

# Annual Report 2024

CRANE is a national registry and clinical audit. It evaluates and reports on the delivery of cleft services to children born with a cleft lip and/or palate in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Registry information is presented for children born in 2021-2023 and audit outcomes at 5 years of age are presented for children born in 2015-2017.

## Registry information

**24,877** children have been registered, over the last 24 years, since 2000.

**859** children were registered in 2023.

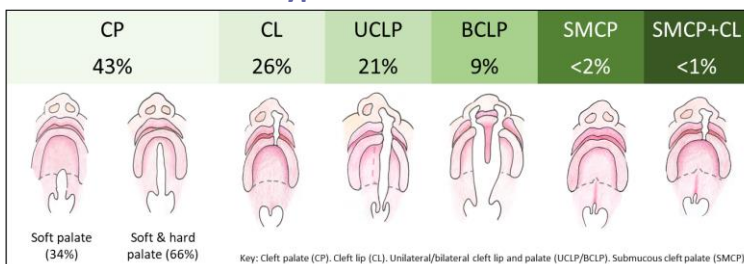


78% of babies with cleft lip were diagnosed antenatally, while 74% of babies with cleft palate alone were diagnosed within 24hrs of birth.



82% were referred to a cleft team within 24hrs of birth and 94% were contacted within 24hrs of referral.

### Distribution of cleft type



**88%** of families had a verified consent status, 85% consented and 3% declined consent.

## Audit outcomes at 5 years of age



**83%**

### Body mass index

of children with a cleft had a healthy BMI. 3% were underweight, 9% were overweight and 5% were obese.



**62%**

### Dental health

of children with a cleft had no decayed, missing or filled teeth (dmft=0), compared to 77% of their non-cleft peers.



**52%**

### Facial growth

of children with a complete unilateral cleft lip and palate (UCLP) had scores reflecting good dental arch relationships.



**57%**

### Speech

of children with a cleft affecting the palate had speech comparable to their peers. Children with a cleft palate (CP) alone had better outcomes than those with a cleft affecting the lip and palate.



**82%**

### Psychology

of children with a cleft had 'Strengths and Difficulties' scores in the low/normal range, compared to 90% of their non-cleft peers. Furthermore, 92% of families were screened at least once before the target age of 6 years.

## Development work

### Deprivation according to postcode records

For the first time, postcodes were used to assign deprivation scores to 88% of CRANE-consented children born 2014-2023. We found that babies with a cleft were no more likely to live in the most deprived areas than babies born in the general population. However, the percentage of children with a cleft living in the most deprived quintile areas varied between Cleft Services from **11% to 47%**.

### Newborn Hearing Screening Programme (NHSP) data linkage

CRANE-consented children were linked to the NHSP at the individual-level to report on their diagnostic audiology assessments.

**61%** of children with a cleft had a diagnostic test: **1 in 4** had conductive hearing loss, and **1 in 25** had permanent hearing loss.

