

Monitor 2025

Prenatal screening: NIPT and structural ultrasound scan

IQ Health, commissioned by RIVM Centre for Management of Prevention Programmes and Crisis Management (RPO)

Radboudumc

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Conclusions

Figures 2025

- In 96.6% of the 175,194 pregnancies, a counselling session is registered in the national database called Peridos.
- NIPT participation is 75.6%.
- The proportion of abnormal NIPT per pregnancy is 0.5%
- Participation in the 13-week scan is 80.1%.
- The proportion of indications for abnormalities on the 13-week scan is 1.2%.
- Participation in the 20-week scan is 86.4%.
- The proportion of indications for abnormalities on the 20-week scan is 4.3%.

Recommendations

This monitor shows that the prenatal screening programme in the Netherlands is functioning at a high standard. Consequently, there are few areas for improvement. Based on the results, the following three recommendations have been identified:

- Continue to monitor the discrepancy between the number of pregnancies recorded in Peridos and the number of pregnancies estimated using CBS figures.
- The proportion of incomplete 13-week scans is higher in one region than in the others. Once it is clear whether the 13-week scan will be included in routine screening, the cause of this high proportion of incomplete scans in the region in question will need to be investigated.
- The Data Exchange Act (VWs II.b) will, due to the submission of data from the follow-up diagnostics, provide greater insight into "false-positive" results. (i.e. referred following an ultrasound scan or NIPT, but not confirmed by a detailed antenatal scan or genotyping). In addition, actual birth data are needed to assess false-negatives (i.e. results from an ultrasound scan or NIPT in which no abnormality was detected, but which later turned out to be present). All this information is needed to obtain a full picture about the program.

Prenatal screening: NIPT and structural ultrasound scan

Since 2007, every pregnant woman in the Netherlands who wishes to do so can receive information about prenatal screening during a **counseling session** with her obstetric care provider. The aim of prenatal screening is to provide pregnant women, if they wish, with timely information about the possible presence of one or more abnormalities in the unborn child, so that they can make informed decisions about different treatment options.



The **NIPT (Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing)** is used to assess whether the baby may have chromosomal abnormalities and is performed from 10 weeks of pregnancy onwards. For the NIPT, a blood sample is taken from the pregnant woman and analyzed in a laboratory. If the test indicates a possible chromosomal abnormality, the pregnant women may choose to have follow-up invasive diagnostic testing. As of April 1 2023, the NIPT is part of the regular prenatal screening program and is available free of charge to all pregnant women.

Around the 13th week of pregnancy, the **first trimester ultrasound scan** (13-week scan) is offered to examine the fetus for physical abnormalities. The **second trimester structural ultrasound scan** (20-week scan) is performed between 18 and 21 weeks of pregnancy, during which the fetus is also examined for physical abnormalities. If there are indications for abnormalities, follow-up diagnostics using advanced ultrasound examination (comprehensive ultrasound scan type 2) can be carried out if desired. In this follow-up testing, the suspected abnormality may be confirmed or ruled out.

Participation counselling, NIPT, 13-week scan and 20-week scan

Counselling is offered to all pregnant women. Women decide for themselves whether they want to participate in a counselling session. Even after counselling, women can choose not to participate in the screening. In 2025, a counselling session was registered in the Peridos database for 96.6% (n=169,297) of the 171,194 pregnancies. The median age of the pregnant women was 31 years. Participation rate of the NIPT was 75.6%. A 13-week scan was performed in 80.1% of pregnancies, and a 20-week scan was performed in 86.4% of pregnancies. There are women who do not receive a 13- and/or 20-week scan but are immediately eligible for a diagnostic scan (advanced ultrasound examination type 1, comprehensive ultrasound scan type 1), because they have an increased risk of a congenital abnormality in their child based on their medical history.

