

3.01 Antenatal care

Number, rate and percentage of Indigenous women who used antenatal care provided by skilled birth attendants for reasons related to pregnancy at least once during pregnancy among all women who gave birth, whether resulting in a live or still birth, if the birthweight was at least 400 grams or the gestational age was 20 weeks or more

Data sources

State/territory Perinatal Collections

Data for this measure come from the state/territory-based perinatal collections ('midwives collections').

Each state and territory has a perinatal collection based on birth notification forms completed by midwives, and other staff, using information obtained from mothers and other hospital records. All jurisdictions record some aspects of most antenatal care, but the data collected vary by jurisdiction.

The Australian Capital Territory, Queensland and South Australia collect data on the number of antenatal visits attended during pregnancy and the type of health-care professional consulted. New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory record the duration of pregnancy at the first antenatal session.. Data on the use of antenatal care services were not available for Victoria, Western Australia or Tasmania.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines low birth weight as less than 2,500 grams.

Healthy for Life Program

The Healthy for Life (HFL) program is an ongoing program funded by the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA). The program aims to improve the capacity and performance of primary health-care services to deliver high-quality maternal and children's health services and chronic disease care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through population health approaches using best-practice and quality improvement principles.

Services participating in the HFL program are required to submit de-identified, aggregate service data for 11 essential indicators covering maternal health, child health and chronic disease care on a regular basis (6 and 12 months) as well as information about the characteristics of their service and organisational infrastructure. For the January to June 2007 reporting period, 59 HFL services submitted data to the AIHW.

Analyses

Data on the use of antenatal care services are available for New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. Data for the year 2005 are presented for all of these states and territories except for the Australian Capital Territory which reported that the quality of antenatal care data in the Territory for the year 2005 was poor and was not reliable enough to publish.

Use of antenatal care services

- In 2005, in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory, approximately 96% of Indigenous mothers, and 99% of non-Indigenous mothers, attended at least one antenatal care session.

Use of antenatal care services by state/territory

Data on the use of antenatal care for Indigenous mothers in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory for 2005 are presented below.

- In 2005, in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory, the rate at which Indigenous mothers attended at least one antenatal care session during pregnancy was similar to non-Indigenous mothers (Table 3.01.1).
- The rate at which Indigenous mothers attended at least one antenatal care session ranged from 832 per 1,000 in South Australia to 976 per 1,000 in New South Wales.
- In the two jurisdictions where data are collected on the duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit and the data were reliable enough to present (New South Wales and the Northern Territory), Indigenous mothers were 2 to 3 times as likely as non-Indigenous mothers to be in their third trimester of pregnancy at their first antenatal session and less likely to be in their first trimester.
- In Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory, Indigenous mothers were less likely to have attended five or more antenatal sessions during pregnancy than non-Indigenous mothers.

Table 3.01.1: Use of antenatal services by mothers, by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, SA and NT, 2005^{(a)(b)(c)}

		NSW			Qld ^(d)			SA			NT		
		No.	No. per 1,000 ^(e)	Rate ratio ^(f)	No.	No. per 1,000 ^(e)	Rate ratio ^(f)	No.	No. per 1,000 ^(e)	Rate ratio ^(f)	No.	No. per 1,000 ^(e)	Rate ratio ^(f)
Total attended at least one antenatal session													
	Indigenous	2,415	976.2	1.0	2,986	973.0	1.0	405	831.6	0.9	1,321	953.8	1.0
	Non-Indigenous	86,128	994.9		51,081	996.4		15,724	903.2		2,257	996.0	
No. sessions attended^(g)													
1	Indigenous	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	162	52.8	8.0*	19	39.0	11.1*	44	31.8	10.3*
	Non-Indigenous	n.a.	n.a.		340	6.6		60	3.5		7	3.1	
2–4	Indigenous	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	605	197.1	3.5*	76	156.1	7.3*	218	157.4	4.2*
	Non-Indigenous	n.a.	n.a.		2,922	57.0		375	21.5		85	37.5	
5 or more	Indigenous	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2,219	723.0	0.8*	310	636.6	0.7*	1,059	764.6	0.8*
	Non-Indigenous	n.a.	n.a.		47,819	932.8		15,289	878.2		2,165	955.4	
Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit^(h)													
First trimester (<13 weeks)	Indigenous	1,324	528.1	0.8*	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	479	345.8	0.6*
	Non-Indigenous	55,001	625.0		n.a.	n.a.		n.a.	n.a.		1,231	543.2	
Second trimester (13–20 weeks)	Indigenous	553	220.6	0.9*	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	293	211.6	0.8*
	Non-Indigenous	22,821	259.3		n.a.	n.a.		n.a.	n.a.		632	278.9	
Third trimester (20 or more weeks)	Indigenous	571	227.8	2.1*	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	499	360.3	2.5*
	Non-Indigenous	9,725	110.5		n.a.	n.a.		n.a.	n.a.		323	142.5	

(continued)

Table 3.01.1 (continued): Use of antenatal services by mothers, by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, SA, and NT, 2005^{(a)(b)(c)}

*Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons at the $p < 0.05$ level.

