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Australia's mothers and babies 1996

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Preface

This is the seventh report in the Perinatal Statistics series and the sixth *Australia's Mothers and Babies* report. The report shows that Australia's mothers and babies continue to have a good perinatal health status overall. For the 7,280 Indigenous mothers and their babies poorer health outcomes persist with a higher proportion of teenage mothers, a lower mean birthweight and a fetal death rate almost twice the rate of the non-Indigenous population. The proportion of teenage mothers remained steady but older mothers aged 35 years and over continued to increase.

The 1996 report has a new cover and some layout changes but essentially follows the same format as previous *Australia's Mothers and Babies* reports. For the first time, selected sections and tables from the report will be available on the National Perinatal Statistics Unit's homepage at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/npsu>.

This report presents national data on mothers and their babies born in 1996, as notified to the State and Territory perinatal collections, in conjunction with data on perinatal deaths registered in 1996 from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Perinatal data were available from all States and Territories except Tasmania. Throughout the report, Tasmanian data for 1995 has been used in order to present national estimates. This decision was necessary to allow the report to be ready for publication in early 1999.

Data on registration of perinatal deaths from the Australian Bureau of Statistics have been augmented for the first time by analysis of the causes of perinatal deaths using a modified Whitfield classification. These data were available for Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania. The Whitfield classification allows specification of various antecedent maternal conditions, pregnancy complications and fetal abnormalities thereby providing more information about the death and its preventability. The aim of presenting State data based on the Whitfield classification system is to look at the potential utility of this classification.

The 'Explanatory notes' section of the report has been expanded and moved to the end of the report.

The information in this report can be used for planning purposes, and to support the development of public health and evidence-based strategies directed at reducing the burden of preventable mortality and morbidity of Australia's mothers and babies.

Paul Lancaster

Director

AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit

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Abbreviations

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

Highlights

- In 1996, 257,092 babies born to 253,413 mothers were notified to perinatal data collections in the States and Territories. More mothers had their babies in birth centres than in previous years and home births increased in 1996.
- The average age of all mothers in 1996 was 28.6 years, and 26.6 years for those having their first baby, continuing the upward trend in recent years. There were 13,373 teenage mothers (5.3% of all mothers), of whom 4,230 were aged 17 years or younger.
- Although some women are deferring childbearing, in 1996 only 1 in 13 mothers had their first baby at age 35 years or older. Nearly one in 8 mothers with private health insurance were in this group, compared with only 1 in 20 mothers who did not have private health insurance.
- There were 7,820 Indigenous mothers (3.1% of all mothers), of whom 2,606 gave birth in Queensland, 1,712 in New South Wales, 1,411 in Western Australia, 1,210 in the Northern Territory, with smaller numbers in the other States and the Australian Capital Territory. Their average age was 24.2 years and there was a high proportion of teenage mothers (22.1%).
- The proportion of mothers who were born in a country other than Australia was 23.0% in 1996. Mothers born in Asia increased from 5.1% of all mothers in 1991 to 7.6% in 1996, reflecting the increasing number of confinements of mothers born in countries such as Vietnam (4,576), China (3,269), and the Philippines (2,675).
- Multiple pregnancies accounted for 1.4% of all confinements and included 3,466 twin pregnancies, 97 triplet pregnancies, and 6 higher order pregnancies.
- In 1996, almost 1 in 5 (19.5%) births was by caesarean section. South Australia (23.1%) had the highest caesarean rate in 1996 and New South Wales (17.6%) the lowest. Caesarean rates were higher among older mothers, those having their first baby, and those with private health insurance. Mothers aged 35–39 years who were privately insured and having their first baby had a caesarean rate of 39.9%.
- More mothers had relatively short postnatal stays in hospital in 1996 than in previous years. The proportion who stayed less than 4 days increased from 20.2% in 1991 to 40.3% in 1996. Mothers without private health insurance had shorter postnatal stays than those with private health insurance.
- Low birthweight (less than 2,500 g) occurred in 16,525 (6.4%) infants in 1996. The mean birthweight of infants of Indigenous mothers was 3,140 g, 220 g less than the mean for all births; 12.6% of Indigenous infants had a low birthweight, almost twice the national proportion.
- Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates were 5.5, 3.0 and 8.5 per 1,000 births, respectively, in 1996, slightly higher for fetal and perinatal death rates and slightly lower for neonatal death rates when compared to the previous three years. Rates remain low, having steadily declined for the past two decades. The perinatal death rate of twins was 3.7 times higher, and of other multiple births 8.6 times higher, than the death rate of singleton babies.

- The main causes of perinatal deaths based on the Whitfield classification were spontaneous preterm birth, unexplained intrauterine fetal death, and fetal abnormality. These three groups of causes accounted for at least half of all perinatal deaths in 1996 in the States where data was available (Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania).

1 Introduction

This report has been prepared by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's National Perinatal Statistics Unit in conjunction with the State and Territory Health Departments. The 1996 national data on births is based upon notifications to 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 assist in the planning, implementation and evaluation of 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.

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. In Tasmania, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Tasmania has run the perinatal collection since 1974 and a revised perinatal collection started there in 1995. Each State and Territory provided data in an electronic format to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) National Perinatal Statistics Unit at the University of New South Wales.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) compiles statistics and publishes reports on registrations of live births and perinatal deaths from data made available by the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each State and Territory. Data obtained from ABS and its published reports were used to analyse trends and variations in perinatal deaths in the period from 1973 to 1996.

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. The National Perinatal Data Development Committee, which replaced the National Perinatal Data Advisory Committee in 1998, recommends definitions for perinatal data items to the National Health Data Committee and the National Health Information Management Group. Current definitions are included in the *National Health Data Dictionary Version 7.0* (National Health Data Committee 1998).

1.3 Criteria

Tabulated data in this report are based on births that occurred in each State and Territory in 1996. 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 400 g 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 and Territories 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 checklists 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 (Tables 55-69). Additional tables based on linkage of perinatal deaths to birth records in some States provide information on perinatal mortality by birthweight (Tables 76-82). Cause of perinatal death data for selected States using a modified Whitfield classification system are also presented (Tables 83, 84).

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. Separate reports on congenital malformations are published by the AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit.

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 (Bourne & Kee 1998; Chan et al. 1997; Gee 1996; Marsden 1998; d'Espaignet et al. 1997; Riley & Halliday 1998; Taylor et al. 1998; Queensland Health 1998).

2 Mothers

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, whereas 'births' refer to infants. It is also important to note that Australian totals are estimates as there were no data available for Tasmania for 1996. In order to derive a denominator for Australian totals, individual data items for Tasmania used Tasmanian data for 1995 as an estimate for 1996. Tasmanian confinements made up 3.8% of the total number of confinements in Australia in 1995. The use of the 1995 data will have a minimal impact on the 'true' Australian totals.

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 relate to the State or Territory of occurrence of births rather than to the area of usual residence of the mother.

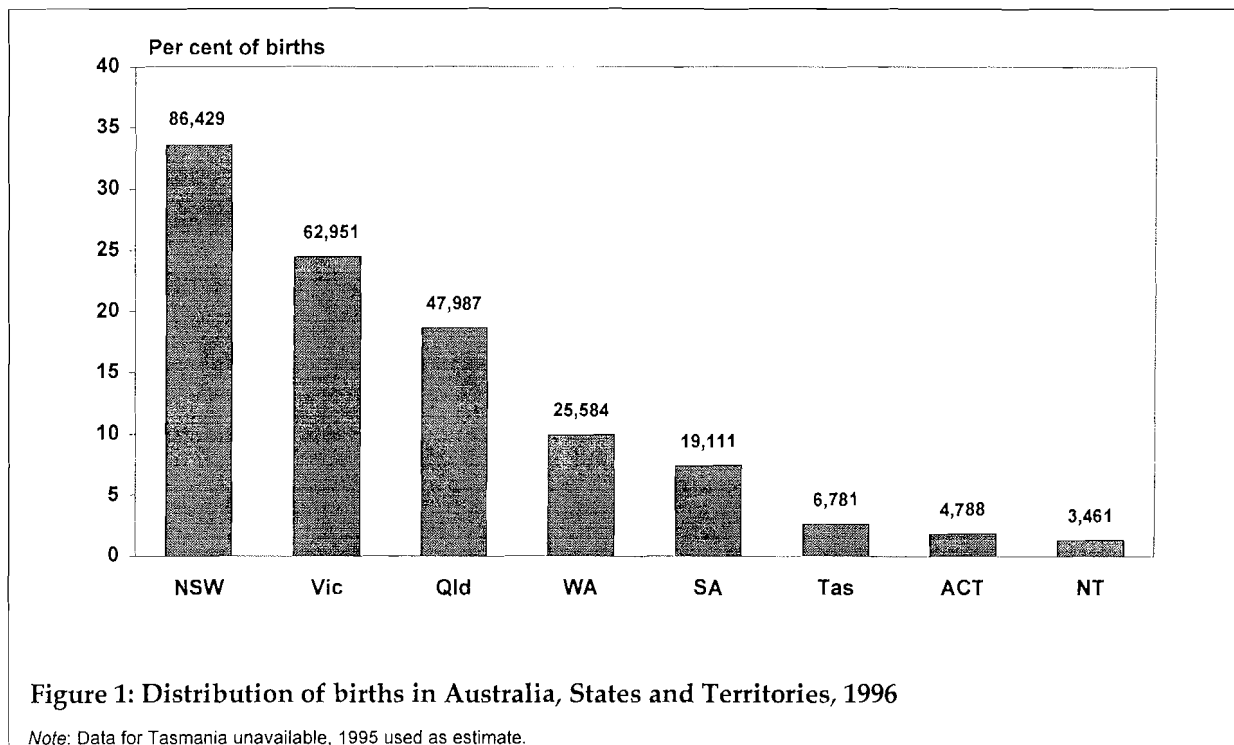
2.2 Confinements and births

There were 253,413 confinements notified to State and Territory perinatal data groups in Australia in 1996, resulting in an estimated total of 257,092 live births and fetal deaths (Table 1). Although birth rates in the States and Territories differ, the distribution of births generally reflects that of the population and of women in the reproductive age group (Figure 1).

To evaluate the completeness of notifications of births in the perinatal collections, these births can be compared with birth registrations by year of occurrence published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS 1998). In the registration system, 251,583 live births occurred in Australia in 1996 (ABS 1998), 3,691 fewer than the estimated 255,274 live births notified to the perinatal collections. As the States and Territories sometimes differ in the conventions used for coding the residence of mothers living interstate, it is not readily possible to compare the numbers in the two data systems by State and Territory. These relatively small differences in the national figures on live births are due to significant delays in the registration of some live births. It is also likely that some home births are not notified to the perinatal collections but are still registered by the parents.

Some States are already linking notifications from the perinatal collections to registrations of births and perinatal deaths. 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 1996 perinatal collections. Birth registrations include information on paternal age, Indigenous status, country of birth and occupation, so enhanced analysis would be possible by linking the two data systems.



2.3 Place of birth

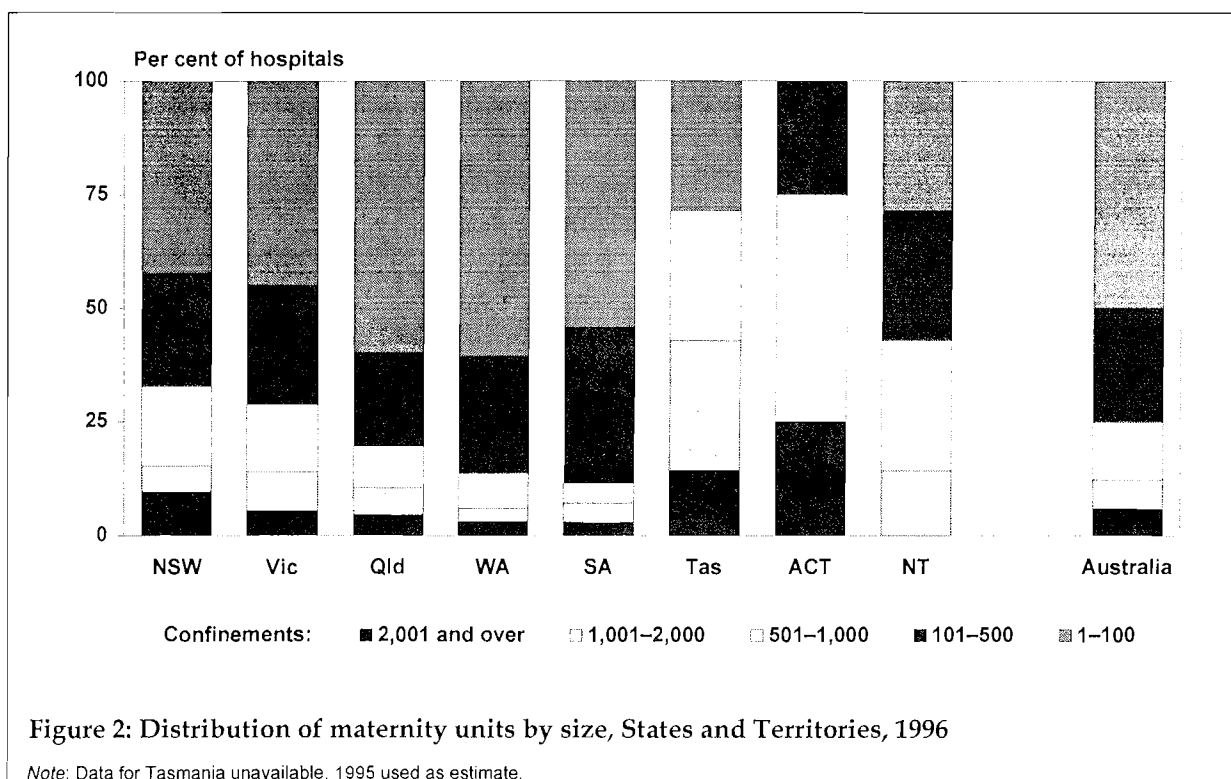
Most births in Australia occur in hospitals, either in conventional labour-ward settings or in hospital birth centres. In 1996, New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory designated birth centres separately on notification forms. There were 4,652 confinements in birth centres in 1996 (Table 2), continuing the rising trend from 2,405 confinements in 1992. In 1996, confinements in birth centres accounted for 2.5% of all confinements in the States and Territories excluding Victoria and Tasmania. 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. In the Northern Territory, the 45 'other' confinements were mainly births in bush clinics.

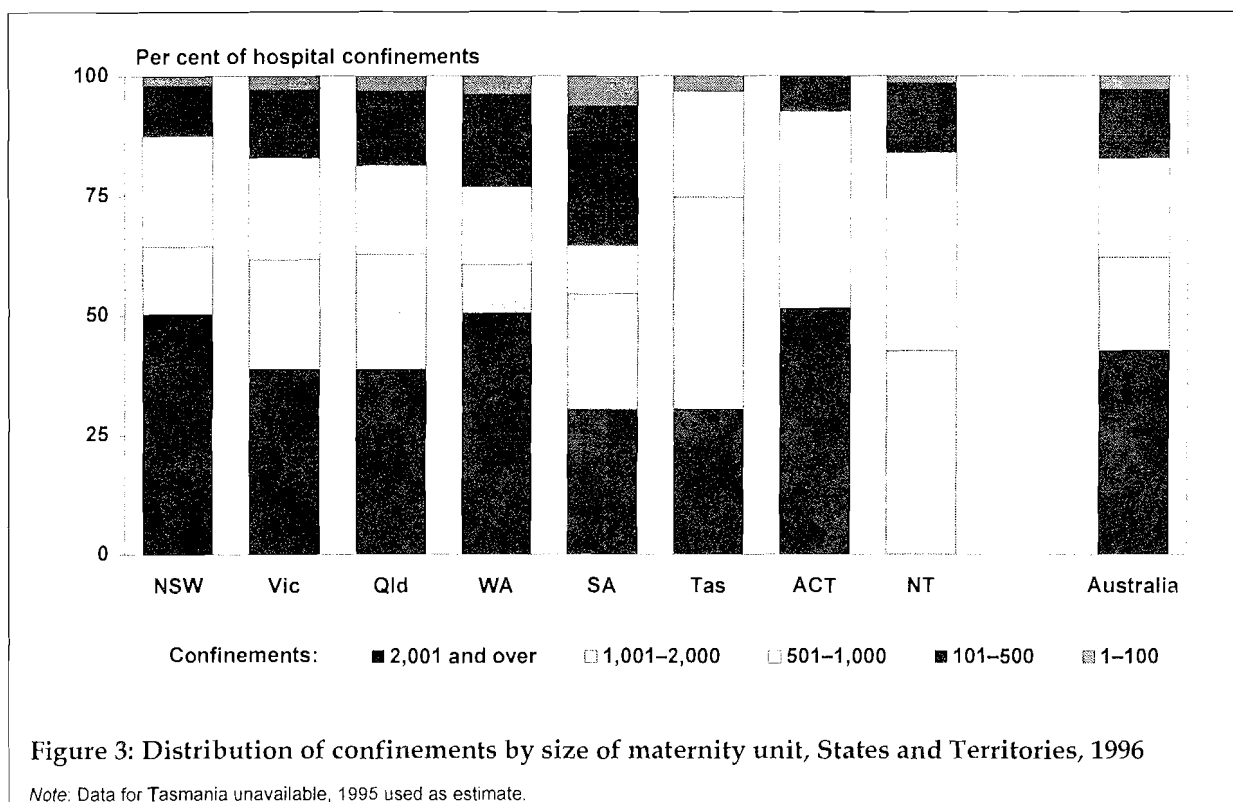
Planned home births are underascertained in some State and Territory perinatal collections. In 1996, 881 planned home births, representing 0.3% of all estimated births, were notified nationally (Table 2).

