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# Australia's Mothers and Babies 1992

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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.
- Fetal deaths (stillbirths) from the State and Territory perinatal collections have a birthweight of at least 400g or a gestational age of at least 20 weeks. Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths in the tables based on data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics have a birthweight of at least 500g or, when birthweight was not available, a gestational age of at least 22 weeks.

# Highlights

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- In 1992, 262,726 babies born to 259,156 mothers were notified to perinatal data collections in the States and Territories. These included 868 mothers who had home births and 7,257 Aboriginal mothers.
- There were 14,396 teenage mothers, including 1,612 who were 16 years or younger and another 2,503 aged 17 years; teenage mothers accounted for 5.6 per cent of all mothers.
- The regions with the largest number of Aboriginal mothers were Queensland (2,316), New South Wales (1,428), Western Australia (1,418), and the Northern Territory (1,243). Aboriginal mothers were younger and had higher parity than other mothers. The average age of Aboriginal mothers was 23.7 years, 4.4 years less than for all mothers in Australia.
- More than 1 in 5 (22.7 per cent) mothers were born in other countries, including 5.6 per cent in the United Kingdom, 6.3 per cent in Asia (1.4 per cent in Vietnam, 1.0 per cent in the Philippines, and 0.7 per cent in China), 2.4 per cent in New Zealand, and 1.3 per cent in Lebanon.
- Multiple births occurred in 3,455 (1.3 per cent) confinements. There were 3,346 twin confinements, 105 sets of triplets, 2 sets of quadruplets, and 2 sets of quintuplets.
- There were 47,485 deliveries by caesarean section. The caesarean rate of 18.3 per cent in 1992 was slightly higher than the rate of 18.0 per cent in 1991 and continued the increasing trend nationally. South Australia (22.1 per cent) and Queensland (20.9 per cent) had the highest caesarean rates and Tasmania (16.1 per cent) the lowest. More than one in four mothers who had private accommodation in hospital in South Australia and Queensland had their babies by caesarean section. Women having their first baby in their 30s had high caesarean rates. Those aged 30 to 34 and 35 to 39 years with public accommodation in hospital had caesarean rates of 23.7 per cent and 32.0 per cent, respectively; those in the same age groups with private accommodation in hospital had rates of 28.1 per cent and 37.4 per cent, respectively.
- There were 16,493 babies of low birthweight (less than 2,500g) born in 1992, 6.3 per cent of all births. The mean birthweight of babies of Aboriginal mothers was 3,150g, 206g less than for all births; low birthweight occurred in 12.9 per cent of these babies.
- In the period from 1973 to 1992, the fetal death rate declined by 47 per cent to 5.6 per 1,000 births, the neonatal death rate by 66 per cent to 3.8 per 1,000 live births, and the perinatal death rate by 57 per cent to 9.4 per 1,000 births. In 1991, the survival rates to 28 days of low birthweight babies was 58 per cent for those weighing 500 to 999g, 92.1 per cent for babies of 1,000 to 1,499g, and 97.2 per cent for babies of 1,500 to 1,999g. In 1990-1992, the perinatal death rate in twins was 4.1 times higher than in singleton births; it was 6.7 times higher in other multiple births than in singletons.
- The survival rates to 28 days of extremely low birthweight infants (less than 1,000g) born in selected hospitals with neonatal intensive care units in the early 1990s were strongly associated with birthweight. The survival rate increased from between 28 and 44 per cent for infants of 500 to 599g to about 55 per cent for infants of 600 to 699g, 59 to 76 per cent for infants of 700 to 799g, more than 80 per cent for infants of 800 to 899g, and almost 90 per cent for infants of 900 to 999g.

# 1 Introduction

---

This report contains national data on births in Australia in 1992, 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.

The report also contains national data on trends in perinatal deaths and information on survival of infants in selected hospitals that have neonatal intensive care units.

## 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.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) compiles statistics and publishes reports on live births and perinatal deaths from data made available by the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each State and Territory. Data obtained from ABS and its published reports were used to analyse trends and variations in perinatal deaths in the period from 1973 to 1992.

Selected hospitals with neonatal intensive care units provided summaries of data on births and perinatal deaths for the years 1990 to 1992.

## 1.2 Perinatal minimum data set and definitions

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 has recommended definitions for these data items. Once the final definitions have been approved by the National Health Data Committee and the National Health Information Management Group, 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 1992 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 1992. 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 have been used to examine trends in perinatal mortality. Additional tables based on linkage of perinatal deaths to birth records in some States provide information on perinatal mortality by birthweight. Similar data on perinatal mortality in selected hospitals with neonatal intensive care units are also included.

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 & Keane 1993; Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity 1994; Gee 1992; Marsden & Correy 1989; McComb, Condon & Woods 1994; Pym, Nguyen, Taylor & Houlahan 1993; Queensland Health 1993).

## 2 Results

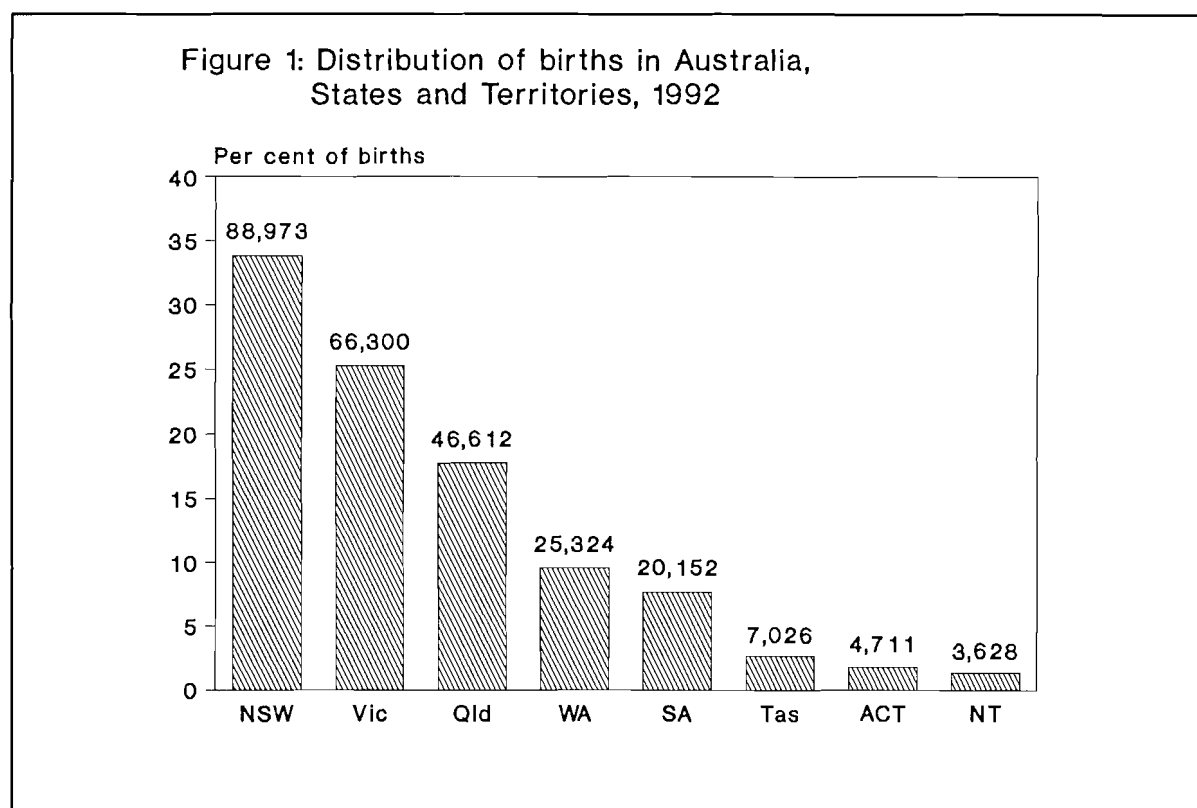
### 2.1 Introductory notes

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 259,156 confinements notified to State and Territory perinatal data groups in Australia in 1992, resulting in a total of 262,726 live births and fetal deaths (Table 1). Compared to the number of births notified in 1991, this was an increase of 6,092 births, or 2.4 per cent. 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 1993). In the registration system, there were 260,512 live births in Australia in 1992 (ABS 1994), slightly fewer than the 260,959 live births notified to the perinatal collections. As the States and Territories sometimes differ in the conventions used for coding the residence of mothers living interstate, it is not readily possible to compare the numbers in the two data systems by State and Territory.

Several factors may account for these small differences noted in the national figures on live births and fetal deaths. There are significant delays in the registration of some live births. 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 fetal deaths), or some fetal deaths 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, Aboriginality (except in Queensland), 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 1992, New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory 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 (Table 2). The 'other' group of 84 confinements in the Northern Territory were mainly births in bush clinics.

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 1992, 868 planned home births, representing 0.3 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.

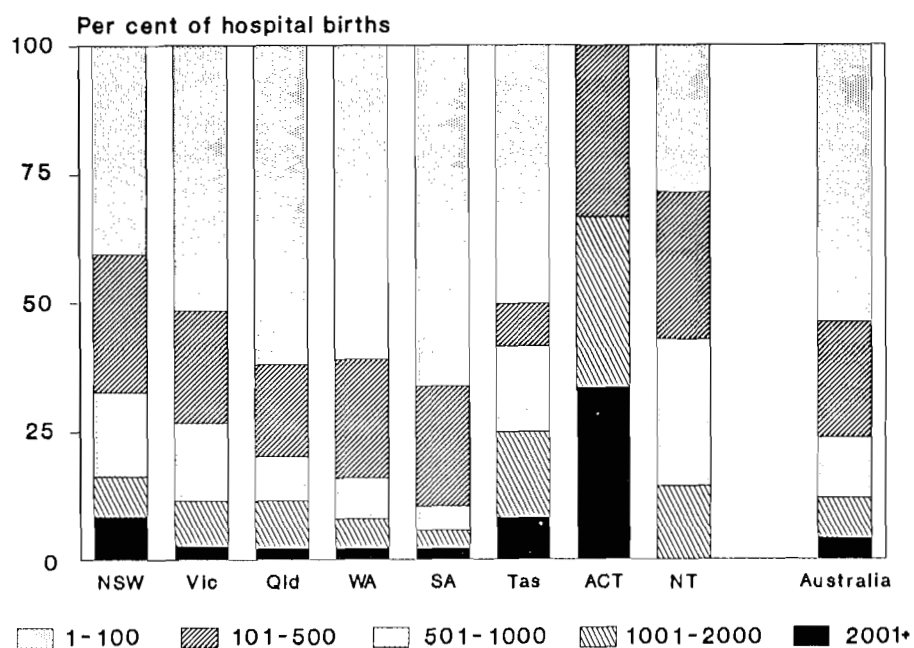
In 1992, more than half (53.8 per cent) of the maternity units in Australia had fewer than 100 confinements (Table 3, Figure 2). Another 34.2 per cent had more than 100 and up to 1,000



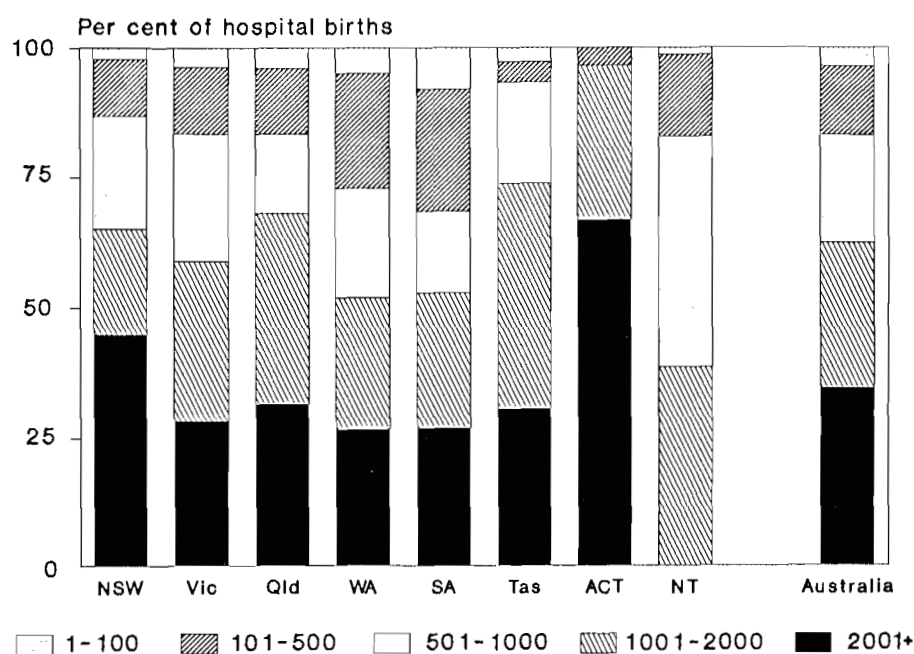
confinements, while 12.0 per cent exceeded this size.

The majority of hospital confinements (62.2 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.

**Figure 2: Distribution of maternity units by size, States and Territories, 1992**



**Figure 3: Distribution of confinements by size of maternity unit, States and Territories, 1992**



## 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 1992 was 28.1 years (Table 5), slightly higher than the mean age of 27.9 years in 1991. Mothers in Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory were slightly older, and those in the Northern Territory slightly younger, than average.

There were 14,396 teenage confinements in 1992, a slight decrease from the 14,923 teenage confinements in 1991. The proportion of teenage confinements was 5.6 per cent nationally and ranged from 3.8 per cent in Victoria and 3.9 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to 15.1 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, rose slightly again to 22.1 per 1,000 in 1991 (ABS 1992), and decreased to 21.9 per 1,000 in 1992 (ABS 1993). There are considerable variations in teenage birth rates among the States and Territories. In 1992, this rate was lowest in the Australian Capital Territory (14.0 per 1,000 females) and Victoria (14.7 per 1,000) and highest in the Northern Territory (90.5 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. Lack of data on induced abortions in most States considerably hampers analysis of trends in teenage pregnancies.

In 1992, the age-specific birth rates of women in all age groups other than teenagers were higher than in 1991 (ABS 1993).

Figure 4: Proportion of teenage mothers, all confinements, States and Territories, 1992

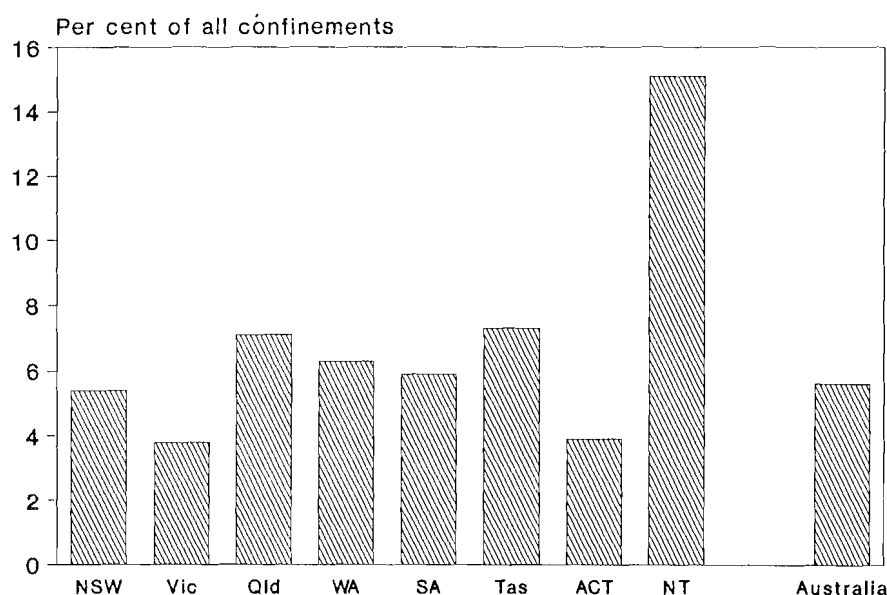


Figure 5: Age distribution of teenage mothers, States and Territories, 1992

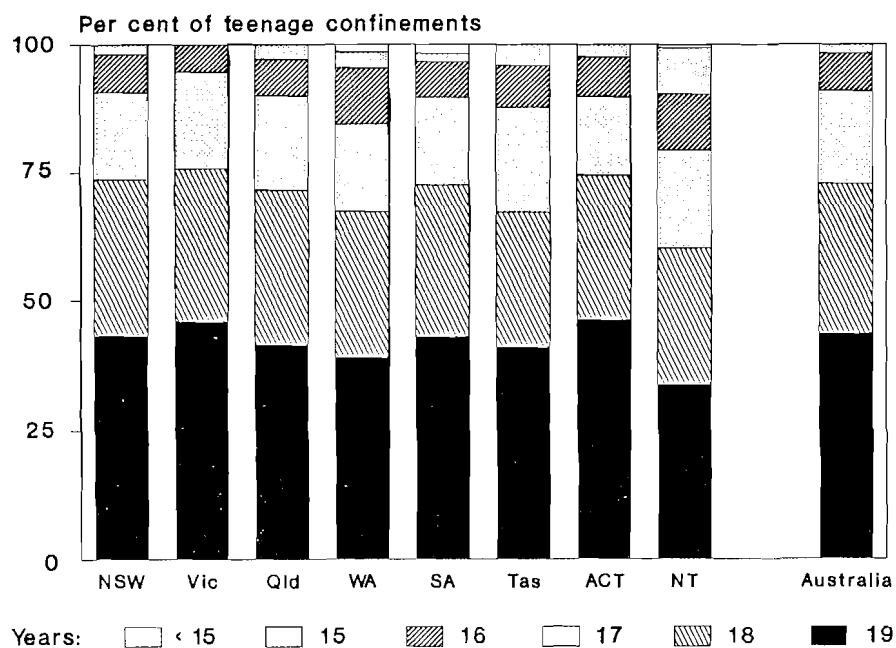
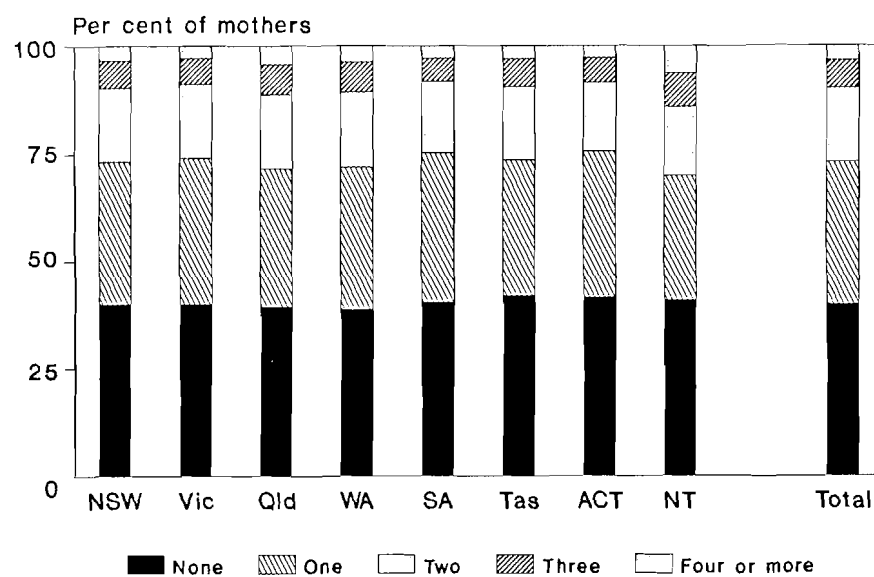


Figure 6: Mother's parity, all confinements, States and Territories, 1992



## 2.6 Maternal parity

Parity is the number of previous pregnancies that resulted in live births or stillbirths. The distribution of parity was similar in all States and Territories in 1992 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 39.8 per cent (Table 7).

## 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 11.2 per cent of all confinements in Australia in 1992 and another 1.2 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 (55.8 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).

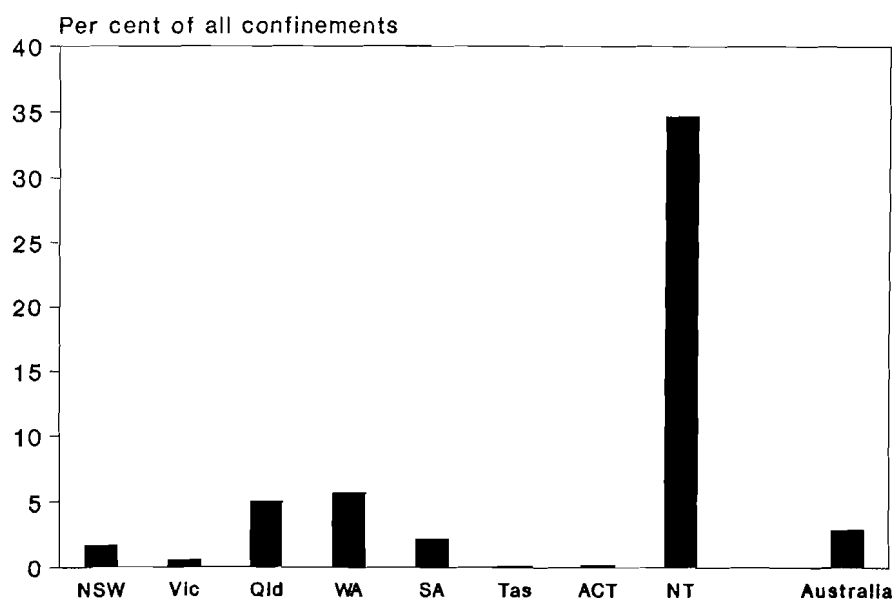
## 2.8 Aboriginality

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. . Only Queensland records Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women separately.

Figure 7: Proportion of Aboriginal confinements, States and Territories, 1992



In 1992, 7,257 Aboriginal women gave birth in Australia; this was 2.9 per cent of all national confinements (Table 10), the same proportion as in 1991. Aboriginal mothers accounted for a much larger proportion of all confinements in the Northern Territory (34.7 per cent) than elsewhere in Australia (Figure 7). Relatively high proportions of confinements in Western Australia and Queensland were also to Aboriginal women (5.7 per cent and 5.1 per cent, respectively). When expressed as actual numbers of Aboriginal mothers, Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia had more confinements than the Northern Territory, the other States, and the Australian Capital Territory.

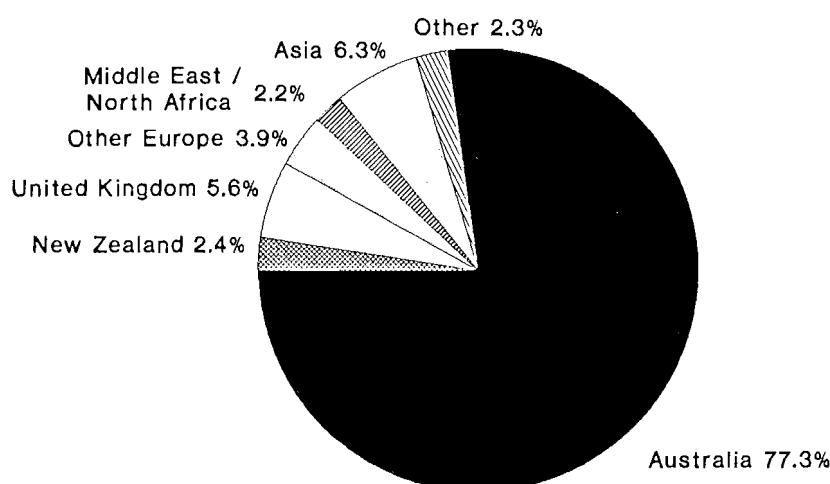
Most Aboriginal women (97.8 per cent) gave birth in hospitals. There were also 72 confinements in bush clinics in the Northern Territory and another 71 women in other States gave birth before being admitted to hospital. Aboriginal mothers tend to have their babies at younger ages, and to have more babies, than other mothers (Tables 11,12). In 1992, their average age was 23.7 years compared with 28.1 years for all confinements. More than a quarter (25.2 per cent) of all Aboriginal mothers were teenagers, a slightly lower proportion than the 27.0 per cent in 1991. The proportion of teenagers among Aboriginal mothers was higher in the Northern Territory than in the other States and the Australian Capital Territory.

## 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 1992, most States and Territories used the 2-digit ABS classification but Western Australia and Tasmania used other modified classifications.

A high proportion (22.7 per cent) of women giving birth in Australia in 1992 were born in other countries (Figure 8), similar to the 22.4 per cent in 1991. 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 5.6 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 1992, 6.3 per cent of mothers were born in Asia. Vietnam, the Philippines, China, Malaysia and India were the Asian countries of birth with the most confinements.

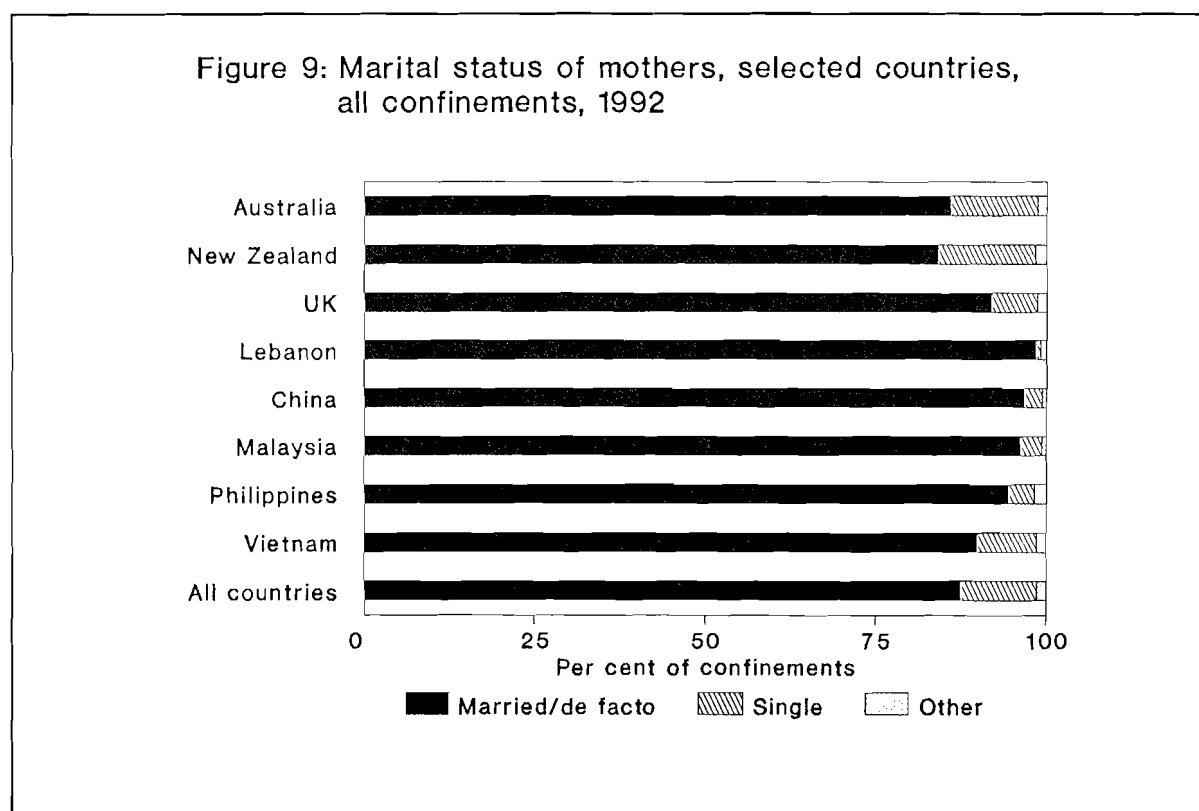
Figure 8: Maternal country of birth, all confinements, Australia, 1992



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 (Table 13). 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.

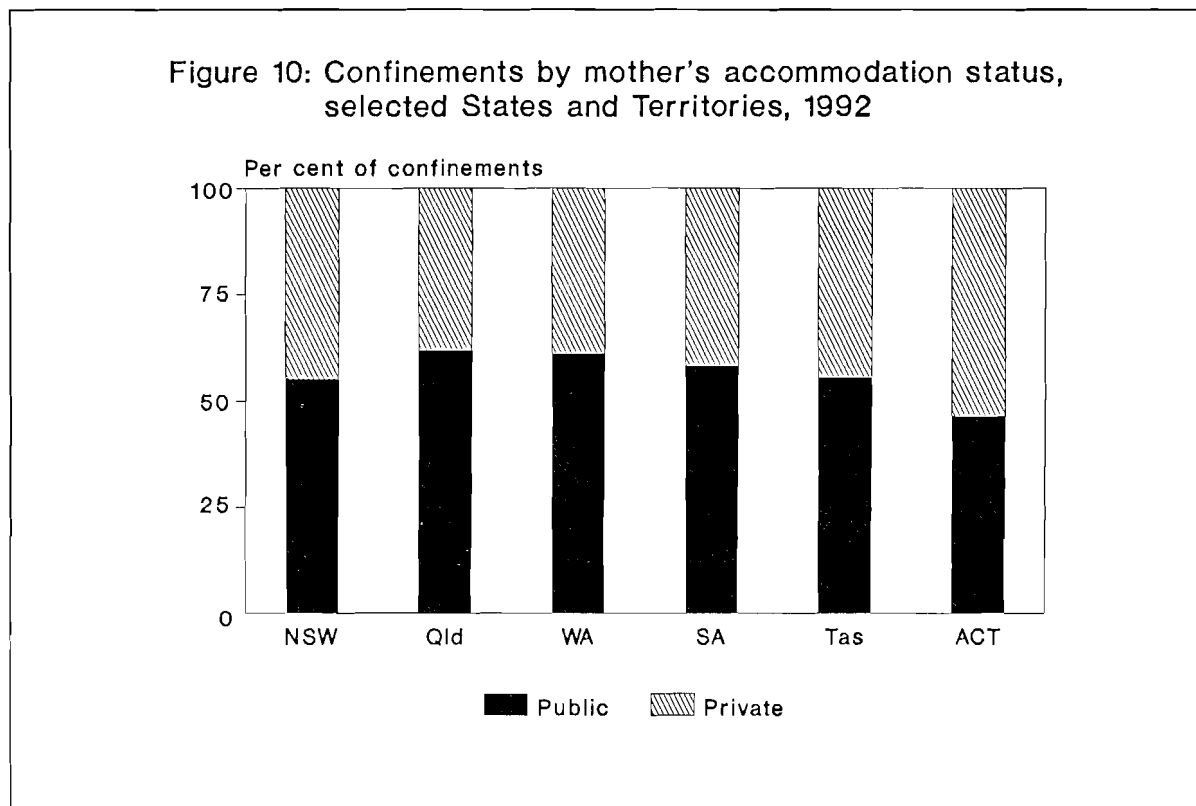
As well as differences in the geographical distribution of mothers born in other countries, their age distribution may differ from that of Australian-born mothers. Teenage confinements were relatively more common among Lebanese-born mothers but relatively less common among mothers born in Asian countries 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 private hospital insurance declined from about 68 per cent in 1982 to 40.4 per cent in December 1992 (AIHW 1994). 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 1992. The proportion of mothers with private accommodation in hospital ranged from 38.2 per cent in Queensland to 53.4 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 16, Figure 10).



## 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 1992, 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 is based on dates and, in the other States, on clinical estimates.

Preterm birth (less than 37 completed weeks' gestation) occurred in 6.9 per cent of all confinements (Table 17, Figure 11). The average duration of pregnancy in Australia was 39.1 weeks. Mothers gave birth at 20-27 weeks in 0.6 per cent of confinements, at 28-31 weeks in 0.7 per cent, and at 32-36 weeks in 5.6 per cent. Preterm birth was more likely in the Northern Territory than elsewhere, but birth 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, 1992

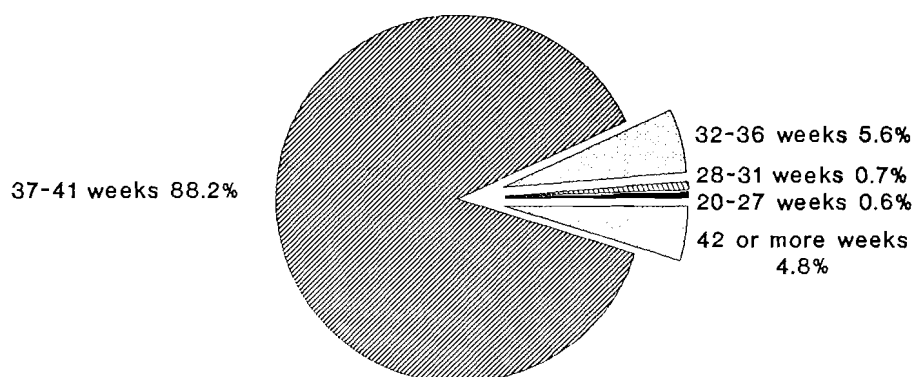
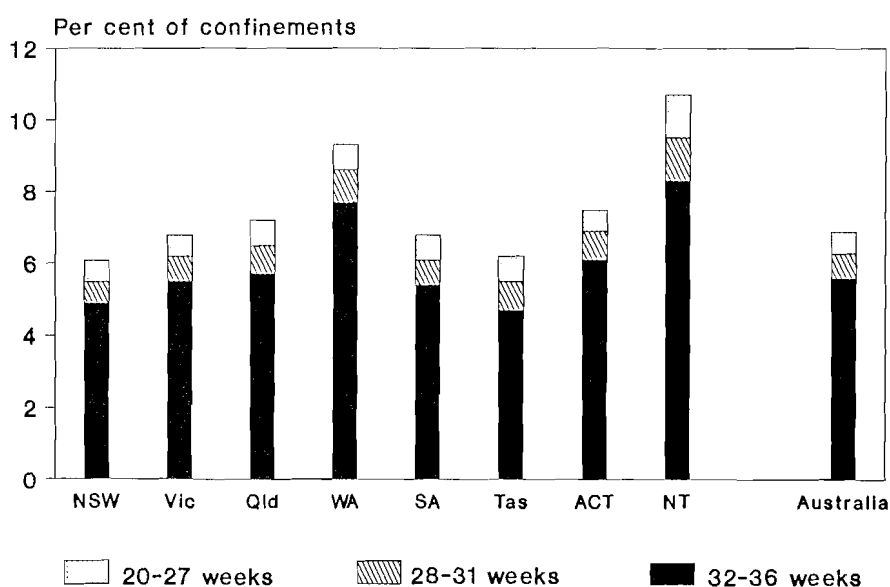
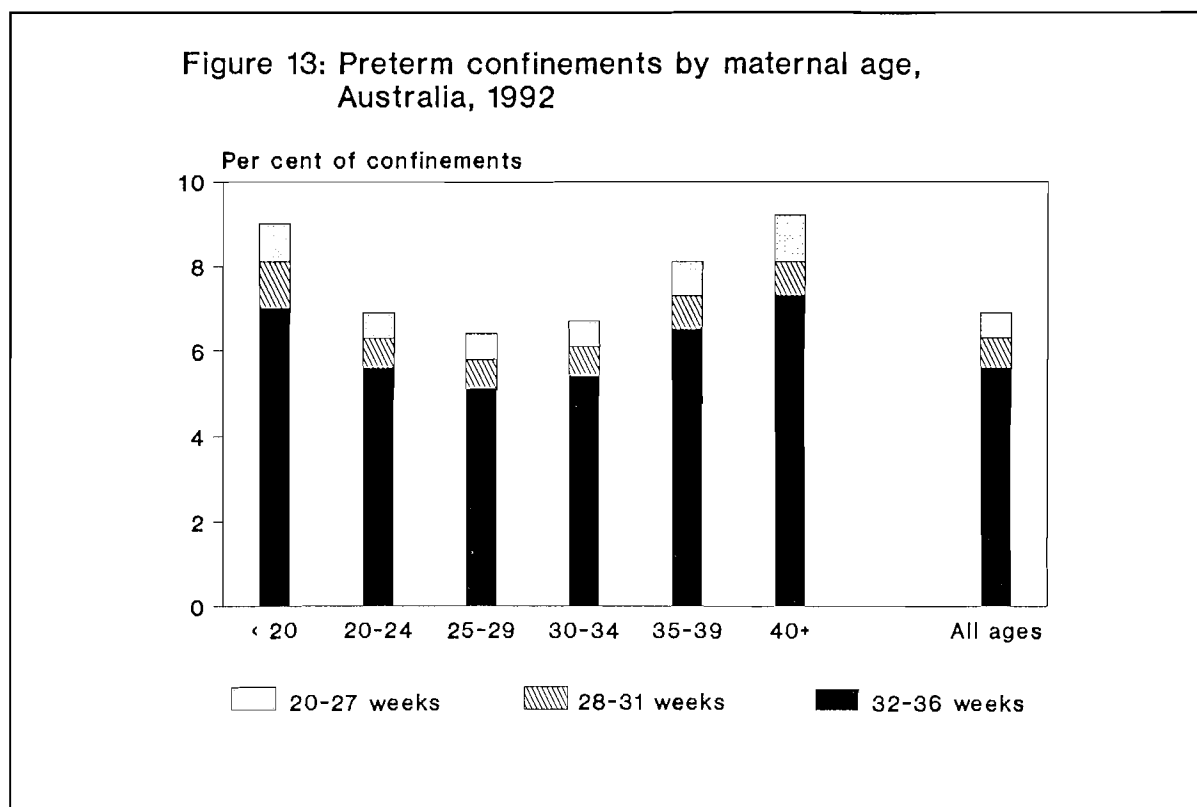


Figure 12: Preterm confinements, States and Territories, 1992





Preterm birth 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.



## 2.12 Multiple pregnancy

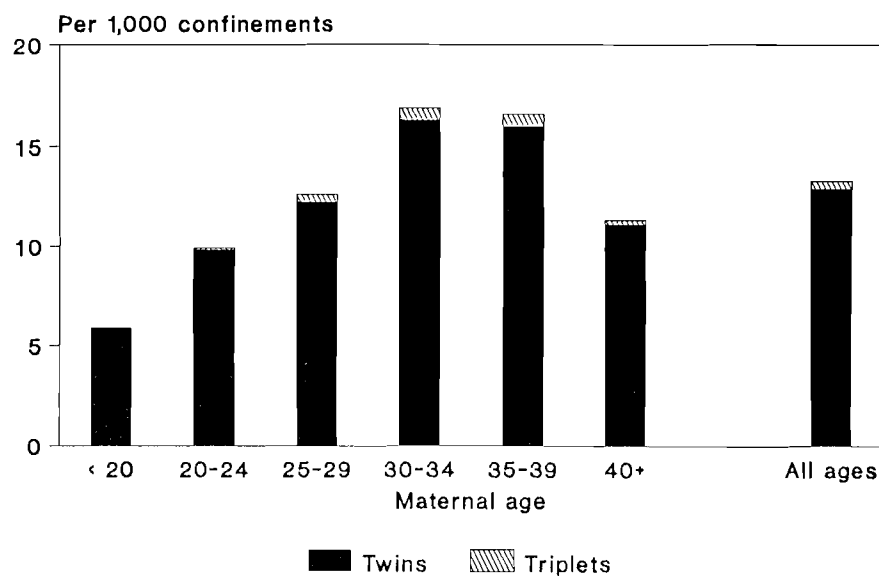
In the perinatal collections, multiple pregnancies are based on the number of fetuses that remain in utero at 20 weeks' gestation and are subsequently delivered as separate births. This definition excludes fetuses aborted before 20 completed weeks or fetuses compressed in the placenta at 20 weeks or 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 in these figures than in the data on registrations of live births published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

In 1992, there were 3,455 multiple pregnancies (1.3 per cent of all confinements), consisting of 3,346 twin pregnancies, 105 triplet pregnancies, 2 quadruplet pregnancies, and 2 quintuplet pregnancies (Table 19). The twinning rate in Australia has gradually increased since 1977, when it reached its low point of 9.01 per 1,000 confinements (Doherty & Lancaster 1986); in 1992, the twinning rate was 12.91 per 1,000 confinements. 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 until women are in their 30s, and then declines in older mothers. In 1992, women aged 30 to 34 and 35 to 39 years were almost 3 times more likely to have multiple births as those aged less than 20 years (Table 20, Figure 14).

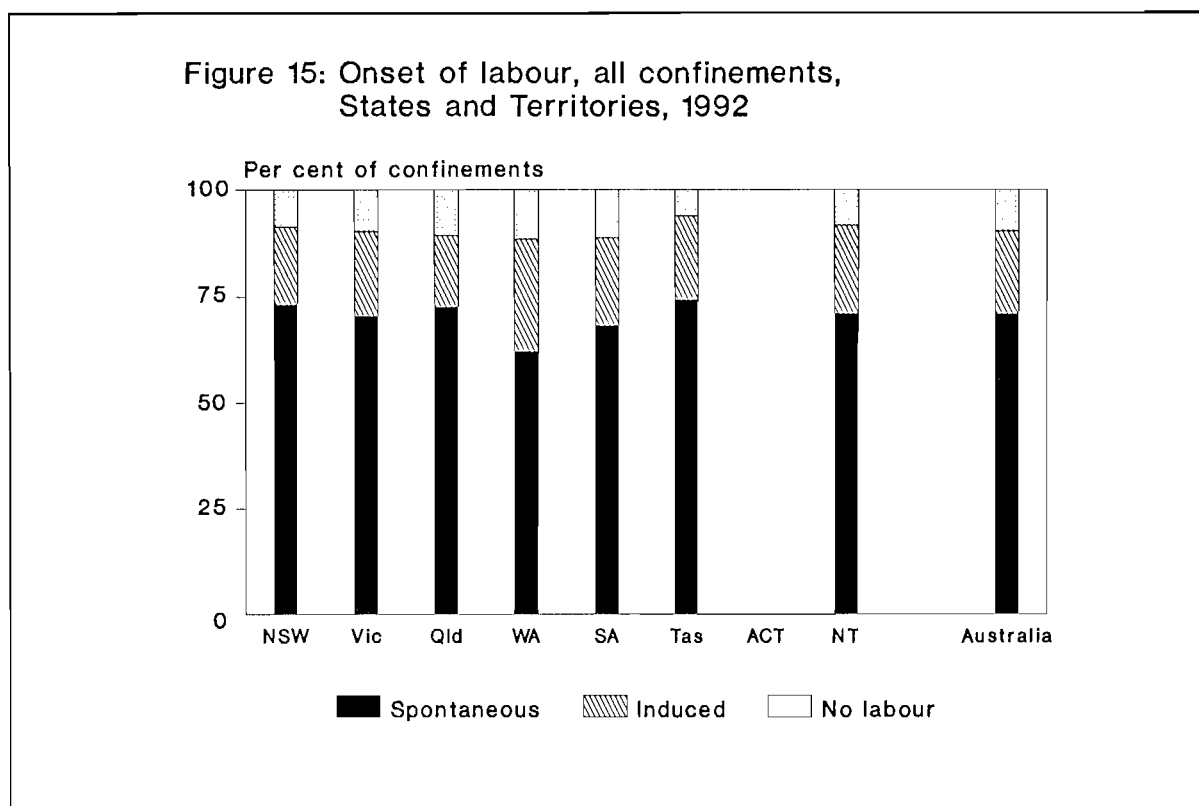
The report for 1991 contained errors in the twinning rates for Aboriginal mothers, which were expressed incorrectly as rates per 1,000 when the stated figures were actually the rates per 100 confinements. In 1992, there were 64 twin confinements (0.9 per 100 confinements), and 3 other multiple births, 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: 0.5 per 100 (10/1,829) confinements at less than 20 years; 0.9 per 100 (23/2,604) at 20-24 years; 1.0 per 100 (17/1,660) at 25-29 years; 1.2 per 100 (10/838) at 30-34 years; and 1.4 per 100 (4/277) at 35-39 years. There were no multiple births to 45 mothers aged 40 years and over or to 4 mothers whose age was not stated.

**Figure 14: Maternal age-specific multiple birth rates, Australia, 1992**



## 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 (70.9 per cent) followed spontaneous onset of labour; there was varying use of augmentation of labour in those States with data available (Table 21, Figure 15). Labour was induced in 19.4 per cent of confinements and showed relatively little variation among the States and Territories. Most confinements with no labour were elective caesarean sections.



