



Health & Social Care
Information Centre

Statistics on Women's Smoking at Time of Delivery: England

Quarter 3, October 2015 to December 2015

Key Facts

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This report may be of interest to members of the public, policy officials and other stakeholders to make local and national comparisons and to monitor the quality and effectiveness of stop smoking services for pregnant women.

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Key Facts

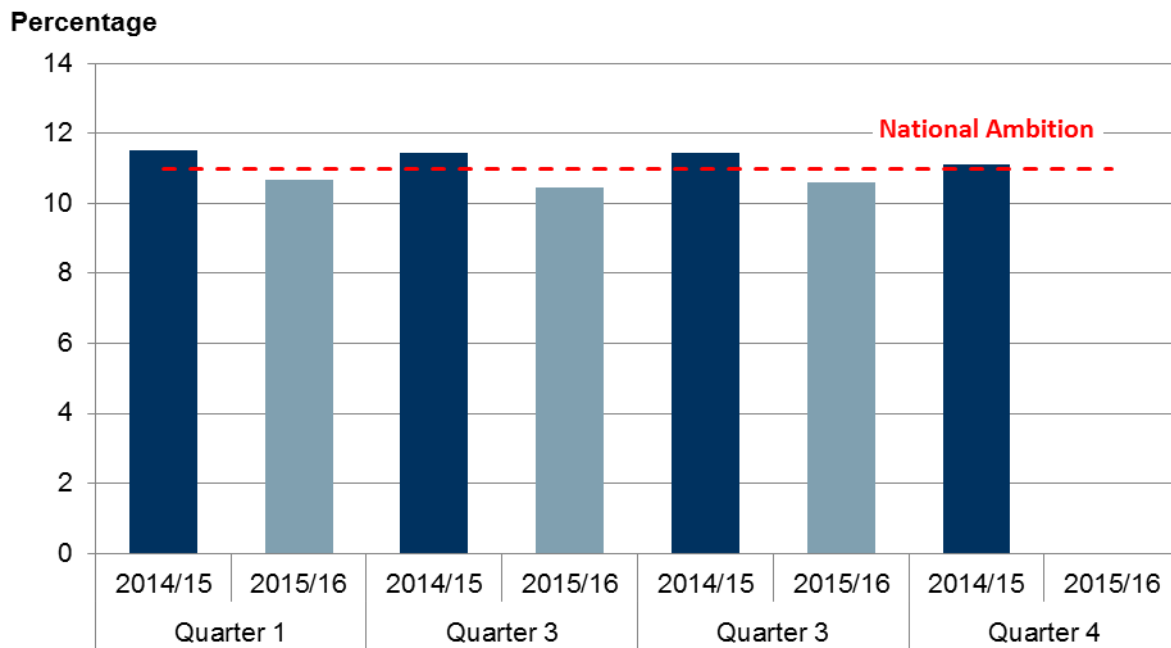
In England, Quarter 3, 2015/16:

- 10.6 per cent of pregnant women were known to be smokers at the time of delivery, this compares to 10.5 per cent for the most recent quarter (quarter 2, 2015/16) although this is not a statistically significant difference. It has however fallen from 11.4 per cent compared to the same quarter last year (quarter 3, 2014/15).
- The proportion of pregnant women known to be smokers at the time of delivery is now below the national ambition of 11 per cent. [Figure 1](#).
- However, there are some geographical differences amongst all NHS England Regions^a, smoking prevalence at delivery varied from 16.1 per cent in Cumbria and North East to 4.8 per cent in London.
- Amongst the 209 Clinical Commissioning Groups, smoking prevalence at delivery ranged from 25.0 per cent in NHS Blackpool to 1.3 per cent in NHS Central London (Westminster). [Figure 2](#).
- 2.6 per cent of maternities^b had an unknown smoking status in quarter 3 2015/16. This compares to 3.2 per cent for the most recent quarter (quarter 2, 2015/16) and 3.0 per cent for the same quarter last year (quarter 3, 2014/15). This should be borne in mind when interpreting the proportion of pregnant women known to be smoking at the time of delivery as the unknowns are effectively treated as non-smokers in the calculation.
- If the number of maternities with an unknown smoking status were removed from the denominator, the proportion of women smoking at the time of delivery would increase to 10.9 per cent.

^a From 1st April 2015 the structure of NHS England has changed and Area Teams have now been integrated into the existing regional structures to form a single regional tier. More information can be found here <http://www.england.nhs.uk/about/regional-area-teams/>

^b The number of maternities is defined as the number of pregnant women who give birth to one or more live or stillborn babies of at least 24 weeks gestation, where the baby is delivered by either a midwife or doctor at home or in an NHS hospital (including GP units). This count should be the number of pregnant women, not the number of babies (deliveries). It does not include maternities that occur in psychiatric hospitals or private beds / hospitals.

