

Statement about the NCMD thematic report *Understanding consanguinity-related child deaths*

The [National Child Mortality Database](#) (NCMD), led by the University of Bristol, has published a report on children born to consanguineous parents who died between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2023.

Of the 13,045 child deaths recorded across the 4 years, 7% (926) were children born to consanguineous parents, a proportion that remained stable (8% in 2019–20 and 7% in 2022–23).

The report highlights that child deaths were higher in the most deprived neighbourhoods for both consanguineous and nonconsanguineous families.

The report recommends timely, appropriate genetic testing and clear communication to support informed decisions about pregnancy, clinical care and family planning. It also calls for further research into the impact of deprivation on child mortality and consanguinity.

To read the full report, visit: ncmd.info/consanguinity

About the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD)

The NCMD was established in 2019 and is funded by NHS England, commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) as part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme. It brings together data from every Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) in England to identify patterns, trends and lessons that can prevent future child deaths.

The NCMD does not direct NHS practice; it makes recommendations to all the relevant organisations, or advises child death review professionals on how to complete the statutory data collection forms.