



Bedford

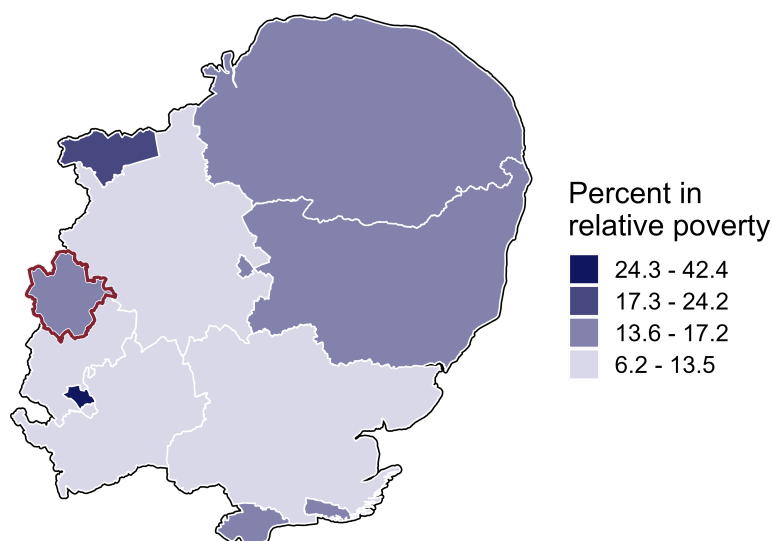
This profile provides a snapshot of child health in this area. It is designed to help local government and health services improve the health and wellbeing of children and tackle health inequalities.

The child population in this area

	Local	Region	England
Live births (2021)	2,223	67,054	595,948
Children aged 0 to 4 years (2021)	11,100 6.0%	347,500 5.5%	3,058,200 5.4%
Children aged 0 to 19 years (2021)	45,300 24.4%	1,461,000 23.0%	13,040,500 23.1%
Children aged 0 to 19 years in 2031 (projected from 2018)	46,800 25.0%	1,484,600 22.6%	13,357,000 22.5%
School children from minority ethnic groups (2022)	14,111 47.4%	267,764 29.3%	2,835,124 35.0%
School pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs (2022)	733 2.4%	28,959 3.1%	250,272 3.0%
Children living in poverty (financial year ending 2021)	14.9%	13.8%	18.5%
Life expectancy at birth (2018 to 2020)	Boys 79.2 Girls 83.2	80.2 83.8	79.4 83.1

Children aged under 16 years living in poverty

Map of the East of England region with Bedford outlined, showing the relative levels of children living in poverty in the financial year ending 2021, divided into national quartiles.



Map contains Ordnance Survey data.

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2021 mid-year population estimates

Note the impact of updated mid-year population estimates. See the [indicator guide](#) for more details.

Main findings

Overall, comparing local indicators with England averages, the health and wellbeing of children in Bedford is similar to England.

The infant mortality rate is similar to England with an average of 10 infants dying before age 1 each year. Recently there have been 4 child deaths (1 to 17 year olds) each year on average.

Public health interventions can improve child health at a local level. In this area:

- The teenage pregnancy rate is similar to England, with 43 girls becoming pregnant in a year.
- 7.0% of women smoke while pregnant which is better than England.
- 72.7% of newborns received breast milk as their first feed. By 6 to 8 weeks after birth, 52.0% of mothers are still breastfeeding.
- The MMR immunisation level does not meet recommended coverage (95%). By age 2, 91.4% of children have had one dose.
- Dental health is similar to England. 24.7% of 5 year olds have experience of dental decay.
- Levels of child obesity are similar to England. 10.1% of children in Reception and 24.3% of children in Year 6 are obese.
- The rate of child inpatient admissions for mental health conditions at 120.5 per 100,000 is similar to England. The rate of self-harm (10 to 24 years) at 383.9 per 100,000 is similar to England.

