

# Avoidable Repeat Rate for December 2025 for Newborn Blood Spot Screening - Manchester Laboratory

The avoidable repeat rate for samples received during December is displayed by Trust in Figure 1. The raw data is provided in Tables 2 and 3. The avoidable repeat rate is calculated by dividing the total number of avoidable repeats by the number of babies tested (i.e. first samples).

**Acceptable: Avoidable repeat rate is  $\leq 2.0\%$**

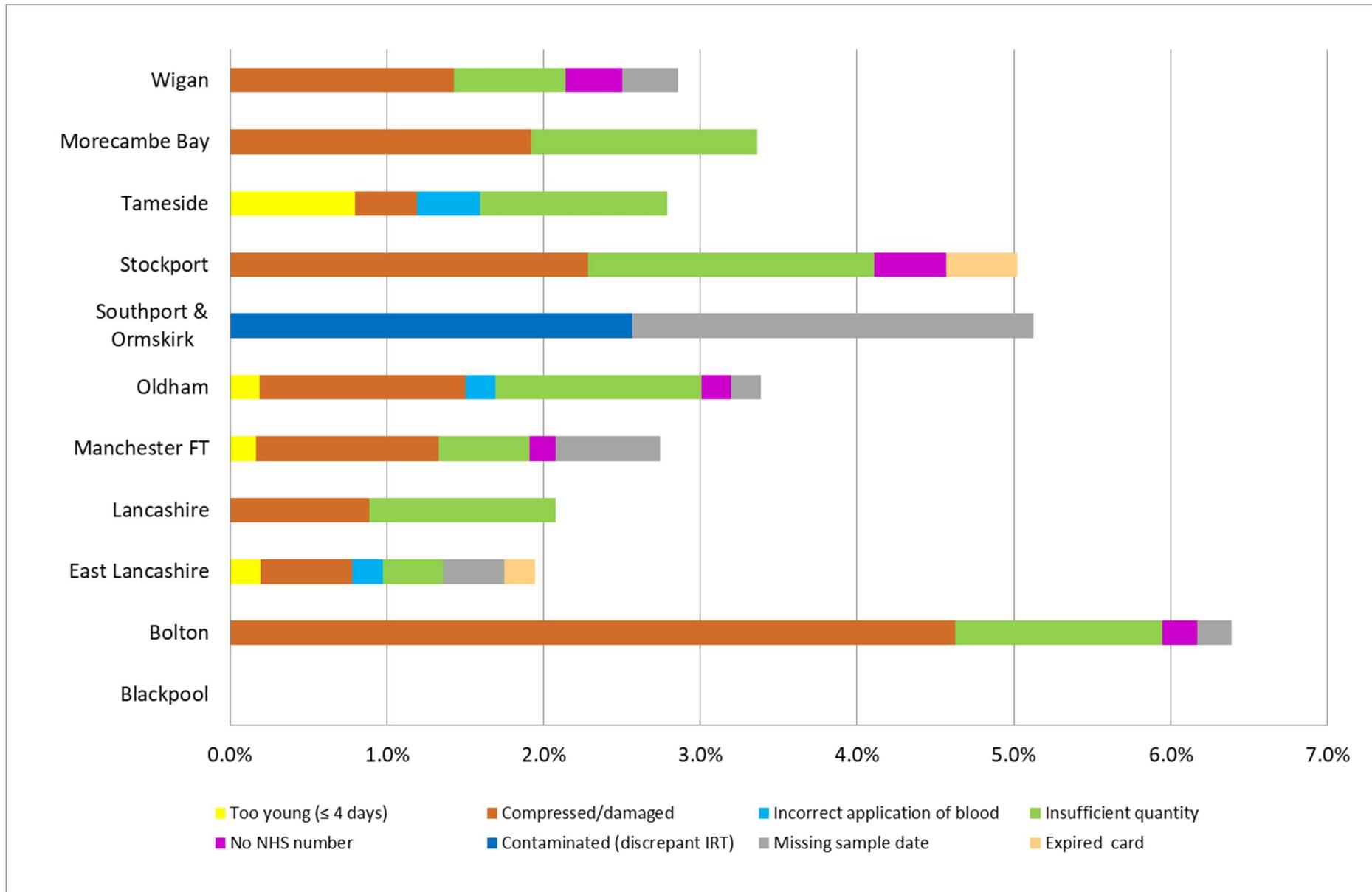
**Achievable: Avoidable repeat rate is  $\leq 1.0\%$**

A list of trust codes is provided in Table 1.