2.4 Size of maternity unit

The size of maternity units, based on the annual number of confinements, varied from those with just a few births each year to those with more than 2,000 births. The actual number of maternity units in a region depends on its geographical location, the population of the region, and policies regarding maternity services. In 1996 approximately half (49.9%) of the maternity units in Australia had fewer than 100 confinements (Table 3, Figure 2). More than one-third (37.8%) had between 100 and 1,000 confinements, and 12.3% had more than 1,000 confinements.

Although most maternity units are relatively small in size, the majority of hospital confinements (62.0%) occurred in the larger maternity units that had more than 1,000 confinements annually (Table 4, Figure 3). Over two-fifths (42.7%) of hospital confinements were in units with more than 2,000 confinements annually.





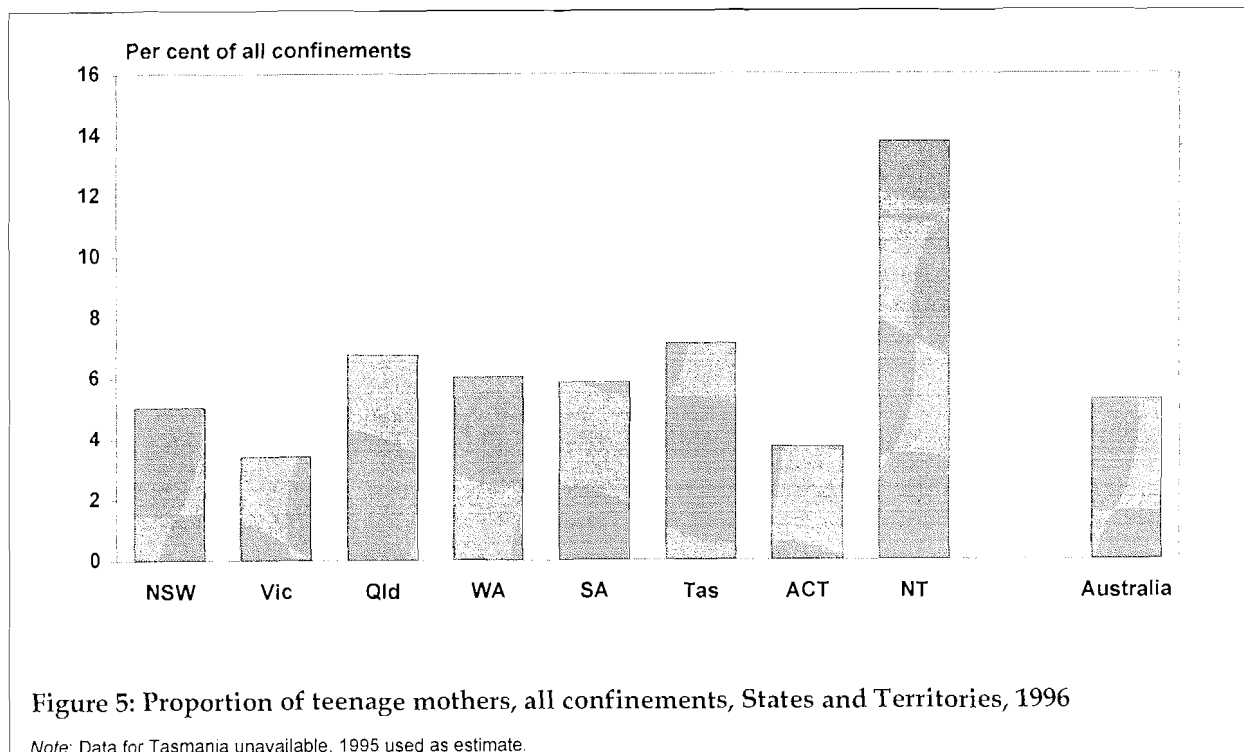
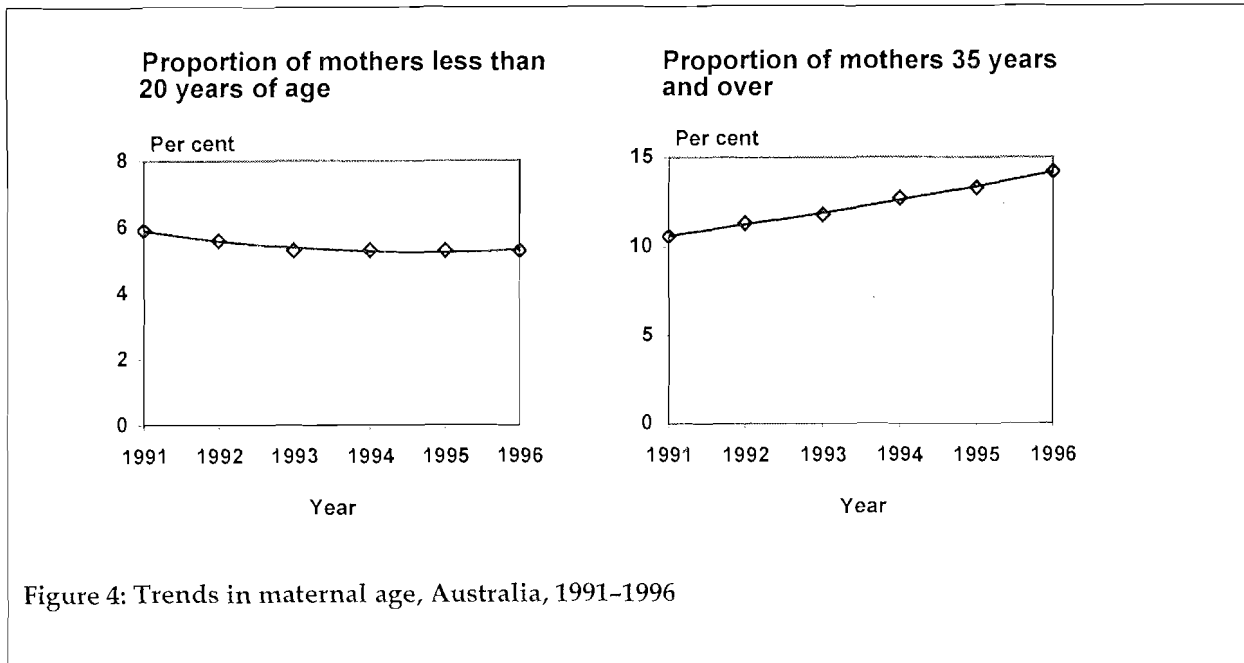
2.5 Maternal age

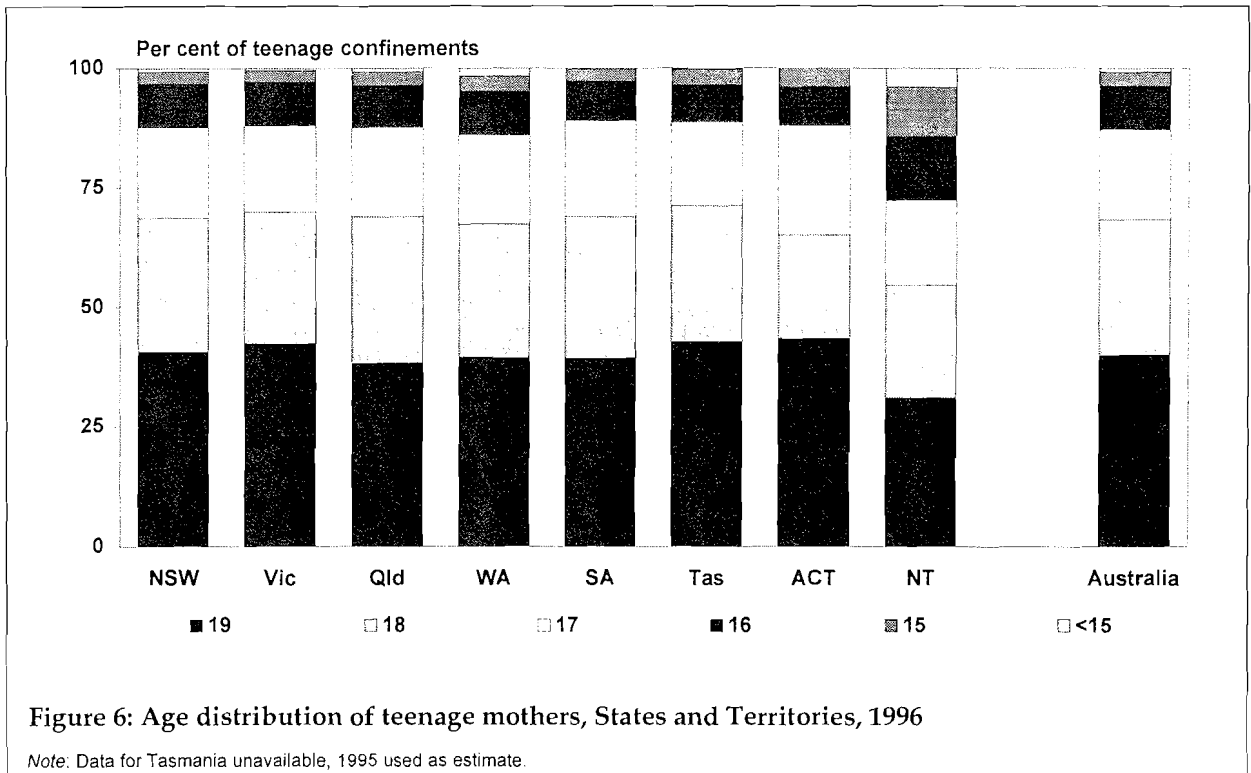
Maternal age is an important risk factor for perinatal outcome. Adverse outcomes are more likely towards each extreme of the reproductive age group. The average age of women giving birth in Australia has increased gradually in recent years. The estimated mean age in 1996 was 28.6 years, continuing the rise from 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. The mean age of mothers having their first baby in 1996 was 26.6 years compared with 25.8 in 1991. The proportion of teenage mothers in 1996 was unchanged from 1995 (5.3%) but older mothers aged 35 years and over continued to increase from 10.6% in 1991 to 14.3% in 1996 (Figure 4).

The actual number of teenage confinements continued to decline from 13,562 in 1995 to 13,373 in 1996. The proportion of teenage confinements was 5.3% nationally and ranged from a low of 3.4% in Victoria to 13.8% in the Northern Territory (Table 5, Figure 5). There were relatively more younger teenage mothers in the Northern Territory (Figure 6).

The national age-specific birth rate for teenagers declined from a peak of 55.5 per 1,000 females in 1971 to a low of 20.1 per 1,000 females in 1996 (ABS 1997c). Birth rates in teenagers varied considerably in 1996 from a low of 12.8 per 1,000 females in Victoria to a high of 78.6 per 1,000 in the Northern Territory. The age-specific birth rate understates teenage pregnancy as it does not include induced abortions of unwanted pregnancies. Only South Australia and the Northern Territory collect population-based data on induced abortions. In South Australia in 1996, there were 1,160 induced abortions among teenagers (Chan et al. 1997) and 1,101 confinements. Based on these South Australian figures it seems likely that there were approximately 27,000 teenage pregnancies nationally in that year. Lack of data on induced abortions in most States and Territories considerably hampers analysis of trends in teenage pregnancies.

The five-year trend of decreasing age-specific birth rates of women aged 20 to 29 years continued in 1996, whereas the rates for women over 35 years were marginally higher (ABS 1997c).





2.6 Maternal parity

Parity is the number of previous pregnancies that resulted in live births or stillbirths. In 1996, 39.7% of mothers were having their first baby and another 33.9% already had one child (Table 6, Figure 7). One in six mothers (16.5%) had given birth twice previously and 9.9% had three or more children. The proportion of mothers who had given birth at least twice previously increased with maternal age from 2.2% for teenagers to 52.1% for mothers aged 40 years and over (Table 7).

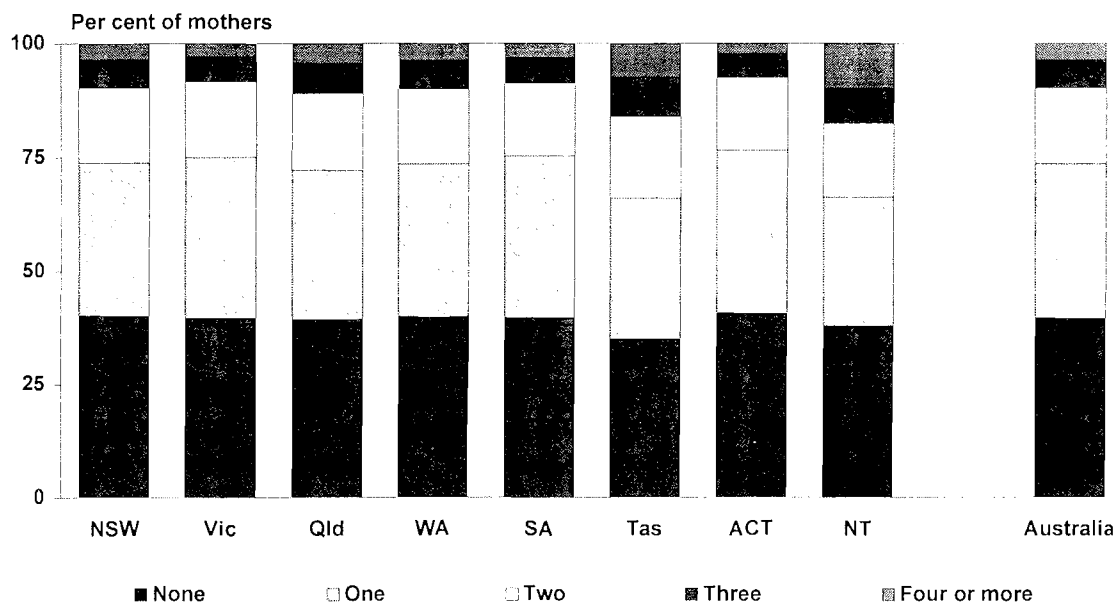


Figure 7: Mother's parity, all confinements, States and Territories, 1996

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 used as estimate.

As indicated in Section 2.5, the average age at which women are having their first baby is gradually increasing. Nevertheless, the majority (70.5%) of these women are aged less than 30 years (Table 7). While the proportion of first-time mothers who are 35 years or older is also increasing, only 1 in 13 (7.6%) of all primiparous women were in this age group.

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 11.4% of all confinements in Australia in 1996 and another 1.2% 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. More than half (55.9%) of all teenage mothers were single, ranging from 89.4% for mothers aged less than 15 years to 45.8% for mothers aged 19 years (Table 9).

2.8 Indigenous status

The National Health Data Dictionary (National Health Data Committee 1998) defines Indigenous status as:

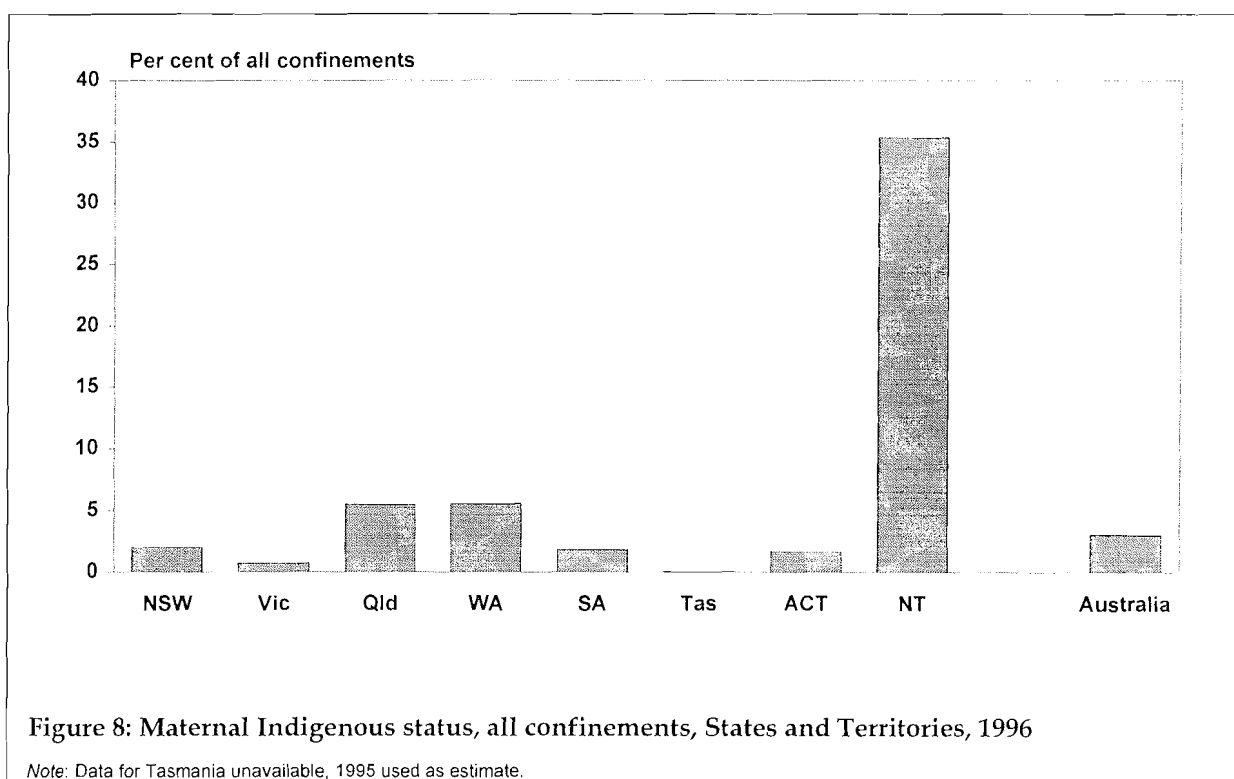
'An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community with which he or she lives.'