In the financial year ending 2022, there were 5,830 A&E attendances by children aged four years and under. This gives a rate which is better than England.

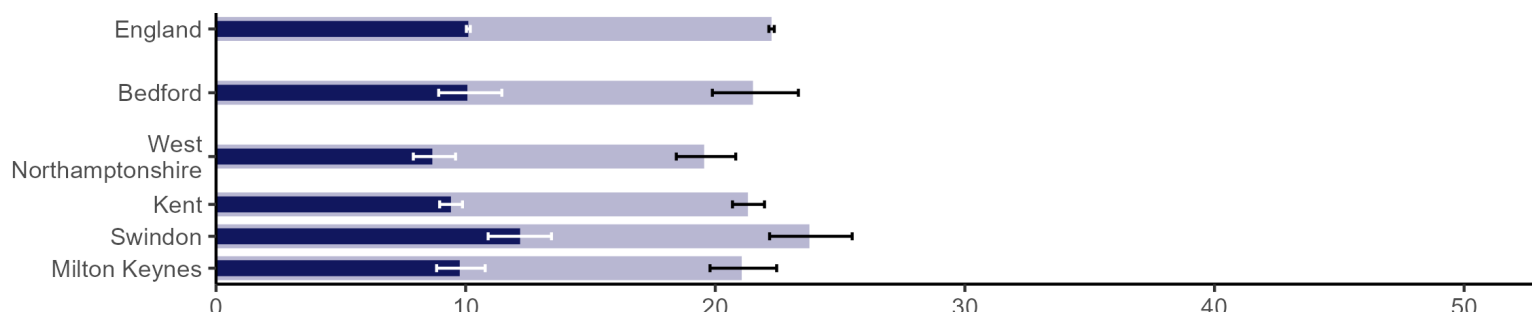
Over a three year period 30 children were killed or seriously injured on the roads. This gives a worse rate than England.

Childhood obesity

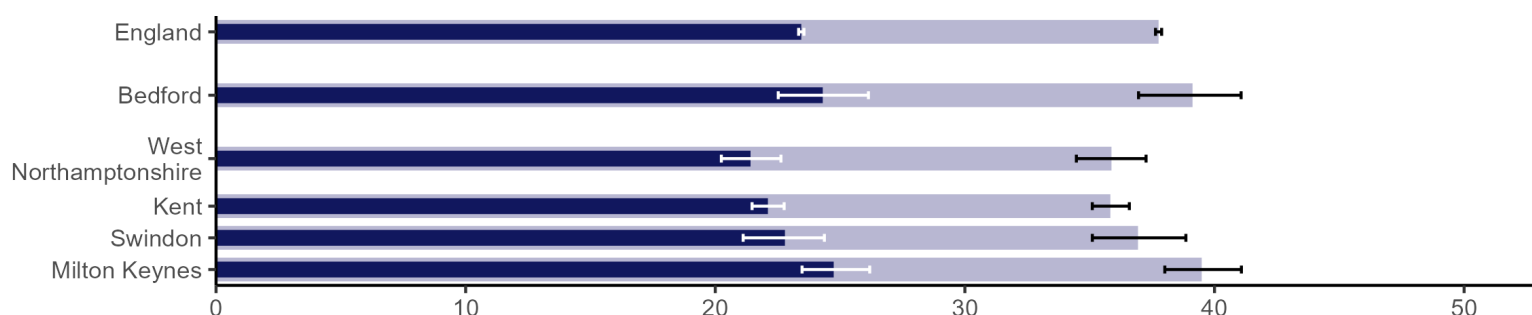
These charts show the percentage of children who have excess weight (obese or overweight) in Reception (aged 4 to 5 years) and Year 6 (aged 10 to 11 years). They compare Bedford with its statistical neighbours, and the England average. Compared with the England averages, this area has a similar percentage of children in Reception (21.5%) and a similar percentage in Year 6 (39.1%) who have excess weight.

