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Contributors

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Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
g	gram
ICD-9	International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision
ICD-10	International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision
IPPR	intermittent positive pressure respiration
LMP	last menstrual period
na	not available
NPSU	National Perinatal Statistics Unit
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
Tas	Tasmania
UNSW	University of New South Wales
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia
WHO	World Health Organization

Highlights

- In 2000, 257,238 babies born to 253,053 mothers were notified to perinatal data collections in the States and Territories. This represents a birth every 2 minutes and approximately 693 births per day in Australia in 2000.
- The average age of all mothers in 2000 was 29.0 years, and 27.3 years for those having their first baby, continuing the upward trend in recent years. There were 12,680 teenage mothers (5.0% of all mothers), of whom 3,964 were aged 17 years or younger.
- An increasing number of women appeared to be deferring childbearing. Approximately 1 in 10 (10.2%) mothers in 2000 were having their first baby at age 35 years or older.
- There were 8,682 Indigenous mothers representing 3.4% of all mothers in Australia in 2000. In excess of one-third (37.2%) of births in the Northern Territory were to Indigenous mothers. The proportion of births to Indigenous mothers in Western Australia and Queensland was 6.0% and 5.8%, respectively. The average age of Indigenous mothers was 24.7 years and there was a high proportion of teenage mothers (22.9%).
- The proportion of mothers who were born in a country other than Australia was 22.9% in 2000.
- Multiple pregnancies accounted for 1.6% of all confinements and included 3,974 twin pregnancies, 100 triplet pregnancies, and 3 higher order pregnancies.
- In 2000, preterm birth (less than 37 weeks gestation) occurred in 7.0% (17,947) of all confinements in Australia.
- In 2000, more than 1 in 5 (23.3%) births were by caesarean section. State and Territory caesarean section rates ranged from 20.8% to 25.6%. Caesarean rates were higher among older mothers, those having their first baby, and those who were private patients.
- Mothers continued to have relatively short postnatal stays in hospital in 2000. The proportion of mothers who stayed less than 2 days was 11.4%, while those staying between 2 and 4 days was 58.9% in the same period. Mothers without private health insurance had shorter postnatal stays than those with private health insurance.
- Low birthweight (less than 2,500 g) occurred in 17,477 (6.8%) babies in 2000. This was similar to previous years. The mean birthweight of babies of Indigenous mothers was 3,166 g, 198 g less than the mean birthweight for all births. The proportion of babies of Indigenous mother that were low birthweight was 13.6% compared to 6.6% of babies of non-Indigenous mothers.
- Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates were 7.0, 3.1 and 10.0 per 1,000 births, respectively, in 2000, based on State and Territory perinatal data collections. Rates remain low, having steadily declined for the past two decades.

1 Introduction

This *Australia's Mothers and Babies 2000* report has been prepared by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's National Perinatal Statistics Unit in conjunction with the State and Territory health departments. The 2000 national data on births are based upon notifications to the perinatal data collection in each State and Territory.

The major purposes of this report are:

- to provide national information on the pregnancy and childbirth of mothers and the characteristics and outcomes of their babies;
- to monitor key characteristics, interventions and outcomes of mothers and their babies at a State and Territory level; and
- to provide information for State and Territory, national and international comparison.

1.1 Data sources

The perinatal collections are based on a national perinatal minimum data set, which has been revised on several occasions since it was first introduced in 1979. Each State and Territory has a perinatal data collection in which midwives and other staff, using information obtained from mothers and from hospital or other records, complete notification forms for each birth. The information collected includes characteristics of the mother—previous pregnancies, the current pregnancy, labour, delivery and the puerperium—and the baby's birth status (live birth or stillbirth), sex, birthweight, Apgar scores and outcome. Each State and Territory health authority undertakes data processing, analysis, and publication of reports. Each State and Territory provided data in an electronic format to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) National Perinatal Statistics Unit at the University of New South Wales.

Due to data editing and subsequent updates of State and Territory databases, the figures in this report may differ slightly from those in reports published by the States and Territories.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) compiles statistics and publishes reports on registrations of live births and perinatal deaths from data made available by the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each State and Territory. These data are used to compile vital statistics. They are administrative data collections that also collect some clinically relevant data. The ABS reports the perinatal deaths of babies of at least 400 g birthweight, or 20 weeks gestation where birthweight is unknown. These inclusion criteria differ from the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of 500 g, or 22 weeks gestation where birthweight is unknown, as reported previously. Data obtained from ABS and its published reports (ABS 2001a, 2001b) were used to analyse trends and variations in perinatal deaths using the lower criteria of 400 g or 20 weeks gestation where birthweight is unknown, in the period from 1998 to 2000.

1.2 Perinatal minimum data set and definitions

The national perinatal minimum data set has data items on the demographic characteristics of the mother—previous pregnancies, the current pregnancy, labour, delivery and the puerperium—and the baby, including birth status, sex, birthweight, Apgar scores, resuscitation, neonatal morbidity, and congenital malformations. The National Perinatal Data Development Committee, which replaced the National Perinatal Data Advisory Committee in 1999, recommends definitions for perinatal data items to the National Health Data Committee and the National Health Information Management Group. Current definitions are included in the *National Health Data Dictionary* version 11.0 (AIHW 2002).

1.3 Criteria

Tabulated data in this report are based on births that occurred in each State and Territory in 2000. Because of differences in data items, and varying practices for coding the mother's place of residence if she lived in a State or Territory other than that in which the birth occurred, it is presently not possible to analyse the perinatal data according to region of residence. Notification forms are completed for all births of at least 400 g birthweight or 20 weeks or more gestation.

Data are presented for all States and Territories where available. Where data items are not available from all States and Territories this is indicated in the footnotes of tables or figures. Marital status and length of stay are not available from New South Wales. For Western Australia, length of stay is not available and maternal units in all private hospitals are grouped into one.

1.4 Data quality

The data received from States and Territories are checked for format and coding consistencies and scanned for missing variables and missing values. Data structure is examined for each variable to identify outliers, logistic errors and irregularities due to differing interpretation of the coding system across the States and Territories. Data summaries are then provided to each State and Territory to enable additional review of data quality. Hence, the data goes through a process of intensive validation and improvement after a period of intensive consultations with all State and Territory perinatal data group members.

The main limitations of the perinatal collections are for data items on maternal medical conditions, obstetric complications, and neonatal morbidity. In some instances, clinical diagnoses may be recorded without reference to specific definitions. States and Territories also have different practices in collecting these clinical diagnoses, either by recording each specified diagnosis or by including checklists of the more common diagnoses.

1.5 Perinatal mortality

The perinatal mortality data from State and Territory perinatal collections are incomplete and cannot provide national data on perinatal mortality. The Australian

Bureau of Statistics publishes annual reports based on perinatal death registration data received from the Registrars of Births, Death and Marriages. These data have been used to examine trends in perinatal mortality (Tables A55–A69).

1.6 State and Territory perinatal reports

Individual State and Territory health authorities publish reports based on their State or Territory perinatal collection either annually or periodically. For the 2000 data, State reports have been published by New South Wales (NSW Department of Health 2001), South Australia (Chan et al. 2001), Victoria (Riley and Halliday 2001), Queensland (Queensland Health 2002) and Western Australia (Department of Health WA 2002).

2 Mothers

2.1 Introductory notes

This chapter provides data on demographic and pregnancy characteristics of mothers and some characteristics and outcomes of their babies. The number of babies is marginally higher than the number of mothers because of multiple births. The term 'confinements' has been used in the headings of tables and figures to indicate maternal characteristics, whereas 'births' refer to babies.

Each State and Territory has developed its own forms for collecting perinatal data, often to maintain compatibility with its other data collections. While the perinatal collections are based on a national minimum data set, in some jurisdictions only higher categories of data are collected resulting in some subcategories without data. The data in this report relate to the State or Territory of occurrence of births in 2000 rather than to the area of usual residence of the mother.

2.2 Confinements and births

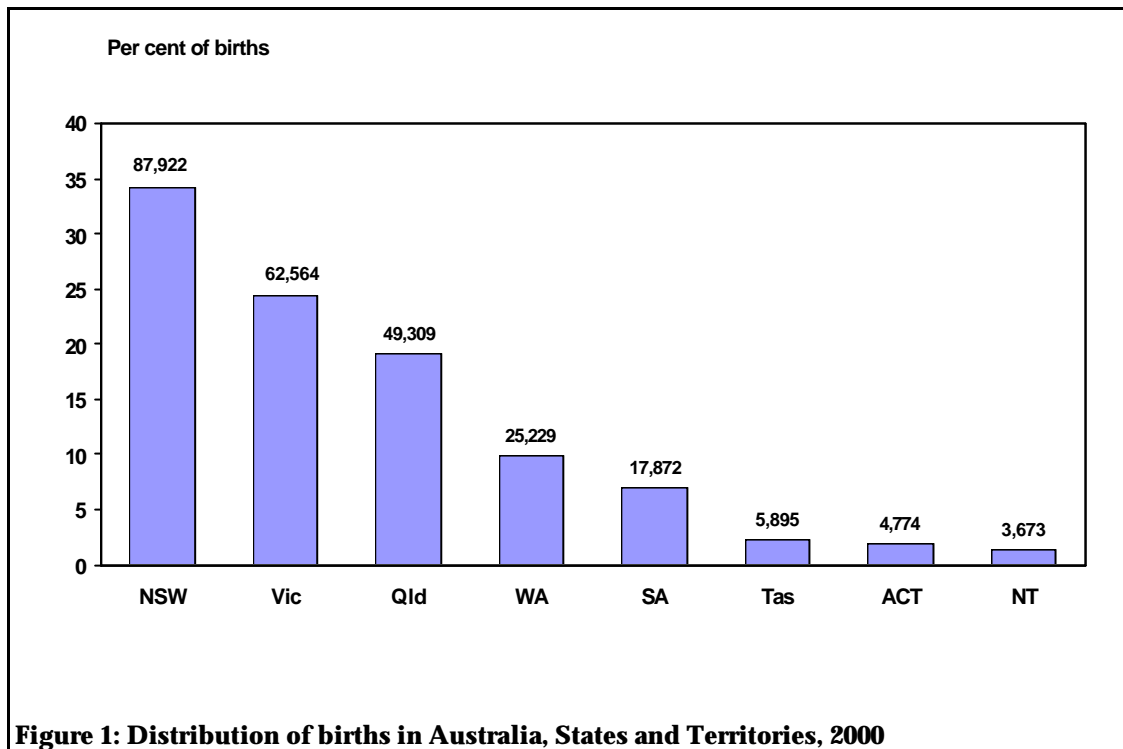
There were 253,053 confinements notified to State and Territory perinatal data groups in Australia in 2000, resulting in a total of 257,238 live births and fetal deaths (Table A1). Although birth rates in the States and Territories differ, the distribution of births generally reflects that of the population and of women in the reproductive age group (Figure 1).

To evaluate the completeness of notifications of births in the perinatal collections, these births can be compared with birth registrations published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in *Births* (ABS 2001b). In the registration system, 249,636 live births were registered in Australia in 2000, 5,809 fewer than the 255,445 live births notified to the perinatal collections. As the States and Territories sometimes differ in the conventions used for coding the residence of mothers living interstate, it is not readily possible to compare the numbers in the two data systems by State and Territory. These differences in the national figures on live births are also due to significant delays in the registration of some live births. It is also likely that some home births are not notified to the perinatal collections but are still registered by the parents.

Some States are already linking notifications from the perinatal collections to registrations of births and perinatal deaths. For this to be achieved by all States and Territories, the agreement and support of the Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages and the ABS are needed. On gaining this it will be possible to explain the discrepancies between the two perinatal data systems and to implement measures for ensuring complete notification and registration of births and perinatal deaths.

Linking data in the perinatal collections to birth registrations also has the advantage of enabling analysis of associations between paternal characteristics, various

maternal characteristics and risk factors, and pregnancy outcome. There are no paternal data in the 2000 perinatal collections. Birth registrations include information on paternal age, Indigenous status, country of birth and occupation, so enhanced analysis would be possible by linking the two data systems.



2.3 Place of birth

Most births in Australia occur in hospitals, either in conventional labour-ward settings or in hospital birth centres. In 2000, nearly all States and Territories designated birth centres separately on notification forms. There were 5,614 confinements in birth centres in 2000 (Table A2), continuing the rise reported in 1999. In 2000, confinements in birth centres accounted for 2.2% of all confinements in the States and Territories. Planned home births, and births occurring unexpectedly before arrival in hospital for planned hospital births, are the other two groups that have relatively small numbers. In the Northern Territory, the 65 'other' confinements were mainly births in bush clinics.

Planned home births are under-ascertained in some State and Territory perinatal collections. In 2000, 672 planned home births, representing 0.3% of all confinements, were notified nationally (Table A2), decreasing from 842 in 1999.

2.4 Size of maternity unit

The size of maternity units, based on the annual number of confinements, varied from those with just a few births each year to those with more than 2,000 births. The actual number of maternity units in a region depends on its geographical location, the population of the region, and policies regarding maternity services. In 2000 just

under half (45.0%) of the maternity units in Australia had fewer than 100 confinements (Table A3). Two-fifths (40.0%) had between 100 and 1,000 confinements, and 14.7% had more than 1,000 confinements. Although most maternity units are relatively small in size, the majority of hospital confinements (64.7%) occurred in the larger maternity units that had more than 1,000 confinements annually (Table A4). Almost two-fifths (37.7%) of hospital confinements were in units with more than 2,000 confinements annually.

2.5 Maternal age

Maternal age is an important risk factor for perinatal outcome. Adverse outcomes are more likely to occur in younger and older mothers. The average age of women giving birth in Australia has increased gradually in recent years. The mean age in 2000 was 29.0 years, continuing the rise from 27.9 years in 1991. Mothers in Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory were older, and those in the Northern Territory younger, than the national average (Table A5). The proportion of teenage mothers (5.0%) in 2000 was unchanged to the last year. The proportion of mothers aged 20 to 24 years (51,106) has fallen from 20.2% in 1991 to 15.5% in 2000 (39,297), but older mothers aged 35 years and over have continued to increase from 10.6% in 1991 (26,974) to 17.1% in 2000 (43,240) (Figure 2).

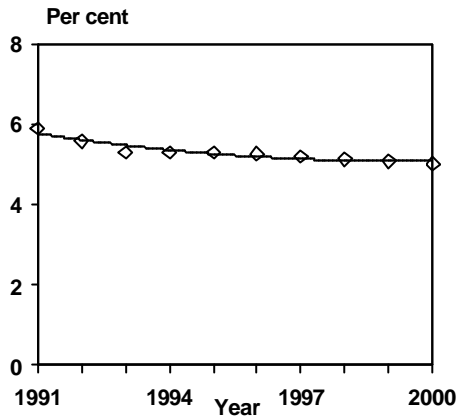
The number of teenage confinements dropped from 13,373 in 1996 to 12,680 in 2000, a decline of 5.2%. The decline between 1992 and 1996 was 7.1%. The proportion of teenage confinements in 2000 was 5.0% nationally and ranged from a low of 3.3% in Victoria to 15.6% in the Northern Territory (Table A5, Figure 3). There were relatively more younger teenage mothers in the Northern Territory.

The national age-specific birth rate for teenagers declined from a peak of 55.5 per 1,000 females in 1971 to a low of 17.4 per 1,000 females in 2000 (ABS 2001b). Birth rates in teenagers varied considerably in 2000 from a low of 10.8 per 1,000 females in Victoria to a high of 69.6 per 1,000 in the Northern Territory.

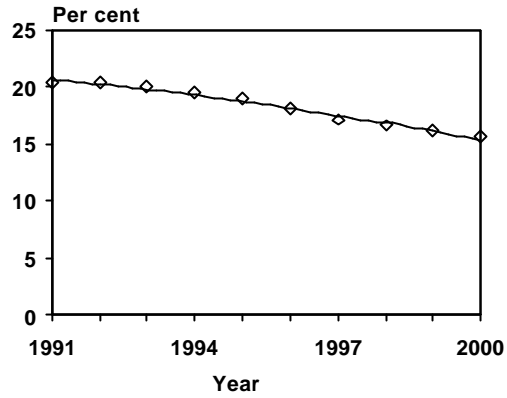
The trend of decreasing age-specific birth rates of women aged 20 to 29 years continued in 2000, whereas the rates for women over 30 years increased (ABS 2001b).

The age-specific birth rate understates pregnancy, as it does not include information on induced abortions. Currently, only South Australia, Western Australia, Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory collect population-based data on induced abortions. In South Australia, in 2000, there were 5,499 induced abortions reported, with an abortion rate of 17.5 per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years. The associated pregnancy rate was 73.8 per 1,000 women and almost one in four (23.6%) pregnancies resulted in abortions. More than half (54.6%) of all teenage pregnancies were terminated (Chan et al. 2001).

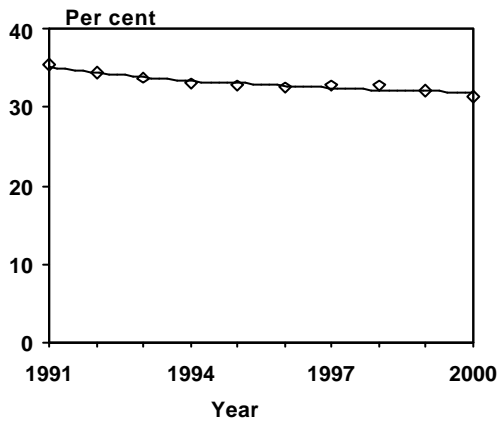
Proportion of mothers aged less than 20 years of age



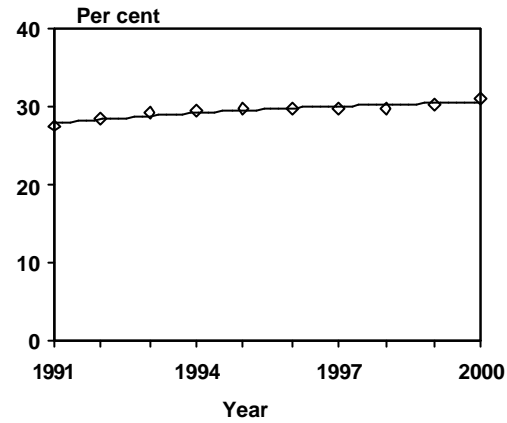
Proportion of mothers aged 20-24 years



Proportion of mothers aged 25-29 years



Proportion of mothers aged 30-34 years



Proportion of mothers aged 35 years and over

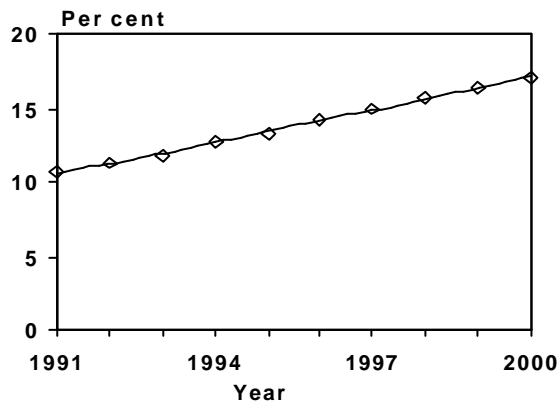
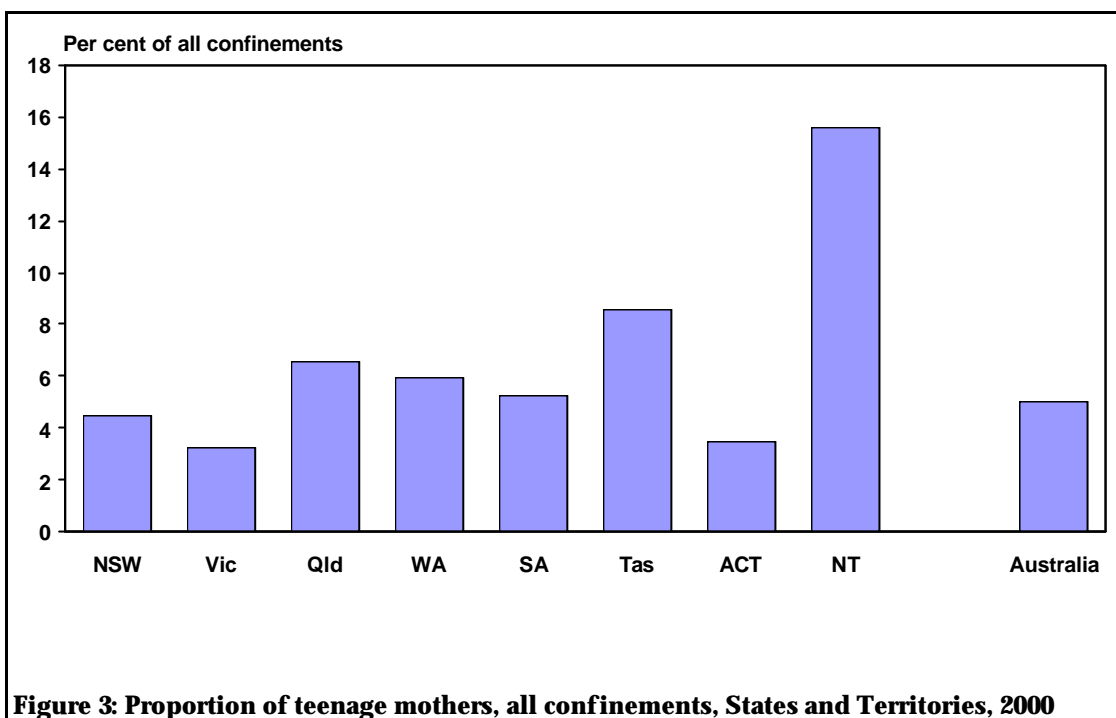


Figure 2: Trends in maternal age, Australia, 1991-2000



2.6 Maternal parity

Parity is the number of previous pregnancies that resulted in live births or stillbirths. In 2000, 41.1% of mothers were having their first baby and 33.6% were having their second child (Table A6, Figure 4).

One in six mothers (15.6%) had given birth twice previously and 9.6% had three or more children. The proportion of mothers who had given birth at least twice previously increased with maternal age from 2.3% for teenagers to 49.3% for mothers aged 40 years and over (Table A7).

The average age of mothers having their first baby was 27.3 years in 2000 and continue to rise from 25.8 years in 1991. The majority (64.7%) of these women are aged less than 30 years (Table A7). The proportion of first-time mothers aged 35 years or older is also increasing, with 1 in 10 (10.2%) of all primiparous women being in this age group.

2.7 Marital status

Married women or those in *de facto* relationships accounted for 87.0% of all mothers in Australia in 2000 (excluding New South Wales). Approximately 1 in 9 (11.6%) mothers were single and another 1.3% were widowed, divorced, or separated (Table A8). Data on marital status were not available for New South Wales.

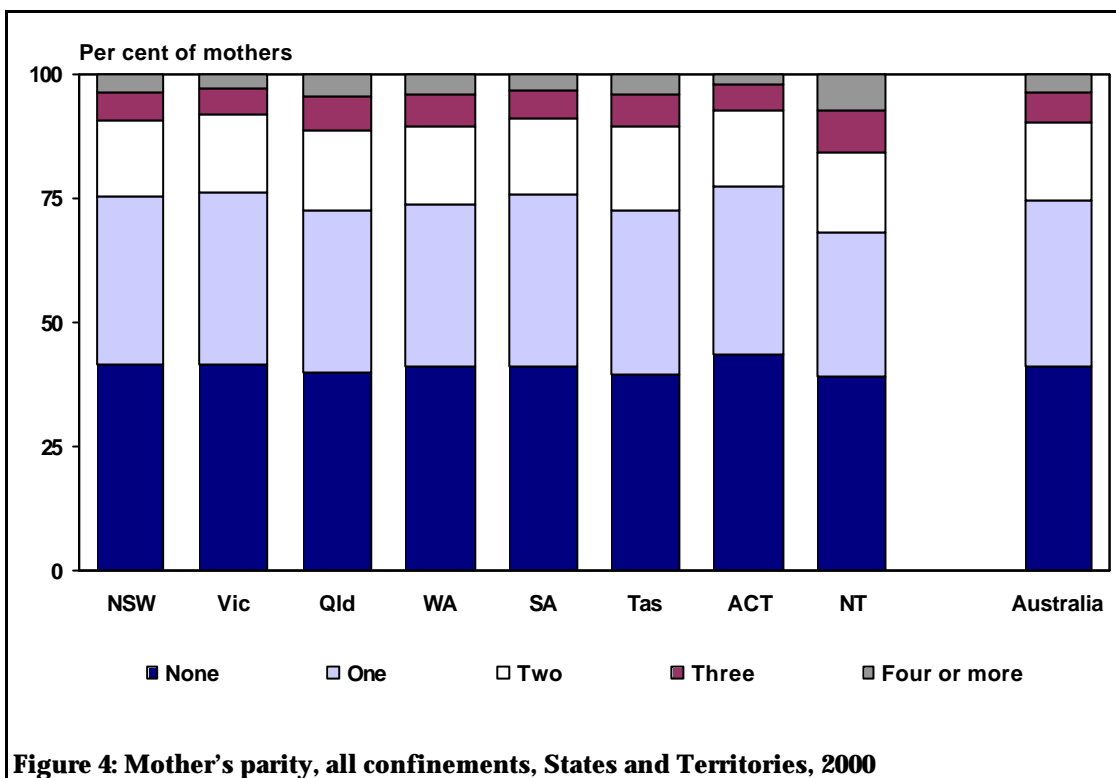


Figure 4: Mother's parity, all confinements, States and Territories, 2000

2.8 Indigenous status

The *National Health Data Dictionary* (AIHW 2001) defines Indigenous status thus:

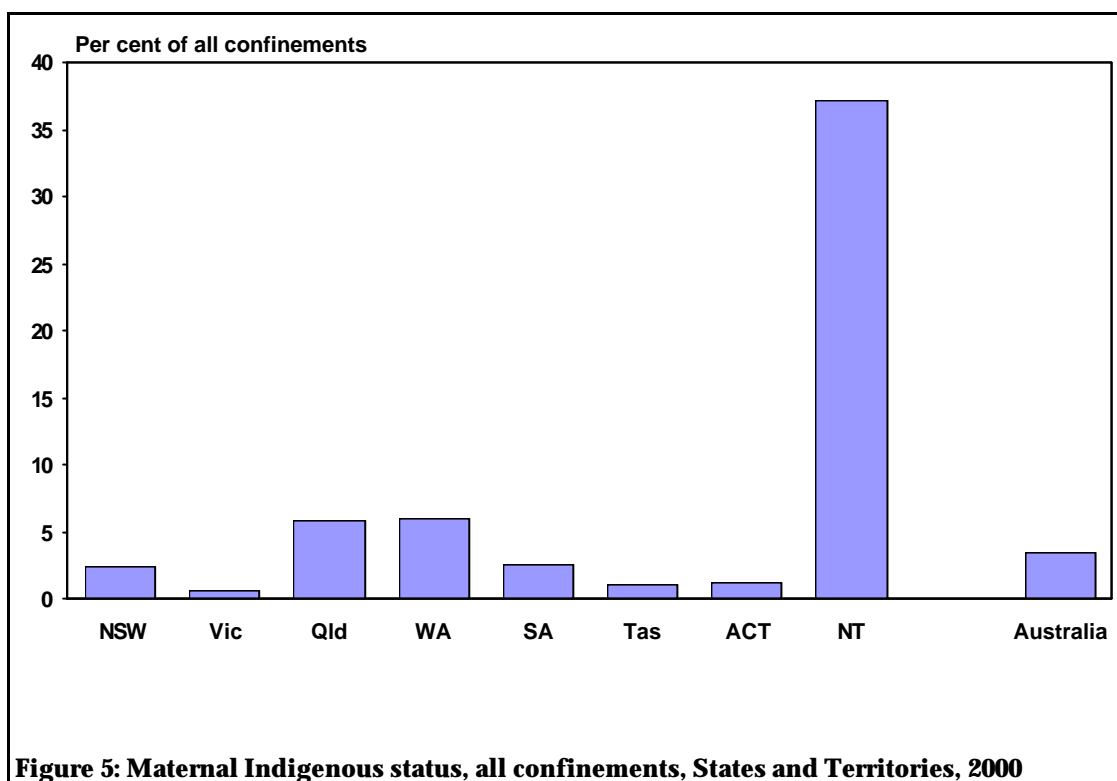
An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community with which he or she lives.

All States and Territories have a specific data item for Indigenous status on their perinatal form. These separately identify Indigenous mothers as those of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. No information is collected about the paternal or baby's Indigenous status. There has been ongoing validation work on the ascertainment of Indigenous mothers and their babies by the perinatal data collections (Day et al. 1999). The term 'Indigenous' is used in this report to refer to mothers and babies of mothers of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

In 2000, 8,682 Indigenous women gave birth in Australia representing 3.4% of all confinements (Table A9). Indigenous mothers accounted for a much greater proportion of all confinements in the Northern Territory (37.2%) than elsewhere in Australia (Figure 5). There were also significant proportions of confinements to Indigenous women in Western Australia (6.0%) and Queensland (5.8%). Because of their larger overall populations, there were actually more confinements of Indigenous mothers in Queensland (2,798), New South Wales (2,105) and Western Australia (1,498) than in the Northern Territory (1,348).

Indigenous mothers are more likely to have their babies at a younger age, and to have more confinements, than other mothers (Tables A10, A11). In 2000, the average age of an Indigenous mother at confinement was 24.7 years compared with 29.0 years for all mothers at confinement. More than one in five (22.9%) Indigenous mothers

were teenagers. The proportion of teenagers among Indigenous mothers was higher in the Northern Territory (33.0%) than in the other States and the Australian Capital Territory.



2.9 Maternal country of birth

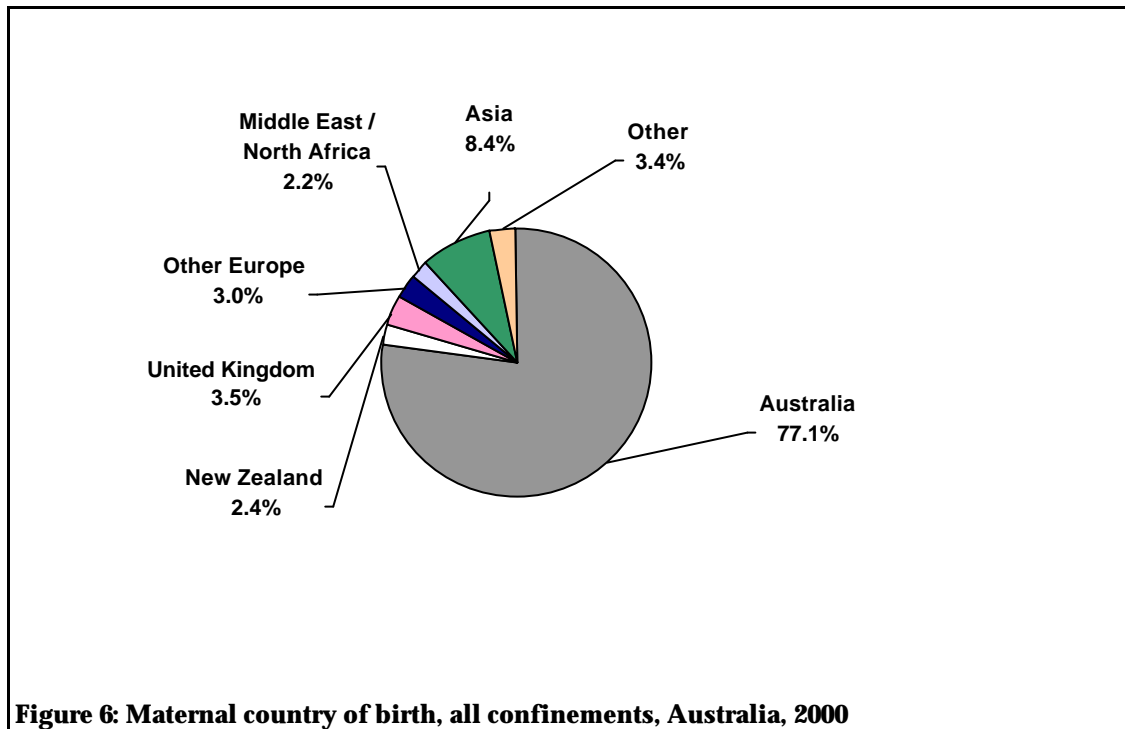
The country of birth of the mother may be an important risk factor for outcomes such as low birthweight and perinatal mortality. In 2000, the States and Territories used the four-digit ABS country of birth classification (ABS 1997).

A high proportion (22.9%) of women giving birth in Australia in 2000 was born in countries other than Australia (Figure 6). Because of the large number of countries, generally only those countries with more than 1,000 confinements are reported separately (Table A12). Mothers born in the United Kingdom comprised 3.5% of all confinements and accounted for relatively higher proportions of all mothers in Western Australia (8.7%) and South Australia (5.0%). New Zealand-born mothers comprised 2.4% of all confinements. The proportion of mothers who were born in Asia has increased considerably in the last decade, reflecting recent trends in migration to Australia. In 2000, 8.4% of mothers had been born in Asia, compared with 5.2% in 1991.