- (a) Indigenous and non-Indigenous data exclude births where the mother's Indigenous status is not stated.
- (b) Jurisdiction-level data are based on place where birth occurred, not place of usual residence. Cross-border issues need to be considered here, e.g. a high proportion of births in ACT hospitals are for NSW mothers.
- (c) Data not available from Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania.
- (d) For Qld, 1 session is determined by: number of visits category '<2 visits' and care type 'no antenatal care'.
- (e) Number per 1,000 women who gave birth in the period, whether resulting in a live or still birth, if the birthweight is at least 400grams or the gestational age is 20 weeks or more.
- (f) Rate ratio—Indigenous rate divided by the non-Indigenous rate.
- (g) Data for Qld, SA and NT only. Data not collected in NSW.
- (h) Data for NSW and NT only. Data not collected in Qld or SA.

Source: AIHW analysis of state/territory perinatal collections.

Use of antenatal care services by remoteness

- In 2005, there was little difference in the proportion of Indigenous mothers who attended at least one antenatal care session by remoteness (around 96% in major cities, 97–98% in regional areas and 94–95% in remote areas) (Table 3.01.2).
- Indigenous mothers in Very Remote areas were most likely to attend five or more antenatal sessions (78%), although Indigenous mothers in Remote areas were least likely to attend five or more antenatal sessions (70%).
- Indigenous mothers living in Inner Regional areas were most likely to attend their first antenatal session in their first trimester (58%) and Indigenous mothers living in Very Remote areas were least likely to attend their first antenatal session in their first trimester (35%).
- Indigenous mothers were less likely than non-Indigenous mothers to attend five or more antenatal sessions in all remoteness categories except for Very Remote areas where proportions were similar.
- Indigenous mothers were less likely than non-Indigenous mothers to attend their first antenatal session in their first trimester of pregnancy and more likely to attend their first antenatal session in their third trimester of pregnancy across all remoteness categories.

Table 3.01.2: Use of antenatal services by mothers, by remoteness and Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, SA and NT, 2005 combined ^{(a)(b)(c)}

	Major Cities		Inner Regional		Outer Regional		Sub-total Non-remote		Remote		Very Remote		Sub-total remote		Total	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
	Per cent															
Total attended at least one antenatal session	96.0	98.6	97.5	98.9	97.2	99.2	97.0	98.7	94.5	88.0	94.1	87.9	94.2*	88.0*	96.2*	98.5*
Number of sessions attended^(d)																
0	3.9*	0.3*	1.5*	0.2*	2.0*	0.1*	2.4*	0.2*	4.2	—	2.4	3.0	3.1*	0.6*	2.6*	0.2*
1	4.4*	0.5*	5.2*	0.7*	4.7*	0.7*	4.7*	0.6*	7.0*	0.2*	2.4	0.8	4.1*	0.3*	4.5*	0.6*
2–4	18.2*	4.4*	20.5*	5.4*	20.4*	5.6*	19.9*	4.8*	16.4*	2.8*	13.9*	4.5*	14.9*	3.2*	18.2*	4.8*
5+	71.8*	92.4*	71.2*	91.8*	72.4*	92.9*	72.0*	92.4*	69.6*	80.9*	77.8	79.7	74.6*	80.7*	72.7*	92.1*
No sessions not stated	1.7	2.4	1.6	1.9	0.6	0.7	1.1*	2.0*	2.9*	16.0*	3.5*	12.0*	3.3*	15.2*	1.9*	2.4*
Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit^(e)																
First trimester (<13 weeks)	38.2*	57.2*	58.4*	71.1*	51.1*	71.4*	50.2*	62.0*	49.1*	71.5*	34.7*	59.2*	39.9*	68.7*	46.3*	62.2*
Second trimester (13 to <20 weeks)	33.7	30.1	18.3	19.3	19.2	17.8	22.8*	26.2*	18.5	18.6	20.8	23.5	19.9	19.7	21.7*	26.0*
Third trimester (20 or more weeks)	26.1*	12.2*	21.3*	9.2*	25.1*	9.5*	24.0*	11.2*	27.2*	8.5*	36.6*	15.0*	33.2*	9.9*	27.5*	11.2*
Gestation not stated	—	—	—	—	1.3*	0.6*	0.5*	0.1*	2.8*	1.3*	2.8	1.0	2.8*	1.2*	1.3*	0.1*
Total women who gave birth^(a)	1,481	98,855	1,498	36,131	2,381	18,742	5,360	153,728	850	2,120	1,093	531	1,943	2,651	7,390	157,159

*Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons at the p < 0.05 level.

