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# Australia's Mothers and Babies 1991

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## Abbreviations

NSW	-	New South Wales
Vic	-	Victoria
Qld	-	Queensland
WA	-	Western Australia
SA	-	South Australia
Tas	-	Tasmania
ACT	-	Australian Capital Territory
NT	-	Northern Territory
ABS	-	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	-	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
na	-	Not available

## Explanatory notes

- 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 per cent.
- 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.

# Highlights

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- In 1991, 256,634 babies born to 253,141 mothers were notified to perinatal data collections in the States and Territories. These included 898 mothers who had home births and 7,027 Aboriginal mothers.
- There were 14,923 teenage mothers, including 1,680 who were 16 years or younger and another 1,172 aged 17 years. Although information on induced abortions is lacking in most States, South Australian data indicate that about 1 in 5 teenagers become pregnant and 1 in 10 give birth between the ages of 15 and 19 years.
- The regions with the largest number of Aboriginal mothers were Queensland (2,148), Western Australia (1,460), New South Wales (1,385) and the Northern Territory (1,209). Aboriginal mothers were younger and had higher parity than other mothers. The average age of Aboriginal mothers was 23.4 years, 4.5 years less than for all mothers in Australia. Of Aboriginal mothers of known parity having babies in 1991, 26.0 per cent had at least three previous confinements compared with 9.9 per cent of all mothers.
- The proportion of mothers with private accommodation in hospital varied from 40.4 per cent in Queensland to 59.7 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory.
- More than 1 in 5 (22.4 per cent) mothers were born in other countries, including 5.8 per cent in the United Kingdom, 5.2 per cent in Asia (1.2 per cent in Vietnam, 1.0 per cent in the Philippines, and 0.6 per cent in China), 2.4 per cent in New Zealand, and 1.3 per cent in Lebanon.
- Multiple births occurred in 3,397 pregnancies (1.3 per cent of all confinements). There were 3,305 twin pregnancies, 89 triplet pregnancies, 2 quadruplet pregnancies, and 1 quintuplet pregnancy. Aboriginal mothers had a lower multiple birth rate of 0.8 per cent, mainly attributable to their younger age distribution.
- Labour was induced in 19.5 per cent of all confinements.
- There were 45,503 deliveries by caesarean section. The caesarean rate of 18.0 per cent in 1991 continued the increasing trend nationally. South Australia (22.0 per cent) and Queensland (20.5 per cent) had the highest caesarean rates and the Northern Territory (15.6 per cent) the lowest. Factors associated with higher caesarean rates were older mothers, first births, multiple births, private accommodation in hospital, breech presentation, and low birthweight. One in four mothers who had private accommodation in hospital in South Australia and Queensland had their babies by caesarean section.
- One in six Aboriginal mothers gave birth by caesarean section. The caesarean rates for Aboriginal mothers were higher than for all mothers in every age group except those aged 40 years and over.
- There were 16,272 babies of low birthweight (less than 2500g) born in 1991. Low birthweight was more likely in the babies of the youngest and oldest mothers, those having their first babies, single mothers, and those in public accommodation in hospital.
- Aboriginal babies had an average birthweight of 3,140g, which was 209g less than for all births. Low birthweight occurred in 13.0 per cent of Aboriginal babies, compared with 6.3 per cent of all births, and was relatively more common in the Northern Territory (15.2 per cent), Western Australia (14.9 per cent) and South Australia (13.8 per cent).

# 1 Introduction

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This report contains national data on births in Australia in 1991 and is based on notifications to the groups responsible for the perinatal data collection in each State and Territory.

The major purposes of these perinatal collections are:

- to describe for all births the demographic, medical and pregnancy characteristics of mothers, and the characteristics and outcomes of their infants;
- to identify risk factors contributing to adverse outcomes of mothers, their pregnancies, and the health status of their infants;
- to plan, implement and evaluate health services for pregnant women and their infants;
- to enable analysis of national data, and comparison of characteristics and outcomes between States and Territories;
- to analyse perinatal and infant deaths and other outcomes, by linking perinatal data to other relevant data;
- to monitor specific outcomes such as congenital malformations;
- to conduct epidemiological studies of health problems among pregnant women and infants.

## 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. Notification forms for each birth are usually completed by midwives, and sometimes by medical practitioners, who obtain information from the records of each mother and baby. Data processing, analysis, and publication of reports are undertaken by each State and Territory health authority, except in Tasmania where the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Tasmania has run the perinatal collection since 1974.

Each State and Territory provided computerised records for each mother and baby on floppy disks to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare National Perinatal Statistics Unit at the University of Sydney.

## 1.2 Perinatal minimum data set

The most recent version of the national perinatal minimum data set has data items on socio-demographic characteristics of the mother; previous pregnancies; the current pregnancy; labour, delivery and the puerperium; and the infant, including birth status, sex, birthweight, Apgar scores, resuscitation, neonatal morbidity, and congenital malformations (Appendix 1). The National Perinatal Data Advisory Committee recommended definitions for these data items; the definitions were submitted to the National Health Data Committee in May 1994. Once the definitions have been approved, they will be included in the National Health Data Dictionary (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 1993). There were some differences in the data items collected in each State and Territory in 1991 so national data were not available for all data items.

### **1.3 Criteria**

Tabulated data in this report are based on births that occurred in each State and Territory in 1991. 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 20 weeks or more gestation, or a birthweight of 400g or more.

### **1.4 Data quality**

Each State and Territory perinatal data group constantly requests further information on missing or doubtful data items from hospitals and homebirth practitioners. Edit checks, and summaries of data provided in reports to individual hospitals, enable additional review of data quality. Most States have also conducted validation studies of the accuracy of their data.

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 check lists of the more common diagnoses. Further consultation and validation of diagnoses included in specific codes are required.

### **1.5 Scope of report**

Until all State and Territory perinatal collections are linked to registrations of perinatal deaths, these collections cannot provide national data on perinatal mortality. Annual reports based on registrations of perinatal deaths are published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. These data, as well as some linked data from the perinatal collections and summary data from some neonatal intensive care units, will be published separately by the AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit.

Notifications of congenital malformations from the perinatal collections are supplemented by other information from perinatal death certificates, autopsy reports, cytogenetic laboratories, children's hospitals and notifications of induced abortions. Annual reports on congenital malformations are published by the AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit.

The AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit welcomes any comments on the content of this report and on suggestions for data that might be included in future reports.

Reports based on each State or Territory perinatal collection are published by State and Territory health authorities and by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the University of Tasmania (Ascroft 1992; Chan, Scott & McCaul 1992; Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity 1993; Durling 1992; Gee 1992; Marsden & Correy 1989; Pym, Nguyen, Adelson, Taylor, Frommer & Houlahan 1993; Queensland Health 1993).

## 2 Results

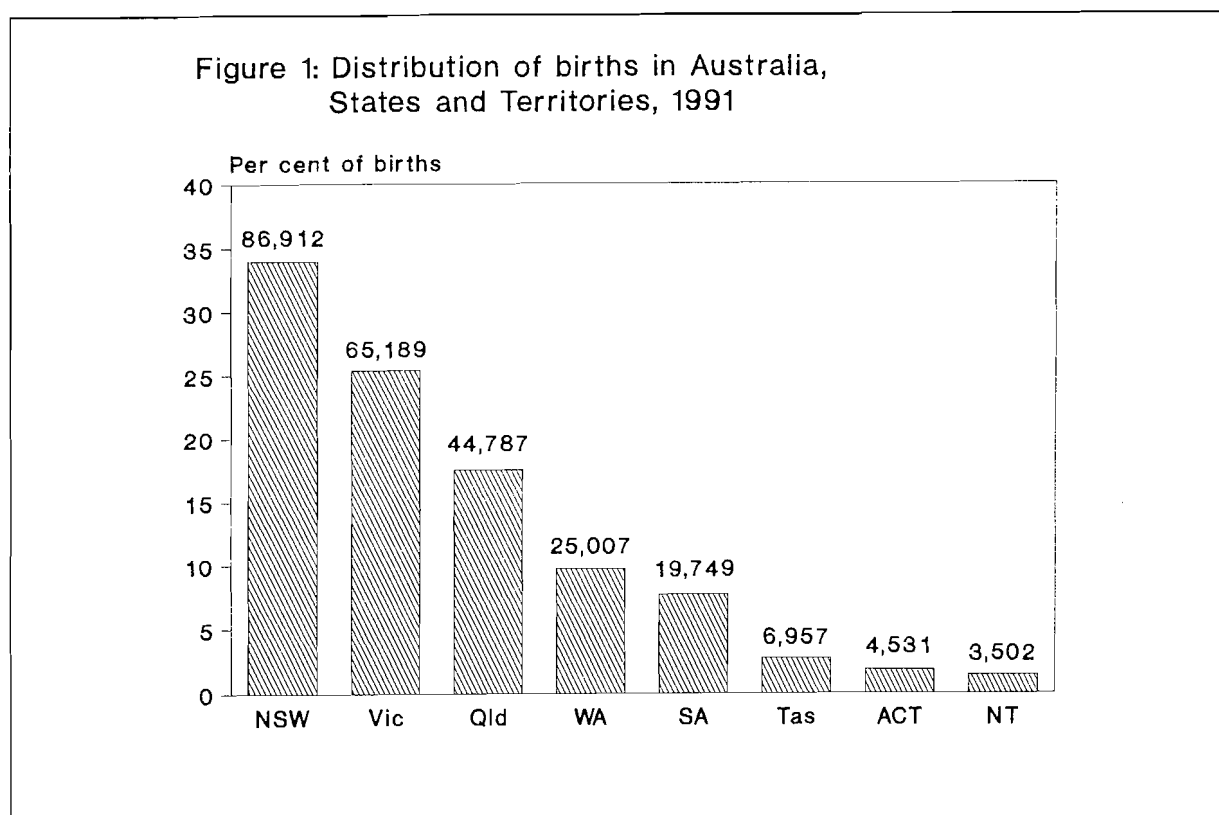
### 2.1 Introductory notes

This chapter provides data on demographic and pregnancy characteristics of mothers and some characteristics and outcomes of their infants. Because of multiple pregnancies and births, the number of infants slightly exceeds the number of mothers. The term 'confinements' has been used in the headings of tables and figures to indicate maternal characteristics and 'births' indicate infants.

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, there may be differences in the options recorded for individual data items. The data in this report are therefore based on the State or Territory of occurrence of births rather than on the area of usual residence of the mother.

### 2.2 Confinements and births

There were 253,141 confinements notified to State and Territory perinatal data groups in Australia in 1991, resulting in a total of 256,634 live births and stillbirths (Table 1). 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 by year of occurrence published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS 1992). In the registration system, there were 254,805 live births in Australia in 1991 (ABS 1993), slightly in excess of the 254,628 live births notified to the perinatal collections. On the other hand, the 1,478 stillbirths of 500g or more in the registration system was less than the 1,667 stillbirths (of the total of 2,006) notified in the same birthweight category in 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.

Several factors may account for these small differences noted in the national figures on live births and stillbirths. It is likely that some home births are not notified to the perinatal collections but are still registered by the parents. Also, the birth status of infants on the borderline of viability may be misclassified (some liveborn infants who have a heart beat but do not breathe may be recorded as stillbirths), or some stillbirths that fulfil the criteria for registration as perinatal deaths may not be registered.

Some States are already linking notifications from the perinatal collections to registrations of births and perinatal deaths. Once this is achieved in all States and Territories, with the assistance of Registrars and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 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. Except for paternal occupation recorded in South Australia and Tasmania, there are no paternal data in the perinatal collections. Birth registrations include information on paternal age, country of birth, and occupation so enhanced analysis becomes 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 1991, only New South Wales designated birth centres separately on notification forms. Planned home births, and births occurring unexpectedly before arrival in hospital for planned hospital births, are the other two groups and have relatively small numbers. The 'other' group of 100 confinements in the Northern Territory were mainly births in bush clinics (Table 2).

Planned home births are underascertained in some State and Territory perinatal collections. In the report on home births in Australia in 1988-1990 (Bastian & Lancaster 1992), data from multiple sources indicated that more than 1,100 home births occurred each year. In 1991, 898 planned home births, representing 0.4 per cent of all births, were notified nationally (Table 2). By comparing notifications of home births to the perinatal collections with other data obtained from birth registrations, or directly from homebirth practitioners, the extent of underascertainment can be estimated and strategies can be developed for ensuring notification of all home births.

### **2.4 Size of maternity unit**

The size of maternity units, based on the annual number of confinements, varies 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 1991, more than half (52.7 per cent) of the maternity units in Australia had fewer than 100 confinements (Table 3, Figure 2). Another 35.5 per cent had more than 100 and up to 1,000 confinements, while 11.8 per cent exceeded this size. This distribution was quite similar in the States with larger populations.

Paradoxically, the majority of hospital confinements (61.0 per cent) occurred in maternity units that had more than 1,000 confinements annually (Table 4, Figure 3). More than one-third were in units with more than 2,000 confinements annually. The Northern Territory had relatively

more confinements in smaller maternity units, while Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory had relatively more in larger units.

Figure 2: Distribution of maternity units by size, States and Territories, 1991

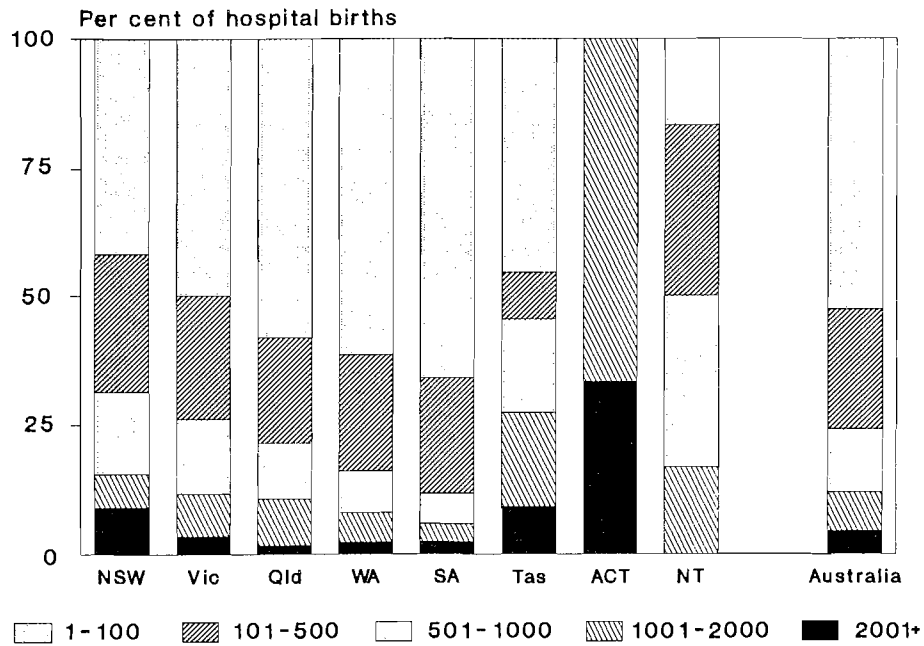
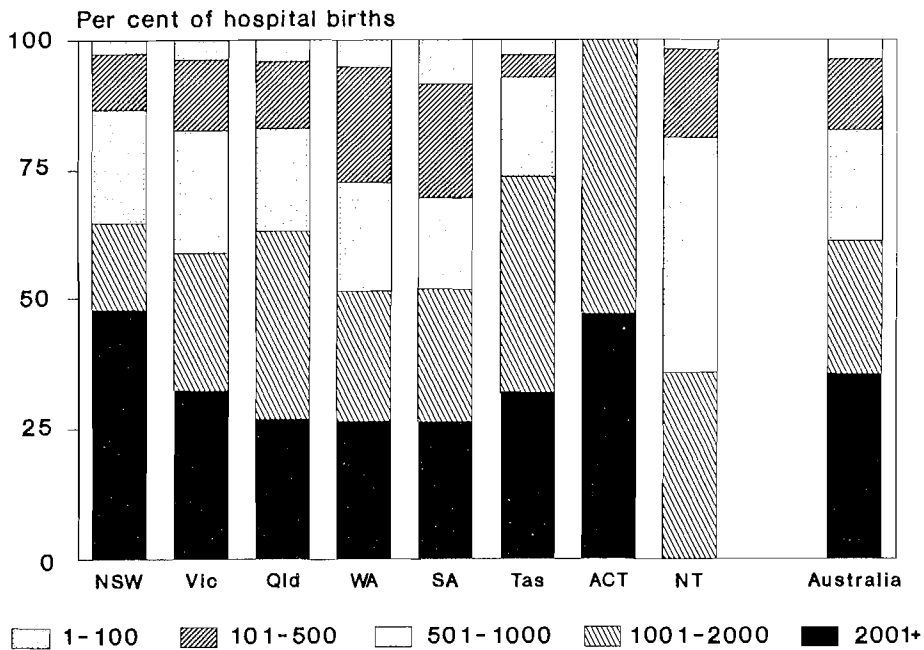


Figure 3: Distribution of confinements by size of maternity unit, States and Territories, 1991



## 2.5 Maternal age

Maternal age is an important risk factor for perinatal outcome. Adverse outcomes are more likely towards each extreme of the reproductive age group. The mean age of women giving birth in Australia in 1991 was 27.9 years (Table 5). Mothers in Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory were slightly older, and those in the Northern Territory slightly younger, than average.

Teenage pregnancy is an important issue in public health and preventing unwanted pregnancies in adolescents is a complex problem. Behaviour may be unpredictable and strategies that are effective in changing behaviour in other situations may be less rewarding in this age group. There were 14,923 teenage confinements in 1991, of which 1,680 were to girls aged 16 years and younger. The proportion of teenage confinements was 5.9 per cent nationally and ranged from 3.8 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory and 4.1 per cent in Victoria to 14.5 per cent in the Northern Territory (Table 5, Figure 4). There were relatively more young teenage mothers in the Northern Territory (Figure 5).

The national age-specific birth rate for teenagers declined from a peak of 55.5 per 1,000 females in 1971 to 20.2 per 1,000 in 1988 but rose slightly again to 22.1 per 1,000 in 1991 (ABS 1992). There are considerable variations in teenage birth rates among the States and Territories. In 1991, this rate was lowest in the Australian Capital Territory (14.2 per 1,000 females) and Victoria (16.0 per 1,000) and highest in the Northern Territory (73.9 per 1,000).

The age-specific birth rate does not provide a complete picture of teenage pregnancy as it takes no account of induced abortions of unwanted pregnancies. Only South Australia and the Northern Territory collect population-based data on induced abortions. In South Australia in 1991, there were 85 induced abortions of teenage pregnancies for every 100 pregnancies that resulted in births. The South Australian data show that the combined birth and induced abortion rate has declined less than the birth rate alone (Chan & Taylor 1991). The combined rate decreased from 57.4 per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19 years in 1971 to 39.2 per 1,000 in 1991, a fall of 32 per cent compared to a decline of 60 per cent in the teenage birth rate nationally between 1971 and 1991. These figures indicate that about one in every five girls and young women aged 15-19 years in Australia become pregnant during this age period, and one in ten give birth. Lack of data on induced abortions in most States considerably hampers analysis of trends in teenage pregnancies.

While age-specific birth rates of women aged less than 30 years declined during the last two decades, the birth rates of women in their 30s began increasing again in the late 1970s (ABS 1992). As the birth rate of women in their 40s has also increased in recent years, women aged 35 years and older had a relatively higher proportion of all confinements in 1991 than in any year in recent decades. In 1991, 9.2 per cent of all confinements were to women aged 35 to 39 years and a further 1.4 per cent were to women of 40 years and over (Table 5). The increase in the actual number of pregnant women in their late 30s and 40s has important implications for the provision of services for prenatal screening for chromosomal abnormalities.



Figure 4: Proportion of teenage mothers, all confinements, States and Territories, 1991

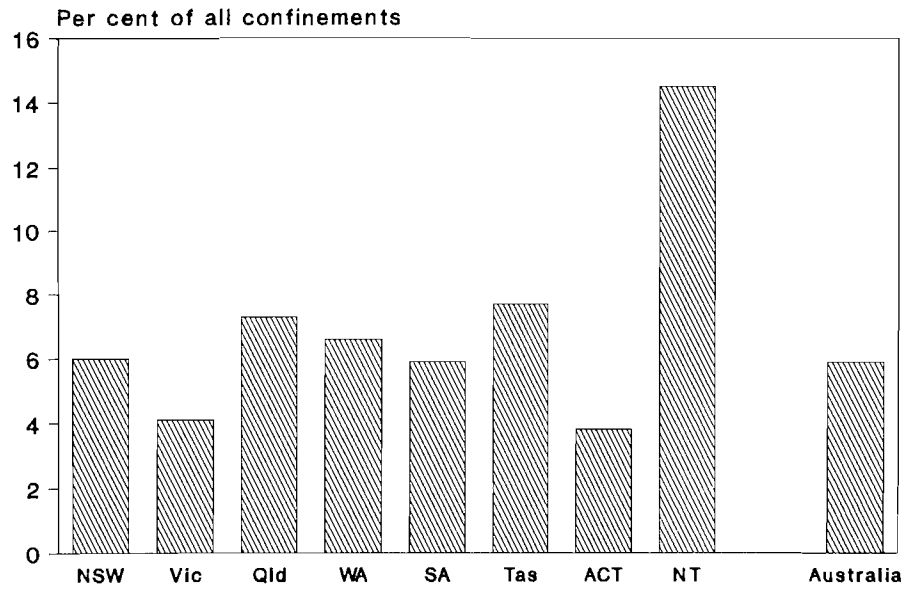
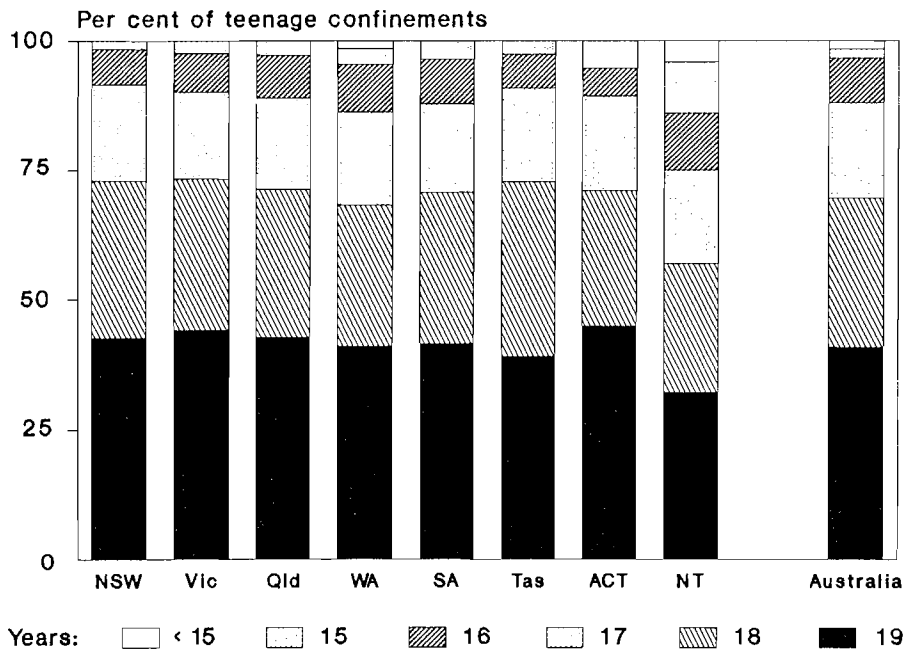
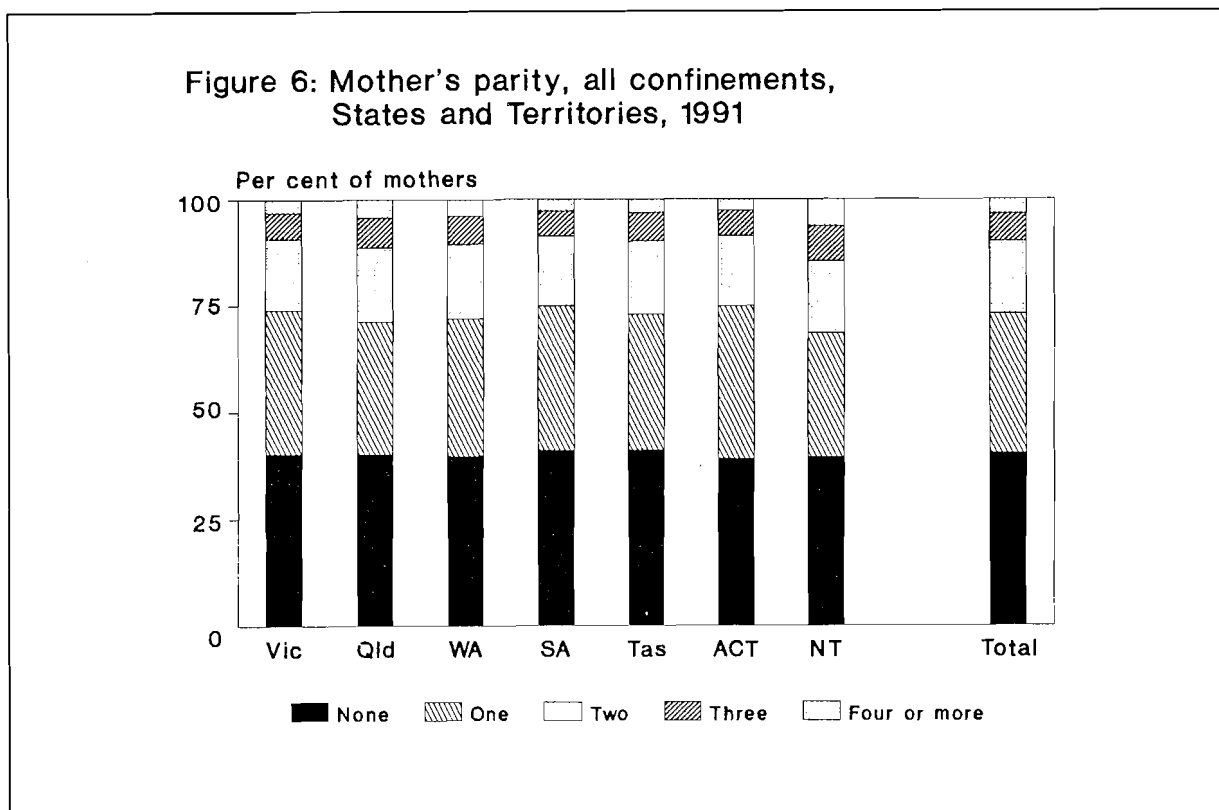


Figure 5: Age distribution of teenage mothers, States and Territories, 1991



## 2.6 Maternal parity

Parity is the number of previous pregnancies that resulted in live births or stillbirths. Data on parity were not available for New South Wales in 1991. The distribution of parity was similar in the other States and Territories, but there were relatively more women with three or more previous confinements in the Northern Territory (Table 6, Figure 6). The proportion of confinements to women in Australia giving birth for the first time was 40.2 per cent (Table 7). About one in four (26.3 per cent) women giving birth at 30-34 years, one in five (20.1 per cent) at 35-39 years, and one in six (16.7 per cent) at 40 years and over, had no previous children. Conversely, one in four (25.0 per cent) of mothers aged 35-39 years and about one in three (35.7 per cent) of those aged 40 years and over had previously given birth three or more times.



