baby Review / First Visit

Timing:

Visit to be carried out between day 10 and 14 after birth.

Purpose

- Check Vitamin K status;
- Maintain infant health;
- Health promotion;
- Growth;
- Assess maternal mental health;
- Promote sensitive parenting;
- Identify and review risk factors;
- Assess promote and support infant feeding;
- Promote development of parent-baby relationship;
- Safeguarding – awareness of accident prevention;
- Establish new born baseline clinical assessment.

92%

of all reviews were completed within the accepted time

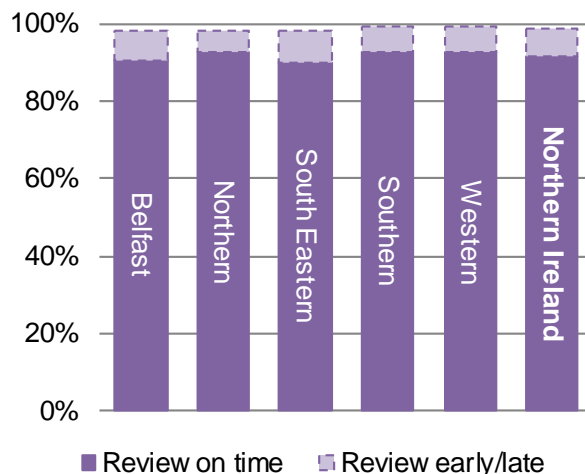
of reviews were completed in total

99%

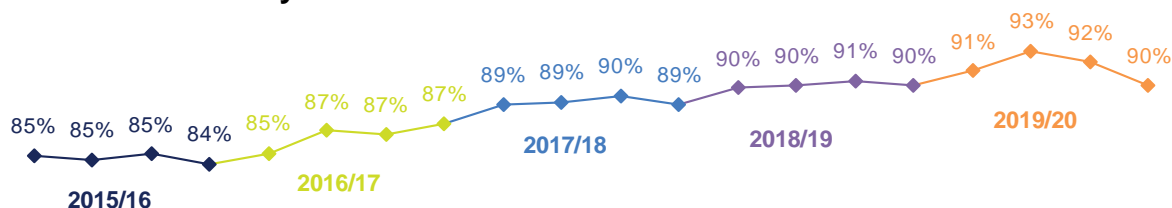
% of reviews completed during 2019/20:

Children in cohort	22,292
Early contact (before day 10)	<1%
On time contact (day 10 - 14)	92%
Late contact (after day 14)	6%
Not seen	1%

Northern and Southern HSC Trusts had the largest proportion of reviews take place within 10 - 14 days (93%).



Reviews on time by Quarter:



The proportion of New Baby Reviews completed within the expected timeframe has steadily increased over the last five years. A data entry audit in 2017⁴ designed to improve the recording of this review has shown that a large proportion of those reviews not undertaken, or, undertaken late, were due to the child moving into NI when the child was too old for the contact, or the relevant part of the visit documentation could not be completed due to the child or the mother being in hospital.

⁴ DoH report "Child Health System – Data entry audit 2017"

6 – 8 Week Review

Timing:

Review to be carried out between 6 - 8 weeks after birth; however up to week 11 is acceptable.

Purpose

- Review and update family health assessment;
- Promote the uptake of immunisations;
- Reassess Maternal Mental Health;
- Monitor the infants growth;
- Prevention of Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI);
- Record feeding status;
- Delivery of Key health promotion messages;
- Review and update risk factors.

92%

of all reviews were completed within the accepted time

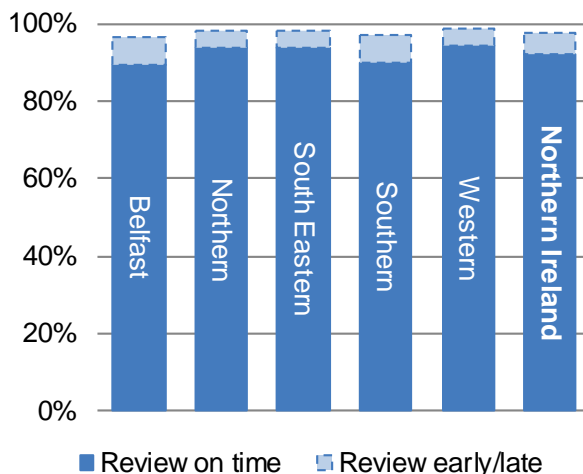
of reviews were completed in total

98%

% of reviews completed during 2019/20:

<i>Children in cohort</i>	22,473
Early contact (before week 6)	5%
On time contact (week 6-11)	92%
Late contact (after week 11)	1%
Not seen	2%

Western HSC Trust had the largest proportion of reviews on time (95%)



Reviews on time by Quarter:



The proportion of 6 – 8 Week Reviews completed within the expected timeframe has remained relatively stable over the previous five years. Furthermore, when including contacts made early or late, this review has consistently had a very high coverage.