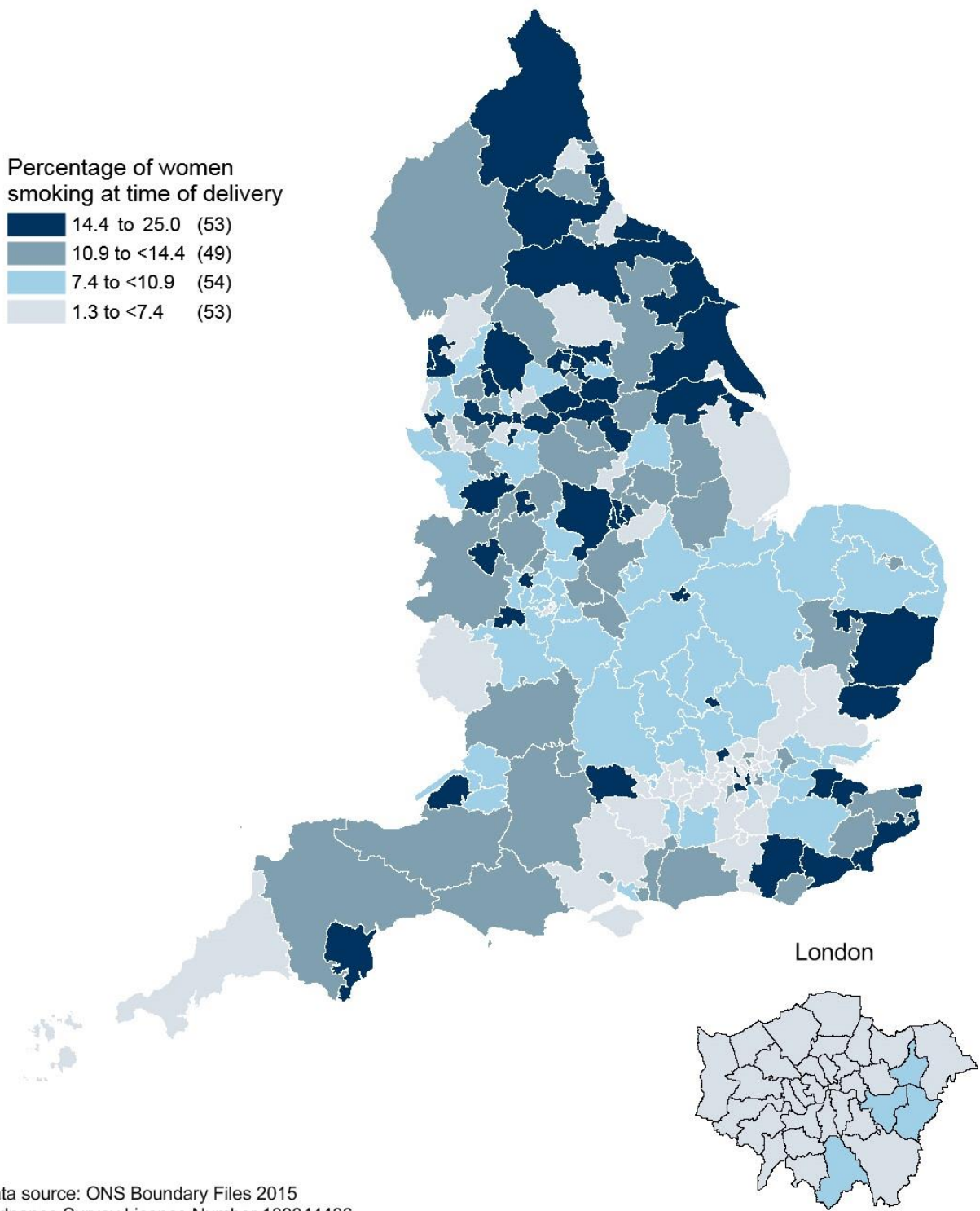
Figure 1 - Prevalence of women giving birth who classed themselves as smokers at the time, England, 2014/15 and 2015/16, by quarter



Source: Health and Social Care Information Centre, Lifestyles Statistics.
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Figure 2:

Women known to be smoking at time of delivery by Clinical Commissioning Group in England, Quarter 3, 2015/16.



Data source: ONS Boundary Files 2015
Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100044406

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Background

Smoking during pregnancy can cause serious pregnancy-related health problems. These include complications during labour and an increased risk of miscarriage, premature birth, still birth, low birth-weight and sudden unexpected death in infancy¹.

Reducing smoking during pregnancy is one of the three national ambitions in the Tobacco Control Plan published in March 2011, which is “to reduce rates of smoking throughout pregnancy to 11 per cent or less by the end of 2015 (measured at time of giving birth)”².

This data collection is designed to provide a measure of the prevalence of smoking among women at the time of giving birth at a local level.

References

1. Quitting smoking in pregnancy and following childbirth: Guidance. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, 2010.
<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph26>
2. Healthy Lives, Healthy People: a tobacco control plan for England. Department of Health, 2011
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-tobacco-control-plan-for-england>

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