All States and Territories except Tasmania have a separate data item on Indigenous status on their perinatal form. Until 1996, confinements of Indigenous mothers in Tasmania were given a specific code if Aboriginality was recorded on the form in the item for maternal

country of birth. Only Queensland records Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women separately. The term 'Indigenous' is used in this report to refer to mothers and babies of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

In 1996, 7,820 Indigenous women gave birth in Australia; this was 3.1% of all confinements (Table 10), slightly higher than the proportion of 2.9% in 1994. Indigenous mothers accounted for a much greater proportion of all confinements in the Northern Territory (35.4%) than elsewhere in Australia (Figure 8). There were also significant proportions of confinements to Indigenous women in Western Australia (5.6%) and Queensland (5.5%). Because of their larger populations, there were actually more confinements of Indigenous mothers in Queensland (2,606), New South Wales (1,712) and Western Australia (1,411) than in the Northern Territory (1,210).

Indigenous mothers are more likely to have their babies at a younger age, and to have more babies, than other mothers (Tables 11, 12). In 1996, their average age was 24.2 years compared with 28.6 years for all confinements. More than one in five (22.1%) Indigenous mothers were teenagers. The proportion of teenagers among Indigenous mothers was higher in the Northern Territory (28.0%) 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 1996, the States and Territories were using the four-digit ABS classification.

A high proportion (23.0%) of women giving birth in Australia in 1996 were born in other countries (Figure 9). Because of the large number of countries, generally only those countries with more than 1,000 confinements are reported separately (Table 13). Mothers born in the

United Kingdom comprised 4.5% of all confinements and accounted for relatively higher proportions of all mothers in Western Australia (10.6%) and South Australia (7.2%). New Zealand-born mothers comprised 2.4% of all confinements. The proportion of mothers who were born in Asia has increased considerably in the last decade, reflecting recent trends in migration to Australia. In 1996, 7.6% of mothers had been born in Asia, compared with 5.2% in 1991. The largest numbers of confinements were to mothers born in Vietnam, China and the Philippines.

Mothers born in countries where English is not the first language are more likely to reside in the more populous States, New South Wales and Victoria (Table 13). This pattern is evident for countries such as Lebanon and several Asian countries, particularly Vietnam, the Philippines and China. Teenage confinements were relatively less common among mothers born in Asian countries excepting the Philippines; however, more of these mothers were aged 35 years and over (Table 14). These variations in geographical distribution and maternal age need to be recognised in planning culturally acceptable maternity and postnatal community health services, including prenatal diagnosis and interpreter services.

Marital status also varies according to the mother's country of birth. A higher proportion of mothers born in Australia, New Zealand and Vietnam was single than those born in most other countries (Table 15, Figure 10).

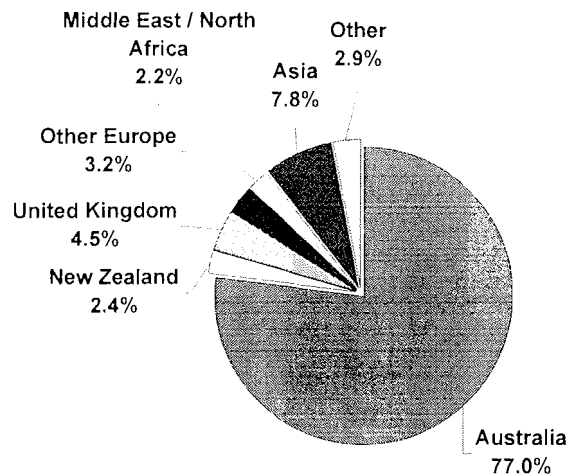


Figure 9: Maternal country of birth, all confinements, Australia, 1996

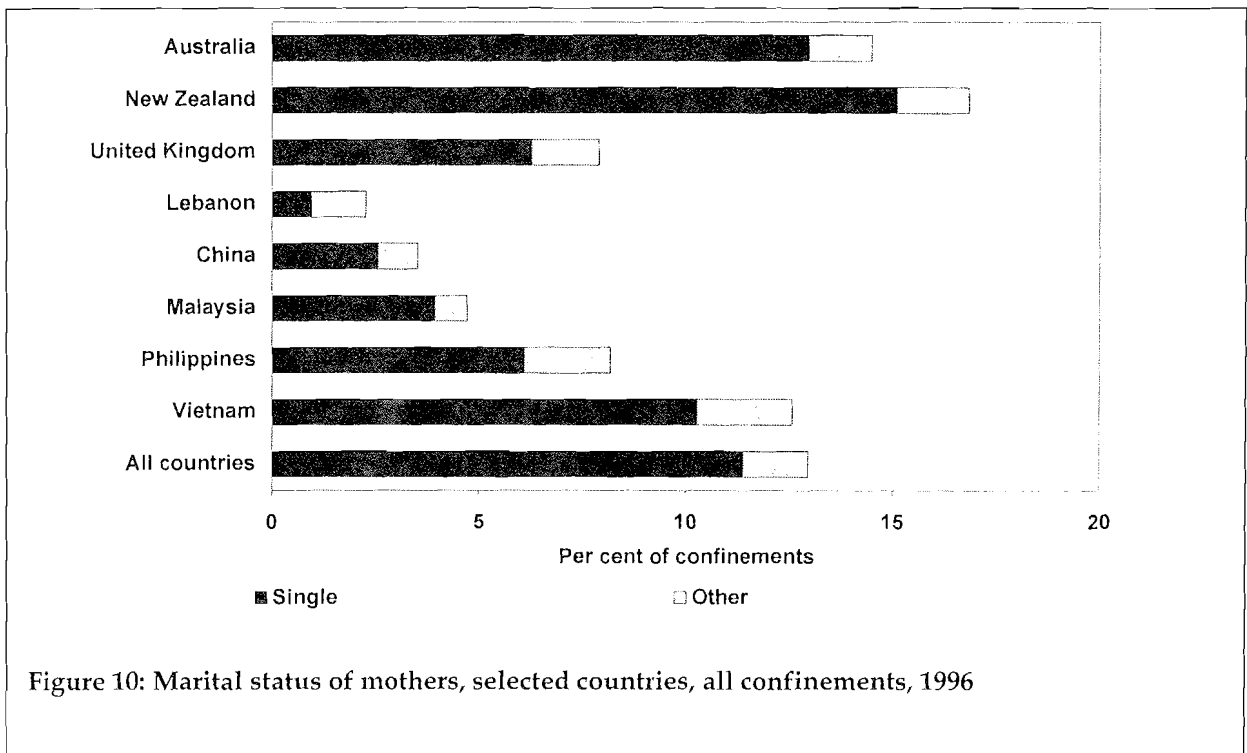
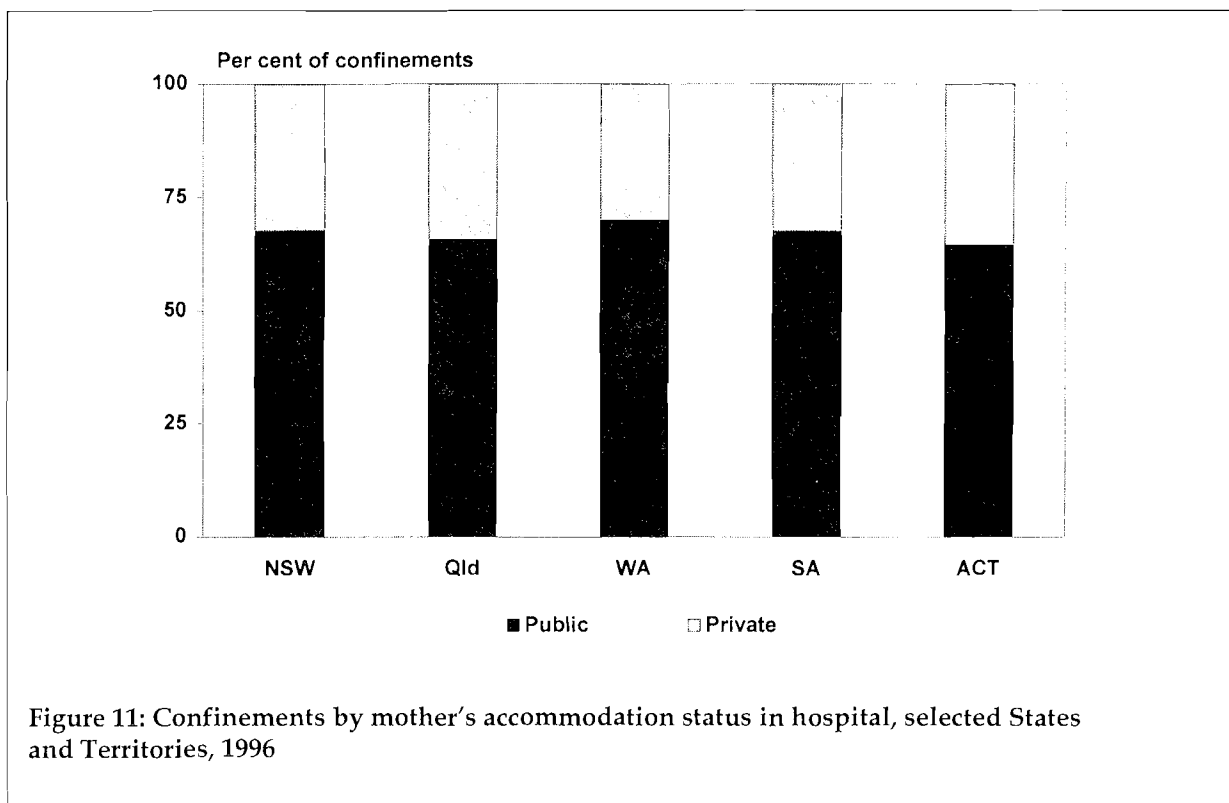


Figure 10: Marital status of mothers, selected countries, all confinements, 1996

2.10 Status in hospital

The proportion of the Australian population with private health insurance declined from about 50.0% in 1984 to 31.6% in December 1997 (AIHW 1998). Patients admitted to hospitals may elect to have public or private status; this is usually determined by whether or not they have private health insurance. Victoria and the Northern Territory did not collect information on health insurance status in hospital in their perinatal collections in 1996 and data for Tasmania were unavailable. The proportion of mothers with private status in hospital in the other States and the Australian Capital Territory was 32.6% and ranged from 30.2% in Western Australia to 35.5% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 16, Figure 11).

The mother's health insurance status can be used as an indicator of socioeconomic status. Excluding confinements in Victoria and Northern Territory where this information was not recorded, and Tasmania being unavailable, mothers who had private status in hospital (11.9%) were more likely than those who had public status (5.1%) to have their first baby at 35 years or older, but clearly the proportion in this age group is still relatively small.



2.11 Duration of pregnancy

Accurate population data on gestational age are difficult to obtain. 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.

Not all States and Territories recorded the date of the last menstrual period in their perinatal collections in 1996, but they have estimates of gestational age based on prenatal or postnatal assessment. As most pregnant women have at least one ultrasound examination during pregnancy, this may provide useful information on gestational age if performed in early pregnancy. The different practices for recording and estimating gestational age in the States and Territories are likely to result in variable estimates of the distribution of gestational age. This should be kept in mind when comparing State and Territory data on gestational age.

Preterm birth (less than 37 completed weeks gestation) occurred in 6.7% of all confinements (Table 17, Figure 12). The average duration of pregnancy in Australia was 39.0 weeks. Mothers gave birth at 20-27 weeks in 0.7% of confinements, at 28-31 weeks in 0.7%, and at 32-36 weeks in 5.3%. There was a higher incidence of preterm birth in the Northern Territory (10.0%) than elsewhere (Figure 13).

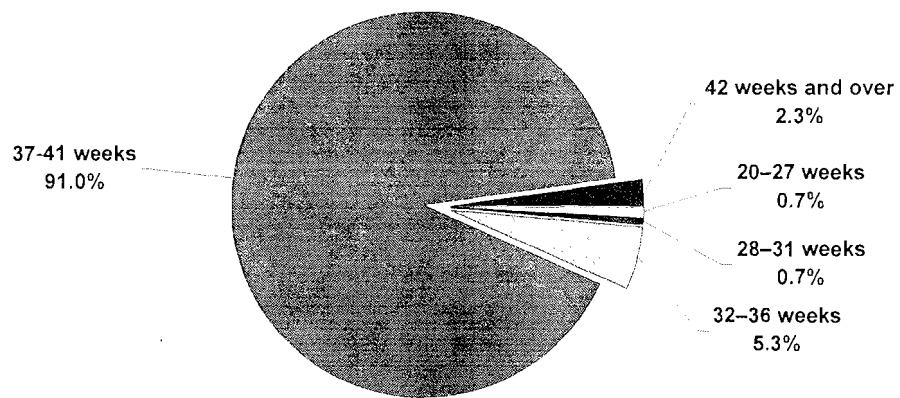


Figure 12: Duration of pregnancy, all confinements, Australia, 1996

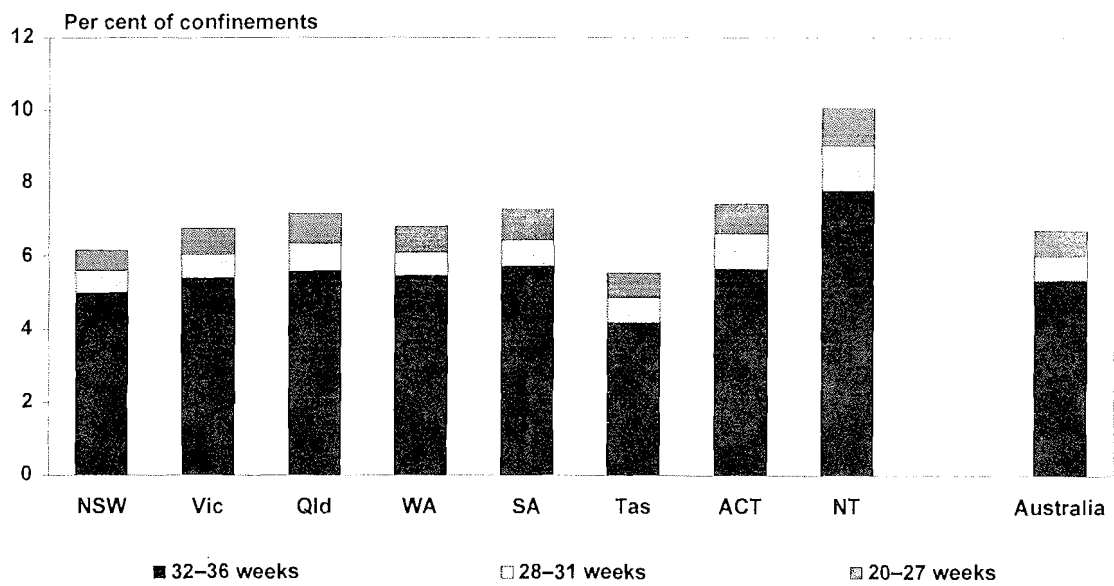


Figure 13: Preterm confinements, States and Territories, 1996

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 used as estimate.

Preterm birth varied with maternal age and was more likely among the youngest and oldest mothers than among those aged 20 to 34 years (Table 18, Figure 14).

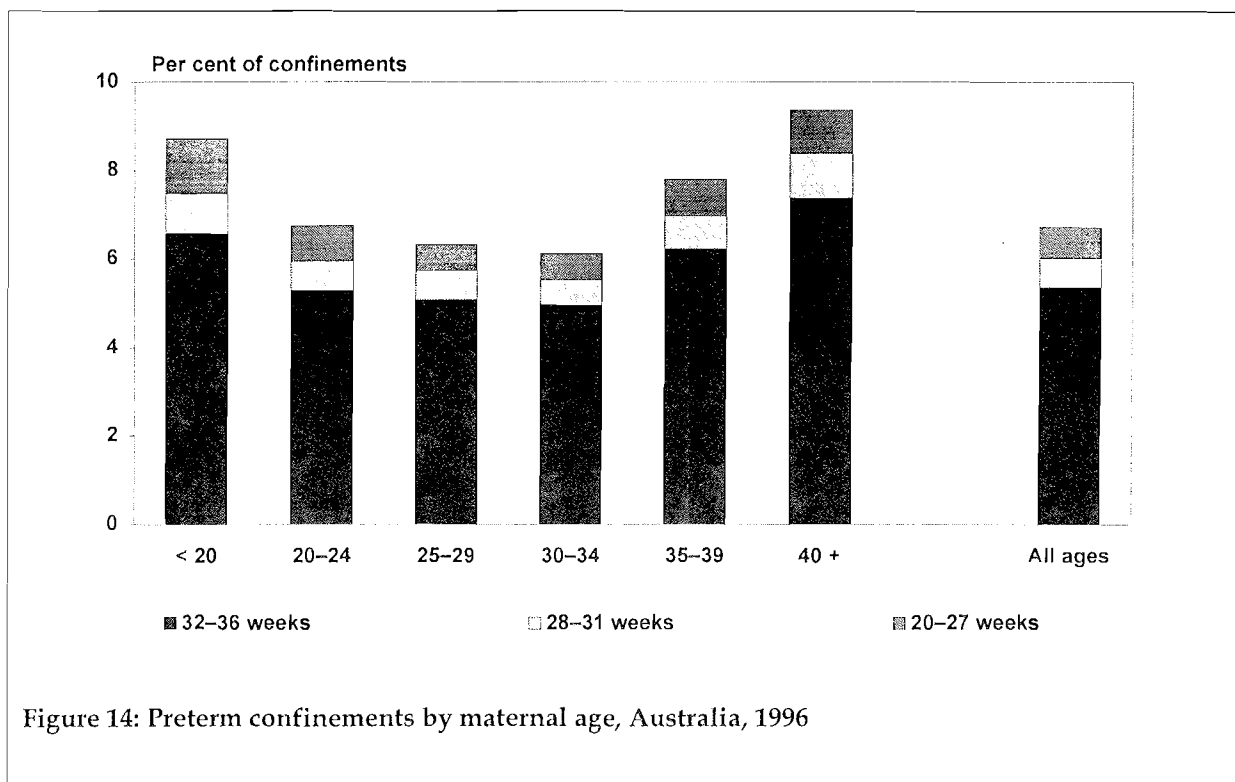
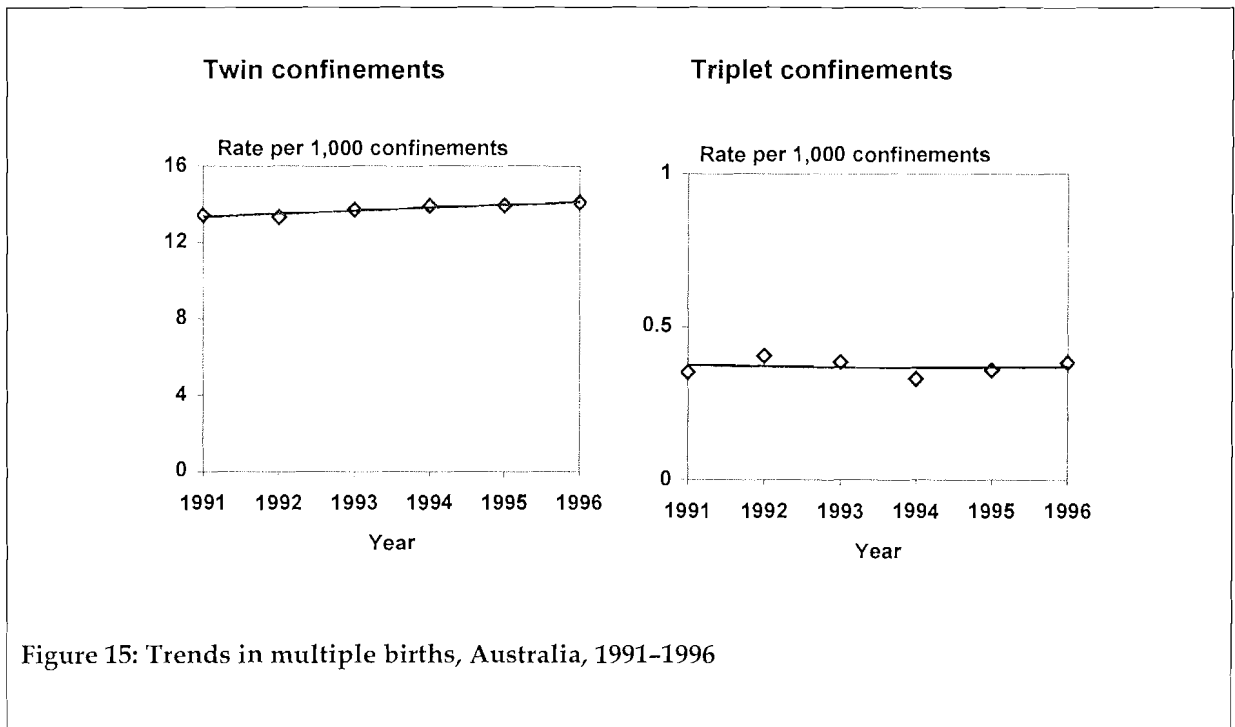


