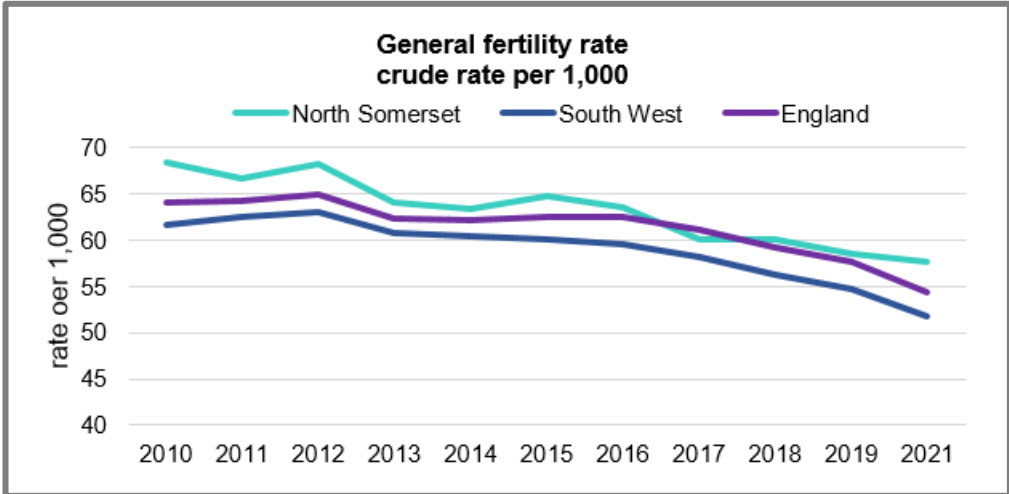


💡 Spotlight report: pregnancy and birth 💡

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 10.6 per 1,000 in 2021. 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.

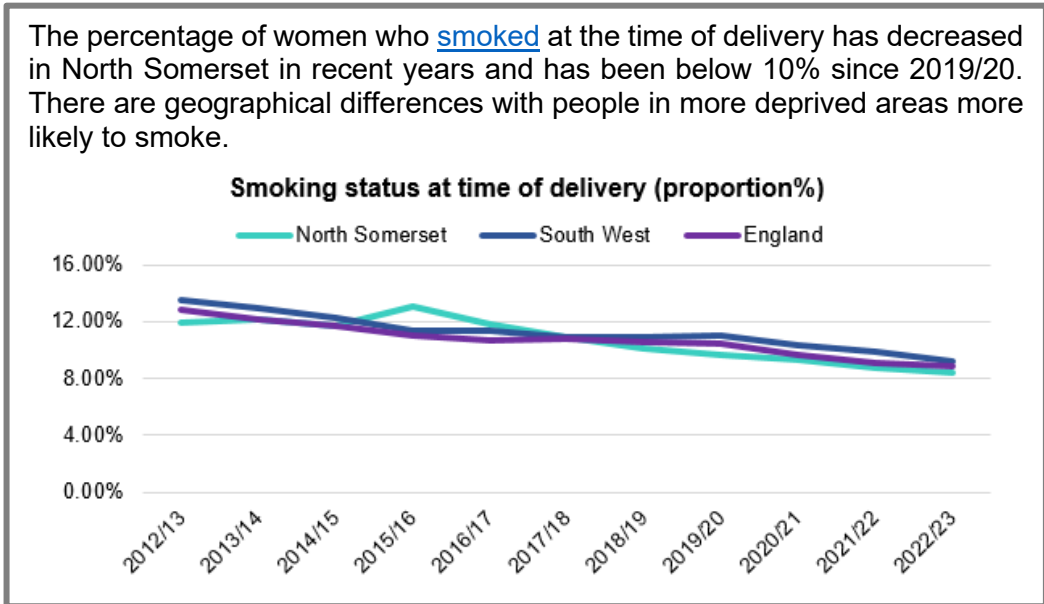


Based on the most recent data (2019), before and during pregnancy women in North Somerset are more likely than the national average to take [folic acid supplements](#) and have early access to [maternity care](#). They are ever so slightly less likely than the national average to be [obese](#) during 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 2019-21 was 71 per 1,000 compared to 72.2 per 1,000 regionally and 77.9 per 1,000 nationally.

In 2021/22 37% of all births were via [caesarean section](#), higher than regional (33.7%) and national (34.7%) 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 children whose first feed is known to be [breastmilk](#) was 83.1% in North Somerset based on latest data (2020/21) compared to 75.4% regionally and 71.7% nationally.

At the 6-8 week after birth check over 54.6% of women in North Somerset were [breastfeeding](#) in 2022/23. This is above national averages. There are geographical differences within children in deprived areas less likely on average to be breastfed.