Mothers born in countries where English is not the first language are more likely to reside in the more populous States, New South Wales and Victoria (Table A12). This pattern is particularly evident for the countries Lebanon, Vietnam and China. Teenage confinements were less common among mothers born outside Australia apart from New Zealand which had similar rates to Australian-born mothers. Births to mothers aged 35 years and over were more common amongst women born in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, China and Vietnam (Table A13). These variations in

geographical distribution and maternal age need to be recognised in planning culturally acceptable maternity and postnatal community health services, including prenatal diagnosis and interpreter services.

Marital status also varied according to the mother's country of birth. A higher proportion of mothers born in Australia, New Zealand and Vietnam was single than those born in most other countries (Table A14).



2.10 Admitted patient election status in hospital

Patients admitted to hospitals may elect to be public or private patients; and this is usually determined by whether or not they have private health insurance. The proportion of mothers with private status in hospital in the States and Territories decreased from 28.6% in 1999 to 25.4% in 2000 and ranged from 16.3% in the Northern Territory to 29.4% in Queensland (Table A15).

The mother's status can be used as an indicator of socioeconomic status. Mothers who had private status in hospital (16.8%) were more than twice as likely as those who had public status (6.8%) to have their first baby at 35 years or older, but clearly the proportion in this age group is still relatively small.

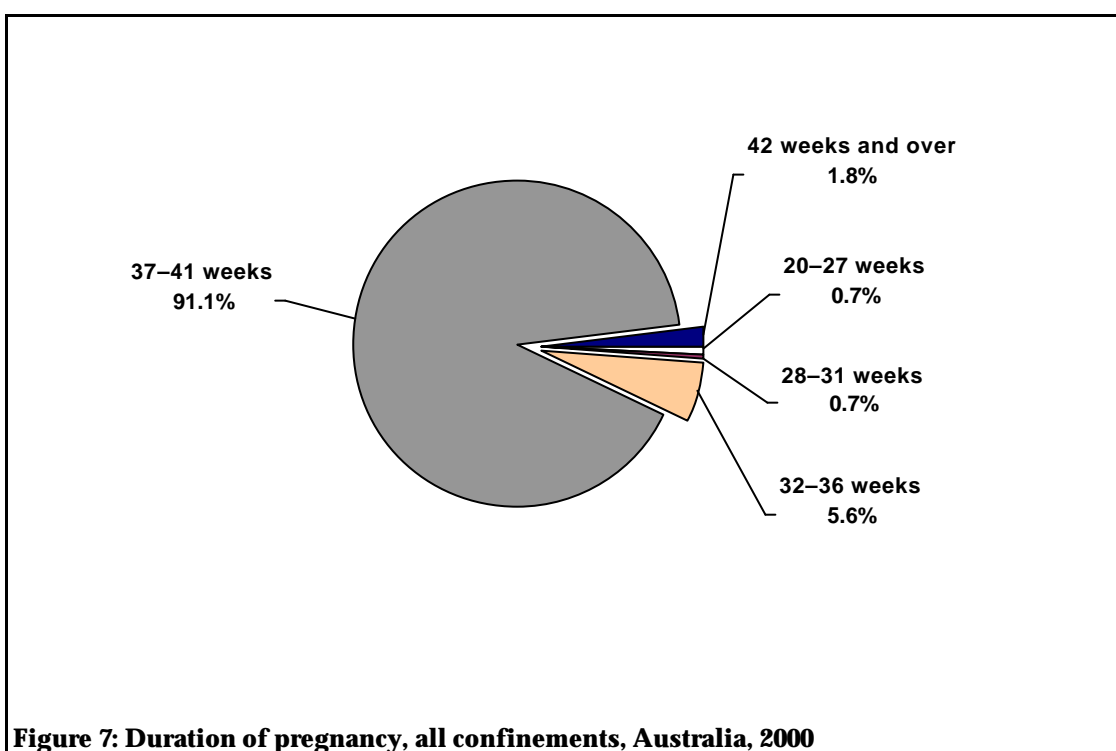
2.11 Duration of pregnancy

Accurate population data on gestational age are difficult to obtain. Estimates based on the calculated interval between the first day of the last menstrual period (LMP) and the baby's date of birth may be imprecise for some women because of uncertainty about the date of the LMP, irregular cycles, or delayed ovulation after use of oral contraceptives. Nevertheless, in the majority of pregnancies the

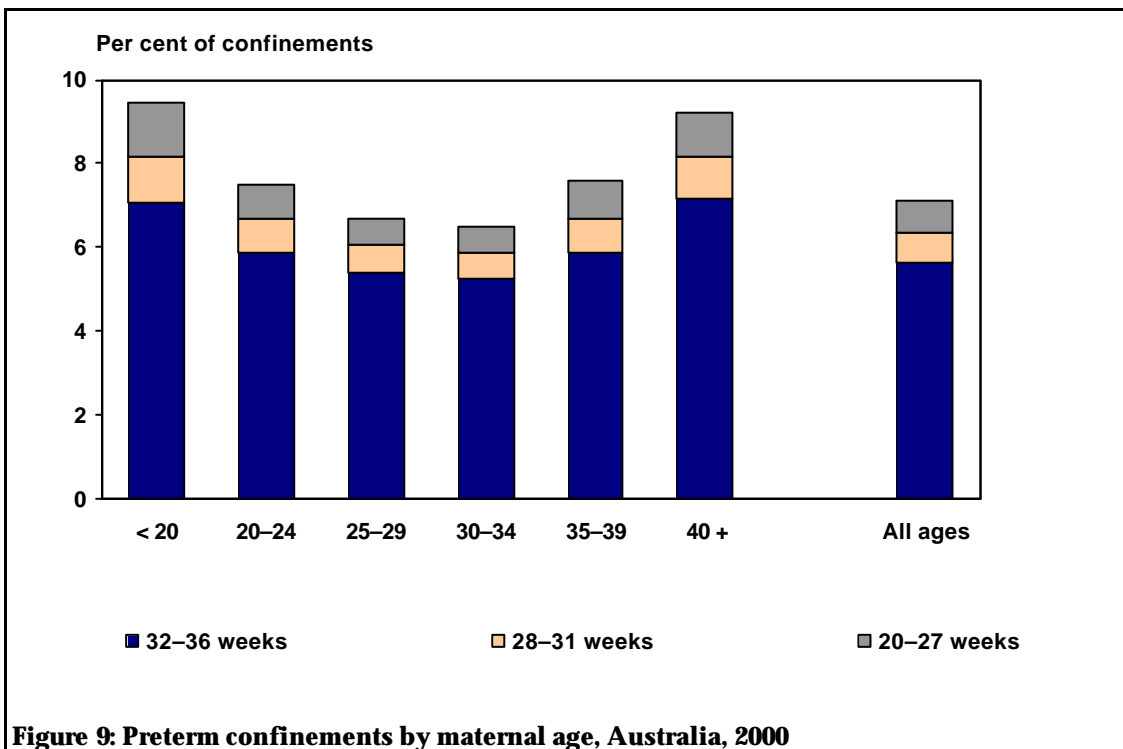
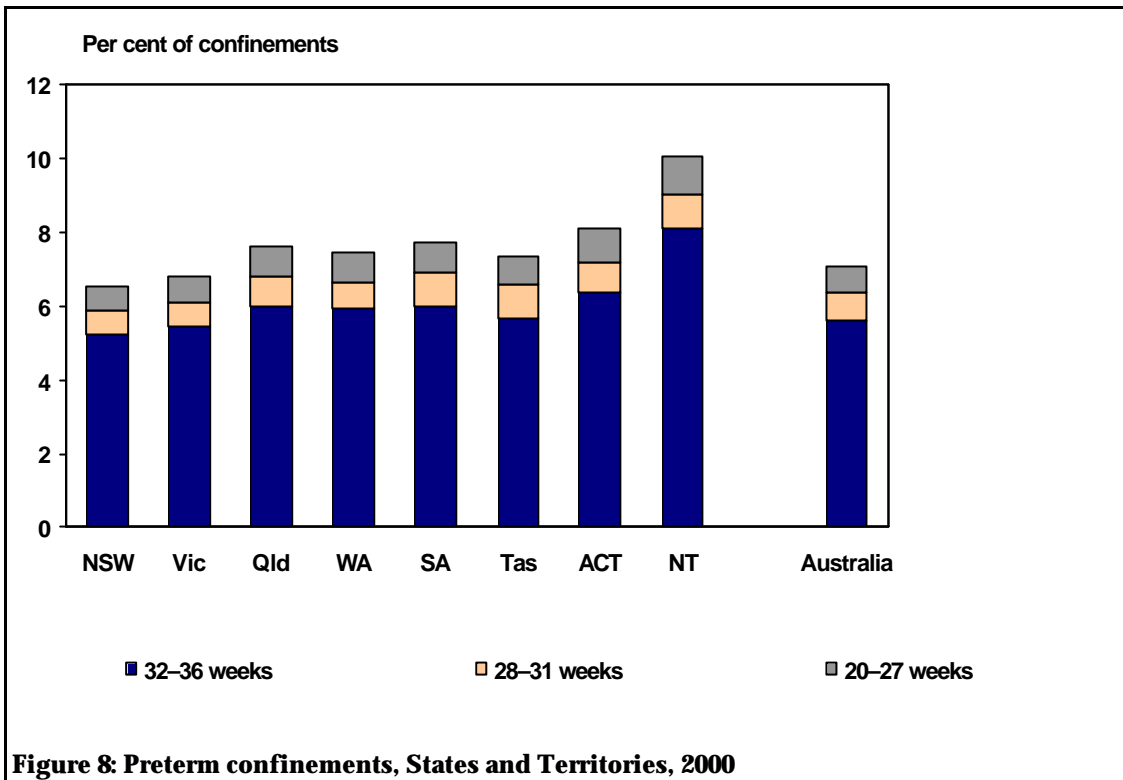
gestational age derived from the dates provides an appropriate estimate of the duration of pregnancy.

As most pregnant women have at least one ultrasound examination during pregnancy, this may provide useful information on gestational age if performed in early pregnancy. The different practices for recording and estimating gestational age in the States and Territories are likely to result in variable estimates of the distribution of gestational age. This should be kept in mind when comparing State and Territory data on gestational age.

Preterm birth (less than 37 weeks gestation) occurred in 7.0% of all confinements (Table A16, Figure 7). The average duration of pregnancy in Australia was 39.0 weeks. Mothers gave birth at 20–27 weeks in 0.7% of confinements, at 28–31 weeks in 0.7%, and at 32–36 weeks in 5.6% of confinements. There was a higher incidence of preterm birth in the Northern Territory (10.0%) than elsewhere (Figure 8).



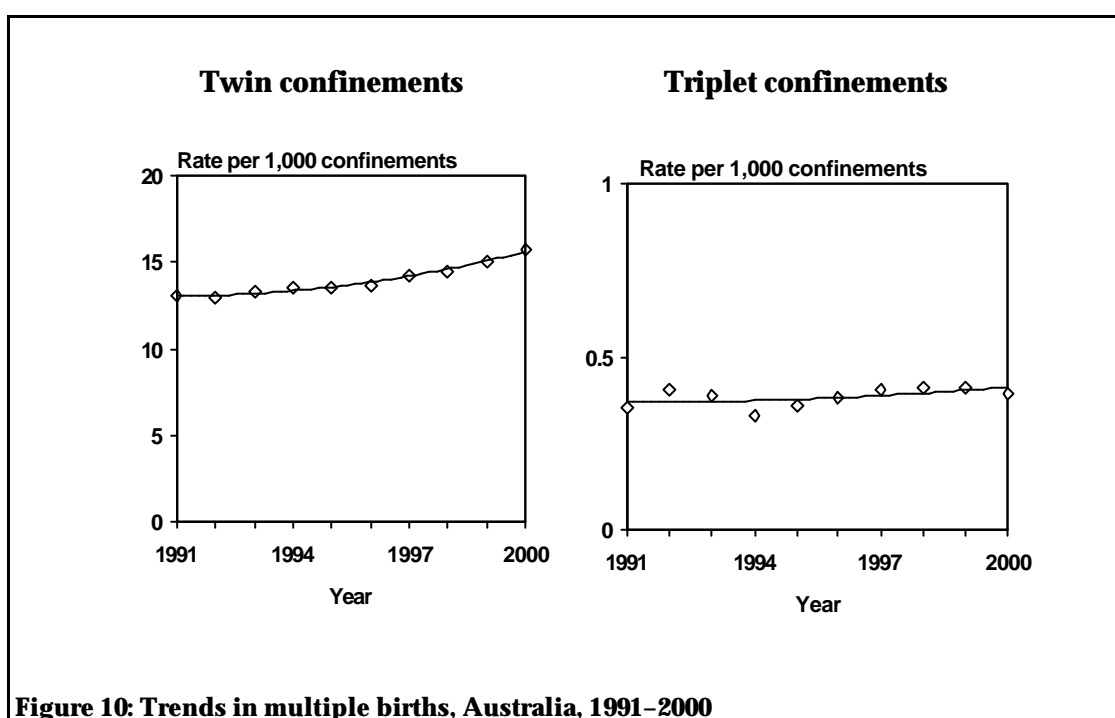
Preterm birth varied with maternal age and was more likely among younger and older mothers than those aged 20 to 34 years (Table A17, Figure 9).



2.12 Multiple pregnancy

In the perinatal collections, multiple pregnancies are based on the number of fetuses that remain in utero at 20 weeks gestation and are subsequently delivered as separate births. This definition excludes fetuses aborted before 20 completed weeks or fetuses compressed in the placenta at 20 weeks or more. If gestational age is unknown, only fetuses weighing 400 g or more are taken into account in determining whether it is a singleton or multiple pregnancy. As the perinatal collections include both live births and stillbirths, there are slightly more multiple pregnancies in these figures than in the data on registrations of live births published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

In 2000, there were 4,077 multiple pregnancies (1.6% of all confinements), consisting of 3,974 twin pregnancies, 100 triplet pregnancies, and 3 quadruplet pregnancies (Table A18). The twinning rate was 15.1 per 1,000 confinements in 2000 (Figure 10), substantially higher than the low point of 9.0 per 1,000 confinements in 1977 (Doherty & Lancaster 1986). The number of triplet pregnancies increased from 85 in 1994 to 100 in 2000. The increasing trend in multiple pregnancies in the last two decades can be attributed to a number of factors including increased use of fertility drugs and assisted conception; and the growing number of older mothers.



Multiple pregnancy increases with advancing maternal age, peaking in women aged 35-39 years. In 2000, the highest proportion of twin confinements (2.2%) was among mothers aged 35 to 39 years (Table A19, Figure 11).

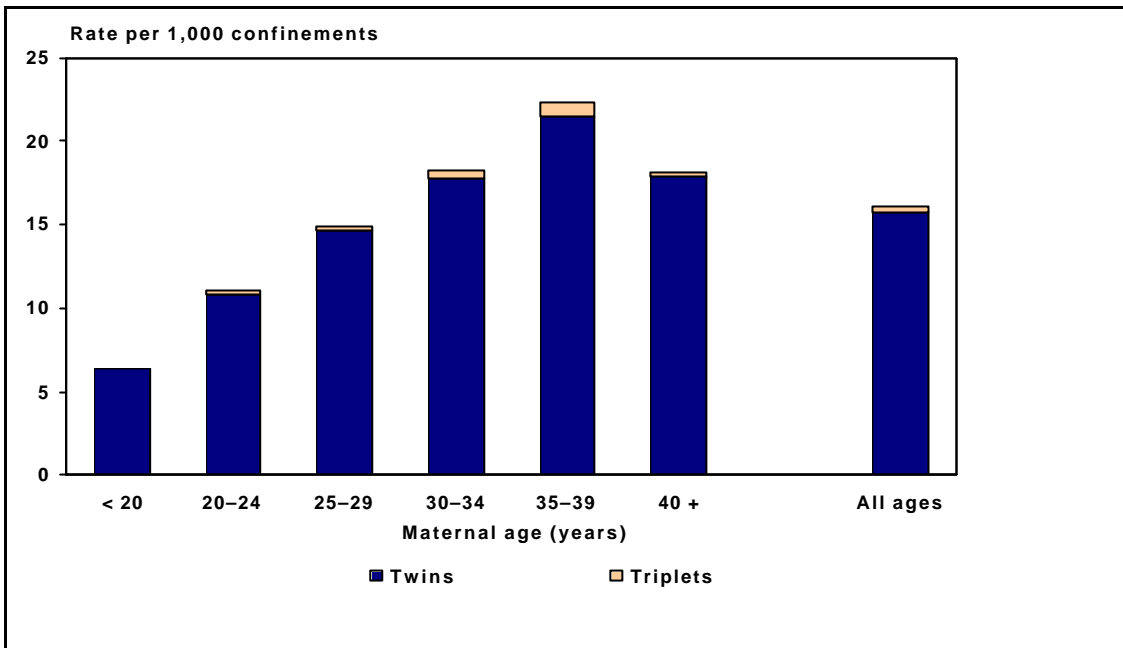


Figure 11: Maternal age-specific multiple birth rates, Australia, 2000

2.13 Onset of labour

The onset of labour was spontaneous in 61.4% of all confinements (Table A20, Figure 12); this proportion was highest in the Northern Territory (69.4%) and lowest in Tasmania (55.0%). There was considerable variation in whether labour was augmented, ranging from (35.9%) in the Northern Territory to 18.5% of all births in New South Wales.

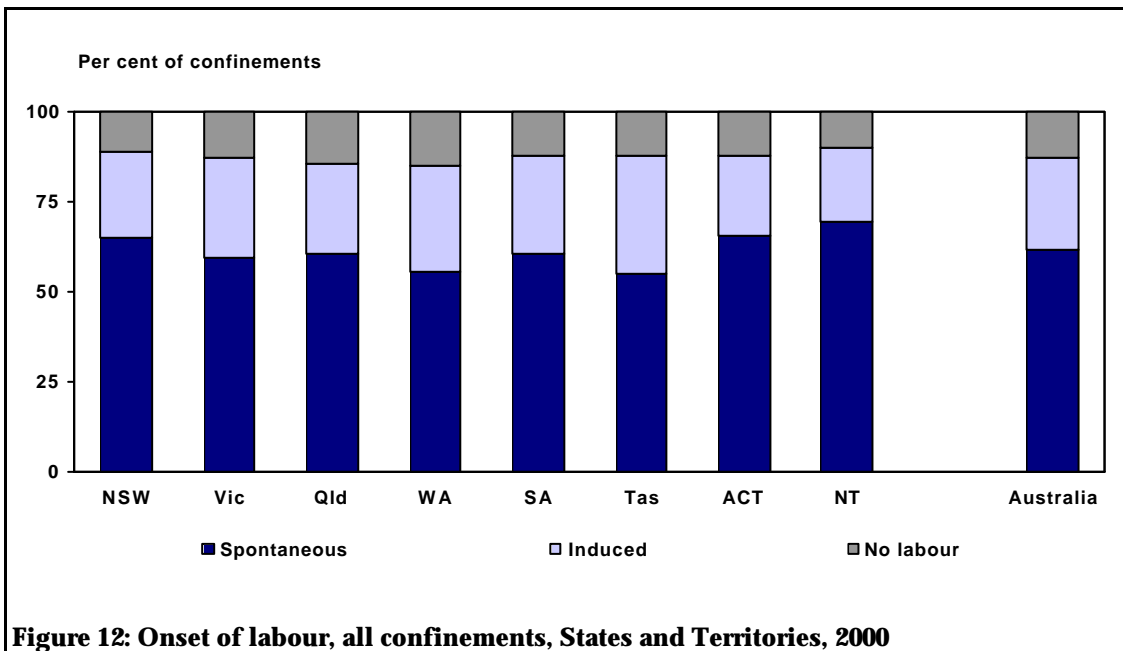


Figure 12: Onset of labour, all confinements, States and Territories, 2000

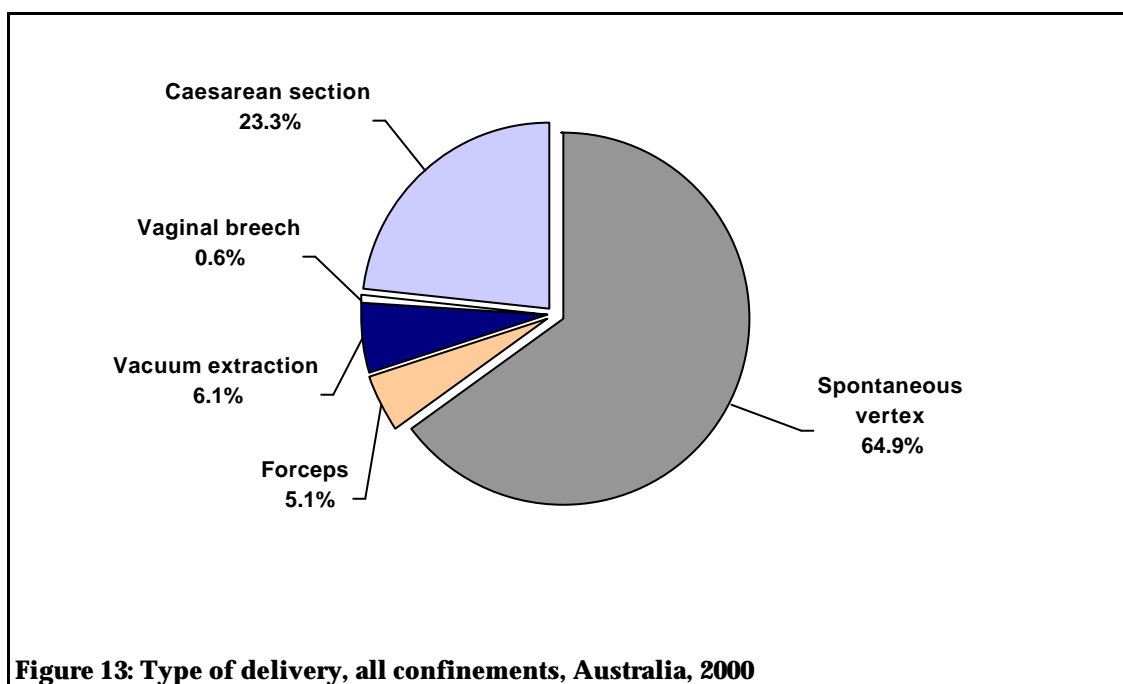
Labour was induced in 25.7% of pregnancies and induction was more likely in Tasmania (32.5%) than in the other States and Territories. Combined medical and surgical induction of labour was more likely than either type alone. Most confinements with no labour (12.9%) were elective caesarean sections.

2.14 Presentation at birth

The majority of presentations at birth were vertex (94.8%) (Table A21). Breech presentation occurred in 4.3% of all confinements and other presentations in 0.8% of confinements. In multiple pregnancies, the presentation and type of delivery of the first-born baby was used to classify each confinement.

2.15 Method of birth

Almost two-thirds (64.9%) of all confinements were spontaneous vaginal deliveries (Table A22, Figure 13). Forceps delivery occurred in 5.1%, vacuum extraction in 6.1%, and vaginal breech delivery in 0.6%.



There were 59,051 caesarean sections performed in 2000, accounting for 23.3% of all confinements (Figure 13). This is well above the WHO recommended national caesarean section rate of 15% (WHO 1985). The caesarean rate (per cent) continues to show an overall upward trend in recent decades (Lancaster & Pedisich 1993) (Figure 14). Three States, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia, had caesarean section rates of 25% while the Northern Territory reported the lowest rate (15.8%) (Table A22).

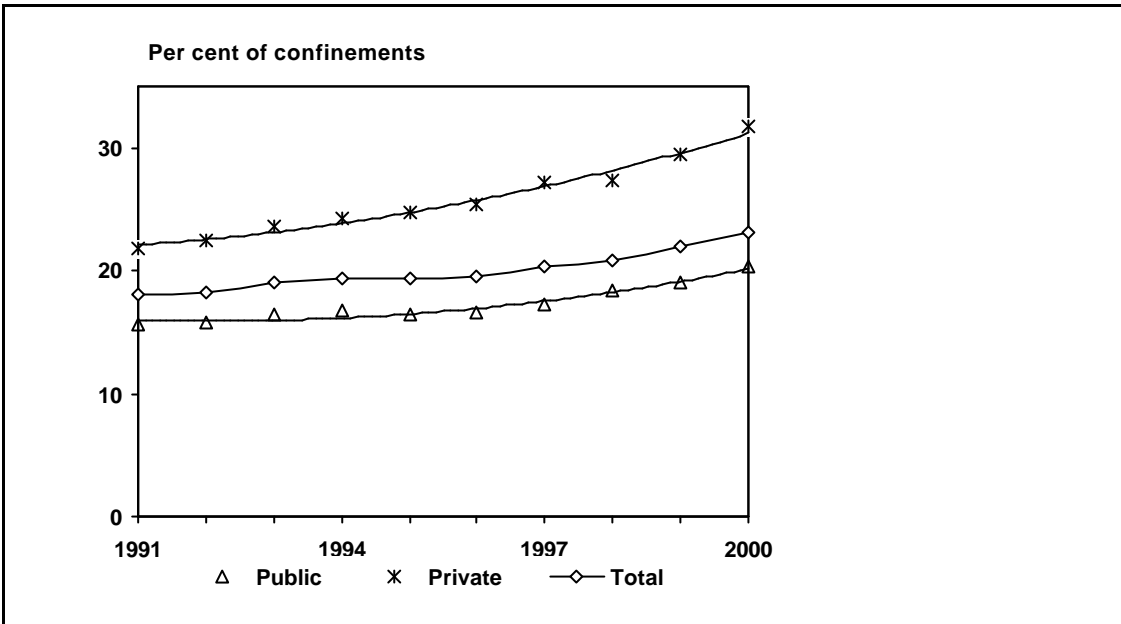
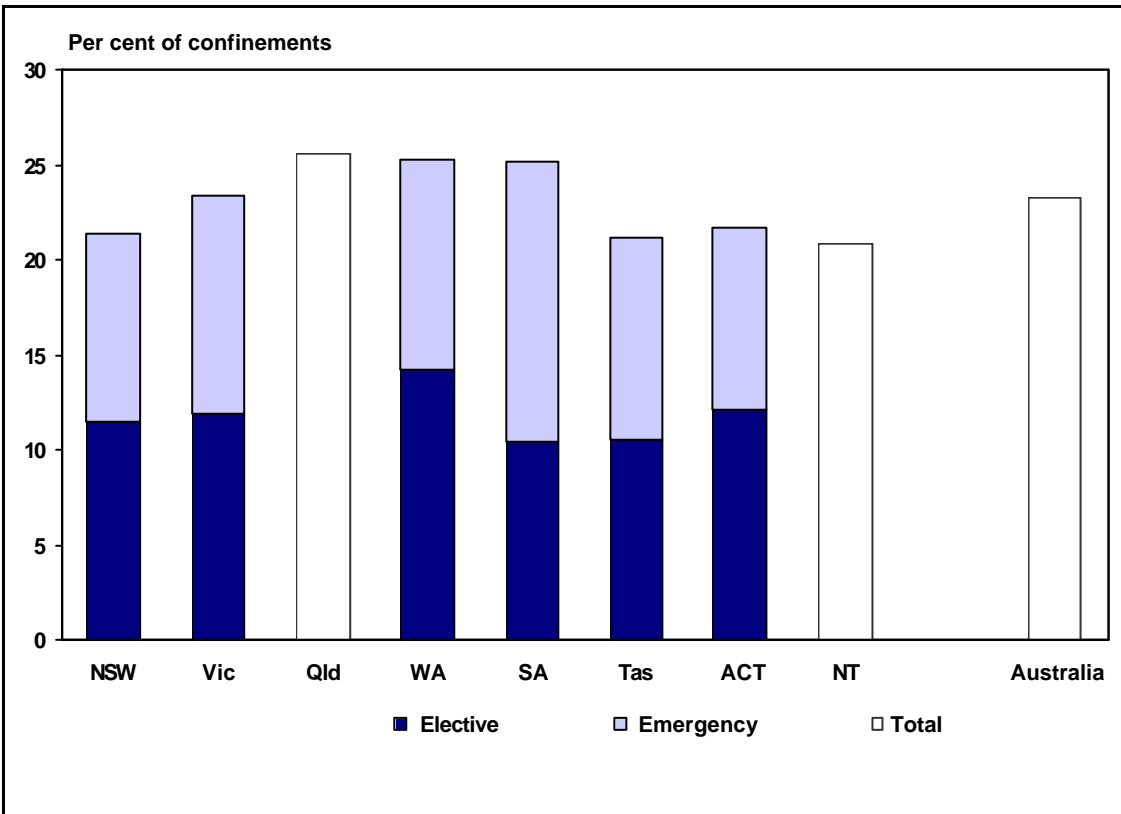


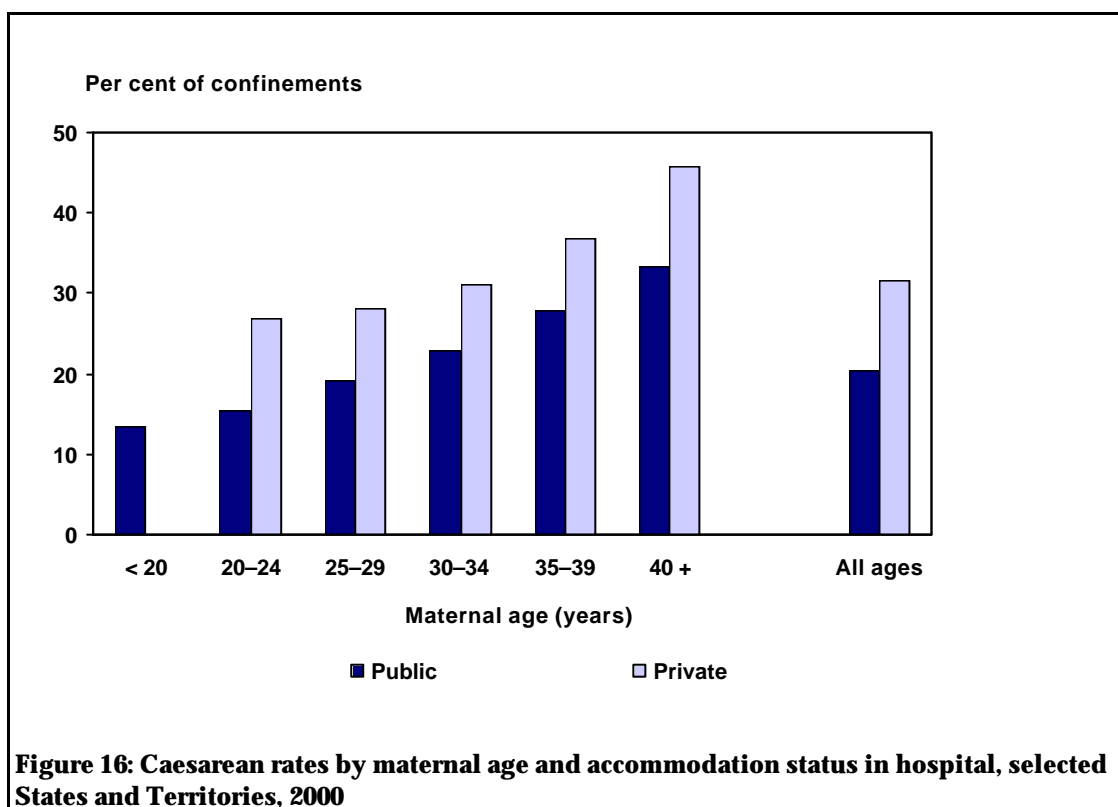
Figure 14: Trends in caesarean section rates by accommodation status in hospital, Australia, 1991-2000



Notes: Elective and emergency caesarean data for Queensland and Northern Territory unavailable.

Figure 15: Caesarean rates, States and Territories, 2000

Caesarean rates for each State and Territory were compared in categories of maternal age, status in hospital, parity, singleton and multiple pregnancies, breech presentation in singleton confinements, and birthweight in singleton births (Tables A22, A23, A24, A25, A26 and A27 and Figures 16 and 17). The caesarean rate of 31.7% for women who were private patients in hospital was 55.4% higher than the rate of 20.4% for public patients (Table A23, Figure 16). This difference was partly attributable to a higher proportion of older women among private patients. Approximately one-third of mothers with private status in hospital in Queensland (36.8%), Western Australia (34.3%) South Australia (33.8%) and Northern Territory (33.6%) had their babies by caesarean section.



