

# Perinatal Mortality

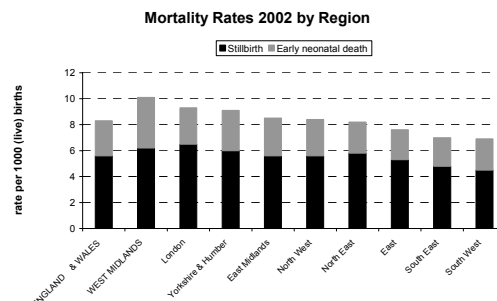
## Summary of West Midlands Regional Vital Statistics 2002



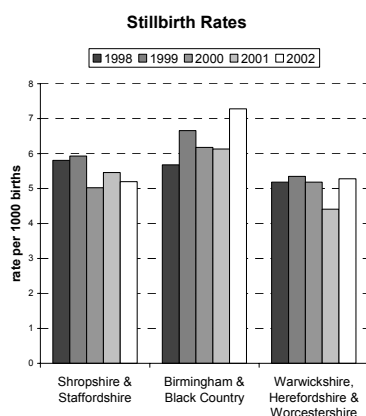
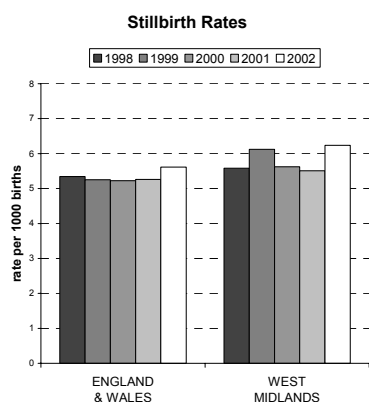
For the first year, mortality data are available for Strategic Health Authority and Primary Care Trust boundaries, rather than for District Health Authorities. In order to comply with changes in the Data Access and Confidentiality policy of the Office for National Statistics, who supply the Vital Statistics data; we are unable to supply information that is likely to identify an individual. This means we cannot publish rates calculated from less than five occurrences.

The **number of births** in the West Midlands has risen by 263 from 61,155 to 61,418, a 0.4% rise on the previous year. This compares with a 0.3% rise in England & Wales.

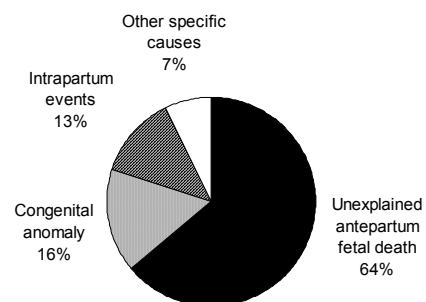
The **perinatal mortality rate** in the West Midlands in 2002 was 10.1/1000 births (620 cases), which is higher than in 2001 (9.0) and is the highest rate of all Health Regions. For England & Wales, the rate was 8.3 in 2002 (7.9 in 2001). The histogram shows regional perinatal mortality rates.



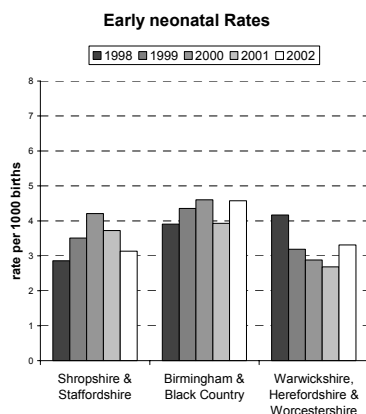
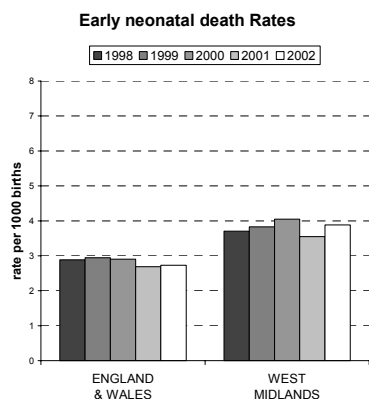
The rate of stillbirths and neonatal deaths for the last five years are given in the histograms below, with comparisons between England and Wales, and the three West Midlands Strategic Health Authority populations.



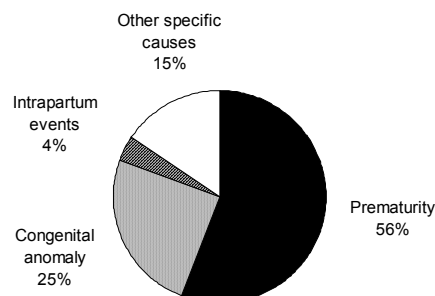
**West Midlands Stillbirths 2002 Wigglesworth Cause of Death**



The **stillbirth rate** for 2002 was 6.2/1000 births (383 cases) in the West Midlands. This is higher than the rate in 2001 (5.5) and exceeds that of England & Wales, which was 5.6/1000 births (5.3 in 2001). Analysis of cause of death by the standard Wigglesworth classification, using regional Rapid Report Forms (RRFs), shows that the largest component is again 'unexplained'. This category constituting 64% of all stillbirths in 2002 (see pie chart).



**West Midlands Early Neonatal Deaths 2002 Wigglesworth Cause of Death**



The **early neonatal death rate** for the West Midlands in 2002 was 3.9/1000 live births. This is higher than the rate in 2001 (3.6) and remains higher than that for England & Wales (2.7 in 2002 and 2001). The largest category is again prematurity (56%).