

Sheffield Birth Score

Overview: The Sheffield Birth Score was developed by the Sheffield Intervention Programme which was intended to reduce the risk of unexpected infant death. This can be used to identify neonates at increased risk of unexpected death during the first year of life so that interventions can be made to reduce the risk.

Parameters (for the revised score II from 1977):

- (1) maternal age
- (2) number of previous pregnancies
- (3) duration of second stage of labor
- (4) maternal ABO blood type
- (5) birthweight in grams
- (6) twin status
- (7) feeding intentions
- (8) urinary tract infection during pregnancy

Parameter	Finding	Points
mother's age in years		$10 * (50 - (\text{age}))$
number of previous pregnancies	0	0
	1	21
	2	43
	3	64
	4	85
	5	107
	6	128
	7	149
	8	171
	≥ 9	192
duration of second stage of labour	< 5 minutes	127
	5-14 minutes	100
	15-29 minutes	72
	30-120 minutes (2 hours)	45

	> 2 hours	18
	not applicable (Caesarean section etc.)	76
	unknown	76
mother's blood group	O	44
	A	0
	B	44
	AB	44
birthweight in grams	< 2000 grams	93
	2000 - 2499	78
	2500 - 2999	62
	3000 - 3499	47
	3500 - 3999	31
	4000 - 4499	16
	4500 - 5500	0
twins	yes	103
	no	0
feeding intentions	breast only	0
	bottle only	38
	both breast and bottle	38
urinary infection during pregnancy	yes	54
	no	0
	unknown	5

where:

- handling of maternal age > 50 is not mentioned
- the number of previous pregnancies does not appear to be limited to livebirths
- if twins born each would be assessed separately
- handling of multiple births other than twins is not mentioned

Sheffield birth score =

= SUM(points for the 8 parameters)

Interpretation:

- minimum score: 18 (unless maternal age > 50)
- maximum score: 1031

Score	Risk
< 500	low risk
>= 500	high risk

References:

Carpenter RG Gardner A et al. Multistage scoring system for identifying infants at risk of unexpected death. Arch Dis Child. 1977; 52: 606-612.

Carpenter RG Gardner A et al. Prevention of unexpected infant death. Evaluation of the first seven years for the Sheffield Intervention Programme. Lancet. 1983; 1: 723-727.

Carpenter RG. Scoring to provide risk-related primary health care: Evaluation and up-dating during use. J Royal Statistic Soc A. 1983; 146: 1-32.

Morgan LA Simons CJR et al. The application of a risk-approach model to reduce mortality in infancy. J Pediatr. 1998; 132: 822-826.