

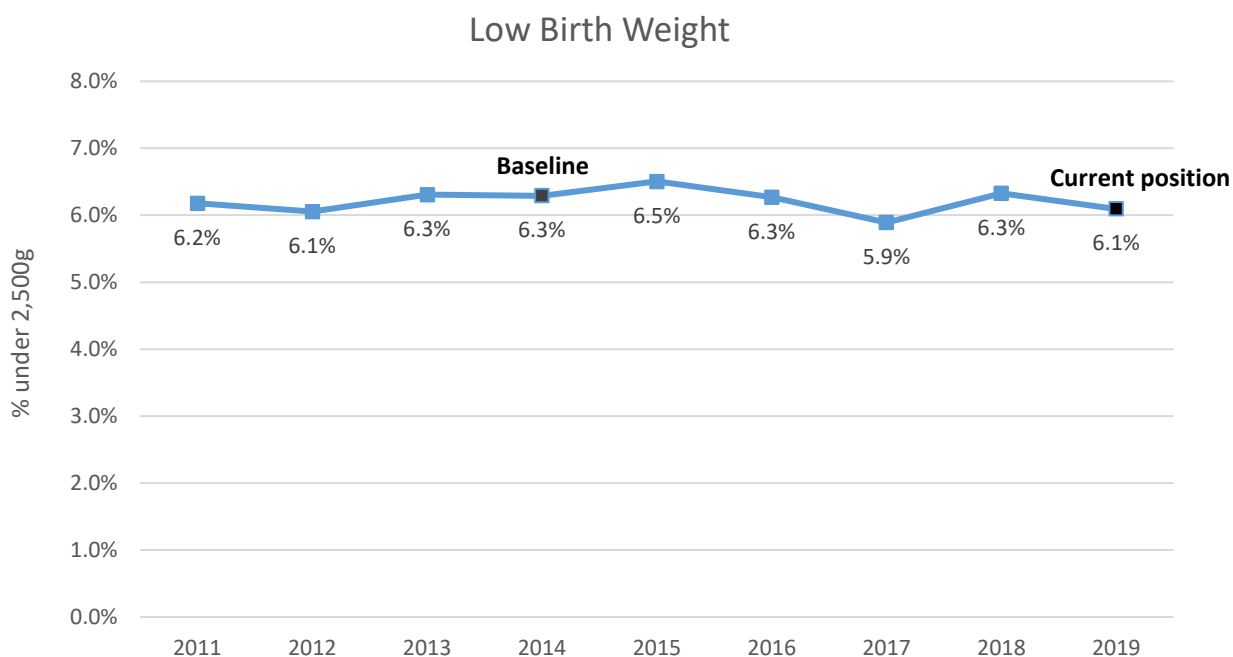
## Draft Programme for Government Indicator 7

### Percentage of babies born at low birth weight

Source: Health & Social Care Inequalities Monitoring System

In 2019, the percentage of babies born weighing under 2,500g stood at 6.1%.

This represents **a positive change** for this indicator from the baseline year (6.3%).



**Please note** that prior to 2017, data used in the production of low birth weight statistics were provided from each of the HSC Trust Child Health Systems (CHS). From 2017 onwards figures are produced directly from the Northern Ireland Maternity System (NIMATS) by Information & Analysis Directorate (IAD). Low birth weight data from NIMATS data is used to populate the Trust CHS so data from the two systems should be consistent. IAD have investigated historic data to ensure that previously published data obtained through CHS was wholly consistent with that held on NIMATS.

**Methodology for assessing change:** Only when the % of low birth weight either falls or rises by 0.2 percentage points (1 Standard Deviation around the baseline), would any change be deemed substantial. Caution needs to be taken with any observed substantial change as subsequent years will have to be examined to determine whether or not the change is a one-off/ an anomaly or if there is a clear trend and consistent direction of movement being observed.

Additional information is available from the Health Inequalities Annual Report [online](#).

**Next update:** 2020 low birth weight will be published in March 2022.