Table 1: Key figures, participation numbers and rates 2021 t/m 2025

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total number of pregnancies[1]	180,453	172,212	170,721	171,349	175,194
Number of pregnancies with counseling session	170,446	160,957	159,877	162,612	169,297
Participation rate counseling (%)	94.5	93.5	93.6	94.9	96.6
Number of pregnancies with NIPT	99,516	99,549	115,828	126,023	132,415
Participation rate NIPT (%)	55.1	57.8	67.8	73.5	75.6
Number of pregnancies with 13-week scan	40,206[2]	129,977	133,172	136,438	140,349
Participation rate 13-week scan (%)	69.32[2]	75.5	78.0	79.8	80.1
Number of pregnancies with 20-week scan	154,691	147,441	147,799	148,899	151,341
Participation rate 20-week scan (%)	85.7	85.6	86.6	86.9	86.4

[1] The number of pregnancies is based on data from Peridos. Participation and coverage are based on all pregnancies with a due date between 1 July of the relevant year and 30 June of the following year.

[2] The 13-week scan was introduced from September 1, 2021. The total number of pregnancies from September 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 is 58,023. This is the denominator for the percentage of participation in the 13-week scan in 2021

Participation: trends over time and by age

NIPT participation

In 2025 NIPT was performed in 75.6% of pregnancies (*Figure 1*). As age increases (up to and including 34 years), NIPT is performed more often (*Figure 2*). In addition, there has been a further increase in NIPT participation in all age groups, particularly among younger women, possibly because NIPT became available free of charge to all pregnant women in 2023.

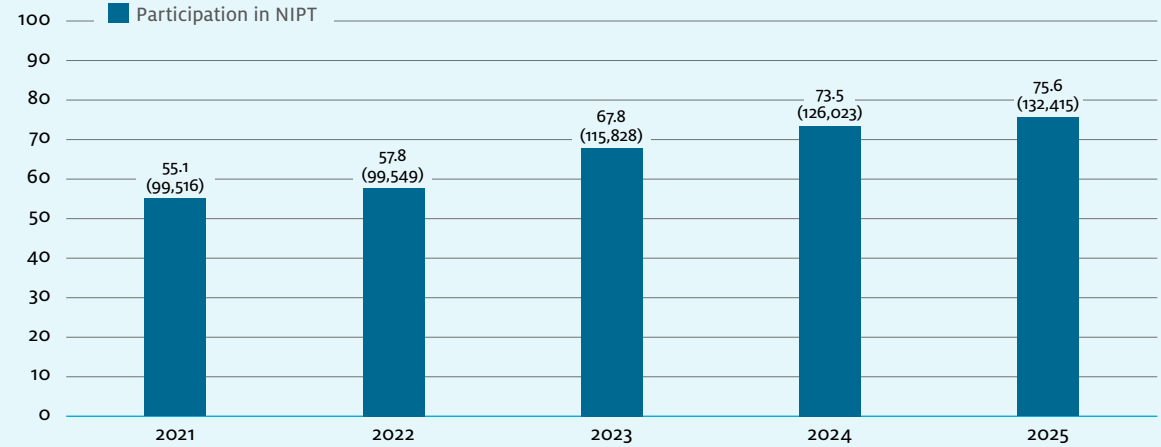


Figure 1 | Participation in NIPT in 2021 t/m 2025, % and (n)

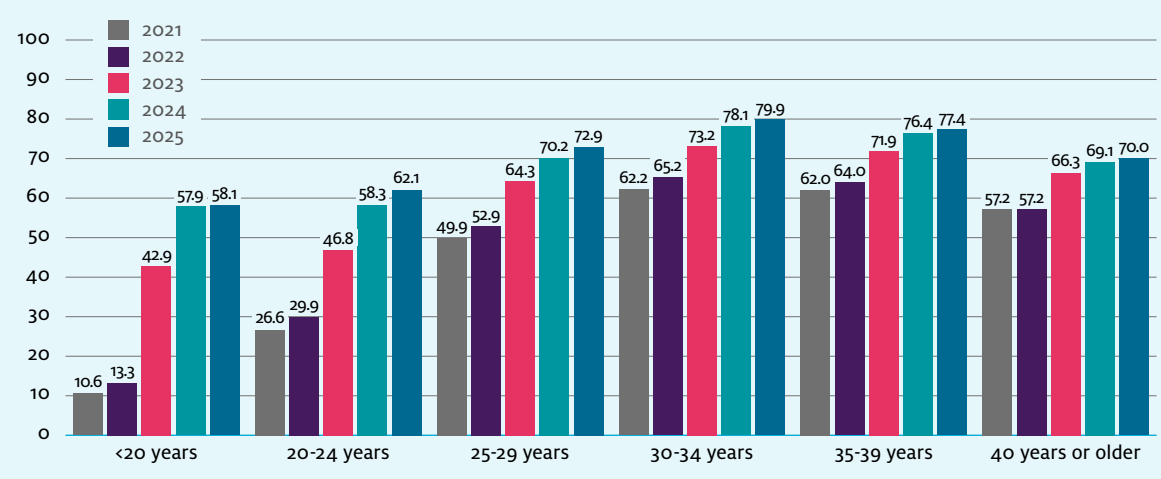


Figure 2 | Participation NIPT across age groups in 2021 t/m 2025, %

Participation: trends over time and by age

Participation 13-week scan and 20-week scan

In 2025 a 13-week scan was performed in 80.1% of pregnancies (*Figure 3*). A 20-week scan was performed in 86.4% of pregnancies (*Figure 5*). If no 13-week and/or 20-week scan was performed, the pregnant woman may have opted out, there may have been a medical indication for a comprehensive ultrasound scan in the first trimester, or a miscarriage may have occurred. From age 35 onwards, participation in the 13-week and 20-week scans decreases slightly, possibly because older pregnant women are more likely to have an indication for a type 1 comprehensive ultrasound scan and therefore undergo the 13-week and 20-week scans less often (*Figure 4* and *Figure 6*).



Figure 3 | Participation in the 13-week scan in 2021 t/m 2025, % and (n)

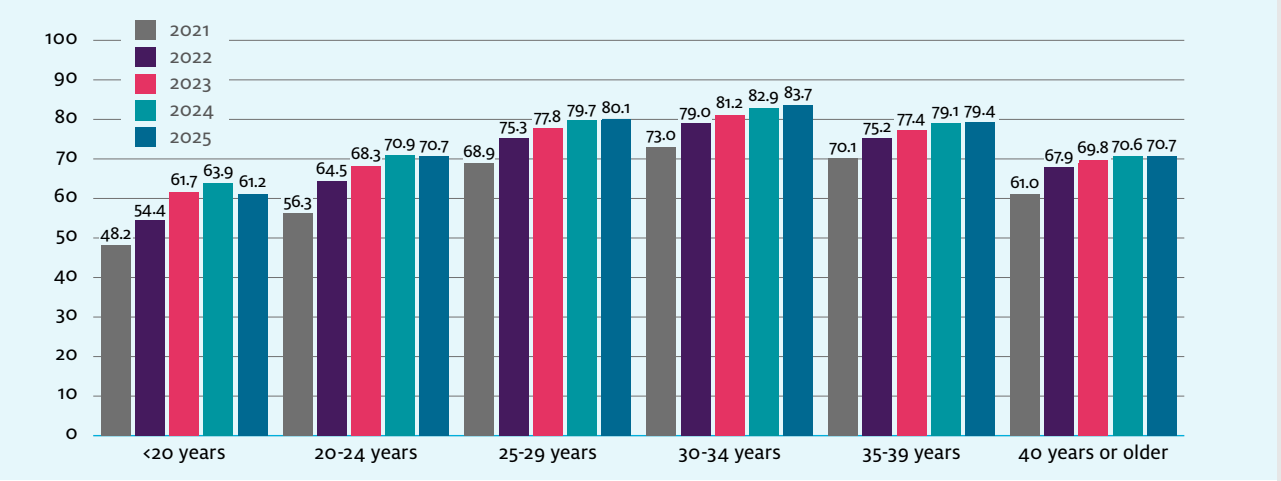


Figure 4 | Participation in 13-week scan across age groups in in 2021 t/m 2025, %