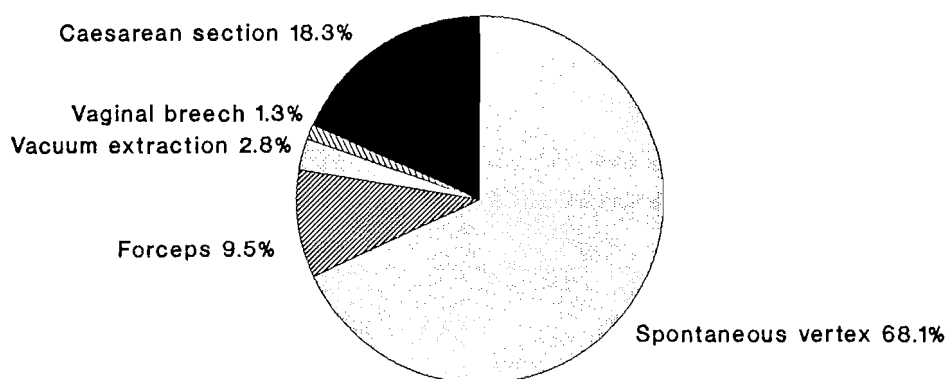
## 2.14 Presentation in labour

Breech presentation occurred in 4.4 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

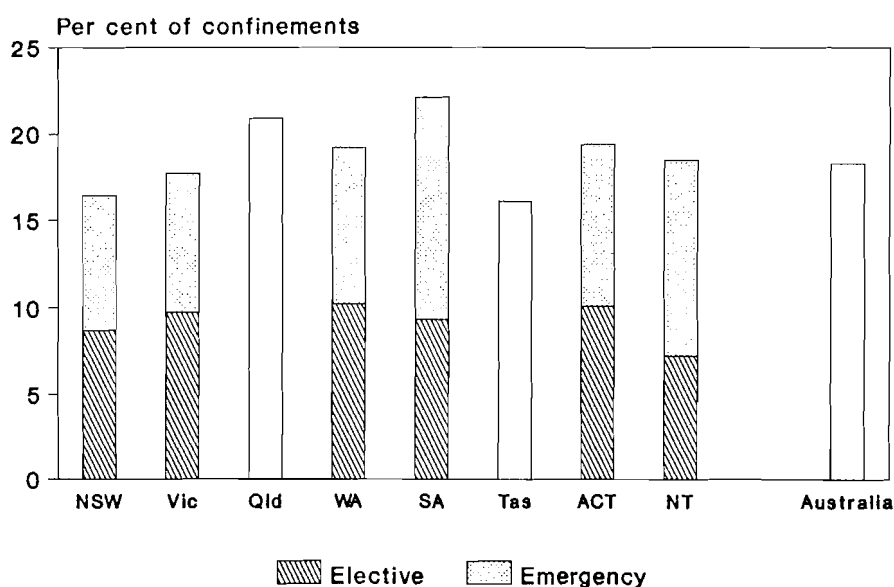
More than two-thirds (68.1 per cent) of all confinements were spontaneous vertex deliveries (Table 23, Figure 16). Forceps delivery occurred in 9.5 per cent, vacuum extraction in 2.8 per cent, and vaginal breech delivery in 1.3 per cent.

Figure 16: Type of delivery, all confinements, Australia, 1992



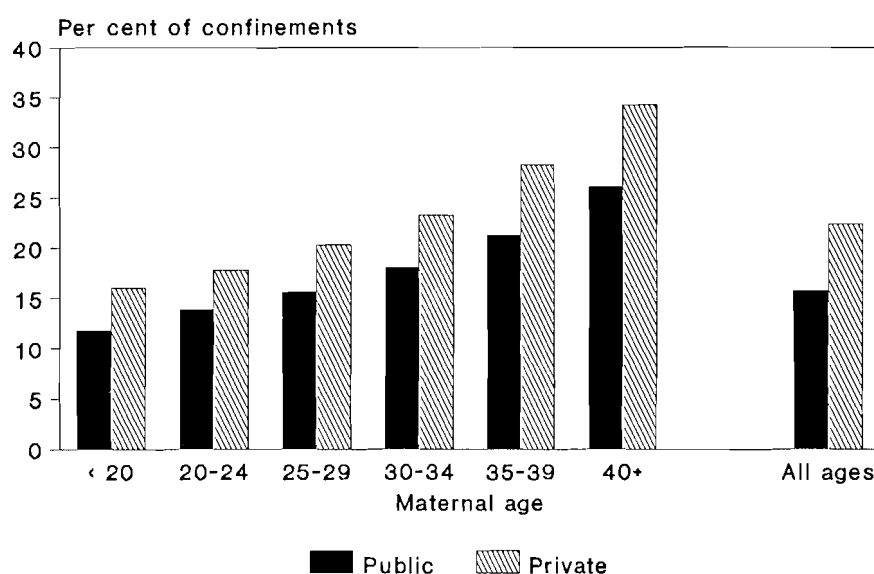
Caesarean section was the method of delivery in 47,485 confinements, 18.3 per cent of all confinements. Data on elective and emergency caesarean sections were not available for Queensland and for some caesarean sections in Tasmania. Elsewhere, elective caesarean rates were usually higher than emergency caesarean rates, except in South Australia and the Northern Territory. The caesarean rate of 18.3 per cent in 1992 was higher than in 1991, when it was 18.0 per cent, and continued the rising trend in recent decades (Lancaster & Pedisich 1993). In 1992, South Australia (22.1 per cent) and Queensland (20.9 per cent) had the highest rates of caesarean section and Tasmania (16.1 per cent) the lowest (Table 23, Figure 17).

Figure 17: Caesarean rates, States and Territories, 1992



Caesarean rates by State and Territory 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 (Tables 24, 25, 26 and 28). Excluding Victoria and the Northern Territory which did not have data on hospital accommodation status, the caesarean rate of 22.4 per cent for women who had private accommodation in hospital was 42 per cent higher than the rate of 15.8 per cent for 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 about 30 per cent higher within specific age categories. South Australia and Queensland consistently had the highest caesarean rates within maternal age categories for women who had private accommodation in hospital. One in four of these births was by caesarean section. For those in public accommodation, there was more variation among the States.

Figure 18: Caesarean rates by maternal age and accommodation status, selected States and Territories\*, 1992



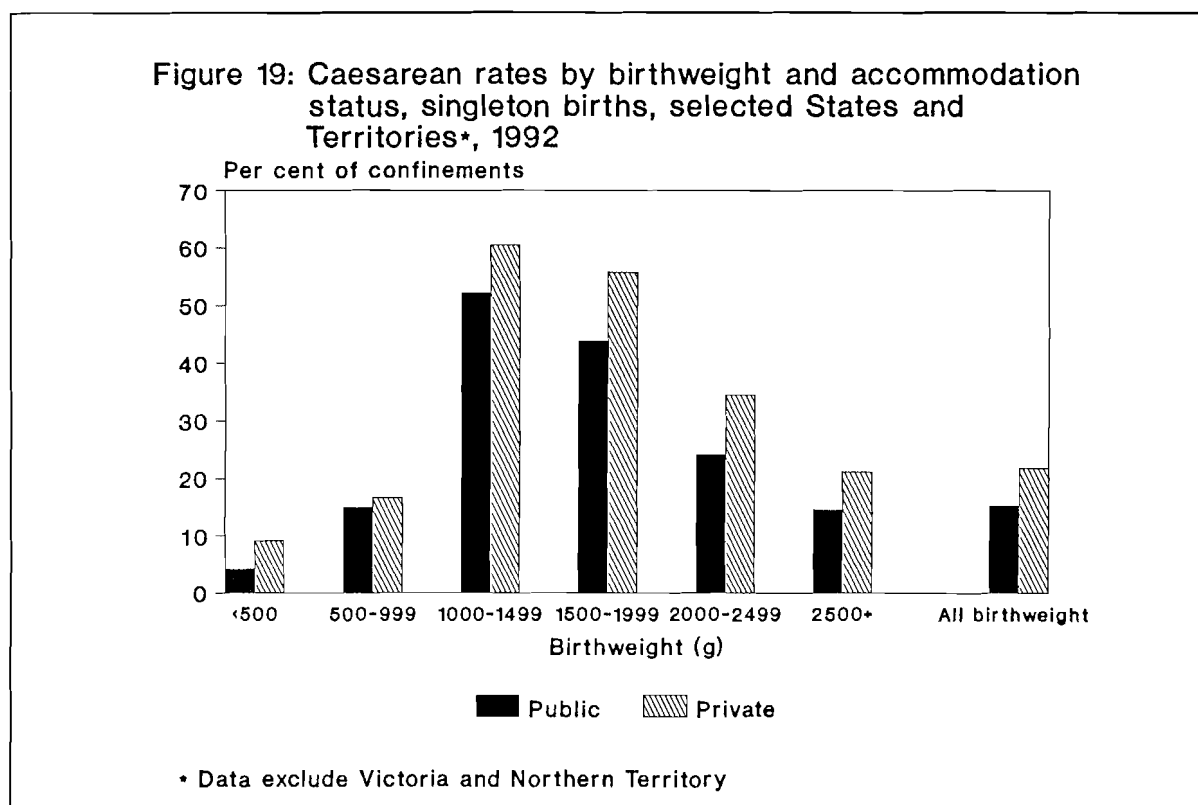
\* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

The independent association of maternal age, parity and accommodation status with caesarean rates was examined by analysing national caesarean rates by single year of maternal age, number of previous births, and public and private accommodation in hospital (Tables 25, 26). Except for slight variations at the extremes of the reproductive age group and for some single years of age, caesarean rates were higher with advancing maternal age. Mothers having their first baby had higher caesarean rates than those who had given birth once previously; the latter group had higher rates than those who had given birth at least twice previously. Caesarean rates in most maternal age and parity groups for mothers in private accommodation in hospital were higher than for those in public accommodation. Mothers aged 35 to 39 years in private accommodation in hospital and having their first baby had a caesarean rate of 37.4 per cent compared with 32.0 per cent for those in public accommodation. For mothers aged 40 to 44 years, the comparable caesarean rates were 47.4 per cent and 44.4 per cent, respectively.

The caesarean rate of 17.2 per cent for all Aboriginal mothers was slightly less than the national caesarean rate of 18.3 per cent (Table 27). Aboriginal mothers had higher caesarean rates than

all mothers in the less than 20, 20 to 24, and 35 to 39 age groups. In the Northern Territory, the caesarean rate for Aboriginal mothers was higher than for all births.

The overall pattern of higher caesarean rates in South Australia and Queensland was evident for singleton confinements, for primiparous and multiparous confinements, and for various birthweight categories (Table 28, Figure 19). For singleton births of babies weighing 2500g and over, the caesarean rate for mothers who had private accommodation in hospital was 45 per cent higher than for those in public accommodation. Caesarean rates for twins and other multiple births, and for breech presentation in singleton births, were high in all 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 18.3 per cent of confinements in New South Wales, 19.1 per cent in Victoria, and 22.4 per cent in South Australia. Suturing of perineal lacerations was performed in a further 20.4 per cent of confinements in Victoria and 16.5 per cent in South Australia.

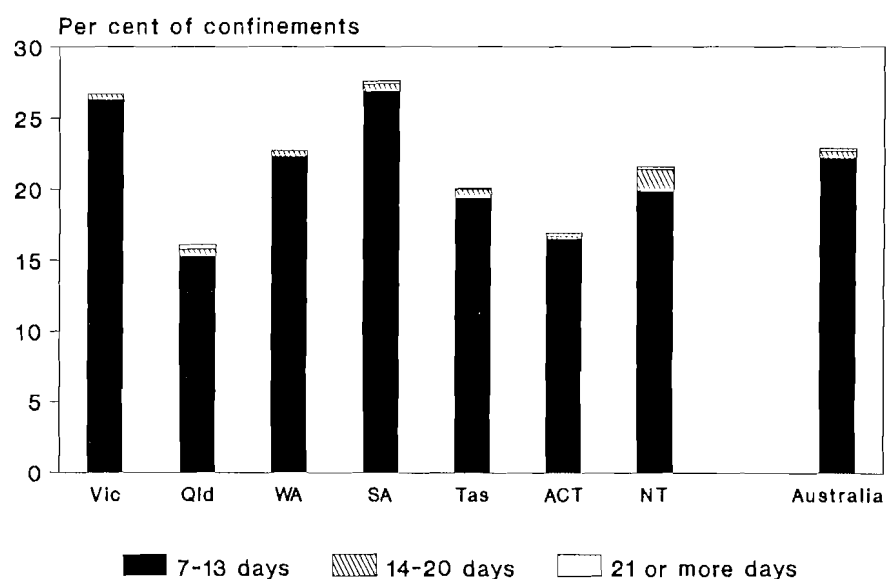
## 2.17 Mother's length of stay in hospital

The majority of women (60.1 per cent) gave birth on the same day as they were admitted to hospital (Table 29). Another 32.0 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 2.3 per cent of all confinements. A larger proportion of women in the Northern Territory (3.9 per cent) had prolonged antenatal hospitalisation of 7 days or more than 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 1992 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 5.1 days, slightly longer in Victoria and South Australia and shorter in Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory (Table 30).

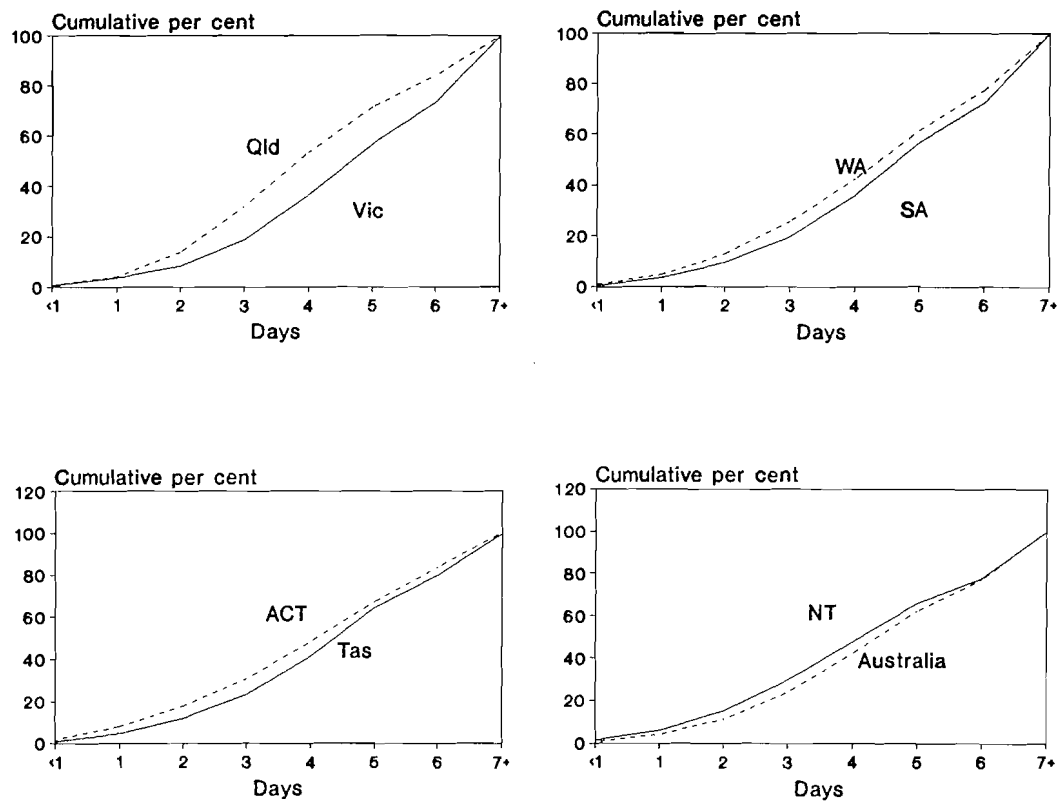
Consistent with these differences, more women in Queensland had hospital stays of 4 days or less and fewer remained in hospital for more than a week (Figures 20, 21).

Figure 20: Maternal postnatal stay of 7 or more days, hospital confinements, States\* and Territories, 1992



\* Data exclude New South Wales

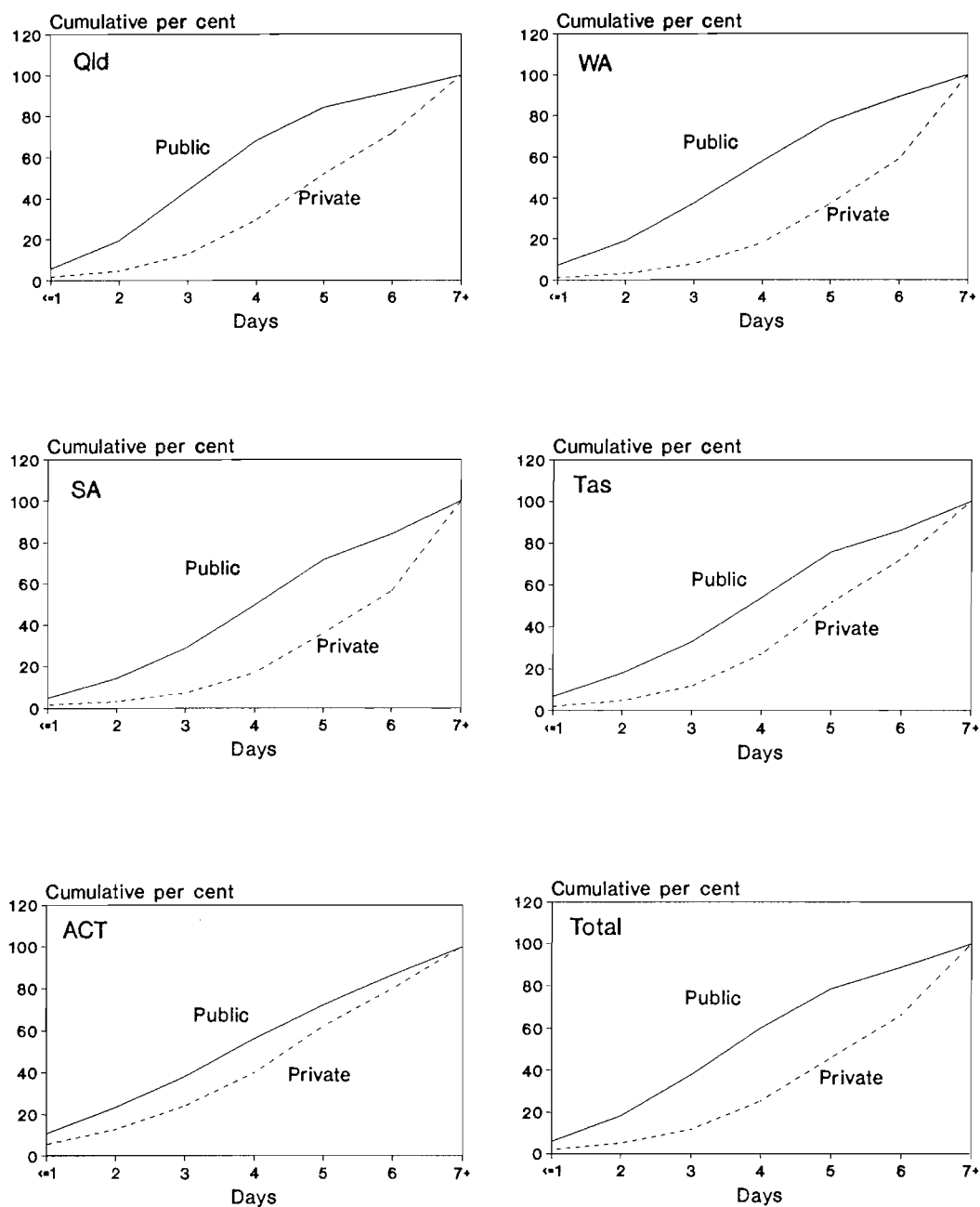
Figure 21: Length of maternal postnatal stay, hospital confinements, States and Territories, 1992





For those States with available data, women with private accommodation in hospital had longer episodes of postnatal hospitalisation (Table 31, Figure 22). In the combined States, those in private accommodation had an average stay of 5.9 days compared with 4.3 days for those in public accommodation.

**Figure 22: Length of maternal postnatal stay by accommodation status, selected States and Territories, 1992**



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 more than 1,000 confinements annually (Table 32).

### **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 (Table 33). Women transferred to another hospital comprised 3.0 per cent of hospital confinements. Transfers between hospitals were 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. Eleven maternal deaths were reported through the perinatal collections in 1992.

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.

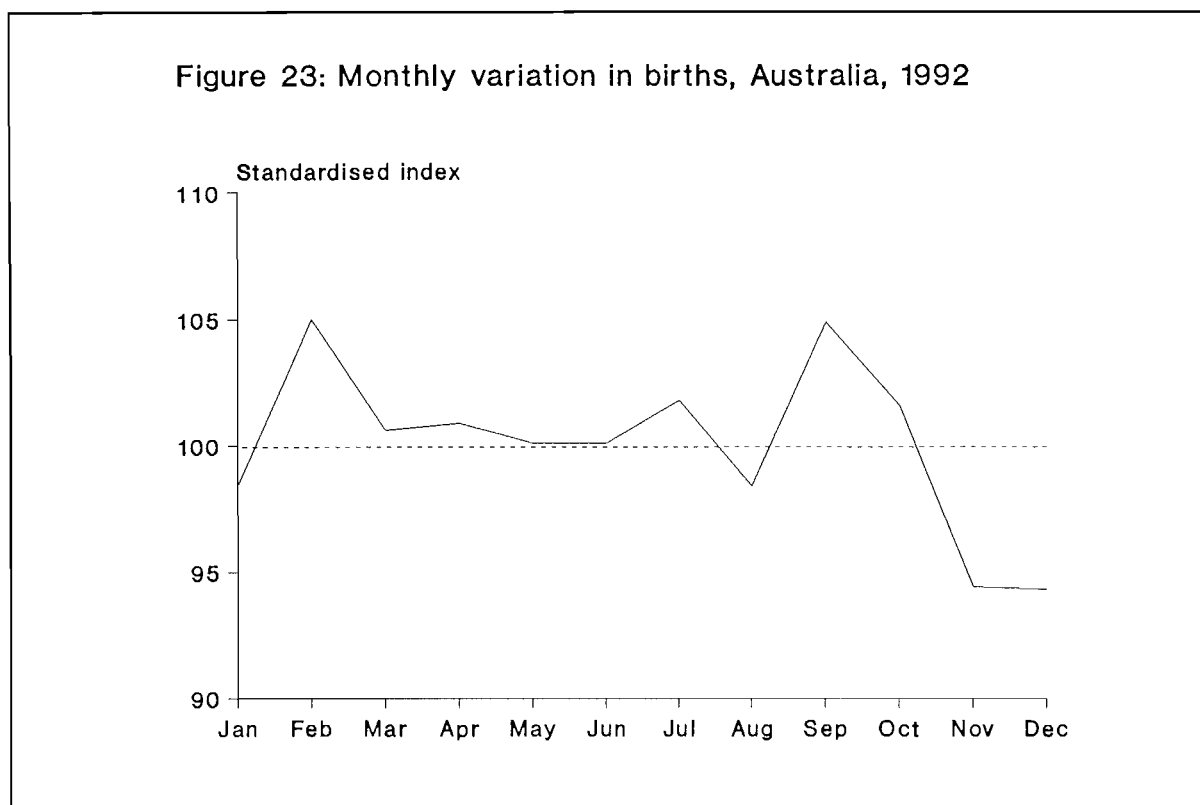
### **2.19 Infant's birth status**

Infants are recorded as liveborn or stillborn (fetal deaths) 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 (WHO). 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. In 1992, there were 1,493 stillbirths that met the WHO criteria registered in Australia (ABS 1993) whereas there were 1,767 stillbirths notified to the perinatal collections.

## 2.20 Infant's month of birth

Changing seasonal patterns of birth have been evident in Australia in recent decades (Mathers & Harris 1983). A bimodal pattern with peaks in the autumn and spring has occurred in recent years. In 1992, a similar number of births occurred in March, May, July, September and October (Table 34). When adjustment is made for the number of days in the month by deriving a standardised index, the peak months for births were February and September (Figure 23).



## 2.21 Infant's sex

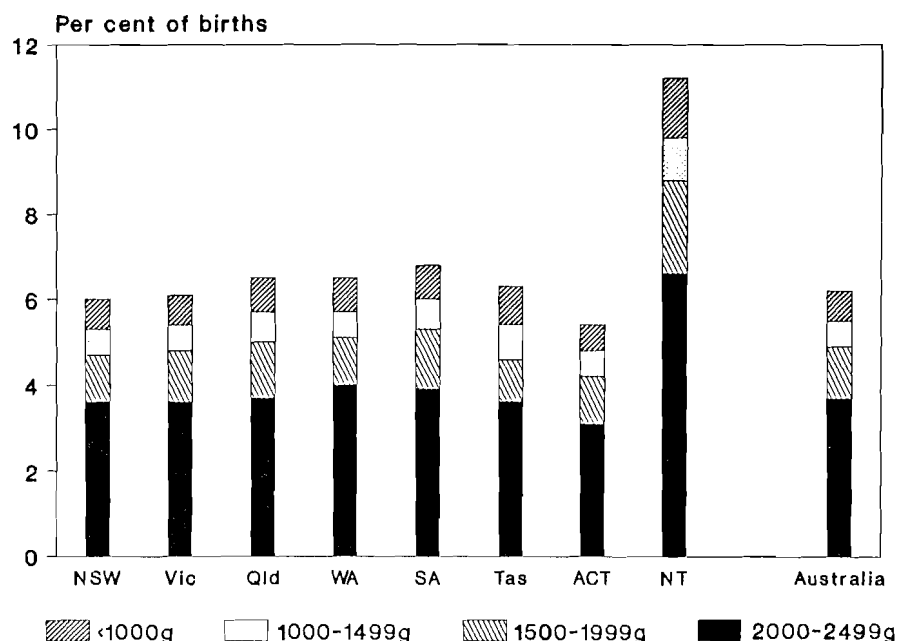
Male births exceeded female births in all States and Territories (Table 35). The national sex ratio was 105.8 male births per 100 female births. The sex ratio in singleton and twin births was higher than in other multiple births.

## 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 1992, there were 16,493 (6.3 per cent) infants of low birthweight. The proportion of low birthweight infants was unchanged from 1991. Very low birthweight infants comprised 1.4 per cent of all births and extremely low birthweight infants 0.7 per cent (Table 36, Figure 24). The number of extremely low birthweight infants increased by 11.0 per cent from 1,759 in 1991 to 1,953 in 1992.

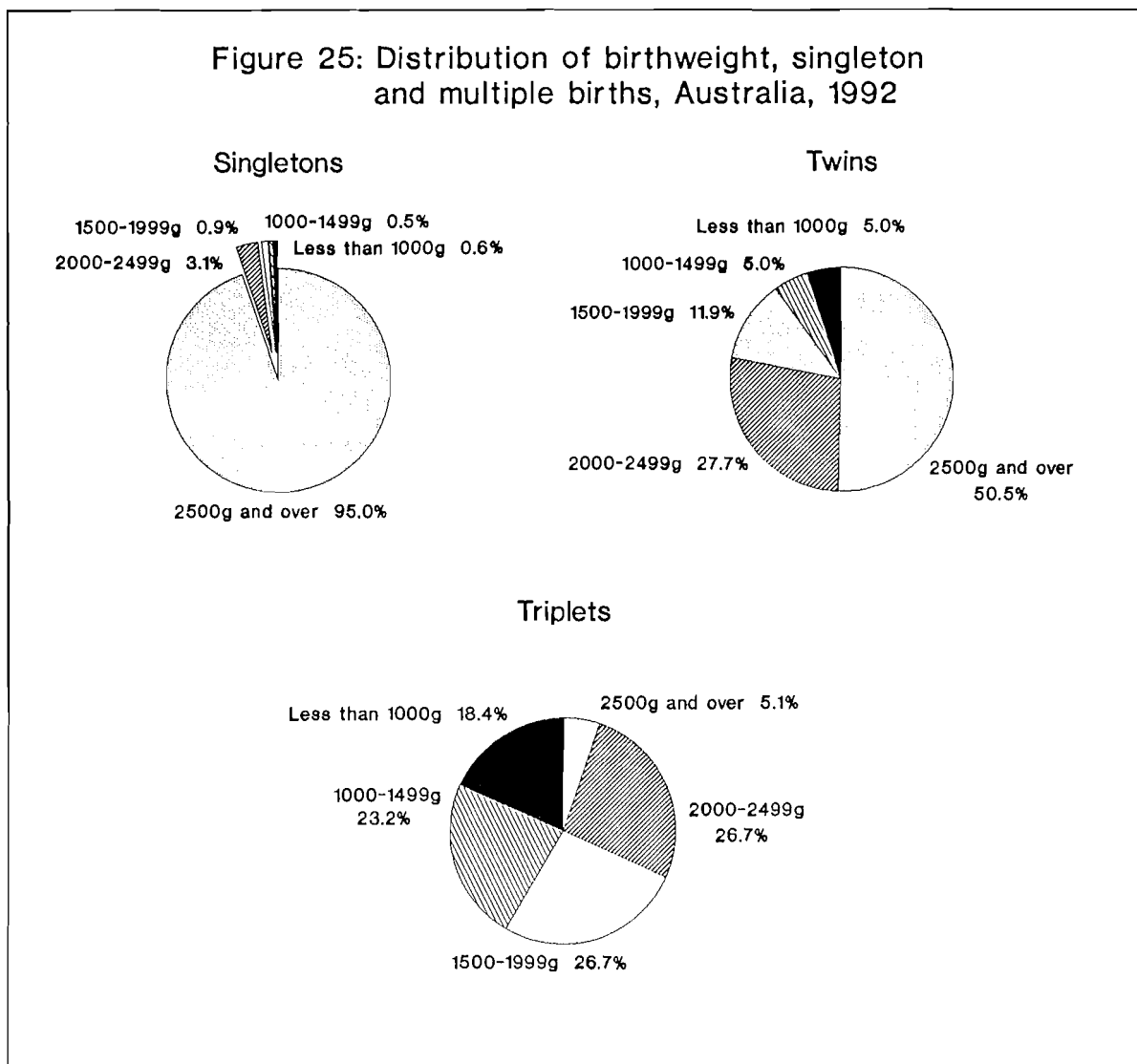
Figure 24: Proportion of low birthweight infants, all births, States and Territories, 1992



The proportion of low birthweight infants was similar in the States but was higher in the Northern Territory (11.3 per cent) and lower in the Australian Capital Territory (5.4 per cent). These variations in low birthweight 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 3,356g and only in the Northern Territory, where it was 3,179g, did it differ greatly from the national average.

Among live births, 5.8 per cent were low birthweight compared with 73.7 per cent of stillbirths (Table 37). In twins, the proportion of low birthweight was 49.6 per cent, almost 10 times higher than in singleton births (5.0 per cent); in triplets, it was 94.9 per cent and, in other multiple births, 100.0 per cent (Table 38, Figure 25). With increasing plurality, the mean birthweight decreased from 3,384g in singletons, 2,396g in twins, and 1,615g in triplets, to 1,235g in two sets of quadruplets and two sets of quintuplets.

Figure 25: Distribution of birthweight, singleton and multiple births, Australia, 1992



A lower proportion of male infants were low birthweight (5.9 per cent) than females (6.7 per cent) (Table 39). 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 3,417g, which was 124g higher than that of females (3,293g).

The mean birthweight of Aboriginal infants was 3,150g; this was 206g less than the national average of 3,356g for all births. The proportion of low birthweight in Aboriginal infants was 12.9 per cent (Table 40), double that of 6.3 per cent in all infants. There were considerable variations in the proportions of low birthweight Aboriginal infants among the States and Territories (Figure 26). The highest proportions were in the Northern Territory (17.0 per cent), the Australian Capital Territory (18.2 per cent) where there were only 11 births to Aboriginal mothers, and South Australia (16.4 per cent). Very low birthweight was particularly common in South Australia (3.9 per cent).

Figure 26: Proportion of low birthweight infants,  
Aboriginal births, States and Territories, 1992

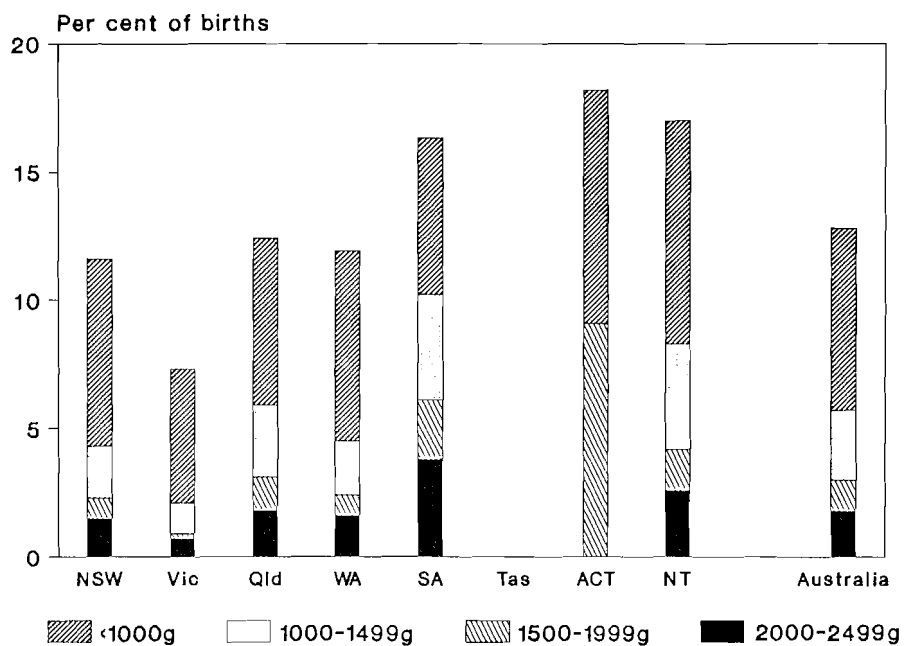
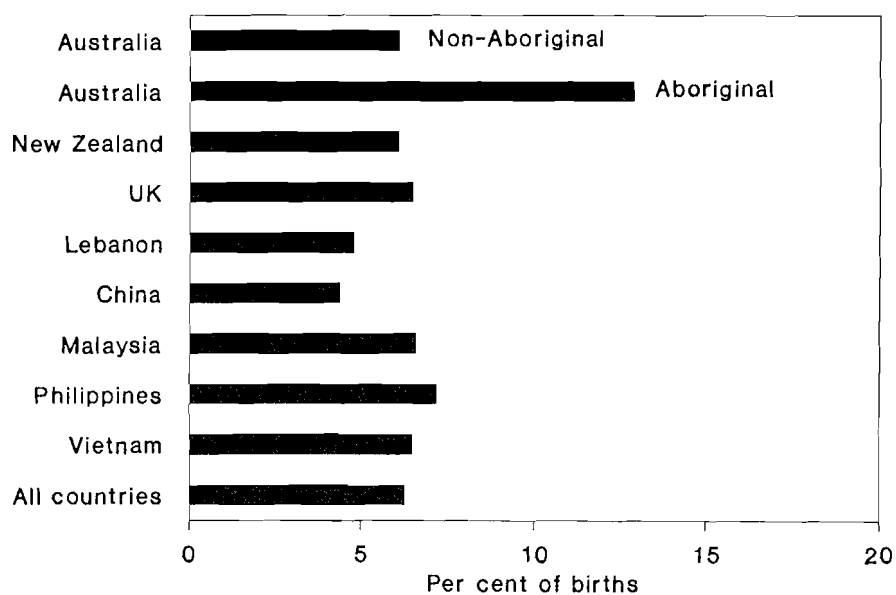


Figure 27: Low birthweight rates, selected maternal  
countries of birth, Australia, 1992



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 the United Kingdom, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam (Table 41, Figure 27). Mothers born in China, Hong Kong, Lebanon and Italy were less likely to have infants of low birthweight.

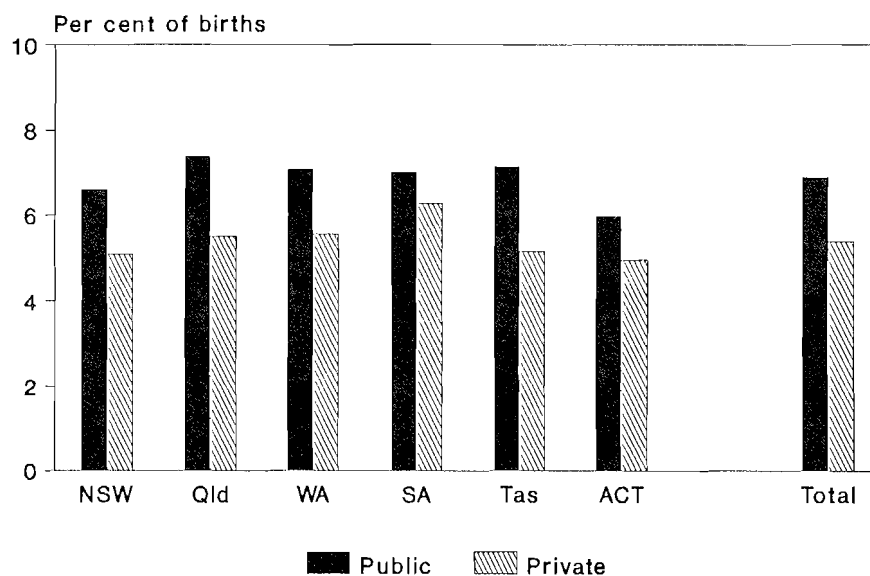
Mothers aged 25-29 years had the lowest proportion of low birthweight infants (5.7 per cent); this proportion was higher with decreasing and increasing maternal age (Table 41).

Women having their first baby were more likely than any other parity group to have a low birthweight infant (7.7 per cent), while those giving birth for the second time were least likely to do so (5.1 per cent) (Table 41).

The proportion of low birthweight infants born to single mothers (8.8 per cent), and to mothers who were divorced, widowed or separated (9.2 per cent), was considerably higher than for married mothers (5.9 per cent) (Table 41).

Mothers in public accommodation in hospital were 22 per cent more likely to have an infant of low birthweight than those in private accommodation (Table 41, Figure 28).

Figure 28: Low birthweight by maternal accommodation status, selected States and Territories, 1992



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 (1.2 per cent), and in birth centres (1.2 per cent), than in hospitals (6.3 per cent) (Table 41). On the other hand, there was a high proportion of low birthweight infants among those born before arrival in hospital (10.2 per cent) and elsewhere (28.7 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. Births occurring in remote areas, together with the unpredictability of preterm birth, are 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 42). More than three-quarters (80.6 per cent) of infants weighing 500-999g were born in hospitals that had more than 2,000 confinements annually and another 9.7 per cent were born in hospitals with 1,001-2,000 confinements annually. An even higher proportion of infants weighing 1000-1499g (92.9 per cent) were born in hospitals with more than 1,000 confinements annually, most in hospitals with more than 2,000 confinements. Of infants weighing 1500-1999g, 81.6 per cent were born in hospitals with more than 1,000 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 43, 44; Figure 29). The Apgar score at 1 minute was not recorded in the perinatal collections in New South Wales and Victoria in 1992. In the other States and Territories, the distribution of 1-minute and 5-minute Apgar scores was similar. Low Apgar scores of 1-3 were recorded at 1 minute in 2.8 per cent of live births. An Apgar score of 1-3 at 5 minutes was recorded in 0.4 per cent of live births.

Low Apgar scores of less than 4 were strongly associated with the infant's birthweight (Table 45, Figure 30). More than half (50.6 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 (31.8 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 in the extremely low birthweight group were more likely to have low Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes. Infants from singleton and multiple births in the same birthweight categories had similar Apgar scores (Table 46).



Figure 29: Low Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes after birth, live births, States and Territories, 1992

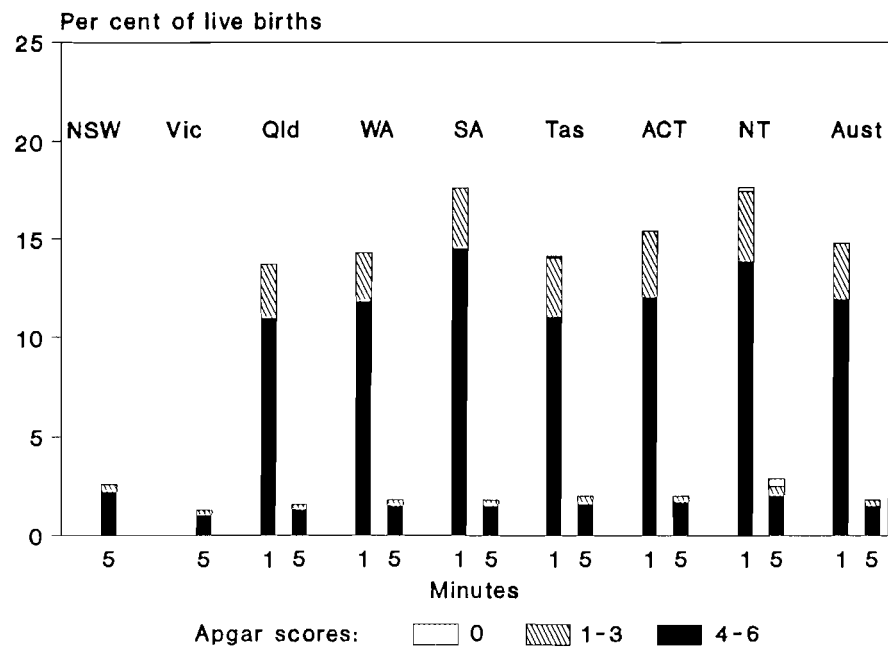
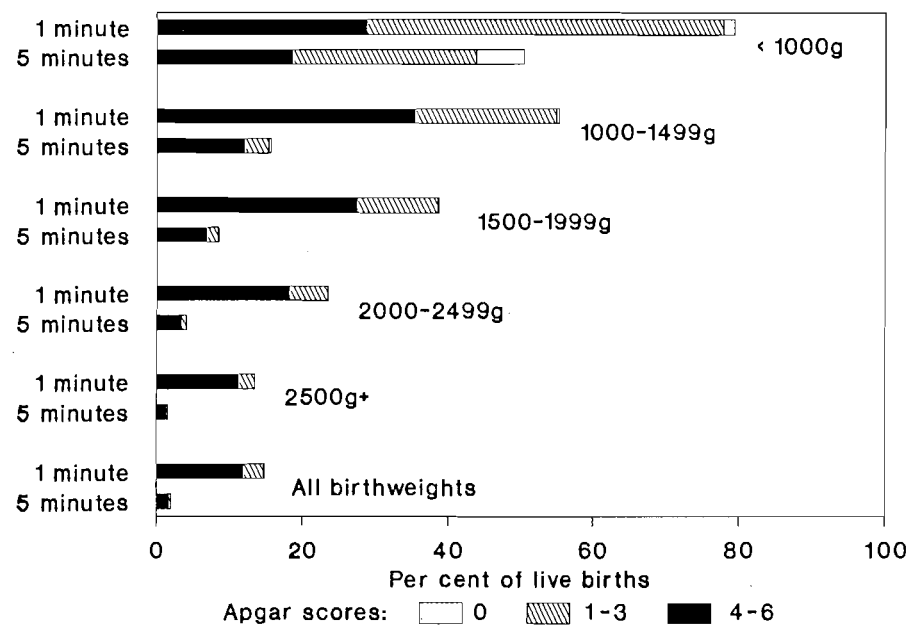


Figure 30: Low Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes by birthweight, live births, Australia, 1992



## **2.24 Resuscitation at birth**

Recording of the type of resuscitation given to infants immediately after birth differs among the States and Territories. Ventilatory assistance by intermittent positive pressure respiration through a bag and mask, or after intubation, was recorded in 13.8 per cent of births in Victoria, 7.1 per cent in Queensland and 1.2 per cent in the Northern Territory. Endotracheal intubation was recorded in 1.1 per cent of births in Victoria, 2.9 per cent in Queensland, and 0.4 per cent in South Australia. Because of the differences in the method of data collection, these comparative figures should be interpreted cautiously. Narcotic antagonists used to counteract respiratory depression due to maternal narcotic analgesics were administered to 2.6 per cent of infants born in Victoria and 4.6 per cent in South Australia.

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

The majority of infants (75.2 per cent) remained in their hospital of birth for less than 7 days (Table 47). 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.