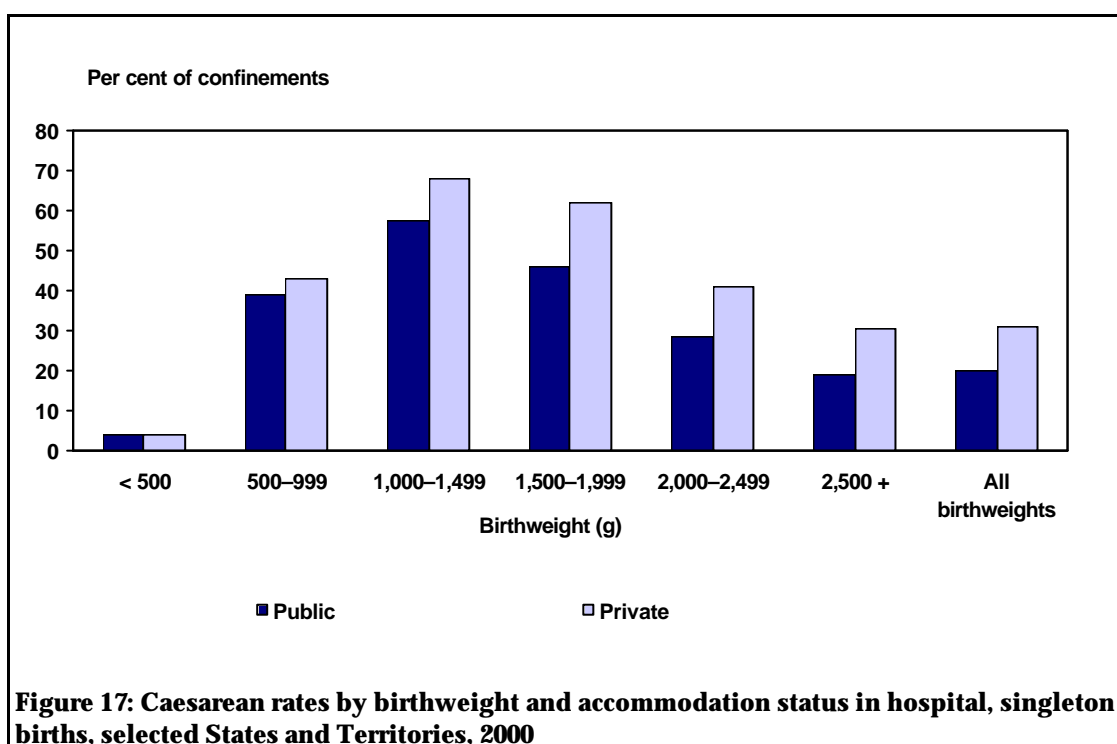
The caesarean rate of 20.0% for Indigenous mothers was less than that for all mothers (23.1%) (Table A24). For the 8,478 Indigenous mothers who had public and 187 mothers who had private status, the caesarean rates were 19.8% and 27.5%, respectively. These are comparable with the overall rate of 20.4% for public status and 31.7% for private status in hospital among all mothers.

Analysis of national caesarean rates by 5-year maternal age group, public and private status in hospital and number of previous births (Tables A25, A26) showed these factors were associated with higher rates of caesarean section. Caesarean rates were generally higher as maternal age increased. Mothers having their first baby had higher caesarean rates than those who had given birth previously. Caesarean rates in nearly all maternal age and parity groups for mothers with private status in hospital were higher than for those with public status. Mothers aged 35 to 39 years who had private status in hospital and who were having their first baby had a caesarean rate of 44.2% compared with 38.0% for those who had public status. For mothers aged 40 and above, the rising trend with advancing maternal age continued with caesarean

rates of 59.1% for those who had private status in hospital compared with 46.2% for those who had public status.

Various other factors that influence caesarean rates include multiple pregnancy, breech presentation and the baby's birthweight (Table A27, Figure 17). The caesarean rate of 53.3% for twins was more than twice that for singleton births (22.8%); for other multiple births, the caesarean rate was 89.3%. Most babies (84.6%) presenting in the breech position in singleton pregnancies were born by caesarean section.

Caesarean rates were high for mothers of low birthweight babies in singleton pregnancies, particularly for babies weighing 1,000–1,499 g (59.1%) and 1,500–1,999 g (48.3%). For singleton births of 2,500 g and over, mothers who had private status in hospital had a caesarean rate of 30.5%, 56.4% higher than the rate of 19.5% for those who were public patients.



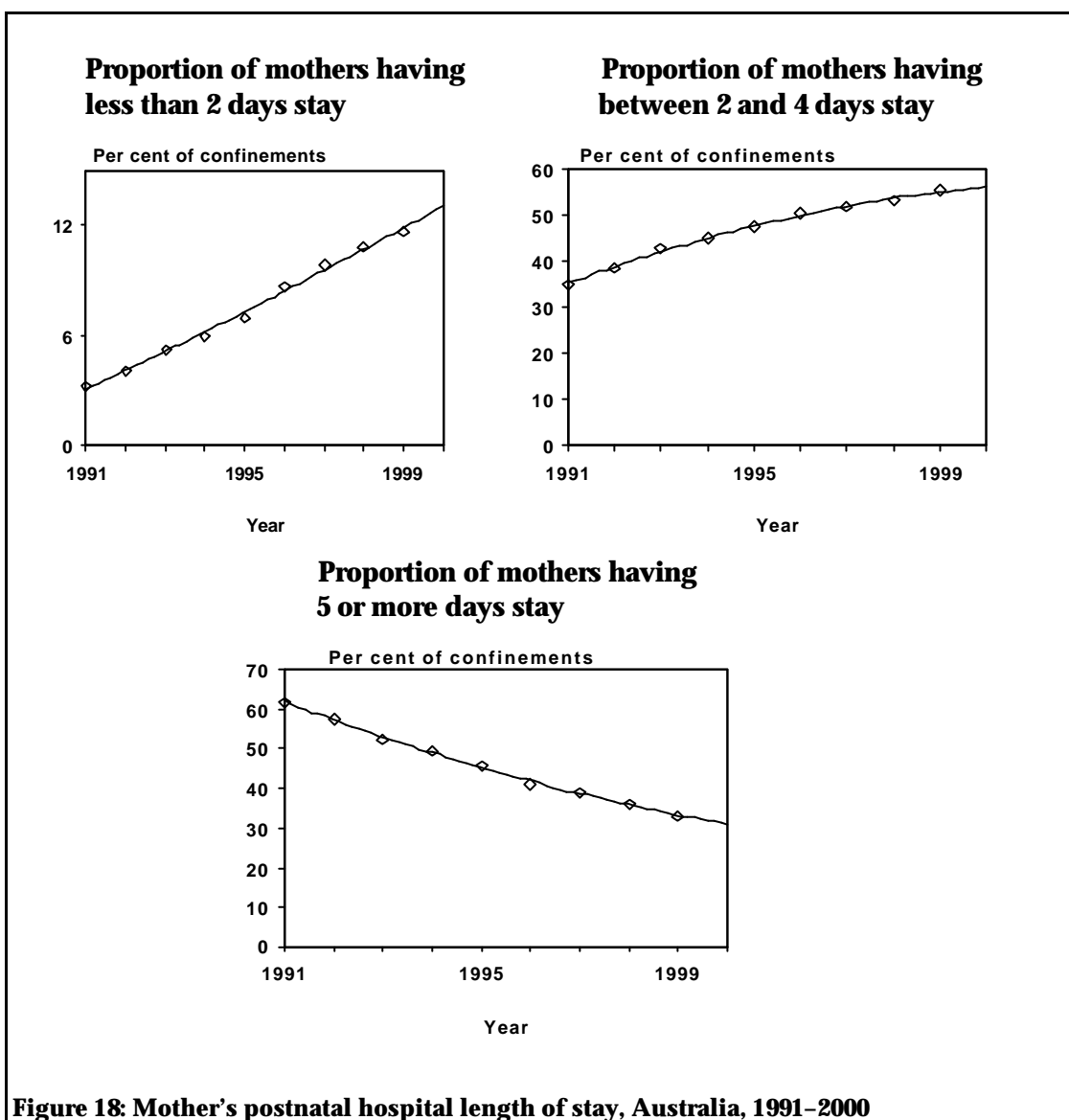
2.16 Perineal repair after delivery

All States and Territories collected information on the state of the perineum after delivery; however, data from Tasmania were not available in the format required for publication. An episiotomy was performed for 12.8% of all confinements, the highest rates being recorded in Victoria (16.7%). A vaginal tear or first degree or second degree laceration occurred in 33.1% of confinements whereas a higher degree laceration occurred in less than 1% of all mothers (2.6%) (Table A28).

2.17 Mother's length of stay in hospital

Data on antenatal and postnatal stay were not available for New South Wales and Western Australia. Except for Tasmania, most women (over 60%) gave birth within a

day of admission to hospital (Table A29). For Victoria, antenatal and postnatal stays less than 1 day in hospital had been combined with 1-day stay. Hence the average of 34.9% giving birth within the first day of admission is an underestimate and an average of 58.6 for 1 day stay is an overestimate. Most mothers (93.5%) gave birth in less than 2 days of admission. About 1 in 84 women were hospitalised for at least 7 days immediately before delivery.



The length of the mother's postnatal stay in hospital may be influenced by factors such as the type of delivery, maternal medical and obstetric complications, neonatal morbidity, and specific hospital policies of early discharge. The final date of discharge of women transferred to other hospitals was not known, so these women were excluded from the calculation of length of postnatal stay. The average duration of postnatal stay in 2000 for Australia (excluding New South Wales and Western Australia) was 3.7 days, having steadily declined from the average of 5.3 days in 1991. Average postnatal stay in hospital was longer in Tasmania (4.3 days), and the Northern Territory (4.1 days) than in the other States (Table A30).

The trend towards shorter postnatal stays in hospital is reflected by the higher proportion of mothers who were discharged less than 5 days after giving birth. In 2000, 11.4% of mothers were discharged less than 2 days after delivery while 58.9% of mothers were discharged between 2 and 4 days after delivery. This compares with 3.2% and 35.0%, respectively in 1991 (Figure 18). Relatively more mothers in Queensland (71.3%), and Tasmania (66.6%) had stays of less than 5 days in 2000. Longer lengths of stay of 6 or more days were relatively more common in the Northern Territory (21.7%) and the Australian Capital Territory (19.2%) (Table A30).

In selected States and Territories, mothers who had private status in hospital had an average postnatal stay of 5.0 days, compared with 3.1 days for those who had public status (Table A31). Data for the Northern Territory was not available for these comparisons.

Factors associated with periods of postnatal hospitalisation of less than 5 days were younger maternal age, higher parity, Indigenous status and spontaneous delivery (Table A32). There were also marked differences in postnatal stays between public and private categories. The proportion of hospitalised mothers with a postnatal stay of less than 5 days was 39.6% for those with private status in hospital, less than half the proportion of mothers (84.8%) with public status (Table A32). Differences between public and private categories were apparent for all maternal ages, parity, Indigenous status, type of delivery and size of hospital groups (Tables A33, A34). For mothers having their first baby, 79.1% in the public category stayed for less than 5 days compared with only 29.0% in the private category.

2.18 Mother's mode of separation from hospital

Most mothers who gave birth in hospitals were discharged to their homes but 2.5% of mothers were transferred to other hospitals (Table A35), usually for continuing care in a hospital located nearer to their place of residence or sometimes for further treatment of complications. These transfers between hospitals were more likely to occur in New South Wales and South Australia than in the other States and Territories.

2.19 Maternal mortality

The perinatal collections are incomplete sources of maternal deaths. Any maternal deaths that occur after discharge from the hospital where the birth occurred are not recorded in the perinatal data systems. Maternal deaths associated with spontaneous or induced abortion or with ectopic pregnancy are also not ascertained by the perinatal collections. Twenty-two maternal deaths were reported through the State and Territory perinatal collections in 2000.

Complete reporting of maternal deaths occurs through the triennial report on maternal deaths in Australia. Preparation of the 1997–1999 triennial report is underway. The 1994–1996 triennium average age-standardised maternal mortality rate for direct and indirect deaths was 0.53 per 100,000 population, with the standard population being the 1991 Australian female population aged 15–44 years (AIHW-NHMRC 2001).

3 Babies

3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides data on the characteristics of the 257,238 total births reported in 2000 to the perinatal collections. Some of the characteristics are birth status, sex, gestational age, birthweight, length of hospital stay and mode of method of separation of baby from hospital.

3.2 Baby's birth status

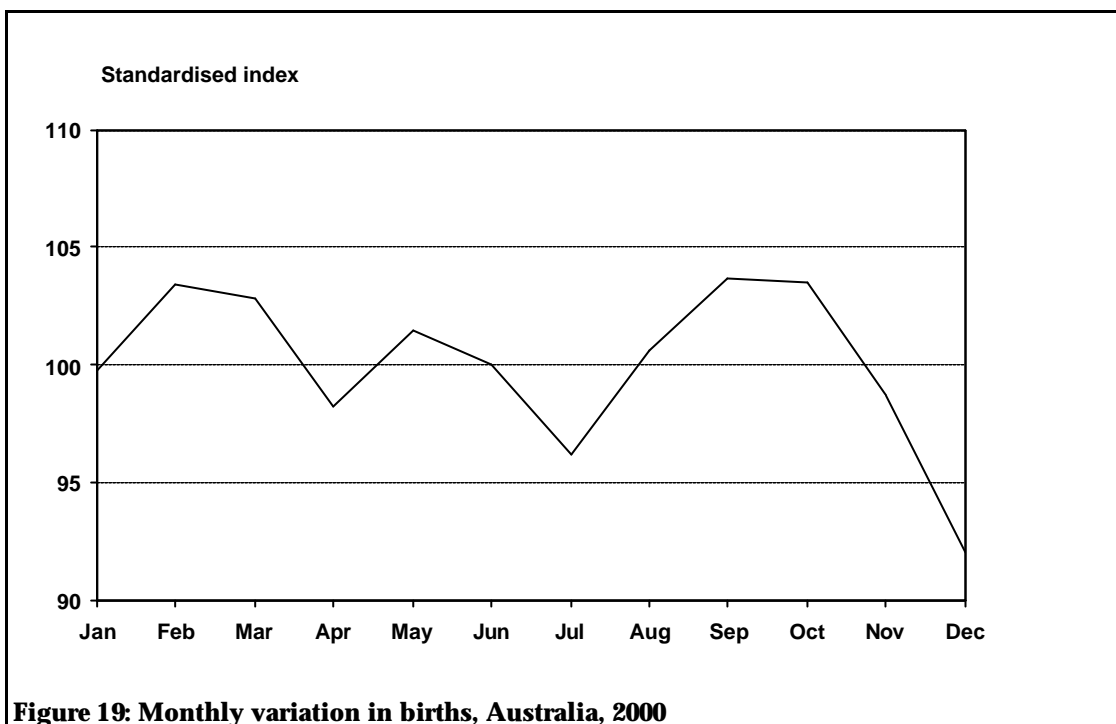
Babies are recorded as liveborn or stillborn (fetal deaths) on perinatal notification forms. There were 255,445 live births and 1,793 fetal deaths in 2000, giving a total of 257,238 births (Table A1). There were seven still births per thousand babies born.

3.3 Baby's month of birth

A changing seasonal pattern of births was evident in Australia up to the 1970s, the earlier peak of births in September being replaced by a bimodal pattern of peaks in February/March and September (Mathers & Harris 1983). The bimodal pattern of peaks in late summer and spring has continued in recent years. In 2000, of the 257,238 births in Australia, most occurred in the February and March period and again in the September and October period. A small increase also occurred in May (Table A36). When adjustment is made for the number of days in the month by deriving a standardised index, the bimodal pattern seen in recent years is not so evident, with the peak months for births being September/October and the low months, November and December (Figure 19). In 2000 there were, on average, 21,436 births per month in Australia with a birth every 2 minutes.

3.4 Baby's sex

Male births exceeded female births in all States and Territories (Table A37). The national sex ratio was 105.6 male births per 100 female births; for singleton births it was 105.8, for twins, 100.7 and for other multiple births, 107.1.

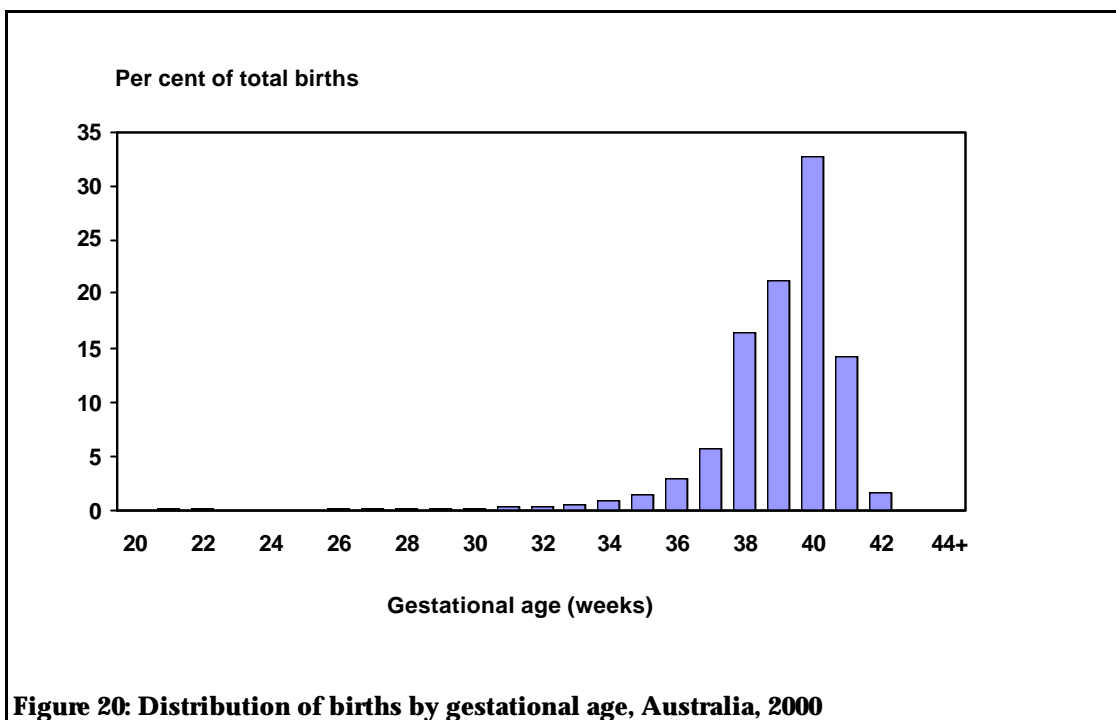


3.5 Baby's gestational age

Preterm birth before 37 weeks gestation accounts for a high proportion of perinatal deaths. It is associated with many neonatal problems that cause significant morbidity in newborn babies and may sometimes be associated with long-term disabilities (NHMRC 1996). The number of births in Australia for each week of gestational age increased from 217 at 20 weeks to 83,947 at 40 weeks (Table A38, Figure 20). Preterm births were classified according to the criteria of the WHO into groups at 20–27 weeks, 28–31 weeks, and 32–36 weeks. Amongst all births, 7.9% were preterm, with most of the preterm births at 32–36 weeks. Just over 1 in 5 preterm births were at earlier gestational ages.

Preterm birth occurred in 53.3% of twins and in 97.0% of triplet births, much higher than the proportion of 6.3% among singleton births (Table A39). The difference in gestational age distribution between singleton and multiple births is even more pronounced when babies of less than 32 weeks' gestation are considered. More than one in ten twin births and two-fifths (39.3%) of triplet births were in this high-risk group compared with approximately 1 in 100 (1.3%) for singleton births. The mean gestational age for singletons was 39.0 weeks compared to 35.3 weeks for twins and 31.9 weeks for triplets.

Differences in the manner in which gestational age was estimated may have been a factor contributing to variations in preterm births among the States and Territories. The duration for pregnancy by States and Territories is detailed in Table A40.



3.6 Baby's birthweight

The number of babies born at home is small (less than 0.5%) irrespective of the weight of the baby born (Table A46). Amongst low birthweight babies in hospitals (Table A47), a larger proportion of live births were delivered in larger hospitals. Though the numbers are small, there is a tendency to seek a larger hospital in high risk pregnancies.

The baby's birthweight is a key indicator of health status. Babies are defined as low birthweight if their birthweight is less than 2,500 g. Within this category, those weighing less than 1,500 g are designated as very low birthweight and those less than 1,000 g as extremely low birthweight.

In 2000, there were 17,477 (6.8%) babies of low birthweight, which was essentially unchanged from 1998 and 1999. The 3,887 very low birthweight babies comprised 1.5% of all births in 2000 and the 2,160 extremely low birthweight babies, 0.8% (Table A41). There was a small increase in the proportion of extremely low (less than 1,000 g) birthweight babies in the last 10 years, from 0.7% in 1991 to 0.8% in 2000.

The average birthweight of all liveborn and stillborn babies in Australia in 2000 was 3,364 g and ranged from 3,248 in the Northern Territory to 3,389 in Tasmania, reflecting little variation among the different States and Territories (Table A41, Figure 21).

The average birthweight of liveborn babies was 3,377 g (Table A42). Low birthweight occurred in 6.3% of liveborn babies and in 76.2% of stillborn babies. More than half (54.1%) of the stillborn babies had a birthweight of less than 1,000 g.

In twins, the proportion of low birthweight was 51.9%, almost 10 times higher than in singleton births (5.3%); in triplets, this proportion was 92.9% and in other multiple births, 100% (Table A43, Figure 22). The mean birthweight was 3,398 g in singletons, 2,365 g in twins, 1,668 g in triplets, and 930 g for other multiple births.

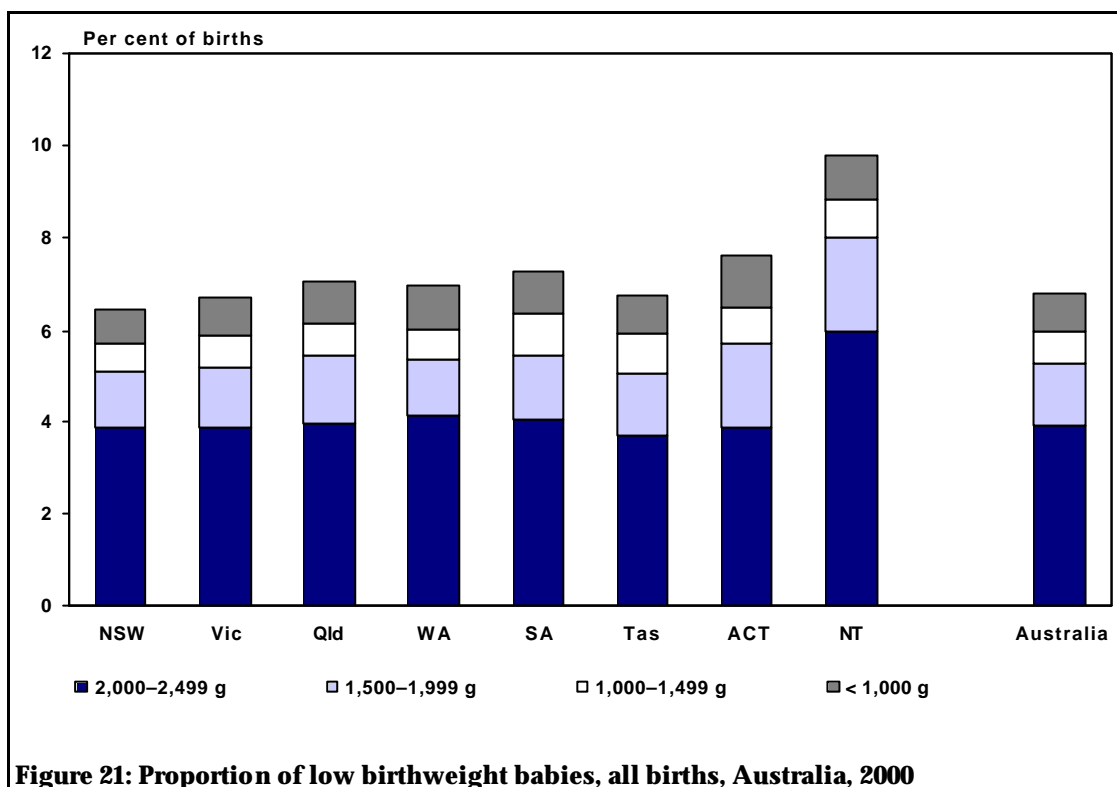
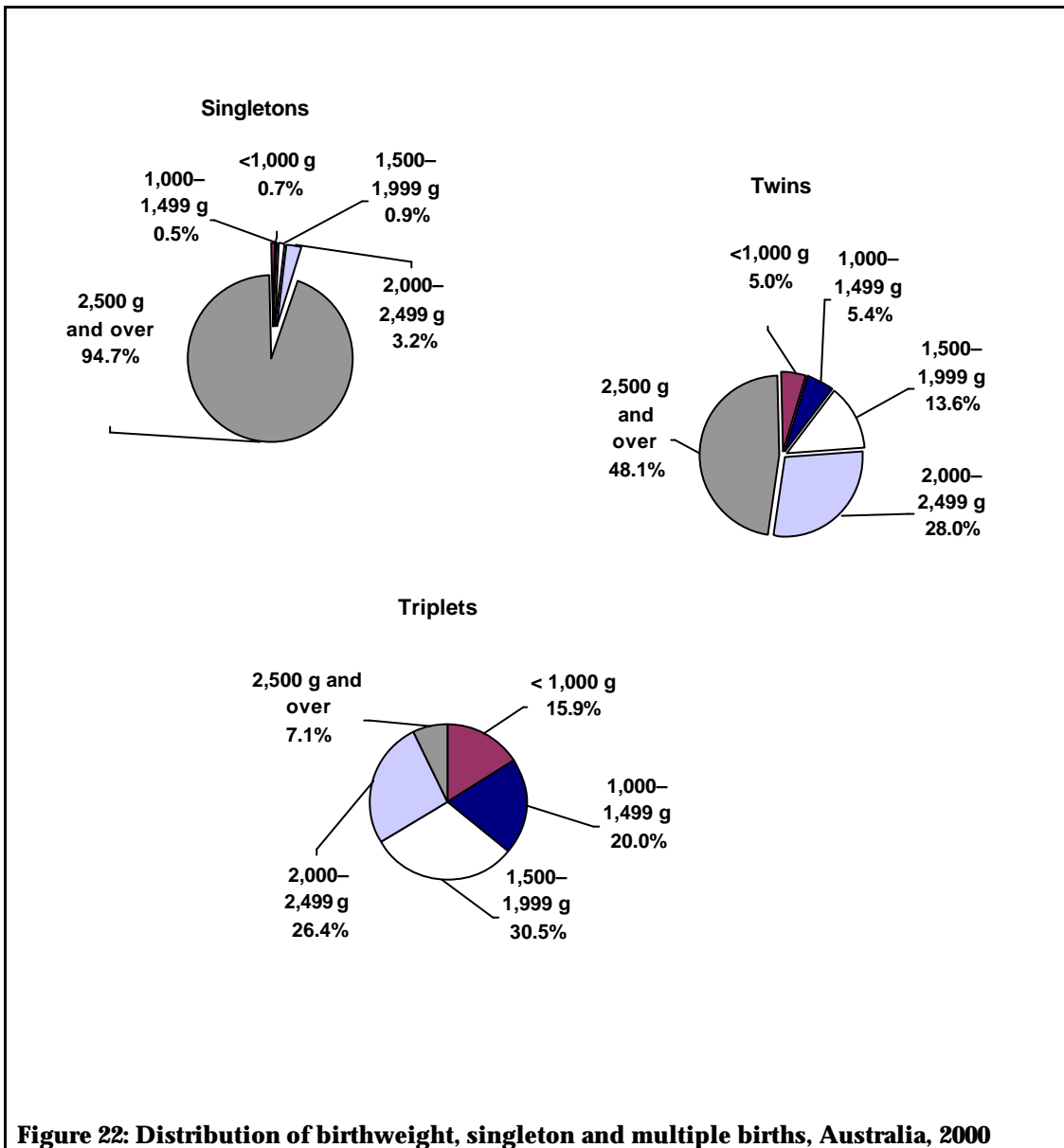


Figure 21: Proportion of low birthweight babies, all births, Australia, 2000

Male babies were less likely to be low birthweight (6.3%) than were females (7.3%) (Table A44). In the higher birthweight categories 3,500–3,999 g, there were relatively more males than in the birthweight categories 2,000–2,499 g and 2,500–2,999 g where there were more females. The average birthweight of males was 3,426 g, which was 127 g higher than that of females (3,299 g).

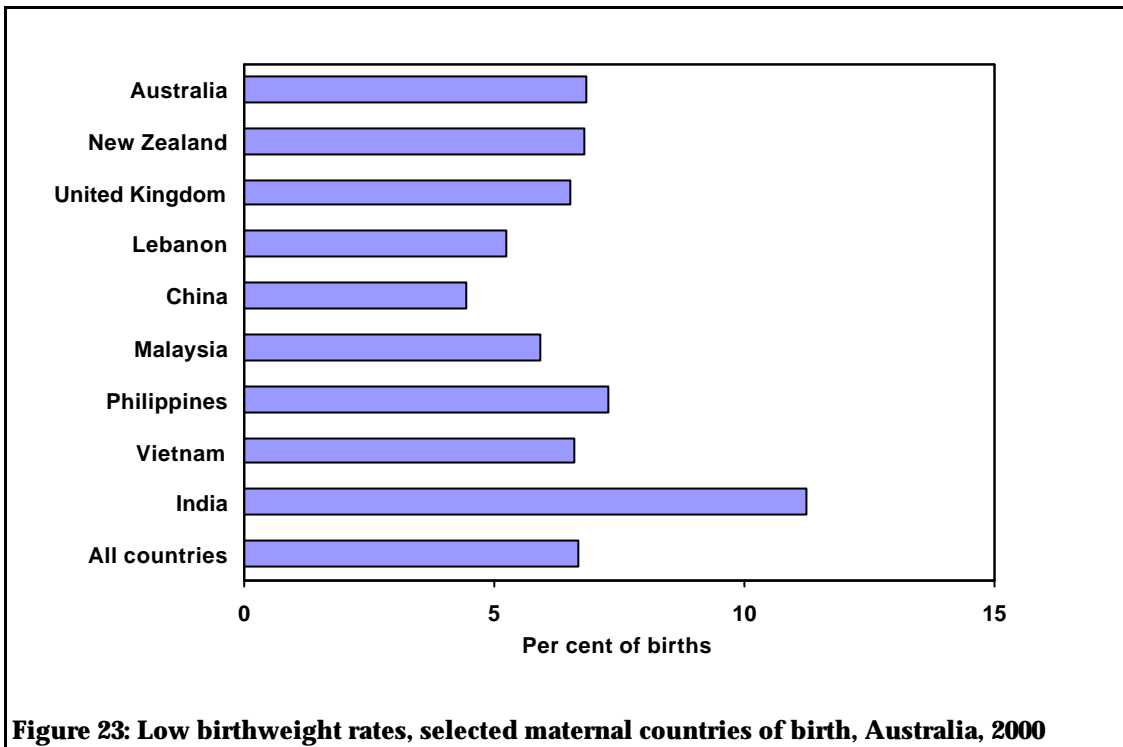
The average birthweight of live and stillborn babies of Indigenous mothers in 2000 was 3,166 g, marginally higher than the 3,149 g reported in 1999. This was 198 g less than the national average of 3,364 g for all births. The proportion of low birthweight in babies of Indigenous mothers was 13.6% (Table A46), twice that of 6.6% in babies of non-Indigenous mothers. The mean birthweight of babies of Indigenous mothers, and the proportion with low birthweight, varied markedly among the States and Territories (Table A45).



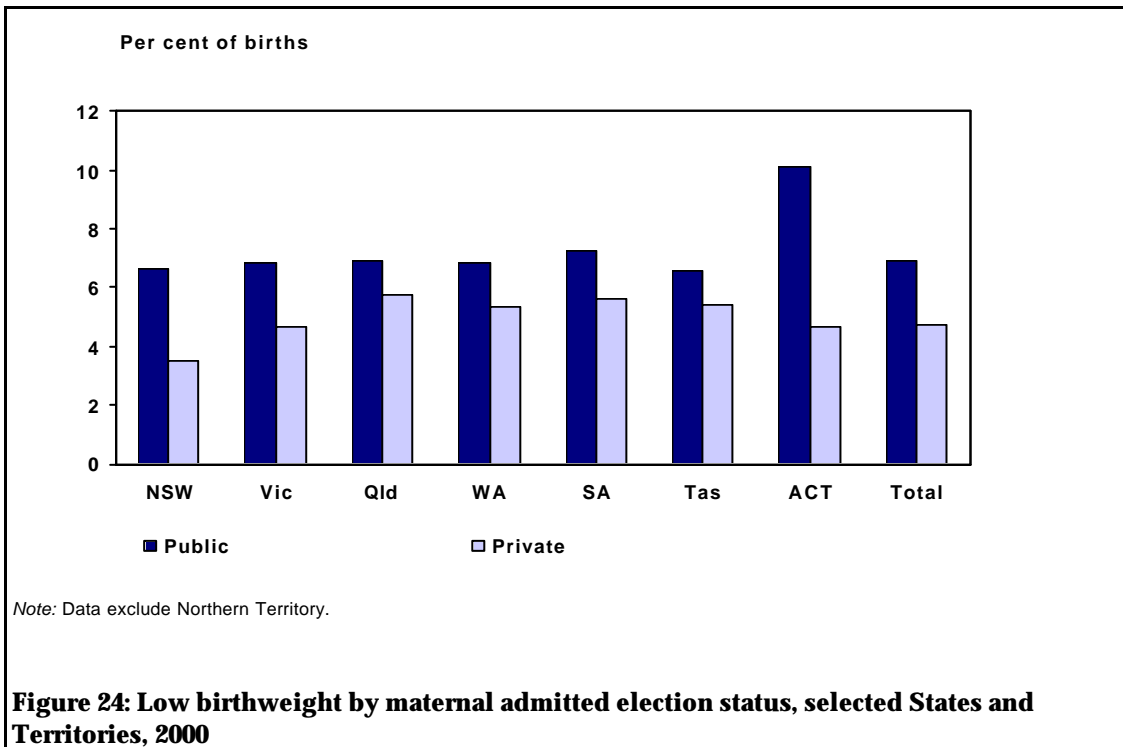
There were relatively small differences in the proportion of low birthweight babies according to the mother's country of birth. Low birthweight babies were slightly more common for mothers born in India and the Philippines (Table A46, Figure 23). Mothers born in China, Lebanon and Malaysia were less likely to have babies of low birthweight.