(a) Indigenous and non-Indigenous data exclude births where the mother's Indigenous status is not stated.

(b) Jurisdiction-level data are based on place where birth occurred, not place of usual residence. Cross-border issues need to be considered here, e.g. a high proportion of births in ACT hospitals are for NSW mothers.

(c) Data not available from Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania.

(d) Data for Qld, SA and NT only. Data not collected in NSW.

(e) Data for NSW and NT only. Data not collected in Qld or SA.

Source: AIHW analysis of state/territory perinatal collections.

Use of antenatal care services and birth outcomes

Tables 3.01.3, 3.01.4 and 3.01.5 present information on babies with specific birth outcomes by the number of antenatal sessions the mother attended and duration of pregnancy at first visit. Table 3.01.3a and 3.01.3b presents information on birthweight, Table 3.01.4a and 3.01.4b presents information on pre-term (less than 37 weeks gestation) and non pre-term births and Table 3.01.5a and Table 3.01.5b presents information on perinatal deaths.

- In 2005, in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined, the proportion of live births to Indigenous mothers that were of low birthweight was much higher among mothers who attended no antenatal sessions than among mothers who attended at least one antenatal session (13% compared with 39%). (Table 3.01.3b).
- In Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined, the proportion of live births to Indigenous mothers that were of low birthweight was higher among mothers who attended no antenatal sessions or one antenatal session (42% and 29%, respectively) than among mothers who attended five or more antenatal sessions (10%) (Table 3.01.3b).
- In New South Wales and the Northern Territory combined, a slightly lower proportion of live births to Indigenous mothers that were of low birthweight were born to mothers who attended their first antenatal session in the first trimester of pregnancy (12%) than mothers who attended their first antenatal session in their second or third trimester of pregnancy (13%) (Table 3.01.3b).
- Similar patterns to those described above were evident for births to Indigenous mothers that were pre-term (Table 3.01.4b).
- The proportion of babies born to Indigenous mothers that died in the perinatal period (the perinatal period commences at 20 completed weeks, or 140 days, of gestation and ends 28 completed days after birth) was much higher for mothers who attended no antenatal sessions compared with mothers who attended five or more antenatal sessions (13% compared with 0.5%) (Table 3.01.5b).

Table 3.01.3a: Low birthweight babies, by use of antenatal services by mothers and Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, SA and NT combined, 2005^{(a)(b)(c)}

	Low birthweight			Non-low birthweight			Total live births		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Attended at least one antenatal session	89.4	95.3	0.9	97.4	98.8	1.0	96.3	98.5	1.0
Number of sessions attended^(d)									
0	7.4	1.0	7.3*	1.7	0.2	9.6*	2.5	0.2	10.7*
1	9.2	2.2	4.1*	3.7	0.4	9.5*	4.5	0.5	8.6*
2-4	25.7	14.0	1.8*	16.6	3.9	4.3*	17.8	4.6	3.9*
5+	52.5	76.6	0.7*	76.8	93.4	0.8*	73.4	92.3	0.8*
Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit^(e)									
First trimester (<13 weeks)	40.5	58.4	0.7*	47.3	62.6	0.8*	46.4	62.3	0.7*
Second trimester (13 to <20 weeks)	21.7	25.5	0.9	21.8	26.0	0.8*	21.8	26.0	0.8*
Third trimester (20 or more weeks)	26.0	13.6	1.9*	27.8	11.0	2.5*	27.6	11.1	2.5*

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons at the p < 0.05 level.

(a) Indigenous and non-Indigenous data exclude births where the mother's Indigenous status is not stated.

(b) Jurisdiction-level data are based on place where birth occurred, not place of usual residence. Cross-border issues need to be considered here, e.g. a high proportion of births in ACT hospitals are for NSW mothers.

(c) Data not available from Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania.

(d) Data for Qld, SA and NT only. Data not collected in NSW.

(e) Data for NSW and NT only. Data not collected in Qld or SA.

Source: AIHW analysis of state/territory perinatal collections.

Table 3.01.3b: Low birthweight babies by use of antenatal services by mothers and Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, SA and NT combined, 2005^{(a)(b)(c)}

	Low birthweight			Non-low birthweight			Total live births		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Attended at least one antenatal session	12.6	6.3	2.0*	87.4	93.7	0.9*	100.0	100.0	..
Attended no antenatal sessions	39.1	20.7	1.9*	60.9	79.3	0.8*	100.0	100.0	..
Number of sessions attended^(d)									
0	42.1	30.3	1.4	57.9	69.7	0.8	100.0	100.0	..
1	28.8	29.7	1.0	71.2	70.3	1.0	100.0	100.0	..
2–4	20.2	21.2	1.0	79.8	78.8	1.0	100.0	100.0	..
5+	10.0	5.7	1.7*	90.0	94.3	1.0	100.0	100.0	..
Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit^(e)									
First trimester (<13 weeks)	11.7	5.8	2.0*	88.3	94.2	0.9*	100.0	100.0	..
Second trimester (13 to <20 weeks)	13.4	6.0	2.2*	86.6	94.0	0.9*	100.0	100.0	..
Third trimester (20 or more weeks)	12.6	7.5	1.7*	87.4	92.5	0.9	100.0	100.0	..