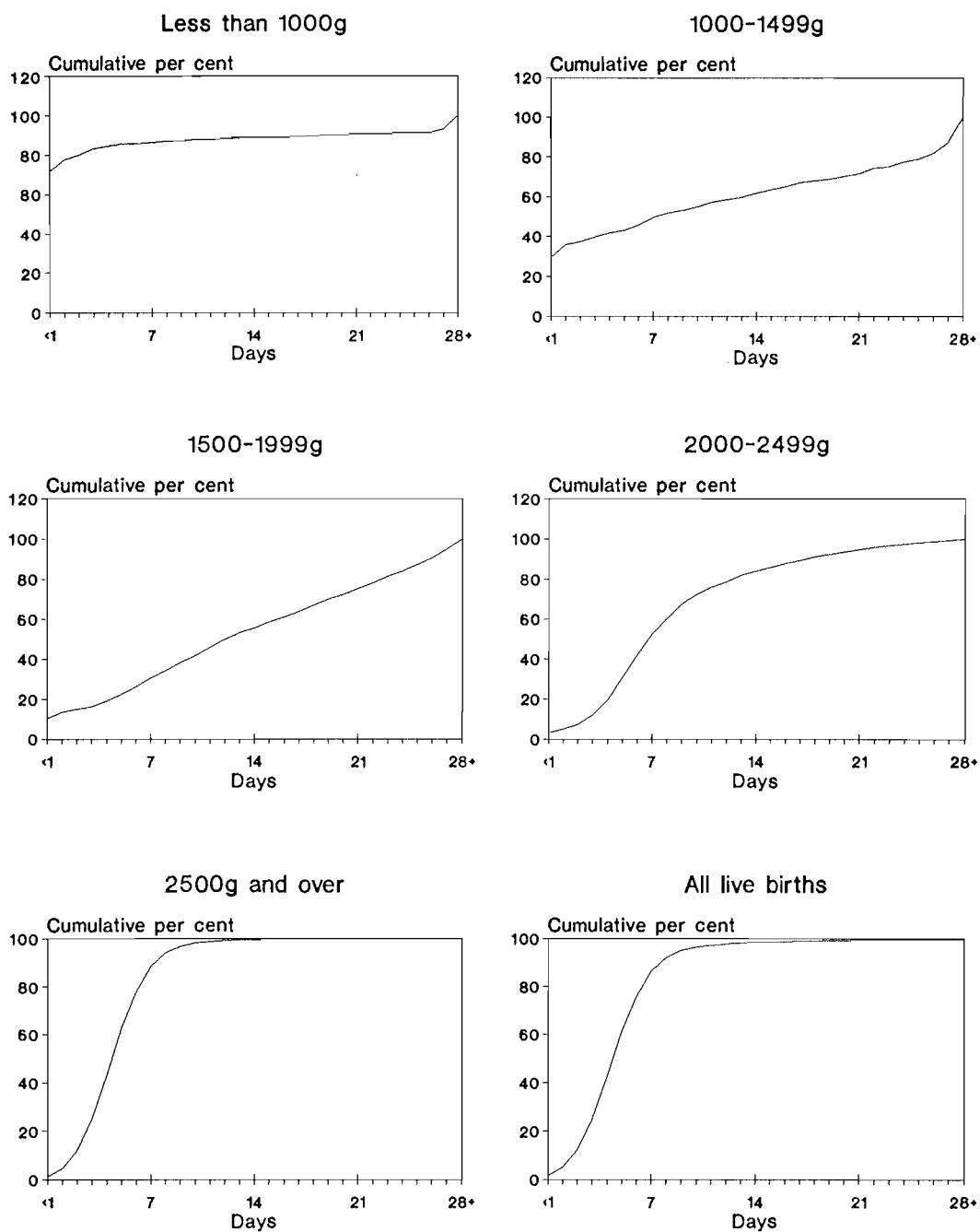
The infant's gestational age and birthweight are usually the main factors influencing the duration of hospitalisation (Table 48, Figure 31). Twins and other infants from multiple births thus had longer stays than singleton infants. Aboriginal infants were more likely to be discharged relatively early 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 4.1 per cent of infants were transferred to another hospital from their hospital of birth (Table 49). 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\*, 1992



\* Data exclude New South Wales

## 3 Perinatal mortality

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### 3.1 Definitions

There are different legal and statistical definitions in Australia for registering and reporting perinatal deaths. For legal purposes, fetal and neonatal deaths of at least 20 weeks' gestation or at least 400g birthweight are registered. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publishes annual data on perinatal deaths based on recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) for national perinatal statistics. Fetal deaths are included if the birthweight is at least 500g or, when birthweight is not available, if the gestational age is at least 22 weeks, and there is no evidence of life after birth. The ABS data for neonatal deaths include liveborn infants dying within 28 days of birth and are based on the same criteria of birthweight or gestational age as for fetal deaths. However, the WHO recommendations include only early neonatal deaths occurring in the first 7 days and not all neonatal deaths up to 28 days, as reported by ABS.

WHO has also recommended that for international comparisons countries should report data based on lower limits of 1,000g or, when birthweight is not available, of at least 28 weeks, excluding births and fetal and neonatal deaths that do not meet these criteria.

There are major differences in perinatal death rates according to which definition is used (Table 50). For example, in the combined years of 1990 to 1992, the perinatal death rate of 12.1 per 1,000 births based on the legal lower limit of 20 weeks or 400g was just over double the rate based on the WHO definition for international comparisons. The rate calculated using the ABS criteria for national data, 9.8 per 1,000 births, was 66 per cent higher than the rate using the WHO international criteria.

Unless otherwise specified, fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates in this report are based on the ABS definition using a lower limit of 500g, or 22 weeks when birthweight was unknown, and including neonatal deaths within 28 days of birth. Annual data are based on the year of registration.

### 3.2 Trends in fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths

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

In the period between 1973 and 1992, the fetal death rate declined by 47 per cent from 10.5 to 5.6 per 1,000 births (Table 51, Figure 32). There was a more substantial fall of 67 per cent for intrapartum fetal deaths than the decline of 34 and 38 per cent, respectively, for antepartum and unknown fetal deaths (Figure 33). As a result, antepartum fetal deaths increased as a proportion of all fetal deaths from 57.9 per cent in 1973 to 70.5 per cent in 1992, and intrapartum fetal deaths decreased from 34.5 per cent in 1973 to 20.9 per cent in 1992 (Figure 34).

The neonatal death rate declined even more sharply than the fetal death rate, falling by 66 per cent from 11.3 per 1,000 live births in 1973 to 3.8 per 1,000 live births in 1992 (Table 52, Figure 32). Early neonatal deaths within 7 days of birth fell more rapidly than late neonatal deaths occurring in the second, third and fourth weeks after birth.

Figure 32: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates, Australia, 1973-1992

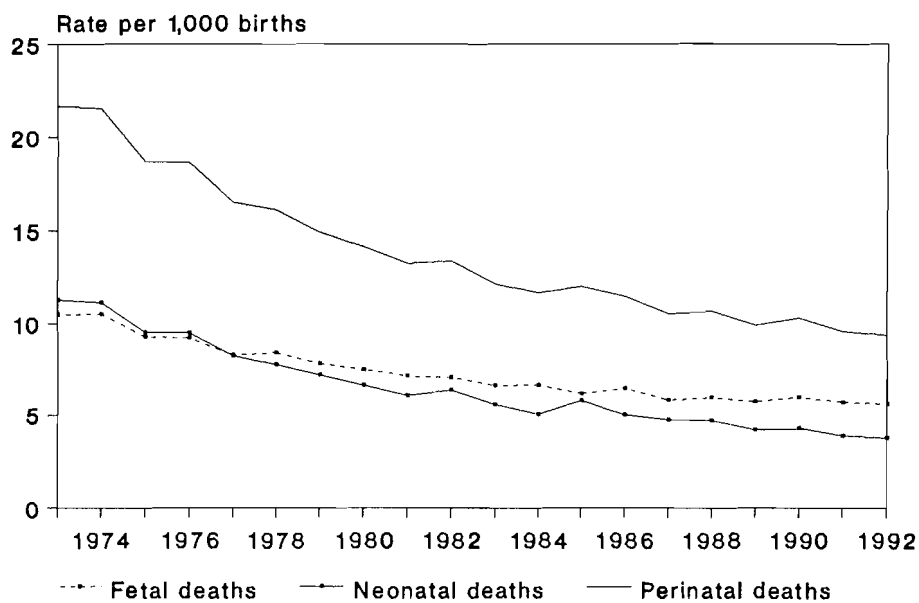


Figure 33: Type of fetal death, Australia, 1973-1992

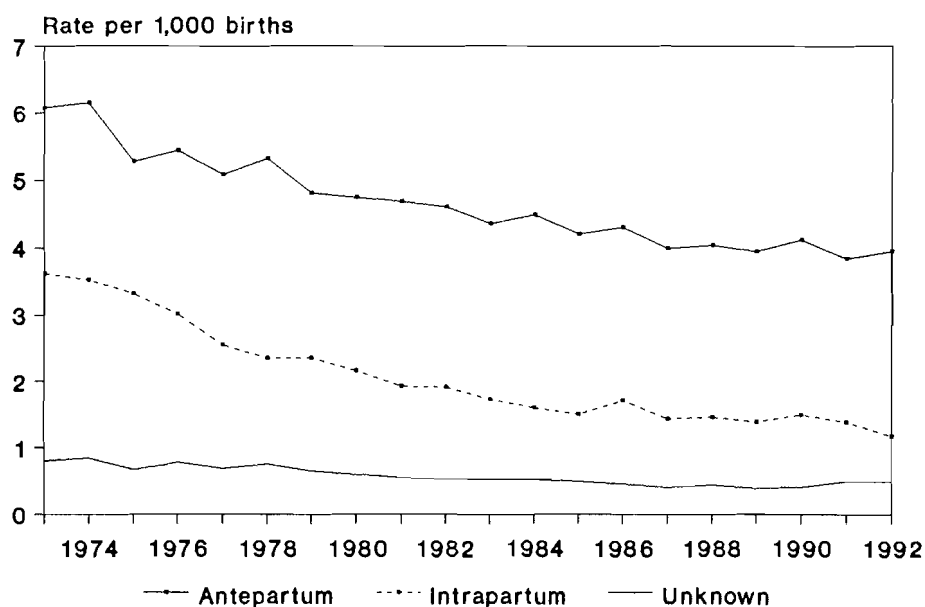
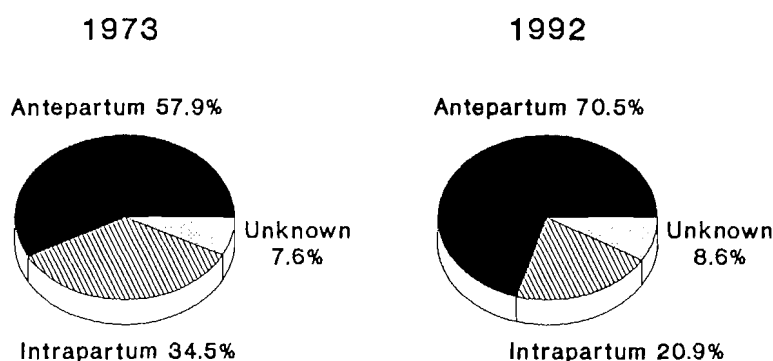


Figure 34: Distribution of fetal deaths by type, Australia, 1973 and 1992



Based on the ABS definitions, the national perinatal mortality rate declined by 57 per cent from 21.7 per 1,000 births in 1973 to 9.4 per 1,000 births in 1992 (Table 53, Figure 32).

### 3.3 Perinatal deaths by State and Territory of residence

Except for a higher rate in the Northern Territory, there were relatively small differences in perinatal death rates among the States and the Territories (Table 54, Figure 35). In the three-year period from 1990 to 1992, South Australia and Western Australia had the lowest perinatal death rates. There was relatively more variation in neonatal death rates than in fetal death rates.

### 3.4 Perinatal deaths by maternal age

The perinatal death rate was higher for infants of younger and older mothers than for those in the 25 to 29 years age group, which had the lowest rate of 8.5 per 1,000 births in the period from 1990 to 1992 (Table 55, Figure 36). Infants of mothers aged 30 to 34 years had slightly lower perinatal death rates than of those aged 20 to 24 years. Infants of mothers aged 40 years and over had a perinatal death rate double that of infants whose mothers were in the lowest-risk age group.

Figure 35: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates,  
States and Territories, 1990-1992

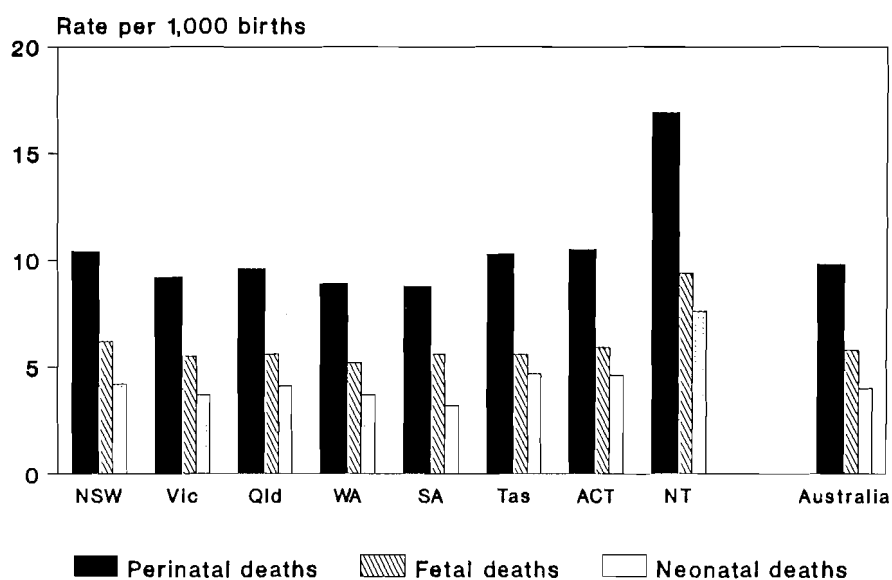
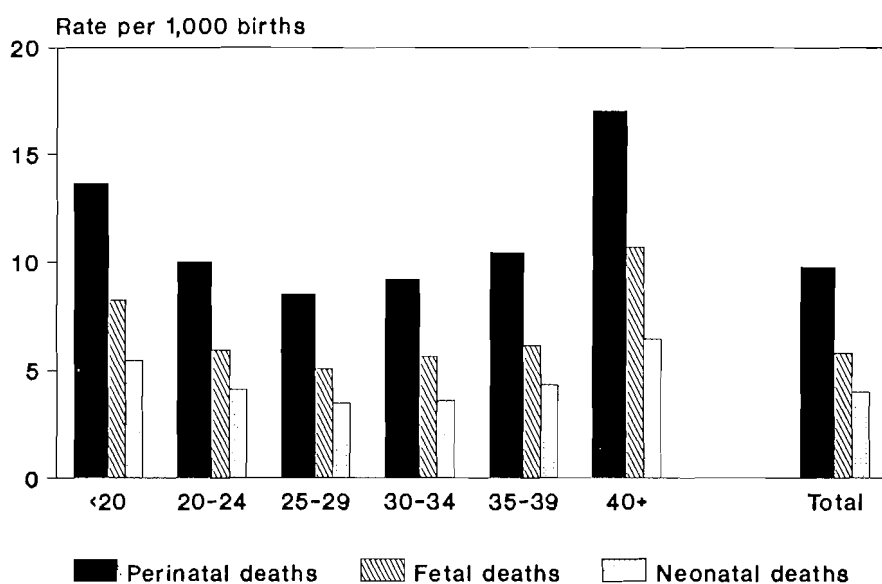


Figure 36: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates  
by maternal age, Australia, 1990-1992



### 3.5 Perinatal deaths by plurality

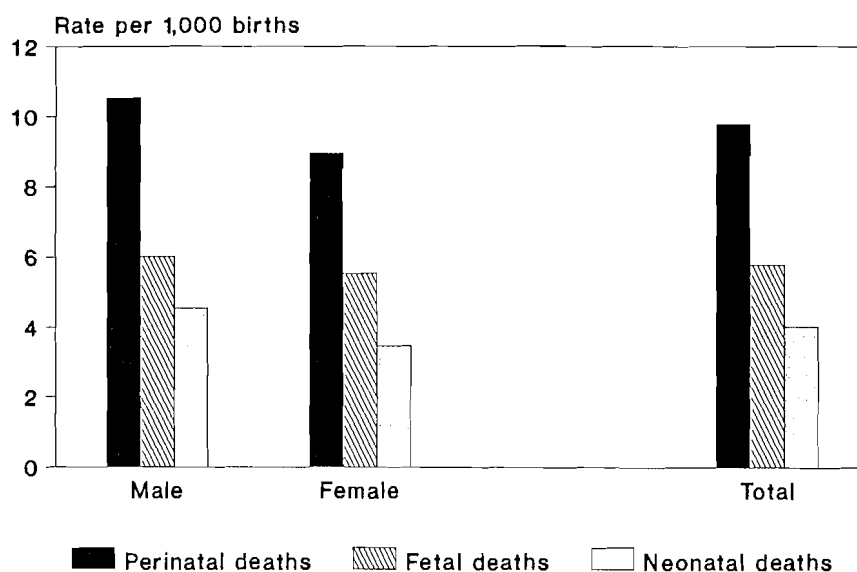
Perinatal death rates are higher for multiple than for singleton births. The number of perinatal deaths among triplet and higher order multiple births is relatively small each year so data were analysed for the three-year period of 1990 to 1992.

Multiple births accounted for 10.0 per cent of the 7,709 perinatal deaths in this period (Table 56). There were 717 perinatal deaths in twins and 53 in other multiple births. The perinatal death rate of 37.1 per 1,000 births in twins was 4.1 times higher than the rate of 9.0 per 1,000 births in singletons. Other multiple births had a rate of 60.2 per 1,000 births, 6.7 times higher than in singletons. The disparity between the death rates in singleton and multiple births was greater for neonatal deaths than for fetal deaths.

### 3.6 Perinatal deaths by infant's sex

Perinatal death rates for males are consistently higher than for females. In 1990 to 1992, the rate for males was 17 per cent above that for females (Table 57, Figure 37). The difference in rates between the sexes was greater for neonatal deaths than for fetal deaths. The neonatal death rate for males was 29 per cent higher than for females; the fetal death rate was 9 per cent higher for males.

Figure 37: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates by infant's sex, 1990-1992





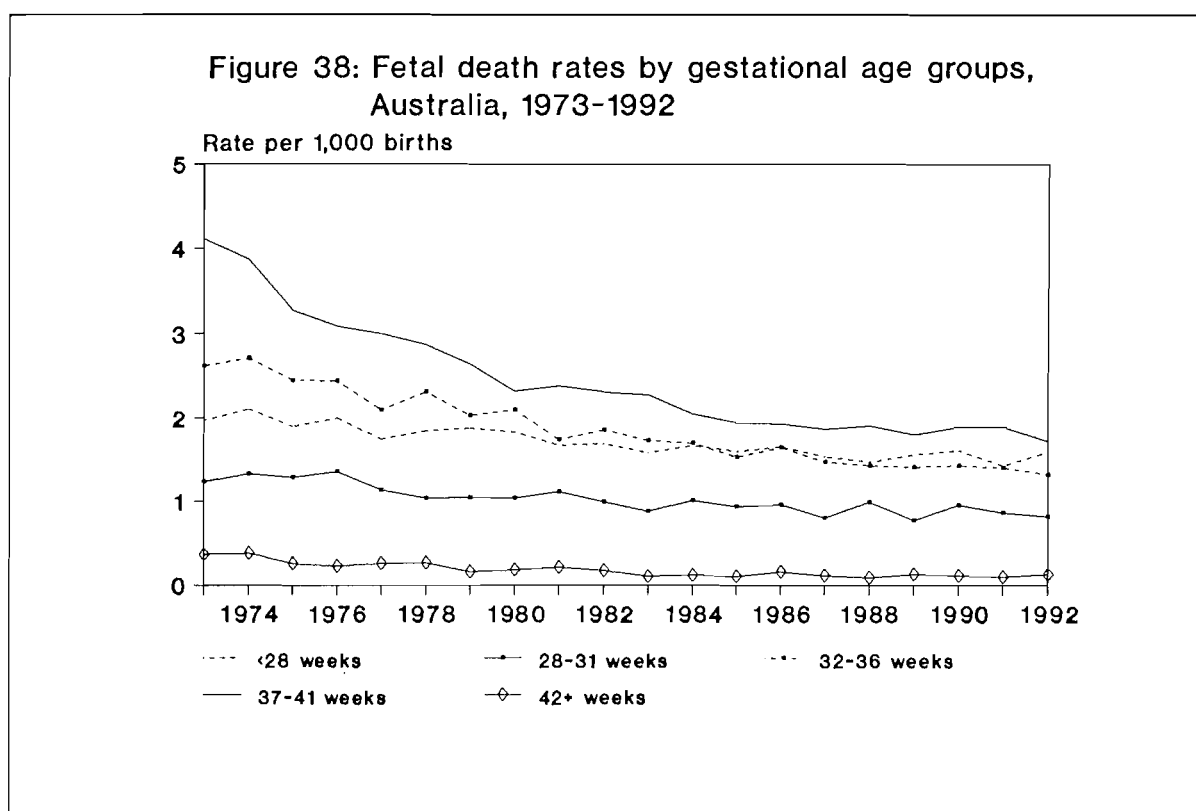
### 3.7 Perinatal deaths by gestational age

The duration of pregnancy is recorded in completed weeks on perinatal death certificates, based either on the gestational age calculated from the dates of the first day of the last menstrual period and birth or on clinical assessment. As information about the gestational age of all births between 1973 and 1992 was lacking, fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths in categories of gestational age are expressed as proportionate death rates. The denominator for calculating proportionate death rates is the total number of births rather than the number of births in a particular gestational age (or, see below, birthweight) category.

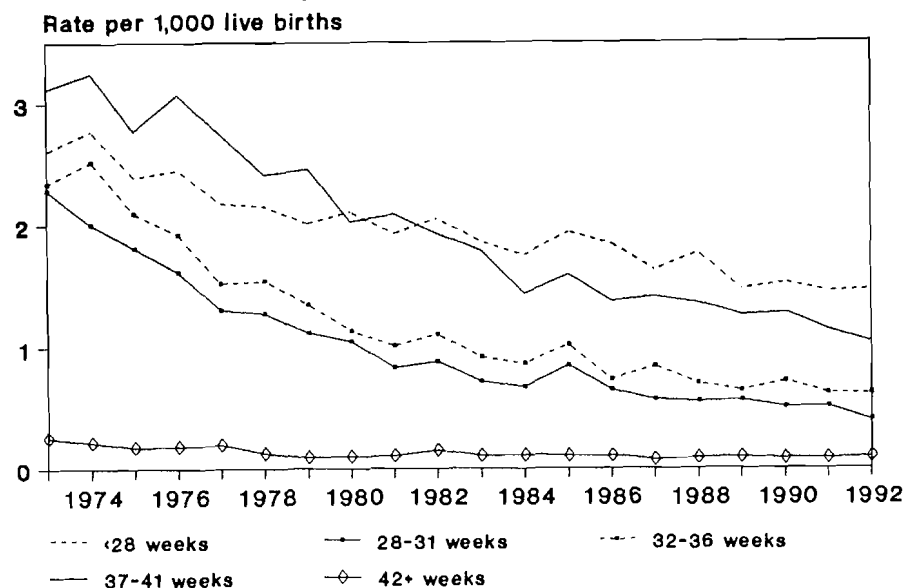
In 1973, preterm births of less than 37 weeks accounted for 57 per cent of fetal deaths with stated gestational ages and those less than 28 weeks for 19 per cent (Table 58, Figure 38). In 1992, these proportions had increased to 67 per cent and 29 per cent, respectively. Many countries that still have a lower limit of 28 weeks for registering fetal deaths thus exclude almost one-third of the fetal deaths included in the Australian data.

The distribution of neonatal deaths by gestational age was similar to that for fetal deaths but there were relatively more neonatal deaths of less than 28 weeks in 1992 than in 1973 (Table 59, Figure 39). The proportion in this group increased from 25 per cent in 1973 to 41 per cent in 1992 while the proportion of all neonatal deaths of known gestational age that were preterm was 68 per cent in 1973 and 69 per cent in 1992.

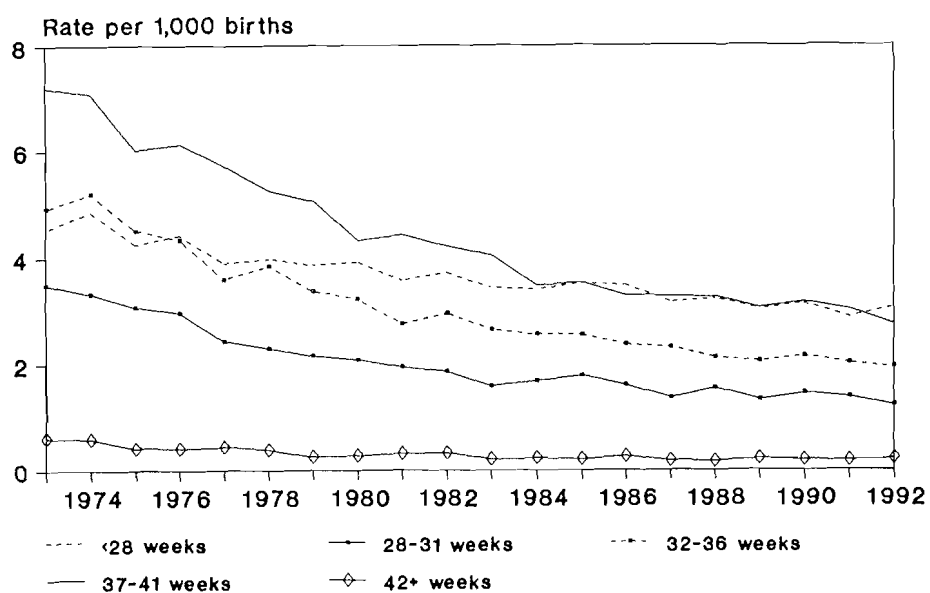
Between 1973 and 1992, there were substantial falls in the proportionate perinatal death rates in all gestational age groups, but the decline for deaths of less than 28 weeks was not as marked as for deaths in the other gestational age groups (Table 60, Figure 40).



**Figure 39: Neonatal death rates by gestational age groups, Australia, 1973-1992**



**Figure 40: Perinatal death rates by gestational age groups, Australia, 1973-1992**



### 3.8 Perinatal deaths by birthweight

As for the deaths tabulated in gestational age groups, the fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates by birthweight for the period from 1973 to 1992 are expressed as proportionate death rates. In 1973, low birthweight infants of less than 2500g accounted for 61.8 per cent of fetal deaths with stated birthweights and those weighing 500-999g for 22.5 per cent (Table 61, Figure 41). In 1992, these proportions had increased to 66.6 and 32.2 per cent, respectively.

The decline in the proportionate neonatal death rate was much greater for infants weighing 1000-2,499g than for those in lighter or heavier birthweight groups (Table 62, Figure 42). The rate for infants of 1000-2499g fell from 4.7 per 1,000 live births in 1973 to 1.0 per 1,000 live births in 1992. For infants weighing 500-999g, the rate declined from 2.7 to 1.4 per 1,000 live births in the same period, while for those weighing 2500g and over, it declined from 2.8 per 1,000 in 1973 to 1.2 per 1,000 live births in 1992.

Although there were substantial falls in the proportionate perinatal death rates in all birthweight groups, the greatest decline was for infants weighing 1000-2499g, particularly reflecting the decline in neonatal deaths in this birthweight group (Table 63, Figure 43).

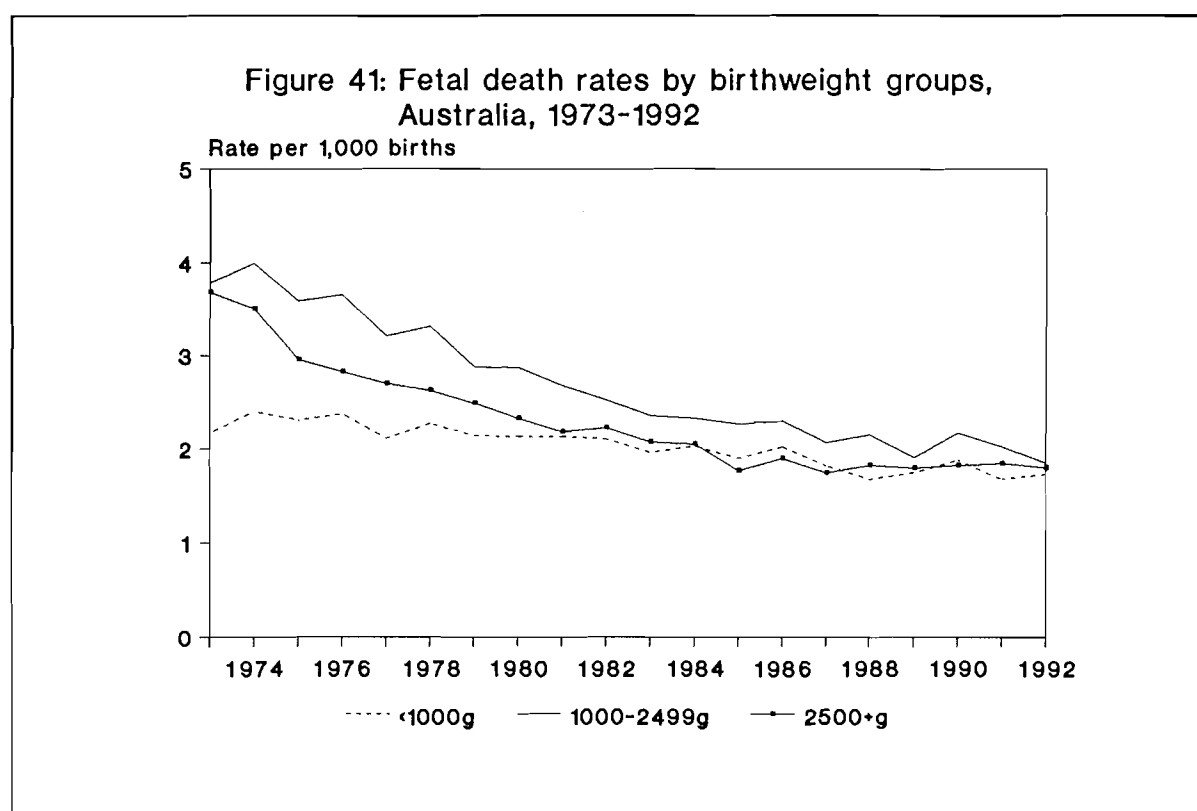


Figure 42: Neonatal death rates by birthweight groups, Australia, 1973-1992

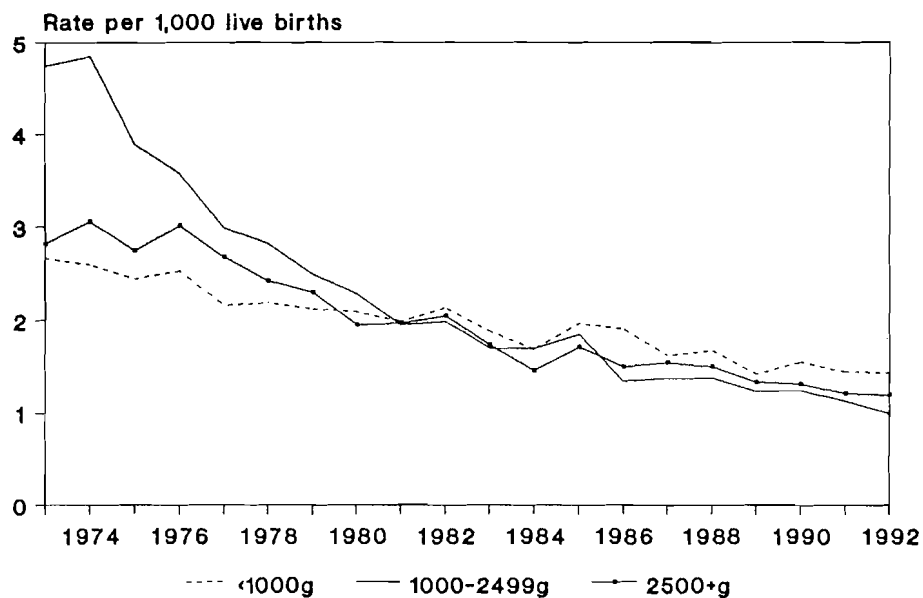
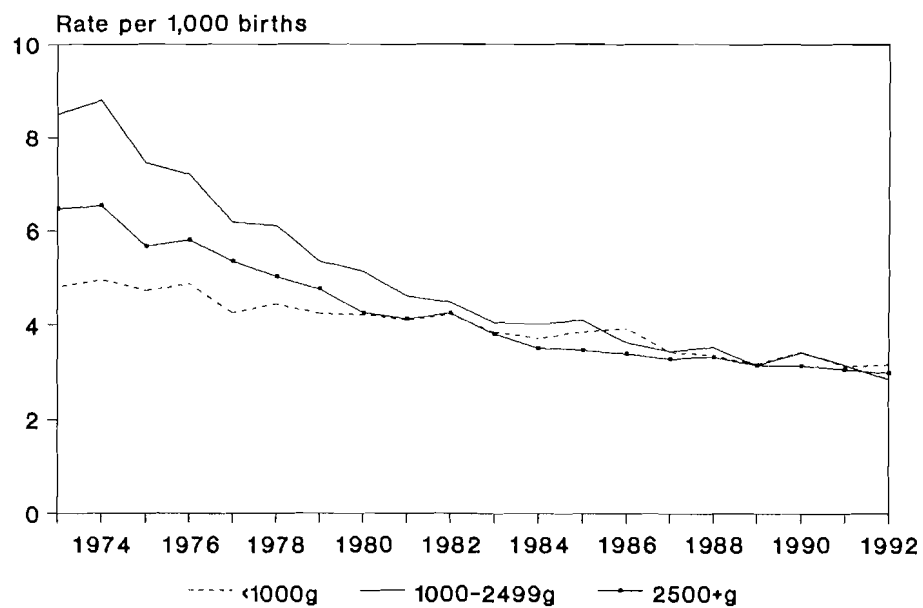


Figure 43: Perinatal death rates by birthweight groups, Australia, 1973-1992



### 3.9 Birthweight-specific fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths in Australia

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

Birthweight is not recorded on birth registration forms in most States and Territories but this information is obtained from the forms completed by midwives for the perinatal data collections. These collections should also provide complete data on fetal deaths, but ascertainment of neonatal deaths is likely to be incomplete for those neonatal deaths that do not occur in the hospital of birth. This deficiency can be overcome by linking registered perinatal deaths to their birth records in the perinatal collections but this linkage has not yet been achieved in all States and Territories. An advantage of the perinatal death certificates is that they enable more reliable distinction between fetal and neonatal deaths because the certifier is required to specify when the heartbeat ceased in relation to the onset of labour or to birth.

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

Missing information on the birthweight of some infants is an additional problem in analysing birthweight-specific death rates. Based on comparisons of data from the State and Territory perinatal collections (Table 64, see NPSU: year of birth) and from perinatal death registrations, there were more fetal deaths with known birthweights of 500g and over in the NPSU data, more fetal deaths with a birthweight of less than 500g in the ABS data, and more fetal deaths with unstated birthweights in the NPSU data (Table 64). Accordingly, fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates for births of 500g and over in 1991 were calculated using NPSU data on live births (Table A1) and ABS data on fetal and neonatal deaths. Birthweight was not recorded in only 0.04 per cent of live births.

With these limitations in mind, national birthweight-specific fetal death rates varied from 342.6 per 1,000 births for infants of 500-999g to 1.2 per 1,000 births for the optimal birthweight group of 3500-3999g. Fetal death rates were slightly higher in the heaviest birthweight groups, but there were only 9 fetal deaths in the group weighing 4500g and over.

Neonatal death rates ranged from 419.8 per 1,000 live births for infants weighing 500-999g to the lowest rate of 0.5 per 1,000 for those in the 4000-4499g group. Expressed as survival rates, 58 per cent of liveborn infants weighing 500-999g, 92.1 per cent of infants of 1000-1499g, and 97.2 per cent of infants of 1500-1999g survived to at least 28 days.

### **3.10 Birthweight-specific fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths in selected States**

Data on birthweight-specific death rates using linked data from perinatal death registrations and the perinatal data collections were available for Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia for births occurring in 1989, 1990 and 1991 (Tables 65, 66, 67) and for the combined three-year period (Table 68). Numbers were small in some 500g birthweight groups, contributing to considerable variation from one year to another and among the States. For the period of 1989 to 1991, there were relatively small differences between States in fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates and no consistent differences in the various birthweight-specific neonatal death rates.

### **3.11 Birthweight-specific fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths in selected hospitals with neonatal intensive care units**

Birthweight-specific fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates for births in hospitals with neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) should not be compared with the preceding population data because these hospitals usually have relatively more high-risk pregnant women who were referred for antenatal care and birth or who were transferred to the hospital in late pregnancy or during labour. This results in a higher proportion of preterm births and low birthweight infants who are at greater risk of perinatal death.

The Australian and New Zealand Neonatal Network has recently been established to improve the care of high-risk newborn infants and their families through collaborative audit and research.

Data on births and perinatal deaths were provided by 11 hospitals with neonatal intensive care units. The data for 1990 were obtained from 8 hospitals in which there were 26,828 births; for 1991, from 11 hospitals with 35,067 births; and for 1992, from 5 hospitals with 20,709 births. The higher risk for babies born in these hospitals was shown by the high proportion of low birthweight infants; in 1990, it was 11.3 per cent, in 1991, 11.9 per cent, and in 1992, 10.8 per cent. The incidence of low birthweight for all births in Australia was 6.3 per cent in 1991 and 1992.

Pooled data from these hospitals were analysed in 100g birthweight categories for infants weighing less than 1000g, in 500g categories from 1000g up to 2499g, and in the group weighing 2500g and over (Table 69). Depending on the year, the survival rates of infants weighing 500-599g varied between 28 and 44 per cent; the survival rates of liveborn infants in successive 100g birthweight groups were about 55 per cent for infants of 600-699g, 59 to 76 per cent for infants of 700-799g, more than 80 per cent for infants of 800-899g, and almost 90 per cent for infants of 900-999g.