Figure 14: Preterm confinements by maternal age, Australia, 1996

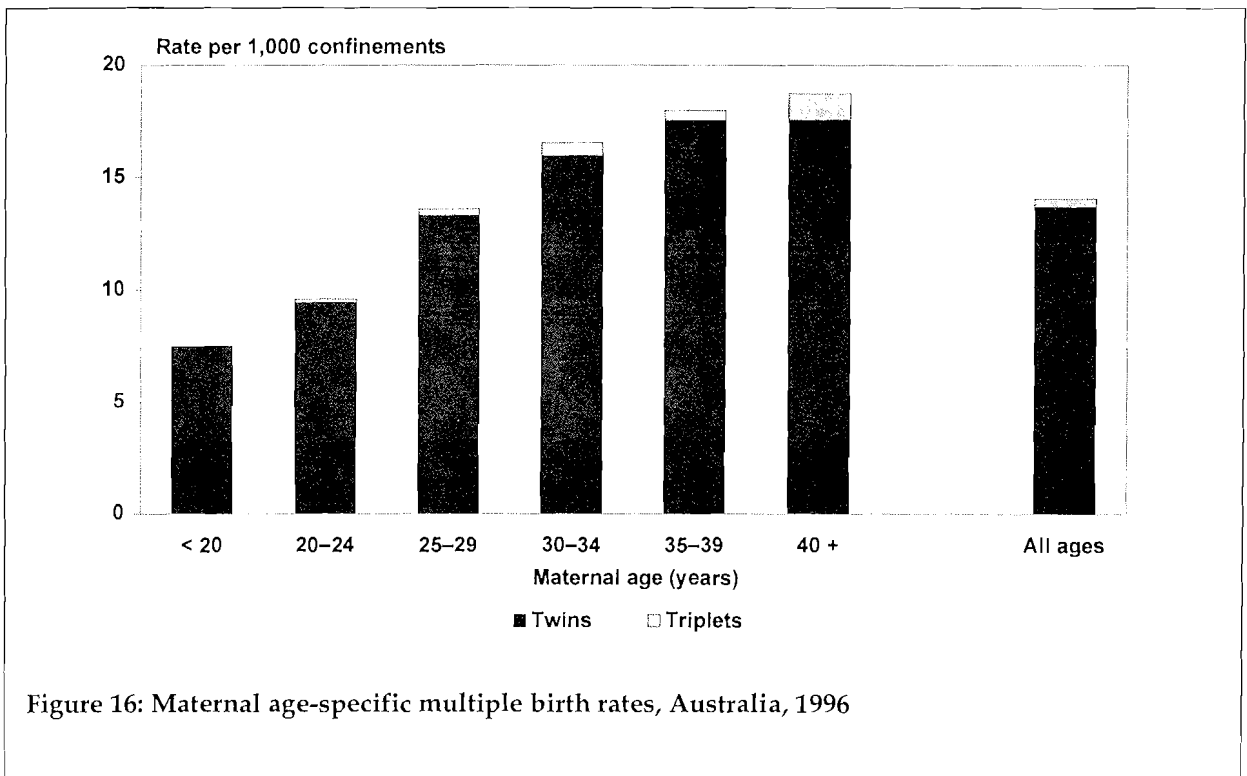
2.12 Multiple pregnancy

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

In 1996, there were 3,569 multiple pregnancies (1.4% of all confinements), consisting of 3,466 twin pregnancies, 97 triplet pregnancies, 5 quadruplet pregnancies and 1 quintuplet pregnancy (Table 19). The twinning rate was 13.7 per 1,000 confinements in 1996 (Figure 15), still substantially higher than the low point of 9.0 per 1,000 confinements in 1977 (Doherty & Lancaster 1986). The number of triplet pregnancies increased from 89 in 1991, to 105 in 1992 and then declined to 99 in 1993 and 85 in 1994, increasing to 92 in 1995 and 97 in 1996. The increasing trend in multiple pregnancies in the last two decades is mainly attributable to fertility drugs and assisted conception.

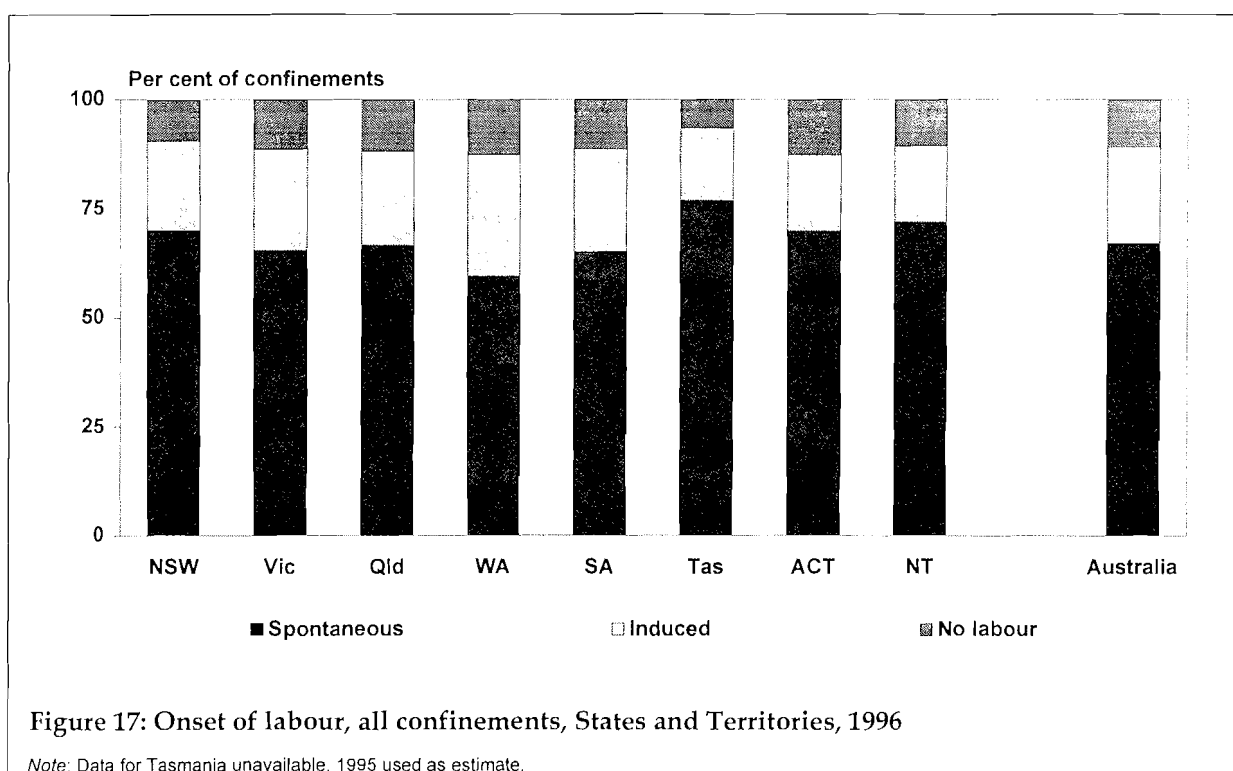


Multiple pregnancy increases with advancing maternal age up to the late 30s, and then usually declines among older mothers. In 1996, the highest proportion of twin confinements (1.8%) was among mothers aged 35 years and older (Table 20, Figure 16).



2.13 Onset of labour

The onset of labour was spontaneous in 67.0% of all confinements (Table 21, Figure 17); this proportion was highest in the Northern Territory (71.9%) (excluding Tasmania, 1995 figures) and lowest in Western Australia (59.5%); there was considerable variation in whether labour was augmented. Labour was induced in 22.2% of pregnancies and induction was more likely in Western Australia (27.9%) than in the other States and Territories. Combined medical and surgical induction of labour was more likely than either type alone. Most confinements with no labour were elective caesarean sections.



2.14 Presentation at birth

Breech presentation occurred in 4.2% of all confinements and other presentations in 0.6% (Table 22). 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 (68.3%) of all confinements were spontaneous vertex deliveries (Table 23, Figure 18). Forceps delivery occurred in 7.4%, vacuum extraction in 4.0%, and vaginal breech delivery in 0.9%.

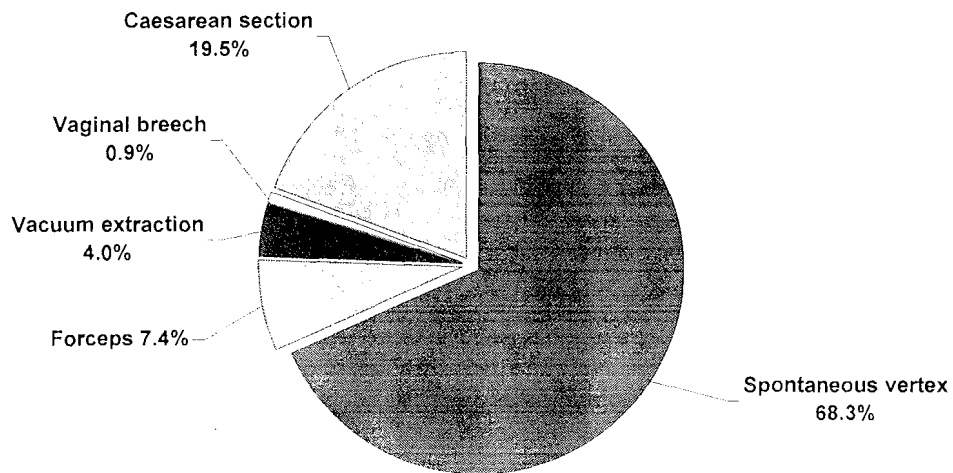


Figure 18: Type of delivery, all confinements, Australia, 1996

There were an estimated 49,320 caesarean sections performed in 1996, accounting for 19.5% of all confinements. The caesarean rate (per cent) in 1996 was 19.5, essentially unchanged from 1995 (Figure 19). However, there has been an overall upward trend in recent decades (Lancaster & Pedisich 1993). South Australia (23.1%) had the highest caesarean rate in 1996 and New South Wales (17.6%) the lowest (Table 23, Figure 20).

Caesarean rates for each State and Territory were compared in categories of maternal age, status in hospital, parity, singleton and multiple pregnancies, breech presentation in singleton confinements, and birthweight in singleton births (Tables 24, 25, 26 and 28). Excluding Victoria and the Northern Territory which did not have data on status in hospital, the caesarean rate of 25.4% for women who had private status in hospital was 53.9% higher than the rate of 16.5% for those who had public status (Table 24, Figure 21). This difference was partly attributable to a higher proportion of older women among those with private status. More than one in four mothers with private status in hospital in Queensland (29.4%), South Australia (28.5%), the Australian Capital Territory (27.5%) and Western Australia (26.6%) had their babies by caesarean section.

Analysis of national caesarean rates by single year of maternal age, public and private status in hospital and number of previous births (Tables 25, 26) showed these factors were independently associated with higher rates of caesarean section. Caesarean rates were generally higher as maternal age increased. Mothers having their first baby had higher caesarean rates than those who had given birth previously. Caesarean rates in most maternal age and parity groups for mothers with private status in hospital were higher than for those with public status. Mothers aged 35 to 39 years who had private status in hospital and who were having their first baby had a caesarean rate of 39.9% compared with 31.1% for those who had public status. For mothers aged 40 to 44 years, the trend continued with caesarean rates of 49.4% for those who had private status in hospital compared with 38.0% for those who had public status.

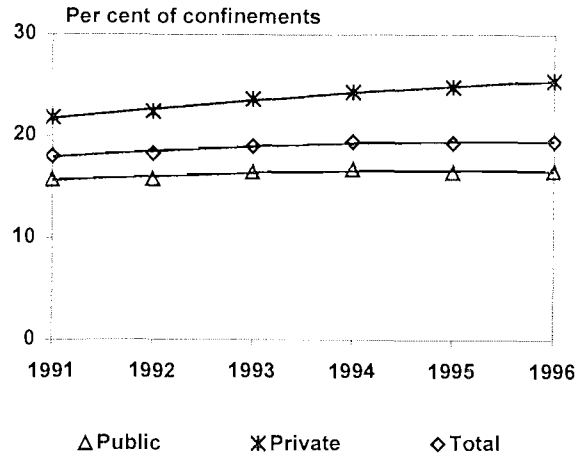


Figure 19: Trends in caesarean section rates by accommodation status in hospital, Australia, 1991-1996

Note: Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory.