Mothers aged 30–34 years had the lowest proportion of low birthweight babies (6.1%); the proportion was higher among babies of younger and older mothers (Table A46).

Women having their first baby, and those with four or more previous children, were more likely than other parity groups to have a low birthweight baby, while those giving birth for the second or third time were least likely to do so (Table A46).



The proportion of low birthweight babies was marginally higher in mothers who attended public hospitals (7.4%) compared with mothers who attended private hospitals (5.2%) (Table A46, Figure 24).



3.7 Apgar scores

Apgar scores are clinical indicators of the baby's condition shortly after birth, based on assessment of the heart rate, breathing, colour, muscle tone, and reflex irritability. Between 0 and 2 points are given for each of these five characteristics and the total score may vary between 0 and 10. The Apgar score is routinely assessed at 1 and 5 minutes after birth, and subsequently at 5-minute intervals if it is still low at 5 minutes.

Consistent with the usual convention for grouping Apgar scores, the distribution in each State and Territory was compared (Tables A48, A49). In all States and Territories, the distribution of 1-minute and 5-minute Apgar scores is similar. Low Apgar scores of 1–3 were recorded at 1 minute in 2.2% of live births and at 5 minutes in 0.3%.

Low Apgar scores of less than 4 were strongly associated with the baby's birthweight. Babies from singleton and multiple births within the same birthweight categories had similar Apgar scores (Table A50).

3.8 Resuscitation at birth

The type of resuscitation given to babies immediately after birth includes active measures and/or drug therapy. Recording of active measures has improved in recent years among the States and Territories; however, drug therapy is either not collected or varies considerably among the States and Territories. Ventilatory assistance by intermittent positive pressure respiration (IPPR) through a bag and mask or after intubation was performed for 7.3% of all livebirths in Australia. External cardiac massage was provided for a small proportion of babies (0.2%) in 2000, and did not vary by State and Territory (Table A51).

3.9 Baby's length of stay in hospital

A majority of babies are discharged from hospital at the same time as their mother; however, some babies may stay on longer as a result of poor health conditions. Babies who died or were transferred to another hospital after birth were excluded from the data used to calculate length of stay. The majority of babies (81.5%) remained in their hospital of birth for less than 6 days (Table A52). More babies had relatively short stays of less than 5 days in hospital in 2000 than in the previous 6 years. In 2000, 66.5% of babies stayed in hospital for period of less than 5 days compared with only 37.0% in 1991. This trend occurred in all States and Territories but the national data did not include New South Wales in 1991 and 1992. In 2000, relatively more babies born in Victoria were in the short-stay group.

Almost 1.0% of all babies were hospitalised for 28 or more days. As the period of hospitalisation of babies transferred from their hospital of birth to another hospital is not included here, these figures underestimate the proportion of babies staying in hospital for long periods.

The baby's gestational age and birthweight are usually the main factors influencing the duration of hospitalisation (Table A53). Twins and other babies from multiple births usually have longer stays than singleton babies. Babies born to Indigenous

mothers were more likely to be discharged relatively early from hospital. Babies with a gestational age of less than 28 weeks, or a birthweight less than 1,000 g, were more likely to have short periods of stay of less than 3 days in their hospital of birth because of higher risks of neonatal death or transfer to other hospitals. A higher proportion of preterm and low birthweight babies also had longer stays in hospital of 14 days or more.

3.10 Baby's mode of separation from hospital

A total of 4.0% of babies were transferred to another hospital from their hospital of birth (Table A54). Although the States and Territories record the hospital to which the baby is transferred on their perinatal forms, the type of hospital is not presently included in the data provided for the national report. Therefore it is not possible to compare the proportion of babies transferred for further treatment of neonatal conditions with other reasons for transfer.

If a baby dies at home within 28 days of birth, or dies after being transferred to another hospital, this death may not be included in the perinatal collection unless a registered neonatal death has been linked with its perinatal form. In recent years a number of the States and Territories have linked their perinatal data collections to the registered perinatal deaths. However, this linkage has not yet been achieved in all States and Territories. Thus, the data on mode of separation of the baby are an incomplete source of information on neonatal deaths and cannot be used to determine national neonatal death rates.

4 Perinatal mortality

4.1 Definitions

There are different legal and statistical definitions in Australia for registering and reporting perinatal deaths (Table 1). For legal purposes, all fetal and neonatal deaths of at least 400 g birthweight or, if birthweight is unavailable, a gestational age of at least 20 weeks are registered (ABS 2000a). The lower limit inclusion criterion has been adopted by the ABS because it recognises the availability of reliable 400 g/20 week data from the State and Territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages and recommendations from major users that the Australian Bureau Statistics (ABS) adopt the legal requirement for registration of perinatal deaths as the statistical standard.

The *National Health Data Dictionary* (NHDD) records a slightly broader definition of perinatal deaths to include all fetal and neonatal deaths of at least 400 g birthweight or at least 20 weeks gestation (AIHW 2001). This definition is adopted by the AIHW National Perinatal Statistics and extends up to 28 completed days after birth. Further information on perinatal deaths based on data from the perinatal collections is available in Sections 4.9, 4.10 and 4.11 of this chapter.

Table 1: Various definitions of perinatal mortality

Institution	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths
	Birthweight	Gestational age	
WHO – International comparisons – National reporting	1,000 g	28 weeks (only if birthweight is unavailable)	< 7 days
	500 g	22 weeks (only if birthweight is unavailable)	< 7 days
ABS	400 g	20 weeks (only if birthweight is unavailable)	< 28 days
NHDD	400 g	20 weeks	< 28 days

The perinatal death statistics based on registration are published by the ABS in its annual publication *Causes of Death Australia*. Until 1996, the definition of perinatal death recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) was used for reporting. WHO's definition of fetal death was the absence of evidence of life after birth of babies at least 500 g or, if birthweight is not available, if gestation age is at least 22 weeks. From 1997, the ABS *Causes of Death* publication also includes perinatal deaths at lower inclusion criteria of 400 g, or when birthweight is not available, a gestational age of at least 20 weeks. ABS data on neonatal deaths, liveborn babies dying within 28 days of birth, are also summarised and published in the *Causes of Death Australia*. Livebirths are based on the same criteria of birthweight

or gestational age as for fetal death. Summary tables presented in this chapter include data derived from ABS (2001a) as well as from the ABS database as specified.

WHO recommendations differ from this standard and include only early neonatal deaths occurring in the first 7 days and not all neonatal deaths up to 28 days, as reported by the ABS. The WHO has also recommended that, for international comparisons, countries should report data based on lower limits of 1,000 g or, when birthweight is not available, a gestational age of at least 28 weeks, excluding births and fetal and neonatal deaths that do not meet these criteria (Table A55).

Perinatal death rates vary markedly according to which definition is used (Table A55). In the period from 1998 to 2000, the perinatal death rate for babies 400 g/20 weeks (8.4 per 1,000 births) was higher than the estimated rate of 5.1 per 1,000 births based on the WHO definition for international comparisons. Using the criteria of 400 g/20 weeks for national data, the 2000 perinatal death rate of 8.3 per 1,000 births was markedly higher than the estimated rate of 5.2 per 1,000 births based on the WHO criteria for international comparisons of 1000 g/28 weeks.

Unless otherwise specified, annual fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates in this report are based on the year of registration and the ABS definition using a lower limit of 400 g birthweight or 20 weeks gestation when birthweight was unknown (400 g/20 weeks), and include neonatal deaths within 28 days of birth.

There were 2,076 perinatal deaths in 2000, 8.3 perinatal deaths per 1,000 births (Table A56). Of those, 62.8% were fetal deaths.

4.2 Trends in fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths

Depending on when the fetal heart stopped beating, fetal deaths can be grouped as antepartum deaths, when the heartbeat ceased before labour commenced; intrapartum deaths, when the heartbeat ceased during labour; and unknown deaths, when it was not known whether the heartbeat ceased before or during labour. There is another small group of registered perinatal deaths for which it was not known whether the heartbeat ceased before or after birth. The ABS includes this group with the fetal deaths and the practice has been followed in this report, including them with the intrapartum fetal deaths.

In the 20-year period between 1980 and 2000, the fetal death rate declined from 7.4 to 5.2 per 1,000 births (Table A57, Figure 25). Based on the lower legal and, now ABS definition, the national perinatal mortality rate declined from 13.9 per 1,000 births in 1980 to 8.3 per 1,000 births in 2000 (Figure 25). The fall during this period in intrapartum fetal death rates was greater than the decline for antepartum fetal death rates (Figure 26). Unknown types of fetal death rates have remained stable apart from a spike to 1.2 per 1,000 births in 1997. Antepartum fetal deaths proportionately accounted for 65.8% of all fetal deaths in 2000 compared to 24.2% for intrapartum fetal deaths.

The neonatal death rate declined even more sharply than the fetal death rate, falling by 53% from 6.6 per 1,000 live births in 1980 to 3.1 per 1,000 live births in 2000 (Table A58, Figures 25 and 27). Initially, the early neonatal death rate for deaths within 7 days of birth fell more rapidly than the rate of late neonatal deaths that

occurred in the second to fourth weeks after birth. However, the rates have all remained consistent in recent years.

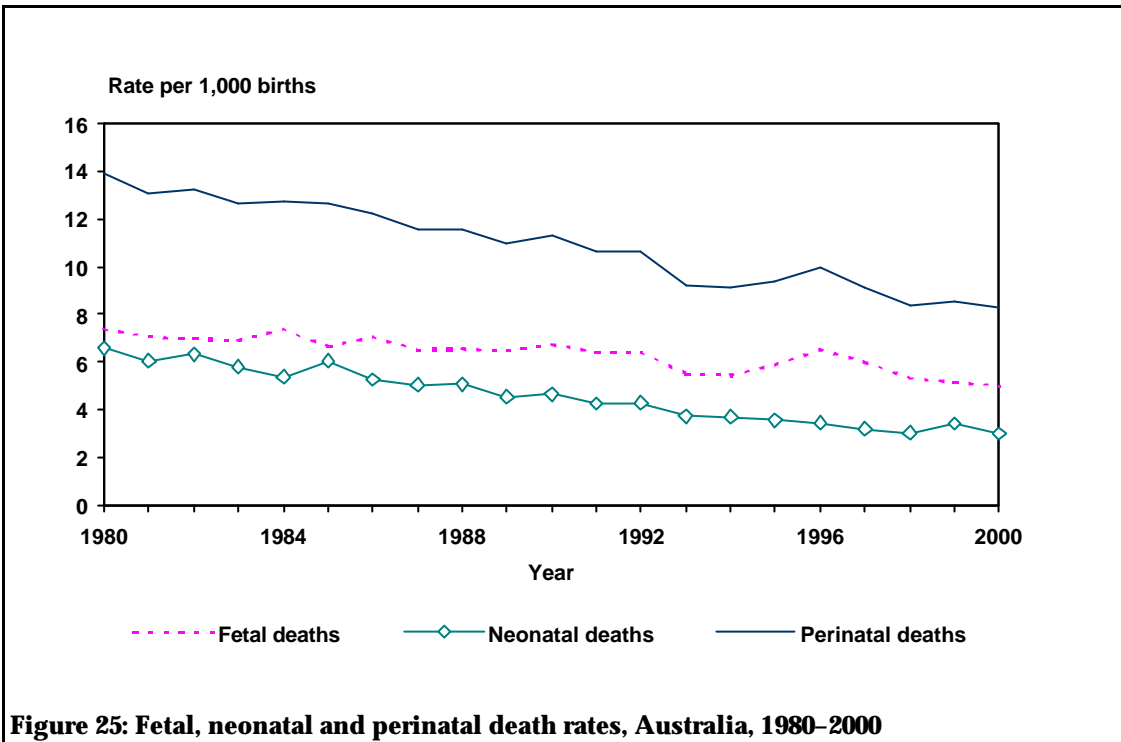


Figure 25: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates, Australia, 1980-2000

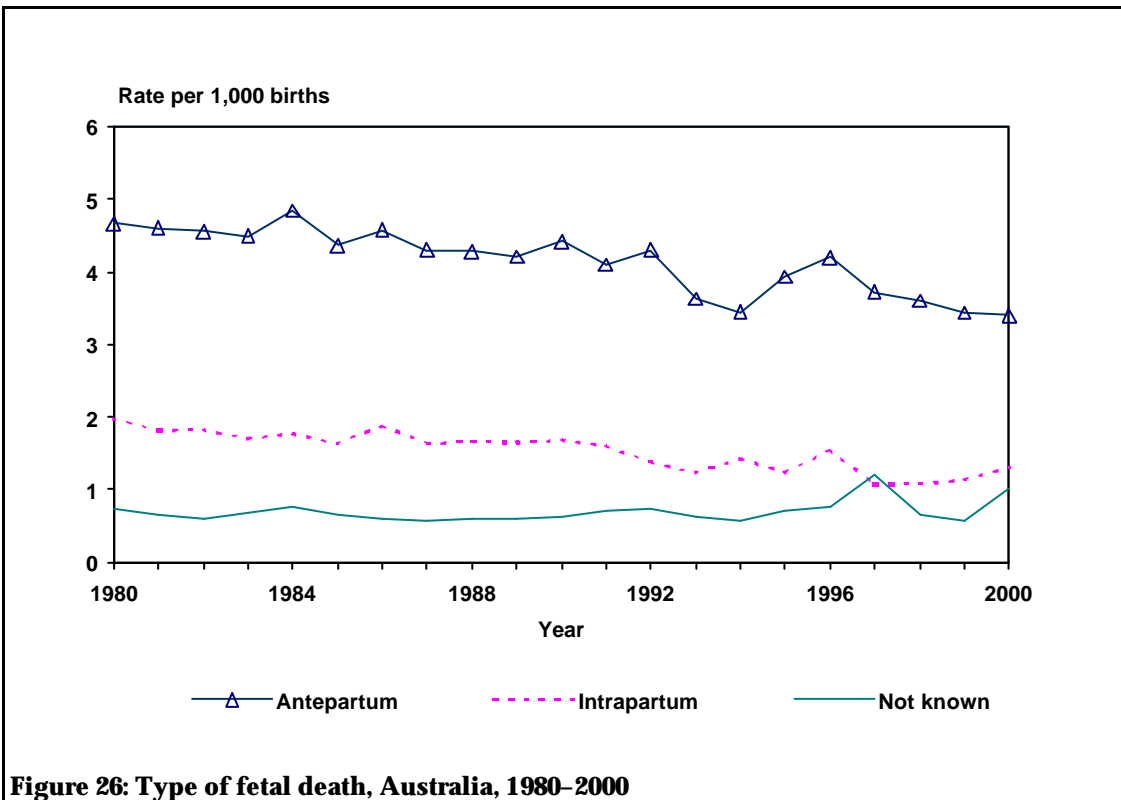
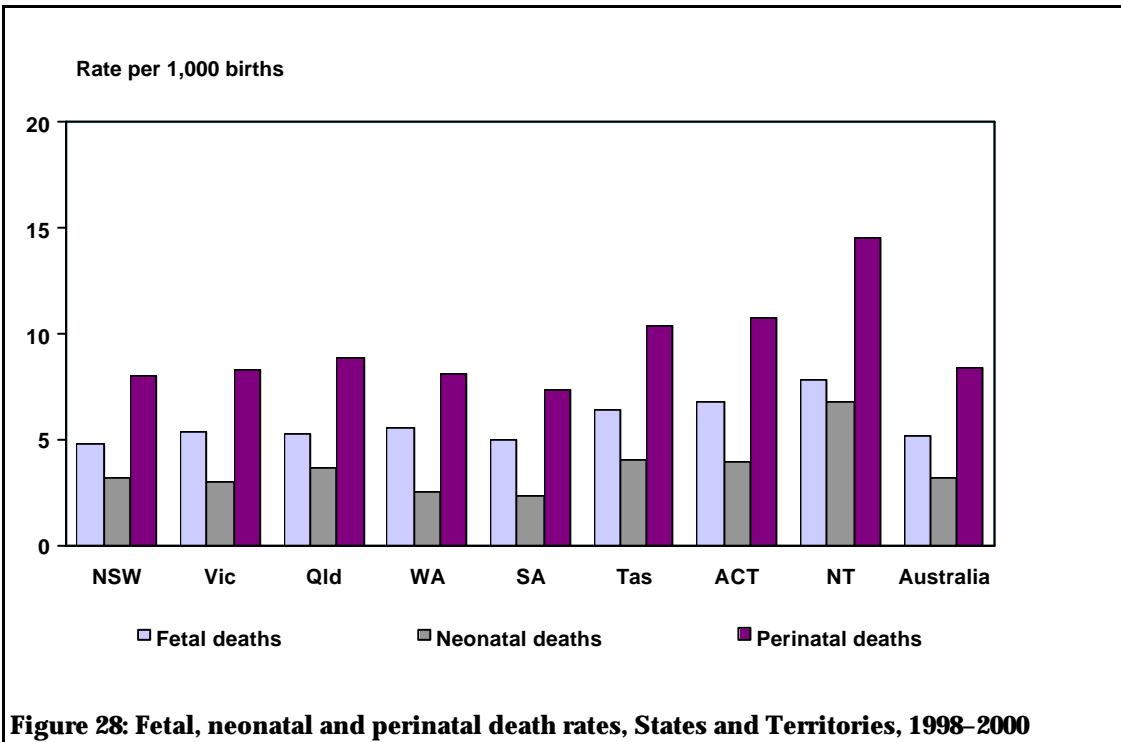
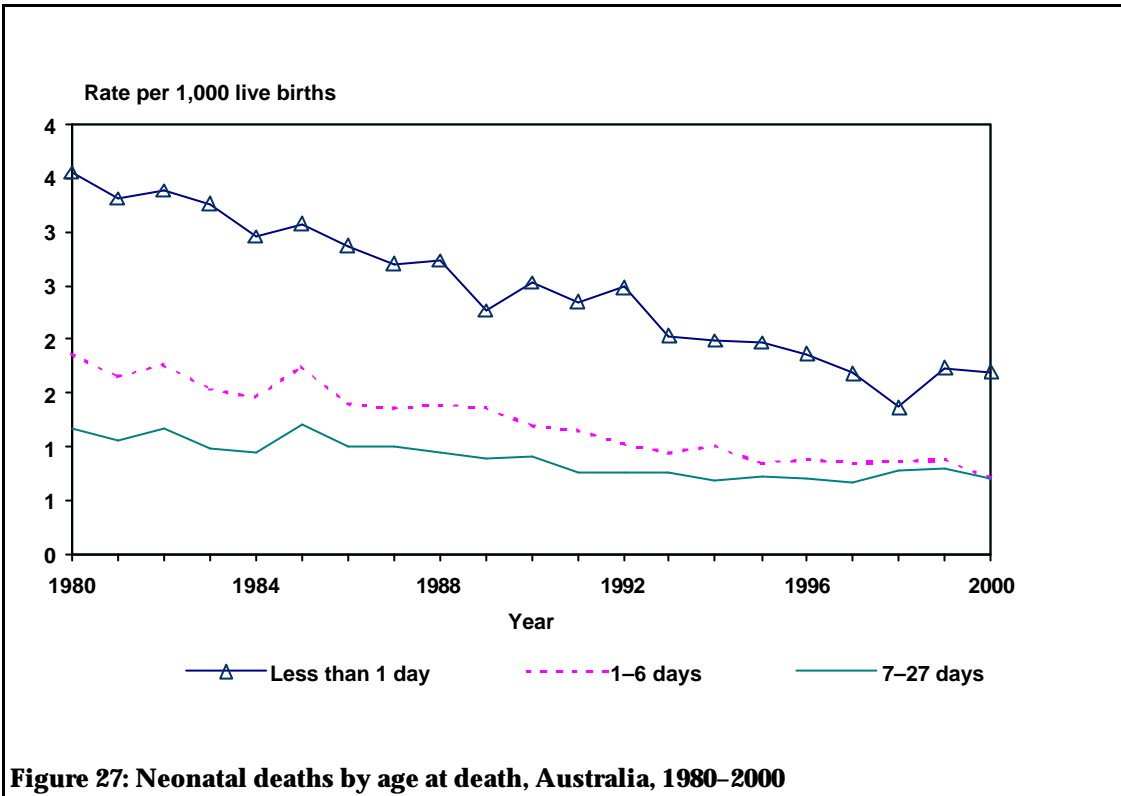


Figure 26: Type of fetal death, Australia, 1980-2000

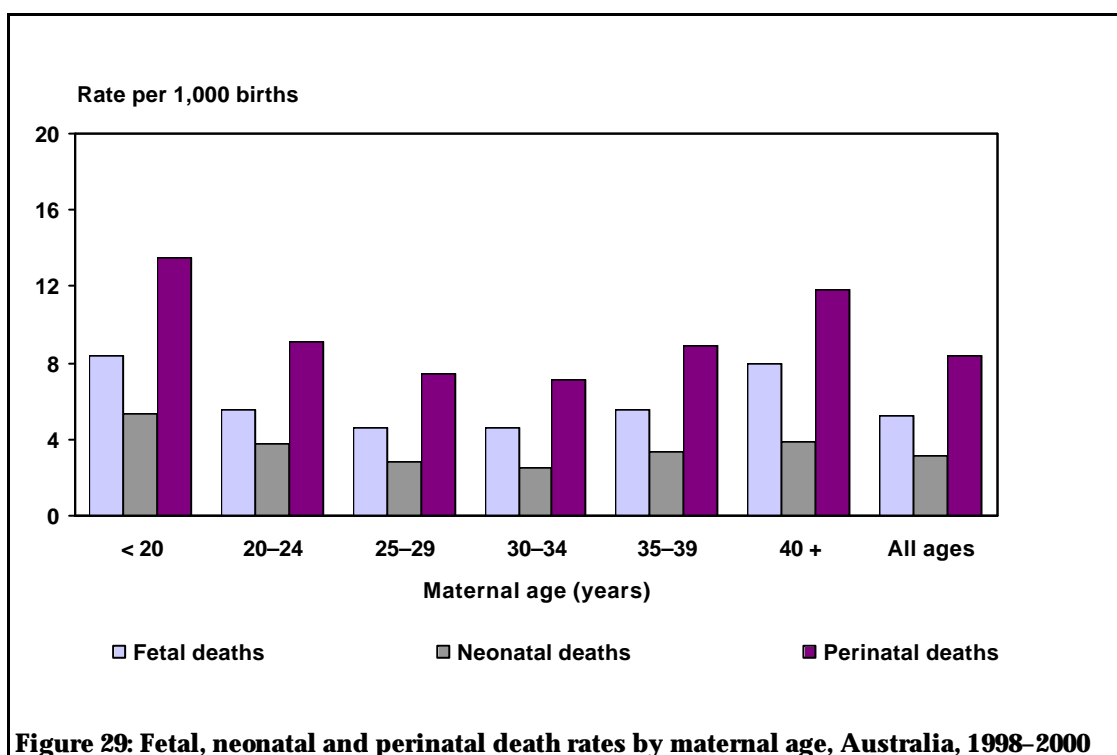


4.3 Perinatal deaths by State and Territory of residence

In 2000, two States the Northern Territory and Tasmania had a perinatal death rate of more than 10 per 1,000 births (Table A59). In the 3-year period from 1998 to 2000, Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria had the lowest perinatal death rates. In this 3-year period, at least 90% of perinatal deaths were registered in the State and Territory of the mother's usual residence (Table A60).

4.4 Perinatal deaths by maternal age

The perinatal death rate was significantly higher for babies with younger mothers aged less than 20 years and older mothers aged 40 years or more than for mothers aged 25–34 years, who had the lowest rate of 7.3 per 1,000 births in the period from 1998 to 2000 (Table A61, Figure 29).



4.5 Perinatal deaths by plurality

Perinatal death rates are higher for multiple than for singleton births (Table A62). The number of perinatal deaths among triplet and higher order multiple births is relatively small each year so data were analysed for the 3-year period 1998 to 2000.

There were 6,299 perinatal deaths in 1998–2000; 656 (10.4%) occurred in twins and 47 (0.7%) in other multiple births, so multiple births accounted for 11.2% of all perinatal deaths. The perinatal death rate of twins for the period 1998–2000 was 3.8 times higher, and of other multiple births 6.8 times higher, than that of singleton births

(Table A62), mainly due to their increased occurrence of preterm birth and low birthweight.

4.6 Perinatal deaths by baby's sex

Perinatal death rates for males are consistently higher than for females. In 1998–2000, the perinatal death rate for males was 9.0 per 1,000 births compared to 7.7 for females (Table A63). The difference in rates between the sexes was greater for neonatal deaths than for fetal deaths. The neonatal death rate for males was 33.3% higher than for females; the fetal death rate was 8.0% higher for males.

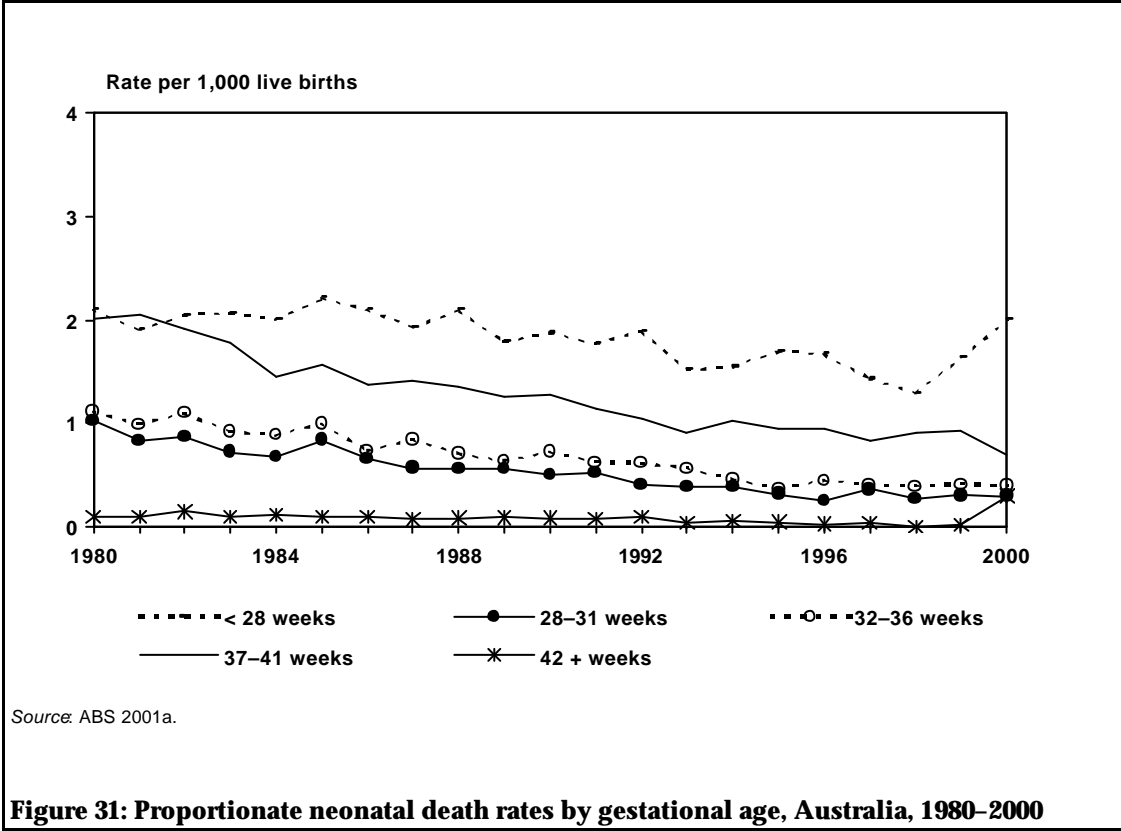
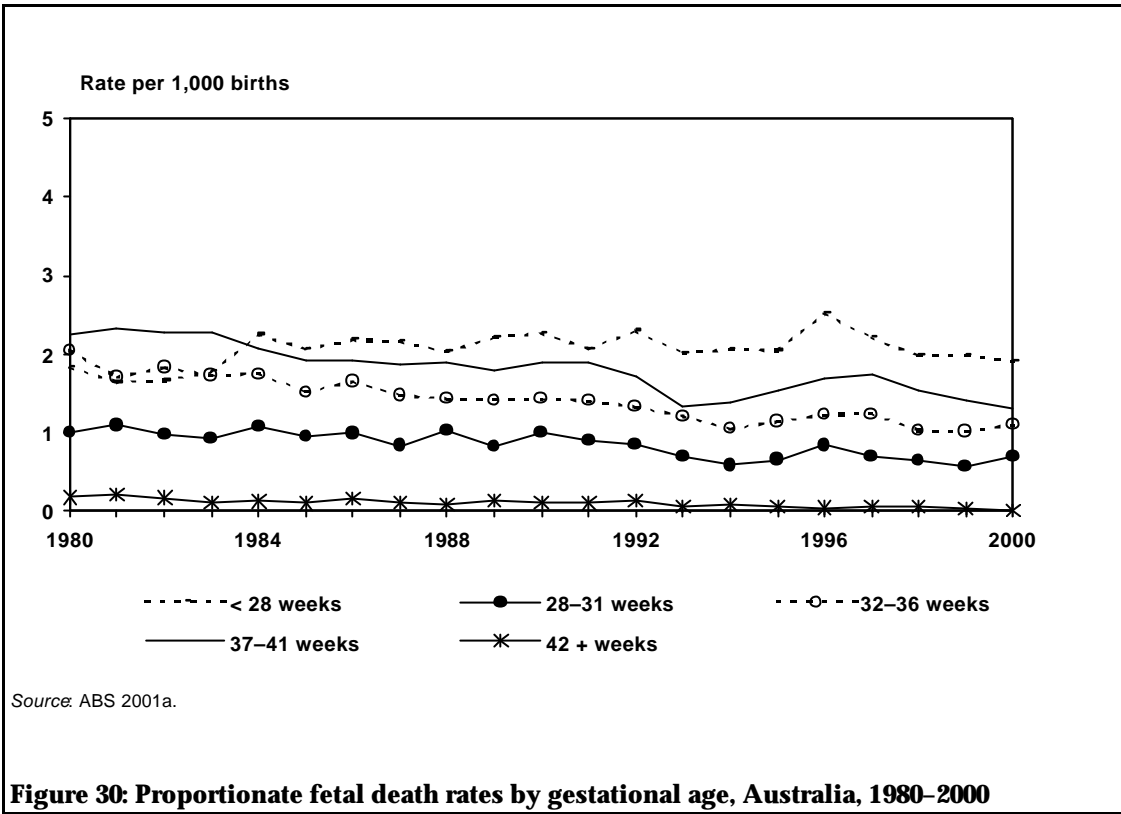
4.7 Proportionate perinatal death rates by gestational age

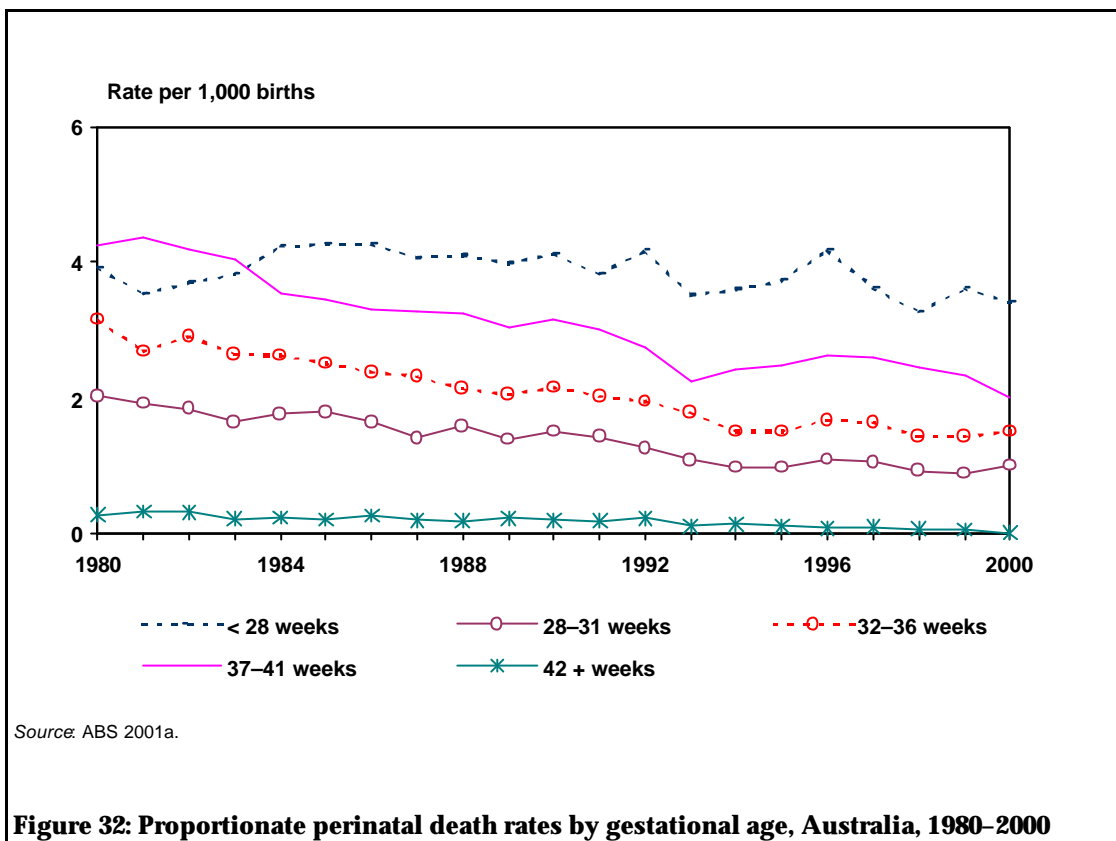
The duration of pregnancy is recorded in completed weeks on perinatal death certificates, based either on the gestational age (calculated using the date of the first day of the last menstrual period and the baby's date of birth), or on clinical assessment. As information about the gestational age distribution of all births between 1980 and 2000 was lacking, fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths in categories of gestational age are expressed as proportionate death rates. The denominator for calculating proportionate death rates is the total number of births rather than the number of births in a particular gestational age (or, see below, birthweight) category.