■ Obese ■ All children with excess weight, some of whom are obese

Children aged 4 to 5 years who have excess weight in the academic year ending 2022 (percentage)



Children aged 10 to 11 years who have excess weight in the academic year ending 2022 (percentage)

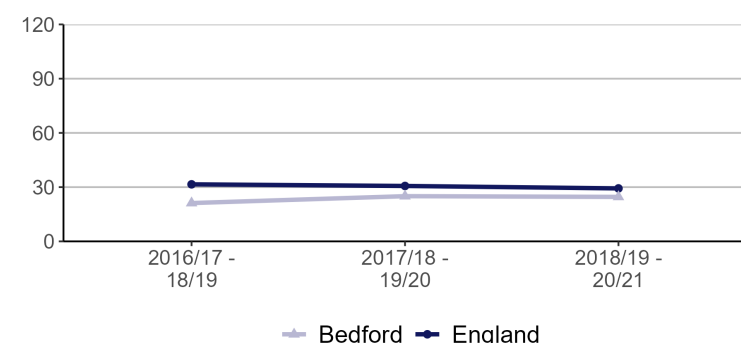


Note: This analysis uses the 85th and 95th centiles of the British 1990 growth reference (UK90) for BMI to classify children as overweight and obese. I indicates 95% confidence interval.

Young people and alcohol

Nationally, the rate of hospital admissions of children and young people for conditions wholly related to alcohol, between 2016 and 2020, is decreasing. This is not the case in Bedford, where there is no significant trend. The admission rate in the latest pooled period is also similar to the England average.

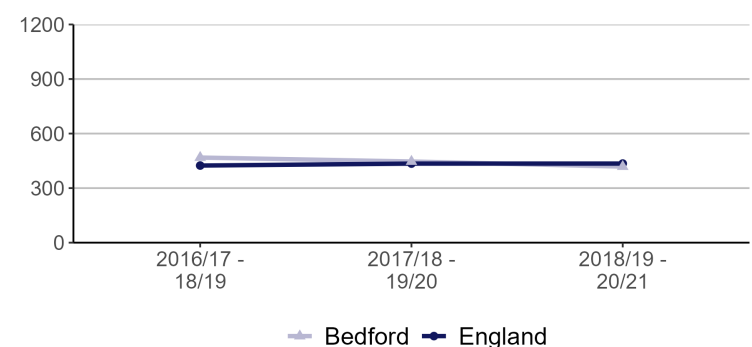
Hospital admissions of children and young people for conditions wholly related to alcohol (rate per 100,000 population aged 0 to 17 years)



Young people's mental health

Nationally, the rate of young people being admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm, between 2016 and 2020, is not significantly changing, and this is also the case in Bedford. The admission rate in the latest pooled period is also similar to the England average*. Nationally, levels of self-harm are higher among young women than young men.

Young people admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm (rate per 100,000 population aged 10 to 24 years)

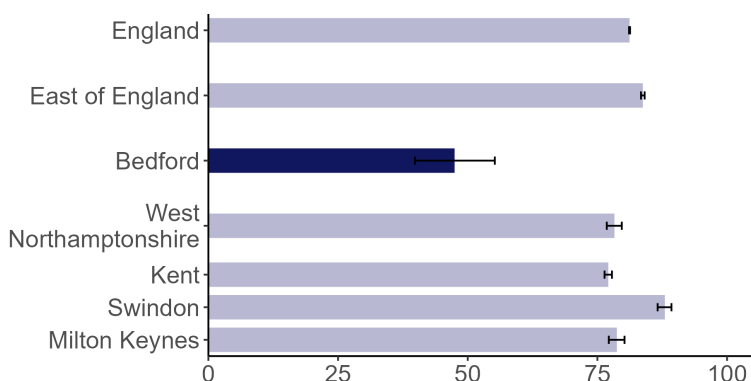


*Information about admissions in the single year 2021/22 can be found on page 4

These charts compare Bedford with its statistical neighbours, and England and regional averages.

