

OUR DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

Nineteen neonatal centres and one tertiary paediatric centre participate in the Vermont Oxford Network (VON) Very Low Birth Weight (VLBW) database.






Ireland is one of the very few countries worldwide that contributes to review very low birth weight outcomes at a national level. This allows us to monitor care and outcomes to achieve continuous improvement.

On completion of all (ROI) submissions from the Republic of Ireland (ROI) for a given year, VON forwards a copy of the complete ROI dataset to the NPEC. Throughout the report, ROI data are compared to VON data, comprising data from all centres across the Network. The Network data, referred to as VON data, are obtained from Nightingale, VON's online data reporting system.



For further information on the Very Low Birth Weight Infant Audit, please contact Sara Leitão (S.Leitao@ucc.ie).

Read our reports or learn more about our audits and research on our website and social media channels

The Very Low Birth Weight Infant Audit Reports will be released in early 2024

-  Perinatal Mortality National Clinical Audit
-  Severe Maternal Morbidity Audit
-  Planned Homebirths Audit
-  Very Low Birth Weight Infants Audit
-  Neonatal Hypothermia Audit



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NATIONAL
PERINATAL
EPIDEMIOLOGY
CENTRE

VERY LOW BIRTH WEIGHT INFANT AUDIT



THE NATIONAL PERINATAL EPIDEMIOLOGY CENTRE

The National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC) is a national clinical audit and research centre based at University College Cork with offices at Cork University Maternity Hospital.

OUR OBJECTIVE

The NPEC's objective is to collaborate with Irish maternity services to translate clinical audit data and epidemiological evidence into improved maternity care for families in Ireland.

COLLABORATE WITH US

At the NPEC we are always looking to collaborate. Get in touch with if you are looking for opportunities for students, data requests or research collaborations.



The Vermont Oxford Network (VON)

The Vermont Oxford Network (VON) is a non-profit voluntary collaboration of health care professionals dedicated to improving the quality and safety of medical care for newborn infants and their families.

The VON maintains a database of information regarding their care and outcomes. This is the single largest international database to benchmark outcomes of VLBW babies.

The network includes 1200 Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs), across more than 30 countries globally, collaborating to improve neonatal care around the world with data-driven quality improvement and research.

The NPEC funds the membership of the VON on behalf of all 19 neonatal centres in the Republic of Ireland (ROI), while also providing project management and epidemiological support to the VLBW Infant Audit.

The benefits of gathering this invaluable data serves to steer and guide the focus of healthcare providers and policymakers towards those areas that require additional resources and attention; improvements which will ultimately improve outcomes for Very Low Birth Weight Babies and their families.

Mandy C. Daly. Public/Patient Representative. VLBW infant audit. Director of Advocacy & Policy Making. Irish Neonatal Health Alliance (INHA)

VLBW INFANTS IN IRELAND

Since 2014, the NPEC, working with NICORE (Neonatal Intensive Care Outcomes Research and Evaluation), a national group of neonatologists (doctors providing care for newborn babies) and paediatricians, has been participating in the VON database with national data and, with this, auditing the outcomes of VLBW babies in the Republic of Ireland (ROI).

ELIGIBLE INFANTS

Any liveborn infant who is admitted to or dies in any location in a participant neonatal centre within 28 days of birth AND whose:

- Birth weight is between 401 and 1500 grams
- OR
- Gestational age is between 22 weeks 0 days and 29 weeks 6 days (inclusive).