In 1980, preterm births of less than 37 weeks accounted for 66.8% of fetal deaths with stated gestational ages and those less than 28 weeks for 25.0%. In 2000, these proportions had increased to 71.6% and 37.4%, respectively (Table A64, Figure 30). Many countries still have a lower limit of 28 weeks for registering fetal deaths, thereby excluding about one-third of fetal deaths included in the Australian data.

The distribution of neonatal deaths by gestational age was similar to that for fetal deaths but there were relatively more neonatal deaths of less than 28 weeks in 2000 than in 1980. The proportion in this group increased from 33.2% in 1980 to 47.0% in 2000 while the proportion of all neonatal deaths of known gestational age that were preterm was 66.9% in 1980 and 75.2% in 2000 (Table A65, Figure 31).

Between 1980 and 2000, proportionate perinatal death rates decreased in all gestational age groups, but the decline for deaths of less than 28 weeks was not as marked as for deaths in the other gestational age groups. In 2000, 42.8% of perinatal deaths were less than 28 weeks gestation (Table A66, Figure 32).



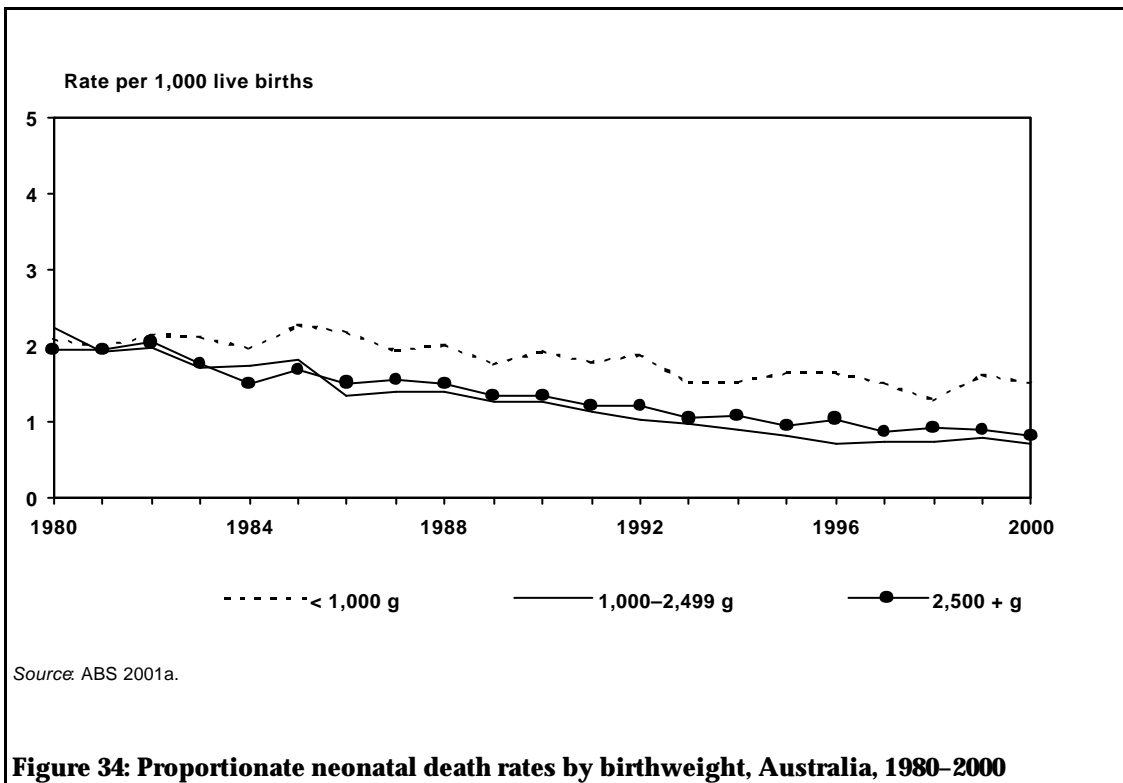
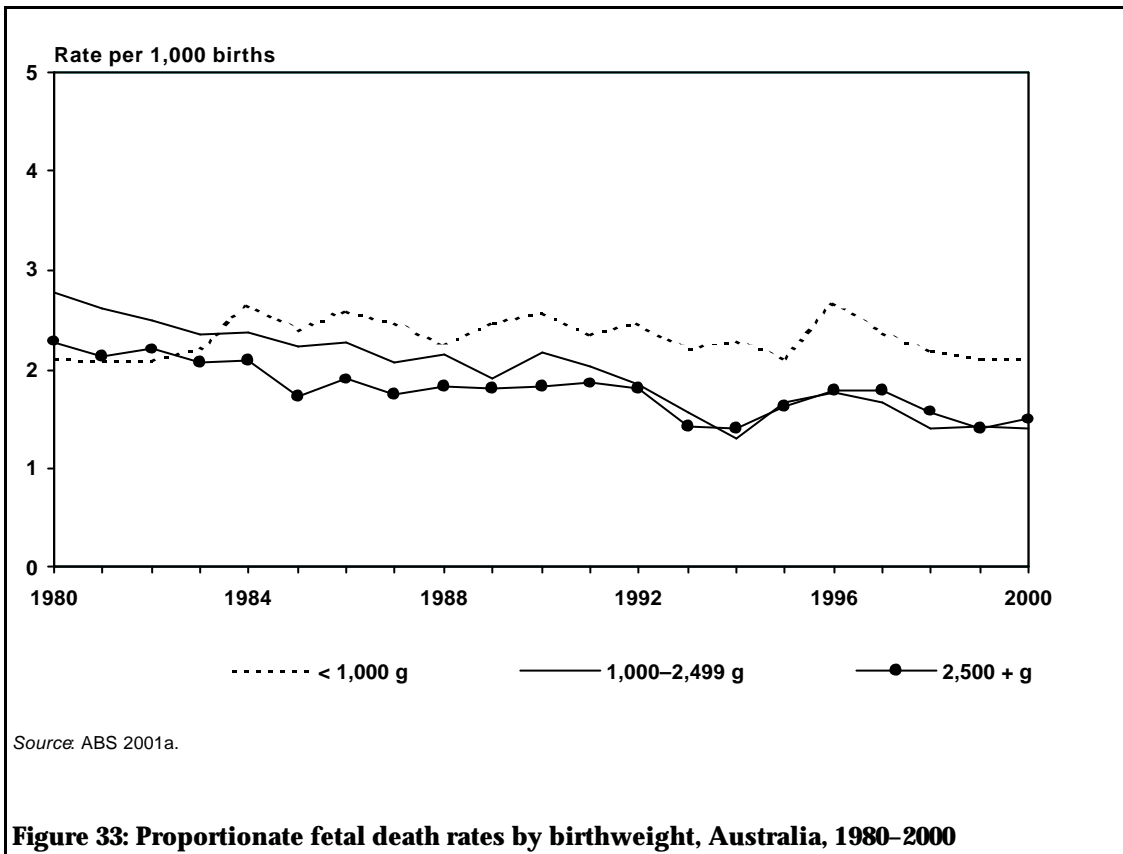


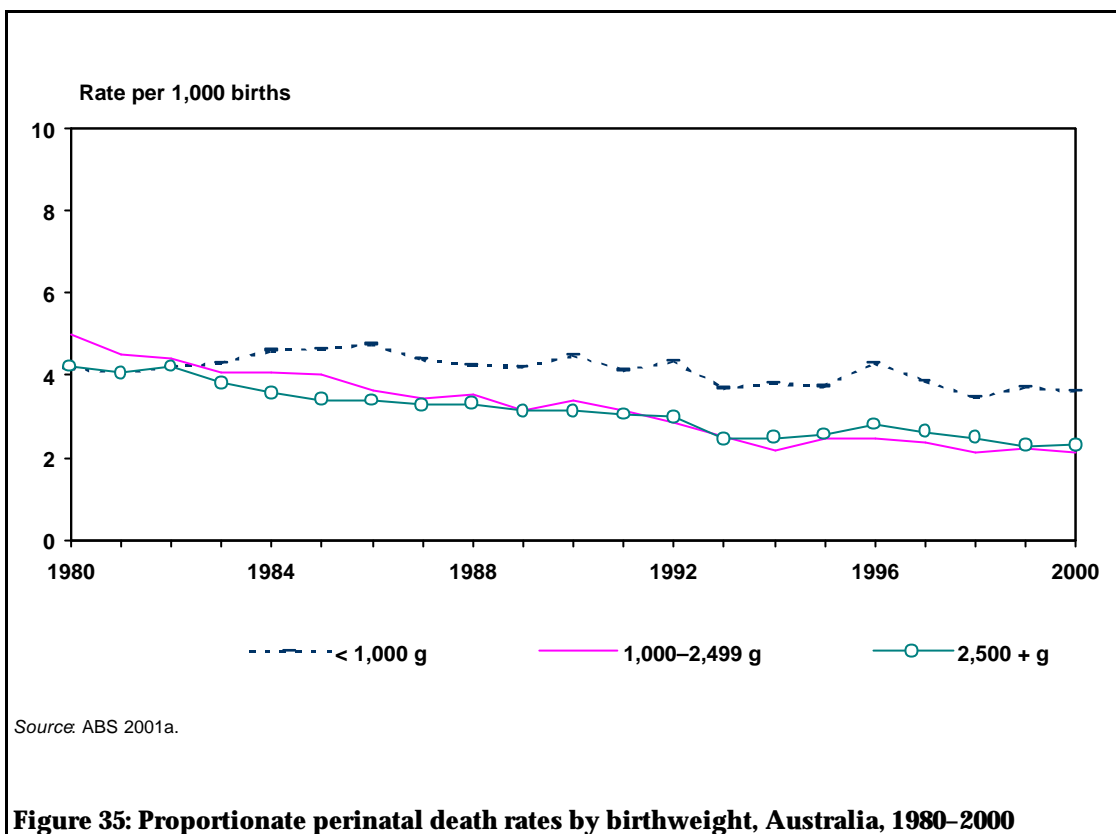
4.8 Proportionate perinatal death rates by birthweight

As for those deaths tabulated in gestational age groups, the fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates by birthweight for the period 1980 to 2000 are expressed as proportionate death rates. In 1980, low birthweight babies of less than 2,500 g accounted for 68.2% of fetal deaths with stated birthweights and those weighing less than 1,000 g for 29.4% (Figure 33). In 2000, these proportions had increased to 70.3% and 42.4%, respectively (Table A67).

The decline in the proportionate neonatal death rate was much greater for babies weighing 1,000–2,499 g than for those in lighter or heavier birthweight groups (Table A68, Figure 34). The rate for babies of 1,000–2,499 g fell from 2.2 per 1,000 live births in 1980 to 0.7 per 1,000 live births in 2000. For babies weighing less than 1,000 g the proportionate death rate declined from 2.1 to 1.5 per 1,000 live births in the same period, while for those weighing 2,500 g and over, it declined from 1.9 per 1,000 in 1980 to 0.8 per 1,000 live births in 2000.

Although there were substantial falls in the proportionate perinatal death rates in all birthweight groups, the greatest decline of 51.5% was for babies weighing 1,000–2,499 g, particularly reflecting the decline in neonatal deaths in this birthweight group (Table A69, Figure 35).





4.9 Fetal deaths in State and Territory perinatal data collections

As noted in previous sections, fetal deaths are included in the State and Territory perinatal collections if the birthweight is at least 400 g or the gestational age is 20 weeks and over. There are more fetal deaths included in the perinatal collection than the national births, deaths and marriages registration data because of more complete data and the broader definition. Unlike perinatal death registration data collected by the Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages and published by the ABS, information which may affect fetal death rates such as maternal parity, Indigenous and patient status are collected for most births in the perinatal collections. However, the advantage of the perinatal death certificates is that they enable a more reliable distinction between fetal and neonatal deaths because the certifier is required to specify when the heartbeat ceased in relation to the onset of labour or to birth.

In 2000, there were 1,793 fetal deaths notified to the perinatal collections, resulting in a fetal death rate of 7.0 per 1,000 births (Table A70), 34.6% higher than the rate of 5.2 per 1,000 in the ABS registration data (Table A64). The variations in fetal death rate with maternal age showed a pattern similar to that for perinatal deaths, between collections ranging from 6.1 per 1,000 births for babies of mothers aged 30 to 34 years to 11.0 per 1,000 for babies of mothers aged 40 years and over (Table A70).

The fetal death rate of babies born to Indigenous mothers was 13.7 per 1,000 births, almost twice the rate of 6.8 per 1,000 in the non-Indigenous population (Table A71).

Fetal death was more likely among first-born babies (7.7 per 1,000 births) than among babies whose mothers already had one child (5.8 per 1,000 births) (Table A72). With higher parity, the fetal death rate increased to a maximum of 11.3 per 1,000 births for those with four or more previous children.

The fetal death rate of twins (19.3 per 1,000 births) and of babies born in other multiple births (67.7 per 1,000 births) was much higher than that of singleton babies (6.5 per 1,000 births) (Table A73).

Fetal death rates were higher for mothers who had public status in hospital accommodation (7.5 per 1,000 births) than for those who had private status in hospital accommodation (5.6 per 1,000 births) (Table A74).

4.10 Neonatal and perinatal deaths in State and Territory perinatal data collections

The continuing decline in fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates noted in previous sections has been influenced by changes in the characteristics of pregnant women and their babies and by the quality of care during pregnancy, labour and the postnatal period. As the increased risk of perinatal death associated with maternal factors and complications arising during pregnancy is often mediated through higher rates of preterm birth and low birthweight, it is important to take account of these variables in analysing perinatal outcomes such as fetal and neonatal death. It may be difficult to obtain sufficiently accurate information on gestational age for population-based analyses, so most studies have concentrated on birthweight-specific outcomes.

Birthweight is not recorded on birth registration forms in most States and Territories but this information is obtained from the forms completed by midwives and other staff for the perinatal data collections. These collections have complete data on fetal deaths, but ascertainment of neonatal deaths within 28 days of birth is likely to be incomplete for deaths occurring among babies transferred to another hospital, readmitted to hospital, or dying at home. This deficiency can be overcome by linking perinatal death registrations to their birth records in the perinatal collections, but this linkage has not yet been achieved in all States and Territories. In recent years a number of the States and Territories have linked their perinatal data collections to the registered perinatal deaths of their respective Registries of Births, Deaths and Marriages, in an effort to improve the extent to which neonatal deaths are ascertained. This has led to improved information about perinatal deaths in those States and Territories and apparent reporting of higher numbers of neonatal deaths. Valid comparisons between the neonatal data of States and Territories are, therefore, not always possible in these circumstances; however, improved standardisation and linkage of perinatal deaths by all States and Territories will allow valid comparisons and interpretation of perinatal mortality in the future.

The data on perinatal deaths published by the ABS are based on the year of registration rather than on the year of birth. When analysing perinatal death rates it is preferable that both the deaths and the births should include only those babies born in a particular year so that the numerator and denominator have the same year of birth. By merging data files on perinatal death registrations for two successive years, it is possible to obtain near complete perinatal deaths by year of birth for the first of those two years. The disadvantage of such analyses is that publication of reports based on year-of-birth cohorts is delayed and some late registrations of

deaths are not included. Missing information on the birthweight of some babies is an additional problem in analysing birthweight-specific death rates. Thus, no meaningful comparison of perinatal death rates between the two collections could be done for this 2000 report, as perinatal death registration data for 2000 were not available at the time of publication.

Neonatal and perinatal death rates based upon State and Territory perinatal collection data, though incompletely reported, varied between States and Territories (Table A75). Lower neonatal death rates were reported for Tasmania and New South Wales, while the highest rates were reported for the Northern Territory. The national perinatal death rate based on the perinatal collections was 10.0 per 1,000 births in 2000. Total perinatal death rates were lowest in South Australia (9.1 per 1,000 births), New South Wales (9.4 per 1,000 births) and Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 births) and relatively higher in the Australian Capital Territory (11.3 per 1,000 births) and the Northern Territory (14.7 per 1,000 births).

4.11 Causes of perinatal deaths

It is widely recognised that the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9 and ICD-10) does not adequately emphasise those causes of perinatal death that may be preventable. As a result, other classifications that specify various antecedent maternal conditions, pregnancy complications and fetal abnormalities have been developed including the Whitfield Classification (Whitfield et al. 1986) and more recently the Australian and New Zealand Antecedent Classification of Perinatal Mortality. In 2002, a number of State and Territories adopted the Australia and New Zealand Antecedent Classification of Perinatal Mortality (ANZACPM) and for neonatal deaths, the Australia and New Zealand Neonatal Deaths Classification (ANZNDC). In future reports, perinatal death data will be presented using these classifications.

Appendix: tables

Table A1: Confinements and births, States and Territories, 2000

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Confinements	86,460	61,571	48,515	24,818	17,578	5,798	4,684	3,629	253,053
Fetal deaths	595	416	354	206	106	46	38	32	1,793
Live births	87,327	62,148	48,955	25,023	17,766	5,849	4,736	3,641	255,445
All births	87,922	62,564	49,309	25,229	17,872	5,895	4,774	3,673	257,238

Table A2: Place of birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 2000

Place of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Hospital	83,779	59,778	47,783	24,281	16,542	5,675	4,356	3,521	245,715
Birth centre*	2,205	1,428	387	336	941	21	296	—	5,614
Birth centre**	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	7
Home	108	114	164	122	36	63	22	43	672
Other	366	250	180	79	59	14	10	65	1,023
Not stated	2	1	1	—	—	18	—	—	22
All places of birth	86,460	61,571	48,515	24,818	17,578	5,798	4,684	3,629	253,053
	Per cent								
Hospital	96.9	97.1	98.5	97.8	94.1	98.2	93.0	97.0	97.1
Birth centre*	2.6	2.3	0.8	1.4	5.4	0.4	6.3	—	2.2
Birth centre**	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	0.0
Home	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.2	1.1	0.5	1.2	0.3
Other	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	1.8	0.4
All places of birth	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Attached to hospital; ** free standing.

Table A3: Distribution of maternity units by size, States and Territories, 2000

Number of confinements annually	NSW	Vic	Qld(a)	WA(b)	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
1–100	56	44	61	28	34	8	—	1	232
101– 500	43	35	34	15	19	2	1	2	151
501–1,000	20	12	9	6	3	3	1	2	56
1,001–2,000	14	12	11	2	3	2	1	1	46
2,001 and over	13	7	6	1	2	—	1	—	30
All hospitals	146	110	121	52	61	15	4	6	515
Per cent									
1–100	38.4	40.0	50.4	53.8	55.7	53.3	—	16.7	45.0
101– 500	29.5	31.8	28.1	28.8	31.1	13.3	25.0	33.3	29.3
501–1,000	13.7	10.9	7.4	11.5	4.9	20.0	25.0	33.3	10.9
1,001–2,000	9.6	10.9	9.1	3.8	4.9	13.3	25.0	16.7	8.9
2,001 and over	8.9	6.4	5.0	1.9	3.3	—	25.0	—	5.8
All hospitals	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes one tertiary level hospital of less than 2,000 confinements.

(b) Public hospitals only.

Table A4: Distribution of confinements by size of maternity unit, States and Territories, 2000

Number of confinements annually	NSW	Vic	Qld(a)	WA(b)	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
1–100	1,472	1,175	1,309	504	944	225	—	39	5,668
101– 500	10,543	9,181	9,594	3,652	4,783	406	331	524	39,014
501–1,000	14,811	9,385	6,305	4,664	1,750	1,893	894	1,387	41,089
1,001–2,000	20,449	18,581	14,085	2,495	3,890	3,368	1,230	1,573	65,671
2,001 and over	38,709	22,884	16,914	4,669	6,175	—	2,197	—	91,548
All hospitals	85,984	61,206	48,207	15,984	17,542	5,892	4,652	3,523	242,990
Per cent									
1–100	1.7	1.9	2.7	3.2	5.4	3.8	—	1.1	2.3
101– 500	12.3	15.0	19.9	22.8	27.3	6.9	7.1	14.9	16.1
501–1,000	17.2	15.3	13.1	29.2	10.0	32.1	19.2	39.4	16.9
1,001–2,000	23.8	30.4	29.2	15.6	22.2	57.2	26.4	44.6	27.0
2,001 and over	45.0	37.4	35.1	29.2	35.2	—	47.2	—	37.7
All hospitals	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes one tertiary level hospital of less than 2,000 confinements.

(b) Public hospitals only.

Table A5: Maternal age, all confinements, States and Territories, 2000

Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean age (years)	29.3	29.9	28.5	28.8	29.0	27.9	29.7	26.8	29.0
	Number								
Less than 20	3,853	2,016	3,181	1,479	926	497	162	566	12,680
20–24	13,316	7,617	8,834	4,152	2,758	1,206	608	806	39,297
25–29	27,293	18,905	15,665	7,635	5,561	1,744	1,470	1,010	79,283
30–34	26,640	21,288	13,641	7,580	5,465	1,551	1,567	817	78,549
35–39	12,894	9,983	6,137	3,379	2,412	650	753	357	36,565
40 and over ^(a)	2,440	1,755	1,057	593	456	124	123	69	6,617
Not stated	24	7	—	—	—	22	1	4	58
All ages	86,460	61,571	48,515	24,818	17,578	5,794	4,684	3,629	253,049
	Per cent								
Less than 20	4.5	3.3	6.6	6.0	5.3	8.6	3.5	15.6	5.0
20–24	15.4	12.4	18.2	16.7	15.7	20.9	13.0	22.2	15.5
25–29	31.6	30.7	32.3	30.8	31.6	30.2	31.4	27.9	31.3
30–34	30.8	34.6	28.1	30.5	31.1	26.9	33.5	22.5	31.0
35–39	14.9	16.2	12.6	13.6	13.7	11.3	16.1	9.8	14.5
40–44	2.8	2.9	2.2	2.3	2.6	2.2	2.6	1.9	2.6
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Age groups 40–44 & 45 and over combined because of small numbers in the latter group.

Table A6: Mother's parity, all confinements, States and Territories, 2000

Parity	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
None	35,953	25,618	19,446	10,225	7,207	2,282	2,040	1,296	104,067
One	29,267	21,260	15,805	8,120	6,077	1,919	1,594	960	85,002
Two	13,166	9,676	7,785	3,906	2,760	985	716	534	39,528
Three	4,985	3,230	3,292	1,514	944	367	230	279	14,841
Four or more	3,059	1,786	2,178	1,049	582	245	103	237	9,239
Not stated	30	1	9	4	4	—	323	323	373
All parities	86,460	61,571	48,515	24,818	17,574	5,798	5,006	3,629	253,371
	Per cent								
None	41.6	41.6	40.1	41.2	41.0	39.4	43.6	39.2	41.1
One	33.9	34.5	32.6	32.7	34.6	33.1	34.0	29.0	33.6
Two	15.2	15.7	16.0	15.7	15.7	17.0	15.3	16.2	15.6
Three	5.8	5.2	6.8	6.1	5.4	6.3	4.9	8.4	5.9
Four or more	3.5	2.9	4.5	4.2	3.3	4.2	2.2	7.2	3.7
All parities	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Data for NSW based on previous pregnancies.

Table A7: Distribution of confinements by maternal age and parity, Australia, 2000

Parity	Maternal age (years)							Not stated	All ages
	Less than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40 and over			
	Number								
None	10,382	21,360	35,576	26,058	9,180	1,486	25	104,067	
One	2,014	12,390	26,819	29,106	12,658	1,992	23	85,002	
Two	220	4,059	11,075	14,671	8,208	1,289	6	39,528	
Three	22	1,091	3,760	5,407	3,737	823	1	14,841	
Four or more	7	318	1,942	3,233	2,723	1,007	4	9,234	
Not stated	36	79	111	74	59	20	2	381	
All parities	12,681	39,297	79,283	78,549	36,565	6,617	61	253,053	
	Per cent								
None	81.9	54.4	44.9	33.2	25.1	22.5	41.0	41.1	
One	15.9	31.5	33.8	37.1	34.6	30.1	37.7	33.6	
Two	1.7	10.3	14.0	18.7	22.4	19.5	9.8	15.6	
Three	0.2	2.8	4.7	6.9	10.2	12.4	1.6	5.9	
Four or more	0.1	0.8	2.4	4.1	7.4	15.2	6.6	3.6	
Not stated	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	3.3	0.2	
All parities	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Note: For NSW and SA parity was based on previous pregnancies.

Table A8: Marital status, all confinements, States and Territories, 2000

Marital status	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Number								
Married/de facto	53,667	42,239	22,413	15,172	4,667	4,246	2,412	144,816
Single	7,191	5,593	2,021	2,106	987	370	1,103	19,371
Widowed, divorced, or separated	675	673	314	300	90	65	61	2,178
Not stated/other	38	10	70	—	54	3	53	228
All marital status	61,571	48,515	24,818	17,578	5,798	4,684	3,629	166,593
Per cent								
Married/de facto	87.2	87.1	90.6	86.3	81.3	90.7	67.4	87.0
Single	11.7	11.5	8.2	12.0	17.2	7.9	30.8	11.6
Widowed, divorced, or separated	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.7	1.3
All marital status	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Data not available for NSW.

Table A9: Indigenous status of mothers, all confinements, States and Territories, 2000

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Non-Indigenous	84,306	61,195	45,709	23,320	17,131	5,741	4,625	2,273	244,300
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	2,105	376	2,798	1,498	447	57	53	1,348	8,682
Not stated	49	—	9	—	—	—	6	8	72
All confinements	86,460	61,571	48,515	24,818	17,578	5,798	4,684	3,629	253,053
Per cent									
Non-Indigenous	97.6	99.4	94.2	94.0	97.5	99.0	98.9	62.8	96.6
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	2.4	0.6	5.8	6.0	2.5	1.0	1.1	37.2	3.4
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A10: Distribution of confinements of Indigenous mothers by maternal age and parity, Australia, 2000

Parity	Maternal age (years)						All ages
	Less than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40 and over	
	Number						
None	964	358	147	64	21	5	1,559
One	359	513	242	105	35	8	1,262
Two	82	441	297	148	46	6	1,020
Three	14	257	292	144	56	7	770
Four or more	4	154	453	382	170	32	1,195
All parities	1,423	1,723	1,431	843	328	58	5,806
	Per cent						
None	67.7	20.8	10.3	7.6	6.4	8.6	26.9
One	25.2	29.8	16.9	12.5	10.7	13.8	21.7
Two	5.8	25.6	20.8	17.6	14.0	10.3	17.6
Three	1.0	14.9	20.4	17.1	17.1	12.1	13.3
Four or more	0.3	8.9	31.7	45.3	51.8	55.2	20.6
All parities	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A11: Confinements of Indigenous mothers by maternal age, States and Territories, 2000

Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean age (years)	24.9	25.5	25.1	24.4	25.5	25.9	26.3	23.4	24.7
	Number								
Less than 20	459	73	540	363	90	6	9	444	1,984
20–24	657	112	857	451	115	21	13	373	2,599
25–29	522	90	772	390	125	15	12	295	2,221
30–34	312	68	421	203	72	10	14	172	1,272
35–39	134	28	177	74	38	5	4	53	513
40 and over	21	5	31	17	7	—	1	8	90
All confinements	2,105	376	2,798	1,498	447	57	53	1,345	8,679
	Per cent								
Less than 20	21.8	19.4	19.3	24.2	20.1	10.5	17.0	33.0	22.9
20–24	31.2	29.8	30.6	30.1	25.7	36.8	24.5	27.7	29.9
25–29	24.8	23.9	27.6	26.0	28.0	26.3	22.6	21.9	25.6
30–34	14.8	18.1	15.0	13.6	16.1	17.5	26.4	12.8	14.7
35–39	6.4	7.4	6.3	4.9	8.5	8.8	7.5	3.9	5.9
40 and over	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.6	—	1.9	0.6	1.0
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A12: Maternal country of birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 2000

Country of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Australia	62,371	46,621	40,523	17,226	14,874	5,460	3,814	3,164	194,053
New Zealand	1,962	993	2,089	810	182	36	43	16	6,131
United Kingdom	2,400	1,835	1,407	2,038	883	80	110	75	8,828
Italy	191	225	38	61	46	3	12	—	576
Former Yugoslavia	627	580	120	130	62	5	21	—	1,545
Other Europe and former USSR	1,928	1,567	613	808	316	29	105	20	5,386
Lebanon	1,766	548	41	20	27	1	14	3	2,420
Other Middle East and North Africa	1,622	1,025	137	185	77	10	16	55	3,127
China	2,163	883	171	129	78	11	38	6	3,479
Hong Kong	357	169	83	36	15	1	9	3	673
India	643	519	80	119	63	5	22	3	1,454
Malaysia	319	322	121	223	54	13	29	3	1,084
Philippines	1,315	568	485	143	123	18	37	5	2,694
Vietnam	2,053	1,905	343	345	325	3	70	—	5,044
Other Asia	3,160	1,748	749	585	202	28	150	180	6,802
Northern America	557	333	236	134	74	20	67	10	1,431
South and Central America, and the Caribbean	706	367	157	75	42	9	33	30	1,419
Africa (excluding North Africa)	678	772	284	385	75	14	32	8	2,248
Other countries	1,611	591	828	82	121	28	59	48	3,368
Not stated	31	—	10	1,284	1	24	3	—	1,353
All countries	86,460	61,571	48,515	24,818	17,640	5,798	4,684	3,629	253,115

(continued)

Table A12 (continued): Maternal country of birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 2000

Country of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Per cent								
Australia	72.2	75.7	83.5	73.2	84.3	94.6	81.5	87.2	77.1
New Zealand	2.3	1.6	4.3	3.4	1.0	0.6	0.9	0.4	2.4
United Kingdom	2.8	3.0	2.9	8.7	5.0	1.4	2.3	2.1	3.5
Italy	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3	—	0.2
Former Yugoslavia	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.6	na	0.1	0.4	—	0.6
Other Europe and former USSR	2.2	2.5	1.3	3.4	1.8	0.5	2.2	0.6	2.1
Lebanon	2.0	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1	1.0
Other Middle East and North Africa	1.9	1.7	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.3	1.5	1.2
China	2.5	1.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.2	1.4
Hong Kong	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3
India	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.6
Malaysia	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.4
Philippines	1.5	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.8	0.1	1.1
Vietnam	2.4	3.1	0.7	1.5	1.8	0.1	1.5	—	2.0
Other Asia	3.7	2.8	1.5	2.5	1.1	0.5	3.2	5.0	2.7
Northern America	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	1.4	0.3	0.6
South and Central America, and the Caribbean	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.6
Africa (excluding North Africa)	0.8	1.3	0.6	1.6	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.9
Other countries	1.9	1.0	1.7	0.3	0.7	0.5	1.3	1.3	1.3
All countries	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A13: Maternal age distribution by selected country of birth, all confinements, Australia, 2000

Country of birth	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40 and over	Not stated	
	Number							
Australia	11,475	32,228	62,923	58,563	24,641	4,171	52	194,053
New Zealand	297	1,116	1,777	1,757	977	206	1	6,131
United Kingdom	108	557	1,695	3,522	2,497	448	1	8,828
Italy	1	13	87	233	192	50	0	576
Former Yugoslavia	23	215	391	541	276	36	1	1,483
Lebanon	91	529	788	628	316	67	1	2,420
China	4	131	799	1,236	1,078	231	0	3,479
Hong Kong	3	18	122	268	218	44	0	673
India	6	154	499	521	231	43	0	1,454
Malaysia	7	53	258	425	279	62	0	1,084
Philippines	69	367	706	807	578	166	1	2,694
Vietnam	79	743	1,821	1,538	711	152	0	5,044
Other countries	434	2,939	7,023	8,084	4,388	910	3	23,781
Not stated	84	234	394	426	183	31	1	1,353
All countries	12,681	39,297	79,283	78,549	36,565	6,617	61	253,053
	Per cent							
Australia	91.1	82.5	79.8	75.0	67.7	63.3	86.7	77.1
New Zealand	2.4	2.9	2.3	2.2	2.7	3.1	1.7	2.4
United Kingdom	0.9	1.4	2.1	4.5	6.9	6.8	1.7	3.5
Italy	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.0	0.2
Former Yugoslavia	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.5	1.7	0.6
Lebanon	0.7	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.7	1.0
China	0.0	0.3	1.0	1.6	3.0	3.5	0.0	1.4
Hong Kong	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.3
India	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.6
Malaysia	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.0	0.4
Philippines	0.5	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.6	2.5	1.7	1.1
Vietnam	0.6	1.9	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.3	0.0	2.0
Other countries	3.4	7.5	8.9	10.3	12.1	13.8	5.0	9.4
All countries	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A14: Maternal status of mother by selected country of birth, all confinements, Australia, 2000

Country of birth	All confinements ^(a)	Married /de facto		Single		Other	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Australia	131,682	112,957	85.8	16,898	12.8	1,653	1.3
New Zealand	4,169	3,538	84.9	558	13.4	69	1.7
United Kingdom	6,428	5,971	92.9	350	5.4	99	1.5
Italy	385	367	95.3	17	4.4	1	0.3
Former Yugoslavia	856	815	95.2	32	3.7	8	0.9
Lebanon	654	633	96.8	12	1.8	8	1.2
China	1,316	1,234	93.8	62	4.7	19	1.4
Hong Kong	316	311	98.4	3	0.9	2	0.6
India	811	789	97.3	18	2.2	4	0.5
Malaysia	765	736	96.2	24	3.1	5	0.7
Philippines	1,379	1,251	90.7	98	7.1	30	2.2
Vietnam	2,991	2,559	85.6	368	12.3	60	2.0
Other countries	13,519	12,455	92.1	832	6.2	205	1.5
Not stated	1,322	1,200	90.8	99	7.5	15	1.1
All countries	166,365	144,816	87.0	19,371	11.6	2,178	1.3

(a) Data exclude NSW.