Participation: trends over time and by age

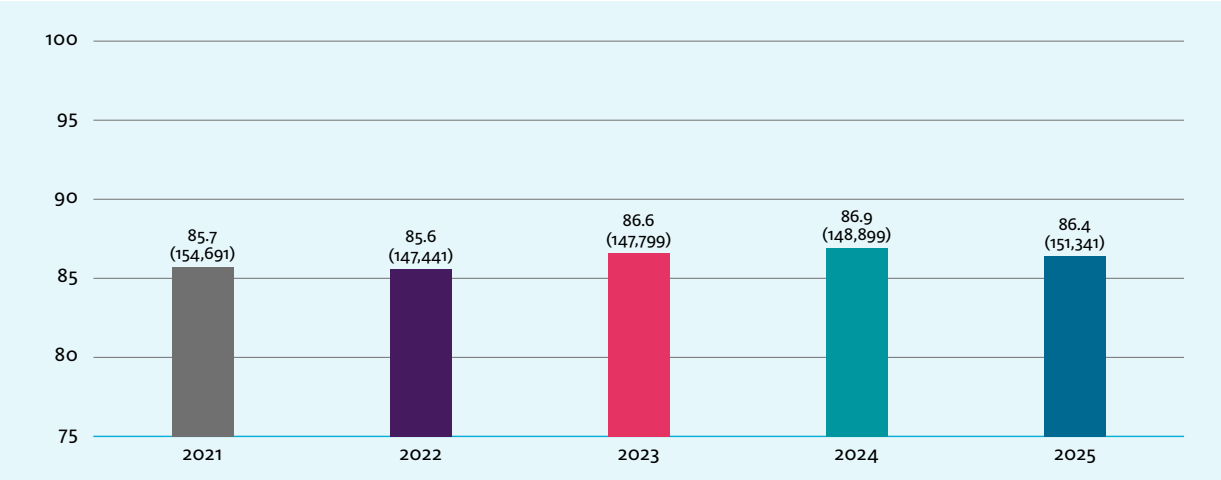


Figure 5 | Participation in the 20-week scan in 2021 t/m 2025, % and n

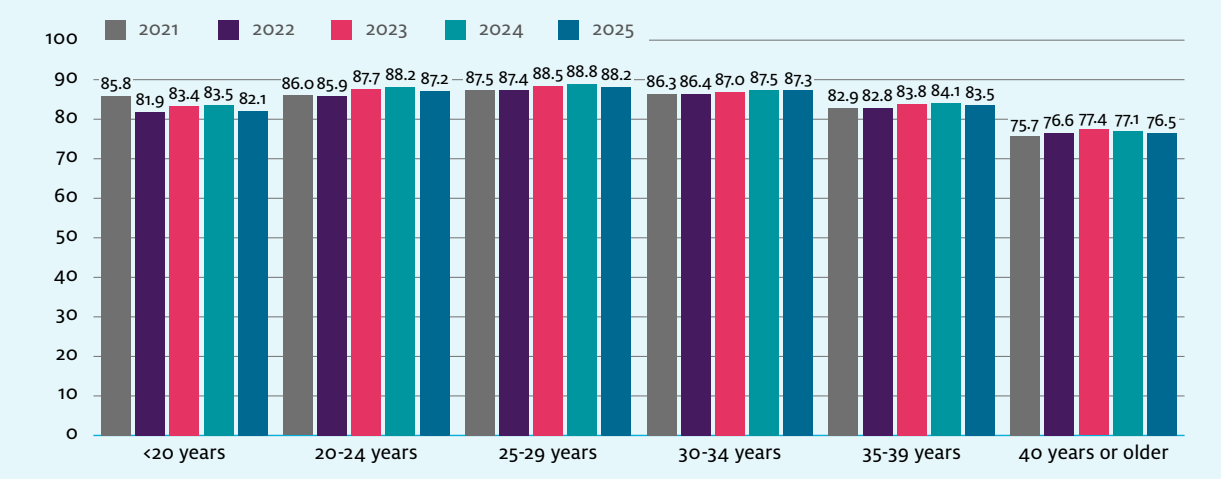


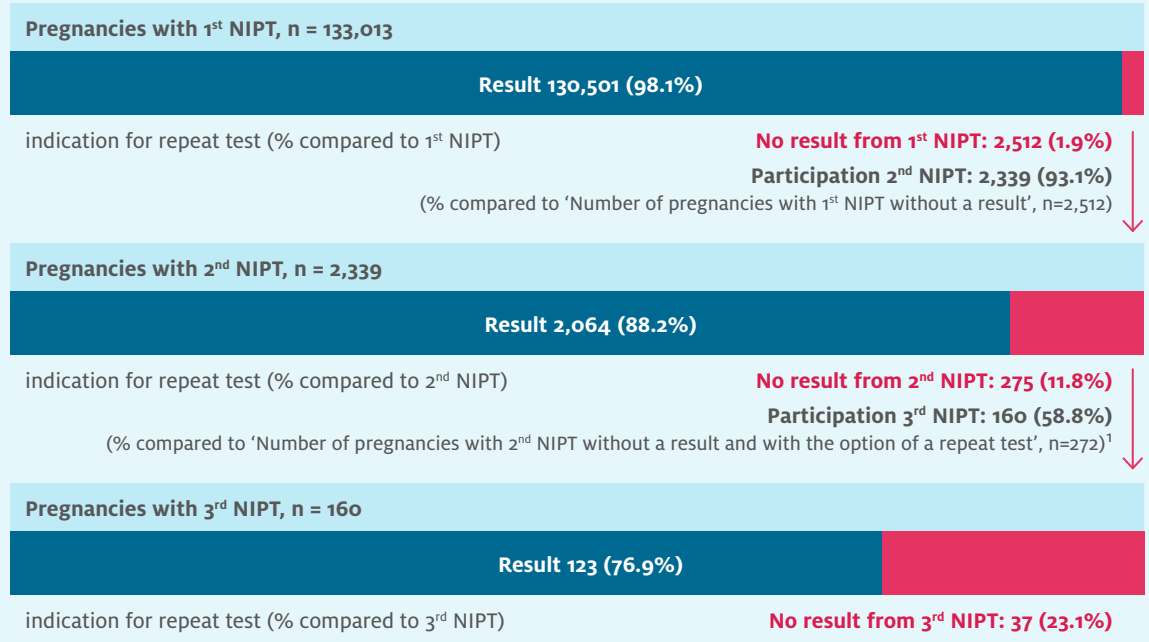
Figure 6 | Participation in 20-week scan across age groups in in 2021 t/m 2025, %

Repeat test and repeat scan

Indications and participation in repeat NIPT testing

Sometimes the NIPT does not produce a result, for example because there is too little fetal (placental) DNA in the pregnant woman's blood sample. In such cases, a repeat test is required. In 1.9% of pregnancies, a repeat NIPT is indicated after the first NIPT because no result was obtained. After asecond NIPT, a repeat test was required in 11.8% of cases. After a third NIPT, no result was obtained in 23.1% of cases (*Figure 7*).

Of the pregnancies in which the first NIPT yielded no result, 93.1% opted to have a repeat test. Of the pregnancies in which the second NIPT yielded no result and a repeat test was an option, 58.8% actually had one carried out.