Child development at 2 to 2½ years

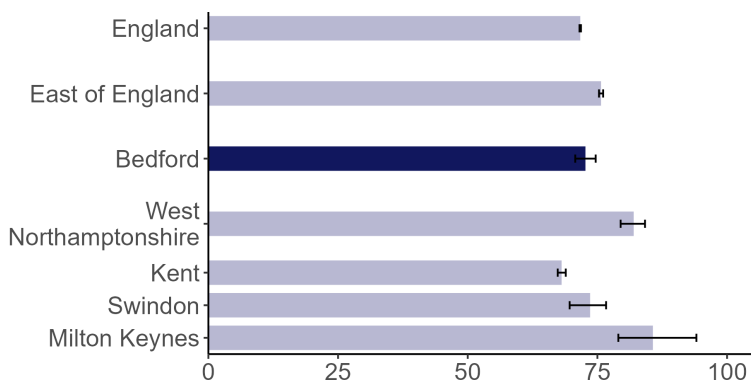
Children at or above expected level of development in all five areas at 2 to 2½ years in the financial year ending 2022 (percentage of children reviewed)



47.5% of children aged 2 to 2½ years were at or above the expected level of development in all five areas of development (communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem-solving and personal-social skills) in the financial year ending 2022. This is lower than the England average. A lower proportion of children were at or above the expected level of development for communication skills (57.0%) and a lower proportion for personal-social skills (69.0%) when compared with England (86.5% for communication and 91.2% for personal-social skills).

Breastfeeding

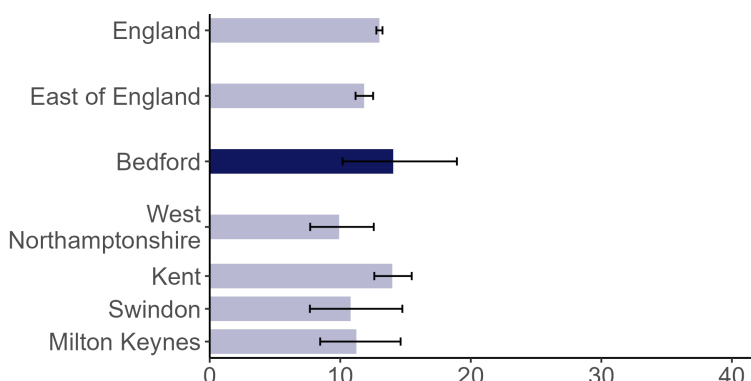
First feed breast milk in the financial year ending 2021 (percentage of newborns)



72.7% of newborns received breast milk as their first feed. By 6 to 8 weeks after birth, 52.0% of mothers are still breastfeeding.

Young people's sexual and reproductive health

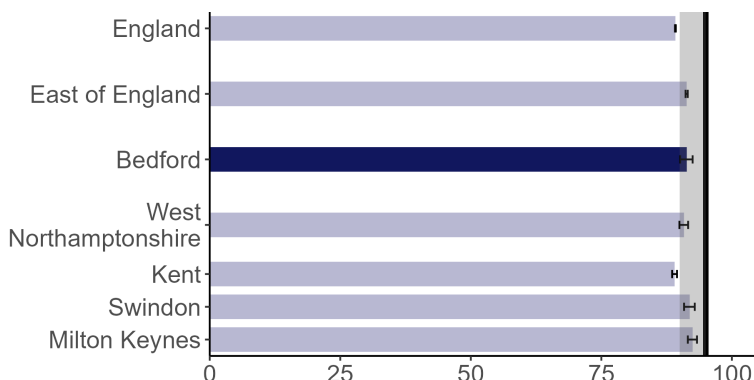
Teenage conceptions in girls aged under 18 years, 2020 (rate per 1,000 female population aged 15 to 17 years)



In 2020, approximately 14 girls aged under 18 conceived, for every 1,000 girls aged 15 to 17 years living in this area. This is similar to the regional average and similar to the England average. Chlamydia screening is recommended for all sexually active 15 to 24 year olds. Increasing detection rates indicate improved screening activity; it is not a measure of prevalence. The UK Health Security Agency recommends that local authorities should be working towards a minimum rate of 3,250 per 100,000 in the female population aged 15 to 24, effective from January 2022. In 2021, the detection rate in this area was 2,170 per 100,000 which is lower than the minimum recommended rate, from 2022, of at least 3,250.

Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination

MMR vaccination coverage by age of 2 years in the financial year ending 2022 (percentage of eligible children)



The shaded area from 90% shows the range of values approaching the minimum recommended coverage of 95% (the black line).

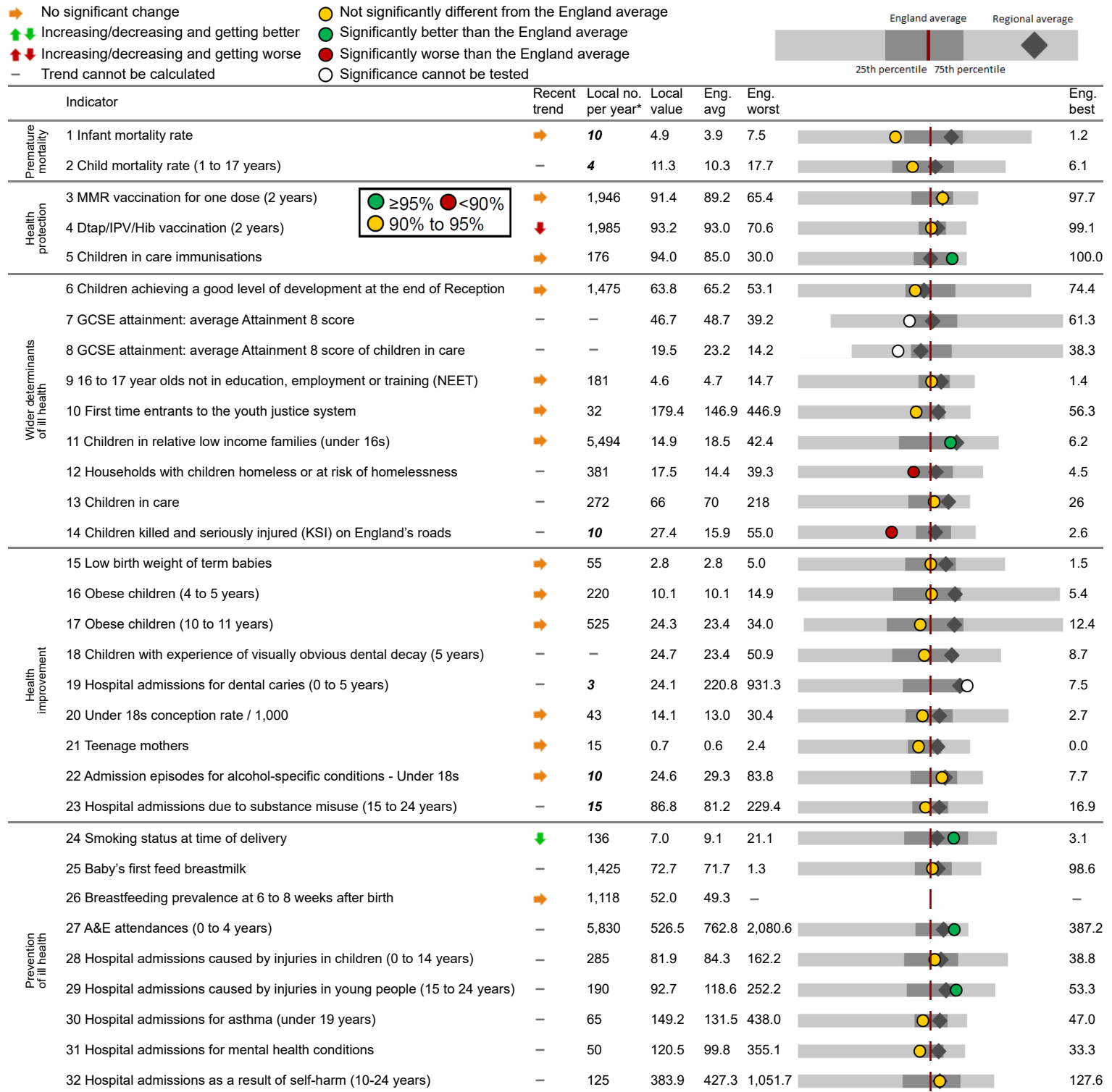
Slightly less than 95% (the minimum recommended coverage level) of children have received their first dose of MMR immunisation by the age of 2 in this area (91.4%). By the age of 5, only 89.5% of children have received their second dose of MMR immunisation.