Table A15: Mother's accommodation status, all confinements, selected States and Territories, 2000

Status in hospital	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
	Number								
Public	67,762	45,371	34,153	16,830	12,882	4,105	3,430	3,039	187,572
Private	18,590	16,086	14,234	6,856	4,695	1,658	1,254	590	63,963
Not stated/other	—	114	129	1,132	—	32	—	—	1,407
All classifications	86,352	61,571	48,516	24,818	17,577	5,795	4,684	3,629	252,942
	Per cent								
Public	78.5	73.8	70.6	71.1	73.3	71.2	73.2	83.7	74.6
Private	21.5	26.2	29.4	28.9	26.7	28.8	26.8	16.3	25.4
All classifications	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Accommodation status for NSW and NT unavailable; hospital status was used instead.

Table A16: Duration of pregnancy, all confinements, States and Territories, 2000

Duration of pregnancy ^(a) (weeks)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean (weeks)	39.1	39.0	39.0	38.9	39.9	39.1	39.0	38.7	39.0
	Number								
20–27 ^(b)	566	437	397	199	139	47	43	38	1,866
28–31	576	415	390	186	168	52	38	34	1,859
32–36	4,515	3,358	2,905	1,472	1,052	328	298	294	14,222
37–41	78,649	56,521	43,881	22,702	16,004	5,263	4,186	3,209	230,415
42 and over	2,148	831	932	259	215	92	116	49	4,642
Not stated	6	9	10	—	—	16	3	5	46
All confinements	86,460	61,571	48,515	24,818	17,578	5,798	4,684	3,629	253,053
	Per cent								
20–27	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.7
28–31	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.7
32–36	5.2	5.5	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.7	6.4	8.1	5.6
37–41	91.0	91.8	90.5	91.5	91.0	91.0	89.4	88.5	91.1
42 and over	2.5	1.3	1.9	1.0	1.2	1.6	2.5	1.4	1.8
All confinements	00.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) In the case of twins, gestation age of first born was used.

(b) Includes six confinements with less than 20 weeks duration of pregnancy.

Table A17: Duration of pregnancy by maternal age, all confinements, Australia, 2000

Duration of pregnancy (weeks)	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40 and over	Not stated	
	Number							
20–27	169	304	510	491	311	72	9	1,866
28–31	140	337	518	493	303	68	0	1,859
32–36	891	2,300	4,275	4,130	2,152	471	3	14,222
37–41	11,175	35,526	72,442	72,115	33,204	5,909	44	230,415
42 and over	299	817	1,523	1,316	590	97	0	4,642
Not stated	7	13	15	4	5	0	5	49
All confinements	12,681	39,297	79,283	78,549	36,565	6,617	61	253,053
	Per cent							
20–27	1.3	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.1	16.1	0.7
28–31	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.0	0.7
32–36	7.0	5.9	5.4	5.3	5.9	7.1	5.4	5.6
37–41	88.2	90.4	91.4	91.8	90.8	89.3	78.6	91.1
42 and over	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.5	0.0	1.8
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A18: Plurality, all confinements, States and Territories, 2000

Plurality	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia	
										Number
Singleton	85,027	60,598	47,753	24,419	17,291	5,705	4,598	3,585	248,976	
Twin	1,404	952	733	387	280	92	82	44	3,974	
Triplet	29	21	26	12	7	1	4	—	100	
Quadruplet	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	
Quintuplet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
All confinements	86,460	61,571	48,515	24,818	17,578	5,798	4,684	3,629	253,053	
	Per cent									
Singleton	98.3	98.4	98.4	98.4	98.4	98.4	98.2	98.8	98.4	
Twin	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.2	1.6	
Triplet	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	—	0.0	
Quadruplet	—	—	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	
Quintuplet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Table A19: Plurality by maternal age, Australia, 2000

Plurality	Maternal age (years)							Not stated	All ages	
	Less than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40 and over				
	Number									
Singleton	12,599	38,864	78,097	77,112	35,747	6,497	60	248,976		
Twin	81	425	1,168	1,391	789	119	1	3,974		
Triplet	1	8	17	44	29	1	—	100		
Quadruplet	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	3		
All confinements	12,681	39,297	79,283	78,549	36,565	6,617	61	253,053		
	Per cent									
Singleton	99.4	98.9	98.5	98.2	97.8	98.2	98.4	98.4		
Twin	0.6	1.1	1.5	1.8	2.2	1.8	1.6	1.6		
Triplet	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	—	0.0		
Quadruplet	—	—	0.0	0.0	—	—	—	0.0		
Quintuplet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		

Table A20: Onset of labour, all confinements, States and Territories, 2000

Onset of labour	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Spontaneous	56,106	36,648	29,336	13,745	10,600	2,518	3,065	2,518	154,536
—no augmentation	40,020	24,882	16,513	7,959	6,420	2,655	2,083	1,297	101,829
—medical only ^(a)	5,914	3,861	2,774	1,467	1,069	357	326	301	16,069
—surgical only	7,010	5,719	8,544	3,168	2,532	607	436	399	28,415
—combined	3,140	2,177	1,493	1,143	579	1	220	135	8,888
—other/not stated	22	9	13	8	—	—	—	469	521
Induced	20,420	16,803	12,199	7,267	4,791	1,486	1,047	730	64,743
—medical only ^(a)	6,556	4,971	4,949	1,416	1,579	569	389	282	2,0711
—surgical only	1,196	1,273	1,618	655	571	145	92	93	5,643
—combined	12,453	10,559	5,564	5,172	2,639	116	560	344	37,407
—other/not stated	215	—	68	24	2	656	6	11	982
No labour	9,926	8,120	6,978	3,806	2,187	573	572	379	32,541
Not stated	8	—	2	—	—	119	—	2	12
All confinements	86,460	61,571	48,515	24,818	17,578	5,798	4,684	3,629	253,053
	Per cent								
Spontaneous	64.9	59.5	60.5	55.4	60.3	55.0	65.4	69.4	61.4
—no augmentation	46.3	40.4	34.0	32.1	36.5	58.0	44.5	35.8	40.4
—medical only ^(a)	6.8	6.3	5.7	5.9	6.1	7.8	7.0	8.3	6.4
—surgical only	8.1	9.3	17.6	12.8	14.4	13.3	9.3	11.0	11.3
—combined	3.6	3.5	3.1	4.6	3.3	0.0	4.7	3.7	3.5
—other/not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—	12.9	0.2
Induced	23.6	27.3	25.1	29.3	27.3	32.5	22.4	20.1	25.7
—medical only ^(a)	7.6	8.1	10.2	5.7	9.0	12.4	8.3	7.8	—
—surgical only	1.4	2.1	3.3	2.6	3.2	3.2	2.0	2.6	2.2
—combined	14.4	17.1	11.5	20.8	15.0	2.5	12.0	9.5	14.9
—other/not stated	0.2	—	0.1	0.1	0.0	14.3	0.1	0.3	0.4
No labour	11.5	13.2	14.4	15.3	12.4	12.5	12.2	10.4	12.9
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes use of oxytocin or prostaglandins.

Table A21: Presentation at birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 2000

Presentation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Vertex	82,057	58,313	45,868	23,530	16,643	5,287	4,434	3,433	239,565
Breech	3,678	2,621	2,230	1,082	742	220	205	151	10,929
Other ^(a)	700	546	408	206	166	62	27	29	2,144
Not stated	25	91	9	—	27	229	18	16	415
All confinements	86,460	61,571	48,515	24,818	17,578	5,798	4,684	3,629	253,053
Per cent									
Vertex	94.9	94.8	94.6	94.8	94.8	94.9	95.0	95.0	94.8
Breech	4.3	4.3	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.2	4.3
Other ^(a)	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.8	0.8
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes face or brow presentation.

Table A22: Method of birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 2000

Method of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Spontaneous vaginal	58,049	38,889	31,663	15,096	10,844	3,937	3,079	2,608	164,165
Forceps	3,904	4,259	1,795	1,059	1,125	305	304	118	12,869
Vacuum extraction	5,367	3,637	2,339	2,241	1,101	242	266	125	15,318
Vaginal breech	669	369	260	142	80	26	19	17	1,582
Caesarean section	18,456	14,416	12,439	6,280	4,428	1,260	1,016	756	59,051
—elective	9,926	7,324	na	3,520	1,832	607	567	na	*23,776
—emergency	8,528	7,092	na	2,760	2,596	622	449	na	*22,047
Other	—	—	18	—	—	18	—	3	39
Not stated	15	1	1	—	—	10	—	2	29
All methods of birth	86,460	61,571	48,515	24,818	17,578	5,798	4,684	3,629	253,053
Per cent									
Spontaneous vaginal	67.2	63.2	65.3	60.8	61.7	68.0	65.7	71.9	64.9
Forceps	4.5	6.9	3.7	4.3	6.4	5.3	6.5	3.3	5.1
Vacuum extraction	6.2	5.9	4.8	9.0	6.3	4.2	5.7	3.4	6.1
Vaginal breech	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6
Caesarean section	21.3	23.4	25.6	25.3	25.2	21.8	21.7	20.8	23.3
—elective	11.5	11.9	na	14.2	10.4	10.5	12.1	—	*9.4
—emergency	9.9	11.5	na	11.1	14.8	10.7	9.6	—	*8.7
Other	—	—	0.0	—	—	0.3	—	0.1	0.0
All methods of birth	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Sub classification into elective and emergency caesarean section not available for Qld and NT.

Table A23: Caesarean rates by maternal age and accommodation status in hospital, States and Territories, 2000

Hospital status/ maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Public									
Less than 20	461	249	423	181	149	56	18	94	1,631
20–24	1,657	1,075	1,380	606	436	202	84	126	5,566
25–29	4,028	2,769	2,253	1,132	928	225	199	141	11,675
30–34	4,009	2,841	1,944	1,109	828	216	205	135	11,287
35–39	2,392	1,576	1,001	542	400	108	124	58	6,201
40 and over	585	314	196	135	98	18	17	12	1,375
Not stated	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
All ages^(a)	13,133	8,824	7,197	3,705	2,839	826	647	566	37,737
Private									
Less than 24 ^(a)	208	103	266	99	64	30	13	22	805
25–29	1,177	1,189	1,447	571	408	112	80	52	5,036
30–34	2,270	2,435	2,135	962	679	179	157	76	8,893
35–39	1,378	1,527	1,145	602	355	88	95	32	5,222
40 and over	289	338	247	116	83	16	24	8	1,121
Not stated	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	8	13
All ages^(b)	5,323	5,592	5,240	2,350	1,589	429	369	198	21,090

(continued)

Table A23 (continued): Caesarean rates by maternal age and accommodation status in hospital, States and Territories, 2000

Hospital status/ maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Per cent									
Public									
Less than 20	12.4	12.7	13.8	13.3	16.7	12.0	11.5	16.9	13.4
20–24	13.3	15.2	17.2	16.6	17.1	18.8	14.9	17.2	15.4
25–29	18.0	19.2	20.0	21.1	21.8	18.0	17.2	17.1	19.2
30–34	21.6	22.2	24.9	25.6	24.1	24.2	19.9	22.1	22.8
35–39	26.9	28.1	29.5	29.9	27.2	31.9	27.6	22.1	27.9
40 and over	33.5	32.1	33.1	40.7	35.6	25.0	23.9	25.0	33.4
All ages^(b)	19.4	20.6	21.1	22.0	22.0	20.1	18.9	18.6	20.4
Private									
20–24	23.8	19.3	32.5	31.6	30.8	24.4	28.3	29.7	26.9
25–29	24.0	26.5	33.2	29.5	31.1	23.0	25.8	28.0	28.0
30–34	28.4	28.7	37.0	33.1	33.6	27.6	29.2	36.9	31.1
35–39	34.6	34.9	42.1	42.4	37.8	28.6	31.4	34.0	36.9
40 and over	42.2	43.6	54.3	50.0	46.1	31.4	46.2	38.1	45.7
All ages^(b)	28.6	29.8	36.8	34.3	33.8	25.9	29.4	33.6	31.7
All confinements									
Less than 20	12.4	12.8	14.2	13.3	16.8	12.1	11.7	16.6	13.5
20–24	13.9	15.3	18.3	17.6	17.9	19.0	15.8	15.8	15.9
25–29	19.1	20.9	23.6	23.1	24.0	19.5	19.0	14.1	21.0
30–34	23.6	24.8	29.9	28.4	27.6	25.5	23.1	16.6	25.5
35–39	29.2	31.1	35.0	35.1	31.3	30.2	29.1	17.2	31.0
40 and over	35.8	37.2	41.9	43.5	39.8	27.4	33.3	17.4	37.4
All ages	21.3	23.4	25.6	25.3	25.2	21.8	21.7	15.8	23.1

(a) Age group <20 years is not presented due to small sample size and is combined in new age group <24 years.

(b) Excludes cases where admitted patient status is 'other' or 'not stated'.

Note: Accommodation status for NSW and NT unavailable; hospital status was used instead.

Table A24: Caesarean rates for Indigenous mothers by maternal age and accommodation status in hospital, States and Territories, 2000

Hospital status/ maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas ^(b)	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Public									
Less than 20	77	6	80	50	27	—	—	84	324
20–24	103	27	156	56	32	—	—	82	460
25–29	99	17	149	72	28	—	—	57	422
30–34	61	18	98	43	28	—	—	47	296
35–39	29	11	50	18	10	—	—	10	128
40 and over	5	2	6	7	4	—	—	2	26
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All ages^(a)	374	81	539	246	129	5	—	282	1,656
Private^(b)									
All ages^(a)	9	6	28	3	4	—	—	—	50
Per cent									
Public									
Less than 20	17.0	8.3	14.9	15.1	30.0	—	—	19.0	16.7
20–24	15.9	24.1	18.3	13.2	28.6	—	—	22.0	18.0
25–29	19.4	19.3	19.9	19.9	23.3	—	—	19.5	19.7
30–34	20.7	29.0	24.9	23.2	40.6	—	—	27.6	24.9
35–39	23.2	45.8	31.1	26.1	27.8	—	—	19.2	27.1
40 and over	25.0	66.7	21.4	53.8	57.1	—	—	25.0	32.5
All ages^(a)	18.3	22.4	19.8	17.8	29.7	10.2	—	21.0	19.8
Private^(b)									
All ages^(a)	16.1	40.0	37.8	100.0	30.8	—	—	—	27.5
All confinements									
Less than 20	17.2	8.2	14.8	14.0	30.0	—	—	19.0	16.6
20–24	15.7	24.1	18.4	12.9	27.8	—	—	22.0	18.0
25–29	19.2	18.9	20.2	20.0	23.2	—	—	19.3	19.9
30–34	20.2	32.4	25.2	22.7	43.1	—	—	27.3	25.5
35–39	23.9	42.9	33.9	24.3	26.3	—	—	19.2	28.1
40 and over	28.6	60.0	19.4	58.8	57.1	—	—	25.0	34.4
All ages	18.2	23.1	20.2	17.4	29.8	8.8	—	21.0	20.0

(a) Excludes cases where admitted patient status is 'other' or 'not stated'.

(b) Figures for age groups suppressed due to small numbers.

Note: Accommodation status for NSW and NT unavailable; hospital status was used instead. ACT data unpublished.

Table A25: Caesarean rates by maternal age, parity and public accommodation status in hospital, Australia, 2000

Maternal age (years)	Parity				Parity			
	None	One	Two +	Total	None	One	Two+	Total
	Number				Per cent			
Less than 20	1,360	243	24	1,631	13.7	12.4	10.0	13.4
20–24	3,235	1,547	779	5,566	16.9	13.3	14.8	15.4
25–29	5,446	3,699	2,515	11,675	21.7	17.8	16.9	19.2
30–34	4,130	3,901	3,240	11,287	27.9	22.7	18.6	22.8
35–39	1,913	2,004	2,273	6,201	38.0	28.4	22.6	27.9
40 and over	358	382	629	1,375	46.2	35.2	28.1	33.4
Not stated	1	1	—	2	10.0	—	—	—
Total	16,443	11,777	9,460	37,737	22.0	19.8	18.8	20.4

Note: Accommodation status for NSW and NT unavailable; hospital status was used instead.

Table A26: Caesarean rates by maternal age, parity and private accommodation status in hospital, Australia, 2000

Maternal age (years)	Parity				Parity			
	None	One	Two +	Total	None	One	Two +	Total
	Number				Per cent			
Less than 20	71	7	1	79	18.6	20.0	25.0	18.8
20–24	541	159	26	726	25.6	22.0	16.5	24.3
25–29	3,017	1,591	428	5,036	29.3	26.9	24.4	28.0
30–34	3,924	3,526	1,442	8,892	35.3	29.9	25.4	31.1
35–39	1,817	2,078	1,327	5,222	44.2	37.6	29.5	36.9
40 and over	416	420	284	1,120	59.1	47.2	33.1	45.7
Not stated	2	1	2	5	—	—	—	—
Total	9,788	7,782	3,510	21,080	34.1	31.3	27.1	31.7

Note: Accommodation status for NSW and NT unavailable; hospital status was used instead.

Table A27: Caesarean rates by parity, plurality, breech presentation and birthweight, Australia, 2000

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Parity									
Primipara	8,411	6,459	5,441	2,711	1,996	533	489	304	26,344
Multipara	10,040	7,957	6,995	3,567	2,430	727	527	405	32,648
All parity	18,451	14,416	12,436	6,278	4,426	1,260	1,016	709	58,992
Plurality									
Singleton	17,759	13,860	11,985	6,051	4,274	1,212	970	728	56,839
Twin	672	537	427	218	148	47	43	28	2,120
Other multiple	25	19	27	11	6	1	3	—	92
All confinements	18,456	14,416	12,439	6,280	4,428	1,260	1,016	756	59,051
Breech presentation in singleton births	2,739	2,038	1,817	857	612	166	176	109	8,514
Birthweight (singleton births)									
Less than 500 g	6	5	7	3	3	2	1	—	27
500–999 g	121	91	93	39	41	5	12	2	404
1,000–1,499 g	209	178	158	62	75	18	16	15	731
1,500–1,999 g	317	277	251	90	76	30	26	26	1,093
2,000–2,499 g	747	560	533	269	191	38	48	33	2,419
2,500 g and over ^(a)	16,346	12,748	10,942	5,588	3,888	1,108	867	649	52,136
—public	11,348	7,646	6,215	3,271	2,458	723	535	477	32,673
—private	4,998	5,102	4,727	2,111	1,430	382	332	172	19,254
—other	—	—	—	206	—	2	—	—	208
Not stated	13	1	1	—	—	11	—	3	—
All singleton births	17,759	13,860	11,985	6,051	4,274	1,212	970	728	56,810

(continued)

Table A27 (continued): Caesarean rates by parity, plurality, breech presentation and birthweight, Australia, 2000

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Per cent								
Parity									
Primipara	23.4	25.2	28.0	26.5	27.7	23.4	24.0	23.5	25.8
Multipara	19.9	22.1	24.1	24.4	23.4	20.7	19.9	20.1	21.7
All parity	21.3	23.4	25.6	25.3	25.2	21.7	21.7	19.5	23.3
Plurality									
Singleton	20.9	22.9	25.1	24.8	24.7	21.2	21.1	20.3	22.8
Twin	7.9	56.4	58.3	56.3	52.9	51.1	52.4	63.6	53.3
Other multiple	86.2	90.5	93.1	91.7	85.7	100.0	75.0	—	89.3
All confinements	21.3	23.4	25.6	25.3	25.2	21.7	21.7	20.8	23.3
Breech presentation in singleton births	81.2	84.8	87.3	86.7	89.3	83.4	91.2	78.4	84.6
Birthweight (singleton births)									
Less than 500 g	3.2	3.0	4.7	3.4	6.5	11.8	7.1	—	4.0
500–999 g	35.6	41.0	43.1	37.1	48.2	29.4	46.2	11.8	39.3
1,000–1,499 g	53.0	61.8	64.8	53.9	67.6	51.4	72.7	55.6	59.1
1,500–1,999 g	46.7	49.8	50.7	46.6	45.5	50.8	42.6	51.0	48.3
2,000–2,499 g	29.0	29.9	34.7	32.8	34.0	22.1	34.3	17.2	30.8
2,500 g and over ^(a)	20.2	22.2	24.3	24.2	23.8	20.6	20.0	19.9	22.1
—public	18.0	19.3	19.7	21.0	20.7	19.1	16.9	0.3	19.1
—private	28.1	28.7	35.4	32.8	32.3	24.7	28.3	0.3	30.5
All singleton births	20.9	22.9	25.1	24.8	24.7	21.2	21.1	20.3	22.8

(a) Data include patient admitted election status 'not stated' and 'other'.

Table A28: Perineal repair after delivery, States and Territories, 2000

Perineal status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
None	37,757	31,043	26,469	13,473	8,380	na	2,428	2,086	121,636
1st degree laceration	18,561	9,980	7,463	2,996	1,583	na	657	425	41,665
2nd degree laceration	15,264	8,965	6,758	3,333	4,187	na	950	487	39,944
3rd degree laceration	844	333	281	181	118	na	41	45	1,843
4th degree laceration	83	19	31	—	8	na	—	—	4,814
Episiotomy	10,703	10,259	4,704	3,722	2,650	na	606	261	29,127
Combined laceration and episiotomy	876	963	926	421	377	na	—	—	2,668
Other	2,352	7	1,876	692	272	na	2	155	5,356
Not stated	20	2	7	—	3	na	—	170	202
Total confinements	86,460	61,571	48,515	24,818	17,578	na	4,684	3,629	247,255
	Per cent								
None	43.7	50.4	54.6	54.3	47.7	na	51.8	60.3	49.2
1st degree laceration	21.5	16.2	15.4	12.1	9.0	na	14.0	12.3	16.9
2nd degree laceration	17.7	14.6	13.9	13.4	23.8	na	20.3	14.1	16.2
3rd degree laceration	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	na	0.9	1.3	0.7
4th degree laceration	0.1	0.0	9.7	—	0.0	na	—	—	1.9
Episiotomy	12.4	16.7	1.9	15.0	15.1	na	12.9	7.5	11.8
Combined laceration and episiotomy	1.0	1.6	0.1	1.7	2.1	na	—	—	1.1
Other	2.7	0.0	3.9	2.8	1.5	na	0.0	4.5	2.2
Total confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	00.0	100.0	na	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A29: Length of mother's antenatal stay in hospital, States and Territories, 2000

Length of stay ^(a)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean length of stay (days)	na	1.2	0.6	na	0.8	1.5	0.7	0.7	1.0
	Number								
Less than 1 day	na	—	31,872	na	10,730	1,508	2,766	2,154	49,030
1 day ^(b)	na	58,067	13,273	na	5,351	3,137	1,598	1,026	82,452
2–6 days	na	2,509	2,489	na	1,076	875	223	284	7,456
7–13 days	na	331	288	na	192	43	44	41	939
14–20 days	na	123	104	na	63	4	10	8	312
21–27 days	na	67	48	na	21	6	5	2	149
28 or more days	na	109	90	na	50	15	6	5	275
Not stated	85,984	—	6	24,617	—	105	—	1	110,713
All hospital confinements	85,984	61,206	48,170	24,617	17,483	5,693	4,652	3,521	251,326
	Per cent								
Less than 1 day	na	-	66.2	na	61.4	27.0	59.5	61.2	34.9
1 day ^(b)	na	94.9	27.6	na	30.6	56.1	34.4	29.1	58.6
2–6 days	na	4.1	5.2	na	6.2	15.7	4.8	8.1	5.3
7–13 days	na	0.5	0.6	na	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.2	0.7
14–20 days	na	0.2	0.2	na	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
21–27 days	na	0.1	0.1	na	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
28 or more days	na	0.2	0.2	na	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2
All hospital confinements	na	100.0	100.0	na	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Length of mother's antenatal stay in hospital or birth centre only.

(b) Figure for Victoria is combined for both less than 1 day and 1 day.

Note: Data for NSW and WA not available.

Table A30: Length of mother's postnatal stay in hospital, all hospital confinements, States and Territories, 2000

Length of stay ^(a)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean length of stay (days)	na	3.7	3.4	na	3.8	4.3	3.8	4.1	3.7
	Number								
Less than 1 day	na	—	1,348	na	348	205	196	94	2,191
1 day	na	4,750	6,164	na	1,265	639	428	311	13,557
2 days	na	10,171	9,358	na	2,815	1,059	732	536	24,671
3 days	na	13,418	9,603	na	3,667	1,071	930	694	29,383
4 days	na	13,190	8,471	na	3,091	1,020	733	680	27,185
5 days	na	9,578	6,393	na	3,202	709	640	509	21,031
6 days	na	5,101	3,287	na	1,261	357	409	323	10,738
7–13 days	na	3,647	2,616	na	1,340	414	442	424	8,883
14–20 days	na	56	85	na	18	15	16	24	214
21–27 days	na	5	18	na	3	4	1	5	36
28 or more days	na	4	11	na	2	27	—	3	47
Not stated	83,238	—	127	24,739	—	210	—	26	108,340
All hospital confinements	83,238	59,920	47,481	24,739	17,012	5,730	4,527	3,629	246,276
	Per cent								
Less than 1 day	na	—	2.8	na	2.0	3.7	4.3	2.6	1.6
1 day	na	7.9	13.0	na	7.4	11.6	9.5	8.6	9.8
2 days	na	17.0	19.8	na	16.5	19.2	16.2	14.9	17.9
3 days	na	22.4	20.3	na	21.6	19.4	20.5	19.3	21.3
4 days	na	22.0	17.9	na	18.2	18.5	16.2	18.9	19.7
5 days	na	16.0	13.5	na	18.8	12.8	14.1	14.1	15.2
6 days	na	8.5	6.9	na	7.4	6.5	9.0	9.0	7.8
7–13 days	na	6.1	5.5	na	7.9	7.5	9.8	11.8	6.4
14–20 days	na	0.1	0.2	na	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.2
21–27 days	na	0.0	0.0	na	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
28 or more days	na	0.0	0.0	na	0.0	0.5	—	0.1	0.0
All hospital confinements	na	100.0	100.0	na	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Length of mother's stay in hospital or birth centre only. Transfers and home births are excluded.

Note: Data for NSW and WA not available.

Table A31: Mother's length of postnatal stay by accommodation status, hospital confinements, Australia, 2000

Status in hospital / length of postnatal stay ^(a)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Public	na	41,573	33,235	na	12,444	4,007	3,309	2,778	178,848
Mean length of stay (days)	na	3.2	2.8	na	3.3	4.0	3.1	3.8	3.1
	Per cent								
1 day or less	na	10.7	21.6	na	12.4	18.1	18.1	12.3	15.2
2 days	na	23.3	26.3	na	21.5	22.8	20.8	17.8	23.9
3 days	na	29.6	24.2	na	26.9	20.7	25.4	21.9	26.7
4 days	na	19.7	15.6	na	18.2	16.3	16.9	18.5	17.8
5 days	na	9.8	7.0	na	12.1	10.1	9.9	11.1	9.2
6 days	na	3.8	2.6	na	5.1	5.1	4.7	7.2	3.7
7 or more days	na	2.8	2.6	na	3.7	6.9	4.2	11.3	3.4
All confinements	na	100.0	100.0	na	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Private	na	18,346	14,087	na	4,568	1,635	1,197	588	65,818
Mean length of stay (days)	na	5.0	4.9	na	5.1	5.0	5.6	5.2	5.0
	Per cent								
1 day or less	na	1.6	2.2	na	1.6	8.0	1.8	3.2	2.3
2 days	na	2.6	4.3	na	3.0	10.7	3.5	3.7	3.6
3 days	na	6.1	11.0	na	7.0	16.1	7.4	9.5	8.4
4 days	na	27.2	23.4	na	18.0	24.2	14.5	20.2	24.2
5 days	na	29.9	28.7	na	37.0	19.5	26.1	29.3	29.7
6 days	na	19.2	17.3	na	13.7	9.8	21.1	18.0	17.5
7 or more days	na	13.4	13.2	na	19.7	11.7	25.6	16.0	14.3
All confinements	na	100.0	100.0	na	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Length of mother's stay in hospital or birth centre only. Transfers and home births are excluded.

Note: Postnatal data unavailable for NSW and WA; accommodation status unavailable for NT hence hospital status used for this State.

Table A32: Length of mother's postnatal stay in hospital by age, parity, Indigenous status, accommodation status, type of delivery, and size of hospital, Australia, 2000

Characteristic(a)	Confinements	Length of stay (days)						
		0-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-13	14 or more
		Per cent						
All confinements	225,285	29.9	41.3	22.6	2.6	0.8	0.3	0.2
Maternal age								
Less than 20	10,785	42.8	43.6	10.4	2.1	0.4	0.3	0.3
20-24	34,733	42.6	42.5	11.9	2.1	0.5	0.2	0.2
25-29	70,572	31.6	42.6	20.7	4.1	0.7	0.2	0.2
30-34	70,336	24.6	40.6	27.4	6.0	0.9	0.3	0.2
35-39	32,877	22.1	38.3	30.1	7.6	1.3	0.4	0.2
40 and over	5,932	21.5	37.2	28.6	10.1	1.7	0.6	0.2
Not stated	50	33.3	40.7	14.8	7.4	3.7	—	—
Parity								
None	93,175	19.1	44.1	28.2	6.8	1.1	0.4	0.3
One	75,801	34.6	40.0	20.6	3.9	0.6	0.2	0.1
Two or three	48,197	54.9	39.5	16.6	3.3	0.6	0.2	0.2
Four or more	8,066	49.1	34.3	12.1	3.2	0.7	0.4	0.3
Indigenous status								
Indigenous	6,517	51.7	33.1	10.4	2.9	1.0	0.3	0.6
Non-Indigenous	163,626	40.2	44.6	12.1	2.2	0.5	0.2	0.2
Not stated	996	22.2	44.4	22.2	11.1	—	—	—
		Per cent						
Hospital accommodation status								
Public	163,626	40.2	44.6	12.1	2.2	0.5	0.2	0.2
Private	60,662	6.1	33.5	46.8	11.4	1.5	0.4	0.2
Other/not stated	5,714	23.9	36.8	25.8	8.5	2.8	1.3	0.8
Type of delivery								
Spontaneous vaginal	146,284	41.4	41.8	14.4	1.7	0.3	0.1	0.1
Caesarean section	52,328	5.0	37.2	41.1	13.5	2.1	0.7	0.7
Other	26,614	17.9	46.6	29.1	5.2	0.8	0.3	0.3
Not stated	26	45.5	45.5	—	—	—	9.1	9.1
Size of hospital								
1-100	4,407	30.9	41.2	21.7	5.0	0.6	0.4	0.2
101-500	32,122	19.6	41.9	29.8	7.0	1.1	0.3	0.3
501-1,000	35,095	20.5	38.6	32.9	6.4	1.0	0.3	0.3
1,001-2,000	57,628	30.1	39.2	24.1	5.4	0.8	0.3	0.2
2,001 and over	87,814	38.5	44.0	13.5	3.0	0.6	0.3	0.1

(a) Length of mother's stay in hospital or birth centre only. Transfers and home births are excluded.