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**Table 1 : Confinements and births, States and Territories, 1992**

|                   | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia      |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Confinements      | 87,799        | 65,399        | 45,962        | 24,970        | 19,868        | 6,928        | 4,644        | 3,586        | 259,156        |
| Fetal deaths      | 572           | 447           | 305           | 165           | 148           | 51           | 33           | 46           | 1,767          |
| Live births       | 88,401        | 65,853        | 46,307        | 25,159        | 20,004        | 6,975        | 4,678        | 3,582        | 260,959        |
| <b>All births</b> | <b>88,973</b> | <b>66,300</b> | <b>46,612</b> | <b>25,324</b> | <b>20,152</b> | <b>7,026</b> | <b>4,711</b> | <b>3,628</b> | <b>262,726</b> |

**Table 2 : Place of birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 1992**

| Place of birth             | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia      |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Number</b>              |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Hospital                   | 85,083        | 65,003        | 45,665        | 24,733        | 19,636        | 6,855        | 4,516        | 3,502        | 254,993        |
| Birth centre               | 2,160         | na            | na            | 52            | 125           | na           | 68           | na           | 2,405          |
| Home                       | 253           | 166           | 156           | 107           | 60            | 73           | 53           | na           | 868            |
| Born before arrival        | 257           | 225           | 140           | 78            | 47            | -            | na           | na           | 747            |
| Other                      | -             | -             | 1             | -             | -             | -            | 4            | 84           | 89             |
| Not stated                 | 46            | 5             | -             | -             | -             | -            | 3            | -            | 54             |
| <b>All places of birth</b> | <b>87,799</b> | <b>65,399</b> | <b>45,962</b> | <b>24,970</b> | <b>19,868</b> | <b>6,928</b> | <b>4,644</b> | <b>3,586</b> | <b>259,156</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>            |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Hospital                   | 97.0          | 99.4          | 99.4          | 99.1          | 98.8          | 98.9         | 97.3         | 97.7         | 98.4           |
| Birth centre               | 2.5           | na            | na            | 0.2           | 0.6           | na           | 1.5          | na           | 0.9            |
| Home                       | 0.3           | 0.3           | 0.3           | 0.4           | 0.3           | 1.1          | 1.1          | na           | 0.3            |
| Born before arrival        | 0.3           | 0.3           | 0.3           | 0.3           | 0.2           | na           | na           | na           | 0.3            |
| Other                      | -             | -             | 0.0           | -             | -             | -            | 0.1          | 2.3          | 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, 1992**

| Number of confinements annually | NSW          | Vic          | Qld          | WA           | SA           | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia    |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Number</b>                   |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| 1 - 100                         | 62           | 75           | 80           | 53           | 57           | 6            | -            | 2            | 335          |
| 101 - 500                       | 41           | 32           | 23           | 20           | 20           | 1            | 1            | 2            | 140          |
| 501 - 1000                      | 25           | 22           | 11           | 7            | 4            | 2            | -            | 2            | 73           |
| 1001 - 2000                     | 12           | 13           | 12           | 5            | 3            | 2            | 1            | 1            | 49           |
| 2001 and over                   | 13           | 4            | 3            | 2            | 2            | 1            | 1            | -            | 26           |
| <b>All hospitals</b>            | <b>153</b>   | <b>146</b>   | <b>129</b>   | <b>87</b>    | <b>86</b>    | <b>12</b>    | <b>3</b>     | <b>7</b>     | <b>623</b>   |
| <b>Per cent</b>                 |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| 1 - 100                         | 40.5         | 51.4         | 62.0         | 60.9         | 66.3         | 50.0         | -            | 28.6         | 53.8         |
| 101 - 500                       | 26.8         | 21.9         | 17.8         | 23.0         | 23.3         | 8.3          | 33.3         | 28.6         | 22.5         |
| 501 - 1000                      | 16.3         | 15.1         | 8.5          | 8.0          | 4.7          | 16.7         | -            | 28.6         | 11.7         |
| 1001 - 2000                     | 7.8          | 8.9          | 9.3          | 5.7          | 3.5          | 16.7         | 33.3         | 14.3         | 7.9          |
| 2001 and over                   | 8.5          | 2.7          | 2.3          | 2.3          | 2.3          | 8.3          | 33.3         | -            | 4.2          |
| <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 confinements by size of maternity unit, States and Territories, 1992**

| Number of confinements annually | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia      |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Number</b>                   |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| 1 - 100                         | 1,920         | 2,492         | 1,895         | 1,226         | 1,605         | 194          | -            | 49           | 9,381          |
| 101 - 500                       | 9,697         | 8,404         | 5,513         | 5,525         | 4,681         | 265          | 161          | 558          | 34,804         |
| 501 - 1000                      | 19,048        | 16,125        | 7,174         | 5,161         | 3,085         | 1,343        | -            | 1,536        | 53,472         |
| 1001 - 2000                     | 17,669        | 19,910        | 17,017        | 6,245         | 5,130         | 2,963        | 1,373        | 1,359        | 71,666         |
| 2001 and over                   | 39,161        | 18,297        | 14,206        | 6,576         | 5,307         | 2,090        | 3,050        | -            | 88,687         |
| <b>All hospitals</b>            | <b>87,495</b> | <b>65,228</b> | <b>45,805</b> | <b>24,733</b> | <b>19,808</b> | <b>6,855</b> | <b>4,584</b> | <b>3,502</b> | <b>258,010</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>                 |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| 1 - 100                         | 2.2           | 3.8           | 4.1           | 5.0           | 8.1           | 2.8          | -            | 1.4          | 3.6            |
| 101 - 500                       | 11.1          | 12.9          | 12.0          | 22.3          | 23.6          | 3.9          | 3.5          | 15.9         | 13.5           |
| 501 - 1000                      | 21.8          | 24.7          | 15.7          | 20.9          | 15.6          | 19.6         | -            | 43.9         | 20.7           |
| 1001 - 2000                     | 20.2          | 30.5          | 37.2          | 25.2          | 25.9          | 43.2         | 30.0         | 38.8         | 27.8           |
| 2001 and over                   | 44.8          | 28.1          | 31.0          | 26.6          | 26.8          | 30.5         | 66.5         | -            | 34.4           |
| <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 5 : Maternal age, all confinements, States and Territories, 1992**

| Maternal age (years)    | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia      |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Mean age (years)</b> | 28.1          | 28.6          | 27.5          | 27.9          | 27.9          | 27.4         | 28.5         | 26.2         | 28.1           |
| <b>Number</b>           |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Less than 15            | 32            | 3             | 20            | 22            | 10            | 3            | 1            | 31           | 122            |
| 15                      | 107           | 32            | 78            | 43            | 26            | 22           | 4            | 45           | 357            |
| 16                      | 366           | 152           | 246           | 163           | 88            | 44           | 16           | 58           | 1,133          |
| 17                      | 753           | 427           | 602           | 282           | 206           | 105          | 28           | 100          | 2,503          |
| 18                      | 1,410         | 717           | 965           | 438           | 344           | 129          | 52           | 135          | 4,190          |
| 19                      | 2,046         | 1,123         | 1,340         | 618           | 502           | 206          | 82           | 174          | 6,091          |
| <b>Less than 20</b>     | <b>4,714</b>  | <b>2,454</b>  | <b>3,251</b>  | <b>1,566</b>  | <b>1,176</b>  | <b>509</b>   | <b>183</b>   | <b>543</b>   | <b>14,396</b>  |
| 20 - 24                 | 17,779        | 11,429        | 10,570        | 5,171         | 4,117         | 1,603        | 797          | 969          | 52,435         |
| 25 - 29                 | 29,799        | 23,219        | 15,475        | 8,602         | 7,013         | 2,409        | 1,661        | 1,000        | 89,178         |
| 30 - 34                 | 24,915        | 20,164        | 12,152        | 6,974         | 5,498         | 1,788        | 1,438        | 738          | 73,667         |
| 35 - 39                 | 8,847         | 7,007         | 3,885         | 2,283         | 1,796         | 538          | 474          | 289          | 25,119         |
| 40 - 44                 | 1,377         | 1,069         | 600           | 363           | 257           | 76           | 82           | 47           | 3,871          |
| 45 and over             | 64            | 52            | 29            | 11            | 10            | 5            | 4            | -            | 175            |
| Not stated              | 304           | 5             | 0             | -             | 1             | -            | 5            | -            | 315            |
| <b>All ages</b>         | <b>87,799</b> | <b>65,399</b> | <b>45,962</b> | <b>24,970</b> | <b>19,867</b> | <b>6,928</b> | <b>4,639</b> | <b>3,586</b> | <b>259,156</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>         |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Less than 15            | 0.0           | 0.0           | 0.0           | 0.1           | 0.1           | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.9          | 0.0            |
| 15                      | 0.1           | 0.0           | 0.2           | 0.2           | 0.1           | 0.3          | 0.1          | 1.3          | 0.1            |
| 16                      | 0.4           | 0.2           | 0.5           | 0.7           | 0.4           | 0.6          | 0.3          | 1.6          | 0.4            |
| 17                      | 0.9           | 0.7           | 1.3           | 1.1           | 1.0           | 1.5          | 0.6          | 2.8          | 1.0            |
| 18                      | 1.6           | 1.1           | 2.1           | 1.8           | 1.7           | 1.9          | 1.1          | 3.8          | 1.6            |
| 19                      | 2.3           | 1.7           | 2.9           | 2.5           | 2.5           | 3.0          | 1.8          | 4.9          | 2.4            |
| <b>Less than 20</b>     | <b>5.4</b>    | <b>3.8</b>    | <b>7.1</b>    | <b>6.3</b>    | <b>5.9</b>    | <b>7.3</b>   | <b>3.9</b>   | <b>15.1</b>  | <b>5.6</b>     |
| 20 - 24                 | 20.3          | 17.5          | 23.0          | 20.7          | 20.7          | 23.1         | 17.2         | 27.0         | 20.3           |
| 25 - 29                 | 34.1          | 35.5          | 33.7          | 34.4          | 35.3          | 34.8         | 35.8         | 27.9         | 34.5           |
| 30 - 34                 | 28.5          | 30.8          | 26.4          | 27.9          | 27.7          | 25.8         | 31.0         | 20.6         | 28.5           |
| 35 - 39                 | 10.1          | 10.7          | 8.5           | 9.1           | 9.0           | 7.8          | 10.2         | 8.1          | 9.7            |
| 40 - 44                 | 1.6           | 1.6           | 1.3           | 1.5           | 1.3           | 1.1          | 1.8          | 1.3          | 1.5            |
| 45 and over             | 0.1           | 0.1           | 0.1           | 0.0           | 0.1           | 0.1          | 0.1          | -            | 0.1            |
| <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, 1992***

| Parity              | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia*     |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Number</b>       |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| None                | 34,899        | 26,038        | 17,896        | 9,656         | 8,015         | 2,894        | 1,919        | 1,464        | 102,781        |
| One                 | 29,153        | 22,389        | 14,718        | 8,327         | 6,935         | 2,203        | 1,595        | 1,049        | 86,369         |
| Two                 | 14,942        | 11,157        | 7,777         | 4,353         | 3,265         | 1,161        | 736          | 570          | 43,961         |
| Three               | 5,542         | 3,870         | 3,131         | 1,687         | 1,079         | 447          | 264          | 278          | 16,298         |
| Four or more        | 3,014         | 1,924         | 1,932         | 947           | 574           | 207          | 130          | 225          | 8,953          |
| Not stated          | 249           | 21            | 508           | -             | -             | 16           | -            | -            | 794            |
| <b>All parities</b> | <b>87,799</b> | <b>65,399</b> | <b>45,962</b> | <b>24,970</b> | <b>19,868</b> | <b>6,928</b> | <b>4,644</b> | <b>3,586</b> | <b>259,156</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>     |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| None                | 39.9          | 39.8          | 39.4          | 38.7          | 40.3          | 41.9         | 41.3         | 40.8         | 39.8           |
| One                 | 33.3          | 34.2          | 32.4          | 33.3          | 34.9          | 31.9         | 34.3         | 29.3         | 33.4           |
| Two                 | 17.1          | 17.1          | 17.1          | 17.4          | 16.4          | 16.8         | 15.8         | 15.9         | 17.0           |
| Three               | 6.3           | 5.9           | 6.9           | 6.8           | 5.4           | 6.5          | 5.7          | 7.8          | 6.3            |
| Four or more        | 3.4           | 2.9           | 4.3           | 3.8           | 2.9           | 3.0          | 2.8          | 6.3          | 3.5            |
| <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> | <b>100.0</b>   |

**Table 7 : *Distribution of confinements by maternal age and parity, Australia, 1992***

| Parity       | Maternal age (years) |        |        |        |        |             |            | All ages |
|--------------|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|------------|----------|
|              | Less than 20         | 20-24  | 25-29  | 30-34  | 35-39  | 40 and over | Not stated |          |
| Number       |                      |        |        |        |        |             |            |          |
| None         | 11,738               | 28,810 | 36,564 | 19,730 | 5,066  | 744         | 129        | 102,781  |
| One          | 2,337                | 16,786 | 31,808 | 26,599 | 7,723  | 1,005       | 111        | 86,369   |
| Two          | 264                  | 5,076  | 14,274 | 17,103 | 6,357  | 837         | 50         | 43,961   |
| Three        | 24                   | 1,258  | 4,471  | 6,562  | 3,353  | 613         | 17         | 16,298   |
| Four or more | 3                    | 348    | 1,823  | 3,427  | 2,521  | 824         | 7          | 8,953    |
| Not stated   | 30                   | 157    | 238    | 246    | 99     | 23          | 1          | 794      |
| All parities | 14,396               | 52,435 | 89,178 | 73,667 | 25,119 | 4,046       | 315        | 259,156  |
| Per cent     |                      |        |        |        |        |             |            |          |
| None         | 81.7                 | 55.1   | 41.1   | 26.9   | 20.2   | 18.5        | 41.1       | 39.8     |
| One          | 16.3                 | 32.1   | 35.8   | 36.2   | 30.9   | 25.0        | 35.4       | 33.4     |
| Two          | 1.8                  | 9.7    | 16.0   | 23.3   | 25.4   | 20.8        | 15.9       | 17.0     |
| Three        | 0.2                  | 2.4    | 5.0    | 8.9    | 13.4   | 15.2        | 5.4        | 6.3      |
| Four or more | 0.0                  | 0.7    | 2.0    | 4.7    | 10.1   | 20.5        | 2.2        | 3.5      |
| All parities | 100.0                | 100.0  | 100.0  | 100.0  | 100.0  | 100.0       | 100.0      | 100.0    |

**Table 8 : Marital status, all confinements, States and Territories, 1992**

| Marital status                     | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas*         | ACT          | NT           | Australia      |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Number</b>                      |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Married/de facto                   | 76,614        | 58,351        | 40,218        | 22,397        | 17,008        | 5,146        | 4,261        | 2,558        | 226,553        |
| Single                             | 9,755         | 6,177         | 5,134         | 2,375         | 2,519         | 1,664        | 316          | 982          | 28,922         |
| Widowed, divorced,<br>or separated | 1,084         | 794           | 484           | 198           | 336           | 118          | 56           | 43           | 3,113          |
| Not stated                         | 346           | 77            | 126           | -             | 5             | -            | 11           | 3            | 568            |
| <b>All marital status</b>          | <b>87,799</b> | <b>65,399</b> | <b>45,962</b> | <b>24,970</b> | <b>19,868</b> | <b>6,928</b> | <b>4,644</b> | <b>3,586</b> | <b>259,156</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>                    |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Married/de facto                   | 87.6          | 89.3          | 87.7          | 89.7          | 85.6          | 74.3         | 92.0         | 71.4         | 87.6           |
| Single                             | 11.2          | 9.5           | 11.2          | 9.5           | 12.7          | 24.0         | 6.8          | 27.4         | 11.2           |
| Widowed, divorced,<br>or separated | 1.2           | 1.2           | 1.1           | 0.8           | 1.7           | 1.7          | 1.2          | 1.2          | 1.2            |
| <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, Australia, 1992**

| Maternal age (year) | All confinements<br>(n) | Married/de facto |             | Single       |             | Other     |            |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
|                     |                         | Number           | Per cent    | Number       | Per cent    | Number    | Per cent   |
| Less than 15        | 122                     | 22               | 18.0        | 100          | 82.0        | -         | -          |
| 15                  | 357                     | 52               | 14.6        | 305          | 85.4        | -         | -          |
| 16                  | 1,133                   | 248              | 21.9        | 877          | 77.4        | 8         | 0.7        |
| 17                  | 2,503                   | 857              | 34.2        | 1,633        | 65.2        | 13        | 0.5        |
| 18                  | 4,190                   | 1,875            | 44.7        | 2,288        | 54.6        | 27        | 0.6        |
| 19                  | 6,091                   | 3,215            | 52.8        | 2,826        | 46.4        | 50        | 0.8        |
| <b>Less than 20</b> | <b>14,396</b>           | <b>6,269</b>     | <b>43.5</b> | <b>8,029</b> | <b>55.8</b> | <b>98</b> | <b>0.7</b> |

**Table 10 : Maternal Aboriginality, all confinements, States and Territories, 1992**

| Aboriginality                           | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia      |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Number</b>                           |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Non-Aboriginal                          | 81,744        | 64,997        | 43,474        | 23,552        | 19,433        | 6,924        | 4,497        | 2,343        | 246,964        |
| Aboriginal or<br>Torres Strait Islander | 1,428         | 402           | 2,316         | 1,418         | 435           | 4            | 11           | 1,243        | 7,257          |
| Not stated                              | 4,627         | -             | 172           | -             | -             | -            | 136          | -            | -              |
| <b>All confinements</b>                 | <b>87,799</b> | <b>65,399</b> | <b>45,962</b> | <b>24,970</b> | <b>19,868</b> | <b>6,928</b> | <b>4,644</b> | <b>3,586</b> | <b>259,156</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>                         |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Non-Aboriginal                          | 98.3          | 99.4          | 94.9          | 94.3          | 97.8          | 99.9         | 99.8         | 65.3         | 97.1           |
| Aboriginal or<br>Torres Strait Islander | 1.7           | 0.6           | 5.1           | 5.7           | 2.2           | 0.1          | 0.2          | 34.7         | 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, 1992**

| Parity       | Maternal age (years) |       |       |       |       |             |            | All ages |
|--------------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|------------|----------|
|              | Less than 20         | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40 and over | Not stated |          |
| Number       |                      |       |       |       |       |             |            |          |
| None         | 1,255                | 659   | 190   | 76    | 20    | 5           | 1          | 2,206    |
| One          | 447                  | 837   | 315   | 108   | 29    | 6           | 1          | 1,743    |
| Two          | 104                  | 671   | 390   | 172   | 45    | 3           | -          | 1,385    |
| Three        | 14                   | 300   | 361   | 126   | 45    | 9           | 1          | 856      |
| Four or more | -                    | 123   | 396   | 348   | 134   | 22          | 1          | 1,024    |
| Not stated   | 9                    | 14    | 8     | 8     | 4     | -           | -          | 43       |
| All parities | 1,829                | 2,604 | 1,660 | 838   | 277   | 45          | 4          | 7,257    |
| Per cent     |                      |       |       |       |       |             |            |          |
| None         | 69.0                 | 25.4  | 11.5  | 9.2   | 7.3   | 11.1        | 25.0       | 30.6     |
| One          | 24.6                 | 32.3  | 19.1  | 13.0  | 10.6  | 13.3        | 25.0       | 24.2     |
| Two          | 5.7                  | 25.9  | 23.6  | 20.7  | 16.5  | 6.7         | -          | 19.2     |
| Three        | 0.8                  | 11.6  | 21.9  | 15.2  | 16.5  | 20.0        | 25.0       | 11.9     |
| Four or more | -                    | 4.7   | 24.0  | 41.9  | 49.1  | 48.9        | 25.0       | 14.2     |
| All parities | 100.0                | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0       | 100.0      | 100.0    |

**Table 12 : *Aboriginal confinements by maternal age, States and Territories, 1992***

| <b>Maternal age (years)</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 age (years)</b>     | 23.8         | 25.2         | 24.1         | 23.1         | 23.7         | 31.3         | 24.2         | 23.0         | 23.7             |
| <b>Number</b>               |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |                  |
| Less than 15                | 6            | 1            | 10           | 17           | 3            | -            | -            | 30           | 67               |
| 15                          | 13           | 1            | 25           | 22           | 7            | -            | -            | 41           | 109              |
| 16                          | 50           | 5            | 60           | 67           | 11           | -            | -            | 49           | 242              |
| 17                          | 51           | 15           | 128          | 80           | 24           | -            | -            | 82           | 380              |
| 18                          | 87           | 17           | 136          | 100          | 31           | -            | 1            | 89           | 461              |
| 19                          | 111          | 27           | 174          | 108          | 38           | -            | 2            | 110          | 570              |
| <b>Less than 20</b>         | <b>318</b>   | <b>66</b>    | <b>533</b>   | <b>394</b>   | <b>114</b>   | <b>-</b>     | <b>3</b>     | <b>401</b>   | <b>1,829</b>     |
| 20 - 24                     | 544          | 135          | 837          | 524          | 148          | 1            | 4            | 411          | 2,604            |
| 25 - 29                     | 346          | 107          | 531          | 319          | 109          | 1            | 2            | 245          | 1,660            |
| 30 - 34                     | 161          | 72           | 296          | 136          | 40           | -            | 2            | 131          | 838              |
| 35 - 39                     | 47           | 17           | 102          | 40           | 22           | 2            | -            | 47           | 277              |
| 40 and over                 | 9            | 5            | 17           | 5            | 1            | -            | -            | 8            | 45               |
| Not stated                  | 3            | -            | -            | -            | 1            | -            | -            | -            | 4                |
| <b>All confinements</b>     | <b>1,428</b> | <b>402</b>   | <b>2,316</b> | <b>1,418</b> | <b>435</b>   | <b>4</b>     | <b>11</b>    | <b>1,243</b> | <b>7,257</b>     |
| <b>Per cent</b>             |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |                  |
| Less than 15                | 0.4          | 0.2          | 0.4          | 1.2          | 0.7          | -            | -            | 2.4          | 0.9              |
| 15                          | 0.9          | 0.2          | 1.1          | 1.6          | 1.6          | -            | -            | 3.3          | 1.5              |
| 16                          | 3.5          | 1.2          | 2.6          | 4.7          | 2.5          | -            | -            | 3.9          | 3.3              |
| 17                          | 3.6          | 3.7          | 5.5          | 5.6          | 5.5          | -            | -            | 6.6          | 5.2              |
| 18                          | 6.1          | 4.2          | 5.9          | 7.1          | 7.1          | -            | 9.1          | 7.2          | 6.4              |
| 19                          | 7.8          | 6.7          | 7.5          | 7.6          | 8.8          | -            | 18.2         | 8.8          | 7.9              |
| <b>Less than 20</b>         | <b>22.3</b>  | <b>16.4</b>  | <b>23.0</b>  | <b>27.8</b>  | <b>26.3</b>  | <b>-</b>     | <b>27.3</b>  | <b>32.3</b>  | <b>25.2</b>      |
| 20 - 24                     | 38.2         | 33.6         | 36.1         | 37.0         | 34.1         | 25.0         | 36.4         | 33.1         | 35.9             |
| 25 - 29                     | 24.3         | 26.6         | 22.9         | 22.5         | 25.1         | 25.0         | 18.2         | 19.7         | 22.9             |
| 30 - 34                     | 11.3         | 17.9         | 12.8         | 9.6          | 9.2          | -            | 18.2         | 10.5         | 11.6             |
| 35 - 39                     | 3.3          | 4.2          | 4.4          | 2.8          | 5.1          | 50.0         | -            | 3.8          | 3.8              |
| 40 and over                 | 0.6          | 1.2          | 0.7          | 0.4          | 0.2          | -            | -            | 0.6          | 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>     |

**Table 13 : Maternal country of birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 1992**

| Country of birth                             | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia      |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Number</b>                                |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Australia                                    | 64,924        | 49,323        | 38,120        | 16,574        | 16,042        | 6,340        | 3,574        | 3,020        | 197,917        |
| New Zealand                                  | 1,955         | 1,070         | 1,868         | 839           | 194           | 61           | 77           | 88           | 6,152          |
| United Kingdom                               | 3,533         | 2,920         | 2,131         | 3,365         | 1,788         | 248          | 236          | 131          | 14,352         |
| Italy  | 416           | 584           | 67            | 112           | 116           | 8            | 29           | -            | 1,332          |
| Former Yugoslavia                            | 732           | 827           | 97            | 139           | 79            | 8            | 43           | 1            | 1,926          |
| Other Europe and former USSR                 | 2,249         | 2,283         | 849           | 521           | 486           | 77           | 144          | 65           | 6,674          |
| Lebanon                                      | 2,398         | 692           | 50            | 27            | 48            | 9            | 12           | -            | 3,236          |
| Other Middle East and North Africa           | 1,101         | 1,168         | 90            | 43            | 55            | 17           | 30           | 8            | 2,512          |
| China  | 1,052         | 524           | 121           | 78            | 60            | 3            | 33           | 10           | 1,881          |
| India  | 460           | 423           | 69            | 134           | 45            | 7            | 20           | 6            | 1,164          |
| Malaysia                                     | 338           | 485           | 107           | 263           | 62            | 12           | 31           | 67           | 1,365          |
| Philippines                                  | 1,195         | 619           | 464           | 149           | 138           | 31           | 44           | 20           | 2,660          |
| Vietnam                                      | 1,425         | 1,369         | 250           | 208           | 276           | 8            | 59           | 10           | 3,605          |
| Other Asia                                   | 2,612         | 1,487         | 500           | 489           | 221           | 42           | 126          | 76           | 5,553          |
| Northern America                             | 455           | 316           | 258           | 150           | 86            | 25           | 47           | 26           | 1,363          |
| South and Central America, and the Caribbean | 576           | 314           | 63            | 58            | 46            | 5            | 33           | 5            | 1,100          |
| Africa (excluding North Africa)              | 416           | 388           | 141           | 182           | 54            | 13           | 22           | 5            | 1,221          |
| Other countries                              | 704           | 535           | 577           | 142           | 59            | 14           | 43           | 48           | 2,122          |
| Not stated                                   | 1,258         | 72            | 140           | 1,497         | 13            | -            | 41           | -            | 3,021          |
| <b>All countries</b>                         | <b>87,799</b> | <b>65,399</b> | <b>45,962</b> | <b>24,970</b> | <b>19,868</b> | <b>6,928</b> | <b>4,644</b> | <b>3,586</b> | <b>259,156</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>                              |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Australia                                    | 75.0          | 75.5          | 83.2          | 70.6          | 80.8          | 91.5         | 77.6         | 84.2         | 77.3           |
| New Zealand                                  | 2.3           | 1.6           | 4.1           | 3.6           | 1.0           | 0.9          | 1.7          | 2.5          | 2.4            |
| United Kingdom                               | 4.1           | 4.5           | 4.7           | 14.3          | 9.0           | 3.6          | 5.1          | 3.7          | 5.6            |
| Italy  | 0.5           | 0.9           | 0.1           | 0.5           | 0.6           | 0.1          | 0.6          | -            | 0.5            |
| Former Yugoslavia                            | 0.8           | 1.3           | 0.2           | 0.6           | 0.4           | 0.1          | 0.9          | 0.0          | 0.8            |
| Other Europe and former USSR                 | 2.6           | 3.5           | 1.9           | 2.2           | 2.4           | 1.1          | 3.1          | 1.8          | 2.6            |
| Lebanon                                      | 2.8           | 1.1           | 0.1           | 0.1           | 0.2           | 0.1          | 0.3          | -            | 1.3            |
| Other Middle East and North Africa           | 1.3           | 1.8           | 0.2           | 0.2           | 0.3           | 0.2          | 0.7          | 0.2          | 1.0            |
| China  | 1.2           | 0.8           | 0.3           | 0.3           | 0.3           | 0.0          | 0.7          | 0.3          | 0.7            |
| India  | 0.5           | 0.6           | 0.2           | 0.6           | 0.2           | 0.1          | 0.4          | 0.2          | 0.5            |
| Malaysia                                     | 0.4           | 0.7           | 0.2           | 1.1           | 0.3           | 0.2          | 0.7          | 1.9          | 0.5            |
| Philippines                                  | 1.4           | 0.9           | 1.0           | 0.6           | 0.7           | 0.4          | 1.0          | 0.6          | 1.0            |
| Vietnam                                      | 1.6           | 2.1           | 0.5           | 0.9           | 1.4           | 0.1          | 1.3          | 0.3          | 1.4            |
| Other Asia                                   | 3.0           | 2.3           | 1.1           | 2.1           | 1.1           | 0.6          | 2.7          | 2.1          | 2.2            |
| Northern America                             | 0.5           | 0.5           | 0.6           | 0.6           | 0.4           | 0.4          | 1.0          | 0.7          | 0.5            |
| South and Central America, and the Caribbean | 0.7           | 0.5           | 0.1           | 0.2           | 0.2           | 0.1          | 0.7          | 0.1          | 0.4            |
| Africa (excluding North Africa)              | 0.5           | 0.6           | 0.3           | 0.8           | 0.3           | 0.2          | 0.5          | 0.1          | 0.5            |
| Other countries                              | 0.8           | 0.8           | 1.3           | 0.6           | 0.3           | 0.2          | 0.9          | 1.3          | 0.8            |
| <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, 1992**

| Country of birth  | Maternal age |        |        |        |        |             |            |          |
|-------------------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|------------|----------|
|                   | Less than 20 | 20-24  | 25-29  | 30-34  | 35-39  | 40 and over | Not stated | All ages |
| Number            |              |        |        |        |        |             |            |          |
| Australia         | 12,797       | 42,945 | 68,255 | 54,306 | 16,966 | 2,431       | 217        | 197,917  |
| New Zealand       | 333          | 1,274  | 2,044  | 1,718  | 674    | 104         | 5          | 6,152    |
| United Kingdom    | 217          | 1,760  | 5,396  | 4,883  | 1,735  | 339         | 22         | 14,352   |
| Italy             | 1            | 93     | 489    | 498    | 202    | 49          | -          | 1,332    |
| Former Yugoslavia | 43           | 438    | 752    | 478    | 164    | 50          | 1          | 1,926    |
| Lebanon           | 232          | 946    | 1,036  | 674    | 285    | 51          | 12         | 3,236    |
| China             | 8            | 155    | 720    | 652    | 298    | 43          | 5          | 1,881    |
| Hong Kong         | 5            | 47     | 237    | 539    | 192    | 26          | -          | 1,046    |
| India             | 7            | 168    | 463    | 369    | 132    | 23          | 2          | 1,164    |
| Malaysia          | 19           | 103    | 376    | 535    | 282    | 48          | 2          | 1,365    |
| Philippines       | 47           | 315    | 804    | 867    | 513    | 110         | 4          | 2,660    |
| Vietnam           | 83           | 583    | 1,090  | 1,137  | 600    | 108         | 4          | 3,605    |
| Other countries   | 480          | 3,018  | 6,491  | 6,137  | 2,744  | 596         | 33         | 19,499   |
| Not stated        | 124          | 590    | 1,025  | 874    | 332    | 68          | 8          | 3,021    |
| All countries     | 14,396       | 52,435 | 89,178 | 73,667 | 25,119 | 4,046       | 315        | 259,156  |
| Per cent          |              |        |        |        |        |             |            |          |
| Australia         | 6.5          | 21.7   | 34.5   | 27.5   | 8.6    | 1.2         | -          | 100.0    |
| New Zealand       | 5.4          | 20.7   | 33.3   | 27.9   | 11.0   | 1.7         | -          | 100.0    |
| United Kingdom    | 1.5          | 12.3   | 37.7   | 34.1   | 12.1   | 2.4         | -          | 100.0    |
| Italy             | 0.1          | 7.0    | 36.7   | 37.4   | 15.2   | 3.7         | -          | 100.0    |
| Former Yugoslavia | 2.2          | 22.8   | 39.1   | 24.8   | 8.5    | 2.6         | -          | 100.0    |
| Lebanon           | 7.2          | 29.3   | 32.1   | 20.9   | 8.8    | 1.6         | -          | 100.0    |
| China             | 0.4          | 8.3    | 38.4   | 34.8   | 15.9   | 2.3         | -          | 100.0    |
| Hong Kong         | 0.5          | 4.5    | 22.7   | 51.5   | 18.4   | 2.5         | -          | 100.0    |
| India             | 0.6          | 14.5   | 39.8   | 31.8   | 11.4   | 2.0         | -          | 100.0    |
| Malaysia          | 1.4          | 7.6    | 27.6   | 39.3   | 20.7   | 3.5         | -          | 100.0    |
| Philippines       | 1.8          | 11.9   | 30.3   | 32.6   | 19.3   | 4.1         | -          | 100.0    |
| Vietnam           | 2.3          | 16.2   | 30.3   | 31.6   | 16.7   | 3.0         | -          | 100.0    |
| Other countries   | 2.5          | 15.5   | 33.3   | 31.5   | 14.1   | 3.1         | -          | 100.0    |
| All countries     | 5.6          | 20.3   | 34.5   | 28.5   | 9.7    | 1.6         | -          | 100.0    |

**Table 15 : Marital status of mother by selected country of birth, all confinements, Australia, 1992**

| Country of birth     | All confinements<br>(n) | Married /de facto |             | Single        |             | Other        |            |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
|                      |                         | Number            | Per cent    | Number        | Per cent    | Number       | Per cent   |
| Australia            | 197,917                 | 169,808           | 85.8        | 25,299        | 12.8        | 2,810        | 1.4        |
| New Zealand          | 6,152                   | 5,170             | 84.0        | 880           | 14.3        | 102          | 1.7        |
| United Kingdom       | 14,352                  | 13,175            | 91.8        | 972           | 6.8         | 205          | 1.4        |
| Italy                | 1,332                   | 1,291             | 96.9        | 29            | 2.2         | 12           | 0.9        |
| Former Yugoslavia    | 1,926                   | 1,842             | 95.6        | 55            | 2.9         | 29           | 1.5        |
| Lebanon              | 3,236                   | 3,186             | 98.5        | 22            | 0.7         | 28           | 0.9        |
| China                | 1,881                   | 1,820             | 96.8        | 48            | 2.6         | 13           | 0.7        |
| Hong Kong            | 1,046                   | 1,033             | 98.8        | 11            | 1.1         | 2            | 0.2        |
| India                | 1,164                   | 1,141             | 98.0        | 19            | 1.6         | 4            | 0.3        |
| Malaysia             | 1,365                   | 1,311             | 96.0        | 44            | 3.2         | 10           | 0.7        |
| Philippines          | 2,660                   | 2,511             | 94.4        | 100           | 3.8         | 49           | 1.8        |
| Vietnam              | 3,605                   | 3,235             | 89.7        | 318           | 8.8         | 52           | 1.4        |
| Other countries      | 19,499                  | 18,384            | 94.3        | 857           | 4.4         | 258          | 1.3        |
| Not stated           | 3,021                   | 2,646             | 87.6        | 268           | 8.9         | 107          | 3.5        |
| <b>All countries</b> | <b>259,156</b>          | <b>226,553</b>    | <b>87.4</b> | <b>28,922</b> | <b>11.2</b> | <b>3,681</b> | <b>1.4</b> |

**Table 16 : Maternal accommodation status in hospital, all confinements, selected States and Territories, 1992**

| Accommodation status       | NSW           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Number</b>              |               |               |               |               |              |              |
| Public                     | 48,461        | 28,131        | 14,649        | 11,594        | 3,854        | 2,114        |
| Private                    | 39,267        | 17,386        | 9,346         | 8,274         | 3,074        | 2,418        |
| Not stated/other           | 71            | 445           | 975           | -             | -            | 112          |
| <b>All classifications</b> | <b>87,799</b> | <b>45,962</b> | <b>24,970</b> | <b>19,868</b> | <b>6,928</b> | <b>4,644</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>            |               |               |               |               |              |              |
| Public                     | 55.2          | 61.8          | 61.1          | 58.4          | 55.6         | 46.6         |
| Private                    | 44.8          | 38.2          | 38.9          | 41.6          | 44.4         | 53.4         |
| <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> |

Note: Vic and NT data were not available in 1992

**Table 17 : Duration of pregnancy, all confinements, States and Territories, 1992**

| Duration of pregnancy (weeks) | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia      |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Mean (weeks)</b>           | 39.2          | 39.3          | 39.1          | 39.0          | 39.1          | 39.3         | 39.2         | 38.8         | 39.1           |
| <b>Number</b>                 |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| 20 - 27                       | 498           | 396           | 327           | 166           | 132           | 46           | 27           | 43           | 1,635          |
| 28 - 31                       | 551           | 480           | 389           | 224           | 142           | 53           | 37           | 42           | 1,918          |
| 32 - 36                       | 4,264         | 3,562         | 2,625         | 1,918         | 1,078         | 323          | 281          | 297          | 14,348         |
| 37 - 41                       | 79,392        | 55,179        | 40,875        | 21,075        | 18,189        | 6,198        | 3,944        | 3,021        | 227,873        |
| 42 and over                   | 3,038         | 5,144         | 1,672         | 1,495         | 324           | 308          | 299          | 169          | 12,449         |
| Not stated                    | 56            | 638           | 74            | 92            | 3             | -            | 56           | 14           | 933            |
| <b>All confinements</b>       | <b>87,799</b> | <b>65,399</b> | <b>45,962</b> | <b>24,970</b> | <b>19,868</b> | <b>6,928</b> | <b>4,644</b> | <b>3,586</b> | <b>259,156</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>               |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| 20 - 27                       | 0.6           | 0.6           | 0.7           | 0.7           | 0.7           | 0.7          | 0.6          | 1.2          | 0.6            |
| 28 - 31                       | 0.6           | 0.7           | 0.8           | 0.9           | 0.7           | 0.8          | 0.8          | 1.2          | 0.7            |
| 32 - 36                       | 4.9           | 5.5           | 5.7           | 7.7           | 5.4           | 4.7          | 6.1          | 8.3          | 5.6            |
| 37 - 41                       | 90.5          | 85.2          | 89.1          | 84.7          | 91.6          | 89.5         | 86.0         | 84.6         | 88.2           |
| 42 and over                   | 3.5           | 7.9           | 3.6           | 6.0           | 1.6           | 4.4          | 6.5          | 4.7          | 4.8            |
| <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>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b>   |

**Table 18 : Duration of pregnancy by maternal age, all confinements, Australia, 1992**

| 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>Confinements</b>           | <b>Number</b>        |               |               |               |               |              |              |                |
| 20 - 27                       | 133                  | 329           | 509           | 412           | 200           | 46           | 6            | 1,635          |
| 28 - 31                       | 161                  | 391           | 591           | 531           | 206           | 34           | 4            | 1,918          |
| 32 - 36                       | 999                  | 2,907         | 4,546         | 3,955         | 1,628         | 293          | 20           | 14,348         |
| 37 - 41                       | 12,217               | 45,609        | 78,731        | 65,377        | 22,129        | 3,538        | 272          | 227,873        |
| 42 and over                   | 776                  | 2,930         | 4,536         | 3,205         | 872           | 118          | 12           | 12,449         |
| Not stated                    | 110                  | 269           | 265           | 187           | 84            | 17           | 1            | 933            |
| <b>All confinements</b>       | <b>14,396</b>        | <b>52,435</b> | <b>89,178</b> | <b>73,667</b> | <b>25,119</b> | <b>4,046</b> | <b>315</b>   | <b>259,156</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>               |                      |               |               |               |               |              |              |                |
| 20 - 27                       | 0.9                  | 0.6           | 0.6           | 0.6           | 0.8           | 1.1          | 1.9          | 0.6            |
| 28 - 31                       | 1.1                  | 0.7           | 0.7           | 0.7           | 0.8           | 0.8          | 1.3          | 0.7            |
| 32 - 36                       | 7.0                  | 5.6           | 5.1           | 5.4           | 6.5           | 7.3          | 6.4          | 5.6            |
| 37 - 41                       | 85.5                 | 87.4          | 88.5          | 89.0          | 88.4          | 87.8         | 86.6         | 88.2           |
| 42 and over                   | 5.4                  | 5.6           | 5.1           | 4.4           | 3.5           | 2.9          | 3.8          | 4.8            |
| <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>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b>   |

**Table 19 : Plurality, all confinements, States and Territories, 1992**

| Plurality               | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia      |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Number</b>           |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Singleton               | 86,660        | 64,521        | 45,343        | 24,628        | 19,594        | 6,832        | 4,578        | 3,545        | 255,701        |
| Twin                    | 1,108         | 855           | 590           | 330           | 264           | 94           | 65           | 40           | 3,346          |
| Triplet                 | 28            | 23            | 28            | 12            | 10            | 2            | 1            | 1            | 105            |
| Quadruplet              | 2             | -             | -             | -             | -             | -            | -            | -            | 2              |
| Quintuplet              | 1             | -             | 1             | -             | -             | -            | -            | -            | 2              |
| <b>All confinements</b> | <b>87,799</b> | <b>65,399</b> | <b>45,962</b> | <b>24,970</b> | <b>19,868</b> | <b>6,928</b> | <b>4,644</b> | <b>3,586</b> | <b>259,156</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>         |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Singleton               | 98.7          | 98.7          | 98.7          | 98.6          | 98.6          | 98.6         | 98.6         | 98.9         | 98.7           |
| Twin                    | 1.3           | 1.3           | 1.3           | 1.3           | 1.3           | 1.4          | 1.4          | 1.1          | 1.3            |
| Triplet                 | 0.0           | 0.0           | 0.1           | 0.0           | 0.1           | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0            |
| Quadruplet              | 0.0           | -             | -             | -             | -             | -            | -            | -            | 0.0            |
| Quintuplet              | 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> | <b>100.0</b>   |

**Table 20 : Multiple confinements by maternal age, Australia, 1992**

| Plurality        | Maternal age (years) |        |        |        |        |             |            | All ages |
|------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|------------|----------|
|                  | Less than 20         | 20-24  | 25-29  | 30-34  | 35-39  | 40 and over | Not stated |          |
| Number           |                      |        |        |        |        |             |            |          |
| Singleton        | 14,311               | 51,916 | 88,045 | 72,416 | 24,703 | 4,000       | 310        | 255,701  |
| Twin             | 85                   | 512    | 1,094  | 1,204  | 401    | 45          | 5          | 3,346    |
| Triplet          | -                    | 7      | 37     | 45     | 15     | 1           | -          | 105      |
| Quadruplet       | -                    | -      | 1      | 1      | -      | -           | -          | 2        |
| Quintuplet       | -                    | -      | 1      | 1      | -      | -           | -          | 2        |
| All confinements | 14,396               | 52,435 | 89,178 | 73,667 | 25,119 | 4,046       | 315        | 259,156  |
| Per cent         |                      |        |        |        |        |             |            |          |
| Singleton        | 99.4                 | 99.0   | 98.7   | 98.3   | 98.3   | 98.9        | 98.4       | 98.7     |
| Twin             | 0.6                  | 1.0    | 1.2    | 1.6    | 1.6    | 1.1         | 1.6        | 1.3      |
| Triplet          | -                    | 0.0    | 0.0    | 0.1    | 0.1    | 0.0         | -          | 0.0      |
| Quadruplet       | -                    | -      | 0.0    | 0.0    | -      | -           | -          | 0.0      |
| Quintuplet       | -                    | -      | 0.0    | 0.0    | -      | -           | -          | 0.0      |
| All confinements | 100.0                | 100.0  | 100.0  | 100.0  | 100.0  | 100.0       | 100.0      | 100.0    |

**Table 21 : Onset of labour, all confinements, States and Territories, 1992**

| Onset of labour         | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT      | NT           | Australia*     |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Number</b>           |               |               |               |               |               |              |          |              |                |
| Spontaneous             | 64,079        | 46,071        | 32,899        | 15,538        | 13,550        | 5,139        | -        | 2,546        | 179,822        |
| - no augmentation       | 40,040        | 37,362        | na            | 9,230         | 9,213         | 4,115        | -        | 2,239        | na             |
| - augmentation          | 24,039        | 8,709         | na            | 6,308         | 4,337         | 1,024        | -        | 307          | na             |
| Induced                 | 15,922        | 12,951        | 7,585         | 6,544         | 4,101         | 1,363        | -        | 739          | 49,205         |
| - medical               | 3,893         | 3,491         | na            | na            | 1,414         | 407          | -        | na           | na             |
| - surgical              | 11,984        | 9,460         | na            | na            | 2,626         | 956          | -        | na           | na             |
| - combined              | 45            | na            | na            | na            | 61            | na           | -        | na           | na             |
| No labour               | 7,631         | 6,377         | 4,843         | 2,888         | 2,217         | 426          | -        | 301          | 24,683         |
| Not stated              | 167           | -             | 635           | -             | -             | -            | -        | -            | 802            |
| <b>All confinements</b> | <b>87,799</b> | <b>65,399</b> | <b>45,962</b> | <b>24,970</b> | <b>19,868</b> | <b>6,928</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>3,586</b> | <b>254,512</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>         |               |               |               |               |               |              |          |              |                |
| Spontaneous             | 73.1          | 70.4          | 72.6          | 62.2          | 68.2          | 74.2         | -        | 71.0         | 70.9           |
| - no augmentation       | 45.7          | 57.1          | na            | 37.0          | 46.4          | 59.4         | -        | 62.4         | na             |
| - augmentation          | 27.4          | 13.3          | na            | 25.3          | 21.8          | 14.8         | -        | 8.6          | na             |
| Induced                 | 18.2          | 19.8          | 16.7          | 26.2          | 20.6          | 19.7         | -        | 20.6         | 19.4           |
| - medical               | 4.4           | 5.3           | na            | na            | 7.1           | 5.9          | -        | na           | na             |
| - surgical              | 13.7          | 14.5          | na            | na            | 13.2          | 13.8         | -        | na           | na             |
| - combined              | 0.1           | na            | na            | na            | 0.3           | na           | -        | na           | na             |
| No labour               | 8.7           | 9.8           | 10.7          | 11.6          | 11.2          | 6.1          | -        | 8.4          | 9.7            |
| <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>-</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b>   |

\* Data exclude ACT (not available)

**Table 22 : Presentation at delivery, all confinements, States and Territories, 1992**

| Presentation            | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia      |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Number</b>           |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Vertex                  | 83,066        | 61,483        | 43,331        | 23,684        | 18,774        | 5,754        | 4,345        | 3,403        | 243,840        |
| Breech                  | 3,906         | 2,902         | 2,186         | 1,148         | 888           | na           | 208          | 143          | 11,381*        |
| Other                   | 627           | 455           | 232           | 138           | 169           | 14           | 27           | -            | 1,662          |
| Not stated              | 200           | 559           | 213           | -             | 37            | 1,160        | 64           | 40           | 2,273          |
| <b>All confinements</b> | <b>87,799</b> | <b>65,399</b> | <b>45,962</b> | <b>24,970</b> | <b>19,868</b> | <b>6,928</b> | <b>4,644</b> | <b>3,586</b> | <b>259,156</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>         |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Vertex                  | 94.8          | 94.8          | 94.7          | 94.8          | 94.7          | 99.8         | 94.9         | 96.0         | 94.9           |
| Breech                  | 4.5           | 4.5           | 4.8           | 4.6           | 4.5           | na           | 4.5          | 4.0          | 4.4*           |
| Other                   | 0.7           | 0.7           | 0.5           | 0.6           | 0.9           | 0.2          | 0.6          | -            | 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, 1992**

| Type of delivery             | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia      |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Number</b>                |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Spontaneous vertex           | 61,891        | 44,303        | 30,923        | 15,976        | 12,641        | 4,891        | 2,995        | 2,570        | 176,190        |
| Forceps                      | 7,774         | 7,764         | 3,605         | 1,830         | 2,165         | 750          | 584          | 246          | 24,718         |
| Vacuum extraction            | 2,245         | 756           | 1,304         | 2,101         | 521           | 78           | 51           | 70           | 7,126          |
| Vaginal breech               | 1,330         | 940           | 458           | 245           | 148           | 95           | 35           | 31           | 3,282          |
| Caesarean section            | 14,404        | 11,622        | 9,572         | 4,818         | 4,393         | 1,114        | 898          | 664          | 47,485         |
| - <i>elective</i>            | 7,631         | 6,365         | na            | 2,559         | 1,855         | 303          | 466          | 258          | 19,437*        |
| - <i>emergency</i>           | 6,773         | 5,257         | na            | 2,259         | 2,538         | 366          | 432          | 406          | 18,031*        |
| - <i>other</i>               | -             | -             | na            | -             | -             | 445          | -            | -            | 445            |
| Other                        | -             | -             | 7             | -             | -             | -            | 68           | 5            | 80             |
| Not stated                   | 155           | 14            | 93            | -             | -             | -            | 13           | -            | 275            |
| <b>All types of delivery</b> | <b>87,799</b> | <b>65,399</b> | <b>45,962</b> | <b>24,970</b> | <b>19,868</b> | <b>6,928</b> | <b>4,644</b> | <b>3,586</b> | <b>259,156</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>              |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Spontaneous vertex           | 70.6          | 67.8          | 67.4          | 64.0          | 63.6          | 70.6         | 64.7         | 71.7         | 68.1           |
| Forceps                      | 8.9           | 11.9          | 7.9           | 7.3           | 10.9          | 10.8         | 12.6         | 6.9          | 9.5            |
| Vacuum extraction            | 2.6           | 1.2           | 2.8           | 8.4           | 2.6           | 1.1          | 1.1          | 2.0          | 2.8            |
| Vaginal breech               | 1.5           | 1.4           | 1.0           | 1.0           | 0.7           | 1.4          | 0.8          | 0.9          | 1.3            |
| Caesarean section            | 16.4          | 17.8          | 20.9          | 19.3          | 22.1          | 16.1         | 19.4         | 18.5         | 18.3           |
| - <i>elective</i>            | 8.7           | 9.7           | na            | 10.2          | 9.3           | 4.4          | 10.1         | 7.2          | 9.4*           |
| - <i>emergency</i>           | 7.7           | 8.0           | na            | 9.0           | 12.8          | 5.3          | 9.3          | 11.3         | 8.7*           |
| - <i>other</i>               | -             | -             | na            | -             | -             | 6.4          | -            | -            | 0.2            |
| Other                        | -             | -             | 0.0           | -             | -             | -            | 1.5          | 0.1          | 0.0            |
| <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