## 2.7 Marital status

Married mothers and those living in de facto relationships have been grouped together, except in Tasmania where de facto and single were given the same code. Single mothers accounted for 10.9 per cent of all confinements in Australia in 1991 and another 1.3 per cent were widowed, divorced, or separated (Table 8). There were relatively fewer single mothers in the Australian Capital Territory and relatively more in the Northern Territory. The majority of teenage mothers (56.1 per cent) were single and the proportion of single mothers was higher as maternal age decreased, except for slightly more married mothers in the group aged less than 15 years (Table 9).

## 2.8 Aboriginality

The National Health Data Dictionary (AIHW 1993) uses the definition of Aboriginality recommended by the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs:

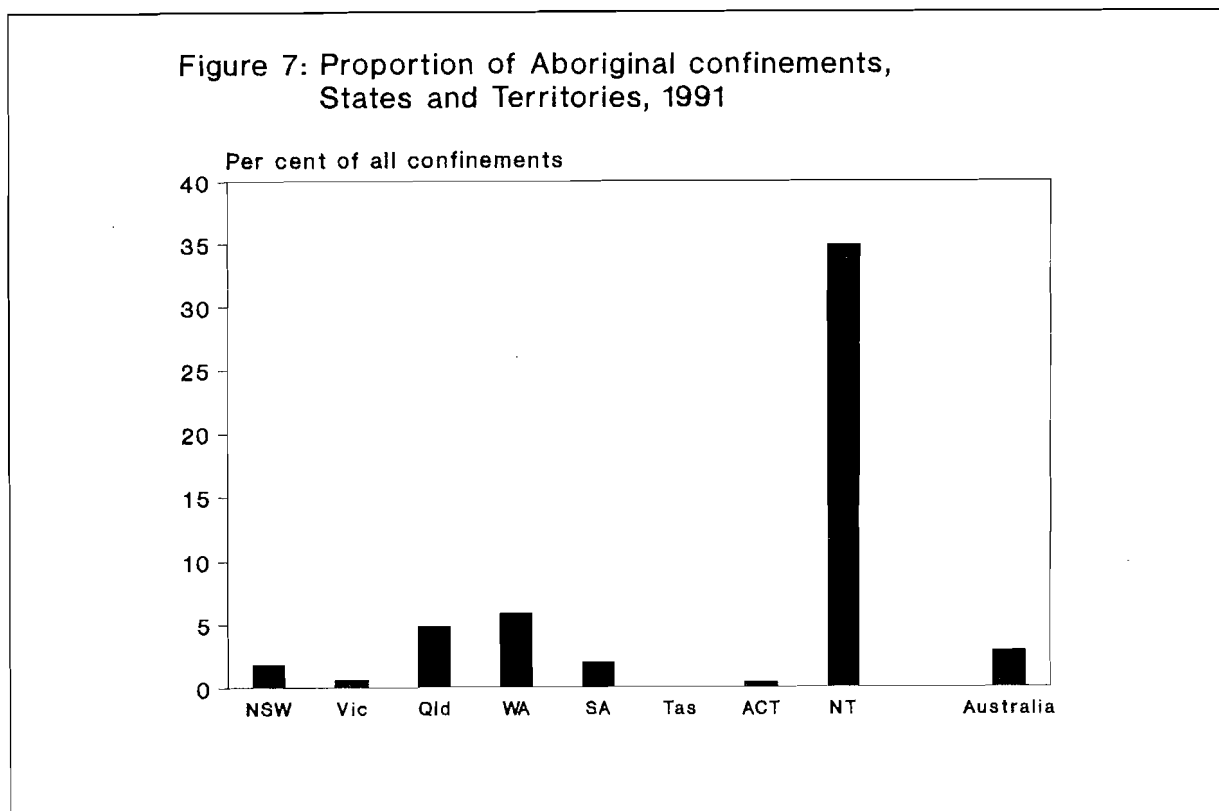
*'An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community with which he or she is associated.'*

All States and Territories except Tasmania have a data item on Aboriginality on their perinatal form. In Tasmania, confinements of Aboriginal mothers are given a specific code if Aboriginality

is recorded on the form. Nationally, in 1991 there were 166 women who were recorded as Aboriginal but who were not born in Australia. As it seems likely that most of these women were incorrectly identified as Aboriginal by people completing the perinatal forms, they were excluded from the figures given for Aboriginal women.

Only Queensland records Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women separately on its form. Because of its geographical location, it is likely that most confinements of Torres Strait Islander women occurred in Queensland. In 1989, this group comprised 24.9 per cent of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander confinements in Queensland (Queensland Health 1993). Although the data for 1991 that were requested from the States and Territories grouped Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander confinements together, this should be reviewed for future reports as maternal risk factors and pregnancy outcomes differ in the two groups.

In 1991, 7,027 Aboriginal women gave birth in Australia; this was 2.9 per cent of all national confinements (Table 10). Aboriginal mothers accounted for a much larger proportion of all confinements in the Northern Territory (34.9 per cent) than elsewhere in Australia (Figure 7). Relatively high proportions of confinements in Western Australia and Queensland were also to Aboriginal women (5.9 per cent and 4.9 per cent, respectively). When expressed in actual numbers of Aboriginal mothers, Queensland, Western Australia, and New South Wales had more confinements than the Northern Territory, the other States, and the Australian Capital Territory.



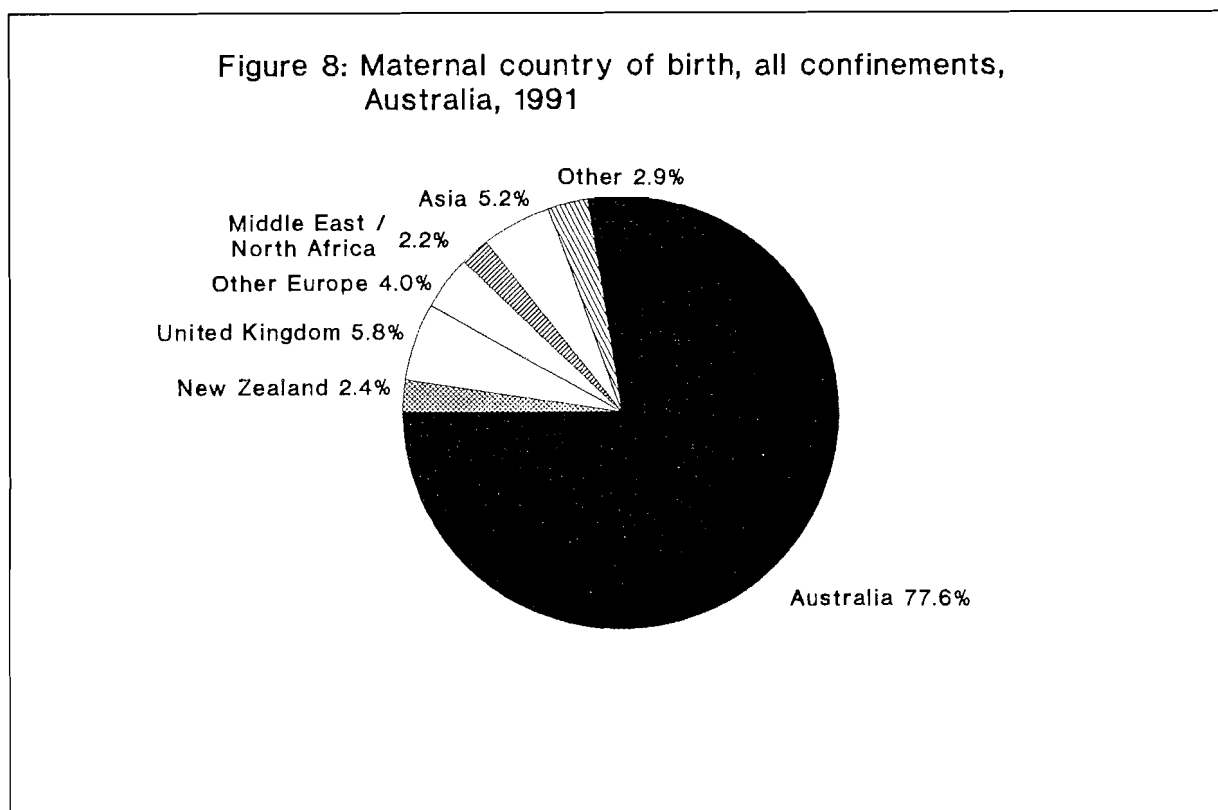
Most Aboriginal women (97.7 per cent) gave birth in hospitals. There were also 88 confinements in bush clinics in the Northern Territory and another 68 women in other States gave birth before being admitted to hospital. Aboriginal mothers tend to have their babies at younger ages, and to have more babies, than other mothers (Tables 11,12). In 1991, their average age was 23.4 years compared with 27.9 years for all confinements. More than a quarter (27.0 per cent) of all Aboriginal mothers were teenagers and 6.1 per cent were 16 years or younger. Aboriginal mothers were 32 times more likely to have a baby at less than 15 years than non-Aboriginal mothers. The largest numbers of teenage Aboriginal mothers were in Queensland (507), Western Australia (449), the Northern Territory (385), and New South Wales (381).

The National Aboriginal Health Strategy Working Party (1989) recognised the major social, economic and health implications of early teenage pregnancies among Aboriginal girls. It noted that for any health awareness, education or promotion program to be effective, it is essential that Aboriginal people should participate in all phases of the campaign.

## 2.9 Maternal country of birth

The mother's country of birth may be an important risk factor for outcomes such as low birthweight and perinatal mortality. In 1991, most States and Territories used the 2-digit ABS classification but Western Australia and Tasmania used other modified classifications.

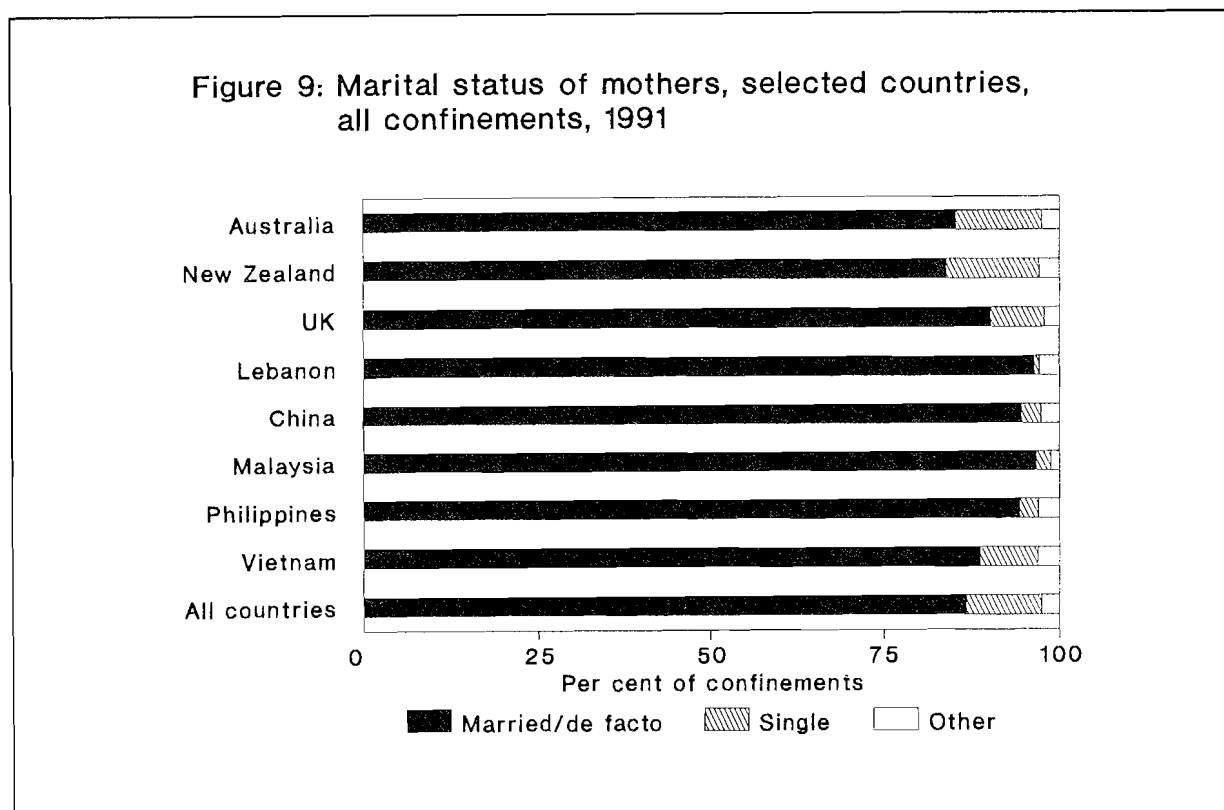
A high proportion (22.4 per cent) of women giving birth in Australia in 1991 were born in other countries (Figure 8). Because of the large number of countries, only those countries with more than 1,000 confinements are reported separately (Table 13). Mothers born in the United Kingdom comprised 5.8 per cent of all confinements and accounted for relatively higher proportions of all mothers in Western Australia and South Australia. New Zealand-born mothers comprised 2.4 per cent of all confinements. Mothers born in Asia have increased markedly in the last decade, reflecting recent trends in migration to Australia. In 1991, 5.2 per cent of mothers were born in Asia. Vietnam, the Philippines, China and Malaysia were the countries of birth with the most confinements.



The number of women from countries where English is not the first language varies considerably among the States and Territories. For example, most Lebanese-born mothers live in New South Wales and there is also a relatively large number in Victoria but quite few elsewhere. A similar pattern is evident for women born in some Asian countries, particularly Vietnam, the Philippines, and China, although there were also sizeable numbers in other States. Further analyses within each State and Territory will assist in identifying those regions where special attention may be required for culturally acceptable maternity and interpreter services, and postnatal community health services.

As well as differences in the geographical distribution of mothers born in other countries, their age distribution may differ from that of Australian-born mothers. Teenage confinements were relatively more common among Lebanese-born mothers but relatively less common among mothers born in Asian countries such as China, India, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam (Table 14). On the other hand, these Asian countries were relatively overrepresented among mothers aged 35 years and over. Again, this is relevant to prenatal diagnostic services that screen for chromosomal abnormalities.

Marital status also varies according to the mother's country of birth. A higher proportion of mothers born in Australia and New Zealand were single than those born in most other countries (Table 15, Figure 9).

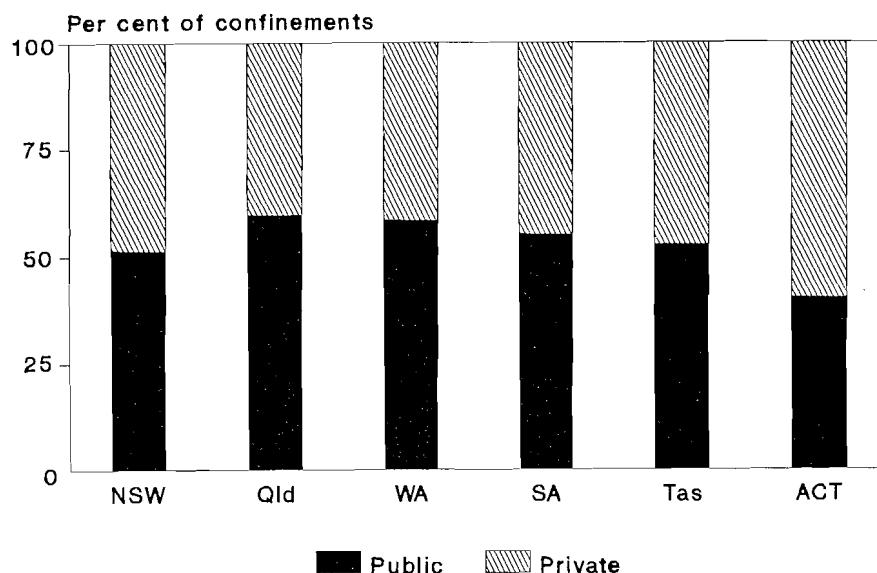


## 2.10 Accommodation status in hospital

The proportion of the Australian population with basic private hospital insurance declined from 62.7 per cent in 1983 to 41.9 per cent in 1991 (AIHW 1992). This decline was substantially greater in the reproductive age group than in middle-aged and elderly groups.

Patients admitted to hospitals may elect to have public or private accommodation; this is usually determined by whether or not they have private health insurance. Victoria and the Northern Territory did not collect information on accommodation status in their perinatal collections in 1991. The proportion of mothers with private accommodation in hospital ranged from 40.4 per cent in Queensland to 59.7 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 16, Figure 10).

Figure 10: Confinements by mother's accommodation status, selected States and Territories, 1991



## 2.11 Duration of pregnancy

Accurate population data on gestational age are difficult to obtain. Estimations based on the calculated interval between the first day of the last menstrual period (LMP) and the infant'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.

In 1991, the date of the last menstrual period was recorded in the perinatal collections in all States and Territories except New South Wales and Tasmania. Queensland and Western Australia also recorded the estimated date of confinement, which may take account of clinical or ultrasound assessment of gestational age. Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory had a data item for clinical estimates of gestational age during pregnancy, the latter specifically based on ultrasound assessment. New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia included an estimate of gestational age based on postnatal clinical assessment of the baby.

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. In the tables in this report, gestational age in Victoria, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory are based on dates and, in the other States, on clinical estimates.

Preterm delivery (less than 37 completed weeks' gestation) occurred in 6.8 per cent of all confinements (Table 17, Figure 11). The average duration of pregnancy in Australia was 39.2 weeks. Delivery at 20-27 weeks occurred in 0.6 per cent of confinements, at 28-31 weeks in 0.7 per cent, and at 32-36 weeks in 5.5 per cent. Preterm delivery was more likely in the Northern Territory than elsewhere, but delivery at 28-31 and 32-36 weeks was also somewhat more likely in Western Australia than in the other States (Figure 12).

Figure 11: Duration of pregnancy, all confinements, Australia, 1991

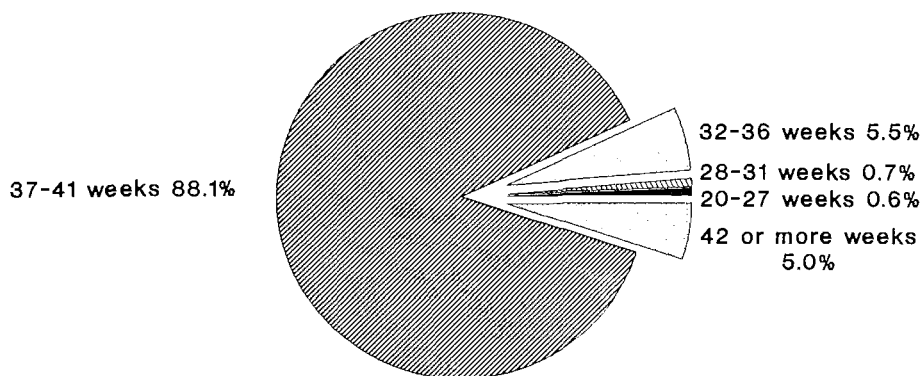
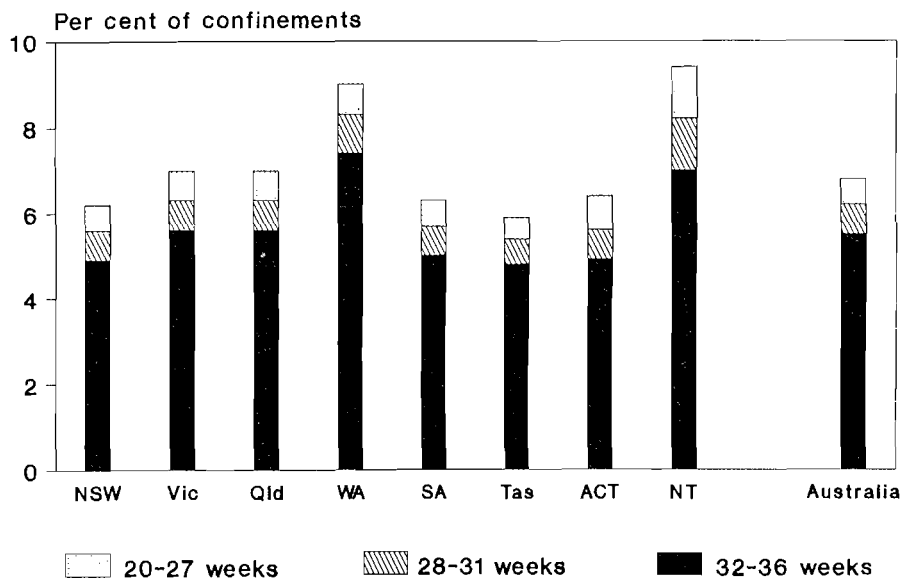
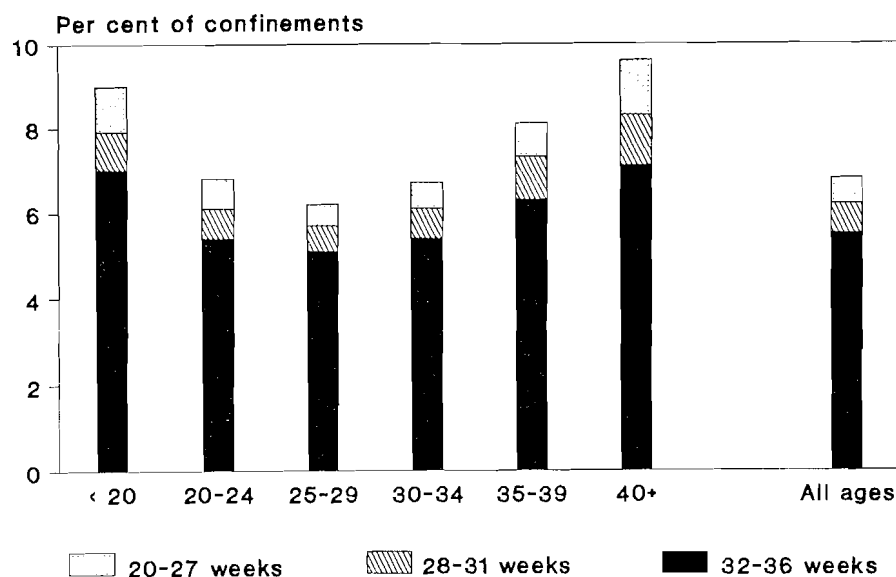


Figure 12: Preterm confinements, States and Territories, 1991



Preterm delivery was least likely for mothers aged 25-29 years and was progressively more likely for both younger and older age groups (Table 18, Figure 13). The differences between maternal age groups were more pronounced for preterm deliveries at 20-27 weeks than in the other preterm groups. Confinements at 20-27 weeks were more than twice as likely in teenage mothers, and in those aged 40 years or more, as in mothers aged 25-29 years.

