

## Infant Mortality

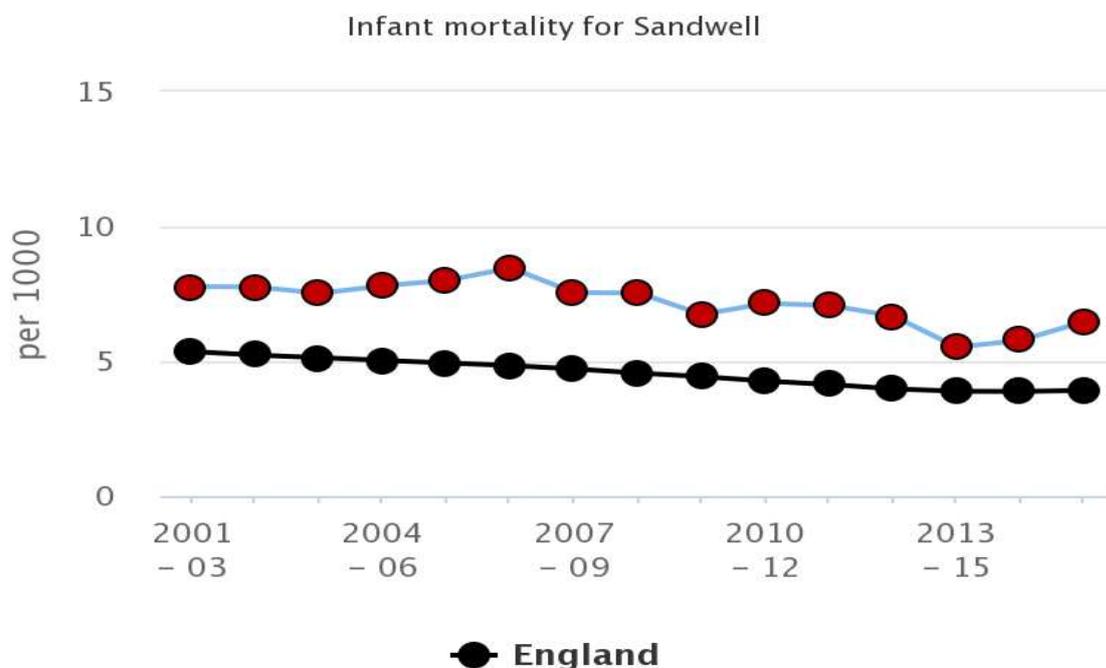
Conditions relating to premature birth, such as respiratory and cardiovascular disorders, and congenital abnormalities, are common causes of infant deaths. The three major causes of neonatal deaths worldwide are infections, premature birth and suffocation.

Measures that reduce poverty and mitigate the impact of poverty on the health of women before and during pregnancy will have a significant impact on the risk of stillbirth and death during infancy. Policies that are directed at improving the health of pregnant women (such as Stop Smoking services), and early intervention services such as health visiting and midwifery, are likely to reduce infant and neonatal mortality rates.

Reducing infant mortality overall and the gap between the richest and poorest groups are part of the Government's strategy for public health (Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for Public Health November 2010).

- Infant mortality (Infant deaths under 1 year of age per 1000 live births) is significantly higher for Sandwell than England.
- 2016-17 Sandwell 6.5 per 1,000 live births; England 3.9; West Midlands 5.9.
- Sandwell has the 3<sup>rd</sup> Highest rate in West Midlands following Stoke on Trent (8.1) and Birmingham (7.8).
- Deaths during the neonatal period (first 28 days) are the largest contributors to the infant mortality rate.