1 For some of the results, it is no longer worthwhile to request a new retest, a referral to a Prenatal Diagnostic Centre (PND Centre) is advised (n=3 pregnancies).

Figure 7 | Indications for and participation in repeat NIPT testing, by consecutive NIPT

Repeat test and repeat scan

Advice on repeat scans and participation in repeat 20-week scans

A repeat scan may be necessary following a 20-week scan, for example if the baby is in an unfavourable position, making it difficult for the sonographer to obtain adequate views. The percentage of pregnancies requiring a repeat scan after a 20-week scan is 5.9% (*Figure 8*). Repeat scans performed on the same day as the initial scan are not recorded and are therefore not included in this calculation.

Of the pregnancies for which a repeat 20-week scan was recommended, 91.4% underwent the repeat scan.

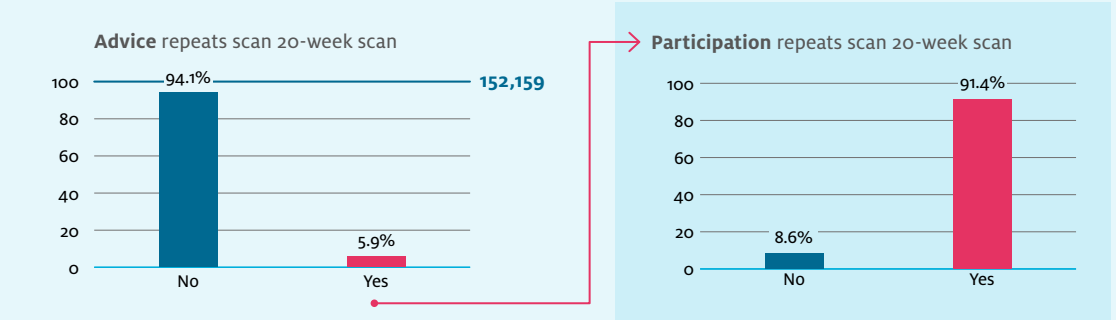


Figure 8 | Advice on repeat scans and participation in repeat scans at the 20-week scan

