


Neonatal deaths in Ireland


Annual Report 2021



NATIONAL PERINATAL
EPIDEMIOLOGY CENTRE

- An **early neonatal death** is the death of a live born baby occurring within 7 completed days of birth.
- A **late neonatal death** is the death of a live born baby occurring after the 7th day and within 28 completed days of birth.

 The early neonatal death rate was 1.96 per 1,000 total births

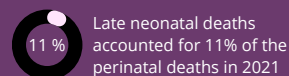
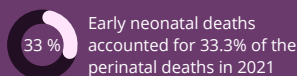
 The late neonatal death rate was 0.66 per 1,000 total births

 **60,841** Total Births

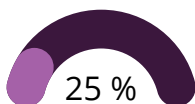
 **357** Total Perinatal Deaths

 **119** Early Neonatal Deaths

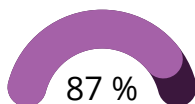
 **40** Late Neonatal Deaths



Investigations to determine the cause of death

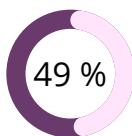


An **autopsy** was undertaken following 25% of early neonatal deaths.

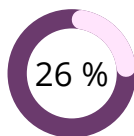


Placental histology examinations were conducted for 87% of early neonatal deaths.

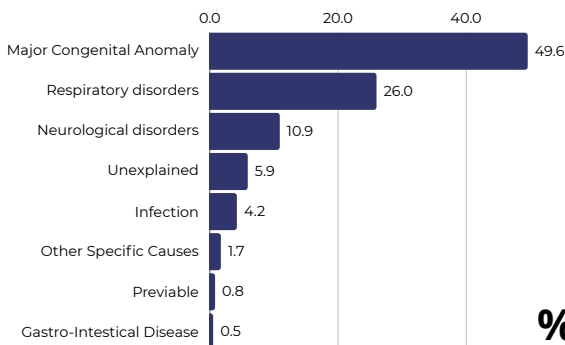
Cause of death in early neonatal deaths



Major congenital anomalies were the most common cause of death in early neonatal deaths in 2021



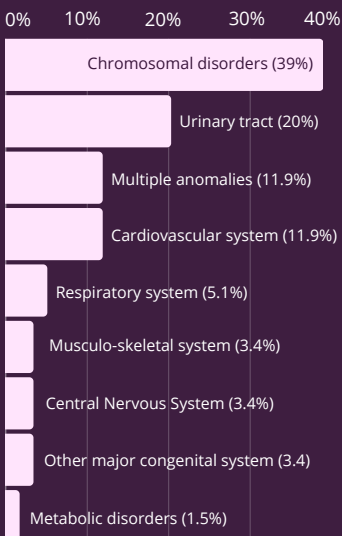
Respiratory disorders were the second most common cause of death in early neonatal deaths in 2021.



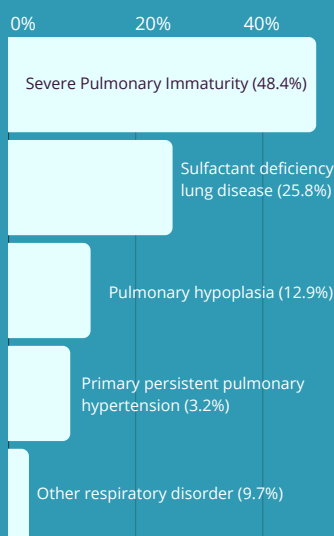


Cause of death in early neonatal deaths

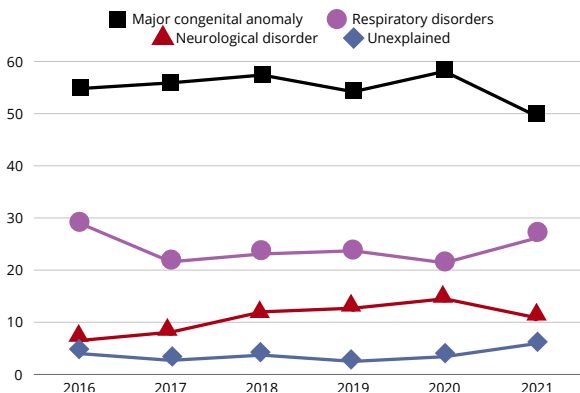
Major Congenital Anomalies



Respiratory disorders



Cause of death in early neonatal deaths: trends over the years



More than 50% of early neonatal deaths occurred during the first 24 hours of life.

Early neonatal deaths with a birthweight <500g and a gestational age at delivery <24 weeks



47 babies

died with a birthweight of under 500 grammes or a gestational age at delivery of less than 24 weeks in 2021.



64% of early neonatal deaths were delivered between the 20 and 22 weeks of gestation.



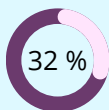
The most common cause of death for these small babies was pre-viability.

2

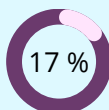
early neonatal deaths were associated with intrapartum events in 2021



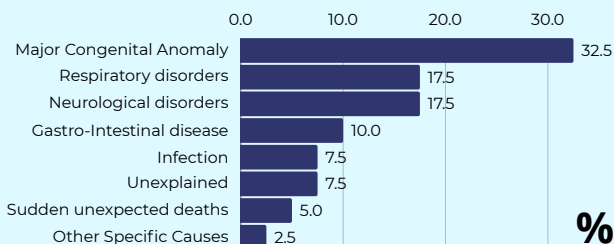
Cause of death in late neonatal deaths



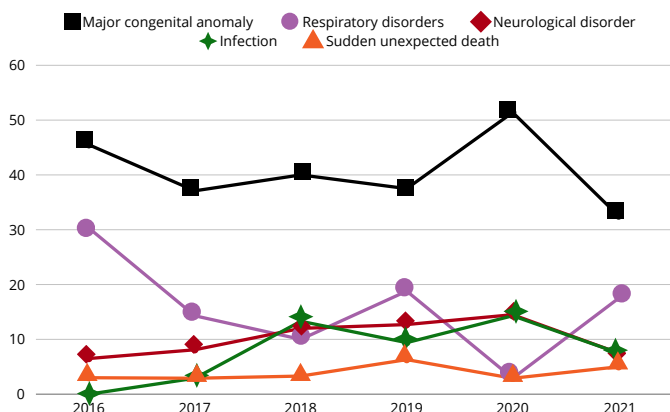
Major congenital anomalies were the most common cause of death in late neonatal deaths in 2021



Respiratory and neurological disorders were the second most common cause of death in late neonatal deaths in 2021.

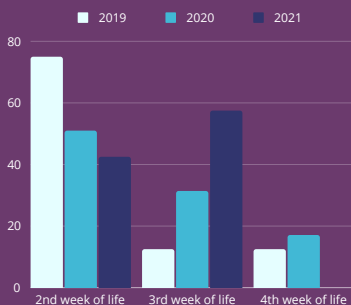


Cause of death in late neonatal deaths: trends over the years



Timing of death

In contrast to previous years, the proportion of late neonatal deaths was found to increase across the second and third weeks of life in 2021



70% of late neonatal deaths had a **birthweight** of less than 2,500 grammes.



44% of babies were born between **22-27 weeks** of gestation.



40% of babies were **small for their gestational age**



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