

Avoidable Repeat Rate for January 2026 for Newborn Blood Spot Screening - Manchester Laboratory

The avoidable repeat rate for samples received during January 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

Code	Trust Name
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 – WYTHENSHAW
NM-R0A	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 – January 2026

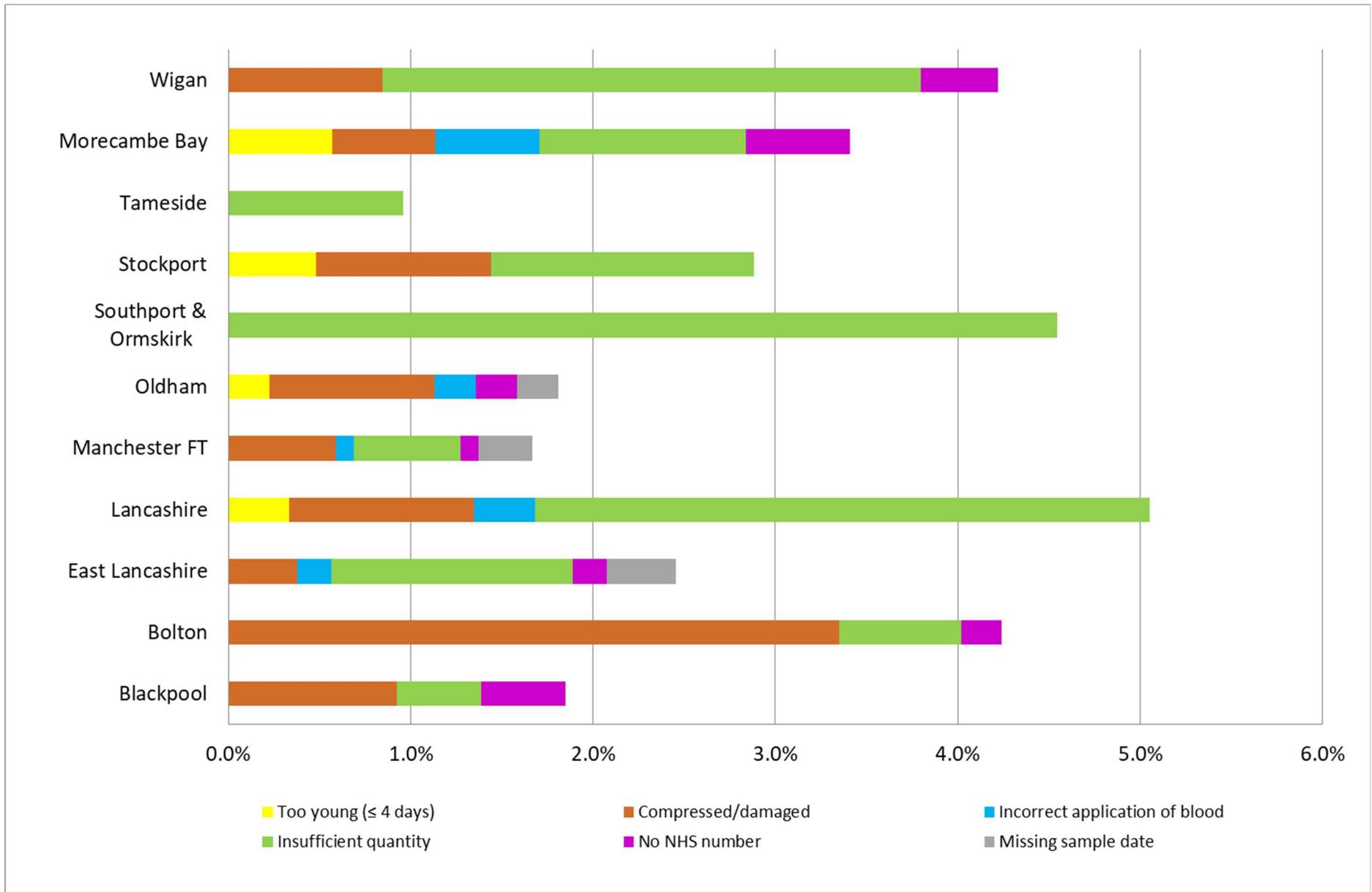


Table 2 – Avoidable repeats by Trust for January 2026

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	216	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4	1.9%
Bolton NHS FT	448	1	0	0	15	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	19	4.2%
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	530	2	0	0	2	0	1	7	0	1	0	2	0	13	2.5%
Health Visitor	42	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.4%
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS FT	297	1	1	0	3	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	15	5.1%
Manchester University NHS FT - SMH, RMCH, WH & NMGH	1020	1	0	0	6	0	1	6	0	1	0	3	0	17	1.7%
Not stated	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Oldham (NCA)	442	0	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	8	1.8%
Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	44	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	4.5%
Stockport NHS FT	208	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	6	2.9%
Tameside And Glossop Integrated Care NHS FT	208	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.0%
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS FT	176	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	6	3.4%
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS FT	237	0	0	0	2	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	10	4.2%
Grand Total	3869	6	4	0	37	0	6	43	0	7	0	6	0	103	2.7%

*Not included in calculation of avoidable repeats

Table 3 – Avoidable repeats by current hospital (in-patients) for January 2026

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	60	2	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	5	8.3%
Royal Bolton Hospital	53	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3.8%
Blackpool Victoria Hospital	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Furness General Hospital	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	20.0%
North Manchester General Hospital	33	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	15.2%
Not in hospital	3423	0	2	0	26	0	4	32	0	6	0	6	0	76	2.2%
Ormskirk & District General	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5.3%
Royal Blackburn Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Royal Lancaster Infirmary	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Royal Manchester Childrens Hospital	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Royal Oldham Hospital	41	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	9.8%
Royal Preston Hospital	25	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	12.0%
Stepping Hill Hospital	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
St Mary's Hospital, Manchester	88	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	3.4%
Tameside General Hospital	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Wythenshawe Hospital	45	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	6.7%
Grand Total	3869	6	4	0	37	0	6	43	0	7	0	6	0	103	2.7%

*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 January was 2.7%, which was lower than for December (3.2%). The most common reason for rejection of samples was insufficient blood followed by a compressed/damaged sample. One maternity unit met the achievable standard and three met the acceptable standard.