

Immune Boost: Improving access to early maternal breast milk (MBM) for neonates born <34 weeks gestation



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Background

Research consistently highlights that early access to MBM significantly improves neonatal outcomes for preterm babies in terms of morbidity and mortality. Monthly audits of all births <34 weeks gestation is conducted to monitor compliance of recommendations from NHS England 'SBLV2 (Saving Babies Lives Version 2) and British Association of Perinatal Medicine (BAPM). In February 2022, 0% of babies received MBM within 2 and 6 hours of birth, with 37.5% within 24 hours.

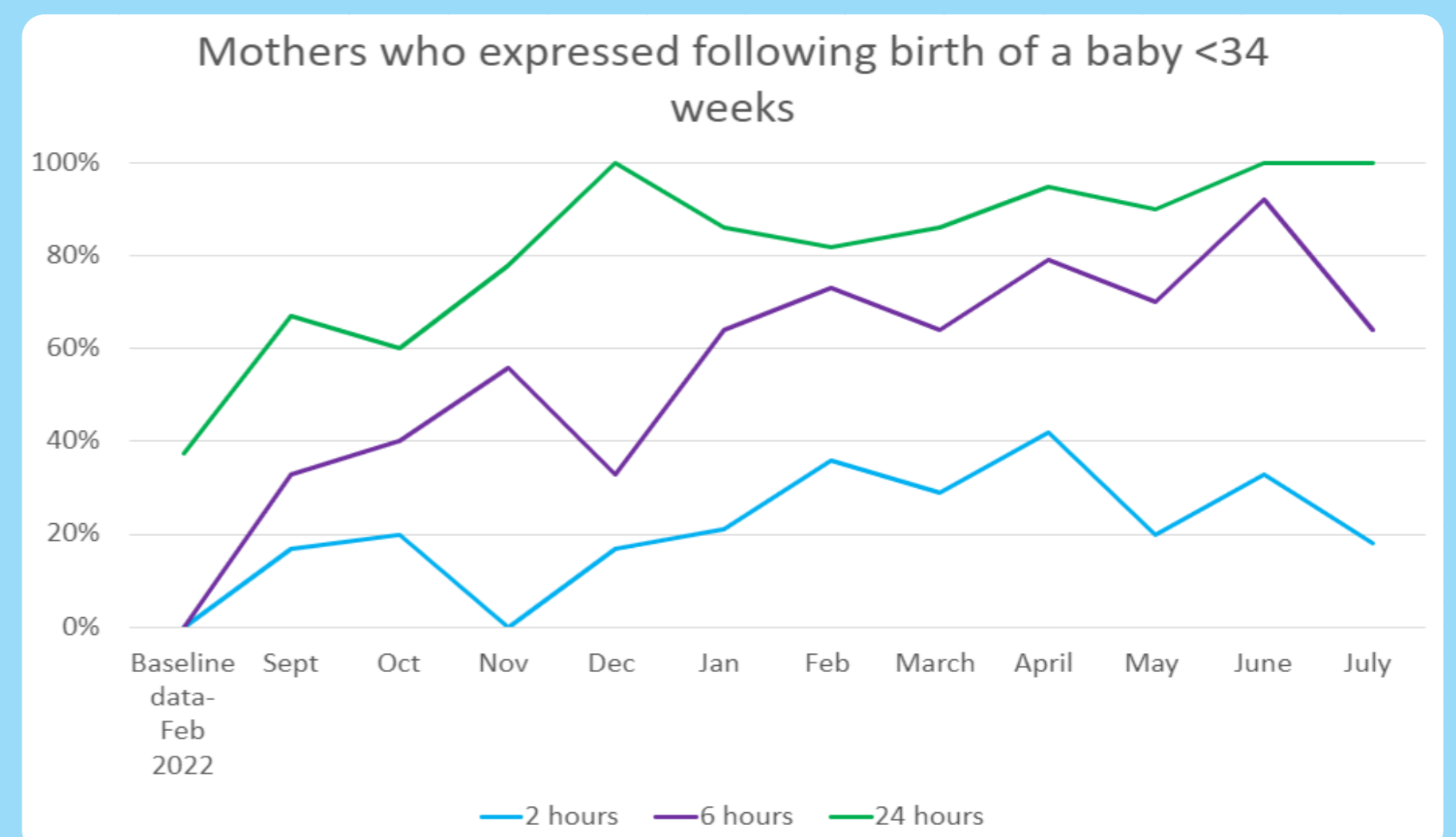
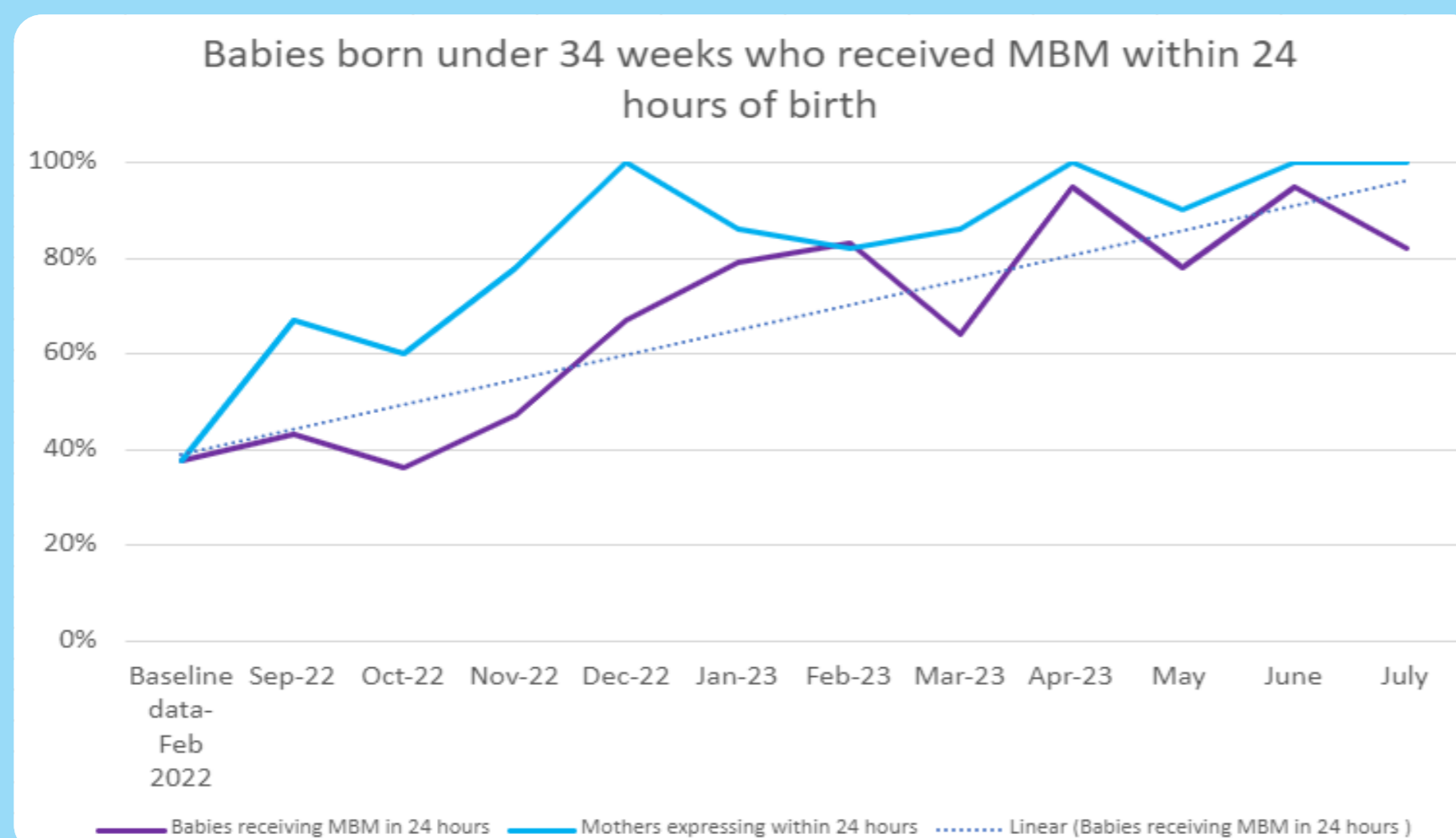
Aim