**Figure 2.1**

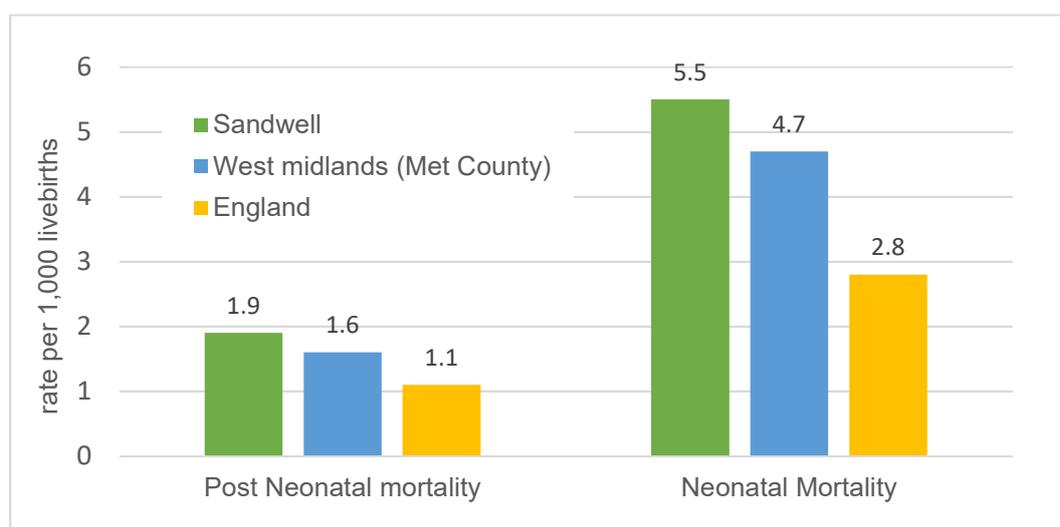


**Source:** Public Health England Profiles

## Neonatal and post-neonatal mortality

In 2017, post-neonatal mortality (deaths between 28 days and 1 year) and neonatal mortality (deaths under 28 days) in Sandwell was higher than that of England and West Midlands county per 1,000 live births (Figure 2.2).

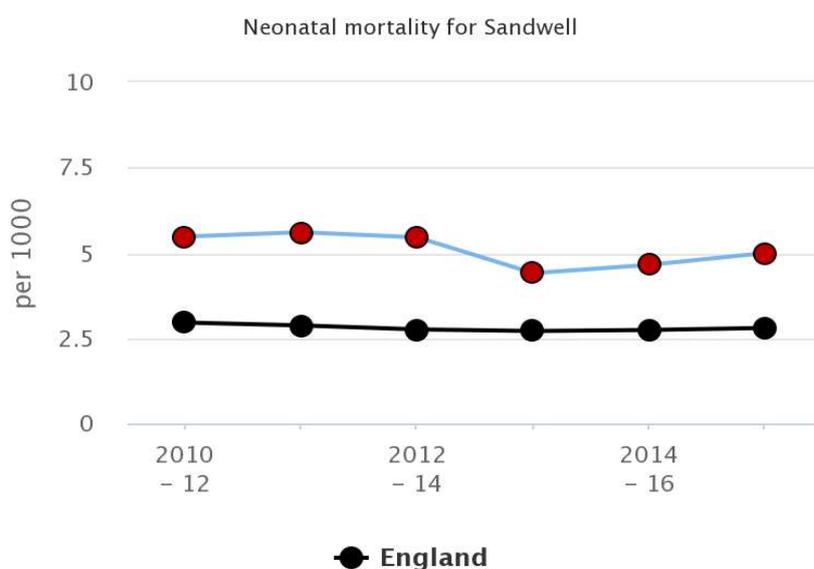
**Figure 2.2: Post neonatal and neonatal Mortality per 1,000 live births: Sandwell, West Midlands and England 2017**



Source: Office for National Statistics

Sandwell has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest neonatal mortality rate in the West Midlands following Stoke on Trent (6.09) and Birmingham (6.01), and is significantly higher than the England average.

**Figure 2.3**

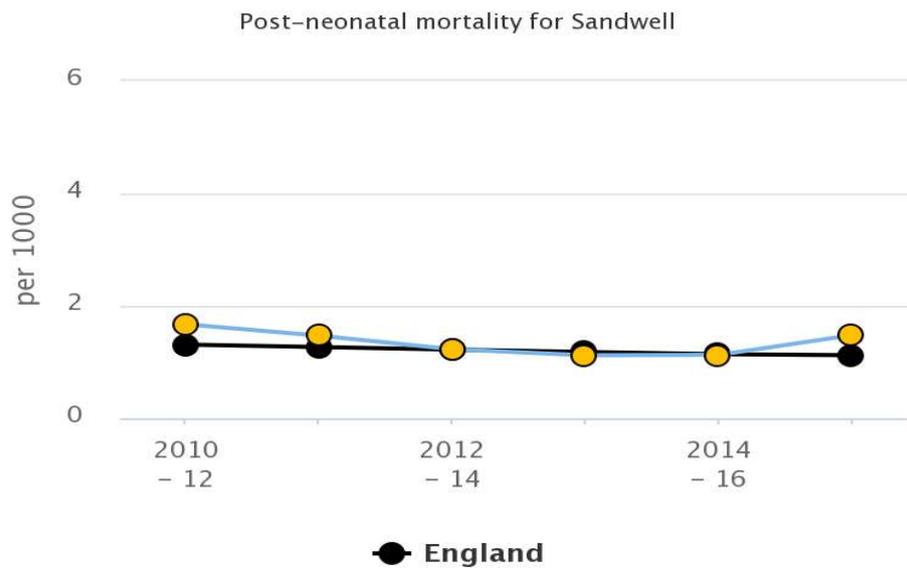


Source: Public Health England Profiles

For post-neonatal mortality, Sandwell has a similar rate to England.

- In 2015-17 the Sandwell rate of 1.48 per 1,000 live births compares with England (1.12) and West Midlands (1.49).
- Since 2011/13 the rate of post-neonatal mortality has remained almost static, with a slight increase to 1.48 per 1000 live births in the most recent year 2015/17.

**Figure 2.4**



**Source:** Public Health England Profiles