

Perinatal Mortality Surveillance Report 2013

Help to interpret your own results and what will happen next

How the results are presented and what they mean

- We have presented results in the Report for both 'crude' mortality rates and 'adjusted & stabilised' mortality rates. The 'adjusted & stabilised' rates are a new way of analysing and presenting the data that staff in hospitals and elsewhere may not be familiar with.
- For example for the results in Table 4 (page 30) we give 'crude' mortality rates by commissioning organisations which are the total number of deaths divided by the total number of births in that organisation.
- Whereas the 'adjusted & stabilised' rates take account of two things.
 - First, the case-mix of the women delivering in a particular organisation are accounted for, that is, adjusted for. The factors adjusted for are: maternal age, ethnicity, socio-economic deprivation, sex of the baby and multiple births; gestational age at birth is also adjusted for neonatal deaths. This means that any differences between organisations in the mortality rates are unlikely to be due to any of these six factors. The point of the adjustment is to try to make appropriate comparisons of rates between organisations allowing for the different characteristics of the women they commission and provide services for.
 - Second, a process of 'stabilisation' is carried out to take account of the wide variations in rates that can occur simply because rates are based on small numbers of deaths and so can vary widely over time simply because of chance. For example, one additional death can have a large effect on crude mortality rates in areas where the total number of births is very small.

Suppression of crude mortality rates

- Where crude rates are based on less than four deaths we have not presented the findings - they have been suppressed. This follows best practice in the reporting of data based on routine data to avoid the individuals involved becoming potentially identifiable.
- Where we have suppressed 'crude' rates it is still possible to present the 'adjusted & stabilised' rates because it is not possible to work backwards from these calculated rates to determine the actual number of deaths. Anyone who tries to do this will come up with the wrong answer.
- For some organisations we have also had to suppress the crude rates because, although an organisation may have had more than four deaths, not all eligible cases were entered into the MBRRACE-UK system. We know from statutory death registration data when cases are missing and in some circumstances we were able to add these cases into the analysis from routine births data but without complete information it was not possible to carry out all the necessary calculations to produce reliable 'crude' rates.

- If you know that your organisation had more than four stillbirths or four neonatal deaths and your crude rate has been suppressed then you need to review the data you have reported to MBRRACE-UK. Most importantly review your processes for reporting MBRRACE-UK data to ensure that for January 2014 onwards information about all eligible cases is reported.

Your organisation's results are red or amber – what should you do?

- If your organisation has results which are red or amber we recommend that you carry out a review of your perinatal deaths. You can ask your Lead Reporter to download all the cases you have reported to MBRRACE-UK via the MBRRACE-UK data collection system by downloading the 'Trust/Health Board Overview Report'. We have recently added postcode to the individual cases so that you can identify which are local cases and which are likely to have transferred from other places.

More information from MBRRACE-UK – available in autumn

- In the autumn we will be releasing a new set of Trust/Health Board specific reports which will provide results back to Trust/Health Boards to further help individual Trust/Health Boards understand their rates.

MBRRACE-UK
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