Note: Postnatal data unavailable for NSW and WA; accommodation status unavailable for NT hence hospital status used for this State.

Table A33: Length of mother's postnatal stay for public accommodation status in hospital by age, parity, Indigenous status, type of delivery, and size of hospital, Australia, 2000

Characteristic ^(a)	Confinements	Length of stay (days)						
		0-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-13	14 or more
		Per cent						
Confinements	163,626	40.2	44.6	12.1	2.2	0.5	0.2	0.2
Maternal age								
Less than 20	10,350	43.7	43.6	9.7	1.9	0.4	0.3	0.4
20-24	31,891	45.1	42.7	9.7	1.7	0.4	0.2	0.2
25-29	53,948	40.3	45.3	11.5	2.0	0.5	0.2	0.1
30-34	43,946	38.2	45.3	13.3	2.2	0.5	0.2	0.2
35-39	19,788	35.2	44.5	15.8	3.2	0.8	0.3	0.2
40 and over	3,678	33.2	45.3	15.6	4.1	1.2	0.4	0.2
Not stated	25	36.4	45.5	18.2	—	—	—	—
Parity								
None	66,564	26.4	52.7	16.8	2.9	0.7	0.3	0.2
One	52,880	48.3	40.4	9.1	1.6	0.4	0.1	0.1
Two or three	37,024	50.1	38.8	8.7	1.6	0.5	0.1	0.1
Four or more	7,121	51.5	36.8	9.0	1.9	0.4	0.2	0.3
Indigenous status								
Indigenous	6,268	52.8	33.3	9.5	2.5	0.9	0.3	0.6
Non-Indigenous	153,353	39.7	45.4	12.1	2.1	0.4	0.2	0.1
Not stated	4,005	40.7	37.1	15.3	3.9	1.7	0.4	0.9
Type of delivery								
Spontaneous vaginal	114,048	51.6	40.4	6.4	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.1
Caesarean section	33,003	7.4	53.9	31.0	5.4	1.3	0.5	0.4
Other	16,533	27.0	55.3	13.6	3.0	0.6	0.3	0.2
Not stated	20	62.5	37.5	—	—	—	—	—
Size of hospital								
1-100	3,753	31.7	43.2	19.9	4.1	0.6	0.4	0.1
101-500	20,148	30.9	46.3	18.4	3.2	0.7	0.3	0.2
501-1,000	21,546	36.4	46.5	13.4	2.7	0.6	0.2	0.3
1,001-2,000	36,408	42.6	42.0	12.0	2.2	0.6	0.2	0.2
2,001 and over	74,172	42.5	45.5	9.7	1.6	0.4	0.2	0.1

(a) Length of mother's stay in hospital or birth centre only. Transfers and home births are excluded.

Note: Postnatal data unavailable for NSW and WA; accommodation status unavailable for NT hence hospital status used for this State.

Table A34: Length of mother's postnatal stay for private accommodation status in hospital by age, parity, Indigenous status, type of delivery, and size of hospital, selected States and Territories, 2000

Characteristic ^(a)	Confinements	Length of stay (days)					
		0-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-13
		Per cent					
Confinements	60,662	6.1	33.5	46.8	11.4	1.5	0.4
Maternal age							
Less than 20	370	19.8	42.6	27.4	8.1	1.0	1.0
20-24	2,664	15.5	40.8	36.1	6.2	0.9	0.2
25-29	16,318	6.4	35.0	46.9	10.0	1.2	0.2
30-34	26,088	4.9	33.8	47.6	11.5	1.5	0.5
35-39	12,969	5.7	30.6	47.9	13.1	1.9	0.6
40 and over	2,230	6.8	27.0	45.0	17.8	2.4	1.0
Not stated	23	33.3	40.0	13.3	13.3	—	—
Parity							
None	26,208	3.4	25.6	52.8	15.3	2.0	0.6
One	22,602	6.9	39.1	43.8	8.6	1.1	0.3
Two or three	10,953	8.8	41.0	40.5	8.2	0.9	0.5
Four or more	890	12.2	40.7	36.4	8.4	1.9	0.3
Indigenous status							
Indigenous	156	19.8	27.7	35.6	13.9	3.0	—
Non-Indigenous	58,872	5.5	33.2	47.6	11.6	1.5	0.4
Not stated	1,634	18.5	40.3	29.4	8.2	2.3	0.7
Type of delivery							
Spontaneous vaginal	31,603	9.4	46.4	39.7	3.6	0.5	0.2
Caesarean section	19,094	1.4	12.6	56.0	25.4	3.3	1.0
Other	9,949	5.0	34.2	50.9	8.3	1.1	0.3
Not stated	6	—	66.7	—	—	—	33.3
Size of hospital							
1-100	583	26.1	29.8	31.9	10.6	1.1	0.3
101-500	11,787	7.2	36.9	42.3	11.2	1.6	0.4
501-1,000	13,474	4.7	30.8	52.4	10.0	1.4	0.4
1,001-2,000	21,177	4.9	33.5	48.2	11.8	1.2	0.3
2,001 and over	13,231	7.9	32.7	42.4	13.4	2.3	0.9

(a) Length of mother's stay in hospital or birth centre only. Transfers and home births are excluded.

Note: Postnatal data unavailable for NSW and WA; accommodation status unavailable for NT hence hospital status used for this State.

Table A35: Mode of separation of mother, all hospital confinements, selected States and Territories, 2000

Mode of separation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Discharge home	83,127	59,920	47,316	na	17,012	5,478	4,502	3,565	220,920
Transfer to another hospital	2,853	1,283	846	na	471	27	146	48	5,674
Died	3	3	4	na	—	—	—	1	11
Other	—	—	—	na	—	144	—	15	159
Not stated	1	—	4	na	—	54	4	—	63
All confinements	85,984	61,206	48,170	na	17,483	5,703	4,652	3,629	226,827
	Per cent								
Discharge home	96.7	97.9	98.2	na	97.3	97.0	96.9	98.2	97.4
Transfer to another hospital	3.3	2.1	1.8	na	2.7	0.5	3.1	1.3	2.5
Died	0.0	0.0	0.0	na	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	na	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.4	0.1
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	na	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Data not available for WA.

Table A36: Infant's month of birth, all births, States and Territories, 2000

Month of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
January	7,456	5,279	4,131	2,143	1,560	536	380	309	21,794
February	7,009	4,882	3,898	2,030	1,442	461	380	311	20,413
March	7,628	5,400	4,425	2,258	1,578	489	378	316	22,472
April	7,062	4,965	3,944	2,106	1,481	463	407	337	20,765
May	7,633	5,414	4,277	2,076	1,522	481	425	330	22,158
June	7,155	5,117	4,072	2,065	1,508	508	404	315	21,144
July	7,264	5,121	4,011	1,985	1,513	478	375	271	21,018
August	7,573	5,259	4,216	2,236	1,496	496	402	293	21,971
September	7,364	5,315	4,314	2,253	1,473	498	399	305	21,921
October	7,638	5,712	4,307	2,143	1,527	539	445	302	22,613
November	7,075	5,256	3,957	1,998	1,403	499	415	268	20,871
December	7,065	4,844	3,757	1,936	1,369	447	364	316	20,098
All births	87,922	62,564	49,309	25,229	17,872	5,895	4,774	3,673	257,238
Per cent									
January	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.7	9.1	8.0	8.4	8.5
February	8.0	7.8	7.9	8.0	8.1	7.8	8.0	8.5	7.9
March	8.7	8.6	9.0	9.0	8.8	8.3	7.9	8.6	8.7
April	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.3	8.3	7.9	8.5	9.2	8.1
May	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.2	8.5	8.2	8.9	9.0	8.6
June	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.4	8.6	8.5	8.6	8.2
July	8.3	8.2	8.1	7.9	8.5	8.1	7.9	7.4	8.2
August	8.6	8.4	8.6	8.9	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.0	8.5
September	8.4	8.5	8.7	8.9	8.2	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.5
October	8.7	9.1	8.7	8.5	8.5	9.1	9.3	8.2	8.8
November	8.0	8.4	8.0	7.9	7.9	8.5	8.7	7.3	8.1
December	8.0	7.7	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	8.6	7.8
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	00.0	100.0

Table A37: Baby's sex by plurality, all births, States and Territories, 2000

Baby's sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
All births									
Male	45,346	32,073	25,303	12,767	9,162	3,156	2,432	1,867	132,106
Female	42,539	30,483	23,997	12,462	8,710	2,737	2,341	1,804	125,073
Indeterminate	15	6	9	—	—	2	1	1	34
Not stated	22	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	25
All births	87,922	62,564	49,309	25,229	17,872	5,895	4,774	3,673	257,238
Sex ratio	106.6	105.2	105.4	102.4	105.2	115.3	103.9	103.5	105.6
Singletons									
Male	43,879	31,105	24,526	12,375	8,871	3,051	2,339	1,818	127,964
Female	41,116	29,488	23,218	12,044	8,420	2,666	2,258	1,765	120,975
Indeterminate	12	4	9	—	—	2	1	1	29
Not stated	20	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	22
Sex ratio	106.7	105.5	105.6	102.7	105.4	114.4	103.6	103.0	105.8
Twins									
Male	1,420	937	733	377	275	104	84	49	3,979
Female	1,385	963	733	397	285	71	80	39	3,953
Indeterminate	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Not stated	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sex ratio	102.5	97.3	100.0	95.0	96.5	146.5	105.0	125.6	100.7
Other multiple births									
Male	47	31	44	15	16	1	9	2	165
Female	38	32	46	21	5	—	3	9	154
Indeterminate	2	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	14
Sex ratio	123.7	96.9	95.7	71.4	320.0	—	300.0	22.2	107.1
Per cent									
All births									
Male	51.6	51.3	51.3	50.6	51.3	53.5	50.9	50.8	51.4
Female	48.4	48.7	48.7	49.4	48.7	46.4	49.0	49.1	48.6
Indeterminate	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Singletons									
Male	51.6	51.3	51.4	50.7	51.3	53.3	50.9	50.7	51.4
Female	48.4	48.7	48.6	49.3	48.7	46.6	49.1	49.2	48.6
Twins									
Male	50.6	49.3	50.0	48.7	49.1	59.4	51.2	55.7	50.1
Female	49.4	50.6	50.0	51.3	50.9	40.6	48.8	44.3	49.8
Other multiple births									
Male	54.0	49.2	43.1	41.7	76.2	100.0	75.0	—	49.5
Female	43.7	50.8	45.1	58.3	23.8	—	25.0	—	46.2

Table A38: Baby's gestational age, live births and fetal deaths, Australia, 2000

Gestational age (weeks)	Live births		Fetal deaths		All births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Percent	Number	Per cent
20 ^(a)	38	0.0	179	9.9	217	0.1
21	70	0.0	192	10.6	262	0.1
22	109	0.0	168	9.3	277	0.1
23	100	0.0	117	6.5	217	0.1
24	159	0.1	85	4.7	244	0.1
25	174	0.1	66	3.7	240	0.1
26	238	0.1	62	3.4	300	0.1
27	270	0.1	44	2.4	314	0.1
28	350	0.1	52	2.9	402	0.2
29	406	0.2	52	2.9	458	0.2
30	531	0.2	49	2.7	580	0.2
31	690	0.3	57	3.2	747	0.3
32	979	0.4	48	2.7	1,027	0.4
33	1,432	0.6	47	2.6	1,479	0.6
34	2,350	0.9	53	2.9	2,403	0.9
35	3,706	1.5	51	2.8	3,757	1.5
36	7,249	2.8	86	4.9	7,335	2.9
37	14,904	5.8	66	3.7	14,970	5.8
38	42,252	16.5	93	5.2	42,345	16.5
39	54,530	21.4	79	4.4	54,609	21.2
40	83,858	32.8	89	5.2	83,947	32.6
41	36,362	14.2	45	2.6	36,407	14.2
42	4,430	1.7	8	0.4	4,438	1.7
43	188	0.1	3	0.2	191	0.1
44 and over	11	0.0	2	0.1	13	0.0
Not stated	37	—	—	—	59	—
All births	255,445	100.0	1,793	100.0	257,238	100.0
Preterm births						
20–27	1,158	0.5	913	50.6	2,071	0.8
28–31	1,977	0.8	210	11.6	2,187	0.9
32–36	15,714	6.2	287	15.9	16,001	6.2
All preterm births	18,849	7.4	1,410	78.2	20,259	7.9

(a) Includes five babies of less than 20 weeks gestation.

Table A39: Baby's gestational age by plurality, all births, Australia, 2000

Gestational age (weeks)	Singletons		Twins		Triplets		Quadruplets		All births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
20–27 ^(a)	1,677	0.7	350	4.4	42	14.1	4	33.0	2,073	0.8
28–31	1,558	0.6	546	6.9	75	25.2	8	67.0	2,187	0.9
32–36	12,498	5.0	3,331	42.0	172	57.7	—	—	16,001	6.2
37–41	228,561	91.8	3,708	46.7	9	3.0	—	—	232,278	90.3
42 and over	4,642	1.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,642	1.8
Not stated	54	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	57	—
All births	248,990	100.0	7,938	100.0	298	100.0	12	100.0	257,238	100.0
20–36 weeks	15,733	6.3	4,227	53.3	289	97.0	12	53.3	20,261	7.9
Mean gestational age (weeks)										
20+ weeks	39.0		35.3		31.9		27.0		38.9	

(a) Includes seven babies of less than 20 weeks gestation.

Table A40: Duration of pregnancy, preterm births, States and Territories, 2000

Duration of pregnancy (weeks)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean (weeks)	33.3	33.3	33.1	33.2	33.1	31.6	33.0	33.2	33.2
Number									
20–27 ^(a)	623	491	439	216	157	56	50	41	2,073
28–31	663	482	472	225	197	61	51	36	2,187
32–36	5,114	3,802	3,249	1,656	1,175	358	330	317	16,001
All preterm births	6,400	4,775	4,160	2,097	1,529	475	431	394	20,261
Per cent of total births									
20–27	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.1	0.8
28–31	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.8
32–36	5.9	6.1	6.7	6.4	6.3	5.9	7.0	8.8	6.2
All preterm births	7.3	7.6	8.5	8.1	8.3	7.8	9.2	10.9	7.9

(a) Includes seven (3 in Qld, 3 in Tas and 1 in NT) babies of less than 20 weeks gestation.

Table A41: Baby's birthweight, all births, States and Territories, 2000

Birthweight (g)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean birthweight (g)	3,378	3,354	3,372	3,338	3,350	3,389	3,377	3,248	3,364
	Number								
Less than 500	228	210	180	102	59	21	17	13	830
500–999	425	302	285	133	103	26	36	20	1,330
1,000–1,499	546	404	338	164	155	50	38	32	1,727
1,500–1,999	1,079	842	714	301	255	79	86	73	3,429
2,000–2,499	3,383	2,418	1,963	1,053	723	217	186	218	10,161
2,500–2,999	12,819	9,626	6,924	3,947	2,716	836	603	752	38,223
3,000–3,499	30,647	22,584	17,001	9,117	6,194	1,945	1,622	1,260	90,370
3,500–3,999	27,483	18,832	15,438	7,625	5,494	1,885	1,533	922	79,212
4,000–4,499	9,454	6,202	5,504	2,393	1,833	665	533	310	26,894
4,500 and over	1,811	1,135	956	393	339	131	119	50	4,934
Not stated	—	9	—	1	1	—	1	23	—
All births	87,875	62,564	49,303	25,229	17,872	5,855	4,774	3,673	257,145
Less than 1,000	653	512	465	235	162	47	53	33	2,160
Less than 1,500	1,199	916	803	399	317	97	91	65	3,887
Less than 2,500	5,661	4,176	3,480	1,753	1,295	393	363	356	17,477
	Per cent								
Less than 500	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
500–999	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.5
1,000–1,499	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.7
1,500–1,999	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.8	2.0	1.3
2,000–2,499	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.0	3.7	3.9	6.0	4.0
2,500–2,999	14.6	15.4	14.0	15.6	15.2	14.3	12.6	20.6	14.9
3,000–3,499	34.9	36.1	34.5	36.1	34.7	33.2	34.0	34.5	35.1
3,500–3,999	31.3	30.1	31.3	30.2	30.7	32.2	32.1	25.3	30.8
4,000–4,499	10.8	9.9	11.2	9.5	10.3	11.4	11.2	8.5	10.5
4,500 and over	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.5	1.4	1.9
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 1,000	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.9	0.8
Less than 1,500	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.5
Less than 2,500	6.4	6.7	7.1	6.9	7.2	6.7	7.6	9.8	6.8

Table A42: Baby's birthweight, live births and fetal deaths, Australia, 2000

Birthweight (g)	Live births		Fetal deaths		All births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	206	0.1	625	35.2	831	0.3
500–999	994	0.4	336	18.9	1,330	0.5
1,000–1,499	1,578	0.6	149	8.4	1,727	0.7
1,500–1,999	3,319	1.3	110	6.2	3,429	1.3
2,000–2,499	10,027	3.9	134	7.5	10,161	4.0
2,500–2,999	38,058	14.9	165	9.3	38,223	14.9
3,000–3,499	90,231	35.3	139	7.8	90,370	35.1
3,500–3,999	79,129	31.0	83	4.7	79,212	30.8
4,000–4,499	26,863	10.5	31	1.7	26,894	10.5
4,500 and over	4,930	1.9	4	0.2	4,934	1.9
Not stated	100	—	27	—	127	—
All births	255,435	100.0	1,803	100.0	257,238	100.0
Less than 1,000	1,200	0.5	961	54.1	2,161	0.8
Less than 1,500	2,778	1.1	1,110	62.5	3,888	1.5
Less than 2,500	16,124	6.3	1,354	76.2	17,478	6.8
Mean birthweight (g)						
All birthweights	3,377		1,399		3,364	

Note: Birthweights 'Less than 1,500 g' and 'Less than 2,500 g' are cumulative.

Table A43: Baby's birthweight by plurality, all births, Australia, 2000

Birthweight (g)	Singletons		Twins		Triplets		Other multiple births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	683	0.3	125	1.6	19	6.4	4	33.3
500–999	1,028	0.4	270	3.4	28	9.5	4	33.3
1,000–1,499	1,237	0.5	430	5.4	59	20.0	1	8.3
1,500–1,999	2,261	0.9	1,075	13.6	90	30.5	3	25.0
2,000–2,499	7,865	3.2	2,218	28.0	78	26.4	—	—
2,500–2,999	35,534	14.3	2,671	33.7	18	6.1	—	—
3,000–3,499	89,372	35.9	995	12.6	3	1.0	—	—
3,500–3,999	79,072	31.8	140	1.8	—	—	—	—
4,000–4,499	26,891	10.8	3	0.0	—	—	—	—
4,500 and over	4,934	2.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not stated	113	—	11	—	3	—	—	—
All births	248,990	100.0	7,938	100.0	298	100.0	12	100.0
Less than 1,000	1,711	0.7	395	5.0	47	15.9	8	66.7
Less than 1,500	2,948	1.2	825	10.4	106	35.9	9	75.0
Less than 2,500	13,074	5.3	4,118	51.9	274	92.9	12	100.0
Mean birthweight (g)								
All birthweights	3,398		2,365		1,668		930	

Note: Birthweights 'Less than 1,500 g' and 'Less than 2,500 g' are cumulative.

Table A44: Baby's birthweight by sex, all births, Australia, 2000

Birthweight (g)	Male		Female		Indeterminate/not stated	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	406	0.3	405	0.3	20	38.5
500–999	668	0.5	660	0.5	2	3.8
1,000–1,499	866	0.7	860	0.7	1	1.9
1,500–1,999	1,632	1.2	1,796	1.4	1	1.9
2,000–2,499	4,727	3.6	5,431	4.3	3	5.8
2,500–2,999	16,681	12.6	21,538	17.2	4	7.7
3,000–3,499	43,138	32.7	47,226	37.8	6	11.5
3,500–3,999	43,726	33.1	35,477	28.4	9	17.3
4,000–4,499	16,788	12.7	10,100	8.1	6	11.5
4,500 and over	3,410	2.6	1,524	1.2	—	—
Not stated	64	—	56	—	7	—
All births	132,106	100.0	125,073	100.0	59	100.0
Less than 1,000	1,074	0.8	1,065	0.9	22	42.3
Less than 1,500	1,940	1.5	1,925	1.5	23	44.2
Less than 2,500	8,299	6.3	9,152	7.3	27	51.9
			Mean birthweight (g)			
All birthweights	3,426		3,299		2,054	

Note: Birthweights 'Less than 1,500 g' and 'Less than 2,500 g' are cumulative.

Table A45: Birthweight of babies of Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 2000

Birthweight (g)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean birthweight (g)	3,228	3,128	3,192	3,081	3,069	3,446	2,990	3,147	3,166
	Number								
Less than 500	9	—	19	12	1	—	—	8	49
500–999	24	6	41	22	11	—	2	12	118
1,000–1,499	20	5	37	27	8	—	4	15	116
1,500–1,999	48	11	72	33	18	—	4	33	219
2,000–2,499	151	34	192	135	43	3	4	124	686
2,500–2,999	449	80	567	363	107	12	6	359	1,943
3,000–3,499	666	133	930	533	128	12	17	438	2,857
3,500–3,999	523	83	707	277	96	21	12	271	1,990
4,000 and over	228	28	273	113	39	10	5	90	786
Not stated	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	10	16
All births	2,122	380	2,840	1,515	451	58	54	1,360	8,780
Less than 1,000	33	6	60	34	12	—	2	20	167
Less than 1,500	53	11	97	61	20	—	6	35	283
Less than 2,500	252	56	361	229	81	3	14	192	1,188
	Per cent								
Less than 500	0.4	—	0.7	0.8	0.2	—	—	0.6	0.6
500–999	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.5	2.4	—	3.7	0.9	1.3
1,000–1,499	0.9	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.8	—	7.4	1.1	1.3
1,500–1,999	2.3	2.9	2.5	2.2	4.0	—	7.4	2.4	2.5
2,000–2,499	7.1	8.9	6.8	8.9	9.5	5.2	7.4	9.2	7.8
2,500–2,999	21.2	21.1	20.0	24.0	23.7	20.7	11.1	26.6	22.2
3,000–3,499	31.4	35.0	32.8	35.2	28.4	20.7	31.5	32.4	32.6
3,500–3,999	24.7	21.8	24.9	18.3	21.3	36.2	22.2	20.1	22.7
4,000 and over	10.8	7.4	9.6	7.4	8.6	17.2	9.3	6.7	9.0
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 1,000	1.6	1.6	2.1	2.2	2.7	—	3.7	1.5	1.9
Less than 1,500	2.5	2.9	3.4	4.0	4.4	—	11.1	2.6	3.2
Less than 2,500	11.9	14.7	12.7	15.1	18.0	5.2	25.9	14.2	13.6

Table A46: Distribution of birthweight by mother's Indigenous status, country of birth, age, parity, marital status, hospital status, and place of baby's birth, Australia, 2000

Characteristic	Less than 1,000 g		Less than 1,500 g		Less than 2,500 g		2,500 g and over	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Indigenous status								
Indigenous	167	1.9	283	3.2	1,188	13.6	7,576	86.4
Non-Indigenous	1,946	0.8	3,506	1.4	15,889	6.6	226,588	93.4
Maternal country of birth								
Australia	1,667	0.8	3,047	1.5	13,505	6.8	183,702	93.2
New Zealand	39	0.6	88	1.4	422	6.8	5,802	93.2
United Kingdom	70	0.8	126	1.4	589	6.5	8,422	93.5
Italy	6	1.0	11	1.9	39	6.6	549	93.4
Former Yugoslavia	16	1.1	27	1.8	98	6.5	1,419	93.5
Lebanon	17	0.7	28	1.1	129	5.2	2,329	94.8
China	23	0.7	30	0.9	156	4.4	3,358	95.6
Hong Kong	3	0.4	6	0.9	38	5.6	643	94.4
India	21	1.4	30	2.1	164	11.2	1,317	90.3
Malaysia	5	0.5	8	0.7	65	5.9	1,031	94.1
Philippines	32	1.2	48	1.8	198	7.3	2,523	92.7
Vietnam	20	0.4	46	0.9	337	6.6	4,756	93.4
Other countries	221	0.9	368	1.5	1,641	6.8	22,516	93.2
Not stated	21	1.5	25	1.8	97	7.1	1,266	92.9
Maternal age (years)								
Less than 16	17	3.5	17	3.5	68	13.9	422	86.1
16–19	149	1.2	270	2.2	1,139	9.3	11,124	90.7
20–24	345	0.9	630	1.6	2,983	7.5	36,734	92.5
25–29	593	0.7	1,090	1.4	5,091	6.3	75,354	93.7
30–34	603	0.8	1,099	1.4	4,893	6.1	75,117	93.9
35–39	365	1.0	635	1.7	2,733	7.3	34,662	92.7
40 and over	84	1.2	141	2.1	560	8.3	6,170	91.7
Not stated	5	8.2	6	9.8	11	18.0	50	82.0
Parity								
None	1,061	1.0	1,927	1.8	8,428	8.0	97,404	92.0
One	589	0.7	988	1.1	4,782	5.5	81,577	94.5
Two	272	0.7	503	1.3	2,279	5.7	37,825	94.3
Three	121	0.8	239	1.6	1,085	7.2	13,983	92.8
Four or more	116	1.2	222	2.4	865	9.2	8,498	90.8

(continued)

Table A46 (continued): Distribution of birthweight by mother's Indigenous status, country of birth, age, parity, marital status, hospital status, and place of baby's birth, Australia, 2000

Characteristic	Less than 1,000 g		Less than 1,500 g		Less than 2,500 g		2,500 g and over	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Marital status ^(a)								
Married/de facto	1,233	0.8	2,163	1.5	9,488	6.4	138,462	93.6
Single	277	1.4	448	2.3	1,886	9.7	17,459	90.3
Other	31	1.3	49	2.1	246	10.4	2,117	89.6
Hospital status								
Public	1,758	0.9	3,173	1.7	13,885	7.4	173,913	92.6
Private	385	0.6	690	1.0	3,504	5.2	64,398	94.8
Place of baby's birth								
Hospital	2,113	0.8	3,815	1.5	17,224	6.9	232,541	93.1
Birth centre	3	0.1	7	0.1	70	1.2	5,718	98.8
Home	18	2.2	28	3.5	75	9.3	733	90.7
Other	25	3.4	36	4.9	104	14.3	624	85.7
Not stated	2	9.1	2	9.1	5	22.7	17	77.3

(a) No data available for NSW.

Note: Birthweights 'Less than 1,500 g', 'Less than 2,500 g' and '2,500 g and over' are cumulative.

Table A47: Proportion of liveborn low birthweight infants born in hospitals of different sizes, States and Territories, 2000

Low birthweight category	NSW	Vic	Qld ^(a)	WA ^(b)	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Birthweight: 500–999 g									
Number of births	298	222	222	96	82	14	27	12	973
	Per cent								
1–100 confinements	1.0	0.5	0.9	1.0	1.2	—	—	—	0.8
101–500 confinements	2.0	6.3	2.3	2.1	—	14.3	—	—	3.0
501–1,000 confinements	4.7	2.3	4.1	—	1.2	—	—	16.7	3.2
1,001–2,000 confinements	12.8	9.9	15.8	—	3.7	85.7	—	83.3	12.3
2,001 and over confinements	79.5	81.1	77.0	96.9	93.9	—	100.0	—	80.7
All births: 500–999 g	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Birthweight: 1,000–1,499 g									
Number of births	491	362	306	140	143	38	38	27	1,545
	Per cent								
1–100 confinements	—	—	1.0	—	—	2.6	—	3.7	0.3
101–500 confinements	2.0	8.8	4.9	2.1	4.2	2.6	2.6	—	4.4
501–1,000 confinements	3.7	3.6	3.9	1.4	—	2.6	—	22.2	3.4
1,001–2,000 confinements	15.3	14.1	22.5	0.7	4.9	92.1	—	74.1	16.7
2,001 and over confinements	79.0	73.5	67.6	95.7	90.9	—	97.4	—	75.2
All births: 1,000–1,499 g	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Birthweight: 1,500–1,999 g									
Number of births	1,038	807	684	240	245	68	80	68	3,230
	Per cent								
1–100 confinements	0.5	0.2	1.3	—	0.8	1.5	—	1.5	0.6
101–500 confinements	4.9	9.2	9.5	5.4	9.0	8.8	5.0	1.5	7.3
501–1,000 confinements	10.0	7.1	7.7	6.3	2.4	20.6	6.3	29.4	8.5
1,001–2,000 confinements	14.9	21.8	25.0	2.1	15.5	69.1	18.8	67.6	20.3
2,001 and over confinements	69.7	61.7	56.4	86.3	72.2	—	70.0	—	63.4
All births: 1,500–1,999 g	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes one tertiary level hospital of less than 2,000 confinements.

(b) Only for public hospitals.

Table A48: Baby's Apgar score at 1 minute, live births, States and Territories, 2000

Apgar score ^(a)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
All live births	87,323	62,148	48,955	25,023	17,765	5,849	4,736	3,638	255,434
	Per cent								
0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.1	—	0.1
1–3	2.3	1.9	2.3	1.6	2.5	2.0	3.3	3.4	2.2
4–6	9.9	10.4	9.1	9.0	12.3	10.5	11.8	11.9	10.0
7–10	87.8	87.7	88.6	89.4	85.2	87.5	84.7	84.7	87.8
All live births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Excludes Apgar scores 'not stated'.

Table A49: Baby's Apgar score at 5 minutes, live births, States and Territories, 2000

Apgar score ^(a)	NSW	VIC	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
All live births	87,323	62,148	48,955	25,023	17,765	5,849	4,736	3,638	255,434
	Per cent								
0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1–3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.3
4–6	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.4	2.0	1.2
7–10	98.4	98.7	98.6	98.7	98.5	98.6	98.2	97.3	98.5
All live births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Excludes Apgar scores 'not stated'.

Table A50: Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes by birthweight and plurality, live births, Australia, 2000

Apgar score ^(a)	Less than 1,000 g	1,000– 1,499 g	1,500– 1,999 g	2,000– 2,499 g	2,500 g and over	Not stated
Singleton live births						
Apgar score: 1 minute						
Live births	884	1,103	2,159	7,737	235,381	90
	Per cent					
0	1.7	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	2.4
1–3	44.4	16.8	6.7	3.6	1.8	8.3
4–6	32.0	31.1	22.8	14.4	9.4	16.7
7–10	22.0	51.8	70.2	81.9	88.8	72.6
Apgar score: 5 minutes						
Live births	884	1,103	2,159	7,737	235,381	90
	Per cent					
0	4.6	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.2
1–3	24.0	3.3	0.9	0.4	0.1	6.0
4–6	16.0	10.3	4.2	2.2	1.0	4.8
7–10	55.4	86.2	94.7	97.3	98.9	88.0
Multiple live births						
Apgar score: 1 minute						
Live births	315	475	1,160	2,288	3,827	9
	Per cent					
0	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	—
1–3	39.6	9.7	5.4	3.5	2.1	20.0
4–6	32.6	27.9	19.2	14.9	10.6	40.0
7–10	26.8	62.2	75.3	81.6	87.2	40.0
Apgar score: 5 minutes						
Live births	315	475	1,160	2,288	3,827	9
	Per cent					
0	4.5	—	0.2	—	—	16.7
1–3	19.0	1.3	0.9	0.2	0.2	—
4–6	15.5	5.3	2.8	2.0	1.0	—
7–10	61.0	93.4	96.2	97.8	98.7	83.3

(a) Excludes Apgar scores 'not stated'.