Figure 13: Preterm confinements by maternal age, Australia, 1991



## 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 400g 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 than in the figures on registrations of live births published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

After increasing through the previous 80 years to a peak of 12.36 per 1,000 confinements in 1953, twin confinements in Australia declined to a low point of 9.01 per 1,000 confinements in 1977. Since then, the twinning rate has gradually increased again (Doherty & Lancaster 1986). In 1991, there were 3,397 multiple pregnancies (1.3 per cent of all confinements), consisting of 3,305 twin pregnancies, 89 triplet pregnancies, 2 quadruplet pregnancies, and 1 quintuplet pregnancy (Table 19). The increasing trend in multiple pregnancies in recent years is mainly attributable to fertility drugs and assisted conception.

Multiple pregnancy increases with advancing maternal age. In 1991, women aged 35 to 39 years were almost 3 times more likely to have twins as those aged less than 20 years (Table 20, Figure 14).

There were 59 twin confinements (0.8 per 1,000 confinements), and no other multiple births, to Aboriginal mothers. Their relatively younger age distribution was an important factor



contributing to the lower twinning rate than for all mothers. The maternal age-specific twinning rates of Aboriginal mothers were: 0.3 per 1,000 (6/1,897) confinements at less than 20 years; 1.0 per 1,000 (26/2,564) at 20-24 years; 1.2 per 1,000 (18/1,546) at 25-29 years; 1.1 per 1,000 (8/736) at 30-34 years; and 0.4 per 1,000 (1/243) at 35-39 years. There were no multiple births to 36 mothers aged 40 years and over or to 5 mothers whose age was not stated.

Figure 14: Maternal age-specific multiple birth rates, Australia, 1991

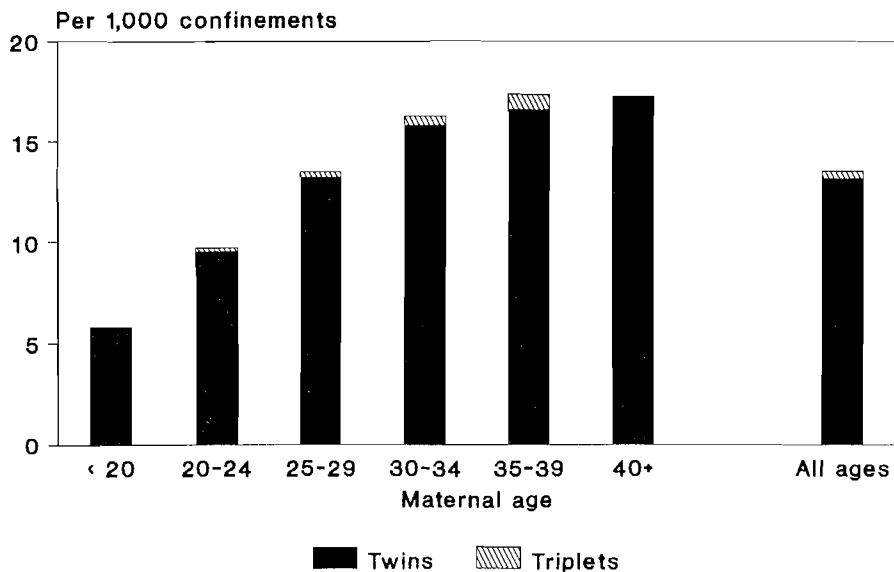
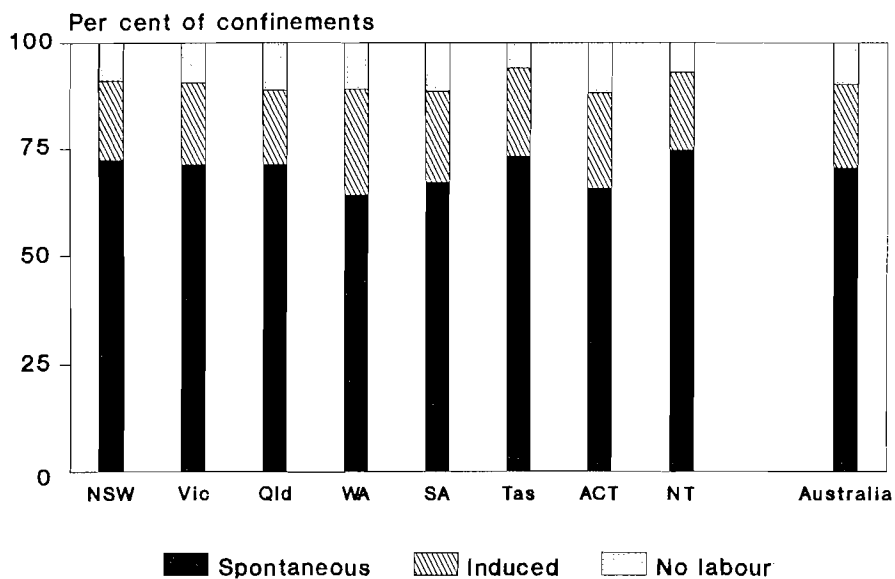


Figure 15: Onset of labour, all confinements, States and Territories, 1991



### 2.13 Onset of labour

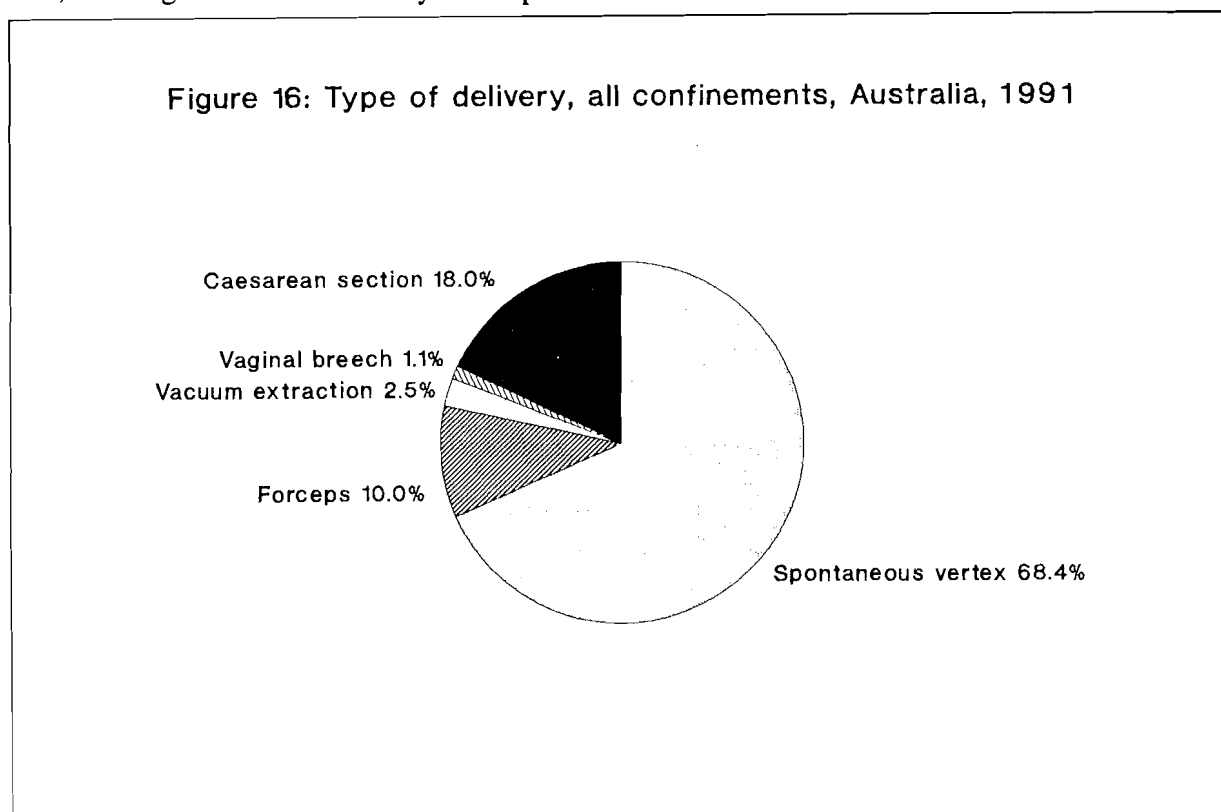
All States and Territories have a data item on the onset of labour but the additional details relating to augmentation and the methods of inducing labour vary. The majority of confinements (70.6 per cent) followed spontaneous onset of labour, although augmentation of labour was quite common in those States with data available (Table 21, Figure 15). Labour was induced in 19.5 per cent of confinements and showed relatively little variation among the States and Territories. Most confinements with no labour were elective caesarean sections.

### 2.14 Presentation in labour

Breech presentation occurred in 4.2 per cent of all confinements and other presentations in 0.6 per cent (Table 22). In Tasmania, vaginal breech deliveries, but not all breech presentations in labour, were recorded, so this State was excluded from the national data on presentation in labour. In multiple pregnancies, the presentation and type of delivery of the first-born infant was used to classify each confinement.

### 2.15 Type of delivery

More than two-thirds (68.4 per cent) of all confinements were spontaneous vertex deliveries (Table 23, Figure 16). Forceps delivery occurred in 10.0 per cent, vacuum extraction in 2.5 per cent, and vaginal breech delivery in 1.1 per cent.



Caesarean section was the method of delivery in 45,503 confinements, 18.0 per cent of all confinements. Data on elective and emergency caesarean sections were not available for Queensland and Tasmania. Elsewhere, elective caesarean rates were usually higher than emergency caesarean rates, except in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

The caesarean rate of 18.0 per cent in 1991 was higher than in 1990, when it was 17.5 per cent, and continued the rising trend in recent decades (Lancaster & Pedisich 1993). The national caesarean rate of 18.0 per cent in 1989 excluded data from New South Wales which had rates of 15.9 per cent, 16.0 per cent, and 16.6 per cent in 1988, 1990 and 1991, respectively, indicating that the national rate in 1989 would have been less than 18.0 per cent if data for New South

Wales had been available. In 1991, South Australia (22.0 per cent) and Queensland (20.5 per cent) had the highest rates of caesarean section and the Northern Territory (15.6 per cent) the lowest (Table 24, Figure 17). In Tasmania, the caesarean rate increased from 14.7 per cent in 1990 to 16.7 per cent in 1991.

Figure 17: Caesarean rates, States and Territories, 1991

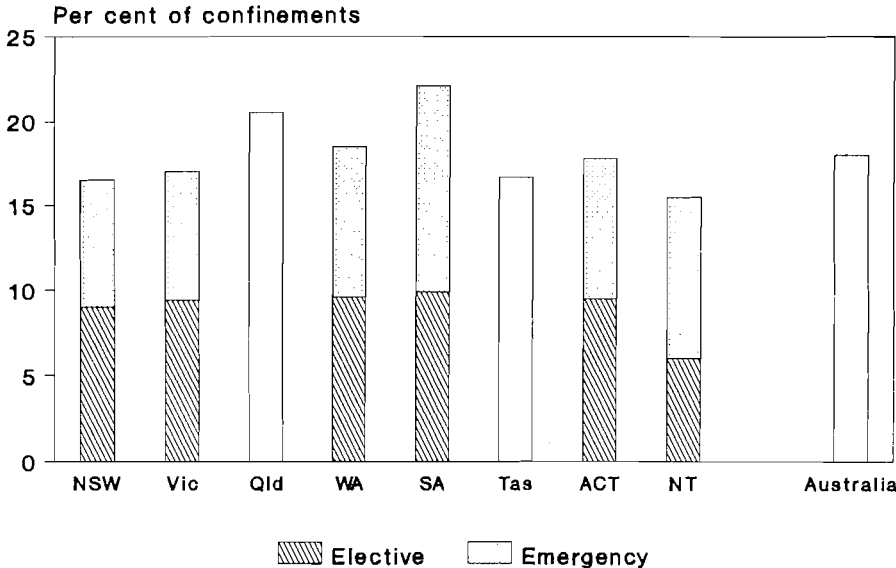
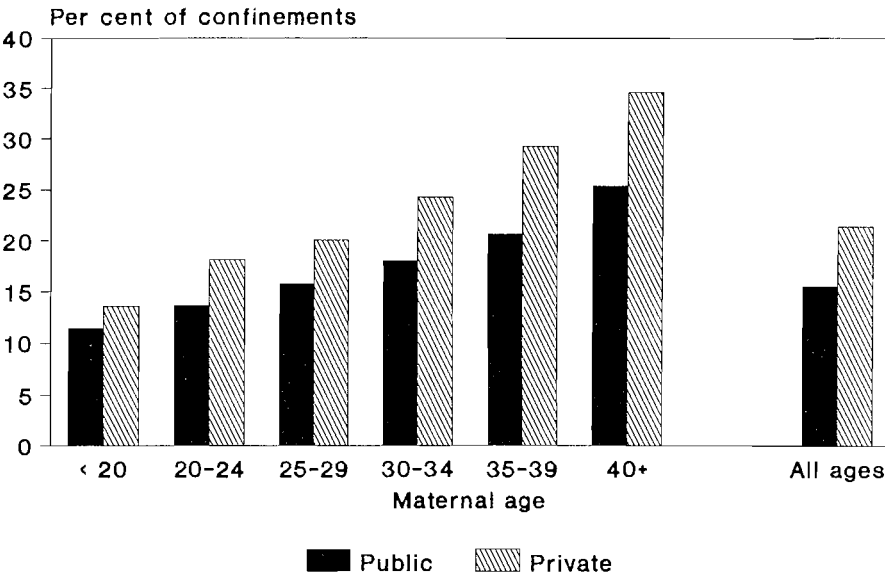


Figure 18: Caesarean rates by maternal age and accommodation status, selected States and Territories\*, 1991

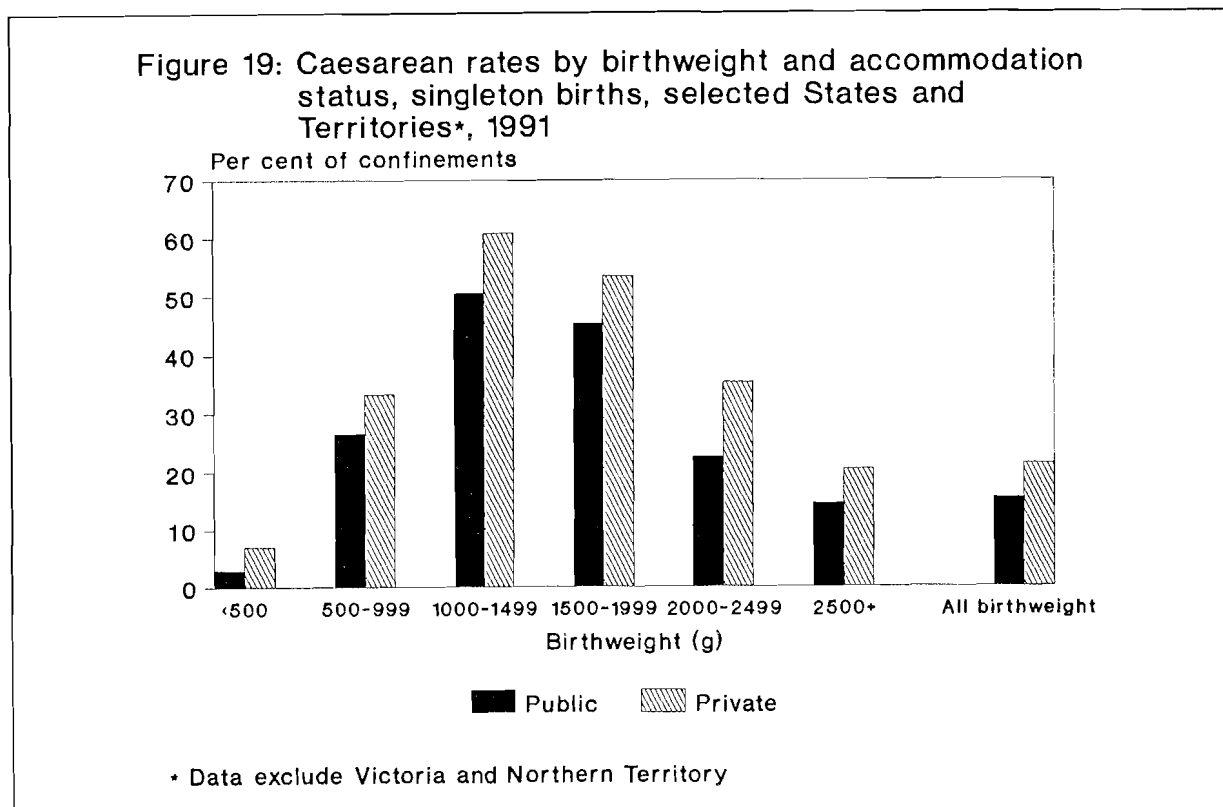


\* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

To assess whether some specific indications for caesarean section were factors in the variation among the States and Territories, caesarean rates were compared in categories of maternal age and hospital accommodation status, parity, singleton and multiple pregnancies, breech presentation in singleton confinements, and birthweight in singleton births. Excluding Victoria and the Northern Territory which did not have data on hospital accommodation status, the caesarean rate of 21.8 per cent in women who had private accommodation in hospital was 39 per cent higher than the rate of 15.7 per cent in those in public accommodation (Table 24, Figure 18). This difference was partly attributable to a higher proportion of older women among those with private accommodation but rates were between 17 and 44 per cent higher within the specific age categories. With few exceptions, South Australia and Queensland had the highest caesarean rates within maternal age and accommodation categories. One in four deliveries of women who had private accommodation in hospital in South Australia and Queensland was by caesarean section.

The caesarean rate of 16.6 per cent for all Aboriginal mothers was almost as high as the national caesarean rate of 18.0 per cent (Table 25). Aboriginal mothers had higher caesarean rates than all mothers in every age group except those aged 40 years and over. Their overall caesarean rate was less than the national rate because of their relatively younger age distribution. In South Australia and the Northern Territory, the caesarean rate for Aboriginal mothers was higher than for all births and this pattern was consistent for all maternal age groups. Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory also had higher caesarean rates for Aboriginal mothers, but their total number of Aboriginal confinements was relatively small.

The overall pattern of higher caesarean rates in South Australia and Queensland was evident for singleton and twin confinements, for primiparous and multiparous confinements, and for various birthweight categories (Table 26, Figure 19). Caesarean rates for other multiple confinements, and for breech presentation in singleton confinements, were high in all States and Territories. It is apparent that factors other than these maternal and infant characteristics are important in influencing the variations in caesarean rates in the States and Territories.



## 2.16 Perineal repair after delivery

Several States collected information on perineal repair after delivery, performed either following episiotomy or for suturing of perineal laceration. Repair of episiotomy was notified in 18.8 per cent of confinements in New South Wales, 18.0 per cent in Victoria, and 23.0 per cent in South Australia. Suturing of perineal lacerations was performed in a further 18.0 per cent of confinements in Victoria and 16.5 per cent in South Australia.

## 2.17 Mother's length of stay in hospital

The majority of women (60.7 per cent) gave birth on the same day as they were admitted to hospital (Table 27). Another 31.4 per cent had their baby on the day after admission to hospital. Periods of hospitalisation of 7 days or more immediately before delivery occurred in 2.5 per cent of all confinements. The proportion of women in the Northern Territory who had prolonged antenatal hospitalisation (4.7 per cent) was almost twice as high as elsewhere in Australia.

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. Data for New South Wales in 1991 were not available. As the final data of discharge of women transferred to other hospitals was not known, these women were excluded. The mean length of stay in the other States and Territories was 5.3 days, slightly longer in Victoria and South Australia and shorter in Queensland (Table 28).

Consistent with these differences, more women in Queensland had hospital stays of 4 days or less and fewer remained in hospital for more than a week (Figures 20, 21).

