

Access **NNAP 2025 to 2027 IMPROVEMENT GOALS** here: <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/work-we-do/clinical-audits/nnap/healthcare-improvement-strategy>

## NATIONAL

How the project provides evidence of quality and outcomes of care nationally

For the first time, the NNAP analysed 2024 data for areas where differences in the delivery of important neonatal care interventions according to ethnicity have been demonstrated. Results were included in a recent [article](#), co-authored by NNAP clinical lead and senior data analyst.

Significant year-on-year improvements in data completeness and delivery of **Deferred Cord Clamping** continue to be observed - from 36.9% in 2020 to 73.5% in 2024.

NNAP Clinical Lead co-produced a paper published in the British Medical Journal: [Perinatal medicine's best treatment: how should we be using antenatal steroids?](#)

Between December 2021 and December 2025, there was a 5.8 percentage point increase in the proportion of babies born at less than 32 weeks gestation being discharged home from neonatal care having experienced no **complications of prematurity**.

**Nurse staffing levels** reached 81.5% compliance in 2024. This indicates recovery in compliance after the COVID pandemic (2020 - 79.3%, 2021 - 74.1%, 2022 - 72.3%, 2023 - 78.9%).

Since the publication of the new **ROP** screening guidance in 2022, the proportion of eligible babies receiving on time screening continues to improve, increasing 13.6% since 2022 to reach 80% in 2024.

Between December 2021 and December 2025, there has been a 15.6 percentage point increase in the proportion of babies receiving all **optimal perinatal care** interventions appropriate for their gestational age.

## SYSTEM

How the project supports policy development & system management

Supported commissioning by providing NNAP data to support a future demand modelling project in the **East of England**.

**Northern Ireland** data is set to flow to the NNAP mid-2026, with the aim to be included in the 2026 report. The addition of this nation will result in NNAP reporting covering the entirety of the United Kingdom, with the addition of the Isle of Man.

Provide an ongoing supply of NNAP data to populate the **NHSE Specialised Services Quality Dashboard**.

Provide ongoing NNAP data to populate the **NHSE Maternity and Perinatal Dashboard**, as part of the rapid national investigation into maternity and neonatal services by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

The NNAP is working on data linkage projects that will enhance the data collected by the NNAP, and contribute to other important perinatal and neonatal care projects. These projects include collaboration with the **National Maternity & Perinatal Audit (NMPA)**, and the **UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)**.

The NNAP continues to contribute annual results to the **CQC** and the **National Clinical Audit Benchmarking (NCAB)** project.

## LOCAL

How the project stimulates quality improvement

The proportion of units reporting that they had validated their 2024 data increased from the previous year. 90% of units validated their data for preterm brain injury, 91.6% for bloodstream infection and 89.4% for necrotising enterocolitis.

The NNAP **Restricted Access Dashboard (RAD)** has 1,290 registered users (around seven per unit) and received 33,420 views in 2025- 26 per user on average.

In the December 2025 audit participant survey, 71% rated the RAD extremely useful, 63% rated the annual report extremely useful, 55% use the RAD at least monthly, and 81% display physical copies of NNAP resources in their unit.

The NNAP began reporting demographic data through the Restricted Access Dashboard, working to improve completeness of data, striving towards robust reporting of equity in neonatal care.

Neonatal services respond to **outlier notifications** by investigating the causes of their outlier status and developing and implementing action plans to improve.

The NNAP published three **quality improvement case studies** designed to assist units to improve their NNAP data: <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/NNAP-summary-report-2024-data>

The NNAP held a webinar in October 2025 which discussed the [Key Findings and National Recommendations from the 2024 Summary Report](#), with 253 attendees. Another webinar was held in January 2026 to assist units with [validating their 2025 data](#), with 179 attendees.

## PUBLIC

How the project is used by the public and the demand for it

The NNAP has commissioned a **programme of engagement** through the RCPCH&Us team aiming to provide insights from families on what a gold standard of partnership in care looks like, identify areas for exploration for a partnership in care measure with data that can be routinely collected by NNAP units, and increase understanding and awareness of the NNAP amongst families. This project has engaged with 106 parents and family members, spanning across England, Scotland and Wales neonatal units, in rural, urban and coastal communities.

Several organisations released responses to the NNAP Summary Report, including Bliss, who wrote a [news piece](#) on the NNAP highlighting disparities in care by ethnicity for the first time, and RCPCH, who included the release of the report in a [blog](#) written by the organisations president.

The NNAP produces **unit posters** for selected 2024 audit results for each unit involved in the NNAP, which can be downloaded via [NNAP online](#).

The parent [postcard](#) that is displayed on neonatal units was updated in collaboration with Bliss. This aimed to make the resource more helpful by directing parents to information on the audit and where to get support from.

The NNAP continue to engage with families through an **annual photo collection**, where selected photos and quotes are included on the cover of the annual report on 2023 data and throughout [Your baby's care](#) (the parent and carer's guide).

Packs of YBC, the NNAP postcard and the unit posters were sent to each neonatal unit who participates in the NNAP. Neonatal units are encouraged to display these in their unit so carers can understand more about the audit.