Note: Where data is not available or figures have been suppressed, no bar will appear in the chart for that area.

Bedford Child Health Profile

March 2023

The chart below shows how children's health and wellbeing in this area compares with the rest of England. The local result for each indicator is shown as a circle, against the range of results for England shown as a grey bar. The line at the centre of the chart shows the England average.



*Numbers in italics are calculated by dividing the total number for the three year period by three to give an average figure
Where data is not available or figures have been suppressed, this is indicated by a dash in the appropriate box

Notes and definitions

- Mortality rate per 1,000 live births (aged under 1), 2019-2021
- Directly standardised rate per 100,000 children aged 1-17, 2018-2020
- % children immunised against measles, mumps and rubella (first dose by age 2), 2021/22
- % children completing a course of immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis and Hib by age 2, 2021/22
- % children in care with up-to-date immunisations, 2022
- % children achieving a good level of development within Early Years Foundation Stage Profile, 2021/22
- GCSE attainment: average attainment 8 score, 2021/22
- GCSE attainment: average attainment 8 score of children looked after, 2021
- % of 16-17 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known, 2021
- Rate per 100,000 of 10-17 year olds receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction, 2021
- % of children aged under 16 living in relative low income families, 2020/21
- Crude rate of households including one or more dependent children owed a prevention or relief duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act per 1,000 households, 2021/22
- Rate of children looked after at 31 March per 10,000 population aged under 18, 2022
- Crude rate of children aged 0-15 who were killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents per 100,000 population, 2018-2020
- % of live-born babies, born at term, weighing less than 2,500 grams, 2021
- % school children in Reception year classified as obese, 2021/22
- % school children in Year 6 classified as obese, 2021/22
- % children aged 5 with visually obvious dental decay, 2018/19
- Crude rate per 100,000 (aged 0-5) for hospital admissions for dental caries, 2018/19-2020/21
- Under 18 conception rate per 1,000 females aged 15-17, 2020
- % of delivery episodes where the mother is aged less than 18, 2021/22
- Hospital admissions for alcohol-specific conditions – under 18, crude rate per 100,000 population, 2018/19-2020/21
- Directly standardised rate per 100,000 (aged 15-24) for hospital admissions for substance misuse, 2018/19-2020/21
- % of mothers smoking at time of delivery, 2021/22
- % of newborns who receive breast milk as first feed, 2020/21
- % of mothers breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks, 2021/22
- Crude rate per 1,000 (aged 0-4) of A&E attendances, 2021/22
- Crude rate per 10,000 (aged 0-14) for emergency hospital admissions following injury, 2021/22
- Crude rate per 10,000 (aged 15-24) for emergency hospital admissions following injury, 2021/22
- Crude rate per 100,000 (aged 0-18) for emergency hospital admissions for asthma, 2021/22
- Crude rate per 100,000 (aged 0-17) for hospital admissions for mental health, 2021/22
- Directly standardised rate per 100,000 (aged 10-24) for hospital admissions for self-harm, 2021/22