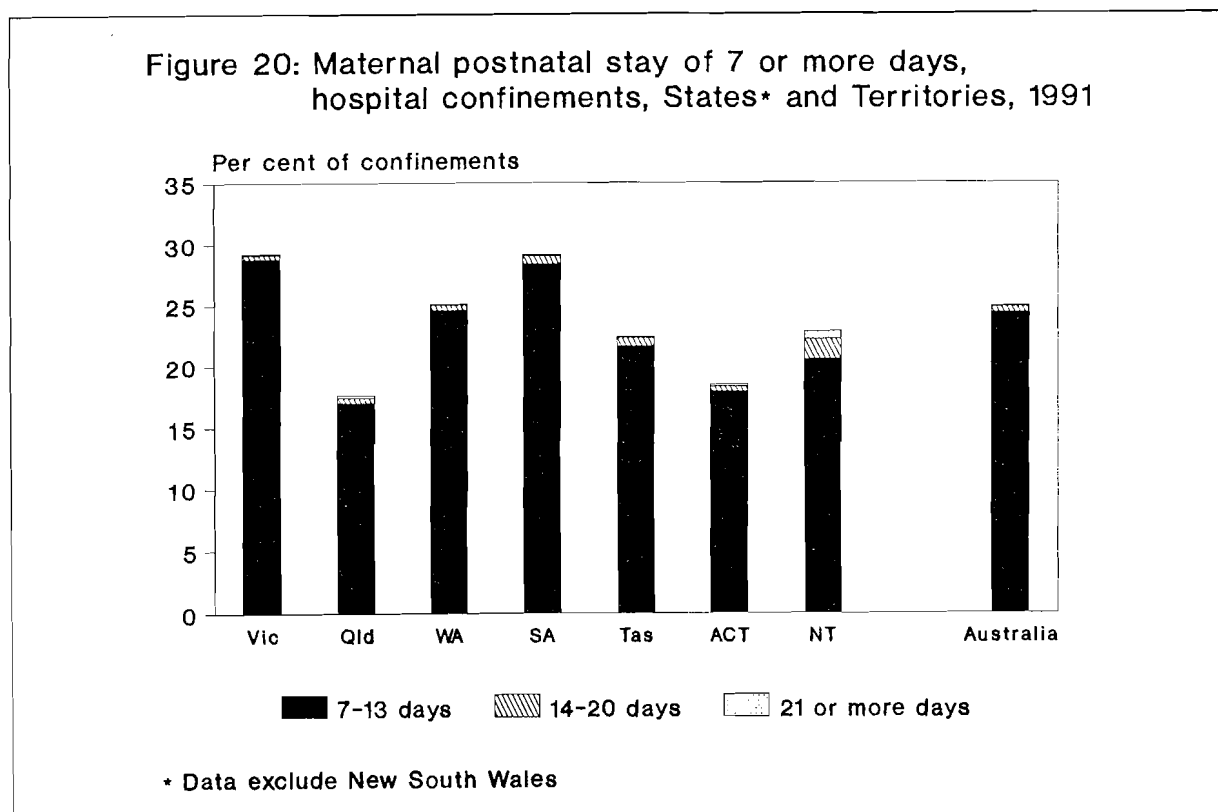
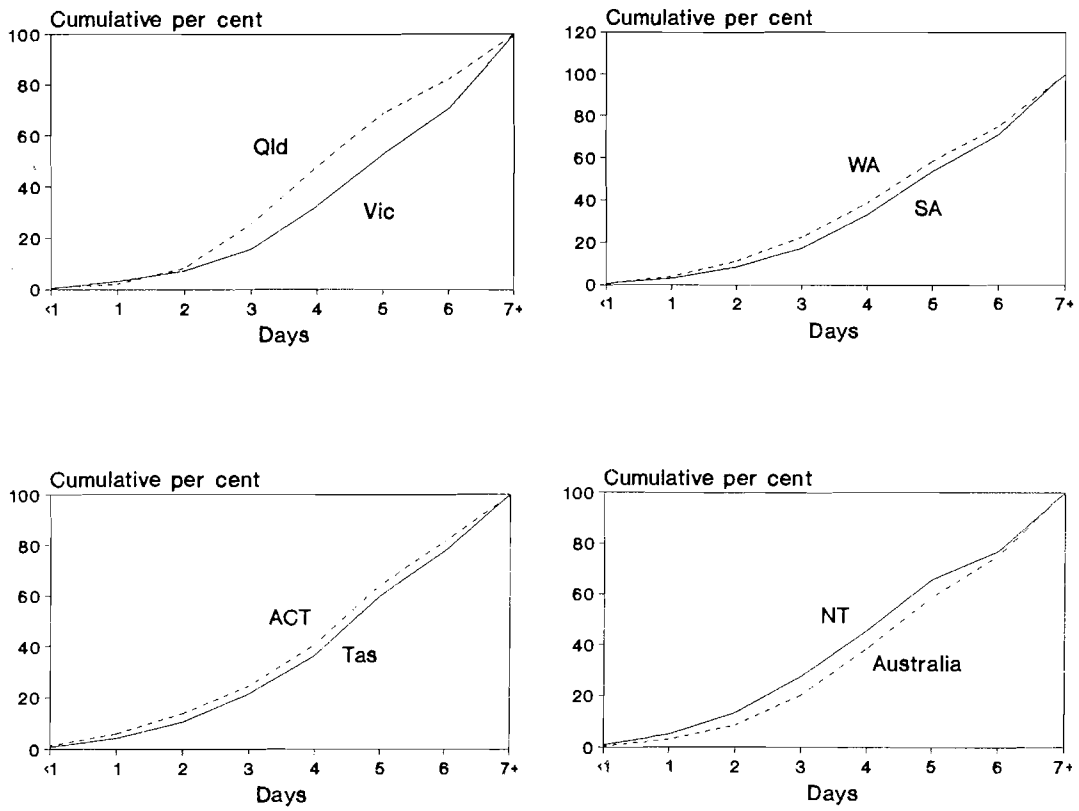
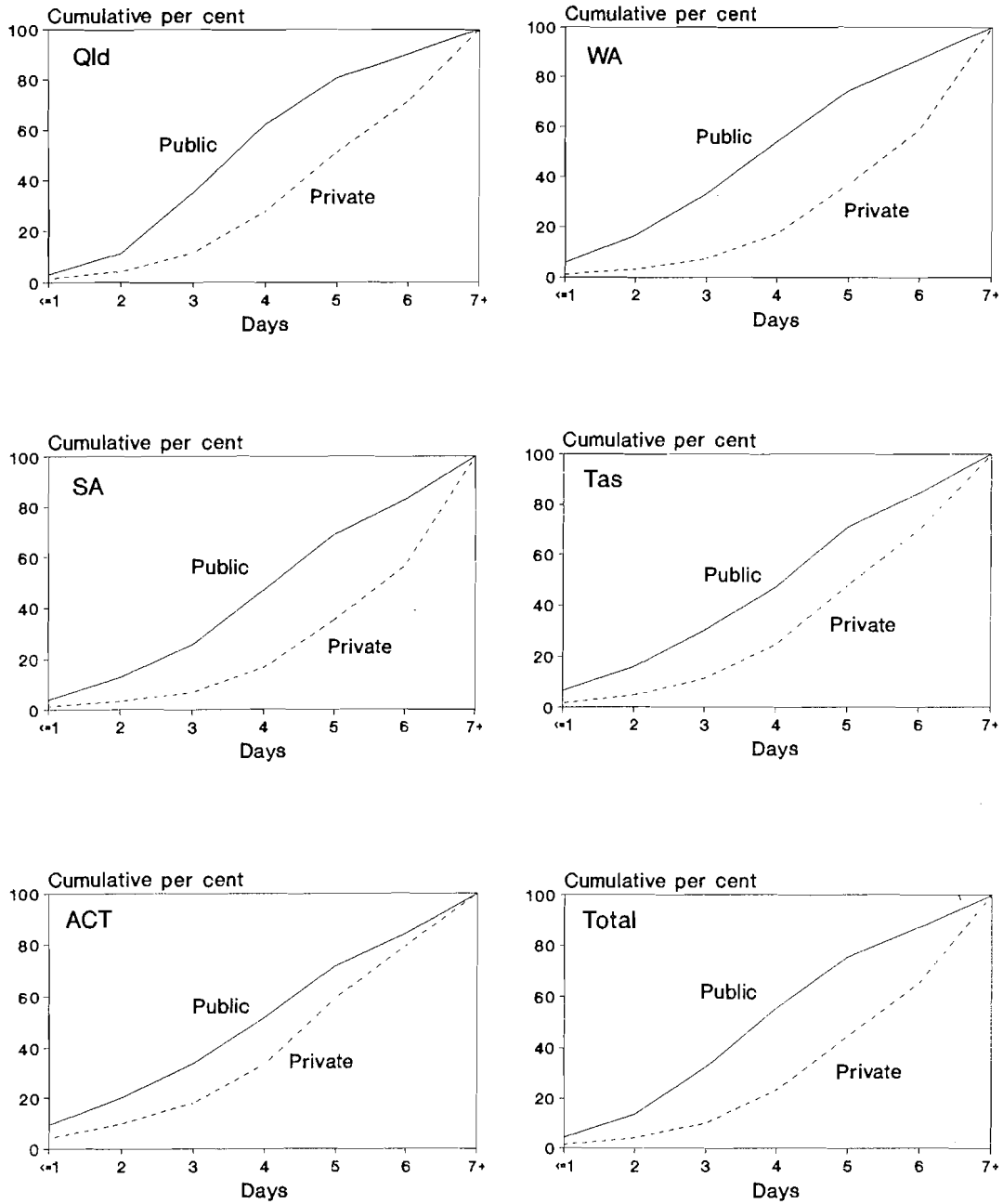


Figure 21: Length of maternal postnatal stay, hospital confinements, States and Territories, 1991



For those States with available data, women with private accommodation in hospital had longer episodes of postnatal hospitalisation (Table 29, Figure 22). In the combined States, those in private accommodation had an average stay of 5.9 days compared with 4.5 days for those in public accommodation.

Figure 22: Length of maternal postnatal stay by accommodation status, selected States and Territories, 1991



Shorter periods of postnatal hospitalisation of less than 5 days were more likely for younger mothers, multiparous women, Aboriginal mothers, those who had a spontaneous delivery, and women giving birth in maternity units that had 1001-2000 confinements annually (Table 30).

## **2.18 Mother's mode of separation from hospital**

The majority of mothers giving birth in hospitals are discharged to their homes but some may be transferred to other hospitals for further treatment of complications or, probably more often, for continuing care in a hospital located nearer their place of residence. Women transferred to another hospital comprised 2.5 per cent of hospital confinements (Table 31). Transfers between hospitals was more likely in New South Wales, Western Australia, and Queensland than in the other States and Territories.

The perinatal collections are incomplete sources of maternal deaths as any deaths occurring after discharge from the hospital where the birth occurs are not recorded in these data systems. The few maternal deaths associated with spontaneous or induced abortion or with ectopic pregnancy are also excluded from the perinatal collections. Eight maternal deaths were reported through the perinatal collections in 1991.

The most recent triennial report on maternal deaths occurring in Australia in 1988 to 1990 included 96 deaths, of which 37 were directly attributable to pregnancy and childbirth and 59 were associated with pregnancy and childbirth (NHMRC 1993). This report drew particular attention to the disproportionate number of direct maternal deaths in Aboriginal women, the lack of complete information on Aboriginality in the available records, and the paucity of information on other possible maternal risk factors such as country of birth. By linking every maternal death associated with childbirth with the record in the State or Territory perinatal collection, an enhanced analysis of maternal deaths in Australia would be possible. This could be achieved without compromising the confidential information provided by medical practitioners and midwives to State and Territory committees.

## **2.19 Infant's birth status**

Infants are recorded as liveborn or stillborn on perinatal notification forms. There is a separate requirement for legal registration of stillbirths and liveborn infants dying within 28 days of birth. The Australian Bureau of Statistics publishes annual reports on perinatal deaths according to criteria recommended by the World Health Organization. The criteria for legal registration of births, and for notification in the perinatal collections, differ slightly from the WHO definitions and include additional stillbirths that are less than 500g birthweight but at least 20 weeks' gestation or at least 400g.

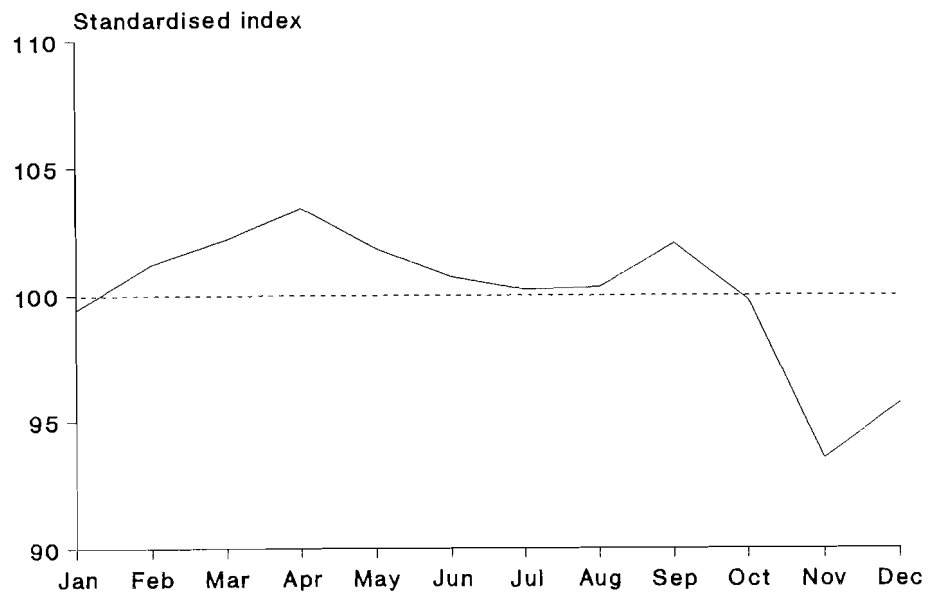
In practice, because of differing clinical interpretations of whether or not there are signs of life, a small proportion of births on the borderline of viability may be misclassified, usually because liveborn infants who have a transient heartbeat but do not breathe may be recorded as stillbirths. This, and the different definitions, probably account for the larger number of stillbirths recorded in the perinatal collections than in perinatal death registrations (see 2.2).

## **2.20 Infant's month of birth**

Changing seasonal patterns of birth have been evident in Australia in recent decades (Mathers & Harris 1983). The peak of births in spring changed in recent decades to a bimodal pattern with peaks occurring in March and September. In 1991, the largest number of births occurred in March, May, August, and October (Table 32). When the number of days in the month is taken into account, there was a slight peak in April and September and a trough in November and December (Figure 23). Based on this single year's data, there has been a flattening of the bimodal peak that was apparent in the late 1970s.



Figure 23: Monthly variation in births, Australia, 1991



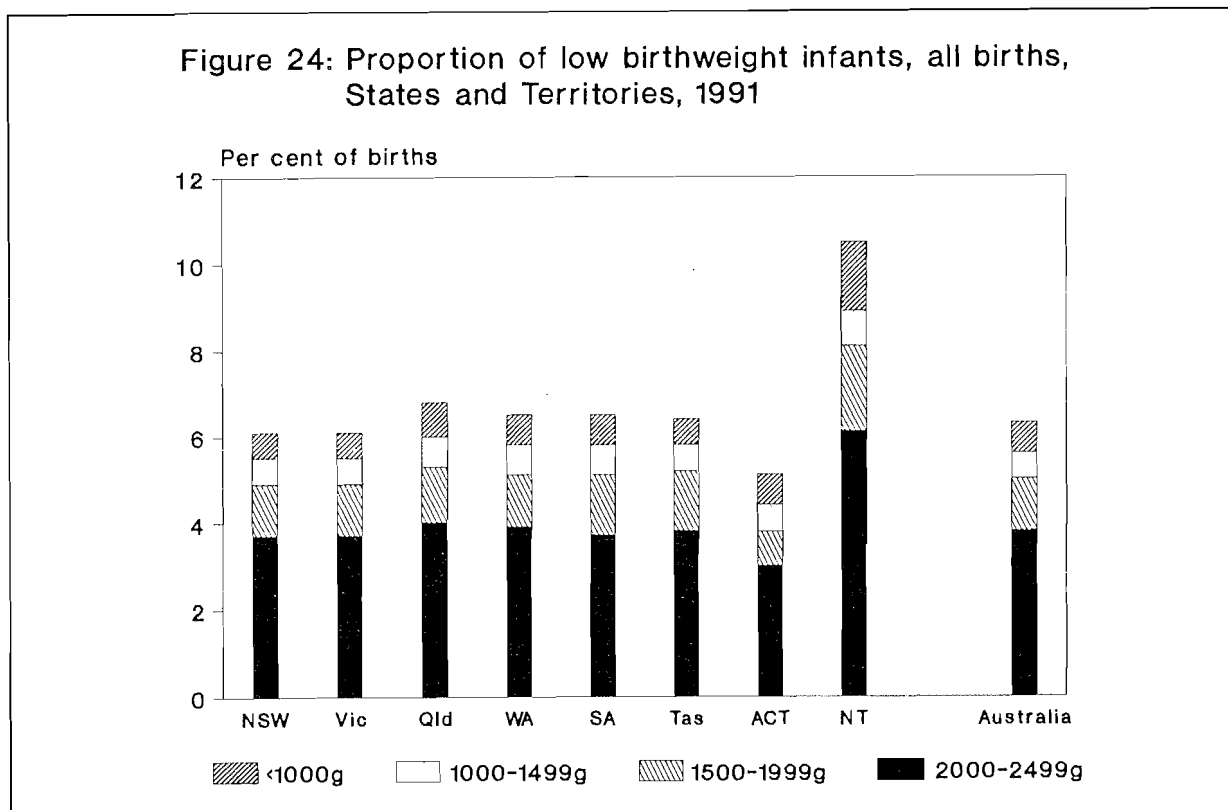
### 2.21 Infant's sex

Male births exceeded female births in all States and Territories (Table 33). The national sex ratio was 106.4 male births per 100 female births. Deviations from this ratio were more likely in the States and Territories that had fewer births. The usual pattern of a higher sex ratio in singleton births than in twins and other multiple births was evident.

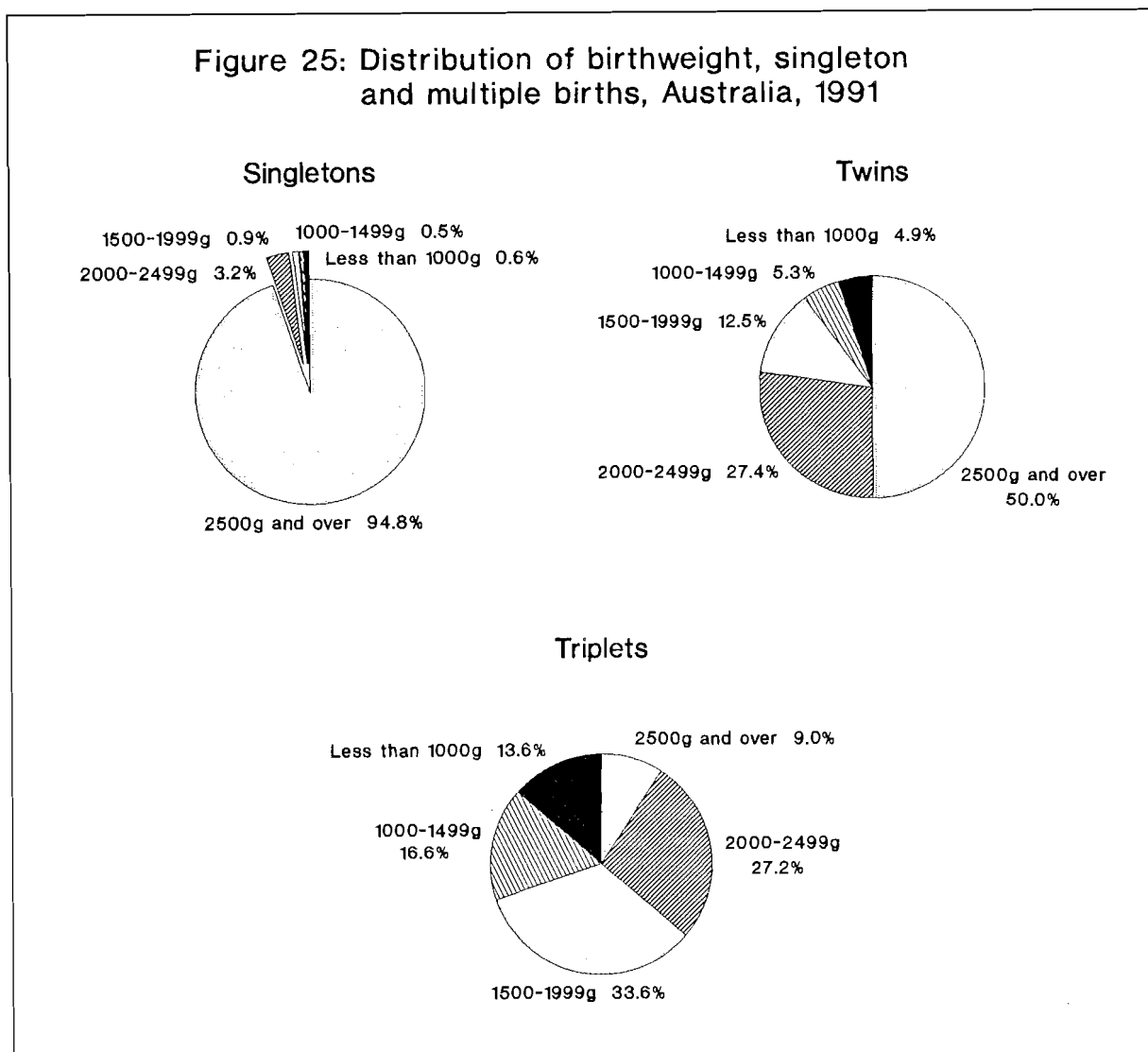
## 2.22 Infant's birthweight

The infant's birthweight is a key indicator of health status and inequalities in health. Infants are defined as low birthweight if their birthweight is less than 2500g. Within this category, those weighing less than 1500g are designated as very low birthweight and those less than 1000g as extremely low birthweight.

In 1991, there were 16,272 (6.3 per cent) infants of low birthweight. Very low birthweight infants comprised 1.3 per cent of all births and extremely low birthweight infants 0.7 per cent (Table 34, Figure 24). The proportion of low birthweight was remarkably similar in all the States but was lower in the Australian Capital Territory (5.1 per cent) and higher in the Northern Territory (10.5 per cent). These variations in low birthweight were apparent in each 500g category below 2500g and are likely to reflect socioeconomic advantage in the Australian Capital Territory and social disadvantage among Aborigines in the Northern Territory. The mean birthweight in Australia was 3,349g and only in the Northern Territory, where it was 3,180g, did it differ greatly from the national average.



Among live births, 5.9 per cent were low birthweight compared with 72.1 per cent of stillbirths (Table 35). In twins, the proportion of low birthweight was 50.0 per cent, almost 10 times higher than in singleton births (5.1 per cent); in triplets, it was 90.9 per cent and, in other multiple births, 100.0 per cent (Table 36, Figure 25). With increasing plurality, the mean birthweight decreased from 3,376g in singletons, 2,391g in twins, and 1,750g in triplets, to 1,399g in two sets of quadruplets and one set of quintuplets.



A lower proportion of male infants were low birthweight (5.9 per cent) than females (6.8 per cent) (Table 37). This difference was mainly due to relatively fewer births of males in the 2000-2499g category. In the higher birthweight categories, there were relatively more males in the groups with birthweights of 3500-3999g and over. The mean birthweight of males was 3,410g, which was 126g higher than that of females (3,284g).

The mean birthweight of Aboriginal infants was 3,140g; this was 209g less than the national average of 3,349g for all births. The proportion of low birthweight in Aboriginal infants was 13.0 per cent (Table 38), double that of 6.3 per cent in all infants. There were considerable variations in the proportion of low birthweight Aboriginal infants among the States and Territories (Figure 26). The highest proportions were in the Northern Territory (15.2 per cent), Western Australia (14.9 per cent), South Australia (13.8 per cent), and Queensland (12.8 per cent). Very low birthweight was particularly common in South Australia. A recent study in the Northern Territory has shown that Aboriginal babies without a non-Aboriginal ancestor are smaller in size at birth than those with a non-Aboriginal ancestor (Sayers & Powers 1993). This finding may

be important in explaining the substantial differences among the States and Territories in the mean birthweights, and in the proportion of low birthweight, of Aboriginal infants.

Figure 26: Proportion of low birthweight infants, Aboriginal births, States and Territories, 1991

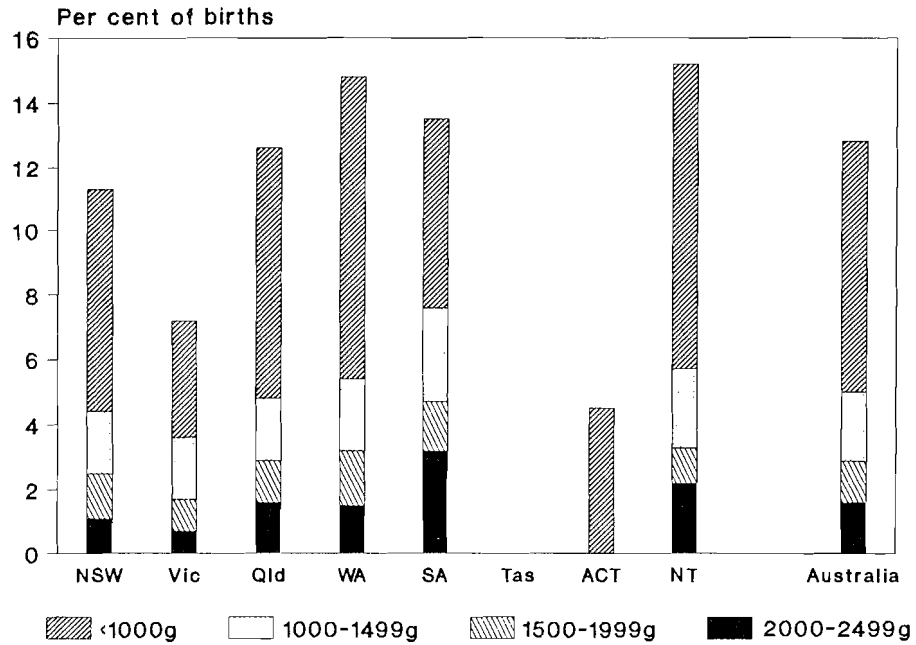
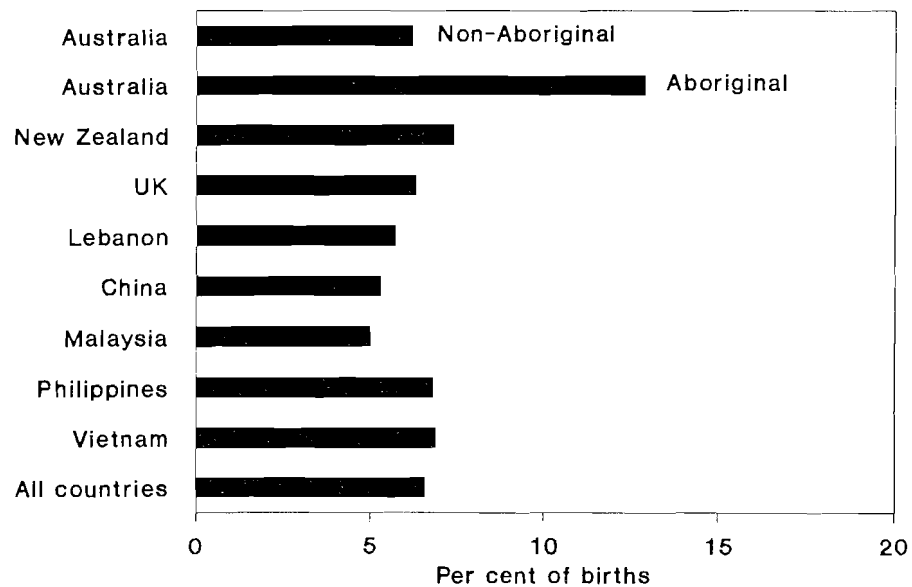


Figure 27: Low birthweight rates, selected maternal countries of birth, Australia, 1991



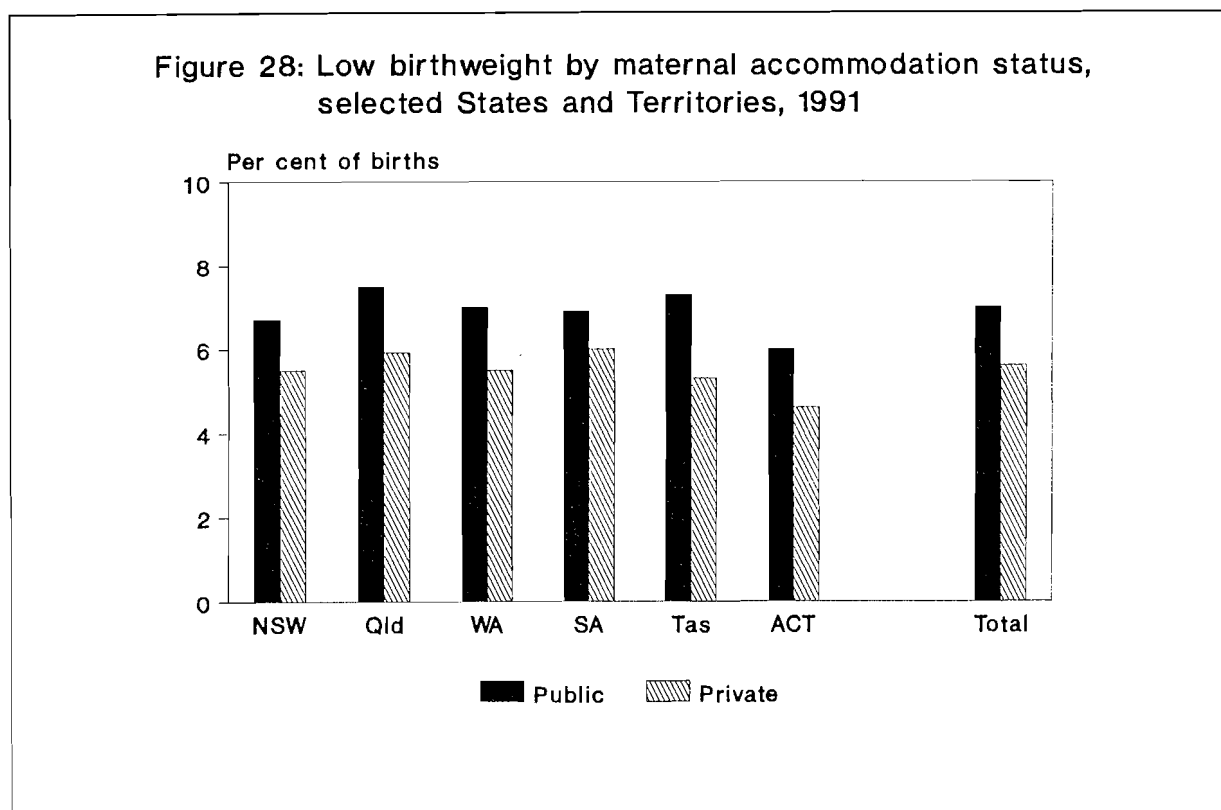
There were relatively small differences in the proportion of low birthweight according to the mother's country of birth. Compared with the proportion of 6.1 per cent in the infants of Australian-born non-Aboriginal mothers, low birthweight was more common in infants whose mothers were born in New Zealand, India, the Philippines, and Vietnam (Table 39, Figure 27). Mothers born in Malaysia, China, Lebanon and Italy were less likely to have infants of low birthweight.