**Table 24 : Caesarean rates by maternal age and accommodation status, States and Territories, 1992**

| Accommodation status/<br>Maternal age (years) | NSW          | Vic         | Qld          | WA           | SA                        | Tas         | ACT         | NT          | Australia     |
|---|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| <b>Public*</b>                                |              |             |              |              |                           |             |             |             |               |
| Less than 20                                  | 431          | na          | 397          | 175          | 162                       | 62          | 23          | na          | 1,250         |
| 20 - 24                                       | 1,580        | na          | 1,286        | 605          | 599                       | 157         | 92          | na          | 4,319         |
| 25 - 29                                       | 2,126        | na          | 1,498        | 812          | 725                       | 162         | 123         | na          | 5,446         |
| 30 - 34                                       | 1,731        | na          | 1,099        | 594          | 489                       | 105         | 102         | na          | 4,120         |
| 35 - 39                                       | 712          | na          | 426          | 222          | 193                       | 41          | 33          | na          | 1,627         |
| 40 and over                                   | 161          | na          | 76           | 48           | 33                        | 9           | 10          | na          | 337           |
| Not stated                                    | 21           | na          | -            | -            | -                         | -           | -           | na          | 21            |
| <b>All ages</b>                               | <b>6,762</b> | <b>na</b>   | <b>4,782</b> | <b>2,456</b> | <b>2,201</b>              | <b>536</b>  | <b>383</b>  | <b>na</b>   | <b>17,120</b> |
| <b>Private*</b>                               |              |             |              |              |                           |             |             |             |               |
| Less than 20                                  | 35           | na          | 35           | 10           | 19                        | 3           | 5           | na          | 107           |
| 20 - 24                                       | 646          | na          | 410          | 167          | 201                       | 57          | 40          | na          | 1,521         |
| 25 - 29                                       | 2,456        | na          | 1,587        | 765          | 741                       | 210         | 189         | na          | 5,948         |
| 30 - 34                                       | 2,886        | na          | 1,864        | 856          | 850                       | 217         | 174         | na          | 6,847         |
| 35 - 39                                       | 1,310        | na          | 676          | 363          | 330                       | 79          | 78          | na          | 2,836         |
| 40 and over                                   | 272          | na          | 134          | 48           | 51                        | 12          | 16          | na          | 533           |
| Not stated                                    | 25           | na          | -            | -            | -                         | -           | 1           | na          | 26            |
| <b>All ages</b>                               | <b>7,630</b> | <b>na</b>   | <b>4,706</b> | <b>2,209</b> | <b>2,192</b>              | <b>578</b>  | <b>503</b>  | <b>na</b>   | <b>17,818</b> |
| <b>Public*</b>                                |              |             |              |              |                           |             |             |             |               |
|   |              |             |              |              | Caesarean rate (per cent) |             |             |             |               |
| Less than 20                                  | 9.8          | na          | 13.0         | 12.2         | 14.9                      | 12.7        | 14.9        | na          | 11.8          |
| 20 - 24                                       | 11.7         | na          | 15.0         | 15.0         | 18.4                      | 12.8        | 16.9        | na          | 13.9          |
| 25 - 29                                       | 13.7         | na          | 16.8         | 17.0         | 18.7                      | 14.0        | 16.3        | na          | 15.6          |
| 30 - 34                                       | 16.5         | na          | 20.2         | 18.5         | 19.9                      | 14.6        | 22.0        | na          | 18.1          |
| 35 - 39                                       | 19.7         | na          | 24.0         | 21.6         | 24.5                      | 17.9        | 20.8        | na          | 21.4          |
| 40 and over                                   | 27.2         | na          | 25.2         | 26.2         | 25.0                      | 21.4        | 30.3        | na          | 26.2          |
| <b>All ages</b>                               | <b>14.0</b>  | <b>na</b>   | <b>17.0</b>  | <b>16.8</b>  | <b>19.0</b>               | <b>13.9</b> | <b>18.2</b> | <b>na</b>   | <b>15.8</b>   |
| <b>Private*</b>                               |              |             |              |              |                           |             |             |             |               |
| Less than 20                                  | 12.0         | na          | 20.7         | 13.0         | 21.6                      | 13.6        | 23.8        | na          | 16.0          |
| 20 - 24                                       | 15.5         | na          | 21.4         | 17.4         | 23.2                      | 15.1        | 17.2        | na          | 17.8          |
| 25 - 29                                       | 17.3         | na          | 24.8         | 21.8         | 23.6                      | 16.7        | 21.7        | na          | 20.3          |
| 30 - 34                                       | 20.1         | na          | 28.5         | 24.6         | 28.0                      | 20.3        | 18.6        | na          | 23.3          |
| 35 - 39                                       | 25.1         | na          | 33.3         | 31.3         | 32.7                      | 25.6        | 25.9        | na          | 28.3          |
| 40 and over                                   | 32.2         | na          | 42.8         | 28.1         | 37.8                      | 30.8        | 30.8        | na          | 34.3          |
| <b>All ages</b>                               | <b>19.5</b>  | <b>na</b>   | <b>27.1</b>  | <b>23.6</b>  | <b>26.5</b>               | <b>18.8</b> | <b>20.9</b> | <b>na</b>   | <b>22.4</b>   |
| <b>All confinements</b>                       |              |             |              |              |                           |             |             |             |               |
| Less than 20                                  | 9.9          | 9.8         | 13.4         | 12.2         | 15.4                      | 12.8        | 16.5        | 18.4        | 11.9          |
| 20 - 24                                       | 12.5         | 13.1        | 16.1         | 15.4         | 19.4                      | 13.3        | 16.9        | 17.1        | 14.4          |
| 25 - 29                                       | 15.4         | 17.3        | 20.2         | 18.9         | 20.9                      | 15.4        | 18.9        | 17.3        | 17.6          |
| 30 - 34                                       | 18.6         | 19.3        | 24.7         | 21.6         | 24.4                      | 18.0        | 19.6        | 19.0        | 20.5          |
| 35 - 39                                       | 22.9         | 23.5        | 28.9         | 26.2         | 29.1                      | 22.3        | 23.5        | 24.6        | 24.8          |
| 40 and over                                   | 30.1         | 28.7        | 33.9         | 27.0         | 31.5                      | 25.9        | 30.2        | 29.8        | 30.0          |
| <b>All ages</b>                               | <b>16.4</b>  | <b>17.8</b> | <b>20.9</b>  | <b>19.3</b>  | <b>22.1</b>               | <b>16.1</b> | <b>19.4</b> | <b>18.5</b> | <b>18.3</b>   |

\* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

**Table 25: Caesarean rates by maternal age, parity and public accommodation in hospital, Australia, 1992**

| Maternal age (years) | Parity       |              |              |               | Parity          |             |             |             |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                      | None         | One          | Two +        | Total         | None            | One         | Two +       | Total       |
|                      | Number       |              |              |               | Rate (per cent) |             |             |             |
| Less than 15         | 7            | -            | -            | 7             | 9.0             | -           | -           | 8.5         |
| 15                   | 33           | -            | -            | 33            | 12.6            | -           | -           | 12.3        |
| 16                   | 86           | 5            | 1            | 92            | 10.9            | 10.2        | 16.7        | 10.9        |
| 17                   | 194          | 18           | 1            | 213           | 11.6            | 9.7         | 7.1         | 11.4        |
| 18                   | 307          | 53           | 11           | 371           | 12.0            | 10.3        | 20.0        | 11.9        |
| 19                   | 412          | 107          | 15           | 534           | 12.8            | 10.5        | 8.2         | 12.0        |
| 15 - 19              | 1,032        | 183          | 28           | 1,243         | 12.1            | 10.3        | 10.9        | 11.8        |
| 20                   | 465          | 175          | 31           | 671           | 13.7            | 10.9        | 8.5         | 12.5        |
| 21                   | 454          | 211          | 77           | 742           | 14.0            | 10.6        | 12.1        | 12.6        |
| 22                   | 495          | 274          | 119          | 888           | 15.7            | 12.7        | 12.3        | 14.2        |
| 23                   | 507          | 320          | 151          | 978           | 16.5            | 13.6        | 11.3        | 14.5        |
| 24                   | 507          | 327          | 206          | 1,040         | 17.9            | 13.3        | 12.8        | 15.1        |
| 20- 24               | 2,428        | 1,307        | 584          | 4,319         | 15.5            | 12.4        | 11.9        | 13.9        |
| 25                   | 473          | 326          | 241          | 1,040         | 17.6            | 13.5        | 13.1        | 15.0        |
| 26                   | 446          | 334          | 278          | 1,058         | 17.3            | 13.2        | 12.8        | 14.6        |
| 27                   | 414          | 379          | 318          | 1,111         | 18.0            | 15.5        | 13.8        | 15.8        |
| 28                   | 428          | 381          | 325          | 1,134         | 20.4            | 15.5        | 13.4        | 16.2        |
| 29                   | 407          | 344          | 352          | 1,103         | 21.2            | 15.6        | 13.4        | 16.3        |
| 25 - 29              | 2,168        | 1,764        | 1,514        | 5,446         | 18.7            | 14.6        | 13.3        | 15.6        |
| 30                   | 343          | 333          | 342          | 1,018         | 21.5            | 16.3        | 13.9        | 16.7        |
| 31                   | 314          | 285          | 362          | 961           | 24.1            | 16.6        | 15.0        | 17.7        |
| 32                   | 227          | 277          | 345          | 849           | 23.6            | 19.5        | 16.0        | 18.7        |
| 33                   | 185          | 222          | 269          | 676           | 25.7            | 19.9        | 13.9        | 17.9        |
| 34                   | 144          | 200          | 272          | 616           | 26.5            | 23.8        | 17.1        | 20.7        |
| 30 - 34              | 1,213        | 1,317        | 1,590        | 4,120         | 23.7            | 18.5        | 15.1        | 18.1        |
| 35                   | 114          | 168          | 219          | 501           | 27.0            | 24.1        | 16.3        | 20.3        |
| 36                   | 97           | 111          | 191          | 399           | 32.4            | 22.3        | 17.7        | 21.3        |
| 37                   | 73           | 85           | 154          | 312           | 31.9            | 23.4        | 17.8        | 21.4        |
| 38                   | 59           | 53           | 126          | 238           | 40.7            | 21.0        | 19.4        | 22.8        |
| 39                   | 44           | 44           | 89           | 177           | 38.3            | 27.0        | 18.7        | 23.5        |
| 35 - 39              | 387          | 461          | 779          | 1,627         | 32.0            | 23.4        | 17.7        | 21.4        |
| 40                   | 27           | 35           | 65           | 127           | 37.0            | 29.2        | 18.8        | 23.6        |
| 41                   | 17           | 17           | 47           | 81            | 39.5            | 28.3        | 22.9        | 26.3        |
| 42                   | 17           | 11           | 28           | 56            | 63.0            | 39.3        | 21.5        | 30.3        |
| 43                   | 9            | 6            | 24           | 39            | 75.0            | 46.2        | 27.0        | 34.2        |
| 44                   | 1            | 3            | 13           | 17            | 20.0            | 27.3        | 22.0        | 22.7        |
| 40 - 44              | 71           | 72           | 177          | 320           | 44.4            | 31.0        | 21.4        | 26.2        |
| 45 and over          | 5            | 2            | 10           | 17            | 35.7            | 40.0        | 22.2        | 26.6        |
| Not stated           | 10           | 7            | 4            | 21            | 15.4            | 11.9        | 10.0        | 12.8        |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>7,311</b> | <b>5,106</b> | <b>4,686</b> | <b>17,120</b> | <b>17.2</b>     | <b>15.1</b> | <b>14.5</b> | <b>15.8</b> |

*Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory*



**Table 26: Caesarean rates by maternal age, parity and private accommodation in hospital, Australia, 1992**

| Maternal age<br>(years) | Parity       |              |              |               | Parity          |             |             |             |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                         | None         | One          | Two +        | Total         | None            | One         | Two +       | Total       |
|                         | Number       |              |              |               | Rate (per cent) |             |             |             |
| Less than 15            | 1            | 1            | -            | 2             | 25.0            | 100.0       | -           | 40.0        |
| 15                      | 1            | -            | -            | 1             | 14.3            | -           | -           | 9.1         |
| 16                      | 12           | 1            | -            | 13            | 20.3            | 50.0        | -           | 21.3        |
| 17                      | 14           | -            | -            | 14            | 17.5            | -           | -           | 16.1        |
| 18                      | 30           | 2            | -            | 32            | 17.6            | 18.2        | -           | 17.4        |
| 19                      | 42           | 3            | -            | 45            | 15.0            | 7.5         | -           | 14.0        |
| 15 - 19                 | 99           | 6            | -            | 105           | 16.6            | 9.8         | -           | 15.8        |
| 20                      | 87           | 14           | 1            | 102           | 18.3            | 13.9        | 8.3         | 17.3        |
| 21                      | 130          | 34           | 5            | 169           | 16.8            | 15.0        | 20.8        | 16.5        |
| 22                      | 199          | 67           | 14           | 280           | 18.5            | 19.9        | 19.4        | 18.9        |
| 23                      | 278          | 87           | 24           | 389           | 17.5            | 14.2        | 18.2        | 16.6        |
| 24                      | 392          | 146          | 43           | 581           | 19.8            | 16.4        | 19.0        | 18.7        |
| 20- 24                  | 1,086        | 348          | 87           | 1,521         | 18.4            | 16.1        | 18.7        | 17.8        |
| 25                      | 459          | 215          | 63           | 737           | 19.1            | 17.3        | 17.7        | 18.4        |
| 26                      | 582          | 297          | 102          | 981           | 21.4            | 17.3        | 19.1        | 19.7        |
| 27                      | 681          | 431          | 166          | 1,278         | 22.3            | 19.3        | 19.6        | 20.8        |
| 28                      | 687          | 520          | 214          | 1,421         | 22.3            | 19.6        | 18.2        | 20.5        |
| 29                      | 681          | 587          | 263          | 1,531         | 23.9            | 19.7        | 17.8        | 20.9        |
| 25 - 29                 | 3,090        | 2,050        | 808          | 5,948         | 21.9            | 18.9        | 18.4        | 20.3        |
| 30                      | 658          | 617          | 347          | 1,622         | 25.0            | 21.1        | 19.5        | 22.1        |
| 31                      | 598          | 594          | 365          | 1,557         | 27.7            | 21.4        | 18.9        | 22.7        |
| 32                      | 458          | 535          | 363          | 1,356         | 28.0            | 22.4        | 18.9        | 22.9        |
| 33                      | 394          | 484          | 343          | 1,221         | 30.6            | 24.6        | 19.0        | 24.1        |
| 34                      | 346          | 398          | 347          | 1,091         | 33.5            | 25.1        | 21.7        | 25.9        |
| 30 - 34                 | 2,454        | 2,628        | 1,765        | 6,847         | 28.1            | 22.6        | 19.5        | 23.3        |
| 35                      | 257          | 335          | 269          | 861           | 32.6            | 28.4        | 19.0        | 25.5        |
| 36                      | 223          | 259          | 215          | 697           | 37.7            | 30.4        | 20.3        | 27.9        |
| 37                      | 171          | 198          | 185          | 554           | 39.6            | 33.1        | 23.1        | 30.2        |
| 38                      | 124          | 134          | 147          | 405           | 41.8            | 30.5        | 24.9        | 30.5        |
| 39                      | 97           | 122          | 100          | 319           | 43.3            | 37.7        | 22.9        | 32.4        |
| 35 - 39                 | 872          | 1,048        | 916          | 2,836         | 37.4            | 30.9        | 21.3        | 28.3        |
| 40                      | 88           | 75           | 67           | 230           | 46.6            | 35.2        | 22.8        | 33.0        |
| 41                      | 39           | 40           | 47           | 126           | 45.3            | 35.1        | 25.7        | 32.9        |
| 42                      | 18           | 31           | 30           | 79            | 45.0            | 47.7        | 23.1        | 33.6        |
| 43                      | 13           | 8            | 26           | 47            | 54.2            | 32.0        | 35.6        | 38.5        |
| 44                      | 8            | 8            | 13           | 29            | 72.7            | 61.5        | 36.1        | 48.3        |
| 40 - 44                 | 166          | 162          | 183          | 511           | 47.4            | 37.7        | 25.6        | 34.2        |
| 45 and over             | 3            | 6            | 13           | 22            | 37.5            | 40.0        | 37.1        | 37.9        |
| Not stated              | 16           | 8            | 2            | 26            | 26.2            | 16.3        | 6.7         | 18.6        |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>7,771</b> | <b>6,248</b> | <b>3,774</b> | <b>17,818</b> | <b>24.2</b>     | <b>21.9</b> | <b>19.9</b> | <b>22.4</b> |

Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

**Table 27 : Caesarean rates by maternal age and accommodation status, Aboriginal mothers, States and Territories, 1992**

| Accommodation status/<br>Maternal age (years) | NSW                              | Vic         | Qld         | WA          | SA          | Tas      | ACT          | NT          | Australia** |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Public*</b>                                | <b>Number</b>                    |             |             |             |             |          |              |             |             |
| Less than 20                                  | 42                               | na          | 84          | 47          | 25          | -        | 1            | na          | 199         |
| 20 - 24                                       | 82                               | na          | 116         | 69          | 30          | -        | 1            | na          | 298         |
| 25 - 29                                       | 49                               | na          | 84          | 54          | 18          | -        | -            | na          | 205         |
| 30 - 34                                       | 23                               | na          | 60          | 23          | 9           | -        | -            | na          | 115         |
| 35 - 39                                       | 9                                | na          | 26          | 7           | 8           | -        | -            | na          | 50          |
| 40 and over                                   | 3                                | na          | -           | 1           | -           | -        | -            | na          | 4           |
| Not stated                                    | 1                                | na          | -           | -           | -           | -        | -            | na          | 1           |
| <b>All ages</b>                               | <b>209</b>                       | <b>na</b>   | <b>370</b>  | <b>201</b>  | <b>90</b>   | <b>-</b> | <b>2</b>     | <b>na</b>   | <b>872</b>  |
| <b>Private*</b>                               |                                  |             |             |             |             |          |              |             |             |
| Less than 20                                  | -                                | na          | -           | 1           | -           | -        | -            | na          | 1           |
| 20 - 24                                       | 1                                | na          | 4           | 1           | -           | -        | 1            | na          | 7           |
| 25 - 29                                       | 1                                | na          | 4           | 1           | 2           | -        | -            | na          | 8           |
| 30 - 34                                       | 1                                | na          | 14          | -           | 1           | -        | 1            | na          | 17          |
| 35 - 39                                       | 1                                | na          | 5           | 2           | 1           | -        | -            | na          | 9           |
| 40 and over                                   | -                                | na          | -           | -           | -           | -        | -            | na          | -           |
| Not stated                                    | -                                | na          | -           | -           | -           | -        | -            | na          | -           |
| <b>All ages</b>                               | <b>4</b>                         | <b>na</b>   | <b>27</b>   | <b>5</b>    | <b>4</b>    | <b>-</b> | <b>2</b>     | <b>na</b>   | <b>42</b>   |
| <b>Public*</b>                                | <b>Caesarean rate (per cent)</b> |             |             |             |             |          |              |             |             |
| Less than 20                                  | 13.3                             | na          | 16.0        | 12.6        | 21.9        | -        | 33.3         | na          | 15.0        |
| 20 - 24                                       | 15.4                             | na          | 14.3        | 13.9        | 20.3        | -        | 33.3         | na          | 14.9        |
| 25 - 29                                       | 14.8                             | na          | 16.8        | 18.1        | 17.3        | -        | -            | na          | 16.6        |
| 30 - 34                                       | 15.3                             | na          | 23.1        | 18.1        | 24.3        | -        | -            | na          | 20.0        |
| 35 - 39                                       | 22.0                             | na          | 29.9        | 20.0        | 47.1        | -        | -            | na          | 27.8        |
| 40 and over                                   | 33.3                             | na          | -           | 33.3        | -           | -        | -            | na          | 13.8        |
| <b>All ages</b>                               | <b>15.2</b>                      | <b>na</b>   | <b>16.8</b> | <b>15.1</b> | <b>21.4</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>22.2</b>  | <b>na</b>   | <b>16.3</b> |
| <b>Private*</b>                               |                                  |             |             |             |             |          |              |             |             |
| Less than 20                                  | -                                | na          | -           | 100.0       | -           | -        | -            | na          | 14.3        |
| 20 - 24                                       | 10.0                             | na          | 22.2        | 25.0        | -           | -        | 100.0        | na          | 21.2        |
| 25 - 29                                       | 6.3                              | na          | 13.8        | 16.7        | 40.0        | -        | -            | na          | 14.3        |
| 30 - 34                                       | 9.1                              | na          | 42.4        | -           | 33.3        | -        | 100.0        | na          | 34.7        |
| 35 - 39                                       | 16.7                             | na          | 35.7        | 50.0        | 20.0        | -        | -            | na          | 29.0        |
| 40 and over                                   | -                                | na          | -           | -           | -           | -        | -            | na          | -           |
| <b>All ages</b>                               | <b>8.7</b>                       | <b>na</b>   | <b>27.6</b> | <b>31.3</b> | <b>30.8</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>na</b>   | <b>23.7</b> |
| <b>All confinements</b>                       |                                  |             |             |             |             |          |              |             |             |
| Less than 20                                  | 13.2                             | 16.7        | 15.8        | 12.7        | 21.9        | -        | 33.3         | 20.9        | 16.3        |
| 20 - 24                                       | 15.3                             | 12.6        | 14.4        | 13.5        | 20.3        | -        | 50.0         | 20.9        | 15.7        |
| 25 - 29                                       | 14.5                             | 15.9        | 16.8        | 17.9        | 18.3        | -        | -            | 24.1        | 17.6        |
| 30 - 34                                       | 14.9                             | 13.9        | 25.3        | 19.1        | 25.0        | -        | 50.0         | 16.8        | 20.0        |
| 35 - 39                                       | 21.3                             | 29.4        | 31.4        | 22.5        | 40.9        | -        | -            | 21.3        | 27.1        |
| 40 and over                                   | 33.3                             | -           | -           | 40.0        | -           | -        | -            | 25.0        | 15.6        |
| <b>All ages</b>                               | <b>14.9</b>                      | <b>14.9</b> | <b>17.3</b> | <b>15.2</b> | <b>21.6</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>36.4</b>  | <b>21.2</b> | <b>17.2</b> |

\* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

\*\* Data exclude Tasmania

**Table 28 : Caesarean rates by parity, plurality, breech presentation, and birthweight, States and Territories, 1992**

| Characteristic                                 | NSW                              | Vic           | Qld          | WA           | SA           | Tas          | ACT         | NT          | Australia     |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| <b>Parity</b>                                  | <b>Number</b>                    |               |              |              |              |              |             |             |               |
| Primipara                                      | 6,224                            | 4,938         | 4,120        | 1,971        | 2,023        | 474          | 417         | 301         | 20,468        |
| Multipara                                      | 8,139                            | 6,680         | 5,344        | 2,847        | 2,370        | 637          | 481         | 363         | 26,861        |
| Not stated                                     | 41                               | 4             | 108          | -            | -            | 3            | -           | -           | 156           |
| <b>All parity</b>                              | <b>14,404</b>                    | <b>11,622</b> | <b>9,572</b> | <b>4,818</b> | <b>4,393</b> | <b>1,114</b> | <b>898</b>  | <b>664</b>  | <b>47,485</b> |
| <b>Plurality</b>                               |                                  |               |              |              |              |              |             |             |               |
| Singleton                                      | 13,988                           | 11,289        | 9,260        | 4,666        | 4,283        | 1,084        | 867         | 646         | 46,083        |
| Twin   | 389                              | 317           | 284          | 141          | 102          | 29           | 30          | 17          | 1,309         |
| Other multiple                                 | 27                               | 16            | 28           | 11           | 8            | 1            | 1           | 1           | 93            |
| <b>All confinements</b>                        | <b>14,404</b>                    | <b>11,622</b> | <b>9,572</b> | <b>4,818</b> | <b>4,393</b> | <b>1,114</b> | <b>898</b>  | <b>664</b>  | <b>47,485</b> |
| <b>Breech presentation in singleton births</b> | <b>2,346</b>                     | <b>1,761</b>  | <b>1,510</b> | <b>757</b>   | <b>709</b>   | <b>na</b>    | <b>142</b>  | <b>97</b>   | <b>7,322</b>  |
| <b>Birthweight (singleton births)</b>          |                                  |               |              |              |              |              |             |             |               |
| Less than 500 g                                | 6                                | 3             | 6            | 1            | 4            | 2            | -           | 1           | 23            |
| 500 - 999 g                                    | 112                              | 56            | 79           | 25           | 22           | 6            | 4           | 3           | 307           |
| 1000 - 1499 g                                  | 216                              | 141           | 139          | 67           | 57           | 16           | 12          | 16          | 664           |
| 1500 - 1999 g                                  | 299                              | 256           | 225          | 95           | 98           | 23           | 26          | 22          | 1,044         |
| 2000 - 2499 g                                  | 643                              | 546           | 437          | 211          | 203          | 66           | 37          | 39          | 2,182         |
| 2500 g and over *                              | 12,702                           | 10,280        | 8,344        | 4,267        | 3,898        | 971          | 788         | 565         | 41,815        |
| - public                                       | 5,848                            | na            | 4,052        | 2,145        | 1,932        | 455          | 329         | na          | 14,761        |
| - private                                      | 6,842                            | na            | 4,222        | 1,991        | 1,966        | 516          | 449         | na          | 15,986        |
| - other  | 12                               | na            | 70           | 131          | -            | -            | 10          | na          | 223           |
| Not stated                                     | 10                               | 7             | 30           | -            | 1            | -            | -           | -           | 48            |
| <b>All singleton births</b>                    | <b>13,988</b>                    | <b>11,289</b> | <b>9,260</b> | <b>4,666</b> | <b>4,283</b> | <b>1,084</b> | <b>867</b>  | <b>646</b>  | <b>46,083</b> |
| <b>Parity</b>                                  | <b>Caesarean rate (per cent)</b> |               |              |              |              |              |             |             |               |
| Primipara                                      | 17.9                             | 19.0          | 23.1         | 20.4         | 25.2         | 16.4         | 21.8        | 20.6        | 19.9          |
| Multipara                                      | 15.5                             | 17.0          | 19.4         | 18.6         | 20.0         | 15.9         | 17.7        | 17.1        | 17.3          |
| <b>All parity</b>                              | <b>16.4</b>                      | <b>17.8</b>   | <b>20.9</b>  | <b>19.3</b>  | <b>22.1</b>  | <b>16.1</b>  | <b>19.4</b> | <b>18.5</b> | <b>18.3</b>   |
| <b>Plurality</b>                               |                                  |               |              |              |              |              |             |             |               |
| Singleton                                      | 16.2                             | 17.5          | 20.5         | 18.9         | 21.9         | 15.9         | 19.0        | 18.2        | 18.0          |
| Twin   | 35.2                             | 37.2          | 48.5         | 42.7         | 38.6         | 30.9         | 46.9        | 42.5        | 39.2          |
| Other multiple                                 | 87.1                             | 69.6          | 96.6         | 91.7         | 80.0         | 50.0         | 100.0       | 100.0       | 85.3          |
| <b>All confinements</b>                        | <b>16.4</b>                      | <b>17.8</b>   | <b>20.9</b>  | <b>19.3</b>  | <b>22.1</b>  | <b>16.1</b>  | <b>19.4</b> | <b>18.5</b> | <b>18.3</b>   |
| <b>Breech presentation in singleton births</b> | <b>69.7</b>                      | <b>70.9</b>   | <b>80.6</b>  | <b>78.2</b>  | <b>84.3</b>  | <b>na</b>    | <b>80.7</b> | <b>72.4</b> | <b>73.8</b>   |
| <b>Birthweight (singleton births)</b>          |                                  |               |              |              |              |              |             |             |               |
| Less than 500 g                                | 4.3                              | 2.5           | 7.6          | 2.2          | 8.7          | 14.3         | -           | 5.6         | 4.9           |
| 500 - 999 g                                    | 15.5                             | 11.3          | 17.6         | 13.4         | 15.1         | 8.8          | 10.5        | 5.8         | 14.2          |
| 1000 - 1499 g                                  | 56.4                             | 51.3          | 54.3         | 57.3         | 50.9         | 42.1         | 54.5        | 50.0        | 53.8          |
| 1500 - 1999 g                                  | 44.2                             | 45.9          | 51.7         | 47.0         | 49.5         | 46.0         | 61.9        | 29.7        | 46.7          |
| 2000 - 2499 g                                  | 24.9                             | 29.0          | 31.2         | 26.2         | 32.6         | 31.3         | 30.8        | 18.9        | 27.9          |
| 2500 g and over *                              | 15.4                             | 16.7          | 19.5         | 18.3         | 21.0         | 15.0         | 18.1        | 17.7        | 17.3          |
| - public                                       | 13.0                             | na            | 15.6         | 15.7         | 17.9         | 12.7         | 16.7        | na          | 14.6          |
| - private                                      | 18.4                             | na            | 25.8         | 22.5         | 25.3         | 17.8         | 19.7        | na          | 21.2          |
| <b>All singleton births</b>                    | <b>16.2</b>                      | <b>17.5</b>   | <b>20.5</b>  | <b>18.9</b>  | <b>21.9</b>  | <b>15.9</b>  | <b>19.0</b> | <b>18.2</b> | <b>18.0</b>   |

\* Data include accomodation status not stated and other

**Table 29 : Length of antenatal stay in hospital, selected States and Territories, 1992**

| Length of stay                    | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia*     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Mean length of stay (days)</b> | 0.9           | 1.2           | 0.9           | 0.8           | 1.0          | 1.1          | 1.1          | 1.0            |
| <b>Number</b>                     |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Less than 1 day                   | 40,214        | 27,292        | 13,308        | 11,727        | 4,040        | 2,870        | 2,143        | 101,594        |
| 1 day                             | 20,079        | 14,051        | 8,845         | 6,584         | 2,181        | 1,360        | 929          | 54,029         |
| 2 - 6 days                        | 3,400         | 2,765         | 1,382         | 1,014         | 474          | 203          | 295          | 9,533          |
| 7 - 13 days                       | 693           | 583           | 296           | 261           | 75           | 65           | 76           | 2,049          |
| 14 - 20 days                      | 245           | 238           | 116           | 85            | 22           | 34           | 32           | 772            |
| 21 - 27 days                      | 103           | 114           | 54            | 36            | 17           | 18           | 18           | 360            |
| 28 or more days                   | 230           | 298           | 66            | 54            | 46           | 32           | 9            | 735            |
| Not stated                        | 39            | 324           | 718           | -             | -            | 2            | -            | 1,083          |
| <b>All confinements</b>           | <b>65,003</b> | <b>45,665</b> | <b>24,785</b> | <b>19,761</b> | <b>6,855</b> | <b>4,584</b> | <b>3,502</b> | <b>170,155</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>                   |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Less than 1 day                   | 61.9          | 60.2          | 55.3          | 59.3          | 58.9         | 62.6         | 61.2         | 60.1           |
| 1 day                             | 30.9          | 31.0          | 36.8          | 33.3          | 31.8         | 29.7         | 26.5         | 32.0           |
| 2 - 6 days                        | 5.2           | 6.1           | 5.7           | 5.1           | 6.9          | 4.4          | 8.4          | 5.6            |
| 7 - 13 days                       | 1.1           | 1.3           | 1.2           | 1.3           | 1.1          | 1.4          | 2.2          | 1.2            |
| 14 - 20 days                      | 0.4           | 0.5           | 0.5           | 0.4           | 0.3          | 0.7          | 0.9          | 0.5            |
| 21 - 27 days                      | 0.2           | 0.3           | 0.2           | 0.2           | 0.2          | 0.4          | 0.5          | 0.2            |
| 28 or more days                   | 0.4           | 0.7           | 0.3           | 0.3           | 0.7          | 0.7          | 0.3          | 0.4            |
| <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> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b>   |

\* Data exclude New South Wales

**Table 30 : Length of postnatal stay, hospital confinements, selected States and Territories, 1992**

| Length of stay                    | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia*     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Mean length of stay (days)</b> |               | 5.3           | 4.7           | 5.0           | 5.4           | 5.0          | 4.7          | 5.1          | 5.1            |
| <b>Number</b>                     |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Less than 1 day                   | -             | 404           | 227           | 216           | 122           | 62           | 76           | 50           | 1,157          |
| 1 day                             | -             | 1,852         | 1,631         | 914           | 566           | 255          | 285          | 164          | 5,667          |
| 2 days                            | -             | 3,224         | 4,299         | 1,893         | 1,234         | 498          | 449          | 311          | 11,908         |
| 3 days                            | -             | 6,495         | 8,114         | 3,026         | 1,976         | 767          | 576          | 504          | 21,458         |
| 4 days                            | -             | 11,473        | 9,495         | 3,833         | 3,235         | 1,238        | 774          | 630          | 30,678         |
| 5 days                            | -             | 12,930        | 8,146         | 4,513         | 4,085         | 1,577        | 870          | 618          | 32,739         |
| 6 days                            | -             | 10,591        | 5,525         | 3,704         | 3,126         | 1,028        | 727          | 417          | 25,118         |
| 7 - 13 days                       | -             | 16,849        | 6,842         | 5,225         | 5,329         | 1,318        | 747          | 688          | 36,998         |
| 14 - 20 days                      | -             | 246           | 214           | 87            | 106           | 40           | 9            | 52           | 754            |
| 21 - 27 days                      | -             | 29            | 56            | 7             | 18            | 4            | 2            | 20           | 136            |
| 28 or more days                   | -             | 17            | 93            | 8             | 11            | 1            | 9            | 7            | 146            |
| Not stated                        | 81,959        | 1             | 145           | 789           | -             | -            | 1            | 1            | 937            |
| <b>All hospital confinements</b>  | <b>81,959</b> | <b>64,111</b> | <b>44,787</b> | <b>24,215</b> | <b>19,808</b> | <b>6,788</b> | <b>4,525</b> | <b>3,462</b> | <b>167,696</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>                   |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Less than 1 day                   | -             | 0.6           | 0.5           | 0.9           | 0.6           | 0.9          | 1.7          | 1.4          | 0.7            |
| 1 day                             | -             | 2.9           | 3.7           | 3.9           | 2.9           | 3.8          | 6.3          | 4.7          | 3.4            |
| 2 days                            | -             | 5.0           | 9.6           | 8.1           | 6.2           | 7.3          | 9.9          | 9.0          | 7.1            |
| 3 days                            | -             | 10.1          | 18.2          | 12.9          | 10.0          | 11.3         | 12.7         | 14.6         | 12.9           |
| 4 days                            | -             | 17.9          | 21.3          | 16.4          | 16.3          | 18.2         | 17.1         | 18.2         | 18.4           |
| 5 days                            | -             | 20.2          | 18.2          | 19.3          | 20.6          | 23.2         | 19.2         | 17.9         | 19.6           |
| 6 days                            | -             | 16.5          | 12.4          | 15.8          | 15.8          | 15.1         | 16.1         | 12.0         | 15.1           |
| 7 - 13 days                       | -             | 26.3          | 15.3          | 22.3          | 26.9          | 19.4         | 16.5         | 19.9         | 22.2           |
| 14 - 20 days                      | -             | 0.4           | 0.5           | 0.4           | 0.5           | 0.6          | 0.2          | 1.5          | 0.5            |
| 21 - 27 days                      | -             | 0.0           | 0.1           | 0.0           | 0.1           | 0.1          | 0.0          | 0.6          | 0.1            |
| 28 or more days                   | -             | 0.0           | 0.2           | 0.0           | 0.1           | 0.0          | 0.2          | 0.2          | 0.1            |
| <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> | <b>100.0</b>   |

\* Data exclude New South Wales

**Table 31 : Length of postnatal stay by accommodation status, hospital confinements, selected States and Territories, 1992**

| Accommodation status/<br>Length of postnatal stay | Qld          | WA           | SA           | Tas          | ACT          | Total        |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Public (n)</b>                                 | 27,376       | 14,144       | 11,551       | 3,766        | 2,085        | 58,922       |
| Mean length of stay (day)                         | 4.1          | 4.2          | 4.7          | 4.5          | 4.5          | 4.3          |
| <b>Per cent</b>                                   |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| 1 day or less                                     | 5.8          | 7.2          | 4.9          | 6.8          | 10.6         | 6.2          |
| 2 days  | 13.7         | 12.1         | 9.5          | 11.2         | 12.8         | 12.3         |
| 3 days  | 24.5         | 18.3         | 14.3         | 14.9         | 14.6         | 20.0         |
| 4 days  | 24.2         | 20.4         | 21.0         | 20.7         | 18.1         | 22.2         |
| 5 days  | 15.9         | 19.2         | 21.9         | 22.0         | 16.3         | 18.3         |
| 6 days  | 7.6          | 11.9         | 12.5         | 10.6         | 14.1         | 10.0         |
| 7 or more days                                    | 8.4          | 11.0         | 16.0         | 13.9         | 13.4         | 11.0         |
| <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>Private (n)</b>                                | 17,131       | 9,203        | 8,257        | 3,022        | 2,362        | 39,975       |
| Mean length of stay (day)                         | 5.7          | 6.2          | 6.4          | 5.6          | 5.0          | 5.9          |
| <b>Per cent</b>                                   |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| 1 day or less                                     | 1.6          | 1.2          | 1.5          | 2.1          | 5.4          | 1.7          |
| 2 days  | 3.1          | 1.9          | 1.7          | 2.6          | 7.3          | 2.8          |
| 3 days  | 8.2          | 4.7          | 4.0          | 6.8          | 11.0         | 6.5          |
| 4 days  | 16.7         | 10.2         | 9.8          | 15.2         | 16.2         | 13.6         |
| 5 days  | 22.1         | 19.3         | 18.9         | 24.7         | 22.1         | 21.0         |
| 6 days  | 19.9         | 21.9         | 20.4         | 20.8         | 17.9         | 20.4         |
| 7 or more days                                    | 28.5         | 40.9         | 43.8         | 27.8         | 20.2         | 34.0         |
| <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> |

**Table 32 : Length of postnatal stay in hospital by mother's age, parity, Aboriginality, accommodation status, type of delivery, and size of hospital, Australia, 1992**

| Characteristic                 | Confinements<br>(n) * | 0-2 days | 3-4 days | 5-6 days | 7-8 days | 9-10 days | 11-13 days | 14 or more<br>days |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|--------------------|
| Per cent                       |                       |          |          |          |          |           |            |                    |
| <b>All confinements</b>        | 166,759               | 11.2     | 31.3     | 34.7     | 16.4     | 4.5       | 1.3        | 0.6                |
| <b>Maternal age</b>            |                       |          |          |          |          |           |            |                    |
| Less than 20                   | 9,314                 | 14.4     | 42.8     | 30.2     | 8.5      | 2.2       | 1.1        | 0.8                |
| 20-24                          | 33,690                | 14.8     | 39.3     | 32.1     | 10.2     | 2.4       | 0.8        | 0.5                |
| 25-29                          | 57,917                | 10.7     | 30.5     | 36.0     | 17.1     | 4.0       | 1.1        | 0.5                |
| 30-34                          | 47,486                | 9.4      | 26.8     | 36.0     | 19.8     | 5.8       | 1.5        | 0.7                |
| 35-39                          | 15,812                | 9.4      | 24.4     | 34.7     | 20.9     | 7.5       | 2.2        | 0.8                |
| 40 and over                    | 2,535                 | 9.7      | 24.6     | 32.3     | 20.2     | 9.1       | 3.0        | 1.2                |
| Not stated                     | 5                     | 60.0     | 20.0     | 20.0     | -        | -         | -          | -                  |
| <b>Parity</b>                  |                       |          |          |          |          |           |            |                    |
| None                           | 66,138                | 5.3      | 24.7     | 38.9     | 22.1     | 6.3       | 1.9        | 0.9                |
| One                            | 55,812                | 13.3     | 35.1     | 33.4     | 13.5     | 3.4       | 0.9        | 0.5                |
| Two or three                   | 38,582                | 16.4     | 36.2     | 31.0     | 11.9     | 3.1       | 1.0        | 0.4                |
| Four or more                   | 5,697                 | 24.2     | 36.1     | 24.6     | 9.7      | 3.4       | 1.2        | 0.8                |
| Not stated                     | 530                   | 17.9     | 42.3     | 24.3     | 9.6      | 3.6       | 1.5        | 0.8                |
| <b>Aboriginality</b>           |                       |          |          |          |          |           |            |                    |
| Aboriginal                     | 5,377                 | 21.3     | 36.2     | 24.2     | 9.7      | 4.1       | 2.3        | 2.3                |
| Non-aboriginal                 | 161,382               | 10.9     | 31.1     | 35.0     | 16.6     | 4.5       | 1.3        | 0.6                |
| <b>Accommodation status **</b> |                       |          |          |          |          |           |            |                    |
| Public                         | 58,821                | 18.5     | 42.2     | 28.3     | 7.6      | 2.0       | 0.8        | 0.6                |
| Private                        | 39,936                | 4.5      | 20.2     | 41.4     | 24.5     | 6.8       | 1.9        | 0.8                |
| Other                          | 68,002                | 8.9      | 28.3     | 36.3     | 19.2     | 5.3       | 1.4        | 0.6                |
| <b>Type of delivery</b>        |                       |          |          |          |          |           |            |                    |
| Spontaneous cephalic           | 111,439               | 15.4     | 39.3     | 32.9     | 9.7      | 1.8       | 0.6        | 0.3                |
| Caesarean section              | 31,943                | 0.8      | 9.5      | 36.0     | 35.3     | 13.2      | 3.6        | 1.7                |
| Other                          | 23,377                | 5.7      | 22.8     | 41.4     | 22.4     | 5.3       | 1.7        | 0.7                |
| <b>Size of hospital</b>        |                       |          |          |          |          |           |            |                    |
| 1-100                          | 7,145                 | 9.7      | 33.5     | 37.3     | 15.0     | 3.3       | 0.7        | 0.4                |
| 101-500                        | 24,198                | 8.0      | 29.3     | 38.0     | 18.0     | 4.8       | 1.3        | 0.5                |
| 501-1000                       | 33,390                | 7.7      | 24.8     | 38.2     | 21.1     | 6.0       | 1.5        | 0.6                |
| 1001-2000                      | 52,887                | 13.0     | 34.3     | 33.3     | 14.2     | 3.5       | 1.1        | 0.5                |
| 2001 and over                  | 49,080                | 13.4     | 33.0     | 31.8     | 14.9     | 4.5       | 1.5        | 0.8                |
| Not stated                     | 59                    | 88.1     | 5.1      | 5.1      | 1.7      | -         | -          | -                  |

Table excludes confinements in New South Wales

\* Data exclude length of stay 'not stated'