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons at the $p < 0.05$ level.

(a) Indigenous and non-Indigenous data exclude births where the mother's Indigenous status is not stated.

(b) Jurisdiction-level data are based on place where birth occurred, not place of usual residence. Cross-border issues need to be considered here, e.g. a high proportion of births in ACT hospitals are for NSW mothers.

(c) Data not available from Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania.

(d) Data for Qld, SA and NT only. Data not collected in NSW.

(e) Data for NSW and NT only. Data not collected in Qld or SA.

Source: AIHW analysis of state/territory perinatal collections.

Table 3.01.4a: Pre-term babies by use of antenatal services by mothers, and Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, SA and NT combined, 2005^{(a)(b)(c)}

	Pre-term			Non-pre-term			Total births		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Attended at least one antenatal session	90.1	95.6	0.9	97.1	98.7	1.0	96.1	98.5	1.0
Number of sessions attended^(d)									
0	6.5	0.9	7.2*	2.0	0.2	10.6*	2.6	0.2	10.7*
1	10.2	2.1	4.9*	3.6	0.4	8.4*	4.6	0.6	8.0*
2–4	26.8	12.5	2.1*	16.6	4.0	4.1*	18.1	4.8	3.8*
5+	51.7	78.8	0.7*	76.3	93.2	0.8*	72.7	92.0	0.8*
Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit^(e)									
First trimester (<13 weeks)	40.4	60.8	0.7*	47.2	62.4	0.8*	46.3	62.3	0.7*
Second trimester (13 to <20 weeks)	21.3	24.1	0.9	21.8	26.1	0.8*	21.7	26.0	0.8*
Third trimester (20 or more weeks)	27.2	12.7	2.1*	27.5	11.0	2.5*	27.5	11.1	2.5*

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons at the $p < 0.05$ level.

- (a) Indigenous and non-Indigenous data exclude births where the mother's Indigenous status is not stated.
- (b) Jurisdiction-level data are based on place where birth occurred, not place of usual residence. Cross-border issues need to be considered here, e.g. a high proportion of births in ACT hospitals are for NSW mothers.
- (c) Data not available from Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania.
- (d) Data for Qld, SA and NT only. Data not collected in NSW.
- (e) Data for NSW and NT only. Data not collected in Qld or SA.

Source: AIHW analysis of state/territory Perinatal Collections.

Table 3.01.4b: Pre-term babies by use of antenatal services by mothers, and Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, SA and NT combined, 2005^{(a)(b)(c)}

	Pre-term			Non-pre-term			Total births		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Attended at least one antenatal session	12.8	7.5	1.7*	87.2	92.5	0.9*	100.0	100.0	..
Attended no antenatal sessions	35.3	22.4	1.6*	64.7	77.6	0.8*	100.0	100.0	..
Number of sessions attended^(d)									
0	36.2	31.3	1.2	63.8	68.8	0.9	100.0	100.0	..
1	32.5	30.9	1.1	67.5	69.1	1.0	100.0	100.0	..
2–4	21.5	22.3	1.0	78.5	77.7	1.0	100.0	100.0	..
5+	10.4	7.3	1.4*	89.6	92.7	1.0	100.0	100.0	..
Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit^(e)									
First trimester (<13 weeks)	11.4	6.9	1.6*	88.6	93.1	1.0	100.0	100.0	..
Second trimester (13 to <20 weeks)	12.8	6.6	1.9*	87.2	93.4	0.9	100.0	100.0	..
Third trimester (20 or more weeks)	12.9	8.1	1.6*	87.1	91.9	0.9	100.0	100.0	..

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons at the $p < 0.05$ level.

(a) Indigenous and non-Indigenous data exclude births where the mother's Indigenous status is not stated.

(b) Jurisdiction-level data are based on place where birth occurred, not place of usual residence. Cross-border issues need to be considered here, e.g. a high proportion of births in ACT hospitals are for NSW mothers.

(c) Data not available from Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania.

(d) Data for Qld, SA and NT only. Data not collected in NSW.

(e) Data for NSW and NT only. Data not collected in Qld or SA.

Source: AIHW analysis of state/territory perinatal collections.