Mothers aged 25-29 years had the lowest proportion of low birthweight infants and this proportion was higher towards both extremes of the reproductive age group (Table 39).

Women having their first baby were more likely than any other parity group to have a low birthweight infant, while those giving birth for the second time were least likely to do so (Table 39).

The proportion of low birthweight infants born to single mothers (8.5 per cent), and to mothers who were divorced, widowed or separated (7.7 per cent), was considerably higher than for married mothers (6.0 per cent) (Table 39).

Mothers in public accommodation in hospital were 25 per cent more likely to have an infant of low birthweight than those in private accommodation (Table 39, Figure 28).



Women giving birth at home and in birth centres have usually been selected to exclude those with major risk factors for low birthweight. This is reflected in the lower proportion of low birthweight in home births (1.3 per cent), and in birth centres (1.2 per cent), than in hospitals (6.4 per cent) (Table 39). On the other hand, there was a high proportion of low birthweight infants among those born before arrival in hospital (12.8 per cent) and elsewhere (37.1 per cent).

During the past few decades neonatal, and more recently fetal, intensive care has been regionalized to ensure that high-risk pregnant women and babies receive care appropriate to their needs. Mothers living in remote areas, and occasionally the unpredictability of preterm

birth, are mitigating circumstances that may have an adverse impact on regionalization. The proportion of various categories of low birthweight infants, especially those weighing less than 1500g, born in larger hospitals that have adequate staffing and facilities provides an indicator of the effectiveness of regionalization. This proportion was high in all regions except the Northern Territory which has relatively few births, only one large maternity unit, and a relatively high proportion of Aboriginal births in remote locations (Table 40). More than two-thirds (69.5 per cent) of infants weighing 500-999g were born in hospitals that had more than 2,000 confinements annually and another 15.8 per cent were born in hospitals with 1001-2000 confinements annually. An even higher proportion of infants weighing 1000-1499g (92.2 per cent) were born in hospitals with more than 1000 confinements annually, most in hospitals with more than 2000 confinements. Of infants weighing 1500-1999g, 81.7 per cent were born in hospitals with more than 1000 confinements annually.

### **2.23 Apgar scores**

Apgar scores are clinical indicators of the infant'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 so that 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.

While reporting of grouped Apgar scores is usually sufficient for most purposes, data are given for each score from 0 to 10 to enable other groupings and also comparison of the distribution in each State and Territory (Tables 41, 42). The Apgar score at 1 minute was not recorded in the perinatal collections in New South Wales and Victoria in 1991. In the other States and Territories, the distribution of 1-minute and 5-minute Apgar scores was similar. Low Apgar scores of 0 and 1-3 were recorded at 1 minute in 0.1 and 2.9 per cent of live births, respectively. An Apgar score of 1-3 at 5 minutes was recorded in 0.3 per cent of live births. This proportion was higher in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory than in the other States (Figure 29).

Low Apgar scores of less than 4 were strongly associated with the infant's birthweight (Table 43, Figure 30). More than half (52.3 per cent) of all liveborn infants weighing less than 1000g had low scores at 1 minute, compared with 2.3 per cent of infants weighing 2500g or more. Almost one-third (31.7 per cent) of the extremely low birthweight infants had low Apgar scores at 5 minutes compared with 0.2 per cent of those weighing 2500g or more. Aboriginal infants had a distribution of low Apgar scores similar to that of all infants when compared within birthweight categories. Infants from singleton and multiple births in the same birthweight categories had similar Apgar scores (Table 44).

Figure 29: Low Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes after birth, live births, States and Territories, 1991

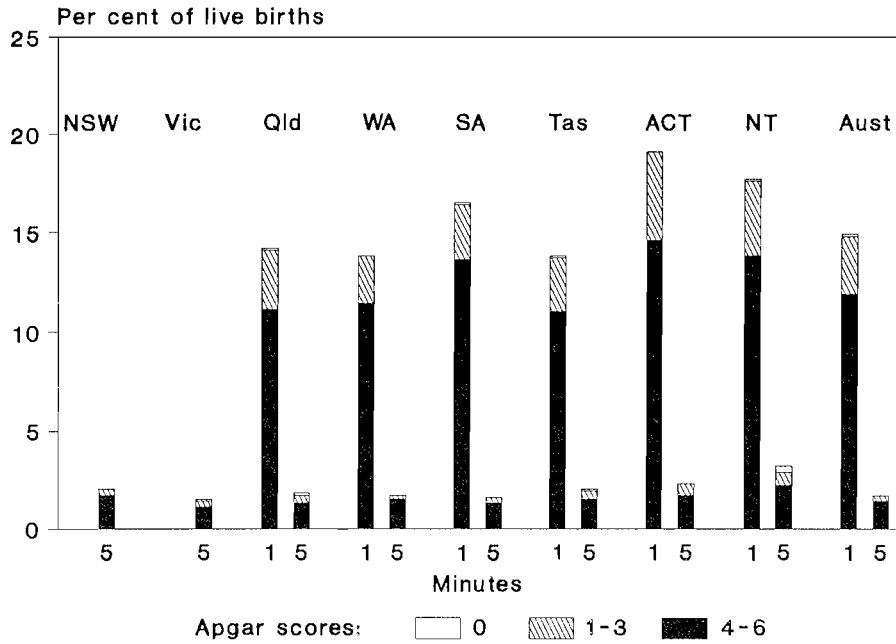
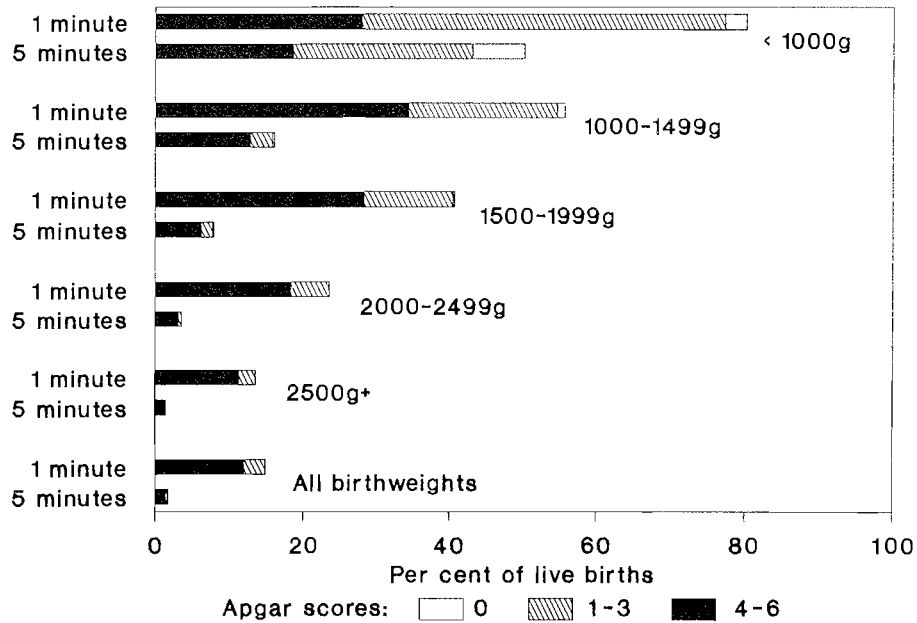


Figure 30: Low Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes by birthweight, live births, Australia, 1991



## **2.24 Resuscitation at birth**

Recording of the type of resuscitation given to infants immediately after birth differs among the States and Territories. In New South Wales, 8.9% of infants were recorded as having ventilatory assistance by intermittent positive pressure respiration through a bag and mask, or after intubation. Endotracheal intubation of infants was recorded in 1.0 per cent of births in Victoria, 2.8 per cent in Queensland, 0.3 per cent in South Australia, 1.1 per cent in Tasmania, and 0.5 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory. Because of the differences in data collections, these comparative figures should be interpreted cautiously until further study has determined whether the same criteria were used in each State and Territory. Narcotic antagonists used to counteract respiratory depression due to maternal narcotic analgesics were administered to 5.5 per cent of infants born in Victoria, 4.4 per cent in South Australia, 4.4 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory, and 2.0 per cent in the Northern Territory.

## **2.25 Infant's length of stay in hospital**

The majority of infants (73.3 per cent) remained in their hospital of birth for less than 7 days (Table 45). Relatively short stays of less than 4 days were more common in the Northern Territory, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory than in the other States. One per cent of infants were hospitalised for 28 or more days. As the period of hospitalisation of infants transferred from their hospital of birth to another hospital is not included here, these figures underestimate the proportion of infants staying in hospital for long periods.

The infant's gestational age and birthweight are usually the main factors influencing the duration of hospitalisation (Table 46, Figure 31). Twins and other infants from multiple births thus had longer stays than singleton infants. Aboriginal infants were more likely to be discharged relatively early from hospital but also were more likely to have stays of 2 weeks or more. These findings are consistent with the preference of Aboriginal mothers for early discharge from hospital and also with their higher risk of having low birthweight infants. Infants with a gestational age of less than 32 weeks, or a birthweight less than 2000g, 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.

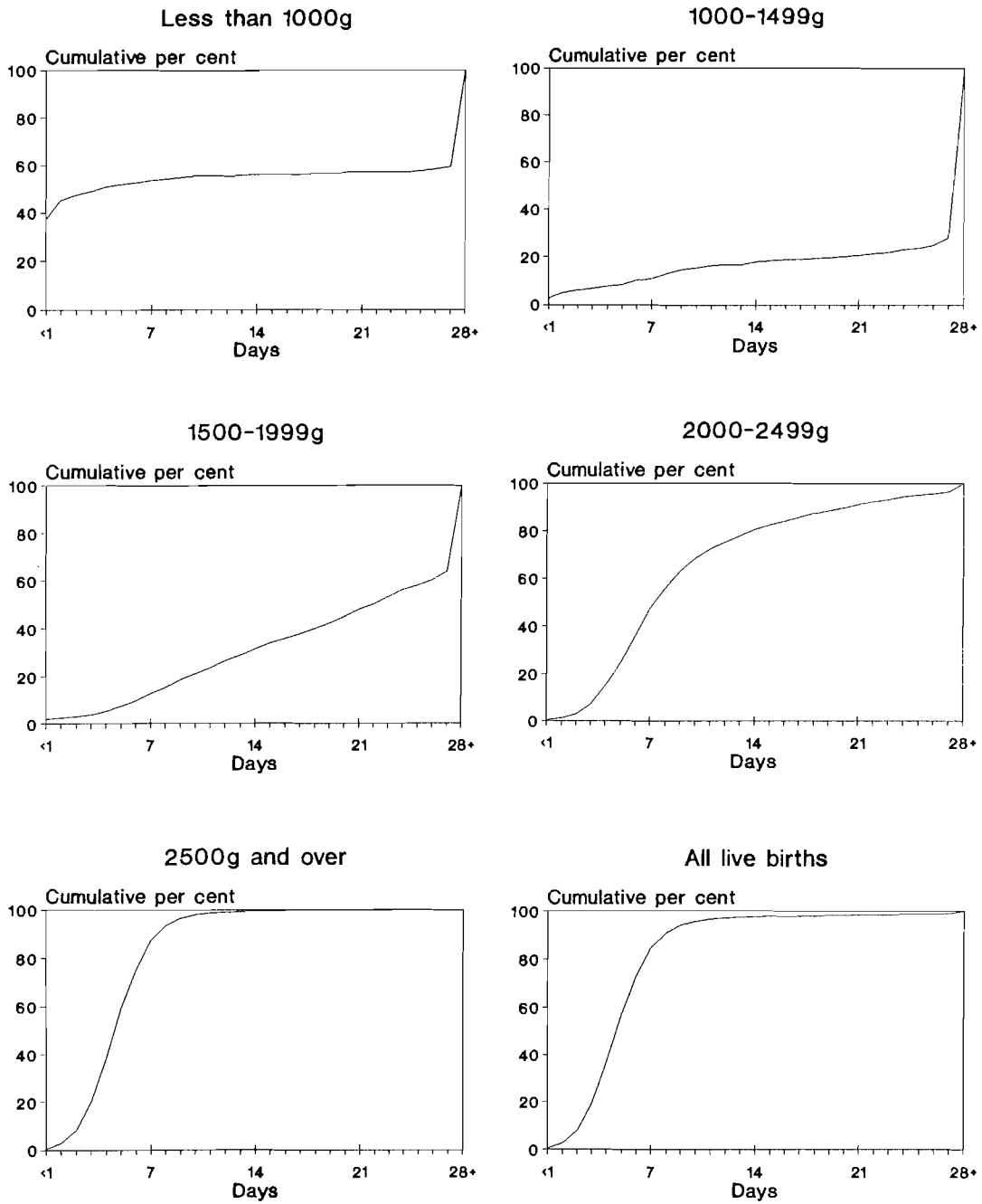
## **2.26 Infant's mode of separation from hospital**

A total of 3.5 per cent of infants were transferred to another hospital from their hospital of birth (Table 47). Although the States and Territories record the hospital to which the infant 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 infants transferred for further treatment of neonatal conditions rather than because of transfer with their mothers to hospitals closer to where they live.

If an infant 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. The data on mode of separation of the infant therefore cannot be used to determine neonatal death rates.



Figure 31: Length of infant's stay in hospital by birthweight, Australia\*, 1991



\* Data exclude New South Wales

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**Table 1 : Confinements and births, States and Territories, 1991**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Confinements	85,782	64,279	44,131	24,677	19,468	6,862	4,479	3,463	253,141
Stillbirths	692	529	327	192	127	55	41	43	2,006
Live births	86,220	64,660	44,460	24,815	19,622	6,902	4,490	3,459	254,628
<b>All births</b>	<b>86,912</b>	<b>65,189</b>	<b>44,787</b>	<b>25,007</b>	<b>19,749</b>	<b>6,957</b>	<b>4,531</b>	<b>3,502</b>	<b>256,634</b>

**Table 2 : Place of birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 1991**

Place of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	<b>Number</b>								
Hospital	83,477	63,979	43,807	24,455	19,369	6,809	4,410	3,362	249,668
Birth centre	1,377	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Home	273	136	176	145	51	53	64	-	898
Born before arrival	253	157	147	77	48	na	na	na	na
Other	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	100	106
Not stated	402	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	410
<b>All places of birth</b>	<b>85,782</b>	<b>64,279</b>	<b>44,131</b>	<b>24,677</b>	<b>19,468</b>	<b>6,862</b>	<b>4,479</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>253,141</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>								
Hospital	97.8	99.5	99.3	99.1	99.5	99.2	98.5	97.1	99.6
Birth centre	1.6	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Home	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.8	1.4	-	0.4
Born before arrival	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	na	na	na	na
Other	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	0.1	2.9	0.0
<b>All places of birth</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 3 : Distribution of maternity units by size, States and Territories, 1991**

Number of confinements annually	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
1 - 100	65	73	71	54	56	5	-	1	325
101 - 500	42	35	25	20	19	1	-	2	144
501 - 1000	25	21	13	7	5	2	-	2	75
1001 - 2000	10	12	11	5	3	2	2	1	46
2001 and over	14	5	2	2	2	1	1	-	27
<b>All hospitals</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>617</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
1 - 100	41.7	50.0	58.2	61.4	65.9	45.5	-	16.7	52.7
101 - 500	26.9	24.0	20.5	22.7	22.4	9.1	-	33.3	23.3
501 - 1000	16.0	14.4	10.7	8.0	5.9	18.2	-	33.3	12.2
1001 - 2000	6.4	8.2	9.0	5.7	3.5	18.2	66.7	16.7	7.5
2001 and over	9.0	3.4	1.6	2.3	2.4	9.1	33.3	-	4.4
<b>All hospitals</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 4 : Distribution of hospital confinements by size of maternity unit, States and Territories, 1991**

Number of confinements annually	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
1 - 100	2,213	2,469	1,802	1,280	1,646	197	-	64	9,671
101 - 500	9,221	8,709	5,667	5,493	4,300	292	-	569	34,251
501 - 1000	18,748	15,267	8,796	5,142	3,442	1,304	-	1,533	54,232
1001 - 2000	14,336	17,064	15,898	6,120	4,940	2,842	2,338	1,196	64,734
2001 and over	40,589	20,627	11,791	6,420	5,089	2,174	2,072	-	88,762
<b>All hospitals</b>	<b>85,107</b>	<b>64,136</b>	<b>43,954</b>	<b>24,455</b>	<b>19,417</b>	<b>6,809</b>	<b>4,410</b>	<b>3,362</b>	<b>251,650</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
1 - 100	2.6	3.8	4.1	5.2	8.5	2.9	-	1.9	3.8
101 - 500	10.8	13.6	12.9	22.5	22.1	4.3	-	16.9	13.6
501 - 1000	22.0	23.8	20.0	21.0	17.7	19.2	-	45.6	21.6
1001 - 2000	16.8	26.6	36.2	25.0	25.4	41.7	53.0	35.6	25.7
2001 and over	47.7	32.2	26.8	26.3	26.2	31.9	47.0	-	35.3
<b>All hospitals</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 5 : Maternal age, all confinements, States and Territories, 1991**

Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Mean age (years)</b>	28.0	28.4	27.5	27.7	27.7	27.2	28.6	26.1	27.9
	<b>Number</b>								
Less than 15	37	21	19	21	9	2	2	22	133
15	99	42	71	58	36	14	7	48	375
16	372	184	259	152	102	37	11	55	1,172
17	932	467	573	291	200	93	31	90	2,677
18	1,549	770	946	451	338	178	44	126	4,402
19	2,090	1,166	1,348	656	464	204	76	160	6,164
<b>Less than 20</b>	<b>5,079</b>	<b>2,650</b>	<b>3,216</b>	<b>1,629</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>14,923</b>
20 - 24	17,092	11,539	9,911	5,160	4,003	1,636	824	941	51,106
25 - 29	29,925	23,431	15,409	8,817	7,212	2,388	1,555	990	89,727
30 - 34	23,638	19,147	11,398	6,604	5,286	1,718	1,345	733	69,869
35 - 39	8,168	6,509	3,609	2,147	1,597	521	507	265	23,323
40 - 44	1,295	970	571	315	214	68	65	32	3,530
45 and over	56	31	17	5	7	3	1	1	121
Not stated	529	2	-	-	-	-	11	-	542
<b>All ages</b>	<b>85,782</b>	<b>64,279</b>	<b>44,131</b>	<b>24,677</b>	<b>19,468</b>	<b>6,862</b>	<b>4,468</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>253,141</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>								
Less than 15	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.1
15	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.4	0.1
16	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.2	1.6	0.5
17	1.1	0.7	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.4	0.7	2.6	1.1
18	1.8	1.2	2.1	1.8	1.7	2.6	1.0	3.6	1.7
19	2.5	1.8	3.1	2.7	2.4	3.0	1.7	4.6	2.4
<b>Less than 20</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>5.9</b>
20 - 24	20.0	18.0	22.5	20.9	20.6	23.8	18.4	27.2	20.2
25 - 29	35.1	36.5	34.9	35.7	37.0	34.8	34.8	28.6	35.5
30 - 34	27.7	29.8	25.8	26.8	27.2	25.0	30.1	21.2	27.7
35 - 39	9.6	10.1	8.2	8.7	8.2	7.6	11.3	7.7	9.2
40 - 44	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.5	0.9	1.4
45 and over	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>All ages</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 6 : Mother's parity, all confinements, States and Territories, 1991**

Parity	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia*
	<b>Number</b>								
None	na	25,861	17,682	9,806	7,979	2,804	1,751	1,362	67,245
One	na	21,582	13,776	7,954	6,618	2,179	1,599	1,008	54,716
Two	na	10,949	7,718	4,345	3,227	1,184	745	585	28,753
Three	na	3,961	3,103	1,643	1,127	457	273	289	10,853
Four or more	na	1,924	1,852	929	517	217	111	219	5,769
Not stated	85,782	2	-	-	-	21	-	-	85,805
<b>All parities</b>	<b>85,782</b>	<b>64,279</b>	<b>44,131</b>	<b>24,677</b>	<b>19,468</b>	<b>6,862</b>	<b>4,479</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>253,141</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>								
None	-	40.2	40.1	39.7	41.0	41.0	39.1	39.3	40.2
One	-	33.6	31.2	32.2	34.0	31.9	35.7	29.1	32.7
Two	-	17.0	17.5	17.6	16.6	17.3	16.6	16.9	17.2
Three	-	6.2	7.0	6.7	5.8	6.7	6.1	8.3	6.5
Four or more	-	3.0	4.2	3.8	2.7	3.2	2.5	6.3	3.4
<b>All parities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Data exclude New South Wales

**Table 7 : Distribution of confinements by maternal age and parity, Australia, 1991**

Parity	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
	<b>Number</b>							
None	8,165	19,094	24,395	12,169	3,037	383	2	67,245
One	1,475	10,428	21,409	16,321	4,489	586	8	54,716
Two	188	3,417	9,649	11,142	3,846	510	1	28,753
Three	14	845	3,095	4,399	2,100	399	1	10,853
Four or more	2	229	1,250	2,193	1,674	421	-	5,769
Not stated	5,079	17,093	29,929	23,645	8,177	1,352	530	85,805
<b>All parities</b>	<b>14,923</b>	<b>51,106</b>	<b>89,727</b>	<b>69,869</b>	<b>23,323</b>	<b>3,651</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>253,141</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>							
None	82.9	56.1	40.8	26.3	20.1	16.7	16.7	40.2
One	15.0	30.7	35.8	35.3	29.6	25.5	66.7	32.7
Two	1.9	10.0	16.1	24.1	25.4	22.2	8.3	17.2
Three	0.1	2.5	5.2	9.5	13.9	17.4	8.3	6.5
Four or more	0.0	0.7	2.1	4.7	11.1	18.3	-	3.4
<b>All parities</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 8 : Marital status, all confinements, States and Territories, 1991**

