

Euro-PERISTAT survey

Euro-PERISTAT survey on registration of births and terminations of pregnancy at the limits of viability

Dear Euro-PERISTAT collaborator

We are collecting information on the registration of births and deaths of babies born at the limits of viability to explore variation across Europe.

We are interested in procedures in your country including:

- Criteria for reporting births and deaths of live births and stillbirths in civil registrations and other sources used for Euro-PERISTAT

- Signs of life that constitute a live birth

- Registrations of termination of pregnancy and any recent or planned changes in procedures

We appreciate that you may have already given us some of this information but we are collecting these data again to confirm the responses you have sent to us and to get more detailed information on the reporting of births. We recognise some of this information may not be easily accessible or may take some time to obtain but any information you can provide before the workshop being held on 9/04/18 will be extremely helpful.

Respondant details

Name

Country

Occupation or job role - please tick as many roles that apply to you

- ☐ Obstetrician
- ☐ Neonatologist
- ☐ Midwife
- ☐ Nurse
- ☐ Statistician
- ☐ Epidemiologist
- ☐ Public Health Specialist
- ☐ Information analyst - birth and death registration
- ☐ Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Registration of live births

Here we are asking for information on criteria for the reporting of babies born showing signs of life. Please answer these questions based on the source(s) of data used to report to Euro-PERISTAT and state the source of the data.

If you do not know any of the information please write "Not known"

Primary data source: detail any gestational age and/or birthweight criteria for the reporting of **live births**. For example: All live births irrespective of gestation or birthweight If you do not know please write "I do not know" * *Required*

Please state the source e.g. civil registrations, hospital discharge records * *Required*

Secondary data source: Please detail any gestational age and/or birthweight criteria for the reporting of live births in this additional data source. For example: All live births irrespective of gestation or birthweight *Optional*

Please state the source e.g. civil registrations, hospital discharge records *Optional*

Please add any additional information that may be of interest. For example where rules exist for reporting but may be interpreted differently by different people

Signs of life used to define live births

Please detail which of the following signs of life are used to determine a live birth. **Tick all that apply** The WHO guidelines state: Live birth refers to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life - e.g. beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord or definite movement of voluntary muscles - whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached. Each product of such a birth is considered live born.

- ☐ WHO guidelines are used as above
- ☐ Breathing
- ☐ Beating of the heart
- ☐ Pulsation of the umbilical cord
- ☐ Definite movement of voluntary muscles - whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached
- ☐ Not known

In practical terms do you think the same criteria are used to determine a live birth at the limits of viability, for example for babies born before 24 weeks of gestation?

Are there any existing written guidelines to help midwives and doctors identify signs of life in a consistent way? For example defining specific signs of life such as: A sustained heart rate is a heart rate of 60 beats per minute or above for at least five minutes, anything below this is not considered a sign of life. Please document any such guidelines or provide a link to the guidelines

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Please add any additional information regarding signs of life that may be of interest

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Registration of stillbirths

Here we are asking for information on criteria for the reporting of babies born showing **no** signs of life - we refer to them here as stillbirths but recognise that in different countries there are different criteria for when a baby born showing no signs of life is officially a stillbirth. Please answer these questions based on the source(s) of data used to report to Euro-PERISTAT and state the source of the data.

If you do not know any of the information please write "Not known"

Primary data source: detail any gestational age and/or birthweight criteria for the reporting of **stillbirths**. For example: all babies born showing no signs of life from 24 weeks gestation onwards irrespective of birthweight * *Required*

Please state the primary source e.g. civil registration, hospital discharge records * *Required*

What definition of gestation is used for reporting purposes for this primary source? For example in the UK all babies born showing no signs of life are registered from 24 weeks gestational age. However a fetus that is expelled after 24 weeks of pregnancy, provided it was no longer alive at the 24th week of pregnancy, need not be registered as a stillbirth * *Required*

- ☐ Gestation at the time death is confirmed in utero
- ☐ Gestation at the time of birth

- ☐ No guidelines exist
- ☐ Not known
- ☐ Other

If you selected Other, please specify: * *Required*

Please add any additional information - for example if the gestation at the time death is confirmed is only used at certain gestational ages.

Secondary data source: detail any gestational age and/or birthweight criteria for the reporting of **stillbirths**. For example: all babies born showing no signs of life from 24 weeks gestation onwards irrespective of birthweight *Optional*

Please state the secondary source e.g. civil registration, hospital discharge records

What definition of gestation is used for reporting purposes in this secondary source? [For](#)

example in the UK all babies born showing no signs of life are registered from 24 weeks gestational age. However a fetus that is expelled after 24 weeks of pregnancy, provided it was no longer alive at the 24th week of pregnancy, need not be registered as a stillbirth

- ☐ Gestation at the time death is confirmed in utero
- ☐ Gestation at the time of birth
- ☐ No guidelines exist
- ☐ Not known
- ☐ Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Please add any additional information

Are stillbirths officially registered as a birth and a death or solely as a stillbirth?

- ☐ Separate registration of birth and death
- ☐ Registration of death only
- ☐ Not known

Please add any additional information that may be of interest. For example where rules exist for reporting but may be interpreted differently by different people



Please detail any guidelines that exist for the reporting of births from a multiple pregnancy? For example where the death of a twin occurs earlier in pregnancy, how are these deaths reported.



Terminations of pregnancy

Do you think that the attached table (from the paper describing termination of pregnancy in Europe: Blondel et al, BJOG 2017) provides an accurate description of the situation in your country in 2015?

- ☐ a) Yes, it is an accurate description in 2015
- ☐ b) No, there was no change between 2010 and 2015, but it is necessary to add some comments to understand the situation in our country
- ☐ c) No, there have been some changes in regulation or medical guidelines for carrying out TOP since 2010
- ☐ d) No, there have been some changes in registration of TOP since 2010 for example New source of registration, new gestational age threshold, better completeness

For answer b) please provide information regarding regulation, medical recommendations, registration or other characteristics

For answer c) please describe the changes in regulation or medical guidelines regarding termination of pregnancy since 2010 (upper gestational age limit, indications for termination of pregnancy, other changes)

For answer d) please describe the changes in registration since 2010 (new source of registration, new gestational age threshold, better completeness, other changes)

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Changes to information regarding termination of pregnancy

Have there been changes in regulation or medical practices related to terminations of pregnancy since 2015 or are there changes expected in the near future? * *Required*

Have there been changes in registration of terminations of pregnancy since 2015 or are there changes expected in the near future? Please detail * *Required*

How is a termination of pregnancy ending in **live birth** registered?

- ☐ Neonatal death
- ☐ Stillbirth
- ☐ Not registered
- ☐ Not known
- ☐ Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Please detail any additional information about reporting termination of pregnancy that may be useful

Your questions

Please add any questions or issues regarding the reporting of births at the limits of viability that you would like to discuss at the workshop.



Thank you

Many thanks for your help with this survey.

Please contact Lucy Smith : lucy.smith@le.ac.uk with any questions or to send any guideline documents for discussion

We will be discussing variations between countries at a workshop at the Euro-PERISTAT meeting 09/04/2018-10/04/2018