Table 3.01.5a: Perinatal deaths, by use of antenatal services by mothers and Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, SA and NT combined, 2005^{(a)(b)(c)}

	Perinatal deaths ^(d)			Non-perinatal deaths			Total births		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Attended at least one antenatal session	80.2	93.4	0.9	96.4	98.5	1.0	96.1	98.5	1.0
Number of sessions attended^(e)									
0	17.0	2.1	8.0*	2.4	0.2	10.4*	2.6	0.2	10.7*
1	13.6	7.0	2.0*	4.4	0.5	8.7*	4.6	0.6	8.0*
2-4	38.6	31.7	1.2	17.8	4.5	4.0*	18.1	4.8	3.8*
5+	20.5	52.8	0.4*	73.6	92.4	0.8*	72.7	92.0	0.8*
Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit^(f)									
First trimester (<13 weeks)	47.4	55.1	0.9	46.3	62.4	0.7*	46.3	62.3	0.7*
Second trimester (13 to <20 weeks)	19.3	26.4	0.7	21.8	26.0	0.8*	21.7	26.0	0.8*
Third trimester (20 or more weeks)	22.8	13.5	1.7	27.6	11.1	2.5*	27.5	11.1	2.5*

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons at the p < 0.05 level.

- (a) Indigenous and non-Indigenous data exclude births where the mother's Indigenous status is not stated.
- (b) Jurisdiction-level data are based on place where birth occurred, not place of usual residence. Cross-border issues need to be considered here, e.g. a high proportion of births in ACT hospitals are for NSW mothers.
- (c) Data not available from Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania.
- (d) Perinatal deaths data for NT only includes stillbirths.
- (e) Data for Qld, SA and NT only. Data not collected in NSW.
- (f) Data for NSW and NT only. Data not collected in Qld or SA.

Source: AIHW analysis of state/territory perinatal collections.

Table 3.01.5b: Perinatal deaths, by use of antenatal services by mothers and Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, SA and NT combined, 2005^{(a)(b)(c)}

	Perinatal deaths ^(d)			Non-perinatal deaths			Total births		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Attended at least one antenatal session	1.4	0.9	1.6*	98.6	99.1	1.0	100.0	100.0	..
Attended no antenatal sessions	8.7	4.0	2.2*	91.3	96.0	1.0	100.0	100.0	..
Number of sessions attended^(e)									
0	13.0	9.3	1.4	88.5	91.5	1.0	100.0	100.0	..
1	5.6	13.5	0.4	94.7	88.1	1.1	100.0	100.0	..
2-4	3.9	6.9	0.6	96.2	93.5	1.0	100.0	100.0	..
5+	0.5	0.6	0.9	99.5	99.4	1.0	100.0	100.0	..
Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit^(f)									
First trimester (<13 weeks)	1.5	0.8	2.0*	98.5	99.2	1.0	100.0	100.0	..
Second trimester (13 to <20 weeks)	1.3	0.9	1.5	98.7	99.1	1.0	100.0	100.0	..
Third trimester (20 or more weeks)	1.2	1.0	1.2	98.8	99.0	1.0	100.0	100.0	..

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons at the $p < 0.05$ level.

- (a) Indigenous and non-Indigenous data exclude births where the mother's Indigenous status is not stated.
- (b) Jurisdiction-level data are based on place where birth occurred, not place of usual residence. Cross-border issues need to be considered here, e.g. a high proportion of births in ACT hospitals are for NSW mothers.
- (c) Data not available from Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania.
- (d) Perinatal deaths data for NT only includes stillbirths.
- (e) Data for Qld, SA and NT only. Data not collected in NSW.
- (f) Data for NSW and NT only. Data not collected in Qld or SA.

Source: AIHW analysis of state/territory perinatal collections.

Time series analyses

Data on the antenatal care used by Indigenous mothers are available for 1998–2005 for New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland, 1998–2003 for the Australian Capital Territory and 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2005 for the Northern Territory.

- Over the period 1998–2005, in New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia combined there was a significant increase in the rate at which Indigenous mothers attended at least one antenatal care session during pregnancy. The fitted trend implies an average annual increase in the rate of around three mothers per 1,000 which is equivalent to a 2% increase in the rate over the period. Over the same period, there was also a significant increase in the rate at which non-Indigenous mothers attended at least one antenatal care session during pregnancy (2% increase) (Table 3.01.6; Figure 3.01.2).
- In New South Wales, over the period 1998–2005, there was a significant increase in the rate at which Indigenous mothers attended at least one antenatal care session during pregnancy. The fitted trend implies an average annual increase in the rate of around 4.5 per 1,000 which is equivalent to a 3.4% increase in the rate over the period. Over the same period, there was also a significant increase in the rate at which non-Indigenous mothers attended at least one antenatal care session during pregnancy (0.9% increase) (Table 3.01.6; Figure 3.01.1).
- In Queensland, over the period 1998–2005, there were no significant changes in the rates at which Indigenous mothers or non-Indigenous mothers attended at least one antenatal care session during pregnancy.
- In South Australia, over the period 1998–2005, there was a significant increase in the rate at which Indigenous mothers attended at least one antenatal care session during pregnancy. The fitted trend implies an average annual increase in the rate of around 18 per 1,000, which is equivalent to an 18.1% increase in the rate over the period. Over the same period, there was also a significant increase in the rate at which non-Indigenous mothers attended at least one antenatal care session during pregnancy (12.7% increase).
- In the Australian Capital Territory over the period 1998–2003, there were apparent declines in the rate at which Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers attended at least one antenatal care session during pregnancy. However, these declines were not statistically significant. Most of this decline is attributable to a high proportion of ‘missing’ responses recorded in 2003. It should also be noted that between 1998 and 2003 in the Australian Capital Territory, 10–15% of mothers who gave birth in the Territory were non-residents.
- In the Northern Territory, data were provided for 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2005. This was because a system error occurred in 1998, 1999 and 2002, when a large number of women had birthing records created with no antenatal data attached.
- There were no significant changes in the rate ratio between Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers who attended at least one antenatal care session in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia or the Australian Capital Territory for the periods under study.