Marital status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas*	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
Married/de facto	72,922	57,386	38,542	22,019	16,709	5,171	4,112	2,571	219,432
Single	9,021	6,062	4,727	2,471	2,382	1,562	293	847	27,365
Widowed, divorced, or separated	1,058	766	514	187	373	129	74	45	3,146
Not stated	2,781	65	348	-	4	-	-	-	3,198
<b>All marital status</b>	<b>85,782</b>	<b>64,279</b>	<b>44,131</b>	<b>24,677</b>	<b>19,468</b>	<b>6,862</b>	<b>4,479</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>253,141</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
Married/de facto	87.9	89.4	88.0	89.2	85.8	75.4	91.8	74.2	87.8
Single	10.9	9.4	10.8	10.0	12.2	22.8	6.5	24.5	10.9
Widowed, divorced, or separated	1.3	1.2	1.2	0.8	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.3	1.3
<b>All marital status</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* *De facto coded with single marital status*

**Table 9 : Marital status of teenage mothers, all confinements, Australia, 1991**

Maternal age (years)	All confinements (n)	Married/de facto		Single		Other	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 15	133	36	27.1	95	71.4	2	1.5
15	375	61	16.3	309	82.4	5	1.3
16	1,172	234	20.0	919	78.4	19	1.6
17	2,677	899	33.6	1,738	64.9	40	1.5
18	4,402	1,898	43.1	2,415	54.9	89	2.0
19	6,164	3,149	51.1	2,891	46.9	124	2.0
<b>Less than 20</b>	<b>14,923</b>	<b>6,277</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>8,367</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>1.9</b>



**Table 10 : Maternal Aboriginality, all confinements, States and Territories, 1991**

Aboriginality	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
Non-Aboriginal	75,509	63,873	41,893	23,217	19,071	6,860	4,459	2,254	237,136
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	1,385	406	2,148	1,460	397	2	20	1,209	7,027
Not stated	8,888	-	90	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>85,782</b>	<b>64,279</b>	<b>44,131</b>	<b>24,677</b>	<b>19,468</b>	<b>6,862</b>	<b>4,479</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>253,141</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
Non-Aboriginal	98.2	99.4	95.1	94.1	98.0	100.0	99.6	65.1	97.1
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	1.8	0.6	4.9	5.9	2.0	0.0	0.4	34.9	2.9
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 11 : Distribution of Aboriginal confinements by maternal age and parity, Australia, 1991**

Parity	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
<b>Number</b>								
None	1,033	531	155	42	13	3	-	1,777
One	389	668	218	87	19	1	-	1,382
Two	88	506	294	93	36	1	-	1,018
Three	5	260	267	114	23	4	-	673
Four or more	1	101	293	260	120	17	-	792
Not stated	381	498	319	140	32	10	5	1,385
<b>All parities</b>	<b>1,897</b>	<b>2,564</b>	<b>1,546</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7,027</b>
<b>Per cent</b>								
None	68.1	25.7	12.6	7.0	6.2	11.5	-	31.5
One	25.7	32.3	17.8	14.6	9.0	3.8	-	24.5
Two	5.8	24.5	24.0	15.6	17.1	3.8	-	18.0
Three	0.3	12.6	21.8	19.1	10.9	15.4	-	11.9
Four or more	0.1	4.9	23.9	43.6	56.9	65.4	-	14.0
<b>All parities</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 12 : Aboriginal confinements by maternal age, States and Territories, 1991**

Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean age (years)	23.3	24.9	24.0	22.8	23.7	-	24.2	22.8	23.4
<b>Number</b>									
Less than 15	6	2	13	18	3	-	-	22	64
15	11	1	31	32	4	-	-	44	123
16	46	10	59	61	15	-	-	52	243
17	85	17	93	89	24	-	2	74	384
18	113	21	137	121	22	-	-	88	502
19	120	27	174	128	26	-	1	105	581
<b>Less than 20</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>1,897</b>
20 - 24	498	139	785	547	155	2	6	432	2,564
25 - 29	319	108	487	292	87	-	8	245	1,546
30 - 34	140	64	260	121	45	-	3	103	736
35 - 39	32	17	97	44	16	-	-	37	243
40 and over	10	-	12	7	-	-	-	7	36
Not stated	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>1,385</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1,209</b>	<b>7,027</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
Less than 15	0.4	0.5	0.6	1.2	0.8	-	-	1.8	0.9
15	0.8	0.2	1.4	2.2	1.0	-	-	3.6	1.8
16	3.3	2.5	2.7	4.2	3.8	-	-	4.3	3.5
17	6.2	4.2	4.3	6.1	6.0	-	10.0	6.1	5.5
18	8.2	5.2	6.4	8.3	5.5	-	-	7.3	7.1
19	8.7	6.7	8.1	8.8	6.5	-	5.0	8.7	8.3
<b>Less than 20</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>27.0</b>
20 - 24	36.1	34.2	36.5	37.5	39.0	100.0	30.0	35.7	36.5
25 - 29	23.1	26.6	22.7	20.0	21.9	-	40.0	20.3	22.0
30 - 34	10.1	15.8	12.1	8.3	11.3	-	15.0	8.5	10.5
35 - 39	2.3	4.2	4.5	3.0	4.0	-	-	3.1	3.5
40 and over	0.7	-	0.6	0.5	-	-	-	0.6	0.5
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 13 : Maternal country of birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 1991**

Country of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	<b>Number</b>								
Australia	63,524	48,495	36,969	16,633	15,746	6,243	3,494	2,915	194,019
New Zealand	1,924	1,096	1,693	819	189	55	85	73	5,934
United Kingdom	3,603	3,123	1,972	3,222	1,881	295	230	143	14,469
Italy	468	636	59	127	120	4	22	3	1,439
Former Yugoslavia	721	797	98	132	82	4	43	3	1,880
Other Europe and former USSR	2,187	2,315	744	556	469	67	149	65	6,552
Lebanon	2,395	678	41	30	47	10	19	1	3,221
Other Middle East and North Africa	949	1,117	84	48	51	17	19	4	2,289
China	828	371	92	65	54	1	25	7	1,443
India	390	401	67	161	44	6	29	8	1,106
Malaysia	362	462	134	261	47	14	28	29	1,337
Philippines	1,144	612	434	168	106	36	32	52	2,584
Vietnam	1,208	1,186	184	189	216	9	28	11	3,031
Other Asia	1,318	1,103	314	458	111	21	90	47	3,462
Northern America	422	371	244	149	71	29	51	32	1,369
South and Central America, and the Caribbean	608	287	77	47	50	5	25	3	1,102
Africa (excluding North Africa)	363	398	164	183	71	7	19	6	1,211
Other countries	1,737	759	693	91	99	39	89	61	3,568
Not stated	1,631	72	68	1,338	14	-	2	-	3,125
<b>All countries</b>	<b>85,782</b>	<b>64,279</b>	<b>44,131</b>	<b>24,677</b>	<b>19,468</b>	<b>6,862</b>	<b>4,479</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>253,141</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>								
Australia	75.5	75.5	83.9	71.3	80.9	91.0	78.0	84.2	77.6
New Zealand	2.3	1.7	3.8	3.5	1.0	0.8	1.9	2.1	2.4
United Kingdom	4.3	4.9	4.5	13.8	9.7	4.3	5.1	4.1	5.8
Italy	0.6	1.0	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.6
Former Yugoslavia	0.9	1.2	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.1	1.0	0.1	0.8
Other Europe and former USSR	2.6	3.6	1.7	2.4	2.4	1.0	3.3	1.9	2.6
Lebanon	2.8	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.0	1.3
Other Middle East and North Africa	1.1	1.7	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.9
China	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.2	0.6
India	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.4
Malaysia	0.4	0.7	0.3	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.8	0.5
Philippines	1.4	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.5	1.0
Vietnam	1.4	1.8	0.4	0.8	1.1	0.1	0.6	0.3	1.2
Other Asia	1.6	1.7	0.7	2.0	0.6	0.3	2.0	1.4	1.4
Northern America	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	1.1	0.9	0.5
South and Central America, and the Caribbean	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.4
Africa (excluding North Africa)	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.5
Other countries	2.1	1.2	1.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	2.0	1.8	1.4
<b>All countries</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 14 : Maternal age distribution by selected country of birth, all confinements, Australia, 1991**

Country of birth	Maternal age							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
	<b>Number</b>							
Australia	13,191	41,460	69,208	51,782	15,759	2,208	411	194,019
New Zealand	331	1,162	2,027	1,703	609	89	13	5,934
United Kingdom	259	1,984	5,643	4,593	1,623	343	24	14,469
Italy	2	122	506	527	223	58	1	1,439
Former Yugoslavia	62	498	681	450	159	29	1	1,880
Lebanon	278	920	1,011	622	318	54	18	3,221
China	6	155	626	455	171	28	2	1,443
Hong Kong	4	33	256	453	146	17	1	910
India	10	139	398	385	146	25	3	1,106
Malaysia	14	125	398	489	266	44	1	1,337
Philippines	32	339	774	844	485	102	8	2,584
Vietnam	86	451	916	963	517	94	4	3,031
Other countries*	648	3,718	7,283	6,603	2,901	560	55	21,768
<b>All countries</b>	<b>14,923</b>	<b>51,106</b>	<b>89,727</b>	<b>69,869</b>	<b>23,323</b>	<b>3,651</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>253,141</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>							
Australia	6.8	21.4	35.7	26.7	8.1	1.1	-	100.0
New Zealand	5.6	19.6	34.2	28.8	10.3	1.5	-	100.0
United Kingdom	1.8	13.7	39.1	31.8	11.2	2.4	-	100.0
Italy	0.1	8.5	35.2	36.6	15.5	4.0	-	100.0
Former Yugoslavia	3.3	26.5	36.2	23.9	8.5	1.5	-	100.0
Lebanon	8.7	28.7	31.6	19.4	9.9	1.7	-	100.0
China	0.4	10.8	43.4	31.6	11.9	1.9	-	100.0
Hong Kong	0.4	3.6	28.2	49.8	16.1	1.9	-	100.0
India	0.9	12.6	36.1	34.9	13.2	2.3	-	100.0
Malaysia	1.0	9.4	29.8	36.6	19.9	3.3	-	100.0
Philippines	1.2	13.2	30.0	32.8	18.8	4.0	-	100.0
Vietnam	2.8	14.9	30.3	31.8	17.1	3.1	-	100.0
Other countries*	3.0	17.1	33.5	30.4	13.4	2.6	-	100.0
<b>All countries</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Data include 'not stated' country of birth

**Table 15 : Marital status of mother by selected country of birth, all confinements, Australia, 1991**

Country of birth	All confinements (n)	Married /de facto		Single		Other	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Australia	194,019	165,259	85.2	23,877	12.3	4,883	2.5
New Zealand	5,934	4,979	83.9	785	13.2	170	2.9
United Kingdom	14,469	13,056	90.2	1,094	7.6	319	2.2
Italy	1,439	1,380	95.9	37	2.6	22	1.5
Former Yugoslavia	1,880	1,767	94.0	66	3.5	47	2.5
Lebanon	3,221	3,103	96.3	26	0.8	92	2.9
China	1,443	1,365	94.6	41	2.8	37	2.6
Hong Kong	910	874	96.0	15	1.6	21	2.3
India	1,106	1,074	97.1	23	2.1	9	0.8
Malaysia	1,337	1,291	96.6	30	2.2	16	1.2
Philippines	2,584	2,436	94.3	71	2.7	77	3.0
Vietnam	3,031	2,690	88.7	248	8.2	93	3.1
Other countries*	21,768	20,158	92.6	1,052	4.8	558	2.6
<b>All countries</b>	<b>253,141</b>	<b>219,432</b>	<b>86.7</b>	<b>27,365</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>6,344</b>	<b>2.5</b>

\* Data include 'not stated' country of birth

**Table 16 : Maternal accommodation status in hospital, all confinements, selected States and Territories, 1991**

Accommodation status	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT
	<b>Number</b>					
Public	43,883	26,108	13,805	10,706	3,615	1,784
Private	41,660	17,727	9,859	8,762	3,247	2,648
Not stated/other	239	296	1,013	-	-	47
<b>All classifications</b>	<b>85,782</b>	<b>44,131</b>	<b>24,677</b>	<b>19,468</b>	<b>6,862</b>	<b>4,479</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>					
Public	51.3	59.6	58.3	55.0	52.7	40.3
Private	48.7	40.4	41.7	45.0	47.3	59.7
<b>All classifications</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 17 : Duration of pregnancy, all confinements, States and Territories, 1991**

Duration of pregnancy (weeks)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Mean (weeks)</b>	39.2	39.2	39.1	39.0	39.2	39.4	39.2	38.9	39.2
	<b>Number</b>								
20 -27	479	418	288	166	120	36	36	42	1,585
28 - 31	591	467	327	218	133	38	29	42	1,845
32 - 36	4,185	3,585	2,459	1,810	974	328	216	241	13,798
37 - 41	77,128	54,310	39,194	20,714	17,905	6,122	3,912	3,069	222,354
42 and over	3,381	4,890	1,823	1,591	331	338	250	67	12,671
Not stated	18	609	40	178	5	-	36	2	888
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>85,782</b>	<b>64,279</b>	<b>44,131</b>	<b>24,677</b>	<b>19,468</b>	<b>6,862</b>	<b>4,479</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>253,141</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>								
20 - 27	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.8	1.2	0.6
28 - 31	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.2	0.7
32 - 36	4.9	5.6	5.6	7.4	5.0	4.8	4.9	7.0	5.5
37 - 41	89.9	85.3	88.9	84.6	92.0	89.2	88.0	88.7	88.1
42 and over	3.9	7.7	4.1	6.5	1.7	4.9	5.6	1.9	5.0
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 18 : Duration of pregnancy by maternal age, all confinements, Australia, 1991**

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	
	<b>Number</b>							
20 -27	159	333	467	398	177	46	5	1,585
28 - 31	132	377	570	490	225	43	8	1,845
32 - 36	1,032	2,754	4,539	3,733	1,457	258	25	13,798
37 - 41	12,585	44,425	79,218	61,988	20,491	3,168	479	222,354
42 and over	897	2,959	4,690	3,079	902	119	25	12,671
Not stated	118	258	243	181	71	17	-	888
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>14,923</b>	<b>51,106</b>	<b>89,727</b>	<b>69,869</b>	<b>23,323</b>	<b>3,651</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>253,141</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>							
20 - 27	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.3	0.9	0.6
28 - 31	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.5	0.7
32 - 36	7.0	5.4	5.1	5.4	6.3	7.1	4.6	5.5
37 - 41	85.0	87.4	88.5	89.0	88.1	87.2	88.4	88.1
42 and over	6.1	5.8	5.2	4.4	3.9	3.3	4.6	5.0
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 19 : Plurality, all confinements, States and Territories, 1991**

Plurality	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
Singleton	84,684	63,389	43,496	24,353	19,199	6,770	4,428	3,425	249,744
Twin	1,066	871	616	318	258	89	50	37	3,305
Triplet	32	18	18	6	10	3	1	1	89
Quadruplet	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Quintuplet	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>85,782</b>	<b>64,279</b>	<b>44,131</b>	<b>24,677</b>	<b>19,468</b>	<b>6,862</b>	<b>4,479</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>253,141</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
Singleton	98.7	98.6	98.6	98.7	98.6	98.7	98.9	98.9	98.7
Twin	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.3
Triplet	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Quadruplet	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	0.0
Quintuplet	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	0.0
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 20 : Multiple confinements by maternal age, Australia, 1991**

Plurality	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
<b>Number</b>								
Singleton	14,837	50,615	88,517	68,733	22,917	3,588	537	249,744
Twin	86	483	1,180	1,101	387	63	5	3,305
Triplet	-	8	28	35	18	-	-	89
Quadruplet	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Quintuplet	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>14,923</b>	<b>51,106</b>	<b>89,727</b>	<b>69,869</b>	<b>23,323</b>	<b>3,651</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>253,141</b>
<b>Per cent</b>								
Singleton	99.4	99.0	98.7	98.4	98.3	98.3	99.1	98.7
Twin	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.7	0.9	1.3
Triplet	-	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	-	-	0.0
Quadruplet	-	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	0.0
Quintuplet	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.0
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 21 : Onset of labour, all confinements, States and Territories, 1991**

Onset of labour	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	<b>Number</b>								
Spontaneous	61,958	45,835	31,438	15,815	13,067	5,020	2,593	2,583	178,309
- no augmentation	39,554	36,658	na	na	8,582	na	na	2,230	na
- augmentation	22,404	9,177	na	na	4,485	na	na	353	na
Induced	16,062	12,359	7,657	6,133	4,147	1,429	882	633	49,302
- medical	2,431	2,133	na	na	805	171	na	na	na
- surgical	12,955	9,882	na	na	3,279	1,258	na	na	na
- combined	676	344	na	na	63	na	na	na	na
No labour	7,762	6,085	4,980	2,729	2,254	413	466	247	24,936
Not stated	-	-	56	-	-	-	538	-	594
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>85,782</b>	<b>64,279</b>	<b>44,131</b>	<b>24,677</b>	<b>19,468</b>	<b>6,862</b>	<b>4,479</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>253,141</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>								
Spontaneous	72.2	71.3	71.3	64.1	67.1	73.2	65.8	74.6	70.6
- no augmentation	46.1	57.0	na	na	44.1	na	na	64.4	na
- augmentation	26.1	14.3	na	na	23.0	na	na	10.2	na
Induced	18.7	19.2	17.4	24.9	21.3	20.8	22.4	18.3	19.5
- medical	2.8	3.3	na	na	4.1	2.5	na	na	na
- surgical	15.1	15.4	na	na	16.8	18.3	na	na	na
- combined	0.8	0.5	na	na	0.3	na	na	na	na
No labour	9.0	9.5	11.3	11.1	11.6	6.0	11.8	7.1	9.9
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 22 : Presentation at delivery, all confinements, States and Territories, 1991**

Presentation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia*
	<b>Number</b>								
Vertex	81,475	60,788	41,844	23,475	18,430	5,678	4,257	3,286	239,233
Breech	3,553	2,679	1,964	1,029	869	na	183	155	10,432
Other	602	407	190	173	140	91	21	-	1,624
Not stated	152	405	133	-	29	1,093	18	22	1,852
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>85,782</b>	<b>64,279</b>	<b>44,131</b>	<b>24,677</b>	<b>19,468</b>	<b>6,862</b>	<b>4,479</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>253,141</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>								
Vertex	95.1	95.2	95.1	95.1	94.8	98.4	95.4	95.5	95.2
Breech	4.1	4.2	4.5	4.2	4.5	na	4.1	4.5	4.2
Other	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.7	1.6	0.5	-	0.6
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Data exclude Tasmania



**Table 23 : Type of delivery, all confinements, States and Territories, 1991**

Type of delivery	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
Spontaneous vertex	60,468	44,131	29,776	15,944	12,330	4,766	2,995	2,612	173,022
Forceps	8,105	7,611	3,692	1,994	2,195	816	560	230	25,203
Vacuum extraction	1,880	726	1,190	1,973	499	62	-	45	6,375
Vaginal breech	1,111	853	402	215	152	71	47	33	2,884
Caesarean section	14,215	10,949	9,033	4,551	4,291	1,146	780	538	45,503
- elective	7,762	6,070	na	2,362	1,919	na	415	209	18,737 *
- emergency	6,453	4,879	na	2,189	2,372	na	365	329	16,587 *
Not stated	3	9	38	-	1	1	97	5	154
<b>All types of delivery</b>	<b>85,782</b>	<b>64,279</b>	<b>44,131</b>	<b>24,677</b>	<b>19,468</b>	<b>6,862</b>	<b>4,479</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>253,141</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
Spontaneous vertex	70.5	68.7	67.5	64.6	63.3	69.5	68.3	75.5	68.4
Forceps	9.4	11.8	8.4	8.1	11.3	11.9	12.8	6.7	10.0
Vacuum extraction	2.2	1.1	2.7	8.0	2.6	0.9	-	1.3	2.5
Vaginal breech	1.3	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1
Caesarean section	16.6	17.0	20.5	18.4	22.0	16.7	17.8	15.6	18.0
- elective	9.0	9.4	na	9.6	9.9	na	9.5	6.0	9.3 *
- emergency	7.5	7.6	na	8.9	12.2	na	8.3	9.5	8.2 *
<b>All types of delivery</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Data exclude Queensland and Tasmania

**Table 24 : Caesarean rates by maternal age and accommodation status, States and Territories, 1991**

Accommodation status / Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
<b>Public*</b>									
Less than 20	436	na	395	175	159	59	19	na	1,243
20 - 24	1,475	na	1,137	558	540	161	75	na	3,946
25 - 29	2,033	na	1,452	748	696	151	84	na	5,164
30 - 34	1,474	na	1,013	519	452	99	66	na	3,623
35 - 39	558	na	359	176	168	42	30	na	1,333
40 and over	132	na	71	35	23	5	4	na	270
Not stated	33	na	-	-	-	-	-	na	33
<b>All ages</b>	<b>6,141</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>4,427</b>	<b>2,211</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>15,612</b>
<b>Private*</b>									
Less than 20	53	na	34	7	14	10	2	na	120
20 - 24	765	na	399	198	241	83	50	na	1,736
25 - 29	2,683	na	1,631	800	845	235	166	na	6,360
30 - 34	2,925	na	1,726	860	826	222	178	na	6,737
35 - 39	1,305	na	666	322	290	66	91	na	2,740
40 and over	269	na	122	53	37	13	6	na	500
Not stated	49	na	-	-	-	-	1	na	50
<b>All ages</b>	<b>8,049</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>4,578</b>	<b>2,240</b>	<b>2,253</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>18,243</b>
<b>Caesarean rate (per cent)</b>									
<b>Public*</b>									
Less than 20	9.5	na	13.1	11.9	15.1	12.1	13.8	na	11.5
20 - 24	12.0	na	14.5	14.4	17.9	13.7	14.5	na	13.7
25 - 29	14.3	na	17.1	16.2	18.8	14.1	14.8	na	15.8
30 - 34	16.4	na	20.5	18.6	20.7	14.9	16.5	na	18.1
35 - 39	18.6	na	23.2	19.3	25.5	21.3	20.5	na	20.7
40 and over	25.2	na	27.4	24.3	23.7	19.2	30.8	na	25.4
<b>All ages</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>15.7</b>
<b>Private*</b>									
Less than 20	11.5	na	18.3	9.6	14.7	25.6	6.7	na	13.6
20 - 24	16.2	na	20.0	19.0	24.4	17.8	16.6	na	18.2
25 - 29	17.2	na	23.9	20.6	24.0	17.8	17.0	na	19.8
30 - 34	20.0	na	27.2	24.2	26.6	21.1	19.2	na	22.8
35 - 39	25.3	na	32.7	27.9	30.9	20.4	25.6	na	27.5
40 and over	32.5	na	37.9	33.3	29.8	28.9	11.8	na	32.7
<b>All ages</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>21.8</b>
<b>All confinements</b>									
Less than 20	9.7	9.3	13.4	11.4	15.1	13.1	12.3	16.4	11.4
20 - 24	13.1	13.4	15.5	15.0	19.5	14.9	15.3	13.2	14.4
25 - 29	15.8	16.5	20.1	18.0	21.4	16.2	16.2	14.7	17.4
30 - 34	18.6	18.1	24.1	21.4	24.2	18.7	18.4	17.6	20.1
35 - 39	22.8	23.5	28.4	23.4	28.7	20.7	23.9	18.1	24.3
40 and over	29.7	28.6	33.0	30.0	27.1	25.4	16.7	27.3	29.4
<b>All ages**</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>18.0</b>

\* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

\*\* Includes 'not stated' accommodation status

**Table 25 : Caesarean rates by maternal age and accommodation status, Aboriginal mothers, States and Territories, 1991**