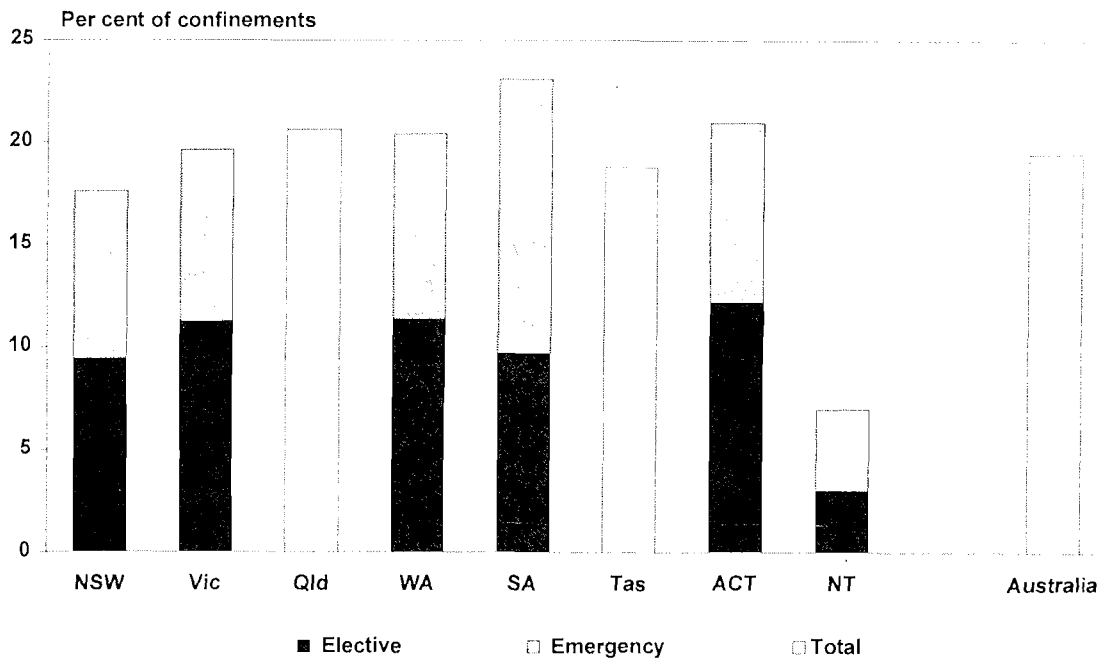
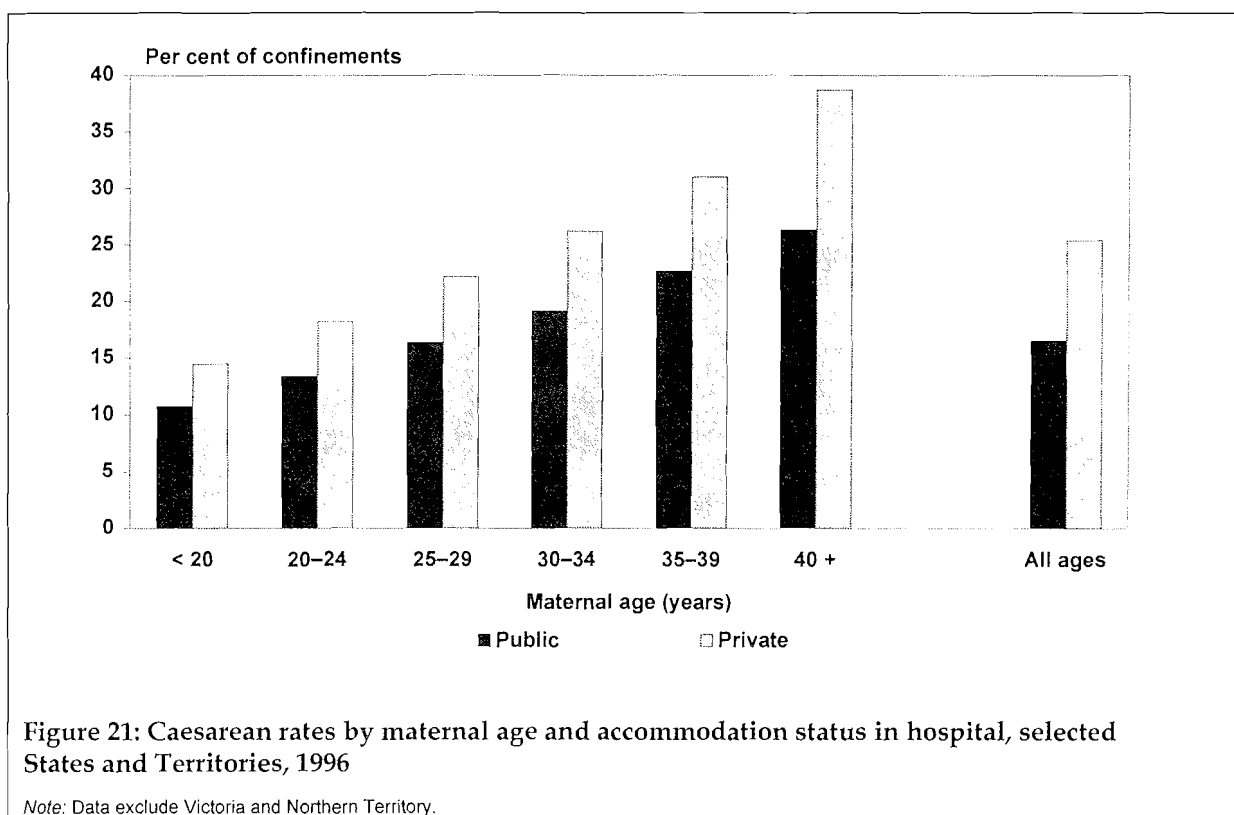


Figure 20: Caesarean rates, States and Territories, 1996

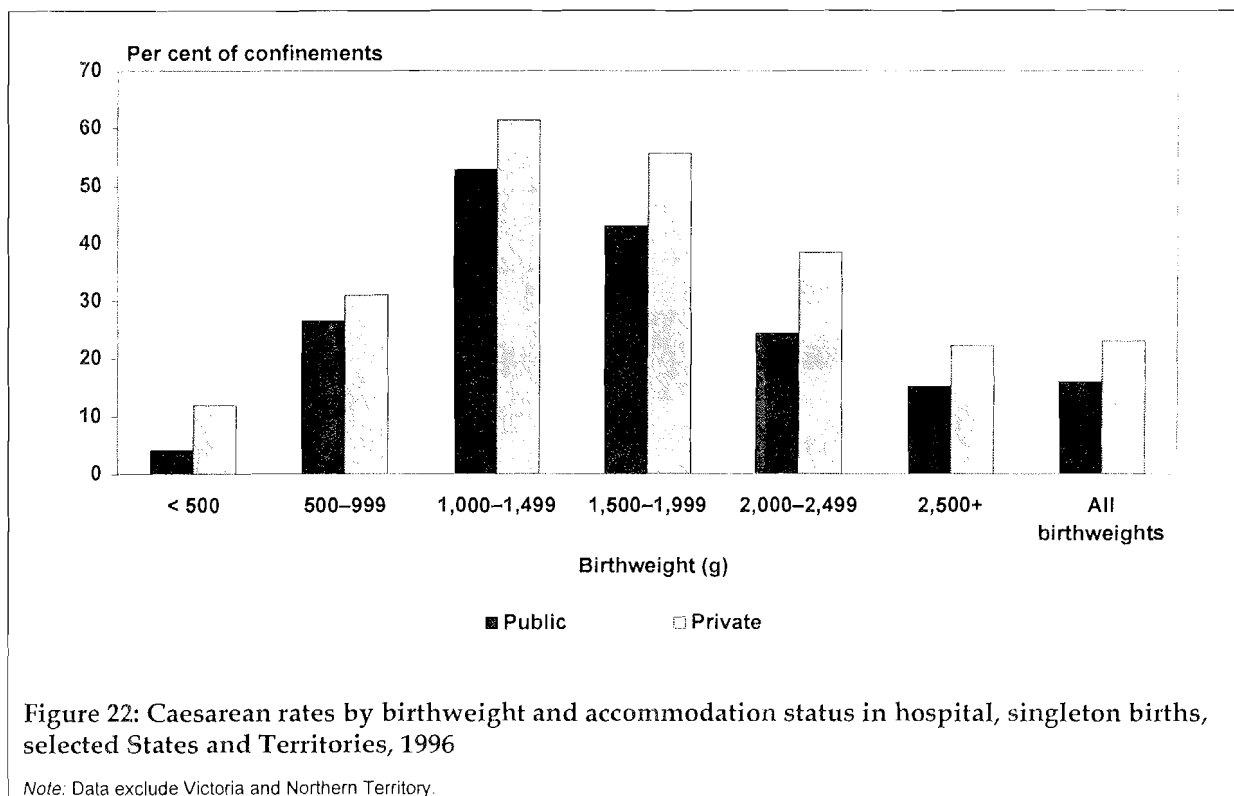
Note: Elective and emergency caesarean data for Queensland and Tasmania unavailable.



The caesarean rate of 17.3% for Indigenous mothers (Table 27) was less than that for all mothers (19.5%), but Indigenous mothers were younger and less likely to have private health insurance. Indigenous mothers who had public and private status had caesarean rates of 16.5% and 19.0%, respectively, comparable with the overall rate of 16.5% for public status, but lower than the 25.4% for private status among all mothers. The caesarean rates for Indigenous mothers were slightly higher than for all mothers in the younger age groups (Tables 24, 27). Indigenous mothers in South Australia (25.6%) and the Australian Capital Territory (25.0%) had higher caesarean rates than did all mothers in those States.

Various other factors that influence caesarean rates include multiple pregnancy, breech presentation and the infant's gestational age (Table 28, Figure 22). The caesarean rate of 43.6% for twins was more than twice that for singleton births (19.1%); for other multiple births, the caesarean rate was 86.4%. Most infants (78.2%) presenting in the breech position in singleton pregnancies were born by caesarean section.

Caesarean rates were high for mothers of low birthweight infants in singleton pregnancies, particularly for infants weighing 1,000-1,499 g (58.3%) and 1,500-1,999 g (47.3%). For singleton births of 2,500 g and over, mothers who had private status in hospital had a caesarean rate of 24.1%, 57.5% higher than the rate of 15.3% for those who were not insured.



2.16 Perineal repair after delivery

Most States and Territories collected information on perineal repair after delivery, performed either following episiotomy or for suturing of a perineal laceration. Repair of an episiotomy was notified in 16.5% of confinements in New South Wales, 18.3% in Victoria, 15.6% in Queensland, 20.4% in Western Australia, 19.5% in South Australia, and 18.7% in the Australian Capital Territory. Suturing of perineal lacerations was performed in 23.0% of confinements in Victoria, 25.6% in Queensland, 26.8% in Western Australia, 19.1% in South Australia, 30.2% in the Australian Capital Territory and 28.1% in the Northern Territory.

2.17 Mother's length of stay in hospital

Most women gave birth either on the day of admission to hospital (61.4%) or on the following day (31.0%) (Table 29). About 1 in 57 women were hospitalised for at least 7 days immediately before delivery.

The length of the mother's postnatal stay in hospital may be influenced by factors such as the type of delivery, maternal medical and obstetric complications, neonatal morbidity, and specific hospital policies of early discharge. As the final date of discharge of women transferred to other hospitals was not known, these women were excluded. The mean duration of postnatal stay was 4.2 days, having steadily declined from the average of 5.3 days in 1991. Postnatal stay in hospital was slightly longer on average in Victoria (4.4 days) and the Northern Territory (4.5 days) than in Queensland (4.2 days) and the Australian Capital Territory (4.1 days) (Table 30).

The trend towards shorter postnatal stays in hospital is indicated by the higher proportion of mothers who were discharged less than 4 days after giving birth. In 1996, 40.3% of mothers

were in this category, compared with only 20.2% in 1991 (Figure 23). Relatively more mothers in New South Wales (43.2%), Queensland (43.1%) and the Australian Capital Territory (43.8%) had this shortened stay in 1996. Longer lengths of stay of 7 or more days were relatively more common in Western Australia (14.9%) and the Northern Territory (16.2%) (Table 30, Figures 24, 25).

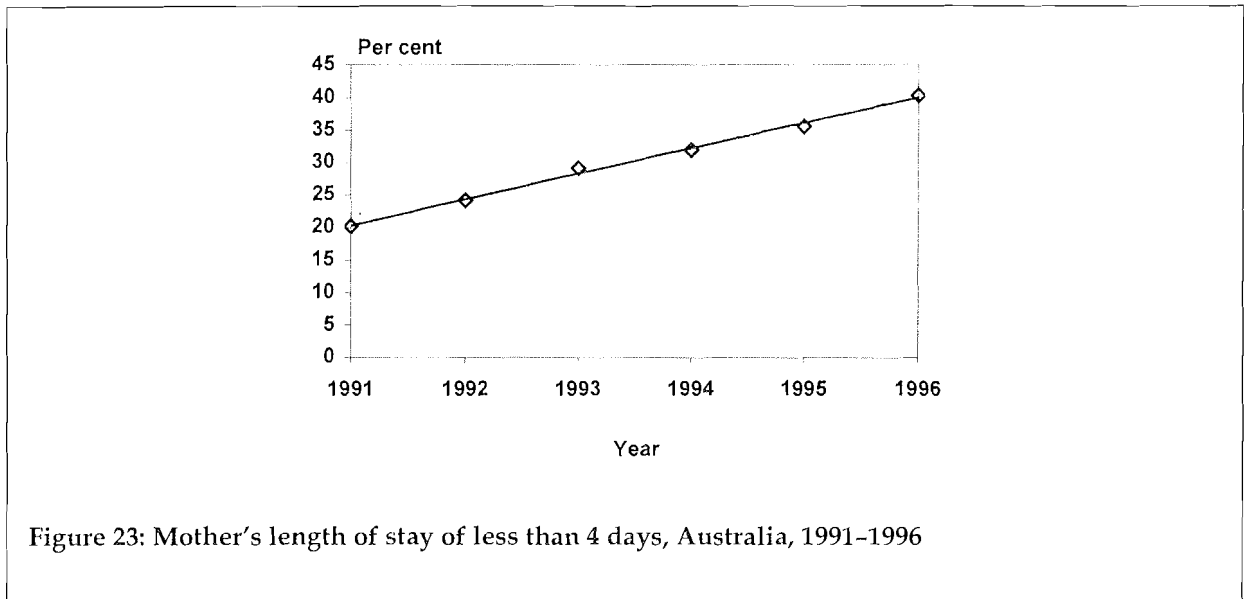


Figure 23: Mother's length of stay of less than 4 days, Australia, 1991-1996

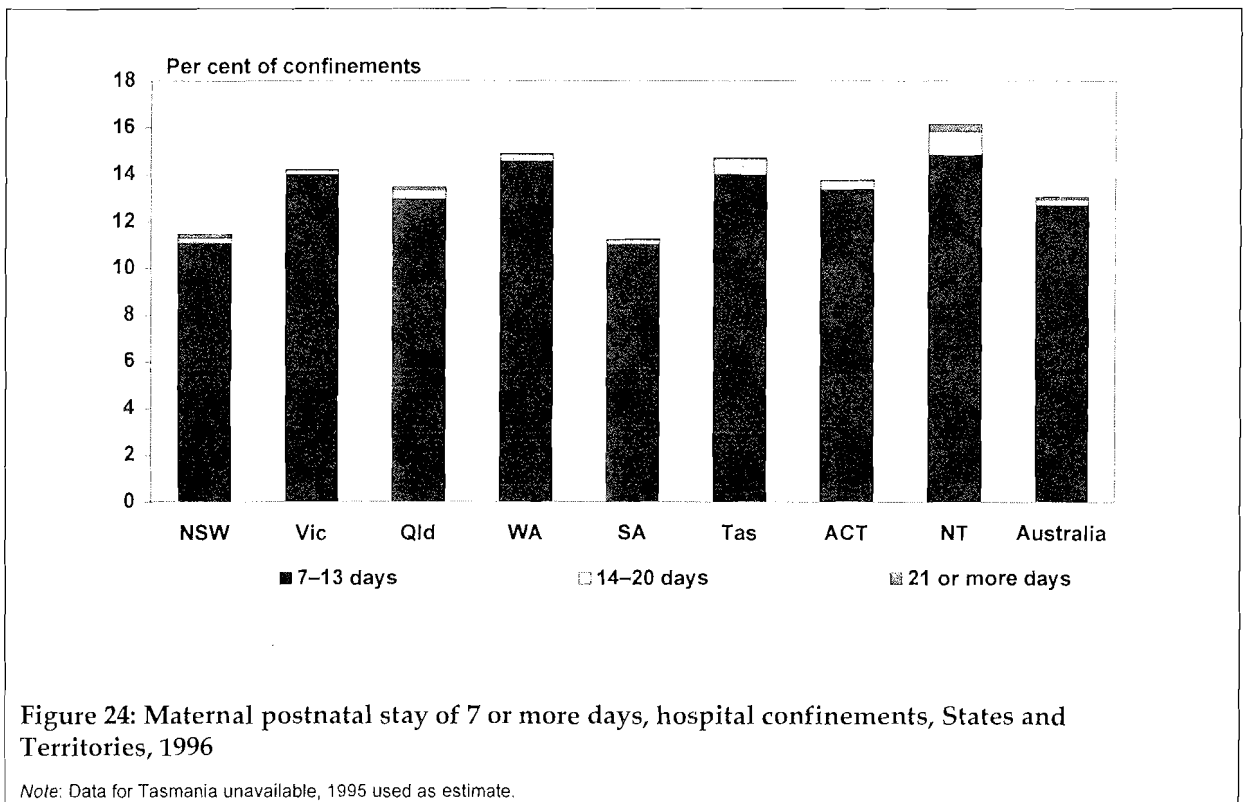


Figure 24: Maternal postnatal stay of 7 or more days, hospital confinements, States and Territories, 1996

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 used as estimate.

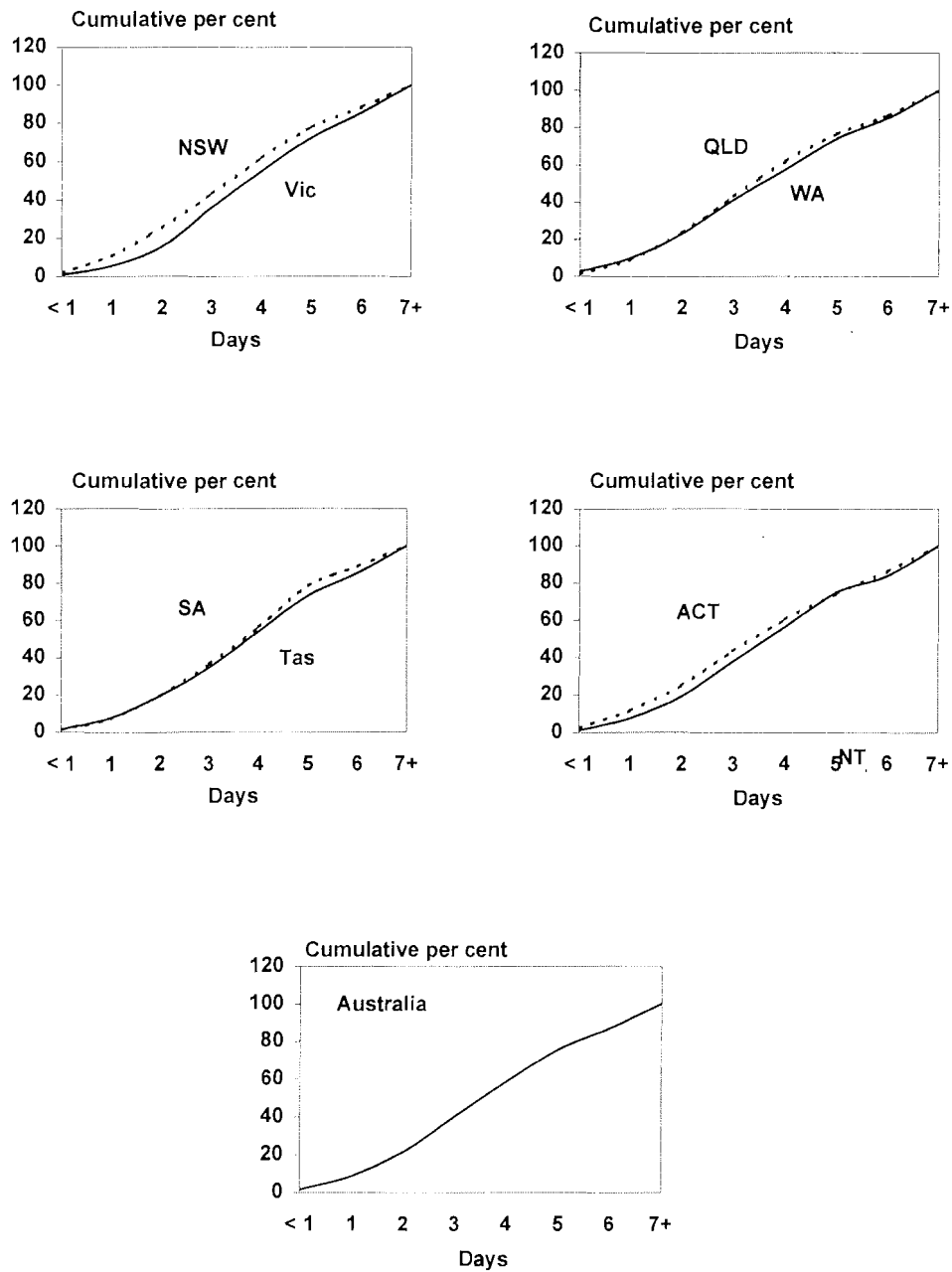


Figure 25: Length of maternal postnatal stay, hospital confinements, States and Territories, 1996

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 used as estimate.

