

18 March 2025

Breastfeeding Rates

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting data regarding breastfeeding rates within Belfast HSC Trust over the last three years (2022, 2023, and 2024).

For the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 please provide,

The percentage of babies exclusively breastfed at birth.

The percentage of babies partially breastfed (mixed feeding) at birth.

The percentage of babies not breastfed at all at birth.

For the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, please provide,

The percentage of babies exclusively breastfed at their 6-8 week health check.

The percentage of babies partially breastfed at their 6-8 week health check.

The percentage of babies not breastfed at their 6-8 week health check.

Can you provide the above data broken down by local council area or postcode region for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024?

Can you provide the above data broken down by maternal age group (e.g. under 20, 20-29, 30-39, 40+) for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024?

Responses to all questions above are attached in separate Excel spreadsheets – Attachment 1 and Attachment 2

How many lactation consultants or breastfeeding support staff were employed by your Trust in 2022, 2023, and 2024?

Lactation consultants: 3 (hospital and community based)

Breast feeding support: 3 (community based)

Can you provide any internal reports or surveys the Trust has conducted on why mothers stop breastfeeding?

There have been no reports or surveys completed by Belfast Trust on this subject.