Table 3.01.6: Mothers who attended at least one antenatal care session, by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, SA, ACT and NT, 1998–2005^{(a)(b)}

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Annual change ^(c)	% change ^(d)
Number										
NSW										
Indigenous	1,909	1,947	1,968	1,980	2,008	2,073	2,191	2,415	..	..
Non-Indigenous	81,536	83,103	83,543	81,560	81,683	82,441	81,490	86,128	..	..
Qld										
Indigenous	2,657	2,783	2,735	2,636	2,644	2,808	2,696	2,986	..	..
Non-Indigenous	44,559	44,998	45,443	45,977	45,451	46,485	47,107	51,108	..	..
SA										
Indigenous	289	325	307	296	331	355	385	405	..	..
Non-Indigenous	14,418	15,160	14,588	14,920	14,976	15,333	15,446	15,724	..	..
NSW, Qld and SA combined										
Indigenous	4,855	5,055	5,010	4,912	4,983	5,236	5,272	5,806	..	..
Non-Indigenous	140,513	143,261	143,574	142,457	142,110	144,259	144,043	152,933	..	..
ACT^(e)										
Indigenous	56	56	53	51	69	67	n.p.	n.p.	..	..
Non-Indigenous	4,490	4,442	4,549	4,305	4,453	4,088	n.p.	n.p.	..	..
NT^(f)										
Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	1,252	1,421	n.p.	1,344	1,269	1,321	..	..
Non-Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	2,145	2,209	n.p.	2,204	2,095	2,257	..	..
Number per 1,000^(g)										
NSW										
Indigenous	934.4	945.6	934.9	938.4	931.8	959.3	949.3	976.2	4.5*	3.4
Non-Indigenous	984.9	990.5	990.9	991.9	991.5	995.3	994.4	994.9	1.2*	0.9
Qld										
Indigenous	972.9	976.8	976.4	978.8	971.7	981.8	974.3	973.0	—	—
Non-Indigenous	996.6	995.7	994.1	995.0	996.9	996.6	996.3	996.4	0.1	0.1
SA										
Indigenous	694.7	727.1	688.3	741.9	743.8	758.5	795.5	831.6	18.0*	18.1
Non-Indigenous	800.8	852.4	851.5	876.2	882.2	899.3	922.4	903.2	14.5*	12.7
NSW, Qld and SA combined										
Indigenous	935.5	944.0	936.1	944.3	936.5	953.9	948.4	962.9	3.1*	2.3
Non-Indigenous	965.7	975.4	975.7	979.4	980.4	984.5	986.8	985.1	2.6*	1.9
ACT^{(e)(h)}										
Indigenous	933.3	949.2	1,000.0	980.8	958.3	837.5	n.p.	n.p.	-13.5	-7.2
Non-Indigenous	998.0	999.1	998.9	997.7	999.3	874.1	n.p.	n.p.	-17.7	-8.9

(continued)