14 – 16 Week Health Review

Timing: Review to be carried out between 14 - 16 weeks after birth; however up to week 19 is acceptable.

Purpose

- Review and update family health assessment;
- Review and update risk factors;
- Assess maternal mental health;
- Record infants feeding status;
- Monitor infants growth;
- Promote the uptake of immunisations;
- DDH age appropriate exam;
- Encourage uptake from other services e.g. Surestart.

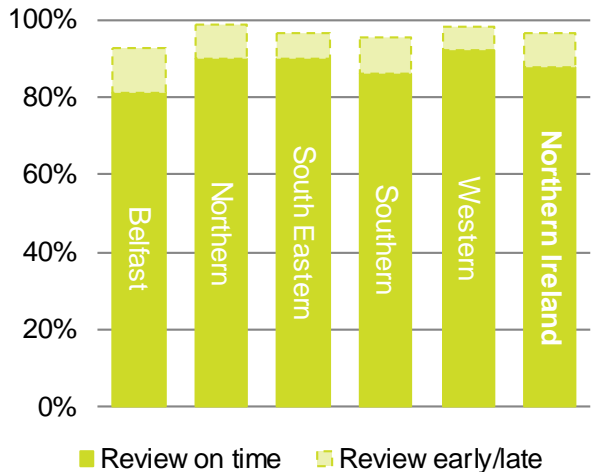
88% of all reviews were completed within the accepted time

of reviews were completed in total **96%**

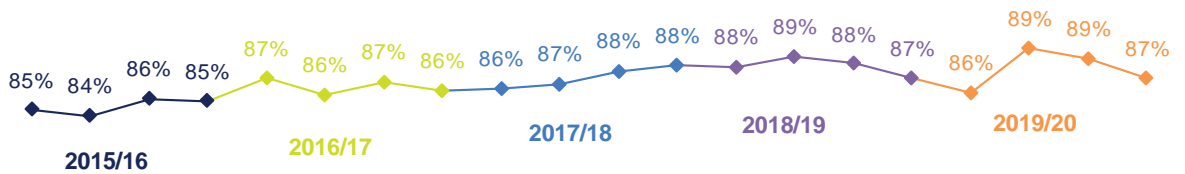
% of reviews completed during 2019/20:

Children in cohort	22,571
Early contact (before week 14)	5%
On time contact (week 14-19)	88%
Late contact (after week 19)	3%
Not seen	4%

The Western HSC Trust had the largest proportion of reviews within 14-19 weeks (92%).



Reviews on time by Quarter:



The proportion of 14 – 16 Week Health Reviews undertaken within the accepted timeframe has remained relatively stable over the previous five years; with a peak seen in the second and third quarters of 2019/20.

6 – 9 Month Contact

Timing:

Contact to be carried out between 6 - 9 months after birth; however up to month 10 is acceptable.

Purpose

- Home safety;
- Introduce the Book start pack;
- Bath-book-bed routine;
- Record feeding status;
- Accident prevention;
- Promote the uptake of immunisations;
- Provide health information.