In selected States and Territories with available data, mothers who had private status in hospital had an average postnatal stay of 5.4 days, compared with 3.6 days for those who had public status (Table 31) and were less likely to have short postnatal stays (Figure 26). Data for Victoria, Tasmania and the Northern Territory were not available for these comparisons.

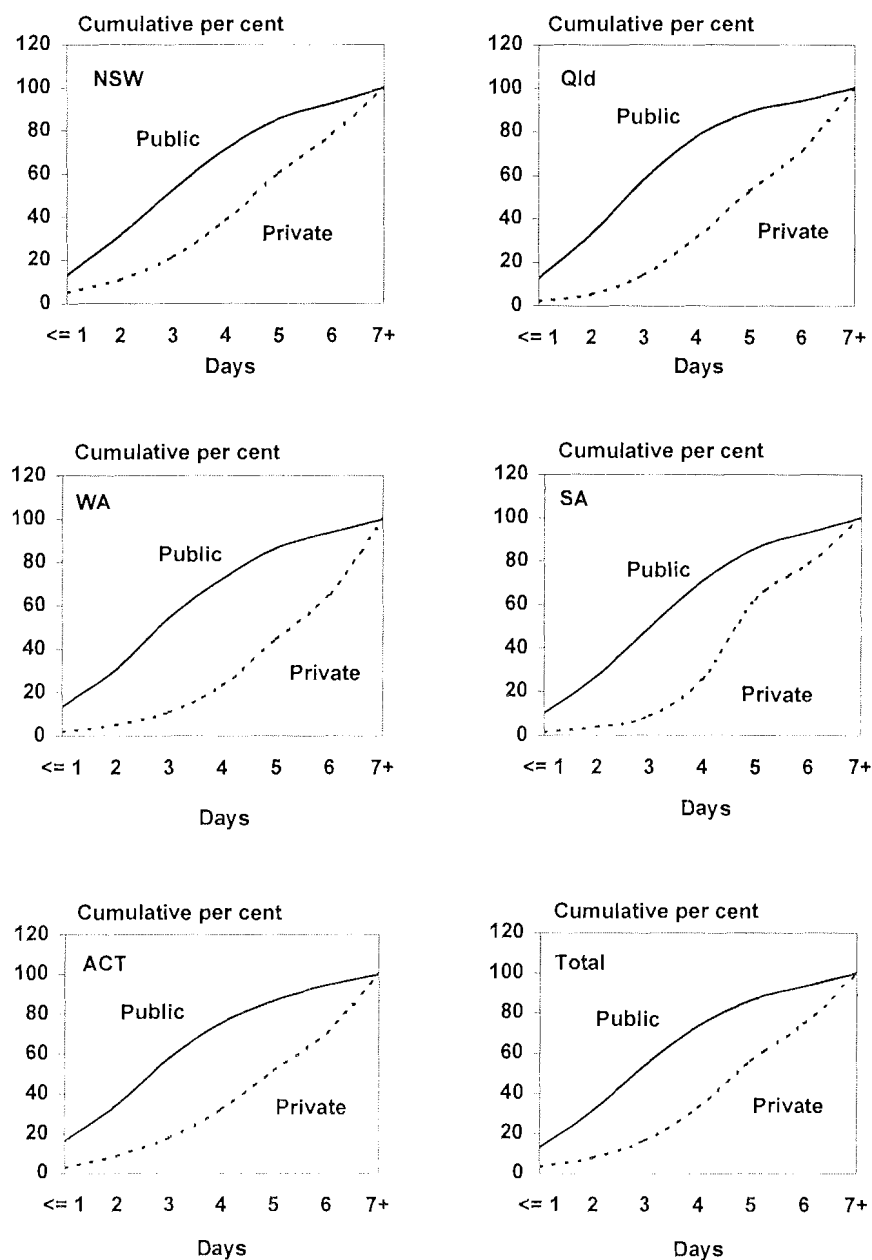


Figure 26: Length of maternal postnatal stay by status in hospital, selected States and Territories, 1996

Factors associated with periods of postnatal hospitalisation of less than 5 days were younger maternal age, higher parity, Indigenous status, spontaneous delivery, and giving birth in maternity units of medium size (Table 32). Data on both the duration of postnatal stay and accommodation status in hospital were not available for Victoria and the Northern Territory, but there were marked differences in postnatal stays between public and private categories in the other States. The proportion of hospitalised mothers with a postnatal stay of less than 5 days was 32.8% for those with private status in hospital compared to 73.2% for mothers with public status (Table 32). The differences between public and private categories were

apparent for all maternal ages, parity, Indigenous status, type of delivery and size of hospital groups (Tables 33, 34). For mothers having their first baby, 62.9% in the public category stayed for less than 5 days compared with only 20.2% in the private category.

2.18 Mother's mode of separation from hospital

Most mothers who gave birth in hospitals were discharged to their homes but 3.5% of mothers were transferred to other hospitals (Table 35), usually for continuing care in a hospital located nearer to their place of residence or sometimes for further treatment of complications. These transfers between hospitals were more likely to occur in New South Wales and the Northern Territory 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 occurred 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. In the States and Territories providing data nine maternal deaths were reported through the perinatal collections in 1996.

3 Babies

3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides data on the characteristics and outcomes of babies.

3.2 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 has published annual data 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 infants whose birthweight is less than 500 g but who meet the criteria of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 g birthweight. As noted previously, there were an estimated 255,274 live births and 1,818 fetal deaths in 1996, giving a total of 257,092 births (Table 1).

3.3 Infant's month of birth

A changing seasonal pattern of births was evident in Australia up to the 1970s, the earlier peak of births in September being replaced by a bimodal pattern of peaks in February/March and September (Mathers & Harris 1983). The bimodal pattern of peaks in late summer and spring has continued in recent years. In 1996, of the estimated 257,092 births in Australia, most births occurred in the months of March, May and July to October (Table 36). 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/October and the low months were January, November and December (Figure 27).

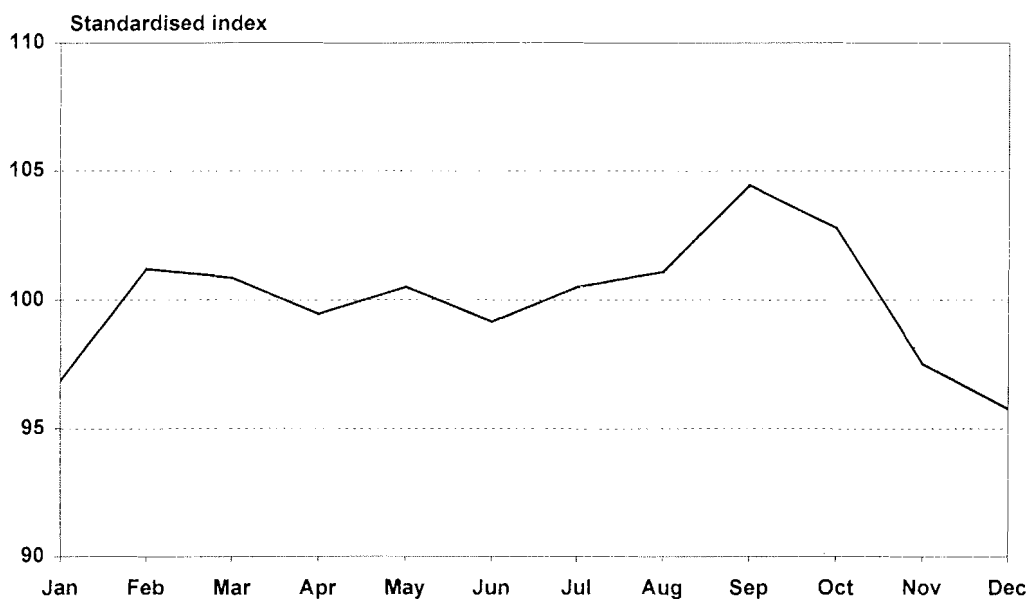


Figure 27: Monthly variation in births, Australia, 1996

3.4 Infant's sex

Male births exceeded female births in all States and Territories (Table 37). The national sex ratio was 106.2 male births per 100 female births; for singleton births it was 106.4, for twins, 102.3 and for other multiple births, 86.0.

3.5 Infant's gestational age

Preterm birth before 37 weeks gestation accounts for a high proportion of perinatal deaths. It is associated with many neonatal problems that cause significant morbidity in newborn infants and may sometimes be associated with long-term disabilities (National Health and Medical Research Council 1996). The number of births in Australia for each week of gestational age increased from 201 at 20 weeks to 91,505 at 40 weeks (Table 38, Figure 28). Preterm births were classified according to the criteria of the WHO into groups at 20–27 weeks, 28–31 weeks, and 32–36 weeks. Among all births, 7.4% were preterm; most of the preterm births were at 32–36 weeks; approximately 1 in 5 preterm births were at earlier gestational ages (Figure 29).

Preterm birth occurred in 48.8% of twins and in 95.9% of triplet births, much higher than the proportion of 6.1% among singleton births (Table 39). The difference in gestational age distribution between singleton and multiple births is even more pronounced when infants of less than 32 weeks gestation are considered. More than 1 in 10 (10.6%) twin births and more than 1 in 3 (34.5%) triplet births were in this high-risk group compared with only 1 in 100 (1.2%) singleton births.

Differences in the manner in which gestational age was estimated may have been a factor contributing to variations in preterm births among the States and Territories. The highest proportion of preterm births was 10.5% in the Northern Territory (Table 40).

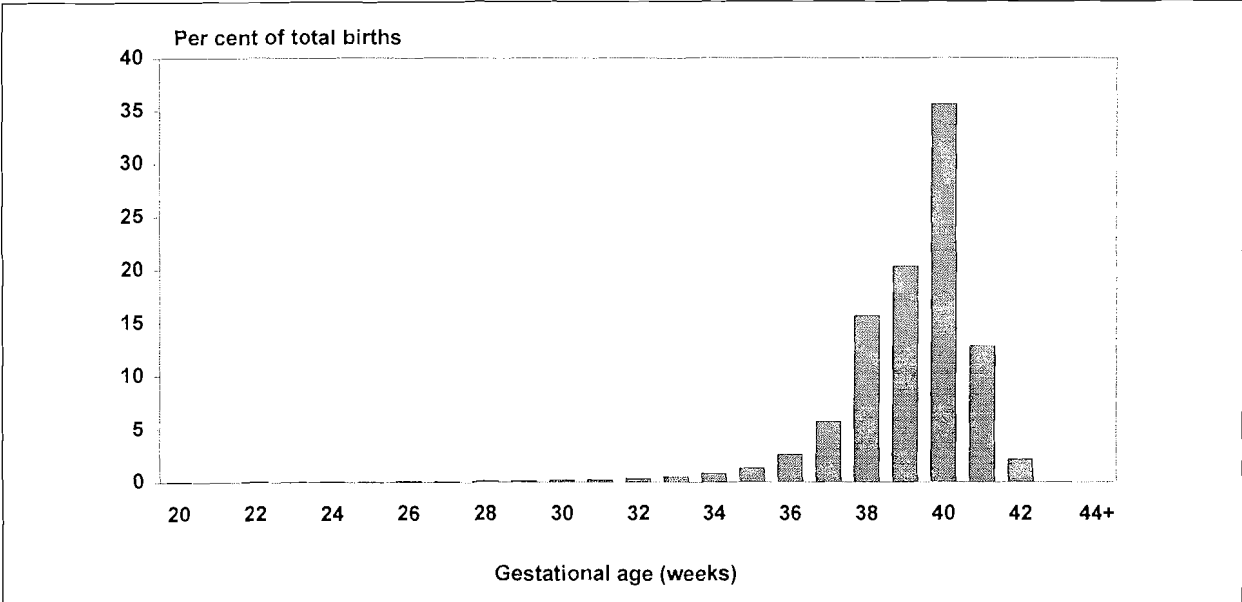


Figure 28: Distribution of births by gestational age, Australia, 1996

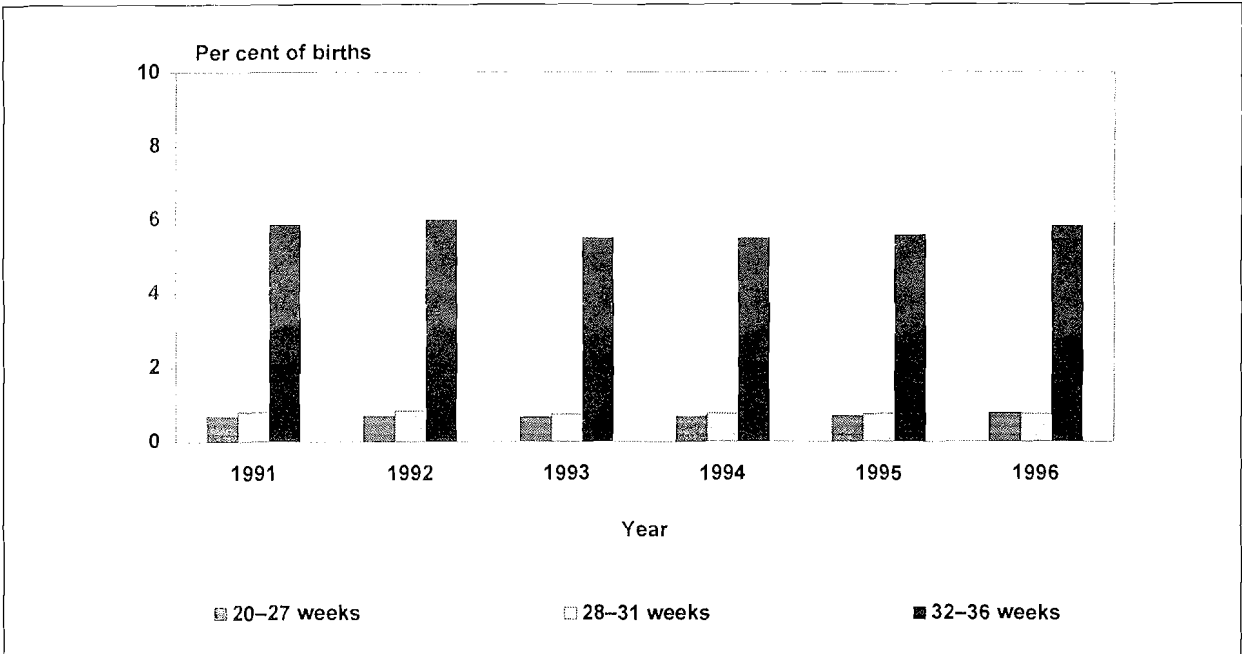


Figure 29: Preterm births, Australia, 1991-1996

3.6 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 2,500 g. Within this category, those weighing less than 1,500 g are designated as very low birthweight and those less than 1000 g as extremely low birthweight.

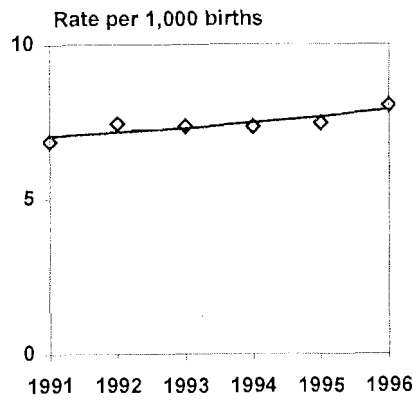
In 1996, there were 16,525 (6.4%) infants of low birthweight, relatively unchanged from 1995. Very low birthweight infants comprised 1.4% of all births and extremely low birthweight infants, 0.8% (Table 41). There was little change in the proportion of infants in the various categories of low birthweight between 1991 and 1996 (Figure 30).

The mean birthweight of all liveborn and stillborn infants in Australia in 1996 was 3,360 g and showed relatively little variation among the different States and Territories, except for a lower average of 3,232 g in the Northern Territory where there was also the highest proportion of low birthweight infants (10.2%) (Figure 31).

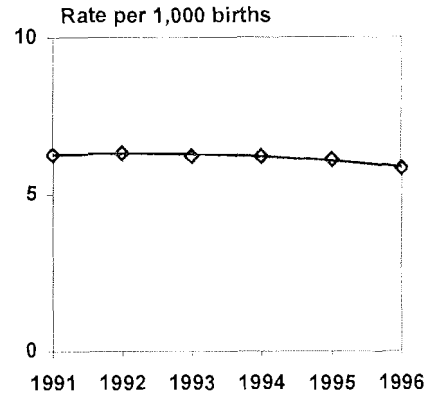
The mean birthweight of liveborn infants was 3,373 g (Table 42). Low birthweight occurred in 5.9% of liveborn infants and in 75.8% of stillborn infants. Almost half (52.8%) of the stillborn infants had a birthweight of less than 1,000 g.

