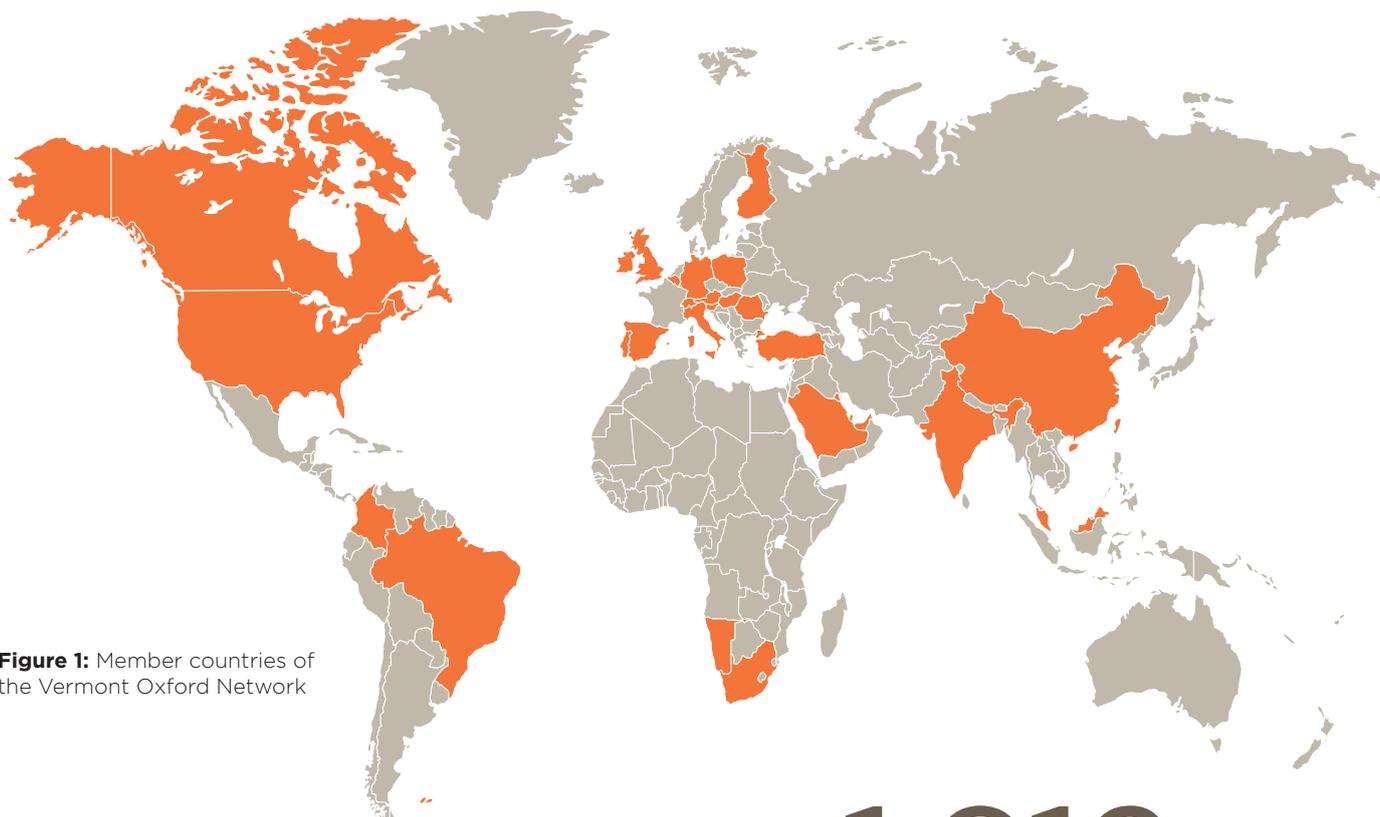




The Vermont Oxford Network (VON) is a non-profit voluntary collaboration of health care professionals dedicated to improving the care of very low birth weight infants, i.e. those born  $\leq 1500\text{g}$  and/or  $\leq 29$  weeks. The VON maintains a database of information regarding their care and outcomes, collecting from over 900 Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) worldwide. The NPEC facilitates membership of the VON on behalf of all 19 neonatal units in Ireland, making it possible to have composite national data on all very low birth weight infants born in Ireland.



**Figure 1:** Member countries of the Vermont Oxford Network

# 3 YEARS OF VON DATA

# 1,812 BABIES

2014-2016: 3 years of VON data incorporating every neonatal unit in Ireland – 1,812 babies

**Table 1: Number of cases born in Ireland and reported to VON 2014-2016, according to gestational age**

Gestational age	2014	2015	2016
<24 weeks	41	48	48
24-26 weeks	114	114	134
27-29 weeks	235	235	217
30-32 weeks	159	170	152
>32 weeks	48	55	42
Total	597	622	593

**Table 2: Number of cases born in Ireland and reported to VON 2014-2016, according to birth weight**

Birth weight (g)	2014	2015	2016
<501	26	23	21
501-750	85	100	104
751-1000	115	98	125
1001-1250	154	155	152
>1250	216	246	191
Total	596	622	593

Note: 1 infant in 2014 did not have a recorded birth weight.