Table A51: Resuscitation at birth, active measures, live births, selected States and Territories, 2000

Resuscitation type	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
None	39,124	35,665	17,658	12,198	6,465	5,229	2,559	1,275	120,173
Suction	24,919	9,921	13,292	5,926	4,682	573	976	607	60,896
Oxygen therapy	16,197	3,803	11,630	4,641	4,829	25	747	874	42,746
IPPR through bag and mask	4,484	4,352	3,746	1,478	1,558	21	368	305	16,312
Endotracheal intubation and IPPR	747	399	587	342	192	—	61	59	2,387
External cardiac massage and ventilation	196	112	131	45	18	—	7	11	520
Other	1,645	7,896	1,908	393	22	—	1	507	12,372
Not stated	15	—	3	—	—	1	17	3	39
Total live births	87,327	62,148	48,955	25,023	17,766	5,849	4,736	3,641	255,445
	Per cent								
None	44.8	57.4	36.1	48.7	36.4	89.4	54.2	35.0	47.1
Suction	28.5	16.0	27.2	23.7	26.4	9.8	20.7	16.7	23.8
Oxygen therapy	18.6	6.1	23.8	18.5	27.2	0.4	15.8	24.0	16.7
IPPR through bag and mask	5.1	7.0	7.7	5.9	8.8	0.4	7.8	8.4	6.4
Endotracheal intubation and IPPR	0.9	0.6	1.2	1.4	1.1	—	1.3	1.6	0.9
External cardiac massage and ventilation	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	—	0.1	0.3	0.2
Other	1.9	12.7	3.9	1.6	0.1	—	0.0	13.9	4.8
Total live births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A52: Length of baby's stay in hospital, live births, States and Territories, 2000

Length of stay ^(a)	NSW	VIC	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean length of stay (days)	4.4	4.1	4.4	5.4	4.7	4.7	5.2	4.7	4.6
	Number								
Less than 1 day	3,162	590	1,547	642	523	190	269	256	7,179
1 day	8,484	3,603	6,233	1,978	1,321	619	444	333	23,015
2 days	12,807	9,807	9,155	3,622	2,819	1,020	737	527	40,494
3 days	15,647	12,829	9,296	4,188	3,538	1,042	908	649	48,097
4 days	17,679	12,565	8,185	4,307	2,975	993	690	569	47,963
5 days	13,295	9,334	6,239	3,854	3,092	677	597	408	37,496
6 days	7,177	5,010	3,284	2,314	1,201	340	389	248	19,963
7–13 days	6,451	4,250	3,230	3,275	1,549	447	515	393	20,110
14–20 days	903	592	580	261	197	66	66	77	2,742
21–27 days	399	316	309	100	145	36	37	42	1,384
28 or more days	518	422	556	287	311	88	52	75	2,309
Not stated	—	—	12	—	—	235	—	9	256
All live births	86,522	59,318	48,626	24,828	17,671	5,753	4,704	3,586	251,008
	Per cent								
Less than 1 day	3.7	1.0	3.2	2.6	3.0	3.4	5.7	7.2	2.9
1 day	9.8	6.1	12.8	8.0	7.5	11.2	9.4	9.3	9.2
2 days	14.8	16.5	18.8	14.6	16.0	18.5	15.7	14.7	16.1
3 days	18.1	21.6	19.1	16.9	20.0	18.9	19.3	18.1	19.2
4 days	20.4	21.2	16.8	17.3	16.8	18.0	14.7	15.9	19.1
5 days	15.4	15.7	12.8	15.5	17.5	12.3	12.7	11.4	15.0
6 days	8.3	8.4	6.8	9.3	6.8	6.2	8.3	6.9	8.0
7–13 days	7.5	7.2	6.6	13.2	8.8	8.1	10.9	11.0	8.0
14–20 days	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.4	2.2	1.1
21–27 days	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.2	0.6
28 or more days	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.2	1.8	1.6	1.1	2.1	0.9
All live births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Length of stay for live births in hospital or birth centre only. Transfers to other units excluded.

Table A53: Length of baby's stay in hospital by plurality, Indigenous status, gestational age, and birthweight, live births, selected States and Territories, 2000

Characteristic ^(a)	Babies	Days						
		0-2	3-4	5-6	7-13	14-20	21-27	28 or more
Per cent								
Plurality								
Singleton	245,583	29.2	38.8	22.8	7.2	0.8	0.4	0.7
Twin	7,706	7.7	13.4	21.7	34.0	9.8	5.2	8.1
Other multiple birth	279	6.8	7.2	2.9	22.9	15.4	14.7	30.1
Indigenous status								
Indigenous	8,551	42.3	30.7	13.4	8.6	1.8	1.1	2.2
Non-Indigenous	239,266	27.9	38.3	23.2	8.0	1.1	0.5	0.9
Not stated	5,751	32.8	36.9	18.6	8.2	1.2	0.7	1.6
Gestational age								
20-27 weeks	1,010	45.5	2.0	1.1	3.3	2.1	2.3	43.6
28-31 weeks	1,840	14.4	2.8	3.6	12.2	8.4	9.0	49.5
32-36 weeks	15,596	12.3	16.1	17.7	28.5	13.4	6.8	5.2
37-41 weeks	230,474	29.6	39.9	23.4	6.7	0.3	0.1	0.1
42 or more weeks	4,600	31.3	42.3	21.0	5.2	0.2	0.0	0.1
Not stated	48	41.3	21.7	10.9	10.9	2.2	—	13.0
Birthweight								
Less than 1,000 g	1,043	40.6	2.2	1.2	3.6	2.7	2.5	47.2
1,000-1,499 g	1,463	15.8	2.3	2.4	9.3	9.7	10.1	50.3
1,500-1,999 g	3,269	9.9	5.1	7.0	24.1	18.3	15.4	20.2
2,000-2,499 g	9,944	12.8	20.5	19.9	27.8	11.5	5.0	2.5
2,500 g and over	237,760	29.4	39.6	23.3	7.0	0.4	0.1	0.2
Not stated	89	45.0	22.5	17.5	8.8	1.3	1.3	3.8

(a) Length of baby's stay in hospital or birth centre only. Transfers and home births are excluded.

Table A54: Mode of separation of infants born in hospitals, selected States and Territories, 2000

Mode of separation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Discharge home	82,626	59,318	47,077	23,888	16,892	5,595	4,409	3,485	243,290
Transfer to another hospital ^(a)	4,346	2,234	1,558	934	785	38	274	87	10,256
Fetal or neonatal death	838	589	497	259	159	58	55	54	2,509
Other	—	56	8	26	—	133	—	6	229
Not stated	4	—	6	—	—	2	4	—	16
All births	87,814	62,197	49,146	25,107	17,836	5,826	4,742	3,632	256,300
Per cent									
Discharge home	94.1	95.4	95.8	95.1	94.7	96.1	93.1	96.0	94.9
Transfer to another hospital ^(a)	4.9	3.6	3.2	3.7	4.4	0.7	5.8	2.4	4.0
Fetal or neonatal death	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.0
Other	—	0.1	0.0	0.1	—	2.3	—	0.2	0.1
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes infants that were transferred to another hospital and died.

Table A55: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths and rates, various definitions, Australia, 1998–2000

Definition/Outcome	Number				Rate per 1,000 births			
	1998	1999	2000	1998–2000	1998	1999	2000	1998–2000
400 g/20 weeks								
Fetal deaths	1,336	1,284	1,303	3,929	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.2
Neonatal deaths	754	849	773	2,376	3.0	3.4	3.1	3.1
Perinatal deaths (ABS)	2,090	2,133	2,076	6,305	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.4
Live births	249,555	248,839	249,636	748,030				
500 g/22 weeks								
Fetal deaths	1,122	1,054	1,093	3,269	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.3
Early neonatal deaths	485	651	986	2,122	1.9	3.2	3.9	2.8
Neonatal deaths	679	744	670	2,093	2.7	3.0	2.7	2.8
Perinatal deaths (WHO)	1,607	1,705	2,079	5,391	6.4	7.4	8.3	7.2
Perinatal deaths (ABS)	1,801	1,798	1,763	5,362	7.2	7.2	7.0	7.1
Live births	249,495	248,753	249,595	747,843				
1,000 g/28 weeks								
Fetal deaths	923	732	782	2,437	3.7	2.9	3.1	3.3
Early neonatal deaths	282	440	669	1,391	1.1	1.8	2.7	1.9
Perinatal deaths (WHO)	1,205	1,172	1,451	3,828	4.8	4.7	5.8	5.1
All births ^(a)	248,537	247,781	248,617	744,935				

(a) Estimated live births.

Note: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths from ABS based on year of registration.

Source: ABS 2000 Causes of Death Australia, 2001a; ABS data files.

Table A56: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, Australia, 1998–2000

Year	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births
1998	1,336	5.3	754	3.0	2,090	8.3
1999	1,284	5.1	849	3.4	2,133	8.5
2000	1,303	5.2	773	3.1	2,076	8.3

Note: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths from ABS based on year of registration with 400 grams/20 weeks gestation definition.

Source: ABS 2001a.

Table A57: Type of fetal deaths, Australia, 1998–2000

Year	Antepartum		Intrapartum ^(a)		Not known ^(b)		All fetal deaths	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births
1998	904	3.6	269	1.1	163	0.6	1,336	5.3
1999	859	3.4	285	1.1	140	0.6	1,204	5.1
2000	857	3.4	315	1.3	131	0.5	1,303	5.2

(a) Includes fetal deaths where it was not known whether heartbeat ceased before or after delivery.

(b) Not known whether heartbeat ceased before or during labour.

Note: Fetal deaths from ABS based on year of registration with 400 grams/20 weeks gestation definition.

Source: ABS 2001a.

Table A58: Neonatal deaths by age at death, Australia, 1998–2000

Year	Less than 1 day		1–6 days		7–27 days		All neonatal deaths ^(a)	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births
1998	342	1.4	215	0.9	195	0.8	752	3.0
1999	432	1.7	219	0.9	198	0.8	849	3.4
2000	425	1.7	184	0.7	164	0.7	773	3.1

(a) Includes 'not stated' age at death

Note: Neonatal deaths from ABS based on year of registration with 400 grams/20 weeks gestation definition.

Source: ABS 2001a.

Table A59: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by maternal State or Territory of usual residence, 1998–2000

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Fetal deaths									
1998	463	297	262	126	93	39	31	25	1,336
1999	385	343	241	137	81	35	31	31	1,284
2000	399	316	244	156	96	40	22	30	1,303
1998–2000	1,247	956	747	419	270	114	84	86	3,923
Neonatal deaths									
1998	232	173	190	60	38	20	18	23	754
1999	320	200	144	71	38	30	19	27	849
2000	276	156	177	56	51	21	12	24	773
1998–2000	828	529	511	187	127	71	49	74	2,376
Perinatal deaths									
1998	695	470	452	186	131	59	49	48	2,090
1999	705	543	385	208	119	65	50	58	2,133
2000	675	472	421	212	147	61	34	54	2,076
1998–2000	2,075	1,485	1,258	606	397	185	133	160	6,299
Rate per 1,000 births									
Fetal deaths									
1998	5.4	4.9	5.5	5.1	5.1	6.5	7.7	6.8	5.3
1999	4.4	5.8	5.2	5.5	4.5	5.8	7.2	8.6	5.1
2000	4.6	5.3	5.1	6.2	5.3	7.0	5.4	8.1	5.2
1998–2000	4.8	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.0	6.4	6.8	7.8	5.2
Neonatal deaths									
1998	2.7	2.9	4.0	2.4	2.1	3.3	4.5	6.3	3.0
1999	3.7	3.4	3.1	2.9	2.1	5.0	4.5	7.6	3.4
2000	3.2	2.6	3.7	2.2	2.9	3.7	3.0	6.5	3.1
1998–2000	3.2	3.0	3.6	2.5	2.4	4.0	4.0	6.8	3.2
Perinatal deaths									
1998	8.1	7.7	9.6	7.5	7.2	9.8	12.2	13.1	8.3
1999	8.1	9.2	8.2	8.3	6.6	10.7	11.7	16.1	8.5
2000	7.7	7.9	8.9	8.4	8.2	10.6	8.3	14.5	8.3
1998–2000	8.0	8.3	8.9	8.1	7.3	10.4	10.7	14.6	8.4

Note: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths from ABS based on year of registration with 400 grams/20 weeks gestation definition.

Source: ABS 2001a.

Table A60: Perinatal deaths registered in the State or Territory of mother's usual residence, Australia, 1998–2000

State of usual residence	State of registration								Australia
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	
	Number								
NSW	1,964	26	57	—	2	—	26	—	2,075
Vic	3	1,467	11	—	4	—	—	—	1,485
Qld	14	4	1,239	—	—	—	—	1	1,258
WA	—	3	5	595	1	—	—	2	606
SA	—	6	1	—	385	—	—	5	397
Tas	—	17	1	—	—	167	—	—	185
ACT	3	1	2	—	—	—	127	—	133
NT	—	3	1	1	5	—	—	150	160
Australia	1,984	1,527	1,317	596	397	167	153	158	6,299
	Per cent								
NSW	94.7	1.3	2.7	—	0.1	—	1.3	—	100.0
Vic	0.2	98.8	0.7	—	0.3	—	—	—	100.0
Qld	1.1	0.3	98.5	—	—	—	—	0.1	100.0
WA	—	0.5	0.8	98.2	0.2	—	—	0.3	100.0
SA	—	1.5	0.3	—	97.0	—	—	1.5	100.0
Tas	—	9.2	0.5	—	—	90.3	—	—	100.0
ACT	2.3	0.8	1.5	—	—	—	95.5	—	100.0
NT	—	1.9	0.6	0.6	3.1	—	—	93.8	100.0
Australia	31.5	24.2	20.9	9.5	6.3	2.7	2.4	2.5	100.0

Note: Perinatal deaths from ABS based on year of registration with 400 grams/20weeks gestation definition.

Source: ABS 2001a.

Table A61: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by maternal age, Australia, 1998–2000

Year	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40 and over	Not stated	
Number								
Fetal deaths								
1998	108	225	378	344	204	51	26	1,336
1999	95	205	365	361	185	50	23	1,284
2000	94	222	363	354	198	47	25	1,303
<i>1998–2000</i>	<i>297</i>	<i>652</i>	<i>1,106</i>	<i>1,059</i>	<i>587</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>3,923</i>
Neonatal deaths								
1998	47	132	227	180	126	23	19	754
1999	68	169	233	205	122	35	17	849
2000	71	133	221	207	111	14	16	773
<i>1998–2000</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>434</i>	<i>681</i>	<i>592</i>	<i>359</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>2,376</i>
Perinatal deaths								
1998	155	357	605	524	330	74	45	2,090
1999	163	374	598	566	307	85	40	2,133
2000	165	355	584	561	309	61	41	2,076
<i>1998–2000</i>	<i>483</i>	<i>1,086</i>	<i>1,787</i>	<i>1,651</i>	<i>946</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>6,299</i>
Rate per 1,000 births								
Fetal deaths								
1998	9.0	5.6	4.6	4.5	5.9	8.6		5.3
1999	8.0	5.2	4.6	4.7	5.2	7.9		5.1
2000	7.9	5.7	4.5	4.6	5.6	7.4		5.2
<i>1997–1999</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>8.0</i>		<i>5.2</i>
Neonatal deaths								
1998	4.0	3.3	2.8	2.4	3.7	3.9		3.0
1999	5.8	4.3	2.9	2.7	3.4	5.6		3.4
2000	6.2	3.5	2.8	2.6	3.0	2.1		3.1
<i>1998–2000</i>	<i>5.3</i>	<i>3.7</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>3.4</i>	<i>3.8</i>		<i>3.2</i>
Perinatal deaths								
1998	13.0	8.9	7.4	6.9	9.6	12.6		8.3
1999	13.8	9.6	7.5	7.3	8.6	13.4		8.5
2000	13.9	9.1	7.3	7.3	8.7	9.6		336.1
<i>1998–2000</i>	<i>13.6</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>7.4</i>	<i>7.2</i>	<i>9.0</i>	<i>11.9</i>		<i>8.4</i>

Note: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths from ABS based on year of registration with 400 grams/20 weeks gestation definition.

Source: ABS 2001a.

Table A62: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, singleton and multiple births, Australia, 1998–2000

Year	Singletons		Twins		Other multiple births		All babies	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births
Fetal deaths								
1998	1,226	5.0	103	14.3	7	23.3	1,336	5.3
1999	1,156	4.8	118	16.2	10	30.3	1,284	5.1
2000	1,208	5.0	92	11.9	3	11.8	1,303	5.2
1998–2000	3,590	4.9	313	14.1	20	22.6	3,923	5.2
Neonatal deaths								
1998	660	2.7	87	12.2	7	23.8	754	3.0
1999	704	2.9	131	18.2	14	43.8	849	3.4
2000	642	2.7	125	16.4	6	24.9	773	3.1
1998–2000	2,006	2.8	343	15.7	27	31.6	2,376	3.2
Perinatal deaths								
1998	1,886	7.7	190	26.3	14	46.5	2,090	8.3
1999	1,860	7.7	249	34.1	24	72.7	2,133	8.5
2000	1,850	7.6	217	28.0	9	35.3	2,076	8.3
1998–2000	5,596	7.7	656	29.5	47	53.0	6,299	8.4

Note: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths from ABS based on year of registration with 400 grams/20 weeks gestation definition.

Source: ABS Perinatal deaths data, 2000

Table A63: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by infant's sex, Australia, 1998–2000

Year	Number			Rate per 1,000 births		
	Males	Females	All infants	Males	Females	All infants
Fetal deaths						
1998	707	629	1,336	5.5	5.1	5.3
1999	682	602	1,284	5.3	4.9	5.1
2000	692	611	1,303	5.4	5.0	5.2
1998–2000	2,081	1,842	3,923	5.4	5.0	5.2
Neonatal deaths						
1998	435	319	754	3.4	2.6	3.0
1999	510	339	849	4.0	2.8	3.4
2000	443	330	773	3.5	2.7	3.1
1998–2000	1,388	988	2,376	3.6	2.7	3.2
Perinatal deaths						
1998	1,142	948	2,090	8.9	7.8	8.3
1999	1,192	941	2,133	9.3	7.7	8.5
2000	1,135	941	2,076	8.8	7.7	8.3
1998–2000	3,469	2,830	6,299	9.0	7.7	8.4

Note: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths from ABS based on year of registration with 400 grams/20 weeks gestation definition.

Source: ABS 2001a.

Table A64: Fetal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1998–2000

Year	Gestational age (weeks)						Total
	Less than 28	28–31	32–36	37–41	42 and over	Not stated	
Number							
1998	496	163	257	386	15	19	1,336
1999	498	144	253	351	9	29	1,284
2000	487	182	264	334	8	28	1,303
Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births							
1998	2.0	0.6	1.0	1.5	0.1	0.1	5.3
1999	2.0	0.6	1.0	1.4	0.0	0.1	5.1
2000	1.9	0.7	1.1	1.3	0.0	0.1	5.2

Note: Fetal deaths from ABS based on year of registration with 400 grams/20 weeks gestation definition.

Source: ABS 2001a.

Table A65: Neonatal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1998–2000

Year	Gestational age (weeks)						Total
	Less than 28	28–31	32–36	37–41	42 and over	Not stated	
Number							
1998	323	68	98	226	1	38	754
1999	406	75	102	232	4	30	849
2000	363	66	107	173	4	60	773
Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births							
1998	1.3	0.3	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.2	3.0
1999	1.6	0.3	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.1	3.4
2000	1.5	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.2	3.1

Note: Fetal deaths from ABS based on year of registration with 400 grams/20 weeks gestation definition.

Source: ABS 2000 Causes of Death Australia, 2001.

Table A66: Perinatal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1998–2000

Year	Gestational age (weeks)						Total
	Less than 28	28–31	32–36	37–41	42 and over	Not stated	
Number							
1998	819	231	355	612	16	57	2,090
1999	904	219	355	583	13	59	2,133
2000	850	248	371	507	12	88	2,076
Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births							
1998	3.3	0.9	1.4	2.4	0.1	0.2	8.3
1999	3.6	0.9	1.4	2.3	0.1	0.2	8.5
2000	3.4	1.0	1.5	2.0	0.0	0.4	8.3

Note: Fetal deaths from ABS based on year of registration with 400 grams/20 weeks gestation definition.

Source: ABS 2001a.

Table A67: Fetal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1998–2000

Year	Birthweight (g)				Total
	Less than 1,000	1,000–2,499	2,500 and over	Not stated	
Number					
1998	546	353	396	41	1,336
1999	528	356	349	51	1,284
2000	527	348	369	59	1,303
Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births					
1998	2.2	1.4	1.6	0.2	5.3
1999	2.1	1.4	1.4	0.2	5.1
2000	2.1	1.4	1.5	0.2	5.2

Note: Fetal deaths from ABS based on year of registration with 400 grams/20 weeks gestation definition.

Source: ABS 2001a.

Table A68: Neonatal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1998–2000

Year	Birthweight (g)				Total
	Less than 1,000	1,000–2,499	2,500 and over	Not stated	
Number					
1998	318	184	226	26	754
1999	400	195	222	32	849
2000	371	170	199	33	773
Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births					
1998	1.3	0.7	0.9	0.1	3.0
1999	1.6	0.8	0.9	0.1	3.4
2000	1.5	0.7	0.8	0.1	3.1

Note: Fetal deaths from ABS based on year of registration with 400 grams/20 weeks gestation definition.

Source: ABS 2001a.

Table A69: Perinatal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1998–2000

Year	Birthweight (g)				Total
	Less than 1,000	1,000 – 2,499	2,500 and over	Not stated	
Number					
1998	864	537	622	67	2,090
1999	928	551	571	83	2,133
2000	898	518	568	92	2,076
Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births					
1998	3.4	2.1	2.5	0.3	8.3
1999	3.7	2.2	2.3	0.3	8.5
2000	3.6	2.1	2.3	0.4	8.3

Note: Fetal deaths from ABS based on year of registration with 400 grams/20 weeks gestation definition.

Source: ABS 2001a.

Table A70: Fetal deaths by maternal age, Australia, 2000

Maternal age (years)	Fetal deaths	Live births	Total births	Fetal death rate
	Number			(per 1,000 births)
Less than 20	138	12,627	12,765	10.9
20–24	317	39,422	39,739	8.0
25–29	489	79,996	80,485	6.1
30–34	482	79,555	80,037	6.1
35–39	286	37,126	37,412	7.7
40 and over	74	6,664	6,738	11.0
Not stated	7	55	62	—
All ages	1,793	255,445	257,238	7.0

Note: Data include fetuses and infants of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 g birthweight.

Table A71: Fetal deaths by maternal age and Indigenous status, Australia, 2000

Maternal age (years)	Fetal deaths		Live births		Total births		Fetal death rate	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	^(a) Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
				Indigenous				
			Number				(per 1,000 births)	
Less than 20	29	110	1,966	10,660	1,995	10,770	14.5	10.2
20–24	40	277	2,587	36,835	2,627	37,112	15.2	7.5
25–29	28	465	2,216	77,776	2,244	78,241	12.5	5.9
30–34	12	474	1,281	78,270	1,293	78,744	9.3	6.0
35–39	9	278	519	36,606	528	36,884	17.0	7.5
40 and over	2	72	88	6,576	90	6,648	22.2	10.8
Not stated	—	7	3	52	3	59	—	—
All ages	120	1,683	8,660	246,775	8,780	248,458	13.7	6.8

(a) Includes cases where Indigenous status is not stated as these were live births.

Note: Data include fetuses and infants of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 g birthweight.

Table A72: Fetal deaths by parity, Australia, 2000

Parity	Fetal deaths	Live births	Total births	Fetal death rate
	Number			(per 1,000 births)
None	809	105,086	105,895	7.7
One	497	85,896	86,393	5.8
Two	270	39,846	40,117	6.8
Three	107	14,965	15,072	7.1
Four or more	105	9,268	9,373	11.3
Not stated	5	383	388	—
All parities	1,793	255,445	257,238	7.0

Note: Data include fetuses and infants of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 g birthweight.

Table A73: Fetal deaths by plurality, Australia, 2000

Plurality	Fetal deaths	Live births	Total births	Fetal death rate
	Number			(per 1,000 births)
Singleton	1,619	247,371	248,990	6.5
Twin	153	7,785	7,938	19.3
Other multiple births	21	289	310	67.7
All births	1,793	255,445	257,238	7.0

Note: Data include fetuses and infants of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 g birthweight.

Table A74: Fetal deaths by admitted patient election status in hospital, selected States and Territories, 2000

Accommodation status ^(a)	Fetal deaths	Live births	Total births	Fetal death rate
	Number			(per 1,000 births)
Public	1,393	186,481	187,890	7.5
Private	381	67,551	67,932	5.6
Not stated	19	1,397	1,416	—
All births	1,793	255,445	257,238	7.0

(a) Patient status not available for NSW and NT hence hospital status used instead.

Note: Data include fetuses and infants of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 g birthweight.

Table A75: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, States and Territories, 2000

Outcome	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Live births	87,327	62,148	48,955	25,023	17,766	5,849	4,736	3,641	255,445
Fetal deaths	595	416	354	206	106	46	38	32	1,793
Neonatal deaths ^(a)	233	181	184	75	57	13	16	22	781
<i>Total perinatal deaths</i>	<i>828</i>	<i>597</i>	<i>538</i>	<i>281</i>	<i>163</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>2,574</i>
Total births	87,922	62,564	49,309	25,229	17,872	5,895	4,774	3,673	257,238
	Rate per 1,000 births								
Fetal deaths	6.8	6.6	7.2	8.2	5.9	7.8	8.0	8.7	7.0
Neonatal deaths ^(a)	2.7	2.9	3.8	3.0	3.2	2.2	3.4	6.0	3.1
<i>Total perinatal deaths</i>	<i>9.4</i>	<i>9.5</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>11.1</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>10.0</i>	<i>11.3</i>	<i>14.7</i>	<i>10.0</i>

(a) Data exclude neonatal deaths within 28 days of birth or babies transferred or readmitted to hospital and those dying at home.

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Explanatory notes

- The term 'Indigenous' is used to refer to mothers of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent and their babies.
- Tabulated data in this report are based on births that occurred in each State and Territory in 2000. Because of differences in data items, and varying practices for coding the mother's place of residence if she lived in a State or Territory other than that in which the birth occurred, it is presently not possible to analyse the perinatal data according to region of residence.
- Confinements and births in 'not stated' categories are excluded from calculation of percentages. Due to rounding, percentages may not always add up to exactly 100.0%.
- Trend lines have been fitted using a second order polynomial regression model to approximate a line of best fit (Kleinbaum et al. 1988).
- Maternal age in this report is calculated as an integer function of the difference in days between the baby's and mother's dates of birth divided by 365.25. Slight differences in maternal age may exist compared to those in State and Territory reports.
- All mean values are arithmetically derived excluding unknowns and may differ from those derived by the States and Territories in their reports.
- Length of stay in this report is calculated as a function of the difference in days between the baby's date of birth and the mother's or baby's date of separation, and only accounts for stays at the hospital or birth centre of initial confinement. Those babies born before arrival are also included. Mothers or babies who are transferred and home births are excluded from length of stay statistics.
- If data items such as presentation or type of delivery differed for twins or other multiple births, the confinement was arbitrarily included in the category of the first multiple birth.
- Fetal deaths (stillbirths) from the State and Territory perinatal collections have a gestational age of at least 20 weeks or a birthweight of at least 400 g and relate to year of 'birth'. Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths in the tables and figures based on data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics also use a birthweight of at least 400 g or, when birthweight was not available, a gestational age of at least 20 weeks and relate to year of 'registration'.
- Information on the Australian Bureau of Statistics births denominators for gestational age and birthweight breakdowns of fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates are not available. These categories of gestational age and birthweight are expressed as proportionate death rates. The denominator used for calculating proportionate death rates is the total number of births rather than the number of births in a particular gestational age or birthweight group.

- The *National Health Data Dictionary* version 10.0 defines the scope of perinatal data collection as mortality and morbidity occurring at the hospital of birth from the period of 20 completed weeks gestation and up to 28 days post liveborn delivery.
- Due to data editing and subsequent updates of State and Territory databases, the figures in this report may differ slightly from those in reports published by the States and Territories.

Glossary

Aboriginality (Indigenous status): An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community with which he or she is associated (Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Constitutional Section 1981). Aboriginality is determined by the person's self-identification.

Admission date: date on which a pregnant woman commences an episode of care as an admitted patient, resulting in confinement (delivery).

Antepartum fetal death: fetal death occurring before the onset of labour.

Apgar score: numerical score to evaluate the baby's condition at 1 minute and 5 minutes after birth.

Baby's discharge date: date on which a newborn baby completes an episode of care after birth.

Baby's length of stay: number of days between date of birth and date of discharge from the hospital of birth (calculated by subtracting the date of birth from the date of discharge).

Birth status: status of the baby immediately after birth.

Birthweight: the first weight of the baby (stillborn or liveborn) obtained after birth (usually measured to the nearest 5 grams and obtained within 1 hour of birth).

Caesarean section: operative birth through an abdominal incision.

Complications of labour and delivery: medical and obstetric problems arising after the onset of labour and before the completed delivery of the baby and placenta.

Complications of puerperium: medical and obstetric problems of the mother occurring during the postnatal period (up to 6 weeks after giving birth).

Confinement: pregnancy resulting in at least one birth.

Congenital malformations: structural or anatomical abnormalities that are present at birth, usually resulting from abnormal development in the first trimester of pregnancy.

Discharge date: date on which a woman completes an episode of care as an admitted patient after giving birth.

Early neonatal death: death of a liveborn baby within 7 days of birth.

Elective caesarean section: operative birth through an abdominal incision performed before the onset of labour.

Emergency caesarean section: operative birth through an abdominal incision performed after the onset of labour.

Extremely low birthweight: birthweight of less than 1,000 g.

Fetal death (stillbirth): death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception of 20 or more completed weeks of gestation or of 400 g or more birthweight. The death is indicated by the fact that after such separation the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life, such as

beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles.

Forceps: assisted birth using a metallic obstetric instrument.

Gestational age: the duration of pregnancy in completed weeks calculated from the date of the first day of a woman's last menstrual period and her baby's date of birth, or derived from clinical assessment during pregnancy or from examination of the baby after birth.

Hospital size: number of confinements occurring annually in a hospital.

Indigenous: a person of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community with which he or she is associated.

International Classification of Diseases: the WHO's internationally accepted classification of death and disease. The 9th Revision (ICD-9) and the tenth revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM) are referred to in this report.

Intrapartum fetal death: fetal death occurring during labour.

Late neonatal death: death of a liveborn baby after 7 completed days and before 28 completed days.

Live birth: live birth is the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached; each product of such a birth is considered liveborn (WHO definition).

Low birthweight: birthweight of less than 2,500 g.

Marital status: current marital status of a woman at the time of confinement. Married and de facto are coded as one variable.

Maternal age: mother's age at her child's birth.

Maternal medical conditions: pre-existing maternal diseases and conditions, and other diseases, illnesses or conditions arising during pregnancy, that are not directly attributable to pregnancy but may significantly affect care during pregnancy and/or pregnancy outcome. Examples include essential hypertension, diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, cardiac disease, and chronic renal disease.

Mode of separation of mother: status at separation of patient (discharge/transfer/death) and place to which patient is released (where applicable).

Mother's length of stay: number of days between admission date (during the admission resulting in delivery) and discharge date (from the hospital where delivery occurred). The interval is calculated by subtracting the date of admission from the date of discharge.

Multipara: pregnant woman who has had at least one previous pregnancy resulting in a live birth or stillbirth.

Neonatal death: death of a liveborn baby within 28 days of birth.

Neonatal morbidity: any condition or disease of the baby diagnosed after birth and before separation from care.

Obstetric complications: Obstetric complications are conditions arising during pregnancy that are directly attributable to pregnancy and may significantly affect

care during pregnancy and/or pregnancy outcome. Examples include threatened abortion, antepartum haemorrhage, pregnancy-induced hypertension and gestational diabetes.

Parity: number of previous pregnancies resulting in live births or stillbirths.

Perinatal death: A perinatal death is a fetal or neonatal death of at least 20 weeks gestation or at least 400 g birthweight.

Plurality: the number of births resulting from a pregnancy.

Presentation at delivery: presenting part of the fetus (that is, at lower segment of uterus) at delivery.

Preterm birth: birth before 37 completed weeks of gestation.

Primipara: pregnant woman who has had no previous pregnancy resulting in a live birth or stillbirth.

Repair following delivery: surgical suturing of perineal laceration or episiotomy incision.

Resuscitation of baby: active measures taken shortly after birth to assist baby's ventilation and heartbeat; or to treat depressed respiratory effort and to correct metabolic disturbances.

Spontaneous vertex: birth without intervention in which the baby's head is the presenting part.

Stillbirth: see *Fetal death*.

Vacuum extraction: assisted birth using a suction cap applied to the baby's head.

Vaginal breech: birth in which the baby's buttocks or lower limbs are the presenting parts.

Very low birthweight: birthweight of less than 1,500 g.

Whitfield: a classification system for perinatal deaths

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