In twins, the proportion of low birthweight was 49.9%, almost ten times higher than in singleton births (5.1%); in triplets, this proportion was 94.5% and, in other multiple births, 100% (Table 43, Figure 32). The mean birthweight was 3,389 g in singletons, 2,392 g in twins, 1,642 g in triplets, and other multiple births, 1,052 g.

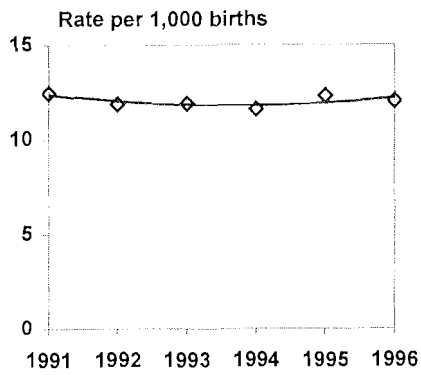
Births of less than 1,000 g



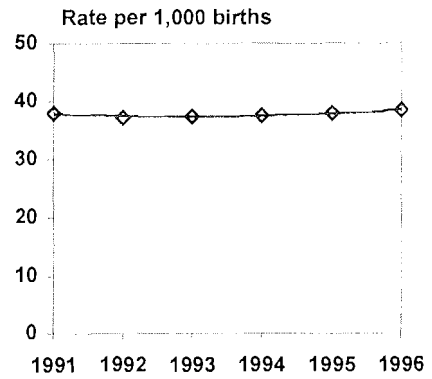
Births of 1,000 g to 1,499 g



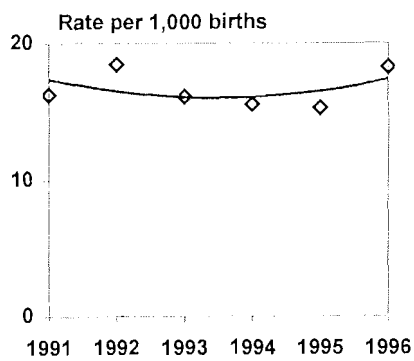
Births of 1,500 g to 1,999 g



Births of 2,000 g to 2,499 g



Indigenous births of less than 1,000 g



Indigenous births of 1,000 g to 2,499 g

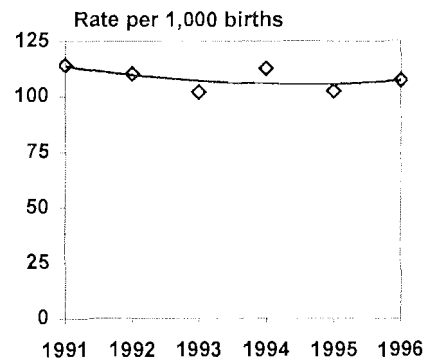


Figure 30: Trends in low birthweight, Australia, 1996

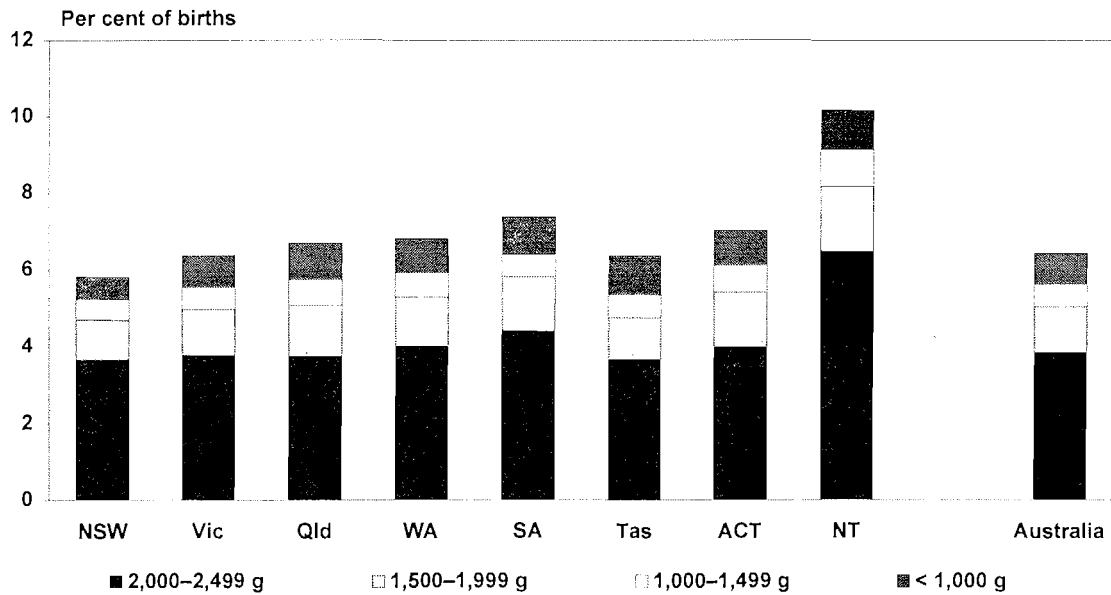


Figure 31: Proportion of low birthweight infants, all births, States and Territories, 1996

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 used as estimate.

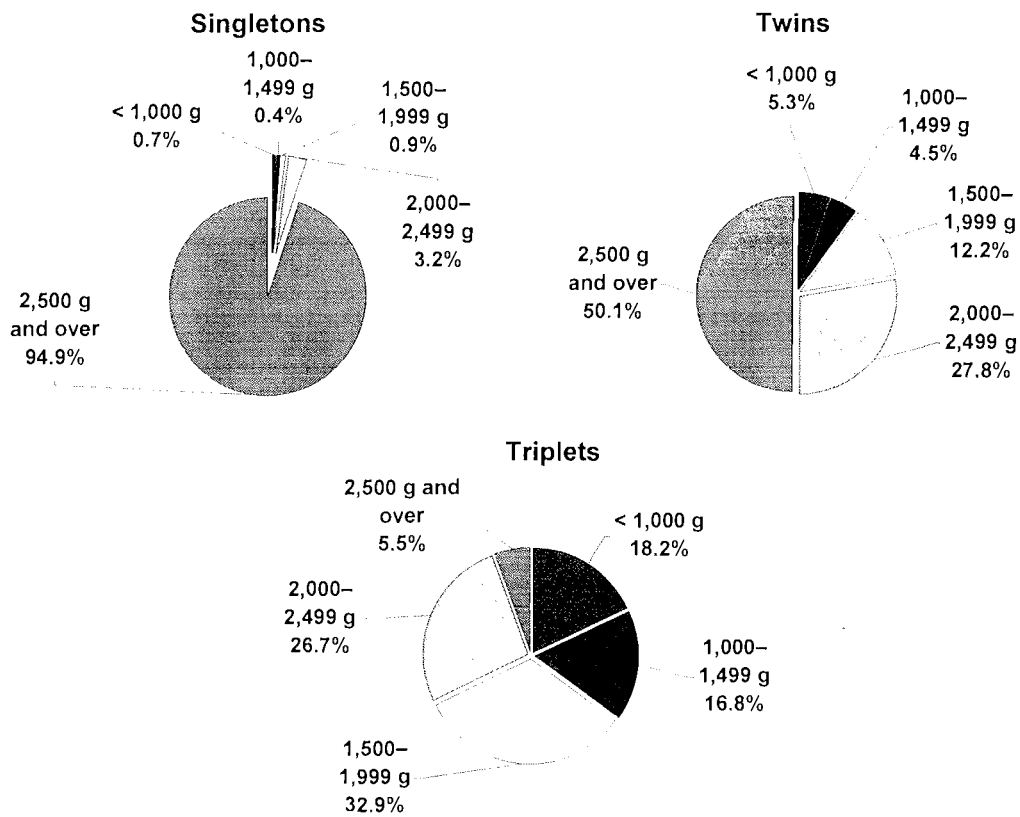
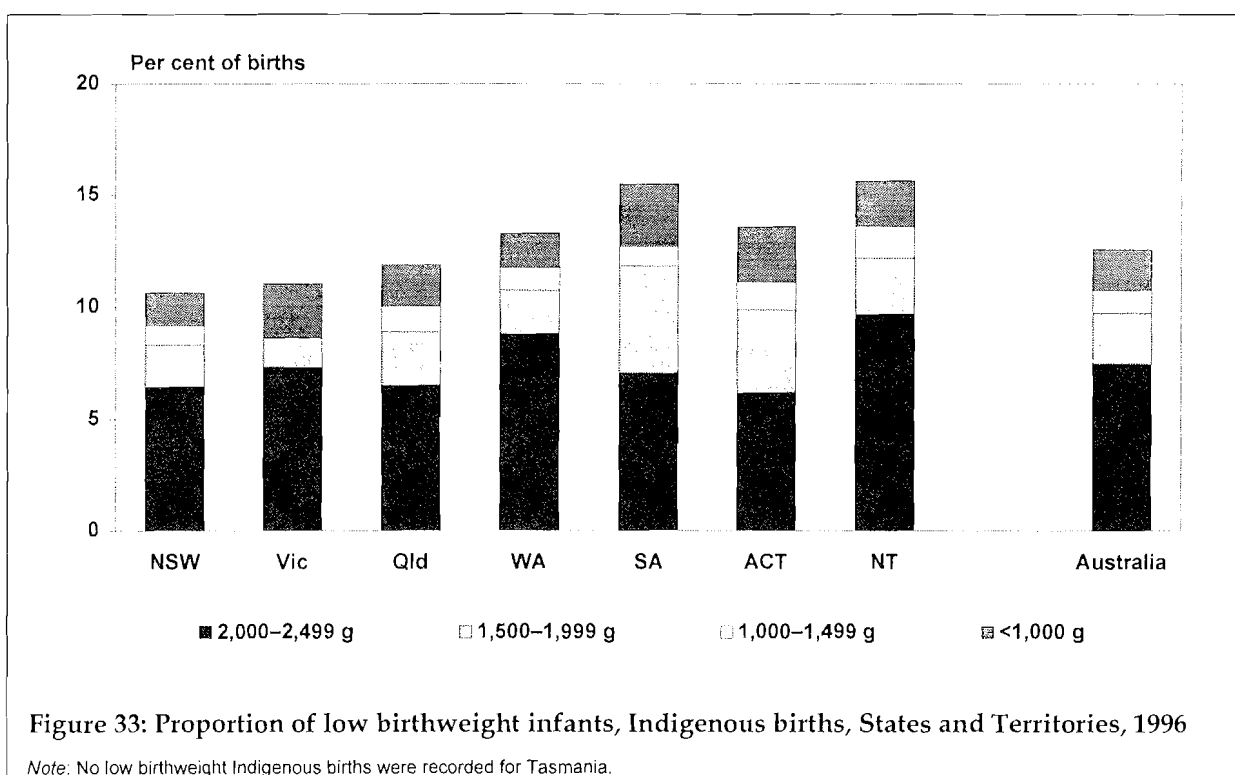


Figure 32: Distribution of birthweight, singleton and multiple births, Australia, 1996

Male infants were less likely to be low birthweight (6.0%) than were females (6.9%) (Table 44). In the higher birthweight categories, there were relatively more males in the groups with birthweights of 3,500–3,999 g and over. The mean birthweight of males was 3,421 g, which was 126 g higher than that of females (3,295 g).

The mean birthweight of live and stillborn Indigenous infants in 1996 was 3,140 g. This was 220 g less than the national average of 3,360 g for all births. The proportion of low birthweight in Indigenous infants was 12.6% (Table 45), nearly twice that of 6.4% in all infants; between 1991 and 1996, there was no clear trend in the proportion of various categories of low birthweight Indigenous infants (Figure 30). The mean birthweight of Indigenous infants, and the proportion with low birthweight, varied markedly among the States and Territories. Low birthweight was more likely among Indigenous births in the Northern Territory (15.6%), South Australia (15.5%) and Western Australia (13.3%) than in the other States (Figure 33).



There were relatively small differences in the proportion of low birthweight infants according to the mother's country of birth. Compared with the proportion of 6.3% in the infants of Australian-born non-Indigenous mothers, low birthweight was slightly more common in infants whose mothers were born in New Zealand, India, Hong Kong and the Philippines (Table 46, Figure 34). Mothers born in China and Lebanon were less likely to have infants of low birthweight.

Mothers aged 30–34 years had the lowest proportion of low birthweight infants (5.8%); this proportion was higher among infants of younger and older mothers (Table 46).

Women having their first baby, and those with four or more previous children, were more likely than other parity groups to have a low birthweight infant, while those giving birth for the second or third time were least likely to do so (Table 46).

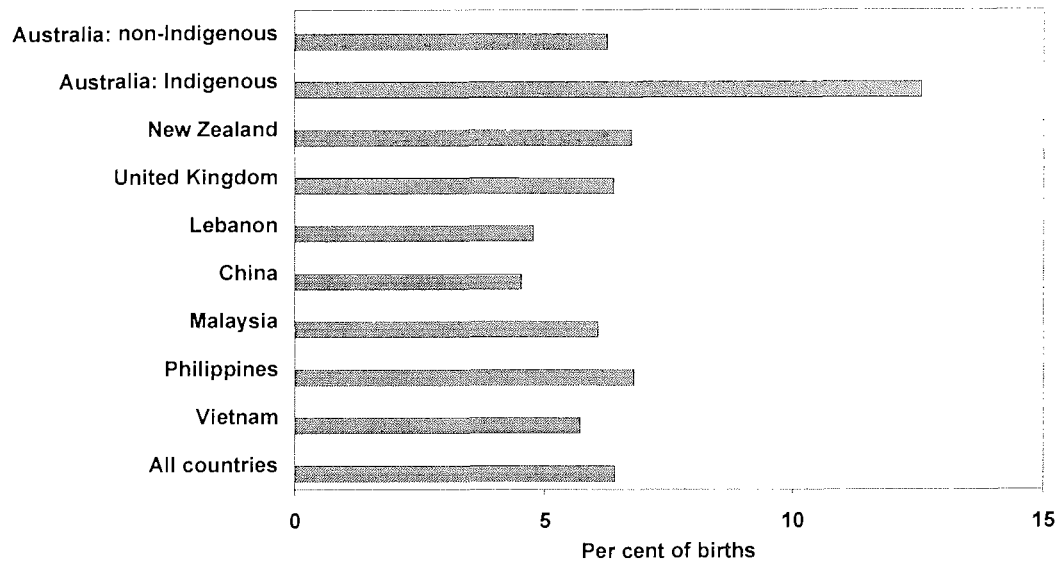


Figure 34: Low birthweight rates, selected maternal countries of birth, 1996

The proportion of low birthweight among infants born to single mothers (9.2%) was considerably higher than for infants born to married or de facto mothers (6.0%) (Table 46).

Mothers who were not insured had a higher rate of low birthweight infants (6.8%) than those who were insured (5.5%) (Table 46, Figure 35).



Figure 35: Low birthweight by maternal accommodation status, selected States and Territories, 1996

Note: Data exclude Victoria, Tasmania and Northern Territory.

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 infants in home births (1.0%), and in birth centres (0.9%), than in hospital births (6.5%) (Table 46). On the other hand, there was a high proportion of low birthweight infants among those born before arrival in hospital (10.0%) and elsewhere (54.1%).

The proportion of various categories of low birthweight infants, especially those weighing less than 1,500 g, who were born in larger hospitals that have adequate staffing and facilities provides an indicator of the effectiveness of regionalisation of perinatal care. 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 Indigenous births in remote locations (Table 47).

More than four-fifths (85.2%) of the highest risk infants weighing 500–999 g were born in hospitals that had more than 2,000 confinements annually, and another 6.1% were born in hospitals with 1,001–2,000 confinements annually. Three States had relatively more infants in this birthweight group born in hospitals with fewer than 1,000 confinements annually - Victoria (8.9%), Queensland (12.6%) and South Australia (8.8%). In Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory, a relatively higher proportion of infants weighing 1,500–1,999 g were born in hospitals with less than 1,000 confinements annually.

3.7 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 and the total score may vary between 0 and 10. The Apgar score is routinely assessed at 1 and 5 minutes after birth, and subsequently at 5-minute intervals if it is still low at 5 minutes.

Consistent with the usual convention for grouping Apgar scores, the distribution in each State and Territory was compared (Tables 48, 49, Figure 36). The Apgar score at 1 minute was not recorded in the perinatal collection in Victoria in 1996. 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 2.7% of live births and at 5 minutes in 0.3%.

Low Apgar scores of less than 4 were strongly associated with the infant's birthweight (Table 50, Figure 37). Almost half (45.8%) of all liveborn infants weighing less than 1,000 g had low scores at 1 minute, compared with 2.2% of infants weighing 2,500 g or more. One in five (22.2%) of the extremely low birthweight infants had low Apgar scores at 5 minutes compared with 0.2% of those weighing 2,500 g or more. Indigenous infants in the extremely low birthweight group had a relatively higher risk of low Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes. Infants from singleton and multiple births within the same birthweight categories had similar Apgar scores (Table 51).



Figure 36: Low Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes after birth, live births, States and Territories, 1996

(a) Apgar score at 1 minute unavailable for Victoria.
 Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 used as estimate.