# 19 NEONATAL UNITS

All 19 neonatal units in Ireland are participating. Participation in the VON in Ireland is funded by the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre. The NPEC co-ordinates data submission, manages the data and compiles the annual audit report.

## Eligibility Criteria

Any live born infant whose birth weight is from 401 to 1500 grams OR whose gestational age is from 22 weeks 0 days to 29 weeks 6 days and who is:

- Inborn and admitted to your hospital;
- Inborn and dies in the delivery room or any other location in your hospital before admission; OR
- Outborn and admitted to your hospital within 28 days of birth.

Target follow-up duration: 1 year

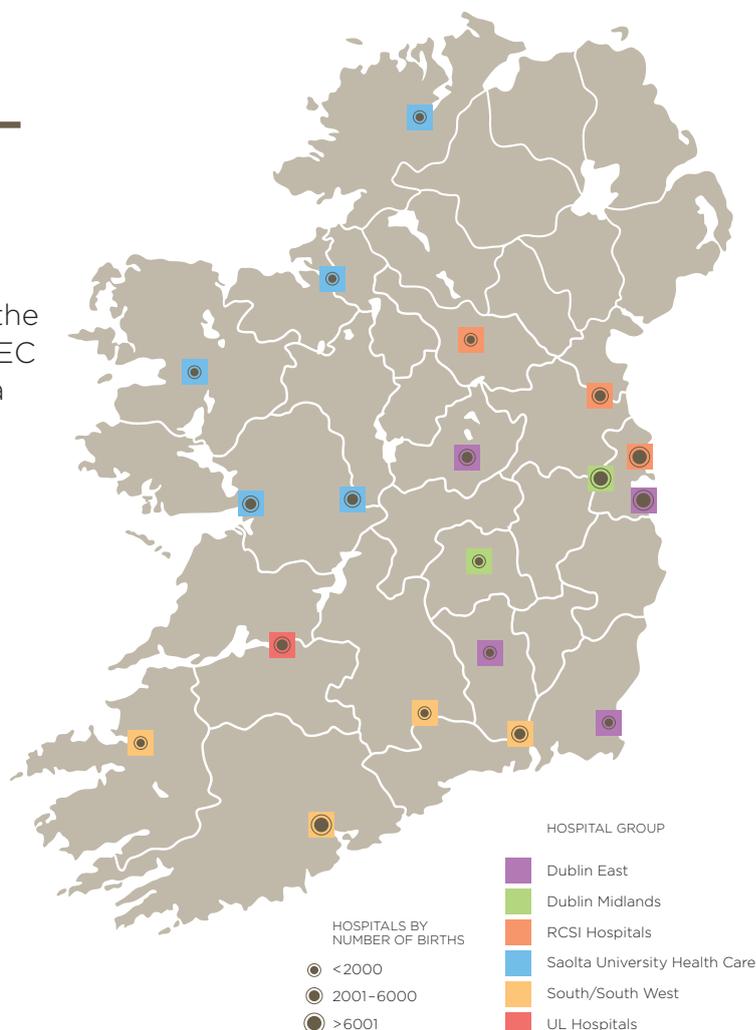
## Benefits

### AT UNIT LEVEL

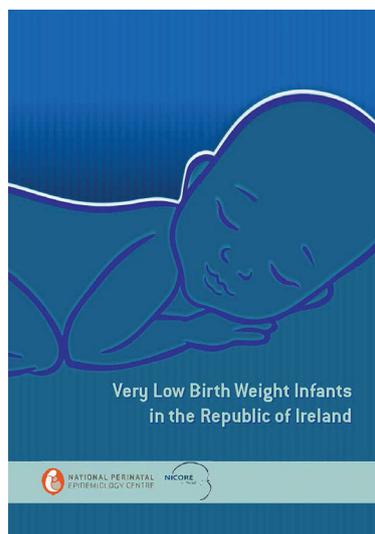
- Provision of an annual unit-specific report for use in risk management, quality management and internal audit.
- Access to Nightingale, the VON internet reporting system which facilitates member units to view their own data and benchmark against other units.

### AT NATIONAL LEVEL

- A National Dataset spanning three years
- Raw Anonymised Data returned to NPEC
- Data can be re-analysed at national level so that specific questions pertinent to Ireland can be addressed.



**Figure 2:** Neonatal centres in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland participating in the Vermont Oxford Network. ROI centres are classified according to number of births weighing 500g or more in the associated obstetric centres in 2015.



The *Very Low Birth Weight Infants in the Republic of Ireland 2014-2016 Report* will be published in 2018.

Contact:  
Linda Drummond PhD  
+353 (0)21 420 5017  
l.drummond@ucc.ie

National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology  
University College Cork  
5th Floor, Cork University Maternity Hospital, Wilton, Cork

+353 (0)21 420 5053  
npec@ucc.ie  
www.ucc.ie/en/npec  
or @NPEC\_UCC