84%

of all contacts were completed within the accepted time

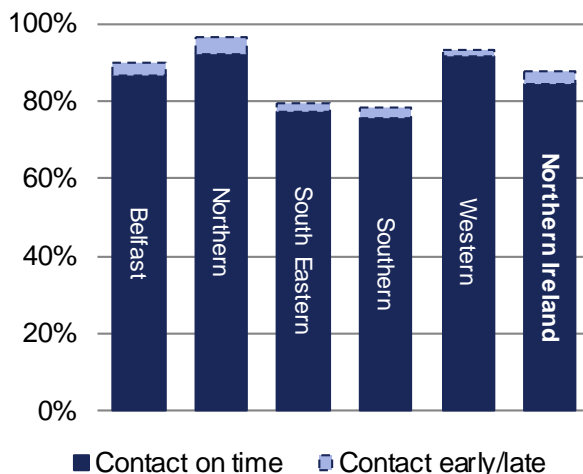
of contacts were completed in total

88%

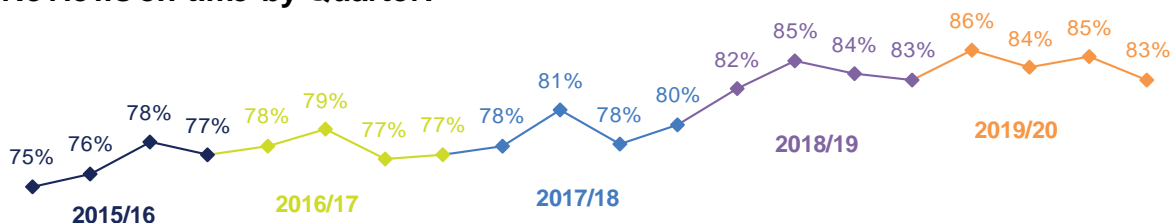
% of contacts completed during 2019/20:

Children in cohort	22,923
Early contact (before month 6)	2%
On time contact (month 6-10)	84%
Late contact (after month 10)	1%
Not seen	12%

The Northern HSC Trust had the largest proportion of reviews within 6 - 10 months (92%).



Reviews on time by Quarter:



Since 2015/16, there has been a year on year increase of the proportion of 6 – 9 Month contacts undertaken on time.

1 Year Health Review

Timing:

Review to be carried out 1 year after birth; however up to month 14 is acceptable.

Purpose

- Review and update of family health assessment;
- Record feeding status;
- Monitor growth;
- Review speech and language development;
- Promote oral health – dental registration;
- Offer parenting support;
- Health Promotion;

54%

of all reviews were completed within the accepted time

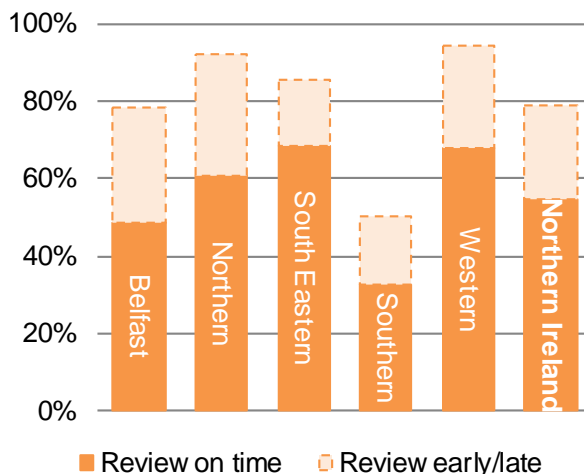
of reviews were completed in total

79%

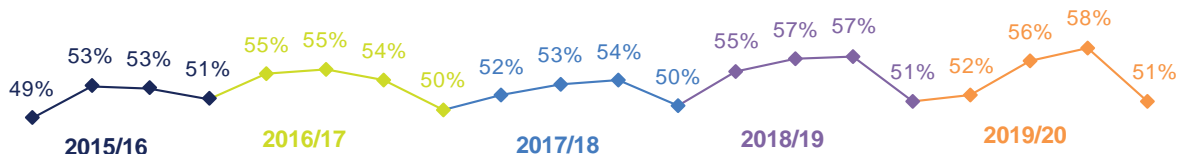
% of contacts completed during 2019/20:

Children in cohort	22,905
Early contact (before month 12)	4%
On time contact (month 12-14)	54%
Late contact (after month 14)	21%
Not seen	21%

The South Eastern and Western HSC Trusts had the largest proportion of reviews within 12 - 14 months (68%).



Reviews on time by Quarter:



Since 2015/16, there has been a slight increase in the 1 Year Health Reviews completed on time. Reviewing the quarterly figures for the last five years, there appears to be a relatively consistent pattern with lower achievement during the last quarter of the year (January – March).

2 – 2 ½ Years Health Review

Timing:

Review to be carried out 2 – 2 ½ years after birth; however up to 2 years 8 months is acceptable.

Purpose

- Review and update risk factors;
- Monitor the infants growth;
- Monitor child's social, emotional, speech and behavioural development;
- Monitor vision and hearing ;
- Offer guidance on behaviour management;
- Promote language development;
- Toilet training;
- Safeguarding.

82%

of all contacts were completed within the accepted time

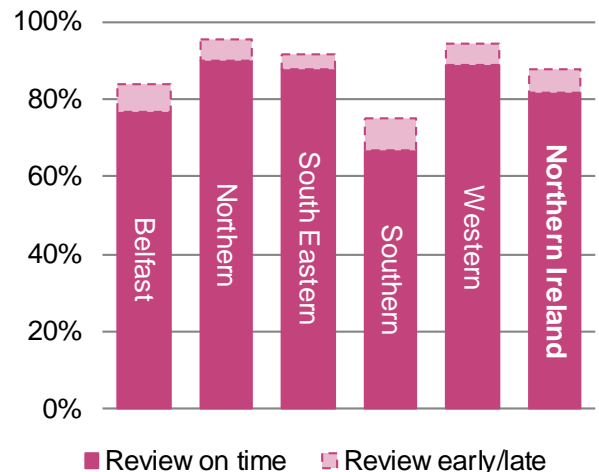
of contacts were completed in total

88%

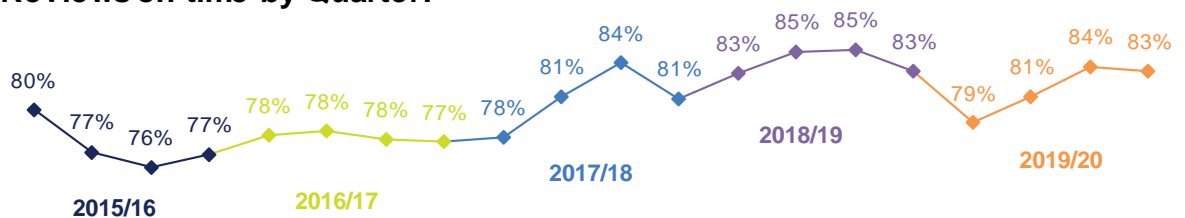
% of contacts completed during 2019/20:

Children in cohort	23,977
Early contact (before 2 years)	2%
On time contact (2 years – 2 years 8 months)	82%
Late contact (after 2 years 8 months)	4%
Not seen	12%

The Northern HSC Trust had the largest proportion of reviews within 2 years – 2 ½ years (90%).



Reviews on time by Quarter:



Between 2015/16 and 2018/19 there was a general increase in the proportion of 2 – 2½ Year Health Reviews that were completed on time. The year 2019/20 did however see a small dip compared with the previous year.

Annex A

Table 1: Summary Health Visits 2019/20

Northern Ireland	Children in Cohort	Contact Early	Contact In Range	Contact Late	No Contact
New Baby Review by HV	22292	55	20468	1448	321
6 to 8 Week Review by HV	22473	1086	20695	189	503
14 to 16 Week Health Review by HV	22571	1189	19823	726	833
6 to 9 Month Contact by HV	22923	527	19359	180	2857
Health Review at 1 Year by HV	22905	816	12476	4791	4822
Health Review at 2-21/2 Years by HV	23977	521	19571	953	2932

Northern Ireland	% Contact Early	% Contact on time	% Contact late	% No Contact	% Contact Early, On time or Late
New Baby Review by HV	0%	92%	6%	1%	99%
6 to 8 Week Review by HV	5%	92%	1%	2%	98%
14 to 16 Week Health Review by HV	5%	88%	3%	4%	96%
6 to 9 Month Contact by HV	2%	84%	1%	12%	88%
Health Review at 1 Year by HV	4%	54%	21%	21%	79%
Health Review at 2-21/2 Years by HV	2%	82%	4%	12%	88%

Table 2: New Baby Review by Health Visitor 2019/20

New Baby Review	Children in Cohort	Contact Early	Contact In Range	Contact Late	No Contact
Belfast	4190	17	3801	289	83
Northern	5331	21	4939	282	89
South Eastern	3942	8	3553	298	83
Southern	5211	-	4830	331	-
Western	3618	-	3345	248	-
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>22292</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>20468</i>	<i>1448</i>	<i>321</i>

"-" cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure

New Baby Review	% Contact Early	% Contact on time	% Contact late	% No Contact	% Contact Early, On time or Late
Belfast	<0.5%	91%	7%	2%	98%
Northern	<0.5%	93%	5%	2%	98%
South Eastern	<0.5%	90%	8%	2%	98%
Southern	<0.5%	93%	6%	1%	99%
Western	<0.5%	92%	7%	1%	99%
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i><0.5%</i>	<i>92%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>99%</i>

