

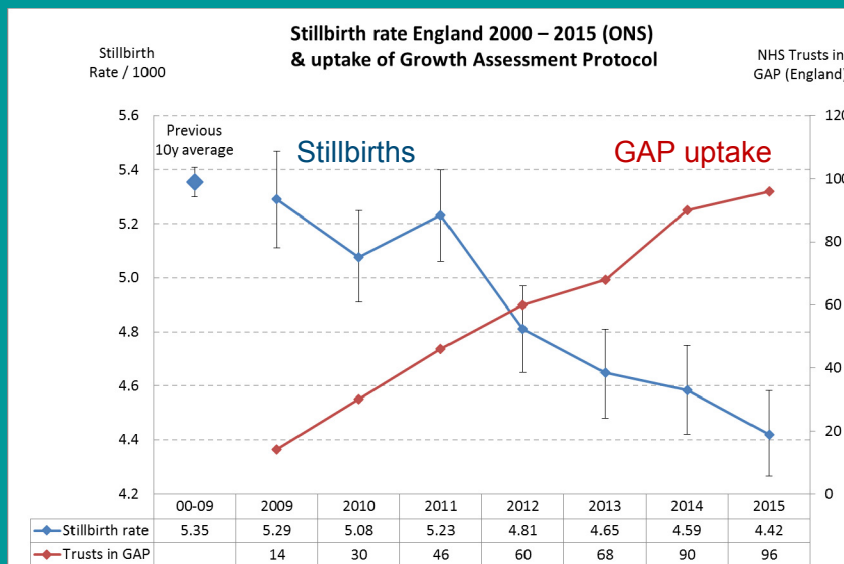


# Perinatal News

## Autumn 2016

### Stillbirth rates in England continuing to fall

According to latest ONS data (released July 2016), stillbirth rates in England have fallen again in 2015, to 4.42/1000, which represents a 17% reduction compared to the previous 10 year average (5.35 /1000). If the current trend continues, this drop is on course to exceed 20% by next year, well ahead of the Secretary of State's 2020 target.



The reduction in stillbirths has been mirroring the steady increase in NHS Trusts that have implemented the growth assessment protocol (GAP), which has been improving the antenatal detection of babies at risk due to fetal growth restriction. In 2015, the national drop has been largely due to the SaBiNE project in North of England (see next page).

### Perinatal Institute receives 2016 Queen's Award

Our stillbirth prevention programme has been recognised by a Queen's Award for Enterprise - Innovation. The Award was presented by Colonel George Marsh, Vice Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands, at a ceremony at the Perinatal Institute's offices in Birmingham. This was followed by a Royal Reception at Buckingham Palace.



Left: Perinatal Institute staff celebrating Queen's Award. Right: HM Queen Elizabeth II with Professor Gardosi at Buckingham Palace reception for 2016 Award winners. Further details on [www.perinatal.org.uk/awards](http://www.perinatal.org.uk/awards)



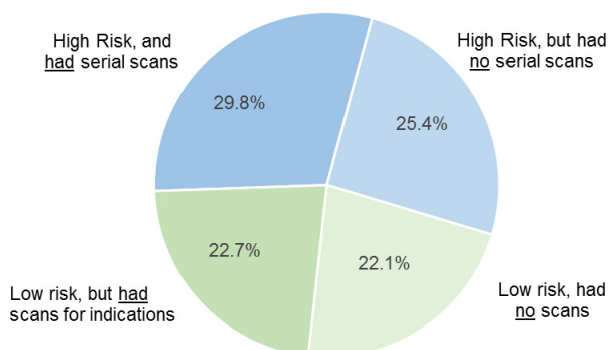
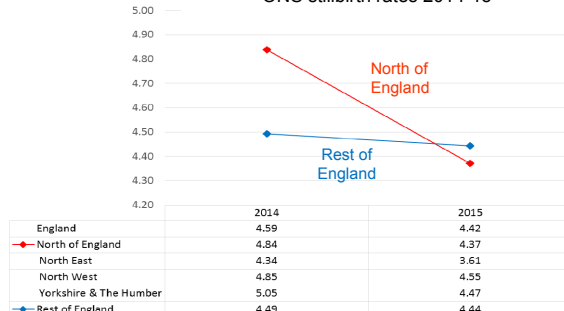
## Stillbirth prevention: North of England leads the way !

The **Saving Babies in North England (SaBiNE)** project was funded by NHS England (North), and has already resulted in a significant fall in stillbirth rates in North West, North East, and Yorkshire & Humber regions. It was led by the Perinatal Institute's GAP team and was locally co-ordinated by 52 DCMs (designated clinical midwives) in 40 participating Trusts, each seconded for 18 days over 4 months. The **final report** of the project has now been completed and is available here: [www.perinatal.org.uk/SaBiNE\\_final\\_report\\_2016.pdf](http://www.perinatal.org.uk/SaBiNE_final_report_2016.pdf)

### Key findings

- 50% increase in antenatal referral of SGA babies (36.5 to 53.1%), without increase in unnecessary (false positive) investigations
- Over two-fold increase in SGA detection by scan (18.5 to 42.7%), with a number of units reaching detection rates above 60%
- Improved antenatal identification of SGA babies was associated with a significant fall in stillbirth rates in the 3 Northern regions in 2015, while this was not observed for the rest of England →

ONS stillbirth rates 2014-15



### ← GAP-SCORE: audit of undetected SGA babies

SaBiNE included missed case audit, with 480 cases reviewed to date using the GAP-SCORE tool.

- The majority of cases had indications for growth scans, but in 78% these were either not done, or failed to detect that baby was SGA
- The average interval between last scan and delivery was 3 to 4 weeks, a delay which was likely to have contributed to the lack SGA detection
- Nearly half of pregnancies considered at risk of SGA according to NHSE Care Bundle had no scans

### Recommendations →

- Fetal growth surveillance needs to be accompanied by rolling audit to assess performance
- The study has highlighted an urgent need to address chronic shortages in ultrasound resources
- We have written to NHS England and Health Education England, recommending similar programmes in other regions, to increase patient safety through improved antenatal detection of babies at risk

## SCOR upgraded to incorporate NHS England Care Bundle standards

- The web based **Standardised Clinical Outcome Review** tool helps to identify substandard care factors, grades avoidability and prompts action plans to address lessons learnt.
- The new version, released early October, covers key questions from the main 'themes' of the NHS England Saving Babies Lives Care Bundle.
- SCOR also prompts request of parental consent for secondary use of data, and facilitates input from parents about concerns regarding the care received, as well as feedback about the results of the review, along the principles of openness, engagement and duty of candour.
- The software is in use in an increasing number of Trusts, and available for free implementation and training during 2016/17.
- Further information: [www.perinatal.org.uk/scor](http://www.perinatal.org.uk/scor) or email [scor@perinatal.org.uk](mailto:scor@perinatal.org.uk)



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**Queen's Award 2016**



Enterprise - Innovation