\*\* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

**Table 33 : Mode of separation of mother, hospital confinements, selected States and Territories, 1992**

| Mode of separation           | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia*     |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Number</b>                |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Discharge home               | 83,103        | 64,107        | 44,593        | 23,424        | 6,787        | 4,518        | 3,462        | 229,994        |
| Transfer to another hospital | 4,202         | 1,117         | 1,018         | 648           | 67           | 59           | 40           | 7,151          |
| Died                         | 6             | 4             | 1             | -             | -            | -            | -            | 11             |
| Other                        | -             | -             | -             | -             | 1            | -            | -            | 1              |
| Not stated                   | 189           | -             | 193           | 791           | -            | 7            | -            | 1,180          |
| <b>All confinements</b>      | <b>87,500</b> | <b>65,228</b> | <b>45,805</b> | <b>24,863</b> | <b>6,855</b> | <b>4,584</b> | <b>3,502</b> | <b>238,337</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>              |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Discharge home               | 95.2          | 98.3          | 97.8          | 97.3          | 99.0         | 98.7         | 98.9         | 97.0           |
| Transfer to another hospital | 4.8           | 1.7           | 2.2           | 2.7           | 1.0          | 1.3          | 1.1          | 3.0            |
| Died                         | 0.0           | 0.0           | 0.0           | -             | -            | -            | -            | 0.0            |
| Other                        | -             | -             | -             | -             | 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 34 : *Infant's month of birth, all births, States and Territories, 1992***

| Month of birth    | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia      |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Number</b>     |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| January           | 7,505         | 5,546         | 3,842         | 2,039         | 1,692         | 597          | 430          | 307          | 21,958         |
| February          | 7,118         | 5,335         | 3,751         | 2,077         | 1,658         | 556          | 369          | 297          | 21,161         |
| March             | 7,470         | 5,677         | 4,064         | 2,245         | 1,718         | 566          | 388          | 315          | 22,443         |
| April             | 7,293         | 5,488         | 3,933         | 2,135         | 1,665         | 588          | 368          | 320          | 21,790         |
| May               | 7,516         | 5,467         | 4,107         | 2,240         | 1,701         | 583          | 387          | 333          | 22,334         |
| June              | 7,241         | 5,344         | 3,936         | 2,145         | 1,640         | 589          | 384          | 343          | 21,622         |
| July              | 7,785         | 5,715         | 3,996         | 2,134         | 1,780         | 590          | 407          | 308          | 22,715         |
| August            | 7,518         | 5,525         | 3,874         | 2,098         | 1,668         | 585          | 421          | 268          | 21,957         |
| September         | 7,766         | 5,731         | 3,942         | 2,244         | 1,684         | 603          | 402          | 270          | 22,642         |
| October           | 7,756         | 5,815         | 3,859         | 2,177         | 1,736         | 626          | 393          | 301          | 22,663         |
| November          | 6,895         | 5,226         | 3,634         | 1,854         | 1,570         | 543          | 380          | 288          | 20,390         |
| December          | 7,110         | 5,431         | 3,674         | 1,936         | 1,640         | 600          | 382          | 278          | 21,051         |
| <b>All births</b> | <b>88,973</b> | <b>66,300</b> | <b>46,612</b> | <b>25,324</b> | <b>20,152</b> | <b>7,026</b> | <b>4,711</b> | <b>3,628</b> | <b>262,726</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>   |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| January           | 8.4           | 8.4           | 8.2           | 8.1           | 8.4           | 8.5          | 9.1          | 8.5          | 8.4            |
| February          | 8.0           | 8.0           | 8.0           | 8.2           | 8.2           | 7.9          | 7.8          | 8.2          | 8.1            |
| March             | 8.4           | 8.6           | 8.7           | 8.9           | 8.5           | 8.1          | 8.2          | 8.7          | 8.5            |
| April             | 8.2           | 8.3           | 8.4           | 8.4           | 8.3           | 8.4          | 7.8          | 8.8          | 8.3            |
| May               | 8.4           | 8.2           | 8.8           | 8.8           | 8.4           | 8.3          | 8.2          | 9.2          | 8.5            |
| June              | 8.1           | 8.1           | 8.4           | 8.5           | 8.1           | 8.4          | 8.2          | 9.5          | 8.2            |
| July              | 8.7           | 8.6           | 8.6           | 8.4           | 8.8           | 8.4          | 8.6          | 8.5          | 8.6            |
| August            | 8.4           | 8.3           | 8.3           | 8.3           | 8.3           | 8.3          | 8.9          | 7.4          | 8.4            |
| September         | 8.7           | 8.6           | 8.5           | 8.9           | 8.4           | 8.6          | 8.5          | 7.4          | 8.6            |
| October           | 8.7           | 8.8           | 8.3           | 8.6           | 8.6           | 8.9          | 8.3          | 8.3          | 8.6            |
| November          | 7.7           | 7.9           | 7.8           | 7.3           | 7.8           | 7.7          | 8.1          | 7.9          | 7.8            |
| December          | 8.0           | 8.2           | 7.9           | 7.6           | 8.1           | 8.5          | 8.1          | 7.7          | 8.0            |
| <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>   |

**Table 35 : *Infant's sex by plurality, all births, States and Territories, 1992***

| Infant's sex                 | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia      |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Number</b>                |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| <b>All births</b>            |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Male                         | 45,741        | 33,992        | 23,949        | 13,073        | 10,395        | 3,585        | 2,414        | 1,870        | 135,019        |
| Female                       | 43,135        | 32,294        | 22,661        | 12,249        | 9,755         | 3,441        | 2,297        | 1,757        | 127,589        |
| Indeterminate                | 13            | 14            | 2             | 2             | 2             | -            | -            | 1            | 34             |
| Not stated                   | 84            | -             | -             | -             | -             | -            | -            | -            | 84             |
| <b>All births</b>            | <b>88,973</b> | <b>66,300</b> | <b>46,612</b> | <b>25,324</b> | <b>20,152</b> | <b>7,026</b> | <b>4,711</b> | <b>3,628</b> | <b>262,726</b> |
| Sex ratio                    | 106.0         | 105.3         | 105.7         | 106.7         | 106.6         | 104.2        | 105.1        | 106.4        | 105.8          |
| <b>Singletons</b>            |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Male                         | 44,535        | 33,114        | 23,299        | 12,715        | 10,109        | 3,480        | 2,346        | 1,827        | 131,425        |
| Female                       | 42,035        | 31,398        | 22,042        | 11,911        | 9,484         | 3,352        | 2,232        | 1,717        | 124,171        |
| Indeterminate                | 11            | 9             | 2             | 2             | 1             | -            | -            | 1            | 26             |
| Not stated                   | 79            | -             | -             | -             | -             | -            | -            | -            | 79             |
| Sex ratio                    | 105.9         | 105.5         | 105.7         | 106.8         | 106.6         | 103.8        | 105.1        | 106.4        | 105.8          |
| <b>Twins</b>                 |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Male                         | 1,166         | 848           | 603           | 335           | 271           | 103          | 66           | 43           | 3,435          |
| Female                       | 1,044         | 857           | 577           | 325           | 257           | 85           | 64           | 37           | 3,246          |
| Indeterminate                | 2             | 5             | -             | -             | -             | -            | -            | -            | 7              |
| Not stated                   | 4             | 0             | -             | -             | -             | -            | -            | -            | 4              |
| Sex ratio                    | 111.7         | 98.9          | 104.5         | 103.1         | 105.4         | 121.2        | 103.1        | 116.2        | 105.8          |
| <b>Other multiple births</b> |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Male                         | 40            | 30            | 47            | 23            | 15            | 2            | 2            | -            | 159            |
| Female                       | 56            | 39            | 42            | 13            | 14            | 4            | 1            | 3            | 172            |
| Indeterminate                | -             | -             | -             | -             | 1             | -            | -            | -            | 1              |
| Not stated                   | 1             | -             | -             | -             | -             | -            | -            | -            | 1              |
| Sex ratio                    | 71.4          | 76.9          | 111.9         | 176.9         | 107.1         | 50.0         | -            | -            | 92.4           |
| <b>Per cent</b>              |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| <b>All births</b>            |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Male                         | 51.5          | 51.3          | 51.4          | 51.6          | 51.6          | 51.0         | 51.2         | 51.5         | 51.4           |
| Female                       | 48.5          | 48.7          | 48.6          | 48.4          | 48.4          | 49.0         | 48.8         | 48.4         | 48.6           |
| Indeterminate                | 0.0           | 0.0           | 0.0           | 0.0           | 0.0           | -            | -            | 0.0          | 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                         | 51.4          | 51.3          | 51.4          | 51.6          | 51.6          | 50.9         | 51.2         | 51.6         | 51.4           |
| Female                       | 48.6          | 48.7          | 48.6          | 48.4          | 48.4          | 49.1         | 48.8         | 48.4         | 48.6           |
| <b>Twins</b>                 |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Male                         | 52.8          | 49.7          | 51.1          | 50.8          | 51.3          | 54.8         | 50.8         | 53.8         | 51.4           |
| Female                       | 47.2          | 50.3          | 48.9          | 49.2          | 48.7          | 45.2         | 49.2         | 46.3         | 48.6           |
| <b>Other multiple births</b> |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Male                         | 41.7          | 43.5          | 52.8          | 63.9          | 51.7          | 33.3         | 66.7         | -            | 48.0           |
| Female                       | 58.3          | 56.5          | 47.2          | 36.1          | 48.3          | 66.7         | 33.3         | 100.0        | 52.0           |

**Table 36 : *Infant's birthweight, all births, States and Territories, 1992***

| <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> | 3,365         | 3,364         | 3,351         | 3,344         | 3,343         | 3,371        | 3,373        | 3,179        | 3,356            |
| <b>Number</b>               |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                  |
| Less than 500               | 158           | 154           | 107           | 66            | 57            | 19           | 5            | 23           | 589              |
| 500 - 999                   | 444           | 328           | 291           | 115           | 92            | 42           | 24           | 28           | 1,364            |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 515           | 365           | 348           | 161           | 147           | 53           | 27           | 38           | 1,654            |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 945           | 775           | 625           | 289           | 278           | 73           | 52           | 81           | 3,118            |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 3,212         | 2,385         | 1,735         | 1,019         | 779           | 252          | 147          | 239          | 9,768            |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 13,317        | 10,129        | 7,001         | 3,910         | 3,133         | 1,082        | 691          | 756          | 40,019           |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 32,708        | 24,188        | 16,802        | 9,457         | 7,408         | 2,474        | 1,806        | 1,354        | 96,197           |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 27,475        | 20,222        | 14,237        | 7,614         | 5,958         | 2,177        | 1,421        | 842          | 79,946           |
| 4000 - 4499                 | 8,616         | 6,548         | 4,517         | 2,344         | 1,966         | 720          | 468          | 229          | 25,408           |
| 4500 and over               | 1,510         | 1,151         | 815           | 349           | 332           | 134          | 64           | 35           | 4,390            |
| Not stated                  | 73            | 55            | 134           | -             | 2             | -            | 6            | 3            | 273              |
| <b>All births</b>           | <b>88,973</b> | <b>66,300</b> | <b>46,612</b> | <b>25,324</b> | <b>20,152</b> | <b>7,026</b> | <b>4,711</b> | <b>3,628</b> | <b>262,726</b>   |
| Less than 1000              | 602           | 482           | 398           | 181           | 149           | 61           | 29           | 51           | 1,953            |
| Less than 1500              | 1,117         | 847           | 746           | 342           | 296           | 114          | 56           | 89           | 3,607            |
| Less than 2500              | 5,274         | 4,007         | 3,106         | 1,650         | 1,353         | 439          | 255          | 409          | 16,493           |
| <b>Per cent</b>             |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                  |
| Less than 500               | 0.2           | 0.2           | 0.2           | 0.3           | 0.3           | 0.3          | 0.1          | 0.6          | 0.2              |
| 500 - 999                   | 0.5           | 0.5           | 0.6           | 0.5           | 0.5           | 0.6          | 0.5          | 0.8          | 0.5              |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 0.6           | 0.6           | 0.7           | 0.6           | 0.7           | 0.8          | 0.6          | 1.0          | 0.6              |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 1.1           | 1.2           | 1.3           | 1.1           | 1.4           | 1.0          | 1.1          | 2.2          | 1.2              |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 3.6           | 3.6           | 3.7           | 4.0           | 3.9           | 3.6          | 3.1          | 6.6          | 3.7              |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 15.0          | 15.3          | 15.1          | 15.4          | 15.5          | 15.4         | 14.7         | 20.9         | 15.2             |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 36.8          | 36.5          | 36.2          | 37.3          | 36.8          | 35.2         | 38.4         | 37.4         | 36.7             |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 30.9          | 30.5          | 30.6          | 30.1          | 29.6          | 31.0         | 30.2         | 23.2         | 30.5             |
| 4000 - 4499                 | 9.7           | 9.9           | 9.7           | 9.3           | 9.8           | 10.2         | 9.9          | 6.3          | 9.7              |
| 4500 and over               | 1.7           | 1.7           | 1.8           | 1.4           | 1.6           | 1.9          | 1.4          | 1.0          | 1.7              |
| <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              | 0.7           | 0.7           | 0.9           | 0.7           | 0.7           | 0.9          | 0.6          | 1.4          | 0.7              |
| Less than 1500              | 1.3           | 1.3           | 1.6           | 1.4           | 1.5           | 1.6          | 1.2          | 2.5          | 1.4              |
| Less than 2500              | 5.9           | 6.0           | 6.7           | 6.5           | 6.7           | 6.2          | 5.4          | 11.3         | 6.3              |

**Table 37 : Infant's birthweight, live births and fetal deaths, Australia, 1992**

| Birthweight (g)             | Live births    |              | Fetal deaths |              |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                             | Number         | Per cent     | Number       | Per cent     |
| Less than 500               | 199            | 0.1          | 390          | 22.6         |
| 500 - 999                   | 945            | 0.4          | 419          | 24.3         |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 1,462          | 0.6          | 192          | 11.1         |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 2,975          | 1.1          | 143          | 8.3          |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 9,640          | 3.7          | 128          | 7.4          |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 39,855         | 15.3         | 164          | 9.5          |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 96,037         | 36.8         | 160          | 9.3          |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 79,858         | 30.6         | 88           | 5.1          |
| 4000 - 4499                 | 25,381         | 9.7          | 27           | 1.6          |
| 4500 and over               | 4,375          | 1.7          | 15           | 0.9          |
| Not stated                  | 232            | -            | 41           | -            |
| <b>All births</b>           | <b>260,959</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>1,767</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| Less than 1000              | 1,144          | 0.4          | 809          | 46.9         |
| Less than 1500              | 2,606          | 1.0          | 1,001        | 58.0         |
| Less than 2500              | 15,221         | 5.8          | 1,272        | 73.7         |
| <b>Mean birthweight (g)</b> | <b>3,368</b>   |              | <b>1,551</b> |              |

**Table 38 : Infant's birthweight by plurality, all births, Australia, 1992**

| Birthweight (g)             | Singletons     |              | Twins        |              | Triplets     |              | Other multiple births |              |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
|                             | Number         | Per cent     | Number       | Per cent     | Number       | Per cent     | Number                | Per cent     |
| Less than 500               | 472            | 0.2          | 103          | 1.5          | 14           | 4.4          | -                     | -            |
| 500 - 999                   | 1,083          | 0.4          | 235          | 3.5          | 44           | 14.0         | 2                     | 11.1         |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 1,237          | 0.5          | 331          | 5.0          | 73           | 23.2         | 13                    | 72.2         |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 2,239          | 0.9          | 792          | 11.9         | 84           | 26.7         | 3                     | 16.7         |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 7,839          | 3.1          | 1,845        | 27.7         | 84           | 26.7         | -                     | -            |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 37,731         | 14.8         | 2,276        | 34.1         | 12           | 3.8          | -                     | -            |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 95,230         | 37.3         | 964          | 14.5         | 3            | 1.0          | -                     | -            |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 79,832         | 31.3         | 113          | 1.7          | 1            | 0.3          | -                     | -            |
| 4000 - 4499                 | 25,397         | 9.9          | 11           | 0.2          | -            | -            | -                     | -            |
| 4500 and over               | 4,389          | 1.7          | 1            | 0.0          | -            | -            | -                     | -            |
| Not stated                  | 252            | -            | 21           | -            | -            | -            | -                     | -            |
| <b>All births</b>           | <b>255,701</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>6,692</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>315</b>   | <b>100.0</b> | <b>18</b>             | <b>100.0</b> |
| Less than 1000              | 1,555          | 0.6          | 338          | 5.1          | 58           | 18.4         | 2                     | 11.1         |
| Less than 1500              | 2,792          | 1.1          | 669          | 10.0         | 131          | 41.6         | 15                    | 83.3         |
| Less than 2500              | 12,870         | 5.0          | 3,306        | 49.6         | 299          | 94.9         | 18                    | 100.0        |
| <b>Mean birthweight (g)</b> | <b>3,384</b>   |              | <b>2,396</b> |              | <b>1,615</b> |              | <b>1,235</b>          |              |

**Table 39 : *Infant's birthweight by sex, all births, Australia, 1992***

| Birthweight (g)             | Male           |              | Female         |              | Indeterminate / Not stated |              |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
|                             | Number         | Per cent     | Number         | Per cent     | Number                     | Per cent     |
| Less than 500               | 304            | 0.2          | 275            | 0.2          | 10                         | 9.1          |
| 500 - 999                   | 709            | 0.5          | 652            | 0.5          | 3                          | 2.7          |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 863            | 0.6          | 787            | 0.6          | 4                          | 3.6          |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 1,598          | 1.2          | 1,518          | 1.2          | 2                          | 1.8          |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 4,466          | 3.3          | 5,298          | 4.2          | 4                          | 3.6          |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 17,301         | 12.8         | 22,706         | 17.8         | 12                         | 10.9         |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 45,979         | 34.1         | 50,180         | 39.4         | 38                         | 34.5         |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 44,440         | 32.9         | 35,481         | 27.8         | 25                         | 22.7         |
| 4000 - 4499                 | 16,153         | 12.0         | 9,247          | 7.3          | 8                          | 7.3          |
| 4500 and over               | 3,064          | 2.3          | 1,322          | 1.0          | 4                          | 3.6          |
| Not stated                  | 142            | -            | 123            | -            | 8                          | -            |
| <b>All births</b>           | <b>135,019</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>127,589</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>118</b>                 | <b>100.0</b> |
| Less than 1000              | 1,013          | 0.8          | 927            | 0.7          | 13                         | 11.8         |
| Less than 1500              | 1,876          | 1.4          | 1,714          | 1.3          | 17                         | 15.5         |
| Less than 2500              | 7,940          | 5.9          | 8,530          | 6.7          | 23                         | 20.9         |
| <b>Mean birthweight (g)</b> | <b>3,417</b>   |              | <b>3,293</b>   |              | <b>2,936</b>               |              |

**Table 40 : *Infant's birthweight, Aboriginal births, States and Territories, 1992***

| <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> | 3,211        | 3,313        | 3,173        | 3,157        | 3,067        | 3,275        | 3,216        | 3,005        | 3,150            |
| <b>Number</b>               |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |                  |
| Less than 500               | 7            | 2            | 11           | 8            | 12           | -            | -            | 14           | 54               |
| 500 - 999                   | 14           | 1            | 30           | 14           | 5            | -            | -            | 17           | 81               |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 12           | 1            | 30           | 11           | 10           | -            | 1            | 22           | 87               |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 29           | 5            | 66           | 30           | 18           | -            | -            | 51           | 199              |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 105          | 21           | 152          | 106          | 27           | -            | 1            | 109          | 521              |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 275          | 69           | 466          | 319          | 84           | 1            | -            | 338          | 1,552            |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 511          | 151          | 827          | 528          | 153          | 2            | 3            | 425          | 2,600            |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 368          | 109          | 574          | 322          | 95           | 1            | 6            | 215          | 1,690            |
| 4000 - 4499                 | 101          | 37           | 138          | 75           | 30           | -            | -            | 55           | 436              |
| 4500 and over               | 22           | 7            | 37           | 17           | 6            | -            | -            | 8            | 97               |
| Not stated                  | 3            | 1            | 6            | -            | 1            | -            | -            | 1            | 12               |
| <b>All births</b>           | <b>1,447</b> | <b>404</b>   | <b>2,337</b> | <b>1,430</b> | <b>441</b>   | <b>4</b>     | <b>11</b>    | <b>1,255</b> | <b>7,329</b>     |
| Less than 1000              | 21           | 3            | 41           | 22           | 17           | -            | -            | 31           | 135              |
| Less than 1500              | 33           | 4            | 71           | 33           | 27           | -            | 1            | 53           | 222              |
| Less than 2500              | 167          | 30           | 289          | 169          | 72           | -            | 2            | 213          | 942              |
| <b>Per cent</b>             |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |                  |
| Less than 500               | 0.5          | 0.5          | 0.5          | 0.6          | 2.7          | -            | -            | 1.1          | 0.7              |
| 500 - 999                   | 1.0          | 0.2          | 1.3          | 1.0          | 1.1          | -            | -            | 1.4          | 1.1              |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 0.8          | 0.2          | 1.3          | 0.8          | 2.3          | -            | 9.1          | 1.8          | 1.2              |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 2.0          | 1.2          | 2.8          | 2.1          | 4.1          | -            | -            | 4.1          | 2.7              |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 7.3          | 5.2          | 6.5          | 7.4          | 6.1          | -            | 9.1          | 8.7          | 7.1              |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 19.0         | 17.1         | 20.0         | 22.3         | 19.1         | 25.0         | -            | 27.0         | 21.2             |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 35.4         | 37.5         | 35.5         | 36.9         | 34.8         | 50.0         | 27.3         | 33.9         | 35.5             |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 25.5         | 27.0         | 24.6         | 22.5         | 21.6         | 25.0         | 54.5         | 17.1         | 23.1             |
| 4000 - 4499                 | 7.0          | 9.2          | 5.9          | 5.2          | 6.8          | -            | -            | 4.4          | 6.0              |
| 4500 and over               | 1.5          | 1.7          | 1.6          | 1.2          | 1.4          | -            | -            | 0.6          | 1.3              |
| <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              | 1.5          | 0.7          | 1.8          | 1.5          | 3.9          | -            | -            | 2.5          | 1.8              |
| Less than 1500              | 2.3          | 1.0          | 3.0          | 2.3          | 6.1          | -            | 9.1          | 4.2          | 3.0              |
| Less than 2500              | 11.6         | 7.4          | 12.4         | 11.8         | 16.4         | -            | 18.2         | 17.0         | 12.9             |

**Table 41 : Distribution of birthweight by mother's Aboriginality, country of birth, age, parity, marital status, accommodation status, and place of birth, Australia, 1992**

| 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>Maternal country of birth/<br/>Aboriginality</b> |                 |          |                 |          |                 |          |                |          |
| Australia: non-Aboriginal                           | 1,322           | 0.7      | 2,524           | 1.3      | 11,727          | 6.1      | 181,437        | 93.9     |
| Australia: Aboriginal                               | 135             | 1.8      | 222             | 3.0      | 942             | 12.9     | 6,375          | 87.1     |
| New Zealand   | 52              | 0.8      | 88              | 1.4      | 378             | 6.1      | 5,843          | 93.9     |
| United Kingdom                                      | 112             | 0.8      | 203             | 1.4      | 952             | 6.5      | 13,615         | 93.5     |
| Italy   | 5               | 0.4      | 14              | 1.0      | 78              | 5.7      | 1,284          | 94.3     |
| Former Yugoslavia                                   | 16              | 0.8      | 31              | 1.6      | 100             | 5.1      | 1,847          | 94.9     |
| Lebanon   | 21              | 0.6      | 36              | 1.1      | 156             | 4.8      | 3,112          | 95.2     |
| China   | 12              | 0.6      | 18              | 1.0      | 83              | 4.4      | 1,811          | 95.6     |
| Hong Kong   | 2               | 0.2      | 7               | 0.7      | 49              | 4.6      | 1,008          | 95.4     |
| India   | 15              | 1.3      | 23              | 2.0      | 117             | 10.0     | 1,053          | 90.0     |
| Malaysia  | 9               | 0.6      | 17              | 1.2      | 91              | 6.6      | 1,295          | 93.4     |
| Philippines   | 29              | 1.1      | 44              | 1.6      | 193             | 7.2      | 2,489          | 92.8     |
| Vietnam   | 22              | 0.6      | 45              | 1.2      | 235             | 6.5      | 3,390          | 93.5     |
| Other countries                                     | 151             | 0.8      | 264             | 1.3      | 1,178           | 6.0      | 18,554         | 94.0     |
| Not stated  | 50              | -        | 71              | -        | 214             | -        | 2,847          | -        |
| <b>Maternal age</b>                                 |                 |          |                 |          |                 |          |                |          |
| Less than 15  | 5               | 4.1      | 8               | 6.6      | 21              | 17.2     | 101            | 82.8     |
| 15-19   | 149             | 1.0      | 263             | 1.8      | 1,157           | 8.1      | 13,185         | 91.9     |
| 20-24   | 370             | 0.7      | 701             | 1.3      | 3,468           | 6.6      | 49,434         | 93.4     |
| 25-29   | 643             | 0.7      | 1,147           | 1.3      | 5,162           | 5.7      | 85,099         | 94.3     |
| 30-34   | 507             | 0.7      | 969             | 1.3      | 4,533           | 6.1      | 70,363         | 93.9     |
| 35-39   | 224             | 0.9      | 417             | 1.6      | 1,811           | 7.1      | 23,714         | 92.9     |
| 40 and over   | 46              | 1.1      | 91              | 2.2      | 308             | 7.5      | 3,782          | 92.5     |
| Not stated  | 9               | 2.9      | 11              | 3.5      | 33              | 10.5     | 282            | 89.5     |
| <b>Parity</b>                                       |                 |          |                 |          |                 |          |                |          |
| None  | 875             | 0.8      | 1,696           | 1.6      | 7,994           | 7.7      | 96,084         | 92.3     |
| One   | 547             | 0.6      | 954             | 1.1      | 4,418           | 5.1      | 83,041         | 94.9     |
| Two   | 302             | 0.7      | 528             | 1.2      | 2,364           | 5.3      | 42,160         | 94.7     |
| Three   | 119             | 0.7      | 225             | 1.4      | 973             | 5.9      | 15,538         | 94.1     |
| Four or more  | 102             | 1.1      | 188             | 2.1      | 685             | 7.5      | 8,398          | 92.5     |
| Not stated  | 8               | 1.0      | 16              | 2.0      | 59              | 7.4      | 739            | 92.6     |
| <b>Marital status</b>                               |                 |          |                 |          |                 |          |                |          |
| Married / de facto                                  | 1,607           | 0.7      | 2,964           | 1.3      | 13,574          | 5.9      | 215,995        | 94.1     |
| Single  | 306             | 1.0      | 570             | 2.0      | 2,578           | 8.8      | 26,580         | 91.2     |
| Other   | 40              | 1.1      | 73              | 2.0      | 341             | 9.2      | 3,385          | 90.8     |
| <b>Accommodation status*</b>                        |                 |          |                 |          |                 |          |                |          |
| Public  | 1,021           | 0.9      | 1,892           | 1.7      | 8,288           | 7.5      | 102,911        | 92.5     |
| Private   | 381             | 0.5      | 697             | 0.9      | 3,406           | 4.3      | 75,669         | 95.7     |
| <b>Place of birth</b>                               |                 |          |                 |          |                 |          |                |          |
| Hospital  | 1,926           | 0.7      | 3,564           | 1.4      | 16,350          | 6.3      | 241,943        | 93.7     |
| Birth centre  | 9               | 0.4      | 10              | 0.4      | 28              | 1.2      | 2,377          | 98.8     |
| Home  | -               | -        | -               | -        | 10              | 1.2      | 854            | 98.8     |
| Born before arrival                                 | 10              | 1.3      | 22              | 2.9      | 77              | 10.2     | 675            | 89.8     |
| Other   | 6               | 6.9      | 9               | 10.3     | 25              | 28.7     | 62             | 71.3     |
| Not stated  | 2               | 3.8      | 2               | 3.8      | 3               | 5.8      | 49             | 94.2     |

\* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

**Table 42 : Proportion of low birthweight infants born in hospitals of different sizes, States and Territories, 1992**

| Low birthweight category/Hospital size | NSW          | Vic          | Qld          | WA           | SA           | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia    |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Birthweight: 500 - 999g</b>         |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| Number of births                       | 301          | 225          | 210          | 89           | 59           | 25           | 16           | 20           | 945          |
| <b>Per cent</b>                        |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| 1-100 confinements                     | 0.3          | 0.4          | 1.9          | 2.2          | 8.5          | -            | -            | -            | 1.4          |
| 101-500 confinements                   | 1.7          | 2.2          | 2.4          | 1.1          | -            | -            | 6.3          | -            | 1.8          |
| 501-1000 confinements                  | 7.3          | 5.3          | 6.7          | 1.1          | -            | 12.0         | -            | 15.0         | 5.8          |
| 1001-2000 confinements                 | 7.0          | 4.0          | 21.4         | 0.0          | 3.4          | 4.0          | -            | 70.0         | 9.7          |
| 2001 and over confinements             | 83.4         | 88.0         | 67.6         | 93.3         | 88.1         | 84.0         | 93.8         | -            | 80.6         |
| Other births                           | 0.3          | -            | -            | 2.2          | -            | -            | -            | 15.0         | 0.6          |
| <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                       | 446          | 325          | 311          | 145          | 132          | 44           | 24           | 35           | 1,462        |
| <b>Per cent</b>                        |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| 1-100 confinements                     | -            | 0.3          | 1.9          | 1.4          | 1.5          | 2.3          | -            | -            | 0.8          |
| 101-500 confinements                   | 1.1          | 0.9          | 1.9          | 1.4          | 0.8          | 2.3          | -            | 5.7          | 1.4          |
| 501-1000 confinements                  | 5.4          | 6.5          | 5.5          | -            | 0.8          | -            | -            | 22.9         | 4.9          |
| 1001-2000 confinements                 | 4.7          | 6.5          | 21.5         | 2.1          | 8.3          | 4.5          | 4.2          | 68.6         | 10.3         |
| 2001 and over confinements             | 88.8         | 85.8         | 69.1         | 94.5         | 88.6         | 90.9         | 95.8         | -            | 82.6         |
| Other births                           | -            | -            | -            | 0.7          | -            | -            | -            | 2.9          | 0.1          |
| <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                       | 909          | 740          | 599          | 273          | 257          | 69           | 49           | 78           | 2,974        |
| <b>Per cent</b>                        |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| 1-100 confinements                     | 0.4          | 0.4          | 2.5          | 1.5          | 1.2          | 1.4          | -            | -            | 1.0          |
| 101-500 confinements                   | 3.9          | 3.8          | 5.3          | 6.6          | 8.6          | 1.4          | -            | 10.3         | 4.8          |
| 501-1000 confinements                  | 14.5         | 16.2         | 11.2         | 4.8          | 1.2          | 13.0         | -            | 23.1         | 12.2         |
| 1001-2000 confinements                 | 15.0         | 18.2         | 28.5         | 8.1          | 16.0         | 26.1         | 20.4         | 55.1         | 19.4         |
| 2001 and over confinements             | 66.1         | 61.4         | 52.4         | 78.8         | 73.2         | 58.0         | 79.6         | -            | 62.2         |
| Other births                           | 0.1          | -            | -            | 0.4          | -            | -            | -            | 11.5         | 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 43 : Infant's Apgar score at 1 minute, live births, selected States and Territories, 1992**

| Apgar score       | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia*     |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Number</b>     |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| 0                 | -             | -             | 14            | 1             | 6             | 5            | 2            | 8            | 36             |
| 1                 | -             | -             | 253           | 119           | 116           | 46           | 46           | 24           | 604            |
| 2                 | -             | -             | 396           | 201           | 165           | 68           | 42           | 45           | 917            |
| 3                 | -             | -             | 637           | 300           | 334           | 94           | 77           | 58           | 1,500          |
| 4                 | -             | -             | 909           | 502           | 454           | 142          | 96           | 82           | 2,185          |
| 5                 | -             | -             | 1,608         | 898           | 820           | 217          | 173          | 148          | 3,864          |
| 6                 | -             | -             | 2,502         | 1,565         | 1,615         | 412          | 288          | 259          | 6,641          |
| 7                 | -             | -             | 4,254         | 3,317         | 2,896         | 749          | 483          | 431          | 12,130         |
| 8                 | -             | -             | 10,283        | 6,533         | 5,577         | 1,564        | 961          | 813          | 25,731         |
| 9                 | -             | -             | 23,497        | 11,393        | 7,697         | 3,368        | 2,465        | 1,647        | 50,067         |
| 10                | -             | -             | 1,811         | 276           | 283           | 309          | 41           | 33           | 2,753          |
| Not stated        | 88,401        | 65,853        | 143           | 54            | 41            | 1            | 4            | 34           | 154,531        |
| <b>All births</b> | <b>88,401</b> | <b>65,853</b> | <b>46,307</b> | <b>25,159</b> | <b>20,004</b> | <b>6,975</b> | <b>4,678</b> | <b>3,582</b> | <b>260,959</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>   |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| 0                 | -             | -             | 0.0           | 0.0           | 0.0           | 0.1          | 0.0          | 0.2          | 0.0            |
| 1                 | -             | -             | 0.5           | 0.5           | 0.6           | 0.7          | 1.0          | 0.7          | 0.6            |
| 2                 | -             | -             | 0.9           | 0.8           | 0.8           | 1.0          | 0.9          | 1.3          | 0.9            |
| 3                 | -             | -             | 1.4           | 1.2           | 1.7           | 1.3          | 1.6          | 1.6          | 1.4            |
| 4                 | -             | -             | 2.0           | 2.0           | 2.3           | 2.0          | 2.1          | 2.3          | 2.1            |
| 5                 | -             | -             | 3.5           | 3.6           | 4.1           | 3.1          | 3.7          | 4.2          | 3.6            |
| 6                 | -             | -             | 5.4           | 6.2           | 8.1           | 5.9          | 6.2          | 7.3          | 6.2            |
| 7                 | -             | -             | 9.2           | 13.2          | 14.5          | 10.7         | 10.3         | 12.1         | 11.4           |
| 8                 | -             | -             | 22.3          | 26.0          | 27.9          | 22.4         | 20.6         | 22.9         | 24.2           |
| 9                 | -             | -             | 50.9          | 45.4          | 38.6          | 48.3         | 52.7         | 46.4         | 47.0           |
| 10                | -             | -             | 3.9           | 1.1           | 1.4           | 4.4          | 0.9          | 0.9          | 2.6            |
| <b>All births</b> | <b>-</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>   |
| 1 - 3             | -             | -             | 2.8           | 2.5           | 3.1           | 3.0          | 3.5          | 3.6          | 2.8            |
| 4 - 6             | -             | -             | 10.9          | 11.8          | 14.5          | 11.1         | 11.9         | 13.8         | 11.9           |
| 7 - 10            | -             | -             | 86.3          | 85.7          | 82.4          | 85.9         | 84.5         | 82.4         | 85.2           |

\* Data exclude New South Wales and Victoria

**Table 44 : Infant's Apgar score at 5 minutes, live births, States and Territories, 1992**

| Apgar score       | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia      |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Number            |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| 0                 | 29            | 29            | 13            | 12            | 9             | 2            | 2            | 14           | 110            |
| 1                 | 128           | 67            | 62            | 22            | 20            | 13           | 9            | 5            | 326            |
| 2                 | 114           | 45            | 43            | 17            | 16            | 10           | 2            | 7            | 254            |
| 3                 | 169           | 52            | 51            | 29            | 18            | 8            | 5            | 6            | 338            |
| 4                 | 281           | 98            | 76            | 42            | 34            | 17           | 14           | 15           | 577            |
| 5                 | 541           | 188           | 190           | 93            | 75            | 34           | 24           | 20           | 1,165          |
| 6                 | 1,117         | 382           | 330           | 228           | 171           | 60           | 41           | 35           | 2,364          |
| 7                 | 2,223         | 953           | 670           | 542           | 428           | 142          | 100          | 84           | 5,142          |
| 8                 | 5,897         | 3,201         | 2,427         | 1,781         | 1,542         | 355          | 305          | 224          | 15,732         |
| 9                 | 52,671        | 31,471        | 22,230        | 16,354        | 12,397        | 3,384        | 3,625        | 2,429        | 144,561        |
| 10                | 25,036        | 29,250        | 20,015        | 5,991         | 5,256         | 2,949        | 548          | 708          | 89,753         |
| Not stated        | 195           | 117           | 200           | 48            | 38            | 1            | 3            | 35           | 637            |
| <b>All births</b> | <b>88,401</b> | <b>65,853</b> | <b>46,307</b> | <b>25,159</b> | <b>20,004</b> | <b>6,975</b> | <b>4,678</b> | <b>3,582</b> | <b>260,959</b> |
| Per cent          |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| 0                 | 0.0           | 0.0           | 0.0           | 0.0           | 0.0           | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.4          | 0.0            |
| 1                 | 0.1           | 0.1           | 0.1           | 0.1           | 0.1           | 0.2          | 0.2          | 0.1          | 0.1            |
| 2                 | 0.1           | 0.1           | 0.1           | 0.1           | 0.1           | 0.1          | 0.0          | 0.2          | 0.1            |
| 3                 | 0.2           | 0.1           | 0.1           | 0.1           | 0.1           | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.2          | 0.1            |
| 4                 | 0.3           | 0.1           | 0.2           | 0.2           | 0.2           | 0.2          | 0.3          | 0.4          | 0.2            |
| 5                 | 0.6           | 0.3           | 0.4           | 0.4           | 0.4           | 0.5          | 0.5          | 0.6          | 0.4            |
| 6                 | 1.3           | 0.6           | 0.7           | 0.9           | 0.9           | 0.9          | 0.9          | 1.0          | 0.9            |
| 7                 | 2.5           | 1.4           | 1.5           | 2.2           | 2.1           | 2.0          | 2.1          | 2.4          | 2.0            |
| 8                 | 6.7           | 4.9           | 5.3           | 7.1           | 7.7           | 5.1          | 6.5          | 6.3          | 6.0            |
| 9                 | 59.7          | 47.9          | 48.2          | 65.1          | 62.1          | 48.5         | 77.5         | 68.5         | 55.5           |
| 10                | 28.4          | 44.5          | 43.4          | 23.9          | 26.3          | 42.3         | 11.7         | 20.0         | 34.5           |
| <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             | 0.5           | 0.2           | 0.3           | 0.3           | 0.3           | 0.4          | 0.3          | 0.5          | 0.4            |
| 4 - 6             | 2.2           | 1.0           | 1.3           | 1.4           | 1.4           | 1.6          | 1.7          | 2.0          | 1.6            |
| 7 - 10            | 97.3          | 98.7          | 98.3          | 98.2          | 98.3          | 97.9         | 97.9         | 97.1         | 98.0           |

**Table 45 : Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes, by birthweight and Aboriginality, live births, Australia, 1992**

| 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)                | 490             | 683        | 1,312      | 4,102      | 99,716         | 125        |
|                                | <b>Per cent</b> |            |            |            |                |            |
| 0                              | 1.6             | 0.4        | 0.2        | 0.1        | 0.0            | -          |
| 1-3                            | 49.0            | 19.6       | 11.1       | 5.4        | 2.3            | 8.8        |
| 4-6                            | 28.8            | 35.4       | 27.5       | 18.3       | 11.2           | 12.8       |
| 7-10                           | 20.6            | 44.5       | 61.2       | 76.2       | 86.5           | 78.4       |
| <b>Apgar score: 5 minutes</b>  |                 |            |            |            |                |            |
| Live births (n)                | 1,085           | 1,440      | 2,951      | 9,615      | 245,017        | 214        |
|                                | <b>Per cent</b> |            |            |            |                |            |
| 0                              | 6.5             | 0.4        | 0.1        | 0.0        | 0.0            | -          |
| 1-3                            | 25.3            | 3.3        | 1.6        | 0.7        | 0.2            | -          |
| 4-6                            | 18.6            | 12.0       | 6.8        | 3.4        | 1.3            | -          |
| 7-10                           | 49.7            | 84.3       | 91.5       | 95.9       | 98.5           | 80.4       |
| <b>Aboriginal births</b>       |                 |            |            |            |                |            |
| <b>Apgar score: 1 minute *</b> |                 |            |            |            |                |            |
| Live births (n)                | 61              | 59         | 149        | 385        | 4,682          | 6          |
|                                | <b>Per cent</b> |            |            |            |                |            |
| 0                              | 6.6             | -          | -          | 0.3        | 0.0            | -          |
| 1-3                            | 55.7            | 27.1       | 8.7        | 4.2        | 3.8            | -          |
| 4-6                            | 27.9            | 27.1       | 34.9       | 16.1       | 13.7           | -          |
| 7-10                           | 9.8             | 45.8       | 56.4       | 79.5       | 82.4           | 100.0      |
| <b>Apgar score: 5 minutes</b>  |                 |            |            |            |                |            |
| Live births (n)                | 68              | 68         | 183        | 509        | 6,320          | 7          |
|                                | <b>Per cent</b> |            |            |            |                |            |
| 0                              | 16.2            | 1.5        | -          | -          | 0.0            | -          |
| 1-3                            | 29.4            | 1.5        | 1.6        | 1.8        | 0.3            | -          |
| 4-6                            | 22.1            | 20.6       | 7.1        | 2.2        | 2.0            | -          |
| 7-10                           | 32.4            | 76.5       | 91.3       | 96.1       | 97.7           | 100.0      |

Table excludes Apgar scores 'not stated'

\* Data exclude New South Wales and Victoria

**Table 46 : Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes by birthweight and plurality, live births, Australia, 1992**

| 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)                | 355             | 496        | 931        | 3,304      | 98,377         | 119        |
|                                | <b>Per cent</b> |            |            |            |                |            |
| 0                              | 1.1             | 0.6        | 0.2        | 0.1        | 0.0            | -          |
| 1-3                            | 50.7            | 22.8       | 13.6       | 5.5        | 2.3            | 9.2        |
| 4-6                            | 27.6            | 36.5       | 28.4       | 17.9       | 11.2           | 12.6       |
| 7-10                           | 20.6            | 40.1       | 57.8       | 76.5       | 86.5           | 78.2       |
| <b>Apgar score: 5 minutes</b>  |                 |            |            |            |                |            |
| Live births (n)                | 790             | 1,048      | 2,093      | 7,705      | 241,651        | 204        |
|                                | <b>Per cent</b> |            |            |            |                |            |
| 0                              | 6.2             | 0.6        | 0.1        | 0.0        | 0.0            | 1.5        |
| 1-3                            | 25.6            | 3.7        | 2.0        | 0.8        | 0.2            | 7.4        |
| 4-6                            | 19.4            | 13.4       | 7.8        | 3.5        | 1.3            | 9.8        |
| 7-10                           | 48.9            | 82.3       | 90.1       | 95.7       | 98.5           | 81.4       |
| <b>Multiple births</b>         |                 |            |            |            |                |            |
| <b>Apgar score: 1 minute *</b> |                 |            |            |            |                |            |
| Live births (n)                | 135             | 187        | 381        | 798        | 1,344          | 6          |
|                                | <b>Per cent</b> |            |            |            |                |            |
| 0                              | 3.0             | -          | -          | -          | -              | -          |
| 1-3                            | 44.4            | 11.2       | 5.0        | 5.3        | 3.3            | -          |
| 4-6                            | 31.9            | 32.6       | 25.5       | 19.8       | 12.7           | 16.7       |
| 7-10                           | 20.7            | 56.1       | 69.6       | 74.9       | 83.9           | 83.3       |
| <b>Apgar score: 5 minutes</b>  |                 |            |            |            |                |            |
| Live births (n)                | 295             | 392        | 858        | 1,910      | 3,371          | 10         |
|                                | <b>Per cent</b> |            |            |            |                |            |
| 0                              | 7.1             | -          | -          | 0.1        | 0.0            | -          |
| 1-3                            | 24.4            | 2.0        | 0.8        | 0.5        | 0.3            | 30.0       |
| 4-6                            | 16.6            | 8.4        | 4.4        | 3.0        | 1.5            | 10.0       |
| 7-10                           | 51.9            | 89.5       | 94.8       | 96.4       | 98.1           | 60.0       |

Table excludes Apgar scores 'not stated'