To increase the proportion of babies born under 34 weeks receiving MBM within 24 hours of birth, with a further aim to increase the proportion who receive MBM within 6 hours

Method

The method included both joint and stand-alone maternity and neonatal initiatives

- Creation of a multidisciplinary team (MDT) with an allocated lead neonatal nurse, specialist preterm midwives, neonatologist and obstetrician.
- Missed cases of MBM administration reviewed to highlight opportunities for learning
- Increased education across neonatal and midwifery teams regarding the importance of early expressing and administration of MBM to all babies
- Introduction of colostrum packs in all relevant areas which includes both audio-visual and written information on the benefits of early MBM and essential equipment
- Buccal colostrum added to neonatal prescribing protocol to embed in practice and encourage its prompt administration
- Promotion of the QI project through logo, posters and stickers across NNU and midwifery areas to remind, motivate and educate across the MDT.
- Improved time-critical education provided by the preterm specialist midwives regarding the benefits of MBM



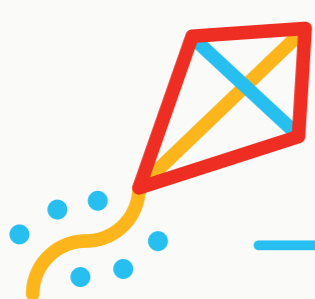
Results

In June 2023, 92% of babies had received maternal breast milk within 24 hours of birth.

100% of women expressed within 24 hours, 92% within 6 hours and 33% within 2 hours of birth.

Conclusion

The success of the Immune Boost project is directly attributable to the effective collaborative MDT approach which employed multiple initiatives across the maternity and neonatal settings.



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