Table 3: 6 - 8 Week Review by Health Visitor 2019/20

6 - 8 Week Review	Children in Cohort	Contact Early	Contact In Range	Contact Late	No Contact
Belfast	4251	249	3797	68	137
Northern	5353	201	5019	42	91
South Eastern	3971	147	3721	29	74
Southern	5211	357	4672	32	150
Western	3687	132	3486	18	51
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>22473</i>	<i>1086</i>	<i>20695</i>	<i>189</i>	<i>503</i>

6 - 8 Week Review	% Contact Early	% Contact on time	% Contact late	% No Contact	% Contact Early, On time or Late
Belfast	6%	89%	2%	3%	97%
Northern	4%	94%	1%	2%	98%
South Eastern	4%	94%	1%	2%	98%
Southern	7%	90%	1%	3%	97%
Western	4%	95%	0%	1%	99%
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>92%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>98%</i>

Table 4: 14 - 16 Week Health Review by Health Visitor 2019/20

14 - 16 Week Health Review	Children in Cohort	Contact Early	Contact In Range	Contact Late	No Contact
Belfast	4222	281	3432	200	309
Northern	5401	254	4859	207	81
South Eastern	4018	191	3603	85	139
Southern	5237	337	4519	141	240
Western	3693	126	3410	93	64
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>22571</i>	<i>1189</i>	<i>19823</i>	<i>726</i>	<i>833</i>

14 - 16 Week Health Review	% Contact Early	% Contact on time	% Contact late	% No Contact	% Contact Early, On time or Late
Belfast	7%	81%	5%	7%	93%
Northern	5%	90%	4%	1%	99%
South Eastern	5%	90%	2%	3%	97%
Southern	6%	86%	3%	5%	95%
Western	3%	92%	3%	2%	98%
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>88%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>96%</i>

Table 5: 6 – 9 Month Contact by Health Visitor 2019/20

6 - 9 Month Contact	Children in Cohort	Contact Early	Contact In Range	Contact Late	No Contact
Belfast	4287	127	3703	35	422
Northern	5405	176	4975	57	197
South Eastern	4165	78	3227	12	848
Southern	5293	94	4010	55	1134
Western	3773	52	3444	21	256
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>22923</i>	<i>527</i>	<i>19359</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>2857</i>

6 - 9 Month Contact	% Contact Early	% Contact on time	% Contact late	% No Contact	% Contact Early, On time or Late
Belfast	3%	86%	1%	10%	90%
Northern	3%	92%	1%	4%	96%
South Eastern	2%	77%	0%	20%	80%
Southern	2%	76%	1%	21%	79%
Western	1%	91%	1%	7%	93%
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>84%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>12%</i>	<i>88%</i>

Table 6: Health Review at 1 Year by Health Visitor 2019/20

Health Review at 1 Year	Children in Cohort	Contact Early	Contact In Range	Contact Late	No Contact
Belfast	4274	214	2076	1059	925
Northern	5377	122	3277	1556	422
South Eastern	4068	104	2782	597	585
Southern	5347	293	1730	660	2664
Western	3839	83	2611	919	226
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>22905</i>	<i>816</i>	<i>12476</i>	<i>4791</i>	<i>4822</i>

Health Review at 1 Year	% Contact Early	% Contact on time	% Contact late	% No Contact	% Contact Early, On time or Late
Belfast	5%	49%	25%	22%	78%
Northern	2%	61%	29%	8%	92%
South Eastern	3%	68%	15%	14%	86%
Southern	5%	32%	12%	50%	50%
Western	2%	68%	24%	6%	94%
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>79%</i>

Table 7: Health Review at 2 - 2½ Years by Health Visitor 2019/20

Health Review at 2 - 2½ Years	Children in Cohort	Contact Early	Contact In Range	Contact Late	No Contact
Belfast	4336	126	3329	186	695
Northern	5732	144	5165	170	253
South Eastern	4259	55	3746	110	348
Southern	5622	135	3756	321	1410
Western	4028	61	3575	166	226
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>23977</i>	<i>521</i>	<i>19571</i>	<i>953</i>	<i>2932</i>

Health Review at 2 - 2½ Years	% Contact Early	% Contact on time	% Contact late	% No Contact	% Contact Early, On time or Late
Belfast	3%	77%	4%	16%	84%
Northern	3%	90%	3%	4%	96%
South Eastern	1%	88%	3%	8%	92%
Southern	2%	67%	6%	25%	75%
Western	2%	89%	4%	6%	94%
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>82%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>12%</i>	<i>88%</i>