Test results

Test results NIPT

Figure 9 presents the number and proportion of abnormal results per pregnancy. The percentage of pregnancies with an abnormal result for Down's syndrome (T21) is 0.35%. The percentage of pregnancies with an abnormal result for Patau's syndrome (T13) is 0.09%, and for Edwards' syndrome (T18) it is 0.08%.

The percentage of structural chromosomal abnormalities is 0.12%. and that of complex abnormal profiles is 0.01%. Where multiple findings are present simultaneously, these are included in the 'other results' category (0.02%).

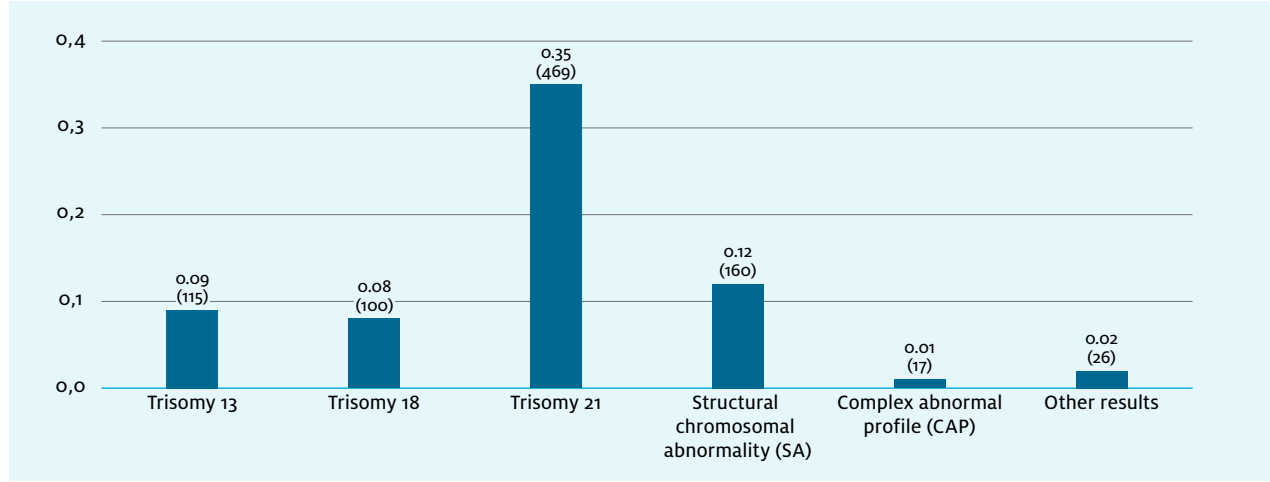


Figure 9 | NIPT[1] results: pregnancies with an abnormal result per pregnancy for 2025, % and (n)

[1] Until 1 April 2025, there was an additional option for the analysis of incidental findings. As a result, the SA percentage for the whole year may be slightly lower, because for those pregnant women who did not opt for the analysis of incidental findings, no such findings



Test results

Results of the 13- and 20-week scans

Figure 10 shows the abnormal results following a 13-week scan. In 2025, 1.2 % (n=1,685) of pregnancies had an abnormal 13-week scan result. *Figure 11* shows the abnormal results following the first 20-week scan. Following the first 20-week scan, 4.1% of pregnancies show an abnormal result. A second scan may be necessary following the 20-week scan. This is known as a repeat scan. Onceall 20-week scans have been carried out, the percentage of abnormal results is 4.3%.