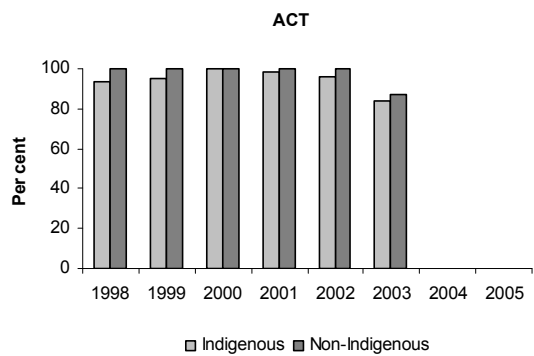
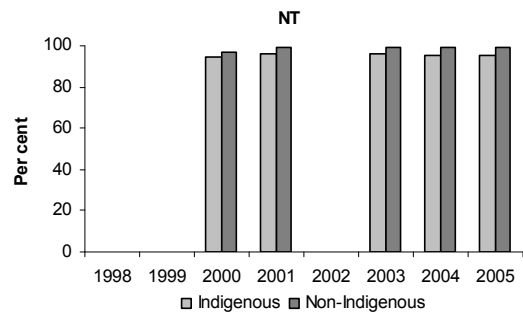
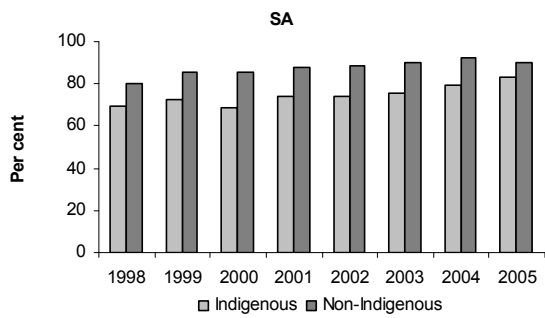
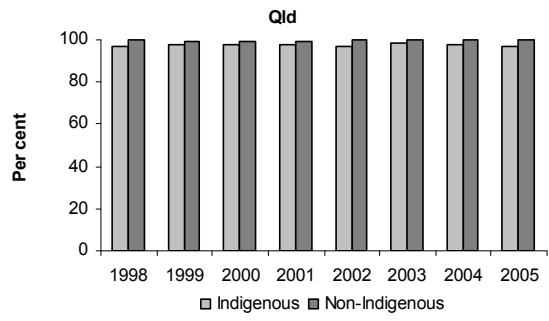
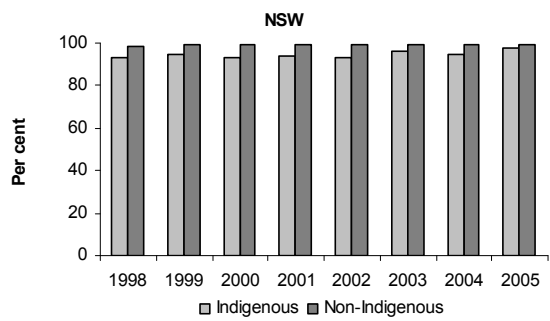
Table 3.01.6 (continued): Mothers who attended at least one antenatal care session, by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, SA, ACT and NT, 1998–2005^{(a)(b)}

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Annual change ^(c)	% change ^(d)
Number per 1,000^(g)										
NT^(f)										
Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	946.3	959.5	n.p.	962.8	952.7	953.8	n.p.	n.p.
Non-Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	968.0	988.4	n.p.	991.9	994.8	996.0	n.p.	n.p.
Rate ratio⁽ⁱ⁾										
NSW	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	—	2.5
Qld	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	—	–0.1
SA	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	—	–0.3
NSW, Qld and SA combined	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	—	0.4
ACT ^{(e)(h)}	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	n.p.	n.p.	—	1.9
NT ^(f)	n.p.	n.p.	1.0	1.0	n.p.	1.0	1.0	1.0	n.p.	n.p.

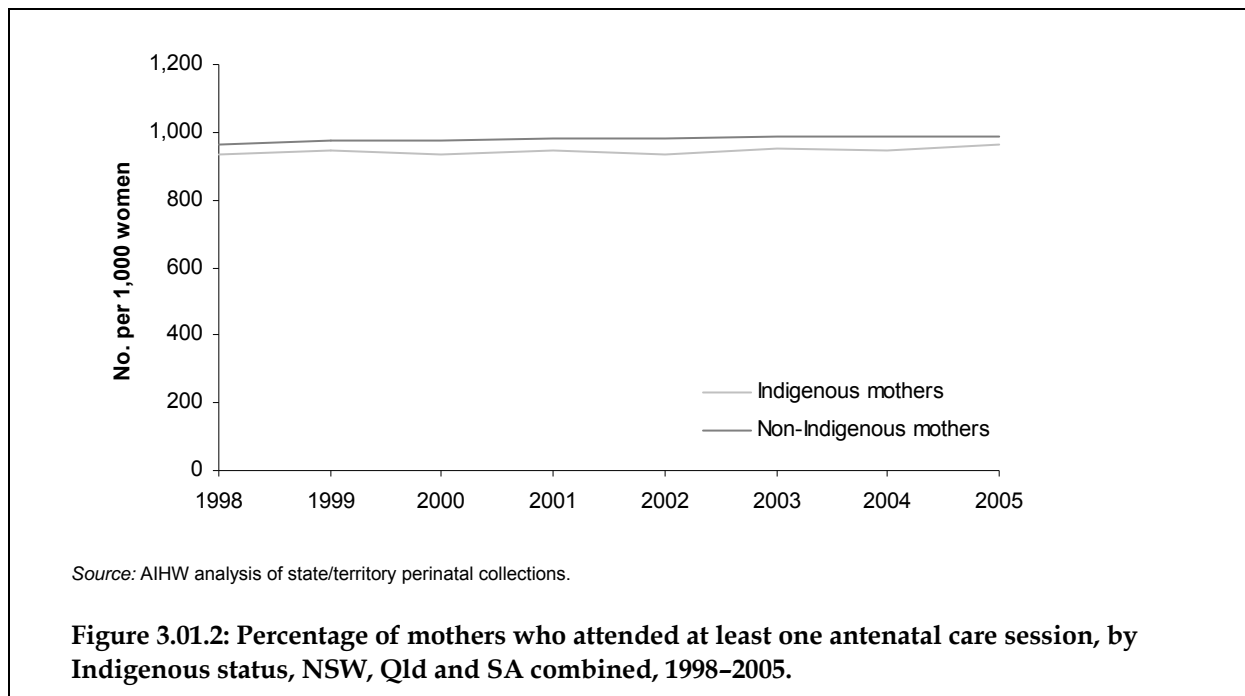
* Represents results with statistically significant increases or declines at the $p < 0.05$ level over the period 1998–2005