Accommodation status / Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
<b>Public*</b>									
Less than 20	42	na	61	49	20	-	-	na	172
20 - 24	68	na	111	90	30	-	1	na	300
25 - 29	40	na	89	44	19	-	2	na	194
30 - 34	20	na	47	25	11	-	-	na	103
35 - 39	5	na	20	9	7	-	-	na	41
40 and over	1	na	2	1	-	-	-	na	4
<b>All ages</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>814</b>
<b>Private*</b>									
Less than 20	-	na	1	-	1	-	-	na	2
20 - 24	2	na	1	-	1	1	-	na	5
25 - 29	6	na	6	4	2	-	1	na	19
30 - 34	4	na	8	1	2	-	-	na	15
35 - 39	5	na	7	-	-	-	-	na	12
40 and over	-	na	1	1	-	-	-	na	2
<b>All ages</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Caesarean rate (per cent)</b>									
<b>Public*</b>									
Less than 20	11.2	na	12.2	11.5	21.5	-	-	na	12.3
20 - 24	14.0	na	14.4	17.5	19.9	-	20.0	na	15.6
25 - 29	13.5	na	19.3	17.1	24.4	-	33.3	na	17.7
30 - 34	16.0	na	19.5	23.8	29.7	-	-	na	20.2
35 - 39	20.0	na	23.5	22.5	50.0	-	-	na	25.0
40 and over	11.1	na	18.2	20.0	-	-	-	na	16.0
<b>All ages</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>15.9</b>
<b>Private*</b>									
Less than 20	-	na	25.0	-	100.0	-	-	na	25.0
20 - 24	20.0	na	9.1	-	25.0	100.0	-	na	15.2
25 - 29	28.6	na	24.0	40.0	22.2	-	50.0	na	28.4
30 - 34	28.6	na	44.4	12.5	25.0	-	-	na	31.3
35 - 39	71.4	na	58.3	-	-	-	-	na	54.5
40 and over	-	na	100.0	100.0	-	-	-	na	66.7
<b>All ages</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>30.4</b>
<b>All confinements</b>									
Less than 20	11.0	11.5	12.4	11.1	22.3	-	-	17.7	13.3
20 - 24	14.1	18.7	14.5	16.6	20.0	50.0	16.7	16.0	15.7
25 - 29	14.4	23.1	19.7	17.1	24.1	-	37.5	16.3	18.2
30 - 34	17.1	18.8	21.5	22.3	28.9	-	-	18.4	20.5
35 - 39	31.3	23.5	27.8	20.5	43.8	-	-	21.6	26.7
40 and over	10.0	-	25.0	42.9	-	-	-	42.9	27.8
<b>All ages**</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>16.6</b>

\* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

\*\* Includes 'not stated' accommodation status

**Table 26 : Caesarean rates by parity, plurality, breech presentation, and birthweight, States and Territories, 1991**

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	<b>Number</b>								
<b>Parity *</b>									
Primipara	na	4,792	3,873	1,990	1,980	532	332	221	13,720
Multipara	na	6,157	5,160	2,561	2,311	614	448	317	17,568
<b>All parity</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>10,949</b>	<b>9,033</b>	<b>4,551</b>	<b>4,291</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>31,288</b>
<b>Plurality</b>									
Singleton	13,810	10,625	8,719	4,419	4,143	1,117	763	522	44,118
Twin	377	306	297	126	139	27	17	15	1,304
Other multiple	28	18	17	6	9	2	-	1	81
<b>All births</b>	<b>14,215</b>	<b>10,949</b>	<b>9,033</b>	<b>4,551</b>	<b>4,291</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>45,503</b>
<b>Breech presentation in singleton confinements</b>	<b>2,278</b>	<b>1,684</b>	<b>1,438</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>7,024</b>
<b>Birthweight (singleton births)</b>									
Less than 500 g	9	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	14
500 - 999 g	91	54	66	20	24	13	2	4	274
1000 - 1499 g	205	121	125	73	61	19	11	13	628
1500 - 1999 g	344	216	199	90	113	31	12	25	1,030
2000 - 2499 g	660	493	458	173	193	50	33	27	2,087
2500 g and over **	12,499	9,732	7,863	4,063	3,752	1,003	703	453	40,068
- public	5,301	na	3,769	1,962	1,771	440	250	na	13,493
- private	7,175	na	4,069	2,019	1,981	563	445	na	16,252
Not stated	2	7	6	-	-	-	2	-	17
<b>All singleton births</b>	<b>13,810</b>	<b>10,625</b>	<b>8,719</b>	<b>4,419</b>	<b>4,143</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>44,118</b>
	<b>Caesarean rate (per cent)</b>								
<b>Parity *</b>									
Primipara	na	18.5	21.9	20.3	24.8	19.0	19.0	16.2	20.4
Multipara	na	16.0	19.5	17.2	20.1	15.1	16.4	15.1	17.5
<b>All parity</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>18.7</b>
<b>Plurality</b>									
Singleton	16.3	16.8	20.0	18.1	21.6	16.5	17.2	15.2	17.7
Twin	35.4	35.1	48.2	39.6	53.9	30.3	34.0	40.5	39.5
Other multiple	87.5	94.7	89.5	100.0	81.8	66.7	-	100.0	88.0
<b>All births</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>18.0</b>
<b>Breech presentation in singleton confinements</b>	<b>69.1</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>78.7</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>75.7</b>	<b>66.4</b>	<b>72.0</b>
<b>Birthweight (singleton births)</b>									
Less than 500 g	7.6	2.9	3.0	-	-	33.3	-	-	3.8
500 - 999 g	27.4	22.2	31.0	24.7	30.0	39.4	11.1	11.8	26.5
1000 - 1499 g	49.6	44.8	55.3	57.5	59.2	65.5	55.0	59.1	51.9
1500 - 1999 g	46.7	39.0	48.2	45.5	57.7	46.3	40.0	44.6	45.8
2000 - 2499 g	25.3	26.0	31.6	21.8	32.5	23.4	29.5	13.8	26.5
2500 g and over **	15.5	16.2	19.1	17.6	20.6	15.6	16.6	14.6	16.9
- public	13.0	na	15.6	15.3	17.8	13.1	14.9	na	14.5
- private	18.2	na	24.4	21.6	24.1	18.3	17.7	na	20.5
<b>All singleton births</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>17.7</b>

\* Data exclude New South Wales

\*\* Data include accommodation status 'not stated' and 'other'

**Table 27 : Length of antenatal stay in hospital, selected States and Territories, 1991**

Length of stay	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia*
<b>Number</b>								
Less than 1 day	39,837	26,719	12,808	11,712	4,087	2,996	2,036	100,195
1 day	19,521	13,150	8,820	6,186	2,148	1,135	878	51,838
2 - 6 days	3,215	2,415	1,376	978	403	154	269	8,810
7 - 13 days	724	539	356	274	82	59	88	2,122
14 - 20 days	282	219	142	110	27	22	40	842
21 - 27 days	117	117	85	47	12	13	12	403
28 or more days	246	250	93	62	50	30	16	747
Not stated	37	398	775	-	-	1	23	1,234
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>63,979</b>	<b>43,807</b>	<b>24,455</b>	<b>19,369</b>	<b>6,809</b>	<b>4,410</b>	<b>3,362</b>	<b>166,191</b>
<b>Per cent</b>								
Less than 1 day	62.3	61.6	54.1	60.5	60.0	68.0	61.0	60.7
1 day	30.5	30.3	37.2	31.9	31.5	25.7	26.3	31.4
2 - 6 days	5.0	5.6	5.8	5.0	5.9	3.5	8.1	5.3
7 - 13 days	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.3	2.6	1.3
14 - 20 days	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	1.2	0.5
21 - 27 days	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2
28 or more days	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Data exclude New South Wales

**Table 28 : Length of postnatal stay, hospital confinements, selected States and Territories, 1991**

Length of stay	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia*
<b>Mean length of stay (days)</b>	5.5	4.9	5.2	5.5	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.3
	<b>Number</b>							
Less than 1 day	343	158	156	115	62	59	34	927
1 day	1,689	819	745	472	235	214	133	4,307
2 days	2,550	2,574	1,660	1,082	421	337	284	8,908
3 days	5,392	7,340	2,619	1,668	713	461	470	18,663
4 days	10,488	9,642	3,776	3,114	1,024	724	596	29,364
5 days	12,734	8,734	4,579	3,963	1,565	1,025	680	33,280
6 days	11,359	5,894	3,781	3,303	1,177	746	369	26,629
7 - 13 days	18,124	7,275	5,677	5,503	1,449	782	682	39,492
14 - 20 days	238	185	89	136	44	17	58	767
21 - 27 days	34	51	10	9	4	3	18	129
28 or more days	14	46	7	3	-	7	2	79
Not stated	1	135	762	-	-	-	-	898
<b>All hospital confinements</b>	<b>62,966</b>	<b>42,853</b>	<b>23,861</b>	<b>19,368</b>	<b>6,694</b>	<b>4,375</b>	<b>3,326</b>	<b>163,443</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>							
Less than 1 day	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.0	0.6
1 day	2.7	1.9	3.2	2.4	3.5	4.9	4.0	2.6
2 days	4.0	6.0	7.2	5.6	6.3	7.7	8.5	5.5
3 days	8.6	17.2	11.3	8.6	10.7	10.5	14.1	11.5
4 days	16.7	22.6	16.3	16.1	15.3	16.5	17.9	18.1
5 days	20.2	20.4	19.8	20.5	23.4	23.4	20.4	20.5
6 days	18.0	13.8	16.4	17.1	17.6	17.1	11.1	16.4
7 - 13 days	28.8	17.0	24.6	28.4	21.6	17.9	20.5	24.3
14 - 20 days	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.4	1.7	0.5
21 - 27 days	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.1
28 or more days	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	-	0.2	0.1	0.0
<b>All hospital confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Data exclude New South Wales

**Table 29 : Length of postnatal stay by accommodation status, hospital confinements, selected States and Territories, 1991**

Accommodation status / Length of postnatal stay	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	Total
<b>Public (n)</b>	25,218	13,355	10,651	3,519	1,764	54,507
Mean length of stay (days)	4.4	4.5	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.5
	<b>Per cent</b>					
1 day or less	2.9	5.9	4.2	6.8	9.3	4.4
2 days	8.3	10.8	8.7	9.2	10.7	9.1
3 days	24.0	16.6	12.8	14.3	13.7	19.0
4 days	26.9	20.9	21.3	17.1	18.1	23.4
5 days	18.4	20.1	22.1	23.6	20.0	19.9
6 days	9.5	12.5	13.6	13.5	12.5	11.4
7 or more days	10.0	13.1	17.4	15.5	15.6	12.8
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Private (n)</b>	17,396	9,690	8,717	3,175	2,564	41,542
Mean length of stay (days)	5.7	6.2	6.4	5.7	5.4	5.9
	<b>Per cent</b>					
1 day or less	1.4	1.1	1.6	1.8	4.1	1.6
2 days	2.7	2.2	1.8	3.0	5.6	2.6
3 days	7.4	4.1	3.5	6.6	8.4	5.8
4 days	16.3	10.0	9.8	13.3	15.4	13.2
5 days	23.4	19.5	18.5	23.1	25.9	21.6
6 days	20.0	21.6	21.3	22.1	20.1	20.8
7 or more days	28.8	41.4	43.6	30.0	20.6	34.4
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 30 : Length of postnatal stay in hospital by mother's age, parity, Aboriginality, accommodation status, type of delivery, and size of hospital, Australia, 1991**

Characteristic	Confinements (n) *	0-2 days	3-4 days	5-6 days	7-8 days	9-10 days	11-13 days	14 or more days
		Per cent						
<b>All confinements</b>	162,545	8.7	29.5	36.9	17.9	4.9	1.4	0.6
<b>Maternal age</b>								
Less than 20	9,437	10.1	40.6	34.9	9.3	2.9	1.2	1.0
20-24	32,974	11.1	37.3	35.2	12.2	2.7	1.0	0.5
25-29	58,249	8.0	28.8	37.8	18.9	4.6	1.3	0.5
30-34	44,957	7.8	25.0	37.7	21.1	6.1	1.7	0.6
35-39	14,701	7.8	23.2	35.8	22.1	7.9	2.4	0.8
40 and over	2,215	8.7	21.6	33.5	22.1	10.4	2.8	0.9
Not stated	12	16.7	58.3	16.7	8.3	-	-	-
<b>Parity</b>								
None	65,482	4.1	21.7	40.3	24.0	6.9	2.1	0.8
One	53,225	10.1	34.1	36.3	14.6	3.6	1.0	0.4
Two or three	38,350	13.0	35.6	33.2	13.2	3.5	1.0	0.5
Four or more	5,466	19.8	36.5	27.2	10.5	3.9	1.3	0.8
Not stated	22	27.3	22.7	18.2	27.3	-	4.5	-
<b>Aboriginality</b>								
Aboriginal	5,179	16.1	37.3	25.2	11.3	5.0	2.7	2.3
Non-aboriginal	157,366	8.5	29.3	37.2	18.1	4.9	1.4	0.5
<b>Accommodation status **</b>								
Public	54,507	13.5	42.4	31.3	9.0	2.3	0.9	0.6
Private	41,292	4.2	19.1	42.6	25.1	7.0	1.8	0.1
Other	158	12.0	37.3	34.2	13.3	2.5	0.6	-
<b>Type of delivery</b>								
Spontaneous cephalic	109,309	11.7	37.7	36.2	11.3	2.1	0.6	0.3
Caesarean section	30,273	0.6	7.1	35.2	37.1	14.3	4.1	1.6
Other	22,952	5.1	20.1	42.1	24.4	6.0	1.8	0.7
<b>Size of hospital</b>								
1-100	7,147	7.8	31.3	39.1	16.5	4.2	0.8	0.2
101-500	24,190	6.4	27.6	39.1	19.9	5.3	1.3	0.5
501-1000	34,358	6.7	25.3	39.0	21.0	5.8	1.6	0.6
1001-2000	49,404	10.8	33.3	35.4	15.1	3.8	1.2	0.6
2001 and over	47,446	9.3	29.5	35.3	17.9	5.4	1.8	0.7

Table excludes confinements in New South Wales

\* Data exclude length of stay 'not stated'

\*\* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory



**Table 31 : Mode of separation of mother, hospital confinements, States and Territories, 1991**

Mode of separation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia*
<b>Number</b>								
Discharge home	82,165	63,113	42,883	23,119	6,694	4,368	3,325	225,667
Transfer to another hospital	2,902	1,021	967	594	115	35	36	5,670
Died	2	2	2	1	-	-	1	8
Not stated	38	-	102	741	-	7	-	888
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>85,107</b>	<b>64,136</b>	<b>43,954</b>	<b>24,455</b>	<b>6,809</b>	<b>4,410</b>	<b>3,362</b>	<b>232,233</b>
<b>Per cent</b>								
Discharge home	96.6	98.4	97.8	97.5	98.3	99.2	98.9	97.5
Transfer to another hospital	3.4	1.6	2.2	2.5	1.7	0.8	1.1	2.5
Died	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0	0.0
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Data exclude South Australia

**Table 32 : Infant's month of birth, all births, States and Territories, 1991**

Month of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	<b>Number</b>								
January	7,277	5,515	3,676	2,181	1,709	598	411	289	21,656
February	6,715	5,005	3,485	2,020	1,496	589	356	263	19,929
March	7,549	5,720	3,924	2,135	1,700	551	401	300	22,280
April	7,419	5,398	3,831	2,210	1,626	581	403	340	21,808
May	7,553	5,558	3,920	2,180	1,663	585	393	336	22,188
June	7,208	5,363	3,787	2,004	1,644	584	361	291	21,242
July	7,376	5,513	3,927	2,087	1,680	588	372	301	21,844
August	7,567	5,474	3,801	2,128	1,650	584	369	289	21,862
September	7,300	5,449	3,781	2,087	1,658	569	400	261	21,505
October	7,335	5,716	3,633	2,064	1,714	593	406	289	21,750
November	6,643	5,076	3,377	1,939	1,545	542	322	269	19,713
December	6,970	5,402	3,645	1,972	1,664	593	337	274	20,857
<b>All births</b>	<b>86,912</b>	<b>65,189</b>	<b>44,787</b>	<b>25,007</b>	<b>19,749</b>	<b>6,957</b>	<b>4,531</b>	<b>3,502</b>	<b>256,634</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>								
January	8.4	8.5	8.2	8.7	8.7	8.6	9.1	8.3	8.4
February	7.7	7.7	7.8	8.1	7.6	8.5	7.9	7.5	7.8
March	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.5	8.6	7.9	8.9	8.6	8.7
April	8.5	8.3	8.6	8.8	8.2	8.4	8.9	9.7	8.5
May	8.7	8.5	8.8	8.7	8.4	8.4	8.7	9.6	8.6
June	8.3	8.2	8.5	8.0	8.3	8.4	8.0	8.3	8.3
July	8.5	8.5	8.8	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.2	8.6	8.5
August	8.7	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.1	8.3	8.5
September	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.2	8.8	7.5	8.4
October	8.4	8.8	8.1	8.3	8.7	8.5	9.0	8.3	8.5
November	7.6	7.8	7.5	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.1	7.7	7.7
December	8.0	8.3	8.1	7.9	8.4	8.5	7.4	7.8	8.1
<b>All births</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 33 : Infant's sex by plurality, all births, States and Territories, 1991**

Infant's sex	NSW	Vic	Qld*	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
<b>All births</b>									
Male	44,929	33,602	23,071	12,774	10,295	3,531	2,320	1,770	132,292
Female	41,977	31,565	21,715	12,233	9,454	3,426	2,204	1,727	124,301
Indeterminate	6	22	1	-	-	-	-	2	31
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	3	10
<b>All births</b>	<b>86,912</b>	<b>65,189</b>	<b>44,787</b>	<b>25,007</b>	<b>19,749</b>	<b>6,957</b>	<b>4,531</b>	<b>3,502</b>	<b>256,634</b>
Sex ratio	107.0	106.5	106.2	104.4	108.9	103.1	105.3	102.5	106.4
<b>Singletons</b>									
Male	43,812	32,677	22,430	12,447	10,007	3,436	2,265	1,731	128,805
Female	40,866	30,696	21,066	11,906	9,192	3,334	2,156	1,689	120,905
Sex ratio	107.2	106.5	106.5	104.5	108.9	103.1	105.1	102.5	106.5
<b>Twins</b>									
Male	1,070	894	620	316	271	90	52	37	3,350
Female	1,062	842	611	320	245	88	48	37	3,253
Sex ratio	100.8	106.2	101.5	98.8	110.6	102.3	108.3	100.0	103.0
<b>Other multiple births</b>									
Male	47	31	21	11	17	5	3	2	137
Female	49	27	38	7	17	4	-	1	143
Sex ratio	95.9	114.8	55.3	157.1	100.0	125.0	-	200.0	95.8
<b>Per cent</b>									
<b>All births</b>									
Male	51.7	51.5	51.5	51.1	52.1	50.8	51.3	50.6	51.6
Female	48.3	48.4	48.5	48.9	47.9	49.2	48.7	49.4	48.4
Indeterminate	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.0
<b>All births</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Singletons</b>									
Male	51.7	51.6	51.6	51.1	52.1	50.8	51.2	50.6	51.6
Female	48.3	48.4	48.4	48.9	47.9	49.2	48.8	49.4	48.4
<b>Twins</b>									
Male	50.2	51.5	50.4	49.7	52.5	50.6	52.0	50.0	50.7
Female	49.8	48.5	49.6	50.3	47.5	49.4	48.0	50.0	49.3
<b>Other multiple births</b>									
Male	49.0	53.4	35.6	61.1	50.0	55.6	100.0	66.7	48.9
Female	51.0	46.6	64.4	38.9	50.0	44.4	-	33.3	51.1

\* Sex of one twin was indeterminate

**Table 34 : Infant's birthweight, all births, States and Territories, 1991**

Birthweight (g)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean birthweight (g)	3,353	3,359	3,344	3,342	3,343	3,358	3,357	3,180	3,349
<b>Number</b>									
Less than 500	148	84	90	72	34	6	12	19	465
500 - 999	406	311	266	108	108	38	20	37	1,294
1000 - 1499	519	361	313	177	138	40	27	28	1,603
1500 - 1999	1,012	776	599	300	278	95	38	69	3,167
2000 - 2499	3,251	2,396	1,786	966	729	265	135	215	9,743
2500 - 2999	13,690	10,007	6,886	3,961	3,099	1,120	706	753	40,222
3000 - 3499	32,098	24,082	16,247	9,174	7,257	2,451	1,784	1,309	94,402
3500 - 3999	26,122	19,759	13,591	7,638	5,931	2,119	1,322	808	77,290
4000 - 4499	8,235	6,219	4,218	2,238	1,838	716	418	229	24,111
4500 and over	1,392	1,049	748	373	336	107	65	34	4,104
Not stated	39	145	43	-	1	-	4	1	233
<b>All births</b>	<b>86,912</b>	<b>65,189</b>	<b>44,787</b>	<b>25,007</b>	<b>19,749</b>	<b>6,957</b>	<b>4,531</b>	<b>3,502</b>	<b>256,634</b>
Less than 1000	554	395	356	180	142	44	32	56	1,759
Less than 1500	1,073	756	669	357	280	84	59	84	3,362
Less than 2500	5,336	3,928	3,054	1,623	1,287	444	232	368	16,272
<b>Per cent</b>									
Less than 500	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.2
500 - 999	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	1.1	0.5
1000 - 1499	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.6
1500 - 1999	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	0.8	2.0	1.2
2000 - 2499	3.7	3.7	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.0	6.1	3.8
2500 - 2999	15.8	15.4	15.4	15.8	15.7	16.1	15.6	21.5	15.7
3000 - 3499	36.9	37.0	36.3	36.7	36.7	35.2	39.4	37.4	36.8
3500 - 3999	30.1	30.4	30.4	30.5	30.0	30.5	29.2	23.1	30.1
4000 - 4499	9.5	9.6	9.4	8.9	9.3	10.3	9.2	6.5	9.4
4500 and over	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.0	1.6
<b>All births</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Less than 1000	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.6	0.7
Less than 1500	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.3	2.4	1.3
Less than 2500	6.1	6.0	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.4	5.1	10.5	6.3

**Table 35 : Infant's birthweight, live births and stillbirths, Australia, 1991**

Birthweight (g)	Live births		Stillbirths	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	126	0.0	339	18.1
500 - 999	848	0.3	446	23.9
1000 - 1499	1,412	0.6	191	10.2
1500 - 1999	2,978	1.2	189	10.1
2000 - 2499	9,560	3.8	183	9.8
2500 - 2999	40,038	15.7	184	9.8
3000 - 2499	94,222	37.0	180	9.6
3500 - 3999	77,184	30.3	106	5.7
4000 - 4499	24,069	9.5	42	2.2
4500 and over	4,095	1.6	9	0.5
Not stated	96	-	137	-
<b>All births</b>	<b>254,628</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Less than 1000	974	0.4	785	42.0
Less than 1500	2,386	0.9	976	52.2
Less than 2500	14,924	5.9	1,348	72.1
<b>Mean birthweight (g)</b>	3,361		1,656	

**Table 36 : Infant's birthweight by plurality, all births, Australia, 1991**

Birthweight (g)	Singletons		Twins		Triplets		Other multiple births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	365	0.1	91	1.4	9	3.4	-	-
500 - 999	1,034	0.4	228	3.5	27	10.2	5	38.5
1000 - 1499	1,210	0.5	347	5.3	44	16.6	2	15.4
1500 - 1999	2,252	0.9	822	12.5	89	33.6	4	30.8
2000 - 2499	7,867	3.2	1,802	27.4	72	27.2	2	15.4
2500 - 2999	37,939	15.2	2,262	34.4	21	7.9	-	-
3000 - 3499	93,501	37.5	898	13.7	3	1.1	-	-
3500 - 3999	77,172	30.9	118	1.8	-	-	-	-
4000 - 4499	24,103	9.7	8	0.1	-	-	-	-
4500 and over	4,104	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not stated	197	-	34	-	2	-	-	-
<b>All births</b>	<b>249,744</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,610</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Less than 1000	1,399	0.6	319	4.9	36	13.6	5	38.5
Less than 1500	2,609	1.0	666	10.1	80	30.2	7	53.8
Less than 2500	12,728	5.1	3,290	50.0	241	90.9	13	100.0
<b>Mean birthweight (g)</b>	3,376		2,391		1,750		1,399	

**Table 37 : Infant's birthweight by sex, all births, Australia, 1991**

Birthweight (g)	Male		Female		Indeterminate / Not stated	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	226	0.2	236	0.2	3	11.1
500 - 999	661	0.5	629	0.5	4	14.8
1000 - 1499	801	0.6	801	0.6	1	3.7
1500 - 1999	1,584	1.2	1,579	1.3	4	14.8
2000 - 2499	4,493	3.4	5,248	4.2	2	7.4
2500 - 2999	17,552	13.3	22,664	18.2	6	22.2
3000 - 3499	45,496	34.4	48,901	39.4	5	18.5
3500 - 3999	43,161	32.7	34,127	27.5	2	7.4
4000 - 4499	15,292	11.6	8,819	7.1	-	-
4500 and over	2,910	2.2	1,194	1.0	-	-
Not stated	116	-	103	-	14	-
<b>All births</b>	<b>132,292</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>124,301</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Less than 1000	887	0.7	865	0.7	7	25.9
Less than 1500	1,688	1.3	1,666	1.3	8	29.6
Less than 2500	7,765	5.9	8,493	6.8	14	51.9
<b>Mean birthweight (g)</b>	<b>3,410</b>		<b>3,284</b>		<b>2,058</b>	