**Table 1**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Trust Name</b>
RXL	BLACKPOOL TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
RMC	BOLTON NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
RXR	EAST LANCASHIRE HOSPITALS NHS TRUST
RXN	LANCASHIRE TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
RW3	MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST – ST. MARY'S & RMCH
RM2	MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST – WYTHENSHAWE
NM-ROA	MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST – NORTH MANCHESTER
OL-RW6	NORTHERN CARE ALLIANCE
RVY	SOUTHPORT AND ORMSKIRK HOSPITAL NHS TRUST
RWJ	STOCKPORT NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
RMP	TAMESIDE HOSPITAL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
RTX	UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS OF MORECAMBE BAY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
RRF	WRIGHTINGTON, WIGAN AND LEIGH NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

**Figure 1 - Avoidable repeats by Trust – December 2025**



**Table 2 – Avoidable repeats by Trust for December 2025**

Maternity Unit	Number of first samples received/babies tested	Too soon after transfusion (<72 hours)*	Too young for reliable screening (≤ 4 days)	Blood spot damaged in transit	Bloodspot compressed/damaged	Expired bloodspot card	Incorrect application of blood on card	Insufficient quantity	>14 days in transit	No NHS number	Contaminated (discrepant IRT)	Missing sample date	DOB missing	Number of Avoidable Repeat Requests	Avoidable Repeat Requests Rate
Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS FT	220	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Bolton NHS FT	454	1	0	0	21	0	0	6	0	1	0	1	0	29	6.4%
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	514	1	1	0	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	10	1.9%
Health Visitor	65	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	5	7.7%
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS FT	337	0	0	0	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	7	2.1%
Manchester University NHS FT - SMH, RMCH, WH & NMGH	1203	3	2	0	14	0	0	7	0	2	0	8	0	33	2.7%
Not stated	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Oldham (NCA)	532	1	1	0	7	0	1	7	0	1	0	1	0	18	3.4%
Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	5.1%
Stockport NHS FT	219	0	0	0	5	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	11	5.0%
Tameside And Glossop Integrated Care NHS FT	251	0	2	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	7	2.8%
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS FT	208	0	0	0	4	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	7	3.4%
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS FT	280	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	8	2.9%
Grand Total	4323	6	6	0	64	2	4	39	0	7	1	14	0	137	3.2%

\*Not included in calculation of avoidable repeats

**Table 3 – Avoidable repeats by current hospital (in-patients) for December 2025**

Current Hospital	Number of first samples received/babies tested	Too soon after transfusion (<72 hours)*	Too young for reliable screening (≤ 4 days)	Blood spot damaged in transit	Bloodspot compressed/damaged	Expired bloodspot card	Incorrect application of blood on card	Insufficient quantity	>14 days in transit	No NHS number	Contaminated (discrepant IRT)	Missing sample date	DOB missing	Number of Avoidable Repeat Requests	Avoidable Repeat Requests Rate
Burnley General Hospital	52	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7.7%
Royal Bolton Hospital	49	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	8.2%
Blackpool Victoria Hospital	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Furness General Hospital	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	14.3%
North Manchester General Hospital	30	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3.3%
Not in hospital	3835	0	2	0	50	2	1	29	0	5	1	11	0	101	2.6%
Ormskirk & District General	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	6.7%
Royal Blackburn Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Royal Lancaster Infirmary	14	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7.1%
Royal Manchester Childrens Hospital	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Royal Oldham Hospital	65	1	0	0	2	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	7	10.8%
Royal Preston Hospital	23	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4.3%
Stepping Hill Hospital	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	4.3%
St Mary's Hospital, Manchester	119	3	2	0	5	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	11	9.2%
Tameside General Hospital	22	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	13.6%
Wythenshawe Hospital	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1.9%
Grand Total	<b>4323</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>3.2%</b>

\*Not included in calculation of avoidable repeats

Tips to help avoid rejection of samples:

- Collect sample on day 5 (date of birth is day 0)
- Check the expiry date on the card
- Wash the baby's heel with water to reduce the risk of a contaminated IRT result
- Ensure that blood spots are the size of the guide circles on the card
- Allow the blood to drop onto the card rather than touching the filter paper to the baby's heel
- Some brands of lancet device are more effective than others
- Extra blood spots, in addition to the 4 indicated by the guide circles, can be collected elsewhere on the card
- Repeat the test at the same visit if the spots are too small or have not soaked through to the back of the card
- Make sure there is a valid NHS number on the card

## **Conclusion**

The avoidable repeat rate for December was 3.2%, which was higher than for November (2.8%). The most common reason for rejection of samples was a compressed/damaged sample followed by insufficient blood. One maternity unit met the achievable standard and one met the acceptable standard.