



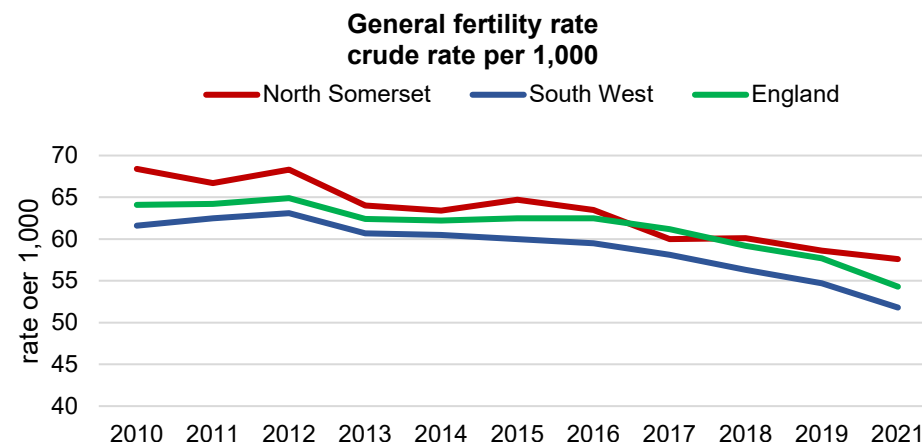
Spotlight report: pregnancy and birth



The [general fertility rate](#) in North Somerset as of 2021 was 57.6 births per 1,000. This compares to 51.8 in the South West and 54.3 in England. The fertility rate has been decreasing over the last decade locally (from 68.4), regionally (from 61.6) and nationally (from 64.1). In real terms, this means around 360 fewer live births in North Somerset in 2021 compared to 2010.

The [under 18 conception rate](#) has also been decreasing from 32.5 per 1,000 in 2010 to 12.5 per 1,000 in 2020. In real terms, this has more than halved the number of under 18 conceptions.

The percentage of under 18 conceptions leading to [abortion](#) has remained fairly steady at between 50% and 60% over the last decade in line with regional and national averages.



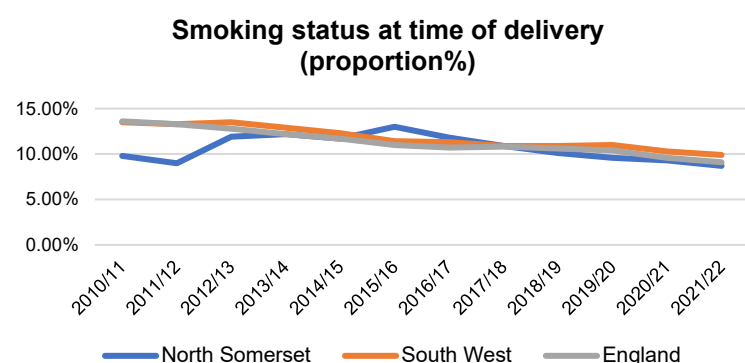
Based on the most recent data (2019), before and during pregnancy women in North Somerset are slightly more likely than the national average to take [folic acid supplements](#) and have early access to [maternity care](#). They are slightly less likely than the national average to be [obese](#) during early pregnancy and [smoke](#) during early pregnancy. Data is not available at the local authority level on drinking or drug taking behaviours during pregnancy.

The rate per 1,000 of [premature births](#) in North Somerset based on the period 2018-20 was 75.6 per 1,000 compared to 73.8 per 1,000 regionally and 79.1 per 1,000 nationally.

In 2020/21 32.8% of all births were via [caesarean section](#), similar to regional (31.8%) and national (32.5%) averages.

Just 2.6% of babies (born to term) in 2020/21 were of [low birth weight](#) compared with 2.5% regionally and 2.8% nationally.

The percentage of women who [smoked](#) at the time of delivery has decreased in North Somerset in recent years and was below 10% in 2020/21. There are geographical differences with people in more deprived areas more likely to smoke.



At the 6-8 week after birth check over 50% of women in North Somerset were [breastfeeding](#). This is slightly above national averages. There are geographical differences within children in deprived areas less likely on average to be breastfed.