Table 8: Proportion of visits on time Quarter 1 2018/19 – Quarter 4 2019/20

Northern Ireland	2018/19				2019/20			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
New baby review	90%	90%	91%	91%	91%	93%	92%	91%
6 – 8 Week Review	90%	90%	92%	91%	91%	93%	93%	91%
14 – 16 Week Health Review	88%	89%	88%	88%	86%	89%	89%	87%
6 – 9 Month Contact	82%	85%	84%	79%	86%	84%	85%	83%
Health Review at 1 Year	55%	57%	57%	55%	52%	56%	58%	51%
Health Review at 2 – 2½ Years	83%	85%	85%	82%	79%	81%	84%	83%

Annex B – Technical Notes

Purpose

This publication has been produced to measure the rate of completed child health contacts / reviews carried out by Health Visitors. Further information about these contacts and their purpose can be found in [‘Healthy Child, Healthy Future’](#).

Health Visitors and Health Reviews

Health Visitors are qualified nurses who have taken further training in Community & Child Health. Health Visitors work with individuals, families and groups whilst liaising closely with midwives, practice nurses and GPs.

A health review will take place in the family home, however can, for some type of contacts, also take place in a health centre and/or in a group setting.

Data Collection

The figures in this publication detail the number of preschool health reviews that should have been completed by the quarter end. It is recommended in ‘Healthy Child, Healthy Future’ that each health review should be completed within a certain time period; figures are reported on contacts that were completed early, within the recommended time period (on time), late or not completed⁷. Figures are presented regionally and by Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts.

The statistics presented in this bulletin are derived from Child Health System extractions provided by each of the five HSC Trusts to the Public Health Agency (PHA) and Community Information Branch (CIB) within the Department of Health (DoH).

Methodology

This information collection identifies if a health review has taken place within the accepted time for that visit. Each visit’s accepted time/tolerance is set out in the introduction of this report. All reviews whose tolerance ended during the quarter is included. The contact itself may have been carried out in a previous quarter. This report therefore identifies whether the child received the contact within agreed time frames and is not an indication of workload during the quarter. Please note that if a contact occurs more than three months after the end of the relevant tolerance period it will be recorded as “not completed”.

Statement of Administrative Sources

Returns are derived from the Child Health System, which is the main administrative system used to support HSC Trusts in delivering the Child Health Promotion Programme.

Rounding Conventions

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers and as a consequence some percentages may not sum to 100%. 0% may reflect rounding down of values under 0.5%.

⁷ Please note that if a health contact occurs more than 3 months after the end of the relevant tolerance period it will be recorded as “not completed”.

Data Quality

In 2015, a bespoke report was written to ensure the same health visit data was extracted from the local Child Health Systems (CHSs) by all 5 HSC Trusts.

To facilitate the return of accurate counts, HSC Trusts supply returns three months after the end of the quarter. Statistics published do not reflect information system updates after this window has passed. Following submission to CIB, further checks are carried out to verify that information is internally consistent. Trend analyses are used to monitor variations and emerging trends.

Queries arising from validation are submitted to HSC Trusts for clarification, and if required returns may be amended and/or re-submitted.

An audit (2017), carried out by CIB in cooperation with HSC Trusts and PHA, assessed the validity of the information at the stage of data input into the CHS. This audit, which focussed on the New Baby Review and the 2 Year Review, found that some Trust variation exists in recording. The full audit report with recommendations can be obtained by request to cib@health-ni.gov.uk.

Revisions Policy

The general revisions policy for community statistics is published on the DoH website.

User Engagement

If you have any comments on this publication please contact Community Information Branch at: cib@health-ni.gov.uk

Related Publications

GAIN Audit *Every Child Counts. Regional audit of the Child Health Promotion Programme – Health Visiting and School Nursing Services* (March 2016)

<https://www.rqia.org.uk/RQIA/files/8b/8b7f4849-3488-4ed7-b836-10fc0860c31f.pdf>

Next Release

“Healthy Child Healthy Future – Visit statistics for Northern Ireland 2019/20” has provisional release date of 14th October 2021.

Statistical bulletins published by Community Information Branch are available to download from the Department of Health

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/doh-statistics-and-research>