

In-Hospital Birth Questionnaire (IHBQ)

Why Is This Important?

The IHBQ is administered in hospital shortly after the birth of a child. The information is used to help service providers understand the potential needs of families and to link them with appropriate early childhood development services within their communities. All questions from the IHBQ are scored. A score greater than or equal to 9 serves as an indicator of vulnerability, with a score of 18 or more as a measure of increased vulnerability. Factors that increase the IHBQ score include post-partum depression, teen birth, congenital anomalies, low birth weight, mental illness of parents, and family violence among others.

What Is Being Done?

Government of Saskatchewan Early Years [Plan](#)

[KidsFirst](#) supports vulnerable families and children

[Healthy Mother Healthy Baby](#)

To Learn More:

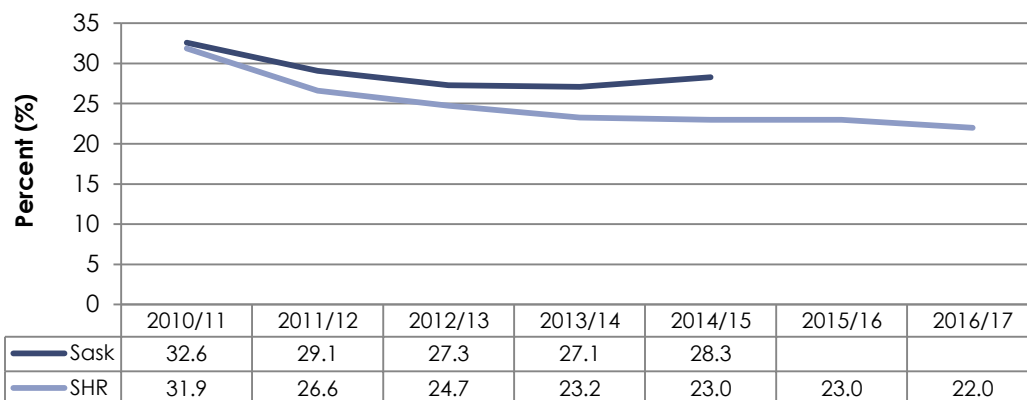
Chief Medical Health Officer's [Call to Action](#)

Highlights

The proportion of vulnerable births in the Region has been decreasing.

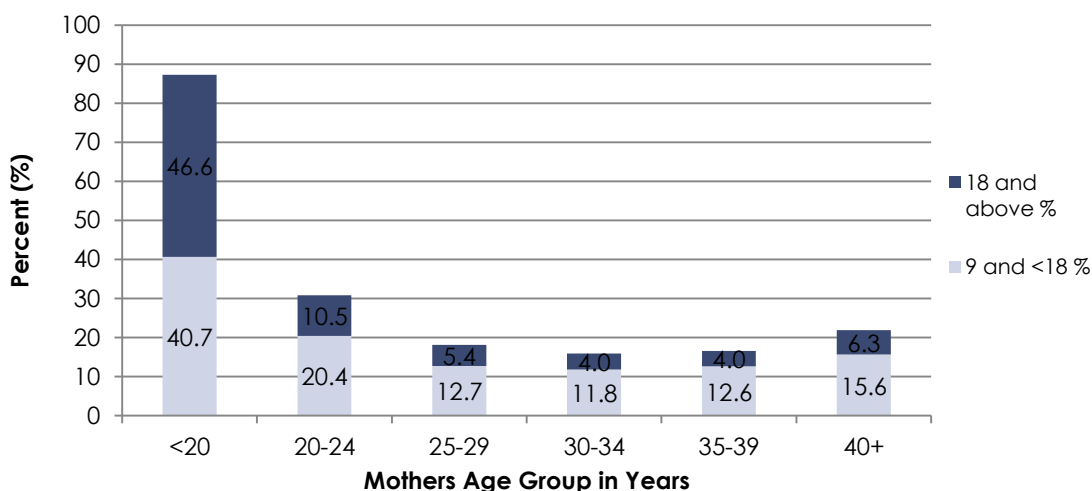
- The proportion of vulnerable births to Region residents (9+ score) has decreased over time. In 2010/11, almost 32% of births were considered vulnerable, dropping to 22% in 2016/17 (Figure 1). Vulnerability is higher at the provincial level.
- A much higher proportion of younger mothers were vulnerable (40.7% at 9-<18 score; 46.6% at 18+ score for a total of 87.3% overall) compared to older mothers (Figure 2).
- Vulnerability also varied depending on rural area and mother's age; see [here](#) for details.

Figure 1: Proportion of Vulnerable Births (9+ score), Saskatoon Health Region and Saskatchewan, 2010/11 to 2016/17



Source: KidsFirst, Saskatchewan Ministry of Education

Figure 2: Percentage of Vulnerable Mothers (9-18+ score), by Age Group, Saskatoon Health Region, 2016



Source: KidsFirst, Saskatchewan Ministry of Education