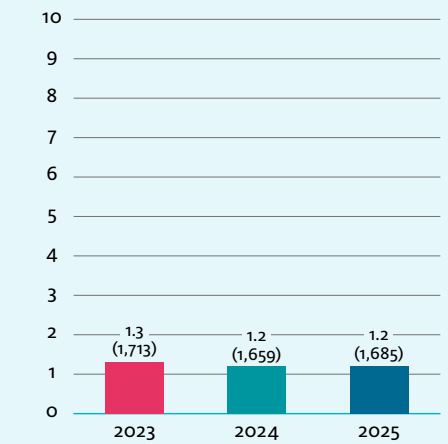


Figure 10 | Results of the 13-week scan: pregnancies with an abnormal result for 2023 to 2025, % and (n)

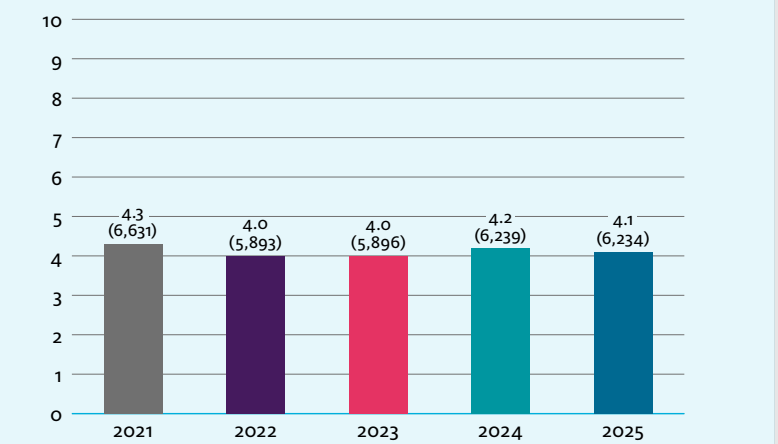


Figure 11 | Results of the first 20-week scan: pregnancies with an abnormal result for 2021 to 2025, % and (n)

Advice on follow-up investigation at the ultrasound scan

Advice on a detailed antenatal ultrasound scan after the 13- and 20-week scans

Figure 12 shows the abnormal findings from the 13- and 20-week scans, along with advice on a detailed antenatal scan. The rate is 1.1% for a detailed antenatal ultrasound after a 13-week scan and 4.0% after a 20-week scan.

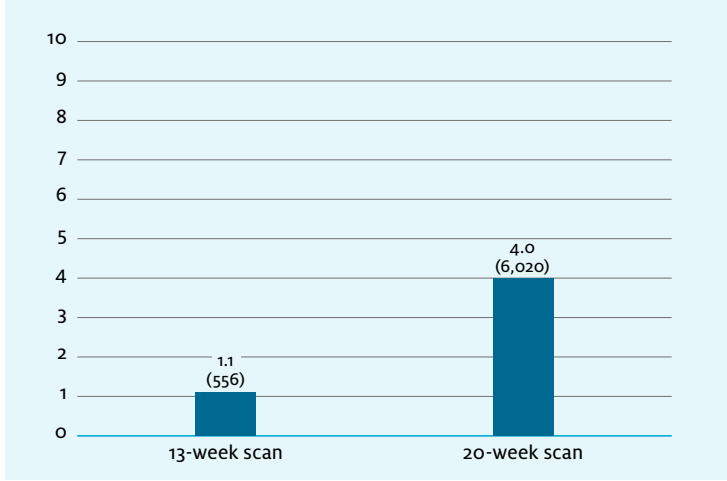


Figure 12 | Advice on a detailed antenatal ultrasound scan following abnormal results from the 13- and 20 -week scans for 2025



