

Annex 3 – MOSS chart interpretation guide

In MOSS there is a “Charts” tab where MOSS data is visualised at trust site level. There are two charts to view – the Maternity Outcomes Signal chart and the Excess Events chart.

Maternity Outcomes Signal chart

The Maternity Outcomes Signal chart produces ‘signals’ of potential safety issues in maternity care arising during labour and birth using term stillbirths and term neonatal deaths up to 28 days.

Signals are generated from an accumulation of events in near-real time. Trends are plotted based on the accumulation of events compared to a national reference rate – a rate of events on what would normally be expected in a given site based on its birth population. A rise indicates the rate of events is increasing compared to what would normally be expected.

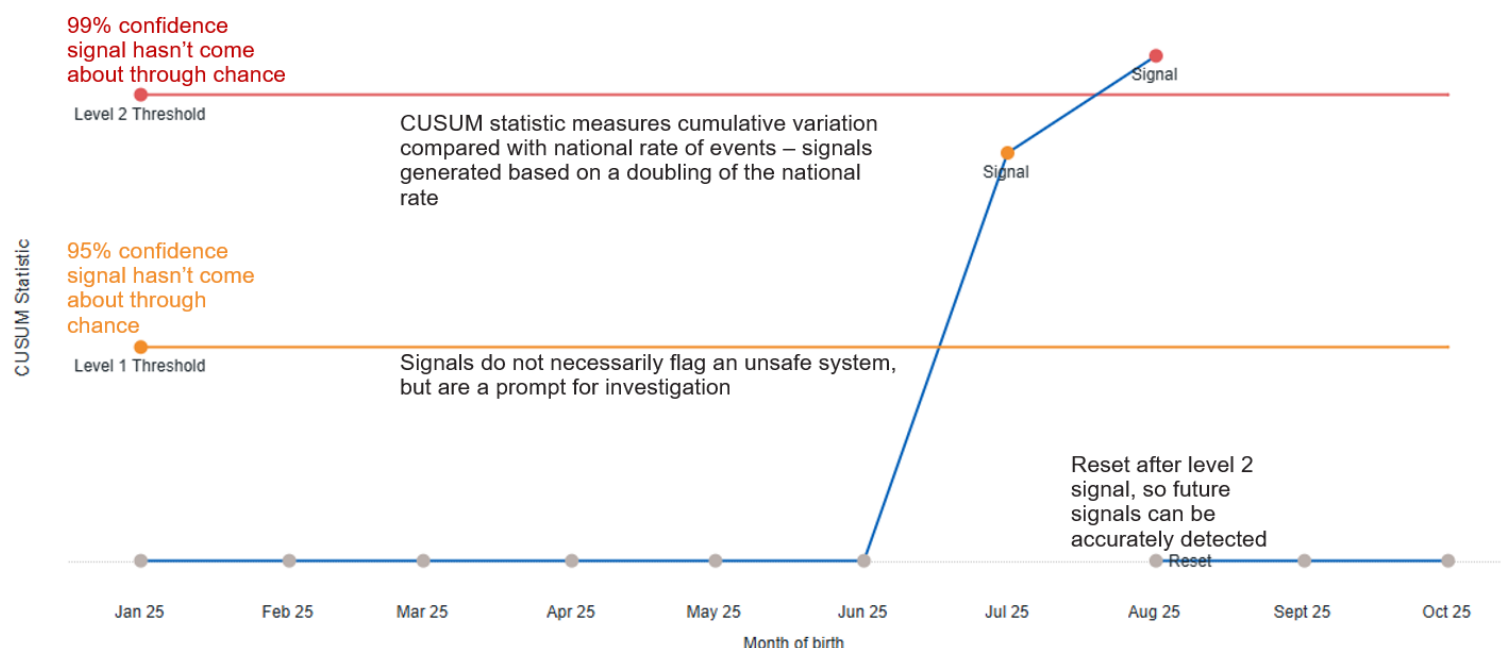
Signals are generated when there is a recent doubling in the rate of events compared to what would normally be expected. The colour of signals simply refers to statistical confidence – amber means we are 95% confident the rate has doubled (level 1) and red means we are 99% confident (level 2).

For detailed information, please see Annex 4: Methodology and data sources.

After a red (level 2) signal, the chart resets to remain sensitive to future signals. The reset does not mean that potential safety issues have been resolved, which should be clarified through local perinatal quality governance processes.

When any signal occurs, the maternity service’s perinatal leadership team should carry out a critical safety check (Annex 1) to make sure care on the labour ward is safe.

Further explanations on how to interpret the Maternity Outcomes Signal chart is below:



Excess Events chart

The Excess events chart does not generate signals. However, it uses the same near-real time events data that supplies the Maternity Outcomes Signal chart, plotting the individual events cumulatively over time in a given site.

Events that contribute towards signals are coloured appropriately to correspond with the level of signal that occurred.

The Excess Events chart can be useful as a companion to the Maternity Outcomes Signal chart, to help services identify which events have contributed towards generating signals. It also shows patterns more clearly over time.

Data points plotted on the zero line mean that the rate of events is equal to the national reference rate, or what would normally be expected in a given site based on its birth population.

Rises above the zero line mean that the rate of events is increasing and is 'in excess' of what would normally be expected. Steeper rises are more likely to correspond with signals.

Falls below the zero line mean that the rate of events has decreased compared to what would normally be expected.

To note - a steep rise (and signal) can still occur beneath the zero line, where events have occurred in quick succession.

Unlike the Maternity Outcomes Signal Chart, this chart does not reset after a level 2 signal. This helps to show more patterns of events more clearly over time.

For detailed information, please see Annex 4: Methodology and data sources.

Further explanation on how to interpret the Excess Events chart is below:

