

# Annual Report 2025

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 2022-2024 and audit outcomes at 5 years of age are presented for children born in 2016-2018.

## Registry information

**25,862**

children have been registered since CRANE started in 2000.

**901**

children were born in 2024.

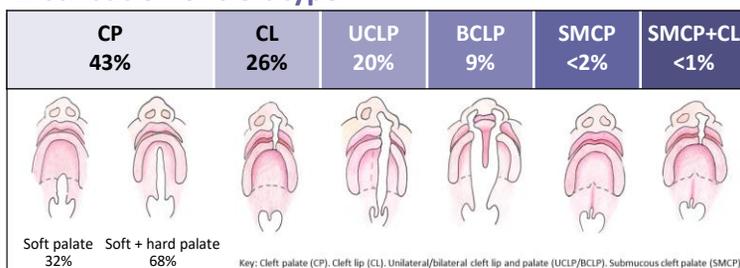


**78%** of babies with cleft lip were diagnosed antenatally, while 74% of babies with cleft palate alone were diagnosed within 24hrs of birth.



**82%** were referred to a cleft team within 24hrs of birth and 97% were contacted within 24hrs of referral.

### Distribution of cleft type



**90%** of families had a verified consent status, 97% consented and 3% declined consent.

## Audit outcomes at 5 years of age



### Body mass index

**84%**

of children with a cleft had a healthy BMI. 4% were underweight, 8% were overweight and 5% were obese.



### Dental health

**61%**

of children with a cleft had no decayed, missing or filled teeth. This compares to 71% of their non-cleft peers.



### Facial growth

**54%**

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



### Speech

**54%**

of children with a cleft palate (+/-cleft lip) had speech comparable to their peers.

**74%**

achieved speech without evidence of structurally-related speech difficulties.

**62%**

achieved speech without cleft-related speech characteristics that may require therapy or surgery.

Speech varies according to cleft type.



### Psychology

**92%**

of children were seen by a psychologist. A psychological screen was completed or psychological input arranged if needed.

## Development work

### Organisational Audit Report

**100%** of cleft services responded to the first comprehensive organisational audit (OA) of cleft care since the CSAG report in the late 1990s.

The OA findings highlight considerable variation in commissioned services, staffing levels, and access to diagnostic and operative facilities.

A well-resourced and consistent model of cleft care delivery is required in the UK.



### Conference Presentations

CRANE was involved in **7** different presentations across both the 15th International Congress of Cleft Lip/ Palate and Related Craniofacial Anomalies (**CLEFT2025**) in Japan and the Craniofacial Conference (**CFSGBI 2025**) in Newcastle.

We value sharing our findings with health professionals and patient representatives.