- (a) Indigenous and non-Indigenous data exclude births where the mother's Indigenous status is not stated.
- (b) Jurisdiction-level data are based on place where birth occurred, not place of usual residence. Data not available from Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania.
- (c) Average annual change in rates and rate ratios determined using linear regression analysis.
- (d) Per cent change between 1998 and 2005 based on the average annual change over the period.
- (e) A high proportion of births in ACT hospitals are for non-ACT mothers (10–15%).
- (f) In the NT in 1998, 1999 and 2002, a system error occurred where a large number of women had birthing records created with no antenatal data attached.
- (g) Number per 1,000 women who gave birth in the period, whether resulting in a live or still birth, if the birthweight is at least 400 grams or the gestational age was 20 weeks or more.
- (h) ACT average annual change in rates and rate ratios and per cent change based on the period 1998 to 2003.
- (i) Rate ratio—Indigenous: non-Indigenous.

Source: AIHW analysis of state/territory perinatal collections.



ended at least one antenatal care sessions, by NT, 1998–2005.



Additional information

Information on the antenatal care of mothers who attended services funded through the Healthy for Life Program is available from the AIHW Healthy for Life data collection.

- In 2006-07, 16 Indigenous primary health-care services which were part of the Healthy for Life Program provided data on antenatal care. Of the 498 Indigenous mothers who gave birth who were regular clients of these services, 41% attended their first antenatal visit before 13 weeks of pregnancy and 31% attended an antenatal visit before 20 weeks of pregnancy (Table 3.01.7).
- Of the Indigenous women who gave birth in the reporting period, a higher proportion of mothers from urban areas attended their first antenatal visit in their first trimester of pregnancy (before 13 weeks) than mothers in regional or remote areas (59% compared with 24% and 43%, respectively) (Table 3.01.7).
- The proportions of Indigenous mothers who attended their first antenatal visit before 20 weeks were 83% in urban areas, 71% in regional areas and 69% in remote areas.

Table 3.01.7: Number and proportion of Indigenous women^(a) who gave birth in the current reporting period who attended an antenatal visit, by timing of first antenatal visit, by remoteness, 2006–07

Timing of first antenatal visit	Urban	Regional	Remote	Total
Number of women who attended an antenatal visit				
Before 13 weeks	34	23	146	203
Between 13 and 20 weeks ^(b)	14	47	91	152
<i>Before 20 weeks</i>	48	70	237	355
Total number of women who gave birth				
	58	98	342	498
Proportion of women who attended an antenatal visit (%)				
Before 13 weeks	59	24	43	41
Between 13 and 20 weeks ^(b)	24	48	27	31
<i>Before 20 weeks</i>	83	71	69	71

(a) Women who are regular clients of HFL services.

(b) Includes antenatal visits at 13 weeks or after, but before 20 weeks of pregnancy.

Notes

1. Data were provided by 16 services.

2. Remoteness was determined using the HFL Services Remoteness Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia 13 November 2007.

Source: AIHW, Healthy for Life data collection.

Data quality issues

Antenatal care data

All jurisdictions record self-reported information on some aspects of antenatal health status. The inventory of antenatal medical conditions reported on varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and they are not comparable.

The current situation with regard to information on antenatal care visits is as follows:

Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia do not collect such information in their perinatal collections.

The Australian Capital Territory, Queensland and South Australia collect data on the number of antenatal care visits during pregnancy and the type of health-care professional consulted. However, the categories for the latter are not comparable.

New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory record the duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit.

The Northern Territory has experienced IT problems which make reporting difficult (personal communication), and data suffers from under-recording in Aboriginal communities.

Only the Australian Capital Territory reports on all the aspects of routine antenatal care which, ideally, should be assessed in this context.

All jurisdictions are working towards improving the quality of the Indigenous status data.

Healthy For Life data

For the January to June 2007 reporting period, 59 services submitted data as part of the Healthy For Life Program. Not all of these services were able to provide data for all of the essential indicators and service profile questions.