\* Data exclude New South Wales and Victoria

**Table 47 : Length of infant's stay in hospital, live births, States and Territories, 1992**

| Length of stay    | NSW       | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia*     |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Number            |           |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Less than 1 day   | na        | 413           | 261           | 239           | 118           | 72           | 83           | 58           | 1,244          |
| 1 day             | na        | 1,534         | 1,417         | 845           | 453           | 210          | 272          | 149          | 4,880          |
| 2 days            | na        | 3,002         | 4,137         | 1,860         | 1,160         | 475          | 438          | 298          | 11,370         |
| 3 days            | na        | 6,287         | 7,957         | 3,034         | 1,887         | 744          | 563          | 492          | 20,964         |
| 4 days            | na        | 11,212        | 9,338         | 3,869         | 3,166         | 1,219        | 764          | 611          | 30,179         |
| 5 days            | na        | 12,647        | 7,989         | 4,524         | 3,993         | 1,561        | 854          | 606          | 32,174         |
| 6 days            | na        | 10,393        | 5,419         | 3,761         | 3,053         | 1,007        | 707          | 400          | 24,740         |
| 7 - 13 days       | na        | 16,832        | 6,866         | 5,410         | 5,240         | 1,317        | 731          | 673          | 37,069         |
| 14 - 20 days      | na        | 642           | 392           | 207           | 283           | 73           | 38           | 57           | 1,692          |
| 21 - 27 days      | na        | 365           | 230           | 52            | 177           | 28           | 18           | 34           | 904            |
| 28 or more days   | na        | 488           | 471           | 158           | 414           | 100          | 42           | 56           | 1,729          |
| Not stated        | na        | 3             | 290           | -             | -             | -            | 2            | -            | 295            |
| <b>All births</b> | <b>na</b> | <b>63,818</b> | <b>44,767</b> | <b>23,959</b> | <b>19,944</b> | <b>6,806</b> | <b>4,512</b> | <b>3,434</b> | <b>167,240</b> |
| Per cent          |           |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Less than 1 day   | na        | 0.6           | 0.6           | 1.0           | 0.6           | 1.1          | 1.8          | 1.7          | 0.7            |
| 1 day             | na        | 2.4           | 3.2           | 3.5           | 2.3           | 3.1          | 6.0          | 4.3          | 2.9            |
| 2 days            | na        | 4.7           | 9.3           | 7.8           | 5.8           | 7.0          | 9.7          | 8.7          | 6.8            |
| 3 days            | na        | 9.9           | 17.9          | 12.7          | 9.5           | 10.9         | 12.5         | 14.3         | 12.6           |
| 4 days            | na        | 17.6          | 21.0          | 16.1          | 15.9          | 17.9         | 16.9         | 17.8         | 18.1           |
| 5 days            | na        | 19.8          | 18.0          | 18.9          | 20.0          | 22.9         | 18.9         | 17.6         | 19.3           |
| 6 days            | na        | 16.3          | 12.2          | 15.7          | 15.3          | 14.8         | 15.7         | 11.6         | 14.8           |
| 7 - 13 days       | na        | 26.4          | 15.4          | 22.6          | 26.3          | 19.4         | 16.2         | 19.6         | 22.2           |
| 14 - 20 days      | na        | 1.0           | 0.9           | 0.9           | 1.4           | 1.1          | 0.8          | 1.7          | 1.0            |
| 21 - 27 days      | na        | 0.6           | 0.5           | 0.2           | 0.9           | 0.4          | 0.4          | 1.0          | 0.5            |
| 28 or more days   | na        | 0.8           | 1.1           | 0.7           | 2.1           | 1.5          | 0.9          | 1.6          | 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 48 : Length of infant's stay in hospital by plurality, Aboriginality, gestational age, and birthweight, live births, Australia, 1992**

| Characteristic         | Infants<br>(n)* | 0-2 days        | 3-4 days | 5-6 days | 7-13 days | 14-20 days | 21-27 days | 28 or more<br>days |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| <b>Plurality</b>       |                 | <b>Per cent</b> |          |          |           |            |            |                    |
| Singleton              | 166,989         | 11.8            | 30.9     | 33.9     | 21.2      | 0.9        | 0.4        | 0.8                |
| Twin                   | 4,332           | 4.7             | 5.2      | 14.7     | 49.5      | 9.4        | 6.6        | 10.0               |
| Other multiple birth   | 226             | 7.5             | 0.4      | 1.8      | 16.4      | 16.4       | 8.8        | 48.7               |
| <b>Aboriginality</b>   |                 |                 |          |          |           |            |            |                    |
| Aboriginal             | 5,682           | 22.6            | 34.3     | 22.8     | 15.2      | 2.0        | 1.1        | 2.1                |
| Non-aboriginal         | 165,865         | 11.3            | 30.1     | 33.7     | 22.1      | 1.1        | 0.6        | 1.1                |
| <b>Gestational age</b> |                 |                 |          |          |           |            |            |                    |
| 20-27 weeks            | 743             | 44.4            | 5.1      | 3.5      | 3.9       | 2.0        | 3.1        | 38.0               |
| 28-31 weeks            | 1,358           | 13.2            | 5.4      | 6.3      | 10.7      | 5.7        | 7.7        | 51.0               |
| 32-36 weeks            | 10,709          | 7.9             | 12.2     | 19.3     | 36.1      | 10.8       | 6.9        | 6.8                |
| 37-41 weeks            | 148,544         | 11.6            | 31.7     | 34.7     | 21.3      | 0.4        | 0.1        | 0.1                |
| 42 or more weeks       | 9,330           | 12.9            | 32.7     | 34.6     | 19.3      | 0.2        | 0.1        | 0.1                |
| Not stated             | 863             | 19.6            | 28.2     | 27.0     | 20.0      | 0.5        | 0.9        | 3.8                |
| <b>Birthweight</b>     |                 |                 |          |          |           |            |            |                    |
| Less than 1000g        | 766             | 43.1            | 4.4      | 1.6      | 3.1       | 1.7        | 3.1        | 43.0               |
| 1000-1499g             | 980             | 12.3            | 2.4      | 2.1      | 7.9       | 5.8        | 9.3        | 60.1               |
| 1500-1999g             | 2,007           | 8.2             | 3.2      | 5.6      | 21.5      | 14.9       | 17.7       | 28.7               |
| 2000-2499g             | 6,424           | 6.2             | 12.3     | 21.9     | 38.9      | 11.5       | 5.7        | 3.4                |
| 2500g and over         | 161,201         | 11.7            | 31.6     | 34.5     | 21.4      | 0.5        | 0.1        | 0.1                |
| Not stated             | 169             | 34.9            | 26.0     | 23.1     | 11.8      | 1.2        | -          | 3.0                |

Table excludes New South Wales

\* Data exclude length of stay 'not stated'

**Table 49 : Mode of separation of infant, States and Territories, 1992**

| Mode of separation           | NSW           | Vic           | Qld           | WA            | SA            | Tas          | ACT          | NT           | Australia*     |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Number</b>                |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Discharge home               | 82,294        | 63,544        | 44,281        | 23,884        | na            | 6,577        | 4,495        | 3,477        | 228,552        |
| Transfer to another hospital | 5,241         | 1,815         | 1,385         | 1,093         | na            | 96           | 108          | 76           | 9,814          |
| Fetal death / Died           | 902           | 690           | 494           | 240           | na            | 51           | 34           | 75           | 2,486          |
| Not stated                   | 281           | 85            | 296           | -             | 20,092        | 229          | 21           | -            | 21,004         |
| <b>All births</b>            | <b>88,718</b> | <b>66,134</b> | <b>46,456</b> | <b>25,217</b> | <b>20,092</b> | <b>6,953</b> | <b>4,658</b> | <b>3,628</b> | <b>261,856</b> |
| <b>Per cent</b>              |               |               |               |               |               |              |              |              |                |
| Discharge home               | 93.1          | 96.2          | 95.9          | 94.7          | na            | 97.8         | 96.9         | 95.8         | 94.9           |
| Transfer to another hospital | 5.9           | 2.7           | 3.0           | 4.3           | na            | 1.4          | 2.3          | 2.1          | 4.1            |
| Fetal death / Died           | 1.0           | 1.0           | 1.1           | 1.0           | na            | 0.8          | 0.7          | 2.1          | 1.0            |
| <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

**Table 50: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths and rates, various definitions, Australia, 1990-1992**

| Definition/Outcome           | 1990    | 1991    | 1992    | 1990-1992 |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| <b>Number</b>                |         |         |         |           |
| <b>500g/22 weeks</b>         |         |         |         |           |
| Fetal deaths                 | 1,590   | 1,478   | 1,493   | 4,561     |
| Early neonatal deaths        | 887     | 820     | 815     | 2,522     |
| Neonatal deaths              | 1,122   | 1,012   | 1,015   | 3,149     |
| Perinatal deaths (WHO)       | 2,477   | 2,298   | 2,308   | 7,083     |
| Perinatal deaths (ABS)       | 2,712   | 2,490   | 2,508   | 7,710     |
| Live births                  | 262,495 | 257,194 | 263,963 | 783,652   |
| <b>1000g/28 weeks</b>        |         |         |         |           |
| Fetal deaths                 | 1,081   | 1,029   | 1,068   | 3,178     |
| Early neonatal deaths        | 525     | 481     | 466     | 1,472     |
| Perinatal deaths             | 1,606   | 1,510   | 1,534   | 4,650     |
| Live births*                 | 261,643 | 256,263 | 263,140 | 781,046   |
| <b>20 weeks/400g</b>         |         |         |         |           |
| Fetal deaths                 | 2,040   | 1,933   | 1,999   | 5,972     |
| Neonatal deaths              | 1,275   | 1,141   | 1,203   | 3,619     |
| Perinatal deaths             | 3,315   | 3,074   | 3,202   | 9,591     |
| Live births                  | 262,648 | 257,247 | 264,151 | 784,046   |
| <b>Rate per 1,000 births</b> |         |         |         |           |
| <b>500g/22 weeks</b>         |         |         |         |           |
| Fetal deaths                 | 6.0     | 5.7     | 5.6     | 5.8       |
| Early neonatal deaths        | 3.4     | 3.2     | 3.1     | 3.2       |
| Neonatal deaths              | 4.3     | 3.9     | 3.8     | 4.0       |
| Perinatal deaths (WHO)       | 9.4     | 8.9     | 8.7     | 9.0       |
| Perinatal deaths (ABS)       | 10.3    | 9.6     | 9.4     | 9.8       |
| <b>1000g/28 weeks</b>        |         |         |         |           |
| Fetal deaths                 | 4.1     | 4.0     | 4.0     | 4.1       |
| Early neonatal deaths        | 2.0     | 1.9     | 1.8     | 1.9       |
| Perinatal deaths             | 6.1     | 5.9     | 5.8     | 5.9       |
| <b>20 weeks/400g</b>         |         |         |         |           |
| Fetal deaths                 | 7.7     | 7.5     | 7.5     | 7.6       |
| Neonatal deaths              | 4.9     | 4.4     | 4.6     | 4.6       |
| Perinatal deaths             | 12.5    | 11.9    | 12.0    | 12.1      |

\* Estimated live births



Table 51: *Type of fetal death, Australia, 1973–1992*

| Year                  | Antepartum | Intrapartum* | Not known** | All fetal deaths |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|
| Number                |            |              |             |                  |
| 1973                  | 1,521      | 906          | 200         | 2,627            |
| 1974                  | 1,525      | 872          | 209         | 2,606            |
| 1975                  | 1,244      | 781          | 159         | 2,184            |
| 1976                  | 1,253      | 692          | 180         | 2,125            |
| 1977                  | 1,160      | 583          | 156         | 1,899            |
| 1978                  | 1,204      | 532          | 169         | 1,905            |
| 1979                  | 1,082      | 529          | 146         | 1,757            |
| 1980                  | 1,081      | 492          | 135         | 1,708            |
| 1981                  | 1,114      | 461          | 131         | 1,706            |
| 1982                  | 1,114      | 463          | 128         | 1,705            |
| 1983                  | 1,065      | 424          | 130         | 1,619            |
| 1984                  | 1,079      | 387          | 127         | 1,593            |
| 1985                  | 1,028      | 370          | 120         | 1,518            |
| 1986                  | 1,055      | 419          | 111         | 1,585            |
| 1987                  | 981        | 352          | 99          | 1,432            |
| 1988                  | 1,002      | 362          | 109         | 1,473            |
| 1989                  | 995        | 354          | 102         | 1,451            |
| 1990                  | 1,087      | 395          | 108         | 1,590            |
| 1991                  | 993        | 359          | 126         | 1,478            |
| 1992                  | 1,052      | 312          | 129         | 1,493            |
| Rate per 1,000 births |            |              |             |                  |
| 1973                  | 6.1        | 3.6          | 0.8         | 10.5             |
| 1974                  | 6.2        | 3.5          | 0.8         | 10.5             |
| 1975                  | 5.3        | 3.3          | 0.7         | 9.3              |
| 1976                  | 5.5        | 3.0          | 0.8         | 9.2              |
| 1977                  | 5.1        | 2.6          | 0.7         | 8.3              |
| 1978                  | 5.3        | 2.4          | 0.7         | 8.4              |
| 1979                  | 4.8        | 2.4          | 0.6         | 7.8              |
| 1980                  | 4.8        | 2.2          | 0.6         | 7.5              |
| 1981                  | 4.7        | 1.9          | 0.6         | 7.2              |
| 1982                  | 4.6        | 1.9          | 0.5         | 7.1              |
| 1983                  | 4.4        | 1.7          | 0.5         | 6.6              |
| 1984                  | 4.5        | 1.6          | 0.5         | 6.6              |
| 1985                  | 4.2        | 1.5          | 0.5         | 6.2              |
| 1986                  | 4.3        | 1.7          | 0.5         | 6.5              |
| 1987                  | 4.0        | 1.4          | 0.4         | 5.8              |
| 1988                  | 4.0        | 1.5          | 0.4         | 6.0              |
| 1989                  | 3.9        | 1.4          | 0.4         | 5.8              |
| 1990                  | 4.1        | 1.5          | 0.4         | 6.0              |
| 1991                  | 3.8        | 1.4          | 0.5         | 5.7              |
| 1992                  | 4.0        | 1.2          | 0.5         | 5.6              |

\* Includes fetal deaths where it was not known whether heartbeat ceased before or after delivery.

\*\* Not known whether heartbeat ceased before or during labour.

Table 52: Neonatal deaths by age at death, Australia, 1973–1992

| Year                       | < 1 day | 1–6 days | 7–27 days | All neonatal deaths* |
|----------------------------|---------|----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Number                     |         |          |           |                      |
| 1973                       | 1,592   | 899      | 301       | 2,792                |
| 1974                       | 1,441   | 967      | 326       | 2,734                |
| 1975                       | 1,287   | 669      | 261       | 2,217                |
| 1976                       | 1,216   | 662      | 287       | 2,165                |
| 1977                       | 1,054   | 524      | 293       | 1,871                |
| 1978                       | 1,036   | 466      | 236       | 1,738                |
| 1979                       | 883     | 462      | 260       | 1,605                |
| 1980                       | 812     | 424      | 267       | 1,503                |
| 1981                       | 800     | 387      | 253       | 1,440                |
| 1982                       | 829     | 419      | 281       | 1,529                |
| 1983                       | 766     | 350      | 233       | 1,349                |
| 1984                       | 641     | 339      | 223       | 1,204                |
| 1985                       | 691     | 423      | 298       | 1,416                |
| 1986                       | 639     | 337      | 241       | 1,227                |
| 1987                       | 588     | 329      | 242       | 1,159                |
| 1988                       | 599     | 337      | 228       | 1,164                |
| 1989                       | 499     | 333      | 222       | 1,058                |
| 1990                       | 576     | 310      | 235       | 1,122                |
| 1991                       | 529     | 289      | 192       | 1,012                |
| 1992                       | 545     | 268      | 200       | 1,015                |
| Rate per 1,000 live births |         |          |           |                      |
| 1973                       | 6.4     | 3.6      | 1.2       | 11.3                 |
| 1974                       | 5.9     | 3.9      | 1.3       | 11.2                 |
| 1975                       | 5.5     | 2.9      | 1.1       | 9.5                  |
| 1976                       | 5.3     | 2.9      | 1.3       | 9.5                  |
| 1977                       | 4.7     | 2.3      | 1.3       | 8.3                  |
| 1978                       | 4.6     | 2.1      | 1.1       | 7.8                  |
| 1979                       | 4.0     | 2.1      | 1.2       | 7.2                  |
| 1980                       | 3.6     | 1.9      | 1.2       | 6.7                  |
| 1981                       | 3.4     | 1.6      | 1.1       | 6.1                  |
| 1982                       | 3.5     | 1.7      | 1.2       | 6.4                  |
| 1983                       | 3.2     | 1.4      | 1.0       | 5.6                  |
| 1984                       | 2.7     | 1.4      | 0.9       | 5.1                  |
| 1985                       | 2.8     | 1.7      | 1.2       | 5.8                  |
| 1986                       | 2.6     | 1.4      | 1.0       | 5.0                  |
| 1987                       | 2.4     | 1.3      | 1.0       | 4.8                  |
| 1988                       | 2.4     | 1.4      | 0.9       | 4.7                  |
| 1989                       | 2.0     | 1.3      | 0.9       | 4.2                  |
| 1990                       | 2.2     | 1.2      | 0.9       | 4.3                  |
| 1991                       | 2.1     | 1.1      | 0.7       | 3.9                  |
| 1992                       | 2.1     | 1.0      | 0.8       | 3.8                  |

\* Includes 'not stated' age at death.

**Table 53: *Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, Australia, 1973–1992***

| Year                  | Fetal deaths | Neonatal deaths | Perinatal deaths |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Number                |              |                 |                  |
| 1973                  | 2,627        | 2,792           | 5,419            |
| 1974                  | 2,606        | 2,734           | 5,340            |
| 1975                  | 2,184        | 2,217           | 4,401            |
| 1976                  | 2,125        | 2,165           | 4,290            |
| 1977                  | 1,899        | 1,871           | 3,770            |
| 1978                  | 1,905        | 1,738           | 3,643            |
| 1979                  | 1,757        | 1,605           | 3,362            |
| 1980                  | 1,708        | 1,503           | 3,211            |
| 1981                  | 1,706        | 1,440           | 3,146            |
| 1982                  | 1,705        | 1,529           | 3,234            |
| 1983                  | 1,619        | 1,349           | 2,968            |
| 1984                  | 1,593        | 1,204           | 2,797            |
| 1985                  | 1,518        | 1,416           | 2,934            |
| 1986                  | 1,585        | 1,227           | 2,812            |
| 1987                  | 1,432        | 1,159           | 2,591            |
| 1988                  | 1,473        | 1,164           | 2,637            |
| 1989                  | 1,451        | 1,058           | 2,509            |
| 1990                  | 1,590        | 1,122           | 2,712            |
| 1991                  | 1,478        | 1,012           | 2,490            |
| 1992                  | 1,493        | 1,015           | 2,508            |
| Rate per 1,000 births |              |                 |                  |
| 1973                  | 10.5         | 11.3            | 21.7             |
| 1974                  | 10.5         | 11.2            | 21.6             |
| 1975                  | 9.3          | 9.5             | 18.7             |
| 1976                  | 9.2          | 9.5             | 18.7             |
| 1977                  | 8.3          | 8.3             | 16.5             |
| 1978                  | 8.4          | 7.8             | 16.1             |
| 1979                  | 7.8          | 7.2             | 15.0             |
| 1980                  | 7.5          | 6.7             | 14.1             |
| 1981                  | 7.2          | 6.1             | 13.2             |
| 1982                  | 7.1          | 6.4             | 13.4             |
| 1983                  | 6.6          | 5.6             | 12.2             |
| 1984                  | 6.6          | 5.1             | 11.7             |
| 1985                  | 6.2          | 5.8             | 12.0             |
| 1986                  | 6.5          | 5.0             | 11.5             |
| 1987                  | 5.8          | 4.8             | 10.6             |
| 1988                  | 6.0          | 4.7             | 10.7             |
| 1989                  | 5.8          | 4.2             | 9.9              |
| 1990                  | 6.0          | 4.3             | 10.3             |
| 1991                  | 5.7          | 3.9             | 9.6              |
| 1992                  | 5.6          | 3.8             | 9.4              |

Table 54: *Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by maternal State or Territory of usual residence, 1986-1992*

| Outcome / Year          | NSW   | Vic   | Qld   | WA  | SA  | Tas | ACT | NT  | Australia |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| Number                  |       |       |       |     |     |     |     |     |           |
| <b>Fetal deaths</b>     |       |       |       |     |     |     |     |     |           |
| 1986                    | 542   | 398   | 252   | 145 | 124 | 67  | 21  | 36  | 1,585     |
| 1987                    | 504   | 362   | 227   | 143 | 89  | 32  | 31  | 44  | 1,432     |
| 1988                    | 538   | 356   | 234   | 120 | 109 | 55  | 27  | 34  | 1,473     |
| 1989                    | 476   | 406   | 221   | 111 | 127 | 35  | 28  | 47  | 1,451     |
| 1990                    | 584   | 403   | 246   | 133 | 115 | 45  | 33  | 31  | 1,590     |
| 1991                    | 521   | 340   | 269   | 143 | 104 | 38  | 29  | 34  | 1,478     |
| 1992                    | 582   | 345   | 242   | 121 | 111 | 35  | 19  | 38  | 1,493     |
| 1990-1992               | 1,687 | 1,088 | 757   | 397 | 330 | 118 | 81  | 103 | 4,561     |
| <b>Neonatal deaths</b>  |       |       |       |     |     |     |     |     |           |
| 1986                    | 433   | 309   | 189   | 124 | 76  | 43  | 23  | 30  | 1,227     |
| 1987                    | 429   | 267   | 207   | 105 | 81  | 32  | 14  | 24  | 1,159     |
| 1988                    | 408   | 276   | 198   | 108 | 84  | 34  | 21  | 35  | 1,164     |
| 1989                    | 416   | 194   | 189   | 110 | 72  | 40  | 12  | 25  | 1,058     |
| 1990                    | 376   | 302   | 173   | 105 | 89  | 26  | 21  | 30  | 1,122     |
| 1991                    | 359   | 238   | 188   | 81  | 54  | 44  | 21  | 27  | 1,012     |
| 1992                    | 409   | 196   | 191   | 97  | 46  | 29  | 21  | 26  | 1,015     |
| 1990-1992               | 1,144 | 736   | 552   | 283 | 189 | 99  | 63  | 83  | 3,149     |
| <b>Perinatal deaths</b> |       |       |       |     |     |     |     |     |           |
| 1986                    | 975   | 707   | 441   | 269 | 200 | 110 | 44  | 66  | 2,812     |
| 1987                    | 933   | 629   | 434   | 248 | 170 | 64  | 45  | 68  | 2,591     |
| 1988                    | 946   | 632   | 432   | 228 | 193 | 89  | 48  | 69  | 2,637     |
| 1989                    | 892   | 600   | 410   | 221 | 199 | 75  | 40  | 72  | 2,509     |
| 1990                    | 960   | 705   | 419   | 238 | 204 | 71  | 54  | 61  | 2,712     |
| 1991                    | 880   | 578   | 457   | 224 | 158 | 82  | 50  | 61  | 2,490     |
| 1992                    | 991   | 541   | 433   | 218 | 157 | 64  | 40  | 64  | 2,508     |
| 1990-1992               | 2,831 | 1,824 | 1,309 | 680 | 519 | 217 | 144 | 186 | 7,710     |

**Table 54: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates by maternal State or Territory of usual residence, 1986–1992 (cont.)**

| Outcome / Year             | NSW  | Vic  | Qld  | WA   | SA   | Tas  | ACT  | NT   | Australia |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Rate per 1,000 births      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |
| <b>Fetal deaths</b>        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |
| 1986                       | 6.4  | 6.6  | 6.2  | 5.9  | 6.2  | 9.6  | 5.1  | 10.8 | 6.5       |
| 1987                       | 5.8  | 5.9  | 5.7  | 6.1  | 4.6  | 4.7  | 7.5  | 12.3 | 5.8       |
| 1988                       | 6.3  | 5.7  | 5.7  | 4.8  | 5.7  | 8.1  | 6.2  | 9.8  | 6.0       |
| 1989                       | 5.5  | 6.3  | 5.2  | 4.4  | 6.4  | 5.1  | 6.7  | 13.7 | 5.8       |
| 1990                       | 6.4  | 6.0  | 5.5  | 5.2  | 5.8  | 6.4  | 7.4  | 8.6  | 6.0       |
| 1991                       | 5.9  | 5.2  | 6.1  | 5.6  | 5.3  | 5.5  | 6.1  | 9.4  | 5.7       |
| 1992                       | 6.3  | 5.2  | 5.2  | 4.8  | 5.7  | 5.0  | 4.3  | 10.1 | 5.6       |
| 1990–1992                  | 6.2  | 5.5  | 5.6  | 5.2  | 5.6  | 5.6  | 5.9  | 9.4  | 5.8       |
| Rate per 1,000 live births |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |
| <b>Neonatal deaths</b>     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |
| 1986                       | 5.1  | 5.1  | 4.7  | 5.1  | 3.9  | 6.2  | 5.6  | 9.1  | 5.0       |
| 1987                       | 5.0  | 4.3  | 5.3  | 4.5  | 4.2  | 4.7  | 3.4  | 6.8  | 4.8       |
| 1988                       | 4.8  | 4.4  | 4.9  | 4.3  | 4.4  | 5.0  | 4.8  | 10.2 | 4.7       |
| 1989                       | 4.9  | 3.0  | 4.5  | 4.4  | 3.7  | 5.9  | 2.9  | 7.4  | 4.2       |
| 1990                       | 4.2  | 4.5  | 3.9  | 4.1  | 4.5  | 3.7  | 4.7  | 8.4  | 4.3       |
| 1991                       | 4.1  | 3.6  | 4.3  | 3.2  | 2.7  | 6.4  | 4.4  | 7.5  | 3.9       |
| 1992                       | 4.4  | 3.0  | 4.1  | 3.9  | 2.4  | 4.2  | 4.7  | 7.0  | 3.8       |
| 1990–1992                  | 4.2  | 3.7  | 4.1  | 3.7  | 3.2  | 4.7  | 4.6  | 7.6  | 4.0       |
| Rate per 1,000 births      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |
| <b>Perinatal deaths</b>    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |
| 1986                       | 11.5 | 11.7 | 10.9 | 11.0 | 10.1 | 15.7 | 10.7 | 19.7 | 11.5      |
| 1987                       | 10.8 | 10.2 | 11.0 | 10.6 | 8.8  | 9.4  | 10.9 | 19.0 | 10.6      |
| 1988                       | 11.1 | 10.1 | 10.6 | 9.0  | 10.0 | 13.0 | 11.0 | 19.9 | 10.7      |
| 1989                       | 10.3 | 9.3  | 9.7  | 8.8  | 10.1 | 11.0 | 9.6  | 21.1 | 9.9       |
| 1990                       | 10.5 | 10.5 | 9.3  | 9.3  | 10.2 | 10.0 | 12.0 | 17.0 | 10.3      |
| 1991                       | 10.0 | 8.8  | 10.3 | 8.8  | 8.0  | 11.9 | 10.5 | 16.8 | 9.6       |
| 1992                       | 10.6 | 8.2  | 9.3  | 8.7  | 8.1  | 9.1  | 9.0  | 17.0 | 9.4       |
| 1990–1992                  | 10.4 | 9.2  | 9.6  | 8.9  | 8.8  | 10.3 | 10.5 | 16.9 | 9.8       |

Table 55: *Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by maternal age, Australia, 1986–1992*

| Outcome / Year   | Maternal age (years) |       |       |       |       |      |            |          |
|------------------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------------|----------|
|                  | < 20                 | 20–24 | 25–29 | 30–34 | 35–39 | 40 + | Not stated | All ages |
| Number           |                      |       |       |       |       |      |            |          |
| Fetal deaths     |                      |       |       |       |       |      |            |          |
| 1986             | 116                  | 393   | 516   | 349   | 153   | 32   | 26         | 1,585    |
| 1987             | 114                  | 312   | 476   | 354   | 131   | 35   | 10         | 1,432    |
| 1988             | 118                  | 330   | 492   | 335   | 149   | 32   | 17         | 1,473    |
| 1989             | 104                  | 334   | 462   | 363   | 142   | 33   | 13         | 1,451    |
| 1990             | 119                  | 340   | 525   | 413   | 152   | 35   | 6          | 1,590    |
| 1991             | 128                  | 310   | 443   | 412   | 135   | 45   | 5          | 1,478    |
| 1992             | 118                  | 288   | 458   | 410   | 161   | 41   | 17         | 1,493    |
| 1990–1992        | 365                  | 938   | 1,426 | 1,235 | 448   | 121  | 28         | 4,561    |
| Neonatal deaths  |                      |       |       |       |       |      |            |          |
| 1986             | 90                   | 281   | 426   | 242   | 101   | 22   | 65         | 1,227    |
| 1987             | 84                   | 269   | 397   | 256   | 89    | 13   | 51         | 1,159    |
| 1988             | 86                   | 258   | 390   | 257   | 102   | 17   | 54         | 1,164    |
| 1989             | 86                   | 196   | 357   | 265   | 90    | 19   | 45         | 1,058    |
| 1990             | 94                   | 214   | 373   | 278   | 113   | 25   | 25         | 1,122    |
| 1991             | 80                   | 210   | 309   | 252   | 101   | 24   | 36         | 1,012    |
| 1992             | 66                   | 226   | 295   | 251   | 100   | 23   | 54         | 1,015    |
| 1990–1992        | 240                  | 650   | 977   | 781   | 314   | 72   | 115        | 3,149    |
| Perinatal deaths |                      |       |       |       |       |      |            |          |
| 1986             | 206                  | 674   | 942   | 591   | 254   | 54   | 91         | 2,812    |
| 1987             | 198                  | 581   | 873   | 610   | 220   | 48   | 61         | 2,591    |
| 1988             | 204                  | 588   | 882   | 592   | 251   | 49   | 71         | 2,637    |
| 1989             | 190                  | 530   | 819   | 628   | 232   | 52   | 58         | 2,509    |
| 1990             | 213                  | 554   | 898   | 691   | 265   | 60   | 31         | 2,712    |
| 1991             | 208                  | 520   | 752   | 664   | 236   | 69   | 41         | 2,490    |
| 1992             | 184                  | 514   | 753   | 661   | 261   | 64   | 71         | 2,508    |
| 1990–1992        | 605                  | 1,588 | 2,403 | 2,016 | 762   | 193  | 143        | 7,710    |

Table 55: *Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death by maternal age, Australia, 1986–1992 (cont.)*

| Outcome / Year             | Maternal age (years) |       |       |       |       |      | All ages |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|----------|
|                            | < 20                 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40 + |          |
| Rate per 1,000 births      |                      |       |       |       |       |      |          |
| Fetal deaths               |                      |       |       |       |       |      |          |
| 1986                       | 8.0                  | 6.6   | 5.4   | 6.2   | 8.9   | 14.1 | 6.5      |
| 1987                       | 8.1                  | 5.6   | 5.0   | 6.0   | 7.2   | 12.8 | 5.8      |
| 1988                       | 8.4                  | 6.2   | 5.1   | 5.4   | 7.6   | 11.6 | 6.0      |
| 1989                       | 7.2                  | 6.4   | 4.8   | 5.5   | 6.7   | 10.5 | 5.8      |
| 1990                       | 7.8                  | 6.4   | 5.4   | 5.8   | 6.6   | 9.9  | 6.0      |
| 1991                       | 8.6                  | 6.0   | 4.8   | 5.7   | 5.6   | 12.4 | 5.7      |
| 1992                       | 8.3                  | 5.4   | 5.0   | 5.4   | 6.2   | 9.9  | 5.6      |
| 1990-1992                  | 8.2                  | 5.9   | 5.1   | 5.6   | 6.1   | 10.7 | 5.8      |
| Rate per 1,000 live births |                      |       |       |       |       |      |          |
| Neonatal deaths            |                      |       |       |       |       |      |          |
| 1986                       | 6.3                  | 4.8   | 4.5   | 4.3   | 5.9   | 9.9  | 5.0      |
| 1987                       | 6.0                  | 4.9   | 4.2   | 4.4   | 4.9   | 4.8  | 4.8      |
| 1988                       | 6.2                  | 4.9   | 4.1   | 4.2   | 5.3   | 6.2  | 4.7      |
| 1989                       | 6.0                  | 3.8   | 3.7   | 4.1   | 4.3   | 6.1  | 4.2      |
| 1990                       | 6.2                  | 4.0   | 3.8   | 3.9   | 5.0   | 7.1  | 4.3      |
| 1991                       | 5.4                  | 4.1   | 3.4   | 3.5   | 4.2   | 6.7  | 3.9      |
| 1992                       | 4.7                  | 4.3   | 3.2   | 3.3   | 3.9   | 5.6  | 3.8      |
| 1990-1992                  | 5.5                  | 4.1   | 3.5   | 3.6   | 4.3   | 6.4  | 4.0      |
| Rate per 1,000 births      |                      |       |       |       |       |      |          |
| Perinatal deaths           |                      |       |       |       |       |      |          |
| 1986                       | 14.3                 | 11.3  | 9.9   | 10.5  | 14.8  | 23.9 | 11.5     |
| 1987                       | 14.0                 | 10.4  | 9.1   | 10.4  | 12.1  | 17.6 | 10.6     |
| 1988                       | 14.5                 | 11.0  | 9.2   | 9.6   | 12.9  | 17.8 | 10.7     |
| 1989                       | 13.2                 | 10.2  | 8.5   | 9.6   | 11.0  | 16.6 | 9.9      |
| 1990                       | 14.0                 | 10.4  | 9.2   | 9.7   | 11.6  | 17.0 | 10.3     |
| 1991                       | 14.0                 | 10.0  | 8.1   | 9.3   | 9.8   | 18.9 | 9.6      |
| 1992                       | 12.9                 | 9.7   | 8.2   | 8.7   | 10.0  | 15.4 | 9.4      |
| 1990-1992                  | 13.6                 | 10.0  | 8.5   | 9.2   | 10.4  | 17.0 | 9.8      |

**Table 56: *Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, singleton and multiple births, Australia, 1990–1992***

| Outcome/Year                 | Singletons | Twins | Other multiple births | All infants |
|------------------------------|------------|-------|-----------------------|-------------|
| <b>Number</b>                |            |       |                       |             |
| <b>Fetal deaths</b>          |            |       |                       |             |
| 1990                         | 1,464      | 117   | 9                     | 1,590       |
| 1991                         | 1,349      | 122   | 7                     | 1,478       |
| 1992                         | 1,393      | 92    | 7                     | 1,492       |
| 1990–1992                    | 4,206      | 331   | 23                    | 4,560       |
| <b>Neonatal deaths</b>       |            |       |                       |             |
| 1990                         | 987        | 127   | 8                     | 1,122       |
| 1991                         | 870        | 124   | 18                    | 1,012       |
| 1992                         | 876        | 135   | 4                     | 1,015       |
| 1990–1992                    | 2,733      | 386   | 30                    | 3,149       |
| <b>Perinatal deaths</b>      |            |       |                       |             |
| 1990                         | 2,451      | 244   | 17                    | 2,712       |
| 1991                         | 2,219      | 246   | 25                    | 2,490       |
| 1992                         | 2,269      | 227   | 11                    | 2,507       |
| 1990–1992                    | 6,939      | 717   | 53                    | 7,709       |
| <b>Rate per 1,000 births</b> |            |       |                       |             |
| <b>Fetal deaths</b>          |            |       |                       |             |
| 1990                         | 5.7        | 19.0  | 31.8                  | 6.0         |
| 1991                         | 5.4        | 18.6  | 25.8                  | 5.7         |
| 1992                         | 5.4        | 13.9  | 21.4                  | 5.6         |
| 1990–1992                    | 5.5        | 17.1  | 26.1                  | 5.8         |
| <b>Neonatal deaths</b>       |            |       |                       |             |
| 1990                         | 3.9        | 21.0  | 29.2                  | 4.3         |
| 1991                         | 3.5        | 19.3  | 68.2                  | 3.9         |
| 1992                         | 3.4        | 20.7  | 12.5                  | 3.8         |
| 1990–1992                    | 3.6        | 20.3  | 35.0                  | 4.0         |
| <b>Perinatal deaths</b>      |            |       |                       |             |
| 1990                         | 9.5        | 39.6  | 60.1                  | 10.3        |
| 1991                         | 8.8        | 37.5  | 92.3                  | 9.6         |
| 1992                         | 8.8        | 34.3  | 33.6                  | 9.4         |
| 1990–1992                    | 9.0        | 37.1  | 60.2                  | 9.8         |



Table 57: *Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by infant's sex, Australia, 1986–1992*

| Outcome / Year          | Number |         |             | Rate per 1,000 births |         |             |
|-------------------------|--------|---------|-------------|-----------------------|---------|-------------|
|                         | Males  | Females | All infants | Males                 | Females | All infants |
| <b>Fetal deaths</b>     |        |         |             |                       |         |             |
| 1986                    | 823    | 762     | 1,585       | 6.5                   | 6.4     | 6.5         |
| 1987                    | 762    | 670     | 1,432       | 6.0                   | 5.6     | 5.8         |
| 1988                    | 822    | 651     | 1,473       | 6.5                   | 5.4     | 6.0         |
| 1989                    | 769    | 682     | 1,451       | 6.0                   | 5.5     | 5.8         |
| 1990                    | 888    | 702     | 1,590       | 6.5                   | 5.5     | 6.0         |
| 1991                    | 777    | 701     | 1,478       | 5.9                   | 5.6     | 5.7         |
| 1992                    | 779    | 714     | 1,493       | 5.7                   | 5.5     | 5.6         |
| 1990–1992               | 2,444  | 2,117   | 4,561       | 6.0                   | 5.5     | 5.8         |
| <b>Neonatal deaths</b>  |        |         |             |                       |         |             |
| 1986                    | 727    | 500     | 1,227       | 5.8                   | 4.2     | 5.0         |
| 1987                    | 676    | 483     | 1,159       | 5.4                   | 4.1     | 4.8         |
| 1988                    | 669    | 495     | 1,164       | 5.3                   | 4.1     | 4.7         |
| 1989                    | 595    | 463     | 1,058       | 4.6                   | 3.8     | 4.2         |
| 1990                    | 660    | 462     | 1,122       | 4.9                   | 3.6     | 4.3         |
| 1991                    | 571    | 441     | 1,012       | 4.3                   | 3.5     | 3.9         |
| 1992                    | 596    | 419     | 1,015       | 4.4                   | 3.3     | 3.8         |
| 1990–1992               | 1,827  | 1,322   | 3,149       | 4.5                   | 3.5     | 4.0         |
| <b>Perinatal deaths</b> |        |         |             |                       |         |             |
| 1986                    | 1,550  | 1,262   | 2,812       | 12.3                  | 10.6    | 11.5        |
| 1987                    | 1,438  | 1,153   | 2,591       | 11.4                  | 9.7     | 10.6        |
| 1988                    | 1,491  | 1,146   | 2,637       | 11.7                  | 9.5     | 10.7        |
| 1989                    | 1,364  | 1,145   | 2,509       | 10.6                  | 9.3     | 9.9         |
| 1990                    | 1,548  | 1,164   | 2,712       | 11.4                  | 9.1     | 10.3        |
| 1991                    | 1,348  | 1,142   | 2,490       | 10.2                  | 9.1     | 9.6         |
| 1992                    | 1,375  | 1,133   | 2,508       | 10.1                  | 8.8     | 9.4         |
| 1990–1992               | 4,271  | 3,439   | 7,710       | 10.5                  | 9.0     | 9.8         |

Table 58: *Fetal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1973–1992*

| Year                                      | Gestational age (weeks) |       |       |       |      |            | Total |
|---|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|------------|-------|
|   | < 28                    | 28-31 | 32-36 | 37-41 | 42 + | Not stated |       |
| Number                                    |                         |       |       |       |      |            |       |
| 1973                                      | 494                     | 308   | 656   | 1,029 | 91   | 49         | 2,627 |
| 1974                                      | 523                     | 329   | 672   | 958   | 93   | 31         | 2,606 |
| 1975                                      | 445                     | 302   | 575   | 768   | 60   | 34         | 2,184 |
| 1976                                      | 458                     | 311   | 560   | 708   | 53   | 35         | 2,125 |
| 1977                                      | 398                     | 259   | 477   | 683   | 58   | 24         | 1,899 |
| 1978                                      | 417                     | 234   | 521   | 647   | 60   | 26         | 1,905 |
| 1979                                      | 421                     | 235   | 455   | 592   | 36   | 18         | 1,757 |
| 1980                                      | 415                     | 235   | 476   | 525   | 41   | 16         | 1,708 |
| 1981                                      | 395                     | 264   | 413   | 564   | 51   | 19         | 1,706 |
| 1982                                      | 406                     | 238   | 447   | 557   | 42   | 15         | 1,705 |
| 1983                                      | 386                     | 213   | 421   | 556   | 25   | 18         | 1,619 |
| 1984                                      | 400                     | 243   | 408   | 491   | 29   | 22         | 1,593 |
| 1985                                      | 390                     | 228   | 373   | 475   | 25   | 27         | 1,518 |
| 1986                                      | 405                     | 235   | 402   | 471   | 39   | 33         | 1,585 |
| 1987                                      | 378                     | 195   | 360   | 458   | 28   | 13         | 1,432 |
| 1988                                      | 363                     | 245   | 352   | 472   | 22   | 19         | 1,473 |
| 1989                                      | 394                     | 193   | 355   | 453   | 33   | 23         | 1,451 |
| 1990                                      | 425                     | 251   | 376   | 498   | 28   | 12         | 1,590 |
| 1991                                      | 368                     | 223   | 362   | 489   | 26   | 10         | 1,478 |
| 1992                                      | 421                     | 216   | 350   | 453   | 34   | 19         | 1,493 |
| Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births |                         |       |       |       |      |            |       |
| 1973                                      | 2.0                     | 1.2   | 2.6   | 4.1   | 0.4  | 0.2        | 10.5  |
| 1974                                      | 2.1                     | 1.3   | 2.7   | 3.9   | 0.4  | 0.1        | 10.5  |
| 1975                                      | 1.9                     | 1.3   | 2.4   | 3.3   | 0.3  | 0.1        | 9.3   |
| 1976                                      | 2.0                     | 1.4   | 2.4   | 3.1   | 0.2  | 0.2        | 9.2   |
| 1977                                      | 1.7                     | 1.1   | 2.1   | 3.0   | 0.3  | 0.1        | 8.3   |
| 1978                                      | 1.8                     | 1.0   | 2.3   | 2.9   | 0.3  | 0.1        | 8.4   |
| 1979                                      | 1.9                     | 1.0   | 2.0   | 2.6   | 0.2  | 0.1        | 7.8   |
| 1980                                      | 1.8                     | 1.0   | 2.1   | 2.3   | 0.2  | 0.1        | 7.5   |
| 1981                                      | 1.7                     | 1.1   | 1.7   | 2.4   | 0.2  | 0.1        | 7.2   |
| 1982                                      | 1.7                     | 1.0   | 1.9   | 2.3   | 0.2  | 0.1        | 7.1   |
| 1983                                      | 1.6                     | 0.9   | 1.7   | 2.3   | 0.1  | 0.1        | 6.6   |
| 1984                                      | 1.7                     | 1.0   | 1.7   | 2.0   | 0.1  | 0.1        | 6.6   |
| 1985                                      | 1.6                     | 0.9   | 1.5   | 1.9   | 0.1  | 0.1        | 6.2   |
| 1986                                      | 1.7                     | 1.0   | 1.6   | 1.9   | 0.2  | 0.1        | 6.5   |
| 1987                                      | 1.5                     | 0.8   | 1.5   | 1.9   | 0.1  | 0.1        | 5.8   |
| 1988                                      | 1.5                     | 1.0   | 1.4   | 1.9   | 0.1  | 0.1        | 6.0   |
| 1989                                      | 1.6                     | 0.8   | 1.4   | 1.8   | 0.1  | 0.1        | 5.8   |
| 1990                                      | 1.6                     | 1.0   | 1.4   | 1.9   | 0.1  | 0.0        | 6.0   |
| 1991                                      | 1.4                     | 0.9   | 1.4   | 1.9   | 0.1  | 0.0        | 5.7   |
| 1992                                      | 1.6                     | 0.8   | 1.3   | 1.7   | 0.1  | 0.1        | 5.6   |