Time of counselling and screening

Counseling

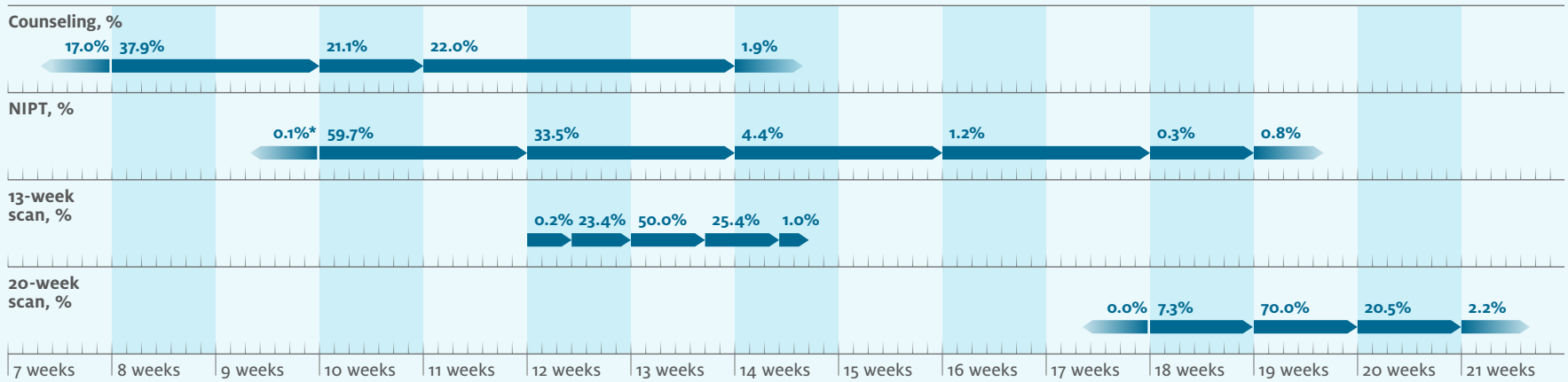
Prenatal screening is intended to offer pregnant women options in a timely manner. Providing counselling and screening tests on time is essential in this regard. All screening options are discussed during the counselling session. In 2025, the counselling session took place before the 14th week in 98.1% of pregnancies (*Figure 13*). This is comparable to previous years.

NIPT

NIPT was performed before the 19th week in 99.2% of pregnancies (*Figure 13*). Of the pregnancies in which NIPT was performed, 99.2 % received the result within the specified timeframe of 10 calendar days or less.

13-week scan and 20-week scan

In 99.0 % of pregnancies, a 13-week scan was performed between 12+3 weeks and before 14+4 weeks. The 20-week scan was performed before the 21st week in 97.8% of pregnancies.



*no blood analysis

Figure 13 | Time of counseling, NIPT, 13-week scan and 20-week scan

About this monitor

The monitor describes the screening and the results of the NIPT and the 13- and 20-week scans for the year 2025. On behalf of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, the RIVM Centre for Management of Prevention Programmes and Crisis Management (RPO) is responsible for the national coordination of prenatal screening.

This monitor is an abridged version of the professional monitor, which has also been made public via the RIVM website. Data on follow-up diagnostics and births are not available in Peridos; therefore, no indicators can be calculated for which these data are required (such as test characteristics). The monitor presents trends in indicators over the past five years (2021 to 2025). Some indicators only became reliably available at a later date;, in those cases trends are shown over fewer years.

All indicators are calculated based on the data of 2025 that were registered in Peridos as of 1 June 2026. Peridos is a national database in which data on prenatal screening in the Netherlands has been recorded since 2010. All indicators are calculated at pregnancy level and are based on all pregnancies with a due date between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026. The precise calculation of the indicators and details at regional level are set out in the Professionals Monitor.

A number of changes have been made to this report compared with the 2024 report.

- This report uses the same denominator for all key figures and indicators, namely *all pregnancies with a due date between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026 that underwent counselling, NIPT, a 13- or a 20-week scan*.
- The indication for a repeat NIPT is now also shown for the second and third tests, and participation in a repeat NIPT test is also calculated for the second repeat test.
- The NIPT result is now shown per pregnancy; therefore, the result of any repeat test or repeat tests determines the outcome of the indicator.
- The 20-week scan test result is now calculated for the repeat 20-week scan and per pregnancy. As with the NIPT, this means that the final test result for a pregnancy determines the outcome.
- Instead of using the repeat 20-week scan itself, the recommendation for a repeat test has been adopted as the indicator.
- The indicators for the comprehensive ultrasound scan type 2 referral rate in cases of an abnormal 13-week scan and an abnormal 20-week scan are new.

Colofon: Femke Atsma, Janine Liefers, Juliette Cruijsberg
Nijmegen, October 2026 | Science Department IQ Health, Radboudumc