



Thursday, May 5, 2022

DATA SHEET

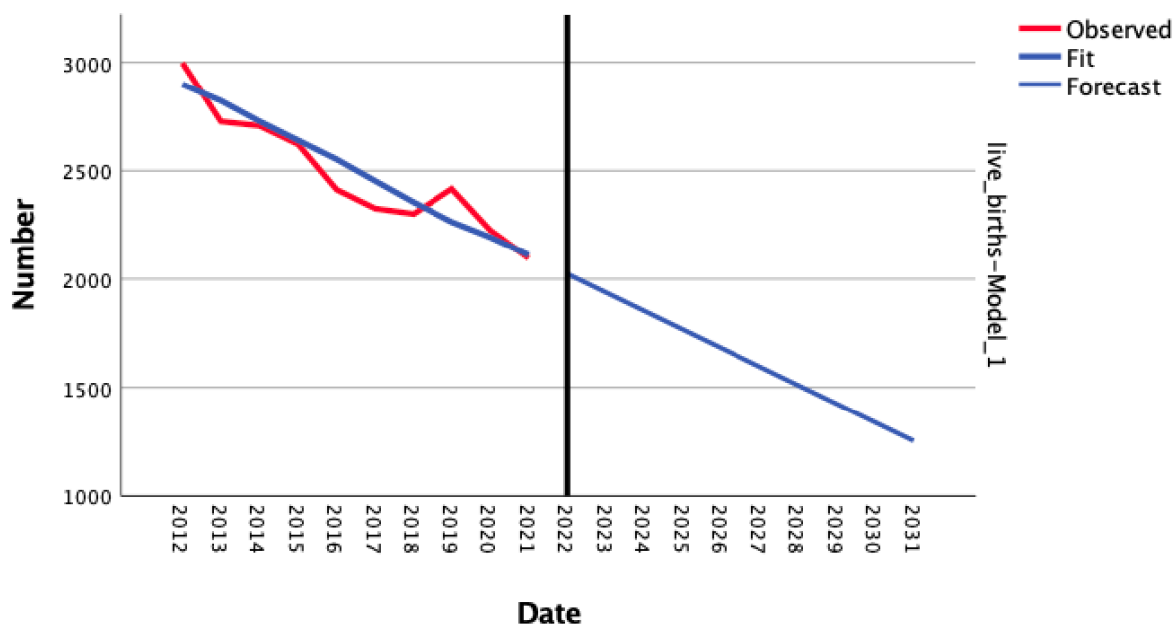
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Annual Perinatal Data Review – Outcomes of Mothers and New-Borns (March 27, 2022)

Prepared by: Dr. Gillian Birchwood, Consultant Neonatologist, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Dr. Na Tisha Robinson, Maternal and Foetal Medicine Specialist, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital

Each year at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), an annual perinatal data review which is a detailed analysis of care provided to mothers and their babies is undertaken. The purpose of this review is to critically assess the quality of care provided, and outline plans for the improvement of future care.

Key points from this data analysis are shown below. Please note that data seen below pertains specifically to the QEH which is responsible for more than 90 percent of all births in Barbados, and is **not** an official representation of national figures.

- There has been a steady, sustained decline in live births over the past 10 years, and projections indicate that by 2031 if present trends continue, there will be approximately only 1,200 live births per year, far less than the approximately 3,000 live births recorded in 2012 (see figure 1 below).





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Live Births at QEH: Observed and Forecast

- The perinatal mortality rate which examines stillbirths and new-born deaths in the first 7 days of life is 10.9 per 1,000 TOTAL births. This is inclusive of the rate for still births, 6.2 per 1,000 TOTAL births, which is the lowest recorded rate within the past 10 years.
- The neonatal mortality rate which examines deaths in new-borns in the first month of life is 7.2 per 1,000 LIVE births.
 - Though both rates stated above are amongst the best reported in the Caribbean, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit remains committed to further improvements in the care provided.
- The perinatal mortality rate has shown a steady decline over the past 10 years and this is mainly attributed to a sustained reduction in stillbirths and early neonatal deaths.
- Annually there are approximately 12 to 15 babies who are born extremely premature and small (less than 28 weeks or less than 2 lbs.) who may spend months on the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Although most of these neonates survive, overall, prematurity remains a major risk factor for neonatal mortality in Barbados and improvements in outcomes must be driven by improvements in care targeted especially towards preemies as a group.
- In 2021, there were 31 infants born to mothers who were COVID-19 positive at the time of delivery. None of these infants experienced any complications related to COVID-19. The youngest of these infants was born at 31 weeks, more than 2 months premature.
- In 2021, there were three maternal deaths, one of which was due to COVID 19.

END