**Table 38 : Infant's birthweight, Aboriginal births, States and Territories, 1991**

<b>Birthweight (g)</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Vic</b>	<b>Qld</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Tas</b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>Australia</b>
<b>Mean birthweight (g)</b>	3,175	3,327	3,175	3,112	3,102	-	3,305	3,025	3,140
	<b>Number</b>								
Less than 500	4	-	8	7	3	-	-	8	30
500 - 999	12	3	26	15	10	-	-	19	85
1000 - 1499	19	4	28	26	6	-	-	13	96
1500 - 1999	26	8	42	33	12	-	-	29	150
2000 - 2499	96	15	172	139	24	-	1	115	562
2500 - 2999	317	75	452	347	99	1	6	375	1,672
3000 - 3499	502	148	761	529	122	-	5	386	2,453
3500 - 3999	312	107	505	290	91	1	9	204	1,519
4000 - 4499	94	38	153	76	24	-	-	53	438
4500 and over	14	8	17	16	8	-	-	10	73
Not stated	1	2	4	-	-	-	-	1	8
<b>All births</b>	<b>1,397</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>2,168</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1,213</b>	<b>7,086</b>
Less than 1000	16	3	34	22	13	-	-	27	115
Less than 1500	35	7	62	48	19	-	-	40	211
Less than 2500	157	30	276	220	55	-	1	184	923
	<b>Per cent</b>								
Less than 500	0.3	-	0.4	0.5	0.8	-	-	0.7	0.4
500 - 999	0.9	0.7	1.2	1.0	2.5	-	-	1.6	1.2
1000 - 1499	1.4	1.0	1.3	1.8	1.5	-	-	1.1	1.4
1500 - 1999	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.2	3.0	-	-	2.4	2.1
2000 - 2499	6.9	3.7	7.9	9.4	6.0	-	4.8	9.5	7.9
2500 - 2999	22.7	18.5	20.9	23.5	24.8	50.0	28.6	30.9	23.6
3000 - 3499	36.0	36.5	35.2	35.8	30.6	-	23.8	31.8	34.7
3500 - 3999	22.3	26.4	23.3	19.6	22.8	50.0	42.9	16.8	21.5
4000 - 4499	6.7	9.4	7.1	5.1	6.0	-	-	4.4	6.2
4500 and over	1.0	2.0	0.8	1.1	2.0	-	-	0.8	1.0
<b>All births</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Less than 1000	1.1	0.7	1.6	1.5	3.3	-	-	2.2	1.6
Less than 1500	2.5	1.7	2.9	3.2	4.8	-	-	3.3	3.0
Less than 2500	11.2	7.4	12.8	14.9	13.8	-	4.8	15.2	13.0

**Table 39 : Distribution of birthweight by mother's Aboriginality, country of birth, age, parity, marital status, accommodation status, and place of birth, Australia, 1991**

Characteristic	Less than 1000g		Less than 1500g		Less than 2500g		2500g and over	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<b>Total births</b>	1,730		3,295		16,032		237,183	
<b>Maternal country of birth/ Aboriginality</b>								
Australia: non-Aboriginal	1,222	0.6	2,379	1.3	11,512	6.1	177,943	93.9
Australia: Aboriginal	115	1.6	211	3.0	923	13.0	6,155	87.0
New Zealand	52	0.9	94	1.6	441	7.3	5,591	92.7
United Kingdom	83	0.6	158	1.1	904	6.2	13,750	93.8
Italy	12	0.8	21	1.4	86	5.9	1,372	94.1
Lebanon	27	0.8	48	1.5	185	5.7	3,083	94.3
China	8	0.6	10	0.7	77	5.3	1,375	94.7
India	11	1.0	20	1.8	96	8.6	1,018	91.4
Malaysia	6	0.4	13	1.0	67	5.0	1,282	95.0
Philippines	13	0.5	34	1.3	176	6.7	2,435	93.3
Vietnam	24	0.8	33	1.1	208	6.8	2,845	93.2
Other countries	157	0.7	274	1.3	1,357	6.3	20,334	93.7
Not stated	29	0.9	67	2.1	240	7.5	2,946	92.5
<b>Maternal age</b>								
Less than 15	5	3.8	6	4.5	13	9.8	120	90.2
15-19	147	1.0	272	1.8	1,231	8.3	13,631	91.7
20-24	387	0.8	736	1.4	3,397	6.6	48,172	93.4
25-29	535	0.6	1,025	1.1	5,255	5.8	85,645	94.2
30-34	441	0.6	870	1.2	4,300	6.1	66,674	93.9
35-39	185	0.8	359	1.5	1,683	7.1	22,030	92.9
40 and over	55	1.5	85	2.3	352	9.5	3,352	90.5
Not stated	4	0.7	9	1.6	41	7.5	505	92.5
<b>Parity</b>								
None	514	0.8	982	1.5	4,770	7.1	62,408	92.9
One	277	0.5	501	0.9	2,529	4.6	52,131	95.4
Two	152	0.5	284	1.0	1,393	4.8	27,331	95.2
Three	73	0.7	134	1.2	575	5.3	10,268	94.7
Four or more	50	0.9	95	1.7	386	6.7	5,367	93.3
Not stated	495	0.6	959	1.1	4,740	5.5	81,030	94.5
<b>Marital status</b>								
Married / de facto	1,427	0.6	2,747	1.2	13,431	6.0	208,967	94.0
Single	277	1.0	513	1.9	2,346	8.5	25,253	91.5
Other	55	0.9	102	1.6	495	7.7	5,909	92.3
<b>Accommodation status*</b>								
Public	808	0.8	1,528	1.5	7,056	7.0	93,939	93.0
Private	482	0.6	963	1.1	4,791	5.6	80,440	94.4
<b>Place of birth</b>								
Hospital	1,732	0.7	3,311	1.3	16,081	6.4	236,838	93.6
Birth centre	1	0.1	3	0.2	17	1.2	1,360	98.8
Home	-	-	-	-	13	1.4	884	98.6
Born before arrival	14	2.1	26	3.8	87	12.8	594	87.2
Other	9	8.6	12	11.4	39	37.1	66	62.9
Not stated	3	0.7	10	2.4	35	8.3	387	91.7

\* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory



**Table 40 : Proportion of low birthweight infants born in hospitals of different sizes, States and Territories, 1991**

Low birthweight category/Hospital size	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Birthweight: 500 - 999g</b>									
Number of births	351	266	221	90	95	35	19	27	1,104
	<b>Per cent</b>								
1-100 confinements	1.1	0.0	2.3	-	4.2	-	-	-	1.2
101-500 confinements	4.8	3.0	3.6	12.2	3.2	-	-	7.4	4.4
501-1000 confinements	12.8	10.5	5.4	3.3	1.1	11.4	-	25.9	9.1
1001-2000 confinements	10.3	12.0	24.9	3.3	9.5	20.0	73.7	66.7	15.8
2001 and over confinements	70.7	74.4	63.8	81.1	82.1	68.6	26.3	0.0	69.5
Other births	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1
<b>All births: 500 - 999g</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Birthweight: 1000 - 1499g</b>									
Number of births	436	288	247	134	115	35	23	19	1,297
	<b>Per cent</b>								
1-100 confinements	1.4	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.9	-	-	0.0	0.8
101-500 confinements	1.1	1.7	1.2	2.2	1.7	-	-	5.3	1.5
501-1000 confinements	5.3	4.9	8.1	2.2	4.3	2.9	-	5.3	5.2
1001-2000 confinements	6.9	9.4	28.3	3.0	11.3	11.4	95.7	89.5	14.4
2001 and over confinements	84.2	83.7	61.9	91.8	81.7	85.7	4.3	-	77.8
Other births	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4
<b>All births: 1000 - 1499g</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Birthweight: 1500 - 1999g</b>									
Number of births	810	627	462	221	237	73	30	58	2,518
	<b>Per cent</b>								
1-100 confinements	0.7	0.2	0.9	0.9	3.8	-	-	1.7	0.9
101-500 confinements	4.1	6.2	3.0	8.1	5.5	1.4	-	3.4	4.8
501-1000 confinements	13.5	13.2	13.0	7.2	6.3	12.3	-	29.3	12.3
1001-2000 confinements	12.8	15.2	28.4	8.1	15.6	30.1	73.3	58.6	18.4
2001 and over confinements	68.3	65.1	54.8	75.6	68.8	56.2	26.7	-	63.3
Other births	0.6	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	6.9	0.4
<b>All births: 1500 - 1999g</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 41 : Infant's Apgar score at 1 minute, live births, selected States and Territories, 1991**

Apgar score	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia*
<b>Number</b>									
0	-	-	30	5	11	5	2	4	57
1	-	-	223	113	107	40	47	18	548
2	-	-	440	188	153	53	80	44	958
3	-	-	651	297	290	92	77	67	1,474
4	-	-	904	506	423	134	115	92	2,174
5	-	-	1,541	797	744	242	186	154	3,664
6	-	-	2,471	1,533	1,496	382	356	228	6,466
7	-	-	4,343	3,275	3,024	743	516	408	12,309
8	-	-	9,795	6,993	5,728	1,570	1,057	773	25,916
9	-	-	21,820	10,844	7,404	3,283	2,002	1,596	46,949
10	-	-	2,083	232	218	319	47	48	2,947
Not stated	86,220	64,660	159	32	24	39	5	27	151,166
<b>All births</b>	<b>86,220</b>	<b>64,660</b>	<b>44,460</b>	<b>24,815</b>	<b>19,622</b>	<b>6,902</b>	<b>4,490</b>	<b>3,459</b>	<b>254,628</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
0	-	-	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
1	-	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.5
2	-	-	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.8	1.3	0.9
3	-	-	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.7	2.0	1.4
4	-	-	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.6	2.7	2.1
5	-	-	3.5	3.2	3.8	3.5	4.1	4.5	3.5
6	-	-	5.6	6.2	7.6	5.6	7.9	6.6	6.2
7	-	-	9.8	13.2	15.4	10.8	11.5	11.9	11.9
8	-	-	22.1	28.2	29.2	22.9	23.6	22.5	25.0
9	-	-	49.3	43.8	37.8	47.8	44.6	46.5	45.4
10	-	-	4.7	0.9	1.1	4.6	1.0	1.4	2.8
<b>All births</b>	-	-	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
1 - 3	-	-	3.0	2.4	2.8	2.7	4.5	3.8	2.9
4 - 6	-	-	11.1	11.4	13.6	11.0	14.6	13.8	11.9
7 - 10	-	-	85.9	86.1	83.5	86.2	80.8	82.3	85.2

\* Data exclude New South Wales and Victoria

Table 42 : *Infant's Apgar score at 5 minutes, live births, States and Territories, 1991*

Apgar score	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
0	34	34	24	4	5	6	2	10	119
1	103	75	44	17	32	9	6	7	293
2	72	55	59	12	18	8	9	5	238
3	104	41	58	25	14	11	11	11	275
4	191	80	100	44	24	13	11	6	469
5	407	199	175	105	62	36	17	24	1,025
6	854	434	293	212	164	55	48	44	2,104
7	1,857	940	699	520	376	117	109	77	4,695
8	5,442	3,147	2,158	1,828	1,494	334	430	232	15,065
9	50,435	29,921	20,292	16,330	12,189	3,312	3,407	2,339	138,225
10	26,648	29,649	20,380	5,690	5,220	2,963	435	677	91,662
Not stated	73	85	178	28	24	38	5	27	458
<b>All births</b>	<b>86,220</b>	<b>64,660</b>	<b>44,460</b>	<b>24,815</b>	<b>19,622</b>	<b>6,902</b>	<b>4,490</b>	<b>3,459</b>	<b>254,628</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0
1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
5	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.4
6	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.3	0.8
7	2.2	1.5	1.6	2.1	1.9	1.7	2.4	2.2	1.8
8	6.3	4.9	4.9	7.4	7.6	4.9	9.6	6.8	5.9
9	58.5	46.3	45.8	65.9	62.2	48.3	76.0	68.2	54.4
10	30.9	45.9	46.0	23.0	26.6	43.2	9.7	19.7	36.1
<b>All births</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
1-3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.3
4-6	1.7	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.7	2.2	1.4
7-10	98.0	98.6	98.3	98.3	98.4	98.0	97.7	96.9	98.2

**Table 43 : Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes, by birthweight and Aboriginality, live births, Australia, 1991**

Apgar score	Less than 1000g	1000-1499g	1500-1999g	2000-2499g	2500g and over	Not stated
<b>All births</b>						
<b>Apgar score: 1 minute *</b>						
Live births (n)	441	626	1,295	4,011	97,047	42
	<b>Per cent</b>					
0	2.9	1.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	-
1-3	49.4	20.4	12.2	5.3	2.3	26.2
4-6	27.9	34.3	28.2	18.2	11.2	19.0
7-10	19.7	44.2	59.3	76.4	86.5	54.8
<b>Apgar score: 5 minutes</b>						
Live births (n)	942	1,392	2,966	9,530	239,250	90
	<b>Per cent</b>					
0	7.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	5.6
1-3	24.6	3.1	1.6	0.6	0.2	20.0
4-6	17.8	12.7	6.1	3.0	1.2	25.6
7-10	50.4	84.0	92.1	96.4	98.7	48.9
<b>Aboriginal births</b>						
<b>Apgar score: 1 minute *</b>						
Live births (n)	52	56	108	436	4,502	3
	<b>Per cent</b>					
0	3.8	-	-	-	0.0	-
1-3	46.2	19.6	10.2	4.8	3.2	-
4-6	28.8	39.3	38.0	18.3	13.8	33.3
7-10	21.2	41.1	51.9	76.8	82.9	66.7
<b>Apgar score: 5 minutes</b>						
Live births (n)	59	73	137	546	6,106	6
	<b>Per cent</b>					
0	10.2	1.4	-	-	-	-
1-3	22.0	2.7	1.5	0.4	0.4	16.7
4-6	25.4	12.3	8.0	2.9	2.1	16.7
7-10	42.4	83.6	90.5	96.7	97.5	66.7

*Table excludes Apgar scores 'not stated'*

*\* Data exclude New South Wales and Victoria*

**Table 44 : Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes, by birthweight and plurality, live births, Australia, 1991**

Apgar score	Less than 1000g	1000-1499g	1500-1999g	2000-2499g	2500g and over	Not stated
<b>Singleton births</b>						
<b>Apgar score: 1 minute *</b>						
Live births (n)	330	442	884	3,276	95,728	36
	<b>Per cent</b>					
0	2.4	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.0	-
1-3	50.9	22.4	14.3	5.4	2.3	25.0
4-6	28.2	35.1	27.7	18.3	11.2	13.9
7-10	18.5	41.9	57.6	76.3	86.5	61.1
<b>Apgar score: 5 minutes</b>						
Live births (n)	705	1,033	2,078	7,671	235,961	82
	<b>Per cent</b>					
0	6.8	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	4.9
1-3	25.0	3.8	1.9	0.6	0.2	19.5
4-6	18.7	13.7	6.8	3.3	1.2	25.6
7-10	49.5	82.2	91.0	96.0	98.7	50.0
<b>Multiple births</b>						
<b>Apgar score: 1 minute *</b>						
Live births (n)	111	184	411	735	1,319	6
	<b>Per cent</b>					
0	4.5	1.6	-	-	0.1	-
1-3	45.0	15.8	7.8	4.9	3.3	33.3
4-6	27.0	32.6	29.2	18.1	13.4	50.0
7-10	23.4	50.0	63.0	77.0	83.2	16.7
<b>Apgar score: 5 minutes</b>						
Live births (n)	237	359	888	1,859	3,289	8
	<b>Per cent</b>					
0	8.0	-	-	-	-	12.5
1-3	23.6	1.1	0.9	0.5	0.2	25.0
4-6	15.2	9.7	4.4	1.6	1.5	25.0
7-10	53.2	89.1	94.7	97.8	98.3	37.5

Table excludes Apgar scores 'not stated'

\* Data exclude New South Wales and Victoria

**Table 45 : Length of infant's stay in hospital, live births, States and Territories, 1991**

Length of stay	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia*
<b>Number</b>									
Less than 1 day	na	398	182	170	111	73	62	41	1,037
1 day	na	1,385	649	663	386	204	197	118	3,602
2 days	na	2,331	2,438	1,641	1,020	393	326	261	8,410
3 days	na	5,196	7,224	2,664	1,598	695	445	462	18,284
4 days	na	10,296	9,502	3,834	3,060	1,008	710	582	28,992
5 days	na	12,524	8,586	4,635	3,889	1,536	1,002	669	32,841
6 days	na	11,175	5,818	3,806	3,230	1,167	736	355	26,287
7 - 13 days	na	18,115	7,339	5,751	5,439	1,443	782	638	39,507
14 - 20 days	na	646	409	172	278	75	33	82	1,695
21 - 27 days	na	335	250	76	156	44	36	42	939
28 or more days	na	482	486	170	405	80	15	60	1,698
Not stated	na	3	181	-	-	-	-	-	184
<b>All births</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>62,886</b>	<b>43,064</b>	<b>23,582</b>	<b>19,572</b>	<b>6,718</b>	<b>4,344</b>	<b>3,310</b>	<b>163,476</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
Less than 1 day	na	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.6	1.1	1.4	1.2	0.6
1 day	na	2.2	1.5	2.8	2.0	3.0	4.5	3.6	2.2
2 days	na	3.7	5.7	7.0	5.2	5.8	7.5	7.9	5.2
3 days	na	8.3	16.8	11.3	8.2	10.3	10.2	14.0	11.2
4 days	na	16.4	22.2	16.3	15.6	15.0	16.3	17.6	17.8
5 days	na	19.9	20.0	19.7	19.9	22.9	23.1	20.2	20.1
6 days	na	17.8	13.6	16.1	16.5	17.4	16.9	10.7	16.1
7 - 13 days	na	28.8	17.1	24.4	27.8	21.5	18.0	19.3	24.2
14 - 20 days	na	1.0	1.0	0.7	1.4	1.1	0.8	2.5	1.0
21 - 27 days	na	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.3	0.6
28 or more days	na	0.8	1.1	0.7	2.1	1.2	0.3	1.8	1.0
<b>All births</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Data exclude New South Wales

**Table 46 : Length of infant's stay in hospital by plurality, Aboriginality, gestational age, and birthweight, Australia, 1991**

Characteristic	Infants (n) *	0-2 days	3-4 days	5-6 days	7-13 days	14-20 days	21-27 days	28 or more days
<b>Plurality</b>		<b>Per cent</b>						
Singletons	159,394	8.1	29.6	36.8	23.5	0.8	0.4	0.8
Twins	3,930	2.5	4.1	13.4	54.7	9.4	5.4	10.4
Other multiple births	152	5.9	0.7	3.3	14.5	14.5	10.5	50.7
<b>Aboriginality</b>								
Aboriginal	5,439	16.4	36.3	24.6	18.1	2.1	0.9	1.6
Non-aboriginal	159,338	8.1	28.6	36.4	24.3	1.0	0.6	1.0
<b>Gestational age</b>								
20-27 weeks	610	48.1	4.1	6.8	4.3	1.0	2.0	33.7
28-31 weeks	920	6.2	5.7	5.7	10.8	3.3	8.3	60.0
32-36 weeks	9,218	4.0	11.8	19.6	38.1	11.1	7.3	8.1
37-41 weeks	142,932	8.0	30.2	37.6	23.6	0.4	0.1	0.1
42 or more weeks	8,971	8.0	30.7	37.5	23.3	0.3	0.2	0.1
Not stated	825	14.2	35.8	27.8	17.2	1.7	1.3	2.1
<b>Birthweight</b>								
Less than 1000g	611	47.5	3.3	1.8	3.5	0.8	2.5	40.6
1000-1499g	680	6.1	1.6	2.4	6.6	3.4	7.6	72.2
1500-1999g	1,599	3.0	2.2	4.5	19.2	16.1	19.0	35.9
2000-2499g	5,844	3.1	11.9	20.9	42.0	12.0	6.6	3.5
2500g and over	154,696	8.1	30.1	37.4	23.7	0.5	0.1	0.1
Not stated	46	43.2	20.5	22.7	11.4	-	-	2.3

Table excludes New South Wales

\* Data include length of stay 'not stated'

**Table 47 : Mode of separation of infant, States and Territories, 1991**

Mode of separation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia*
<b>Number</b>									
Discharge home	81,185	62,620	42,750	23,521	na	6,493	4,323	3,284	224,176
Transfer to another hospital	3,975	1,632	1,220	1,089	na	131	78	55	8,180
Stillborn / Died **	1,055	794	490	252	na	55	25	62	2,733
Not stated	9	-	149	-	19,698	225	36	-	20,117
<b>All births</b>	<b>86,224</b>	<b>65,046</b>	<b>44,609</b>	<b>24,862</b>	<b>19,698</b>	<b>6,904</b>	<b>4,462</b>	<b>3,401</b>	<b>255,206</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
Discharge home	94.2	96.3	96.2	94.6	na	97.2	97.7	96.6	95.4
Transfer to another hospital	4.6	2.5	2.7	4.4	na	2.0	1.8	1.6	3.5
Stillborn / Died **	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	na	0.8	0.6	1.8	1.2
<b>All births</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Data exclude South Australia

\*\* The perinatal collections may be an incomplete source of data on neonatal deaths, so these figures should not be used to derive perinatal death rates.

# Appendix 1 Perinatal minimum data set

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The data items recommended by the National Perinatal Data Advisory Committee for the perinatal minimum data set, and submitted to the National Health Data Committee in May 1994, are:

## Identifying information

Item MP1 State/Territory of infant's birth  
Item MP2 Maternity patient identifier

## Place of birth

Item MP3 Intended place of birth at onset of labour  
Item MP4 Place of birth  
Item MP5 Hospital of birth

## Sociodemographic characteristics of mother

Item MP6 Area of usual residence  
Item MP7 Maternal date of birth  
Item MP8 Patient accommodation status  
Item MP9 Marital status  
Item MP10 Maternal country of birth  
Item MP11 Aboriginality

## Previous pregnancies

Item MP12 Previous pregnancies

## Current pregnancy

Item MP13 Last menstrual period  
Item MP14 Gestational age  
Item MP15 Maternal medical conditions  
Item MP16 Obstetric complications

## Labour, delivery and puerperium

Item MP17 Onset of labour  
Item MP18 Type of labour  
Item MP19 Type of anaesthesia  
Item MP20 Presentation at delivery  
Item MP21 Type of delivery  
Item MP22 Repair following delivery  
Item MP23 Complications of labour and delivery  
Item MP24 Complications of puerperium  
Item MP25 Admission date  
Item MP26 Discharge date  
Item MP27 Plurality  
Item MP28 Mode of separation of mother

## Infant

Item I-1 Infant's birth order  
Item I-2 Birth status  
Item I-3 Sex



Item I-4	Birthweight
Item I-5	Apgar score (at 1 and 5 minutes after birth)
Item I-6	Resuscitation of infant
Item I-7	Care in Special Care Nursery/Neonatal Intensive Care Nursery
Item I-8	Infant's outcome
Item I-9	Infant's date of discharge
Item I-10	Mode of separation of infant
Item I-11	Neonatal morbidity
Item I-12	Congenital malformations

#### **National Perinatal Data Advisory Committee**

The following organizations are represented on the National Perinatal Data Advisory Committee:

- Each State and Territory health authority
- Commonwealth Department of Human Services and Health
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare National Perinatal Statistics Unit
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- Australian College of Midwives
- Australian College of Paediatrics
- Australian Perinatal Society
- Maternity Alliance (peak consumer organization)
- Royal College of Pathologists of Australia
- NHMRC Working Parties/Expert Panels

## Appendix 2 Definitions

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**Aboriginality:** An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identified 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).

**Apgar score:** Numerical score to evaluate the infant's condition at 1 minute and 5 minutes after birth.

**Birth status:** Status of the infant immediately after birth.

**Birthweight:** The first weight of the baby (stillborn or liveborn) obtained after birth (usually measured to the nearest five grams and obtained within one 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 infant 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.

**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 1000g.

**Forceps:** Assisted birth using a metallic obstetric instrument.

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

**Hospital size:** Number of confinements occurring annually in a hospital.

**Infant's discharge date:** Date on which a newborn infant completes an episode of care after birth.

**Infant'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).

**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 2500g

**Marital status:** Current marital status of a woman at the time of confinement. (Married and de facto are coded together.)

**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 morbidity:** Any condition or disease of the infant 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.

**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 infant:** Active measures taken shortly after birth to assist infant's ventilation and heart beat; 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:** Stillbirth is a fetal 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 400g 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.

**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 1500g.