

Glossary

Live birth ► birth event of at least one baby that shows any sign of life.*

Low birthweight ► refers to the birth of a baby with a birthweight of less than 2.5kg (which is about 5½lbs).

Multiple birth ► birth event where more than one baby is born, whether alive or stillborn.*

Neonatal death ► death of a baby within four completed weeks after birth.

Neonatal death rate ► this is also called the neonatal mortality rate and is calculated as the number of babies who die within the first four completed weeks after birth in the first four weeks after birth per 1,000 live births.

Preterm birth ► this is also sometimes called prematurity and refers to the birth of a baby before 37 completed weeks' gestation of pregnancy.

Stillbirth ► birth of a baby at more than 23 weeks gestation showing no signs of life.

Stillbirth rate ► this is calculated as the number of babies born after 23 weeks gestation of pregnancy who did not show any signs of life after birth per 1,000 total births (stillbirths + live births).

Term birth ► this refers to the birth of a baby following a pregnancy of 37 weeks gestation or more, which is regarded as the normal length of pregnancy.

*The definition of a 'live birth' and a 'multiple birth' reflect the Office of National Statistics definitions. These differ from the definitions used in the HFEA Choose a Fertility Clinic.