Table 59: Neonatal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1973–1992

| Year                                      | Gestational age (weeks) |       |       |       |      |            | Total |
|---|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|------------|-------|
|   | < 28                    | 28-31 | 32-36 | 37-41 | 42 + | Not stated |       |
| Number                                    |                         |       |       |       |      |            |       |
| 1973                                      | 645                     | 566   | 578   | 772   | 63   | 168        | 2,792 |
| 1974                                      | 680                     | 492   | 618   | 796   | 54   | 94         | 2,734 |
| 1975                                      | 556                     | 422   | 488   | 646   | 41   | 64         | 2,217 |
| 1976                                      | 559                     | 368   | 438   | 700   | 41   | 59         | 2,165 |
| 1977                                      | 493                     | 296   | 344   | 621   | 45   | 72         | 1,871 |
| 1978                                      | 482                     | 286   | 346   | 540   | 28   | 56         | 1,738 |
| 1979                                      | 449                     | 249   | 301   | 548   | 21   | 37         | 1,605 |
| 1980                                      | 475                     | 237   | 255   | 457   | 22   | 57         | 1,503 |
| 1981                                      | 454                     | 197   | 239   | 491   | 24   | 35         | 1,440 |
| 1982                                      | 492                     | 212   | 266   | 462   | 36   | 61         | 1,529 |
| 1983                                      | 451                     | 174   | 222   | 433   | 25   | 44         | 1,349 |
| 1984                                      | 417                     | 160   | 206   | 342   | 26   | 53         | 1,204 |
| 1985                                      | 470                     | 206   | 247   | 386   | 25   | 82         | 1,416 |
| 1986                                      | 449                     | 158   | 179   | 335   | 25   | 81         | 1,227 |
| 1987                                      | 397                     | 138   | 206   | 343   | 17   | 58         | 1,159 |
| 1988                                      | 436                     | 136   | 173   | 335   | 21   | 63         | 1,164 |
| 1989                                      | 369                     | 140   | 160   | 317   | 22   | 50         | 1,058 |
| 1990                                      | 399                     | 133   | 190   | 337   | 22   | 41         | 1,122 |
| 1991                                      | 374                     | 131   | 159   | 292   | 21   | 35         | 1,012 |
| 1992                                      | 388                     | 106   | 163   | 274   | 25   | 59         | 1,015 |
| Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births |                         |       |       |       |      |            |       |
| 1973                                      | 2.6                     | 2.3   | 2.3   | 3.1   | 0.3  | 0.7        | 11.3  |
| 1974                                      | 2.8                     | 2.0   | 2.5   | 3.2   | 0.2  | 0.4        | 11.2  |
| 1975                                      | 2.4                     | 1.8   | 2.1   | 2.8   | 0.2  | 0.3        | 9.5   |
| 1976                                      | 2.5                     | 1.6   | 1.9   | 3.1   | 0.2  | 0.3        | 9.5   |
| 1977                                      | 2.2                     | 1.3   | 1.5   | 2.7   | 0.2  | 0.3        | 8.3   |
| 1978                                      | 2.2                     | 1.3   | 1.5   | 2.4   | 0.1  | 0.2        | 7.8   |
| 1979                                      | 2.0                     | 1.1   | 1.3   | 2.5   | 0.1  | 0.2        | 7.2   |
| 1980                                      | 2.1                     | 1.1   | 1.1   | 2.0   | 0.1  | 0.3        | 6.7   |
| 1981                                      | 1.9                     | 0.8   | 1.0   | 2.1   | 0.1  | 0.1        | 6.1   |
| 1982                                      | 2.1                     | 0.9   | 1.1   | 1.9   | 0.2  | 0.3        | 6.4   |
| 1983                                      | 1.9                     | 0.7   | 0.9   | 1.8   | 0.1  | 0.2        | 5.6   |
| 1984                                      | 1.7                     | 0.7   | 0.9   | 1.4   | 0.1  | 0.2        | 5.1   |
| 1985                                      | 1.9                     | 0.8   | 1.0   | 1.6   | 0.1  | 0.3        | 5.8   |
| 1986                                      | 1.8                     | 0.6   | 0.7   | 1.4   | 0.1  | 0.3        | 5.0   |
| 1987                                      | 1.6                     | 0.6   | 0.8   | 1.4   | 0.1  | 0.2        | 4.8   |
| 1988                                      | 1.8                     | 0.6   | 0.7   | 1.4   | 0.1  | 0.3        | 4.7   |
| 1989                                      | 1.5                     | 0.6   | 0.6   | 1.3   | 0.1  | 0.2        | 4.2   |
| 1990                                      | 1.5                     | 0.5   | 0.7   | 1.3   | 0.1  | 0.2        | 4.3   |
| 1991                                      | 1.5                     | 0.5   | 0.6   | 1.1   | 0.1  | 0.1        | 3.9   |
| 1992                                      | 1.5                     | 0.4   | 0.6   | 1.0   | 0.1  | 0.2        | 3.8   |

Table 60: *Perinatal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1973-1992*

| Year                                      | Gestational age (weeks) |       |       |       |      |            | Total |
|---|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|------------|-------|
|   | < 28                    | 28-31 | 32-36 | 37-41 | 42 + | Not stated |       |
| Number                                    |                         |       |       |       |      |            |       |
| 1973                                      | 1,139                   | 874   | 1,234 | 1,801 | 154  | 217        | 5,419 |
| 1974                                      | 1,203                   | 821   | 1,290 | 1,754 | 147  | 125        | 5,340 |
| 1975                                      | 1,001                   | 724   | 1,063 | 1,414 | 101  | 98         | 4,401 |
| 1976                                      | 1,017                   | 679   | 998   | 1,408 | 94   | 94         | 4,290 |
| 1977                                      | 891                     | 555   | 821   | 1,304 | 103  | 96         | 3,770 |
| 1978                                      | 899                     | 520   | 867   | 1,187 | 88   | 82         | 3,643 |
| 1979                                      | 870                     | 484   | 756   | 1,140 | 57   | 55         | 3,362 |
| 1980                                      | 890                     | 472   | 731   | 982   | 63   | 73         | 3,211 |
| 1981                                      | 849                     | 461   | 652   | 1,055 | 75   | 54         | 3,146 |
| 1982                                      | 898                     | 450   | 713   | 1,019 | 78   | 76         | 3,234 |
| 1983                                      | 837                     | 387   | 643   | 989   | 50   | 62         | 2,968 |
| 1984                                      | 817                     | 403   | 614   | 833   | 55   | 75         | 2,797 |
| 1985                                      | 860                     | 434   | 620   | 861   | 50   | 109        | 2,934 |
| 1986                                      | 854                     | 393   | 581   | 806   | 64   | 114        | 2,812 |
| 1987                                      | 775                     | 333   | 566   | 801   | 45   | 71         | 2,591 |
| 1988                                      | 799                     | 381   | 525   | 807   | 43   | 82         | 2,637 |
| 1989                                      | 763                     | 333   | 515   | 770   | 55   | 73         | 2,509 |
| 1990                                      | 824                     | 384   | 566   | 835   | 50   | 53         | 2,712 |
| 1991                                      | 742                     | 354   | 521   | 781   | 47   | 45         | 2,490 |
| 1992                                      | 809                     | 322   | 513   | 727   | 59   | 78         | 2,508 |
| Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births |                         |       |       |       |      |            |       |
| 1973                                      | 4.6                     | 3.5   | 4.9   | 7.2   | 0.6  | 0.9        | 21.7  |
| 1974                                      | 4.9                     | 3.3   | 5.2   | 7.1   | 0.6  | 0.5        | 21.6  |
| 1975                                      | 4.3                     | 3.1   | 4.5   | 6.0   | 0.4  | 0.4        | 18.7  |
| 1976                                      | 4.4                     | 3.0   | 4.3   | 6.1   | 0.4  | 0.4        | 18.7  |
| 1977                                      | 3.9                     | 2.4   | 3.6   | 5.7   | 0.5  | 0.4        | 16.5  |
| 1978                                      | 4.0                     | 2.3   | 3.8   | 5.3   | 0.4  | 0.4        | 16.1  |
| 1979                                      | 3.9                     | 2.2   | 3.4   | 5.1   | 0.3  | 0.2        | 15.0  |
| 1980                                      | 3.9                     | 2.1   | 3.2   | 4.3   | 0.3  | 0.3        | 14.1  |
| 1981                                      | 3.6                     | 1.9   | 2.7   | 4.4   | 0.3  | 0.2        | 13.2  |
| 1982                                      | 3.7                     | 1.9   | 3.0   | 4.2   | 0.3  | 0.3        | 13.4  |
| 1983                                      | 3.4                     | 1.6   | 2.6   | 4.1   | 0.2  | 0.3        | 12.2  |
| 1984                                      | 3.4                     | 1.7   | 2.6   | 3.5   | 0.2  | 0.3        | 11.7  |
| 1985                                      | 3.5                     | 1.8   | 2.5   | 3.5   | 0.2  | 0.4        | 12.0  |
| 1986                                      | 3.5                     | 1.6   | 2.4   | 3.3   | 0.3  | 0.5        | 11.5  |
| 1987                                      | 3.2                     | 1.4   | 2.3   | 3.3   | 0.2  | 0.3        | 10.6  |
| 1988                                      | 3.2                     | 1.5   | 2.1   | 3.3   | 0.2  | 0.3        | 10.7  |
| 1989                                      | 3.0                     | 1.3   | 2.0   | 3.1   | 0.2  | 0.3        | 9.9   |
| 1990                                      | 3.1                     | 1.5   | 2.1   | 3.2   | 0.2  | 0.2        | 10.3  |
| 1991                                      | 2.9                     | 1.4   | 2.0   | 3.0   | 0.2  | 0.2        | 9.6   |
| 1992                                      | 3.0                     | 1.2   | 1.9   | 2.7   | 0.2  | 0.3        | 9.4   |

Table 61: *Fetal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1973-1992*

| Year                                      | Birthweight (g) |           |       |            |       |
|---|-----------------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|
|   | 500-999         | 1000-2499 | 2500+ | Not stated | Total |
| Number                                    |                 |           |       |            |       |
| 1973                                      | 543             | 948       | 922   | 214        | 2,627 |
| 1974                                      | 593             | 989       | 868   | 156        | 2,606 |
| 1975                                      | 543             | 843       | 694   | 104        | 2,184 |
| 1976                                      | 546             | 840       | 649   | 90         | 2,125 |
| 1977                                      | 482             | 732       | 616   | 69         | 1,899 |
| 1978                                      | 514             | 749       | 593   | 49         | 1,905 |
| 1979                                      | 481             | 646       | 559   | 71         | 1,757 |
| 1980                                      | 483             | 650       | 527   | 48         | 1,708 |
| 1981                                      | 505             | 634       | 517   | 50         | 1,706 |
| 1982                                      | 509             | 608       | 537   | 51         | 1,705 |
| 1983                                      | 479             | 575       | 506   | 59         | 1,619 |
| 1984                                      | 488             | 559       | 493   | 53         | 1,593 |
| 1985                                      | 463             | 554       | 431   | 70         | 1,518 |
| 1986                                      | 495             | 561       | 464   | 65         | 1,585 |
| 1987                                      | 446             | 508       | 429   | 49         | 1,432 |
| 1988                                      | 415             | 532       | 452   | 74         | 1,473 |
| 1989                                      | 442             | 481       | 454   | 74         | 1,451 |
| 1990                                      | 497             | 574       | 483   | 36         | 1,590 |
| 1991                                      | 435             | 525       | 479   | 39         | 1,478 |
| 1992                                      | 459             | 491       | 477   | 66         | 1,493 |
| Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births |                 |           |       |            |       |
| 1973                                      | 2.2             | 3.8       | 3.7   | 0.9        | 10.5  |
| 1974                                      | 2.4             | 4.0       | 3.5   | 0.6        | 10.5  |
| 1975                                      | 2.3             | 3.6       | 3.0   | 0.4        | 9.3   |
| 1976                                      | 2.4             | 3.7       | 2.8   | 0.4        | 9.2   |
| 1977                                      | 2.1             | 3.2       | 2.7   | 0.3        | 8.3   |
| 1978                                      | 2.3             | 3.3       | 2.6   | 0.2        | 8.4   |
| 1979                                      | 2.1             | 2.9       | 2.5   | 0.3        | 7.8   |
| 1980                                      | 2.1             | 2.9       | 2.3   | 0.2        | 7.5   |
| 1981                                      | 2.1             | 2.7       | 2.2   | 0.2        | 7.2   |
| 1982                                      | 2.1             | 2.5       | 2.2   | 0.2        | 7.1   |
| 1983                                      | 2.0             | 2.4       | 2.1   | 0.2        | 6.6   |
| 1984                                      | 2.0             | 2.3       | 2.1   | 0.2        | 6.6   |
| 1985                                      | 1.9             | 2.3       | 1.8   | 0.3        | 6.2   |
| 1986                                      | 2.0             | 2.3       | 1.9   | 0.3        | 6.5   |
| 1987                                      | 1.8             | 2.1       | 1.7   | 0.2        | 5.8   |
| 1988                                      | 1.7             | 2.1       | 1.8   | 0.3        | 6.0   |
| 1989                                      | 1.8             | 1.9       | 1.8   | 0.3        | 5.8   |
| 1990                                      | 1.9             | 2.2       | 1.8   | 0.1        | 6.0   |
| 1991                                      | 1.7             | 2.0       | 1.9   | 0.2        | 5.7   |
| 1992                                      | 1.7             | 1.8       | 1.8   | 0.2        | 5.6   |

Table 62: *Neonatal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1973–1992*

| Year   | Birthweight (g) |           |       |            |       |
|--|-----------------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|
|  | 500–999         | 1000–2499 | 2500+ | Not stated | Total |
| Number   |                 |           |       |            |       |
| 1973   | 659             | 1,175     | 697   | 261        | 2,792 |
| 1974   | 636             | 1,188     | 750   | 160        | 2,734 |
| 1975   | 569             | 907       | 640   | 101        | 2,217 |
| 1976   | 575             | 815       | 686   | 89         | 2,165 |
| 1977   | 489             | 677       | 606   | 99         | 1,871 |
| 1978   | 491             | 632       | 543   | 72         | 1,738 |
| 1979   | 473             | 556       | 512   | 64         | 1,605 |
| 1980   | 472             | 515       | 440   | 76         | 1,503 |
| 1981   | 469             | 460       | 464   | 47         | 1,440 |
| 1982   | 512             | 476       | 491   | 50         | 1,529 |
| 1983   | 457             | 413       | 422   | 57         | 1,349 |
| 1984   | 402             | 405       | 348   | 49         | 1,204 |
| 1985   | 478             | 449       | 415   | 74         | 1,416 |
| 1986   | 464             | 327       | 366   | 70         | 1,227 |
| 1987   | 395             | 336       | 376   | 52         | 1,159 |
| 1988   | 412             | 339       | 369   | 44         | 1,164 |
| 1989   | 358             | 311       | 337   | 52         | 1,058 |
| 1990   | 408             | 327       | 347   | 40         | 1,122 |
| 1991   | 373             | 291       | 311   | 37         | 1,012 |
| 1992   | 381             | 265       | 318   | 51         | 1,015 |
| Proportionate death rate per 1,000 live births |                 |           |       |            |       |
| 1973   | 2.7             | 4.7       | 2.8   | 1.1        | 11.3  |
| 1974   | 2.6             | 4.8       | 3.1   | 0.7        | 11.2  |
| 1975   | 2.4             | 3.9       | 2.7   | 0.4        | 9.5   |
| 1976   | 2.5             | 3.6       | 3.0   | 0.4        | 9.5   |
| 1977   | 2.2             | 3.0       | 2.7   | 0.4        | 8.3   |
| 1978   | 2.2             | 2.8       | 2.4   | 0.3        | 7.8   |
| 1979   | 2.1             | 2.5       | 2.3   | 0.3        | 7.2   |
| 1980   | 2.1             | 2.3       | 2.0   | 0.3        | 6.7   |
| 1981   | 2.0             | 2.0       | 2.0   | 0.2        | 6.1   |
| 1982   | 2.1             | 2.0       | 2.0   | 0.2        | 6.4   |
| 1983   | 1.9             | 1.7       | 1.7   | 0.2        | 5.6   |
| 1984   | 1.7             | 1.7       | 1.5   | 0.2        | 5.1   |
| 1985   | 2.0             | 1.8       | 1.7   | 0.3        | 5.8   |
| 1986   | 1.9             | 1.3       | 1.5   | 0.3        | 5.0   |
| 1987   | 1.6             | 1.4       | 1.5   | 0.2        | 4.8   |
| 1988   | 1.7             | 1.4       | 1.5   | 0.2        | 4.7   |
| 1989   | 1.4             | 1.2       | 1.3   | 0.2        | 4.2   |
| 1990   | 1.6             | 1.2       | 1.3   | 0.2        | 4.3   |
| 1991   | 1.5             | 1.1       | 1.2   | 0.1        | 3.9   |
| 1992   | 1.4             | 1.0       | 1.2   | 0.2        | 3.8   |

Table 63: *Perinatal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1973-1992*

| Year                                      | Birthweight (g) |           |       |            |       |
|---|-----------------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|
|   | 500-999         | 1000-2499 | 2500+ | Not stated | Total |
| Number                                    |                 |           |       |            |       |
| 1973                                      | 1,202           | 2,123     | 1,619 | 475        | 5,419 |
| 1974                                      | 1,229           | 2,177     | 1,618 | 316        | 5,340 |
| 1975                                      | 1,112           | 1,750     | 1,334 | 205        | 4,401 |
| 1976                                      | 1,121           | 1,655     | 1,335 | 179        | 4,290 |
| 1977                                      | 971             | 1,409     | 1,222 | 168        | 3,770 |
| 1978                                      | 1,005           | 1,381     | 1,136 | 121        | 3,643 |
| 1979                                      | 954             | 1,202     | 1,071 | 135        | 3,362 |
| 1980                                      | 955             | 1,165     | 967   | 124        | 3,211 |
| 1981                                      | 974             | 1,094     | 981   | 97         | 3,146 |
| 1982                                      | 1,021           | 1,084     | 1,028 | 101        | 3,234 |
| 1983                                      | 936             | 988       | 928   | 116        | 2,968 |
| 1984                                      | 890             | 964       | 841   | 102        | 2,797 |
| 1985                                      | 941             | 1,003     | 846   | 144        | 2,934 |
| 1986                                      | 959             | 888       | 830   | 135        | 2,812 |
| 1987                                      | 841             | 844       | 805   | 101        | 2,591 |
| 1988                                      | 827             | 871       | 821   | 118        | 2,637 |
| 1989                                      | 800             | 792       | 791   | 126        | 2,509 |
| 1990                                      | 905             | 901       | 830   | 76         | 2,712 |
| 1991                                      | 808             | 816       | 790   | 76         | 2,490 |
| 1992                                      | 840             | 756       | 795   | 117        | 2,508 |
| Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births |                 |           |       |            |       |
| 1973                                      | 4.8             | 8.5       | 6.5   | 1.9        | 21.7  |
| 1974                                      | 5.0             | 8.8       | 6.5   | 1.3        | 21.6  |
| 1975                                      | 4.7             | 7.4       | 5.7   | 0.9        | 18.7  |
| 1976                                      | 4.9             | 7.2       | 5.8   | 0.8        | 18.7  |
| 1977                                      | 4.3             | 6.2       | 5.4   | 0.7        | 16.5  |
| 1978                                      | 4.4             | 6.1       | 5.0   | 0.5        | 16.1  |
| 1979                                      | 4.2             | 5.3       | 4.8   | 0.6        | 15.0  |
| 1980                                      | 4.2             | 5.1       | 4.3   | 0.5        | 14.1  |
| 1981                                      | 4.1             | 4.6       | 4.1   | 0.4        | 13.2  |
| 1982                                      | 4.2             | 4.5       | 4.3   | 0.4        | 13.4  |
| 1983                                      | 3.8             | 4.0       | 3.8   | 0.5        | 12.2  |
| 1984                                      | 3.7             | 4.0       | 3.5   | 0.4        | 11.7  |
| 1985                                      | 3.9             | 4.1       | 3.5   | 0.6        | 12.0  |
| 1986                                      | 3.9             | 3.6       | 3.4   | 0.6        | 11.5  |
| 1987                                      | 3.4             | 3.4       | 3.3   | 0.4        | 10.6  |
| 1988                                      | 3.3             | 3.5       | 3.3   | 0.5        | 10.7  |
| 1989                                      | 3.2             | 3.1       | 3.1   | 0.5        | 9.9   |
| 1990                                      | 3.4             | 3.4       | 3.1   | 0.3        | 10.3  |
| 1991                                      | 3.1             | 3.2       | 3.1   | 0.3        | 9.6   |
| 1992                                      | 3.2             | 2.8       | 3.0   | 0.4        | 9.4   |

**Table 64: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths according to various criteria, and birthweight-specific death rates, Australia, 1991**

| Outcome/<br>Birthweight (g)      | NPSU: year<br>of birth | ABS: year of<br>registration | ABS: year<br>of birth | ABS: year<br>of birth    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
|                                  |                        | Number                       |                       | Rate per<br>1,000 births |
| <b>Fetal deaths</b>              |                        |                              |                       |                          |
| Less than 500                    | 339                    | 448                          | 457                   |                          |
| 500 - 999                        | 446                    | 435                          | 442                   | 342.6                    |
| 1000 - 1499                      | 191                    | 187                          | 193                   | 120.2                    |
| 1500 - 1999                      | 189                    | 171                          | 179                   | 56.7                     |
| 2000 - 2499                      | 183                    | 167                          | 168                   | 17.3                     |
| 2500 - 2999                      | 184                    | 178                          | 181                   | 4.5                      |
| 3000 - 3499                      | 180                    | 162                          | 177                   | 1.9                      |
| 3500 - 3999                      | 106                    | 92                           | 93                    | 1.2                      |
| 4000 - 4499                      | 42                     | 37                           | 39                    | 1.6                      |
| 4500 and over                    | 9                      | 10                           | 9                     | 2.2                      |
| Not stated                       | 137                    | 46                           | 57                    |                          |
| <b>All deaths: 500g and over</b> | <b>1,667</b>           | <b>1,485</b>                 | <b>1,538</b>          | <b>6.0</b>               |
| <b>Neonatal deaths</b>           |                        |                              |                       |                          |
| Less than 500                    | na                     | 126                          | 137                   |                          |
| 500 - 999                        | na                     | 373                          | 356                   | 419.8                    |
| 1000 - 1499                      | na                     | 119                          | 112                   | 79.3                     |
| 1500 - 1999                      | na                     | 91                           | 85                    | 28.5                     |
| 2000 - 2499                      | na                     | 81                           | 81                    | 8.5                      |
| 2500 - 2999                      | na                     | 100                          | 100                   | 2.5                      |
| 3000 - 3499                      | na                     | 113                          | 108                   | 1.1                      |
| 3500 - 3999                      | na                     | 79                           | 78                    | 1.0                      |
| 4000 - 4499                      | na                     | 12                           | 13                    | 0.5                      |
| 4500 and over                    | na                     | 7                            | 5                     | 1.2                      |
| Not stated                       | na                     | 40                           | 32                    |                          |
| <b>All deaths: 500g and over</b> | <b>na</b>              | <b>1,015</b>                 | <b>970</b>            | <b>3.8</b>               |
| <b>Perinatal deaths</b>          |                        |                              |                       |                          |
| Less than 500                    | na                     | 574                          | 594                   |                          |
| 500 - 999                        | na                     | 808                          | 798                   | 618.6                    |
| 1000 - 1499                      | na                     | 306                          | 305                   | 190.0                    |
| 1500 - 1999                      | na                     | 262                          | 264                   | 83.6                     |
| 2000 - 2499                      | na                     | 248                          | 249                   | 25.6                     |
| 2500 - 2999                      | na                     | 278                          | 281                   | 7.0                      |
| 3000 - 3499                      | na                     | 275                          | 285                   | 3.0                      |
| 3500 - 3999                      | na                     | 171                          | 171                   | 2.2                      |
| 4000 - 4499                      | na                     | 49                           | 52                    | 2.2                      |
| 4500 and over                    | na                     | 17                           | 14                    | 3.4                      |
| Not stated                       | na                     | 86                           | 89                    |                          |
| <b>All deaths: 500g and over</b> | <b>na</b>              | <b>2,500</b>                 | <b>2,508</b>          | <b>9.8</b>               |



**Table 65: Birthweight-specific fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, selected States, 1989**

| Outcome/<br>Birthweight (g) | Vic        | WA         | SA         | Vic                   | WA          | SA          |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                             | Number     |            |            | Rate per 1,000 births |             |             |
| <b>Fetal deaths</b>         |            |            |            |                       |             |             |
| 500 - 999                   | 142        | 47         | 48         | 442.4                 | 279.8       | 406.8       |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 61         | 17         | 22         | 167.1                 | 102.4       | 135.0       |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 47         | 16         | 12         | 59.5                  | 48.5        | 45.6        |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 45         | 15         | 12         | 19.8                  | 14.9        | 14.9        |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 45         | 16         | 12         | 4.5                   | 4.0         | 3.8         |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 46         | 13         | 15         | 1.9                   | 1.4         | 2.1         |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 19         | 8          | 7          | 1.0                   | 1.0         | 1.2         |
| 4000 and over               | 12         | 6          | 3          | 1.7                   | 2.3         | 1.4         |
| Not stated                  | 7          | -          | -          |                       |             |             |
| <b>All birthweights</b>     | <b>424</b> | <b>138</b> | <b>131</b> | <b>6.6</b>            | <b>5.4</b>  | <b>6.7</b>  |
| <b>Neonatal deaths</b>      |            |            |            |                       |             |             |
| 500 - 999                   | 97         | 48         | 25         | 541.9                 | 396.7       | 357.1       |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 25         | 18         | 16         | 82.2                  | 120.8       | 113.5       |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 23         | 13         | 4          | 31.0                  | 41.4        | 15.9        |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 16         | 9          | 3          | 7.2                   | 9.0         | 3.8         |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 24         | 8          | 10         | 2.4                   | 2.0         | 3.2         |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 30         | 15         | 8          | 1.3                   | 1.6         | 1.1         |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 16         | 6          | 6          | 0.8                   | 0.8         | 1.0         |
| 4000 and over               | 8          | 4          | 1          | 1.1                   | 1.5         | 0.5         |
| Not stated                  | 1          | -          | -          |                       |             |             |
| <b>All birthweights</b>     | <b>240</b> | <b>121</b> | <b>73</b>  | <b>3.8</b>            | <b>4.8</b>  | <b>3.7</b>  |
| <b>Perinatal deaths</b>     |            |            |            |                       |             |             |
| 500 - 999                   | 239        | 95         | 73         | 744.5                 | 565.5       | 618.6       |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 86         | 35         | 38         | 235.6                 | 210.8       | 233.1       |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 70         | 29         | 16         | 88.6                  | 87.9        | 60.8        |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 61         | 24         | 15         | 26.8                  | 23.8        | 18.6        |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 69         | 24         | 22         | 6.8                   | 6.0         | 7.0         |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 76         | 28         | 23         | 3.2                   | 3.0         | 3.2         |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 35         | 14         | 13         | 1.8                   | 1.8         | 2.2         |
| 4000 and over               | 20         | 10         | 4          | 2.8                   | 3.8         | 1.9         |
| Not stated                  | 8          | -          | -          |                       |             |             |
| <b>All birthweights</b>     | <b>664</b> | <b>259</b> | <b>204</b> | <b>10.4</b>           | <b>10.2</b> | <b>10.4</b> |

*Data for South Australia exclude births outside hospitals*

**Table 66: Birthweight-specific fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, selected States, 1990**

| Outcome/<br>Birthweight (g) | Vic        | WA         | SA         | Vic                   | WA         | SA          |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------|
|                             | Number     |            |            | Rate per 1,000 births |            |             |
| <b>Fetal deaths</b>         |            |            |            |                       |            |             |
| 500 - 999                   | 101        | 24         | 39         | 303.3                 | 269.7      | 348.2       |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 54         | 18         | 13         | 130.8                 | 120.0      | 94.2        |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 47         | 16         | 8          | 59.3                  | 47.3       | 28.7        |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 46         | 10         | 10         | 19.2                  | 10.2       | 12.7        |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 38         | 14         | 13         | 3.8                   | 3.4        | 4.2         |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 39         | 18         | 14         | 1.6                   | 1.9        | 1.9         |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 16         | 9          | 12         | 0.8                   | 1.1        | 2.0         |
| 4000 and over               | 15         | 9          | 5          | 2.0                   | 3.2        | 2.3         |
| Not stated                  | 20         | -          | 1          |                       |            |             |
| <b>All birthweights</b>     | <b>376</b> | <b>118</b> | <b>115</b> | <b>5.6</b>            | <b>4.5</b> | <b>5.8</b>  |
| <b>Neonatal deaths</b>      |            |            |            |                       |            |             |
| 500 - 999                   | 100        | 23         | 36         | 431.0                 | 353.8      | 493.2       |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 28         | 7          | 13         | 78.0                  | 53.0       | 104.0       |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 26         | 6          | 6          | 34.9                  | 18.6       | 22.1        |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 28         | 13         | 5          | 11.9                  | 13.4       | 6.5         |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 26         | 14         | 12         | 2.6                   | 3.4        | 3.9         |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 33         | 16         | 8          | 1.3                   | 1.7        | 1.1         |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 19         | 5          | 6          | 0.9                   | 0.6        | 1.0         |
| 4000 and over               | 4          | 3          | -          | 0.5                   | 1.1        | -           |
| Not stated                  | 9          | -          | -          |                       |            |             |
| <b>All birthweights</b>     | <b>273</b> | <b>87</b>  | <b>86</b>  | <b>4.1</b>            | <b>3.4</b> | <b>4.3</b>  |
| <b>Perinatal deaths</b>     |            |            |            |                       |            |             |
| 500 - 999                   | 201        | 47         | 75         | 603.6                 | 528.1      | 669.6       |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 82         | 25         | 26         | 198.5                 | 166.7      | 188.4       |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 73         | 22         | 14         | 92.1                  | 65.1       | 50.2        |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 74         | 23         | 15         | 30.9                  | 23.4       | 19.1        |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 64         | 28         | 25         | 6.3                   | 6.8        | 8.1         |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 72         | 34         | 22         | 2.9                   | 3.6        | 3.0         |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 35         | 14         | 18         | 1.7                   | 1.8        | 3.0         |
| 4000 and over               | 19         | 12         | 5          | 2.6                   | 4.2        | 2.3         |
| Not stated                  | 29         | -          | 1          |                       |            |             |
| <b>All birthweights</b>     | <b>649</b> | <b>205</b> | <b>201</b> | <b>9.7</b>            | <b>7.9</b> | <b>10.1</b> |

*Data for South Australia exclude births outside hospitals*

**Table 67: Birthweight-specific fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, selected States, 1991**

| Outcome/<br>Birthweight (g) | Vic        | WA         | SA         | Vic                   | WA         | SA         |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|
|                             | Number     |            |            | Rate per 1,000 births |            |            |
| <b>Fetal deaths</b>         |            |            |            |                       |            |            |
| 500 - 999                   | 107        | 36         | 35         | 344.1                 | 333.3      | 324.1      |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 46         | 19         | 14         | 127.4                 | 107.3      | 101.4      |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 49         | 13         | 11         | 63.1                  | 43.3       | 39.6       |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 41         | 16         | 17         | 17.1                  | 16.6       | 23.3       |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 42         | 14         | 8          | 4.2                   | 3.5        | 2.6        |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 45         | 17         | 12         | 1.9                   | 1.9        | 1.7        |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 30         | 11         | 4          | 1.5                   | 1.4        | 0.7        |
| 4000 and over               | 9          | 8          | 3          | 1.2                   | 3.1        | 1.4        |
| Not stated                  | 6          | -          | -          |                       |            |            |
| <b>All birthweights</b>     | <b>375</b> | <b>134</b> | <b>104</b> | <b>5.8</b>            | <b>5.4</b> | <b>5.3</b> |
| <b>Neonatal deaths</b>      |            |            |            |                       |            |            |
| 500 - 999                   | 95         | 19         | 27         | 465.6                 | 263.9      | 369.9      |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 25         | 5          | 4          | 79.4                  | 31.6       | 32.3       |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 19         | 6          | 2          | 26.1                  | 20.9       | 7.5        |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 19         | 11         | 3          | 8.1                   | 11.6       | 4.2        |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 19         | 9          | 6          | 1.9                   | 2.3        | 1.9        |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 25         | 7          | 8          | 1.0                   | 0.8        | 1.1        |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 16         | 8          | 4          | 0.8                   | 1.0        | 0.7        |
| 4000 and over               | 5          | 2          | 1          | 0.7                   | 0.8        | 0.5        |
| Not stated                  | 1          | -          | -          |                       |            |            |
| <b>All birthweights</b>     | <b>224</b> | <b>67</b>  | <b>55</b>  | <b>3.5</b>            | <b>2.7</b> | <b>2.8</b> |
| <b>Perinatal deaths</b>     |            |            |            |                       |            |            |
| 500 - 999                   | 202        | 55         | 62         | 649.5                 | 509.3      | 574.1      |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 71         | 24         | 18         | 196.7                 | 135.6      | 130.4      |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 68         | 19         | 13         | 87.6                  | 63.3       | 46.8       |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 60         | 27         | 20         | 25.0                  | 28.0       | 27.4       |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 61         | 23         | 14         | 6.1                   | 5.8        | 4.5        |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 70         | 24         | 20         | 2.9                   | 2.6        | 2.8        |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 46         | 19         | 8          | 2.3                   | 2.5        | 1.3        |
| 4000 and over               | 14         | 10         | 4          | 1.9                   | 3.8        | 1.8        |
| Not stated                  | 7          | -          | -          |                       |            |            |
| <b>All birthweights</b>     | <b>599</b> | <b>201</b> | <b>159</b> | <b>9.2</b>            | <b>8.1</b> | <b>8.1</b> |

*Data for South Australia exclude births outside hospitals*

**Table 68: Birthweight-specific fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, selected States, 1989-1991**

| Outcome/<br>Birthweight (g) | Vic          | WA         | SA         | Vic                   | WA         | SA         |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|
|                             | Number       |            |            | Rate per 1,000 births |            |            |
| <b>Fetal deaths</b>         |              |            |            |                       |            |            |
| 500 - 999                   | 350          | 107        | 122        | 362.7                 | 293.2      | 360.9      |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 161          | 54         | 49         | 141.4                 | 109.5      | 111.6      |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 143          | 45         | 31         | 60.6                  | 46.5       | 37.8       |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 132          | 41         | 39         | 18.7                  | 13.9       | 16.8       |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 125          | 44         | 33         | 4.1                   | 3.6        | 3.6        |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 130          | 48         | 41         | 1.8                   | 1.7        | 1.9        |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 65           | 28         | 23         | 1.1                   | 1.2        | 1.3        |
| 4000 and over               | 36           | 23         | 11         | 1.7                   | 2.8        | 1.7        |
| Not stated                  | 33           | -          | 1          |                       |            |            |
| <b>All birthweights</b>     | <b>1,175</b> | <b>390</b> | <b>350</b> | <b>6.0</b>            | <b>5.1</b> | <b>5.9</b> |
| <b>Neonatal deaths</b>      |              |            |            |                       |            |            |
| 500 - 999                   | 292          | 90         | 88         | 474.8                 | 348.8      | 407.4      |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 78           | 30         | 33         | 79.8                  | 68.3       | 84.6       |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 68           | 25         | 12         | 30.7                  | 27.1       | 15.2       |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 63           | 33         | 11         | 9.1                   | 11.3       | 4.8        |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 69           | 31         | 28         | 2.3                   | 2.6        | 3.0        |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 88           | 38         | 24         | 1.2                   | 1.4        | 1.1        |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 51           | 19         | 16         | 0.9                   | 0.8        | 0.9        |
| 4000 and over               | 17           | 9          | 2          | 0.8                   | 1.1        | 0.3        |
| Not stated                  | 11           | -          | -          |                       |            |            |
| <b>All birthweights</b>     | <b>737</b>   | <b>275</b> | <b>214</b> | <b>3.8</b>            | <b>3.6</b> | <b>3.6</b> |
| <b>Perinatal deaths</b>     |              |            |            |                       |            |            |
| 500 - 999                   | 642          | 197        | 210        | 665.3                 | 539.7      | 621.3      |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 239          | 84         | 82         | 209.8                 | 170.4      | 186.8      |
| 1500 - 1999                 | 211          | 70         | 43         | 89.4                  | 72.3       | 52.4       |
| 2000 - 2499                 | 195          | 74         | 50         | 27.6                  | 25.0       | 21.5       |
| 2500 - 2999                 | 194          | 75         | 61         | 6.4                   | 6.2        | 6.6        |
| 3000 - 3499                 | 218          | 86         | 65         | 3.0                   | 3.1        | 3.0        |
| 3500 - 3999                 | 116          | 47         | 39         | 1.9                   | 2.0        | 2.2        |
| 4000 and over               | 53           | 32         | 13         | 2.4                   | 3.9        | 2.0        |
| Not stated                  | 44           | -          | 1          |                       |            |            |
| <b>All birthweights</b>     | <b>1,912</b> | <b>665</b> | <b>564</b> | <b>9.8</b>            | <b>8.7</b> | <b>9.5</b> |

*Data for South Australia exclude births outside hospitals*

Table 69: Birthweight distribution of fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, and birthweight-specific death rates, selected hospitals with neonatal intensive care units, 1990-1992

| Outcome/<br>Birthweight (g)              | 1990  | 1991  | 1992  | 1990  | 1991  | 1992  |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Fetal deaths                             |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 500 - 599                                | 11.6  | 13.2  | 12.5  | 509.8 | 526.3 | 345.5 |
| 600 - 699                                | 7.1   | 7.6   | 7.9   | 285.7 | 310.8 | 235.3 |
| 700 - 799                                | 8.0   | 7.3   | 6.6   | 268.7 | 217.8 | 156.3 |
| 800 - 899                                | 6.7   | 4.6   | 3.3   | 189.9 | 125.0 | 89.3  |
| 900 - 999                                | 6.7   | 5.6   | 3.3   | 156.3 | 144.1 | 106.4 |
| 1000 - 1499                              | 13.8  | 15.2  | 15.8  | 67.4  | 66.8  | 62.7  |
| 1500 - 1999                              | 12.1  | 12.9  | 10.5  | 34.7  | 39.5  | 30.8  |
| 2000 - 2499                              | 8.5   | 9.9   | 4.6   | 14.2  | 15.9  | 7.1   |
| 2500 and over                            | 21.9  | 23.4  | 31.6  | 2.1   | 2.3   | 2.6   |
| Not stated                               | 3.6   | 0.3   | 3.9   |       |       |       |
| All birthweights (500g and over)         | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 8.3   | 8.6   | 7.3   |
| Neonatal deaths                          |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 500 - 599                                | 10.0  | 8.8   | 15.4  | 720.0 | 555.5 | 555.5 |
| 600 - 699                                | 10.6  | 10.1  | 13.1  | 475.5 | 451.0 | 435.9 |
| 700 - 799                                | 11.1  | 11.4  | 10.0  | 408.2 | 329.1 | 240.7 |
| 800 - 899                                | 6.7   | 8.3   | 7.7   | 187.5 | 193.9 | 196.1 |
| 900 - 999                                | 4.4   | 5.7   | 3.8   | 98.8  | 128.7 | 119.0 |
| 1000 - 1499                              | 17.8  | 21.1  | 16.9  | 74.6  | 74.7  | 61.3  |
| 1500 - 1999                              | 10.6  | 7.5   | 10.0  | 25.3  | 17.9  | 25.8  |
| 2000 - 2499                              | 10.6  | 7.0   | 9.2   | 14.4  | 8.6   | 12.3  |
| 2500 and over                            | 18.3  | 20.2  | 13.8  | 1.4   | 1.5   | 1.0   |
| Not stated                               | -     | -     | -     |       |       |       |
| All birthweights (500g and over)         | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 6.8   | 6.6   | 6.3   |
| Perinatal deaths                         |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 500 - 599                                | 10.9  | 11.3  | 13.8  | 862.7 | 789.5 | 709.1 |
| 600 - 699                                | 8.7   | 8.7   | 10.3  | 625.0 | 621.6 | 568.6 |
| 700 - 799                                | 9.4   | 9.0   | 8.2   | 567.2 | 475.2 | 359.4 |
| 800 - 899                                | 6.7   | 6.2   | 5.3   | 341.8 | 294.6 | 267.9 |
| 900 - 999                                | 5.7   | 5.6   | 3.5   | 239.6 | 254.2 | 212.8 |
| 1000 - 1499                              | 15.6  | 17.7  | 16.3  | 137.0 | 136.4 | 120.1 |
| 1500 - 1999                              | 11.4  | 10.5  | 10.3  | 59.1  | 56.7  | 55.8  |
| 2000 - 2499                              | 9.4   | 8.7   | 6.7   | 28.4  | 24.4  | 19.4  |
| 2500 and over                            | 20.3  | 22.0  | 23.4  | 3.4   | 3.8   | 3.6   |
| Not stated                               | 2.0   | 0.2   | 2.1   |       |       |       |
| All birthweights (500g and over)         | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 15.1  | 15.1  | 13.6  |
| Perinatal deaths (n=404) (n=531) (n=282) |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Rate per 1,000 births                    |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Per cent                                 |       |       |       |       |       |       |

# 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 June 1995, are:

## **Identifying information**

- State/Territory of birth
- Maternity patient identifier

## **Place of birth**

- Intended place of birth
- Actual place of birth
- Establishment identifier

## **Sociodemographic characteristics of mother**

- Area of usual residence
- Date of birth (derived maternal age)
- Patient accommodation status
- Marital status
- Country of birth
- Aboriginality

## **Previous pregnancies**

- Previous pregnancies

## **Current pregnancy**

- First day of last menstrual period
- Gestational age
- Maternal medical conditions
- Complications of pregnancy

## **Labour, delivery and puerperium**

- Onset of labour
- Type of induction
- Type of augmentation
- Analgesia administered
- Anaesthesia administered
- Presentation at delivery
- Method of birth
- Perineal status
- Complications of labour and birth
- Postpartum complications
- Length of antenatal stay
- Length of postnatal stay
- Plurality
- Mode of separation

**Infant**

- Date of birth
- Birth order
- Status of the baby
- Sex
- Birthweight
- Apgar score (at 1 and 5 minutes after birth)
- Resuscitation of newborn baby
- Admission to special/neonatal intensive care
- Length of stay
- Mode of separation of infant
- Neonatal morbidity
- 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).

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

**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.

**Early neonatal death:** Death of a liveborn infant within 7 days of birth.

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

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

**Extremely low birthweight:** Birthweight of less than 1000g.

**Fetal death (stillbirth):** Death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception of 20 or more completed weeks of gestation or of 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 (Tables based on ABS data have a lower limit of 500g or, when birthweight is not available, of 22 weeks' gestation).



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

**Gestational age:** The duration of pregnancy in completed weeks calculated from the date of the first day of a woman's last menstrual period and her 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).

**Intrapartum fetal death:** Fetal death occurring during labour.

**Late neonatal death:** Death of a liveborn infant after 7 completed days and before 28 completed days.

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

**Low birthweight:** Birthweight of less than 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 death:** Death of a liveborn infant within 28 days of birth.

**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.

**Perinatal death:** A perinatal death is a fetal or neonatal death.

**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:** See fetal death.

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

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

**Very low birthweight:** Birthweight of less than 1500g.

# Appendix 3

Table A1: *Live births, fetal deaths and total births by birthweight, Australia, 1991*

| Birthweight (g)                         | Live births*   | Fetal deaths** | Total births   |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Less than 500g                          | 126            | 457            | 583            |
| 500 - 999                               | 848            | 442            | 1,290          |
| 1000 - 1499                             | 1,412          | 193            | 1,605          |
| 1500 - 1999                             | 2,978          | 179            | 3,157          |
| 2000 - 2499                             | 9,560          | 168            | 9,728          |
| 2500 - 2999                             | 40,038         | 181            | 40,219         |
| 3000 - 3499                             | 94,222         | 177            | 94,399         |
| 3500 - 3999                             | 77,184         | 93             | 77,277         |
| 4000 - 4499                             | 24,069         | 39             | 24,108         |
| 4500 and over                           | 4,095          | 9              | 4,104          |
| Not stated                              | 96             | 57             | 153            |
| <b>All birthweights (500g and over)</b> | <b>254,502</b> | <b>1,538</b>   | <b>256,040</b> |
| <b>All birthweights</b>                 | <b>254,628</b> | <b>1,995</b>   | <b>256,623</b> |

\* Source: National Perinatal Statistics Unit

\*\* Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (year of birth)