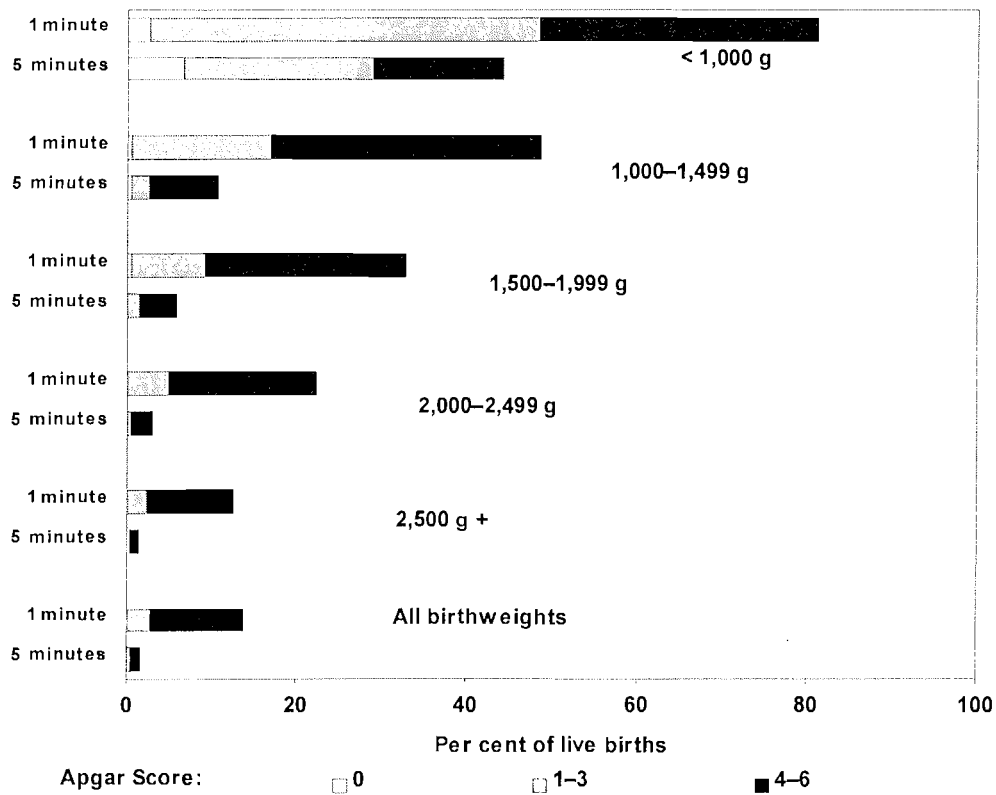


Figure 37: Low Apgar score at 1 and 5 minutes by birthweight, live births, Australia, 1996

3.8 Resuscitation at birth

Recording the type of resuscitation given to infants immediately after birth varies markedly among the States and Territories. A breakdown of this information was not available for New South Wales and Tasmania in 1996. Ventilatory assistance by intermittent positive pressure respiration (IPPR) through a bag and mask, or after intubation was recorded for 15.0% of infants in Victoria, 8.3% in Queensland, 8.2% in Western Australia, 17.4% in South Australia, 12.0% in the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory. Excluding those States and Territories where this information was not available, IPPR was given to 12.0% of all births. Endotracheal intubation was recorded in 1.1% of births in Victoria, 1.5% in Queensland, 2.7% in Western Australia, 1.5% in South Australia, 2.0% in the Australian Capital Territory and 1.8% in the Northern Territory. Because of differences in the methods of data collection, these figures should be interpreted cautiously. Narcotic antagonists that were administered to counteract respiratory depression due to maternal narcotic analgesics were administered to 1.5% of infants born in Victoria and 1.4% in South Australia.

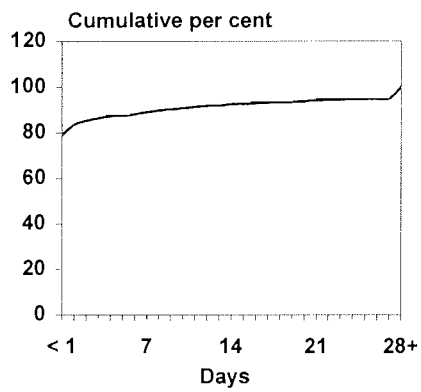
3.9 Infant's length of stay in hospital

Infants who died or were transferred to another hospital were excluded from the data on length of stay. The majority of infants (84.2%) remained in their hospital of birth for less than 7 days (Table 52). More infants had relatively short stays of less than 4 days in hospital in 1996 than in the previous four years. In 1996, 37.9% of infants stayed in hospital for this period compared with only 19.2% in 1991. This trend occurred in all States and Territories but the national data did not include New South Wales in 1991 and 1992. In 1996, relatively more infants born in Queensland (41.7%) and in the Australian Capital Territory (44.0%) were in the short-stay group.

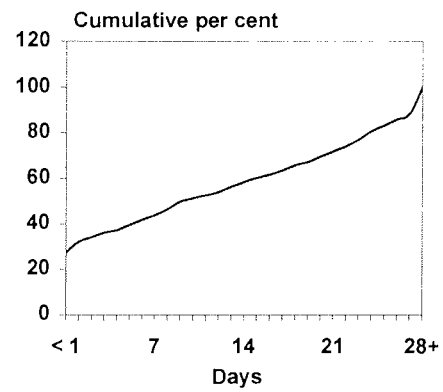
The duration of hospitalisation was 28 or more days for 1.0% of infants. As the period of hospitalisation of infants transferred from their hospital of birth to another hospital is not included here, except for South Australia, these figures underestimate the proportion of infants staying in hospital for long periods.

The infant's gestational age and birthweight are usually the main factors influencing the duration of hospitalisation (Table 53, Figure 38). Twins and other infants from multiple births thus had longer stays than singleton infants. Indigenous 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 Indigenous 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 1,500 g, were more likely to have short periods of stay of less than 3 days in their hospital of birth because of higher risks of neonatal death or transfer to other hospitals.

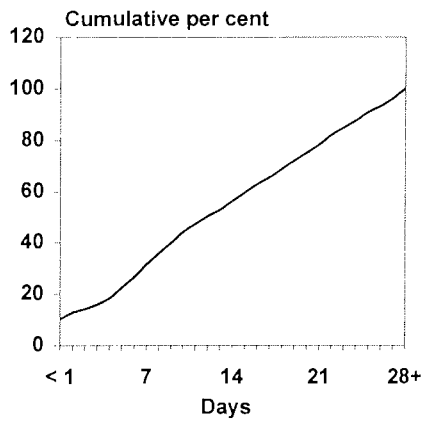
Less than 1,000 g



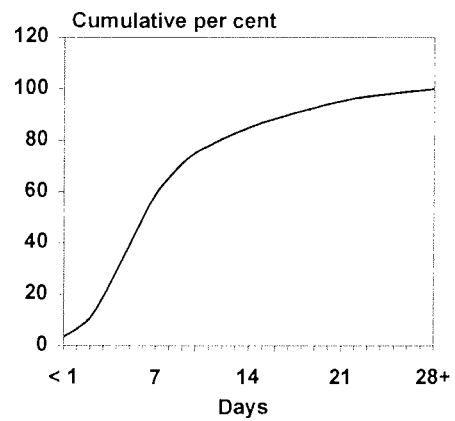
1,000–1,499 g



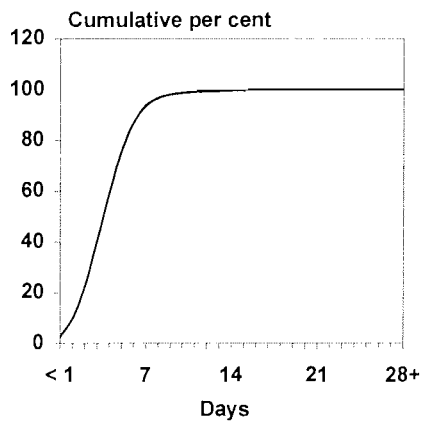
1,500–1,999 g



2,000–2,499 g



2,500 g and over



All live births

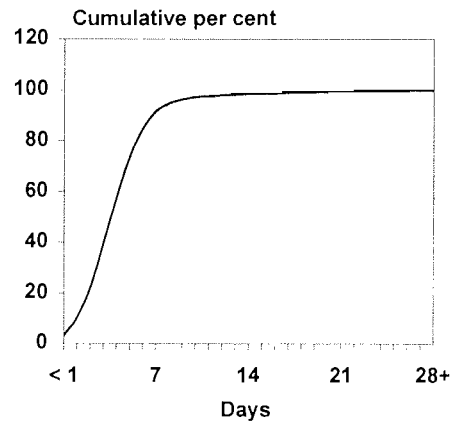


Figure 38: Length of infant's stay in hospital by birthweight, Australia, 1996

3.10 Infant's mode of separation from hospital

A total of 4.6% of infants were transferred to another hospital from their hospital of birth (Table 54). 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 and the proportion of those transferred 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 are therefore an incomplete source of information on neonatal deaths and cannot be used to determine national neonatal death rates.

4 Perinatal mortality

4.1 Definitions

There are different legal and statistical definitions in Australia for registering and reporting perinatal deaths. For legal purposes, all fetal and neonatal deaths of at least 20 weeks gestation or at least 400 g 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 reporting national perinatal statistics. Fetal deaths are included if the birthweight is at least 500 g 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 1,000 g or, when birthweight is not available, a gestational age of at least 28 weeks, excluding births and fetal and neonatal deaths that do not meet these criteria.

Perinatal death rates vary markedly according to which definition is used (Table 55). In the period from 1994 to 1996, the perinatal death rate for deaths of at least 20 weeks or 400 g (9.8 per 1,000 births) was more than double the estimated rate of 4.8 per 1,000 births based on the WHO definition for international comparisons. Using the ABS criteria of 500 g/22 weeks for national data, the 1996 perinatal death rate of 8.5 per 1,000 births was 77.1% higher than the estimated rate of 4.8 per 1,000 births based on the WHO criteria for international comparisons.

Unless otherwise specified, fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates in this report are based on the ABS definition using a lower limit of 500 g, 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. Data for the years prior to 1991 were given in the report for 1993 (Lancaster et al. 1996).

4.2 Trends in fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths

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

In the period between 1973 and 1996, the fetal death rate has approximately halved from 10.5 to 5.5 per 1,000 births (Table 56, Figure 39). However, the fetal death rate in 1996 was

higher than in the preceding three years. The fall of 61.1% in intrapartum fetal death rates was greater than the decline of 39.3% and 50.0%, respectively, for antepartum and unknown fetal death rates (Figure 41). As a result of these declines, antepartum fetal deaths increased as a proportion of all fetal deaths from 57.9% in 1973 to 73.1% in 1996, and intrapartum fetal deaths decreased from 34.5% in 1973 to 26.8% of all fetal deaths in 1996 (Figure 40).

The neonatal death rate declined even more sharply than the fetal death rate, falling by 73.5% from 11.3 per 1,000 live births in 1973 to 3.0 per 1,000 live births in 1996 (Table 57, Figure 39). The early neonatal death rate for deaths within 7 days of birth fell more rapidly than the rate of late neonatal deaths that occurred in the second, third and fourth weeks after birth.

Based on the ABS definitions, the national perinatal mortality rate declined by 60.8% from 21.7 per 1,000 births in 1973 to 8.5 per 1,000 births in 1996 (Table 58, Figure 39) but, like the fetal death rate, was higher in 1996 than in the previous three years.

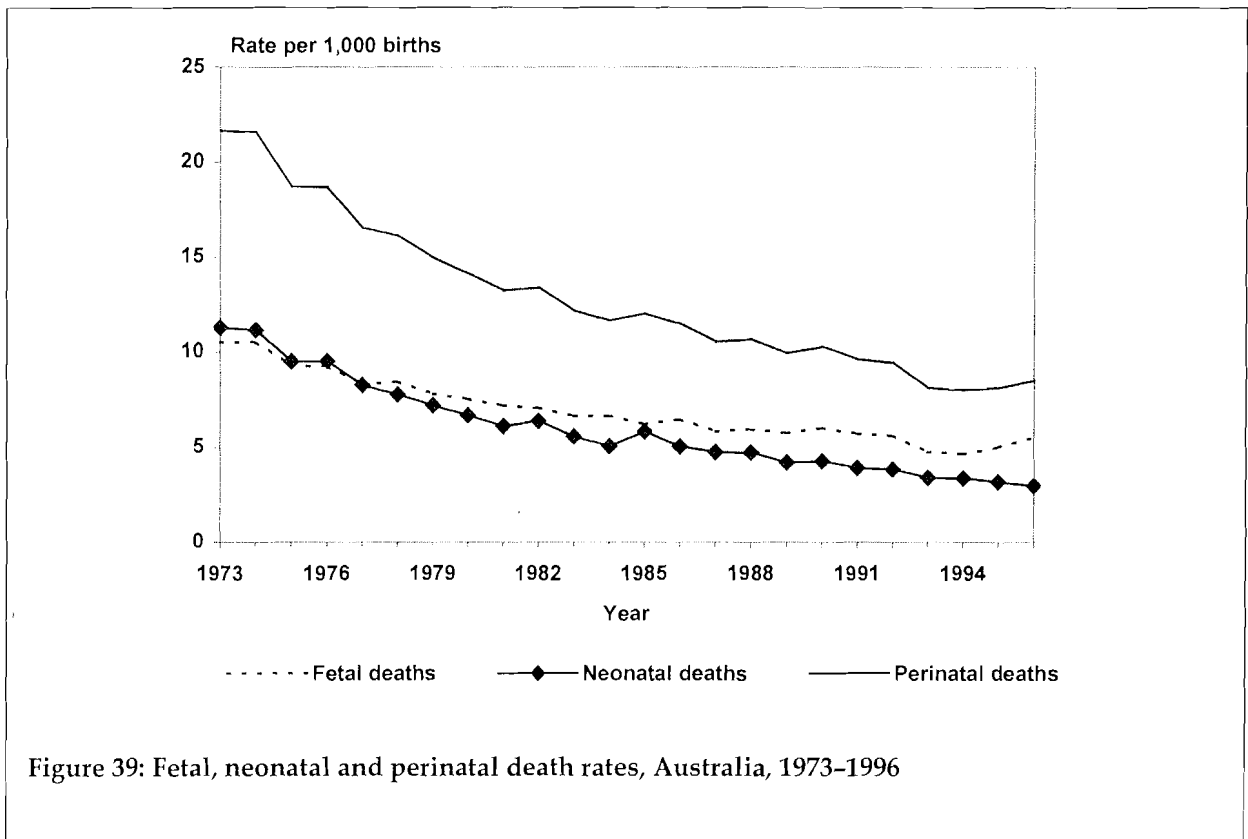


Figure 39: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates, Australia, 1973-1996

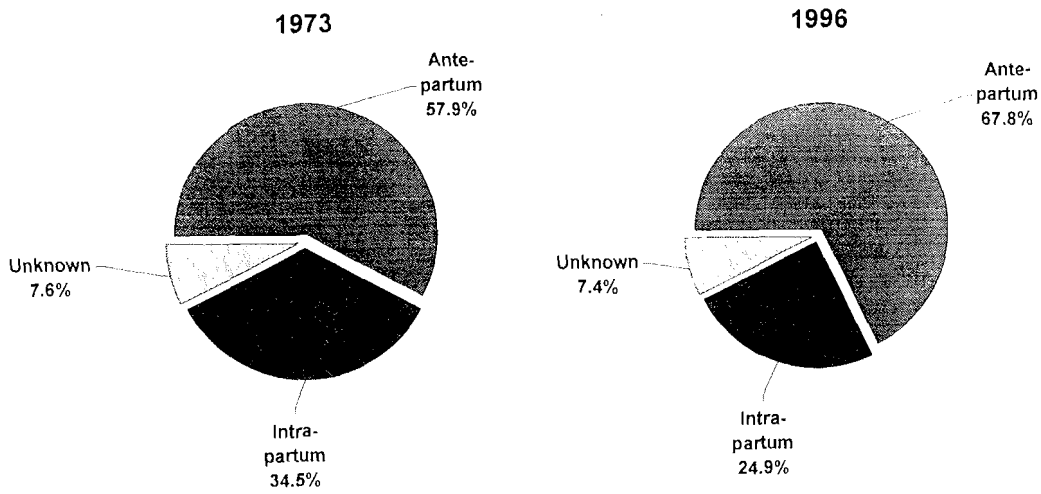


Figure 40: Distribution of fetal deaths by type, Australia, 1973 and 1996

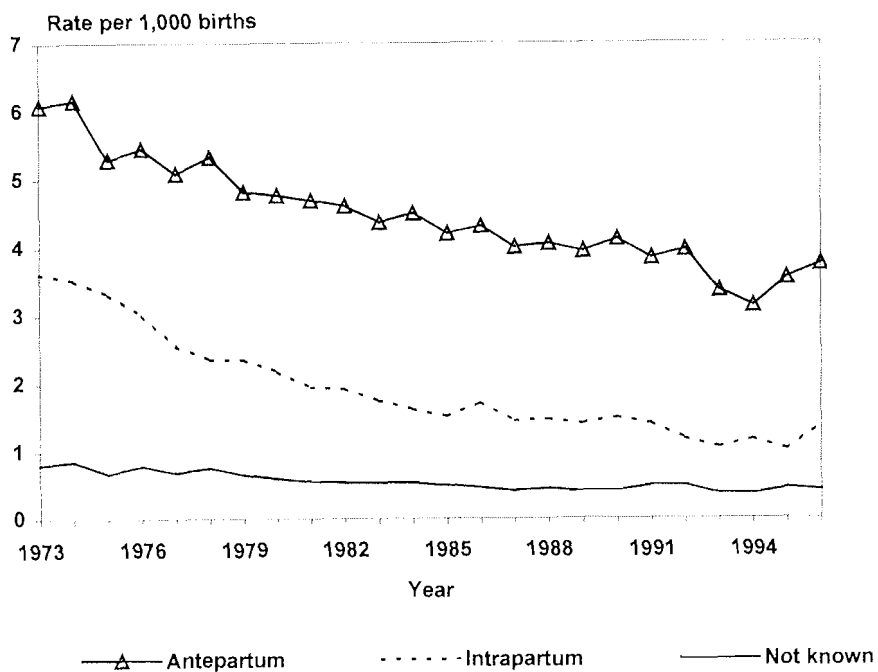


Figure 41: Type of fetal death, Australia, 1973-1996

4.3 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 Territories (Table 59, Figure 42). In the three-year period from 1994 to 1996, the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia had the lowest perinatal death rates. Neonatal death rates varied more than did fetal death rates.

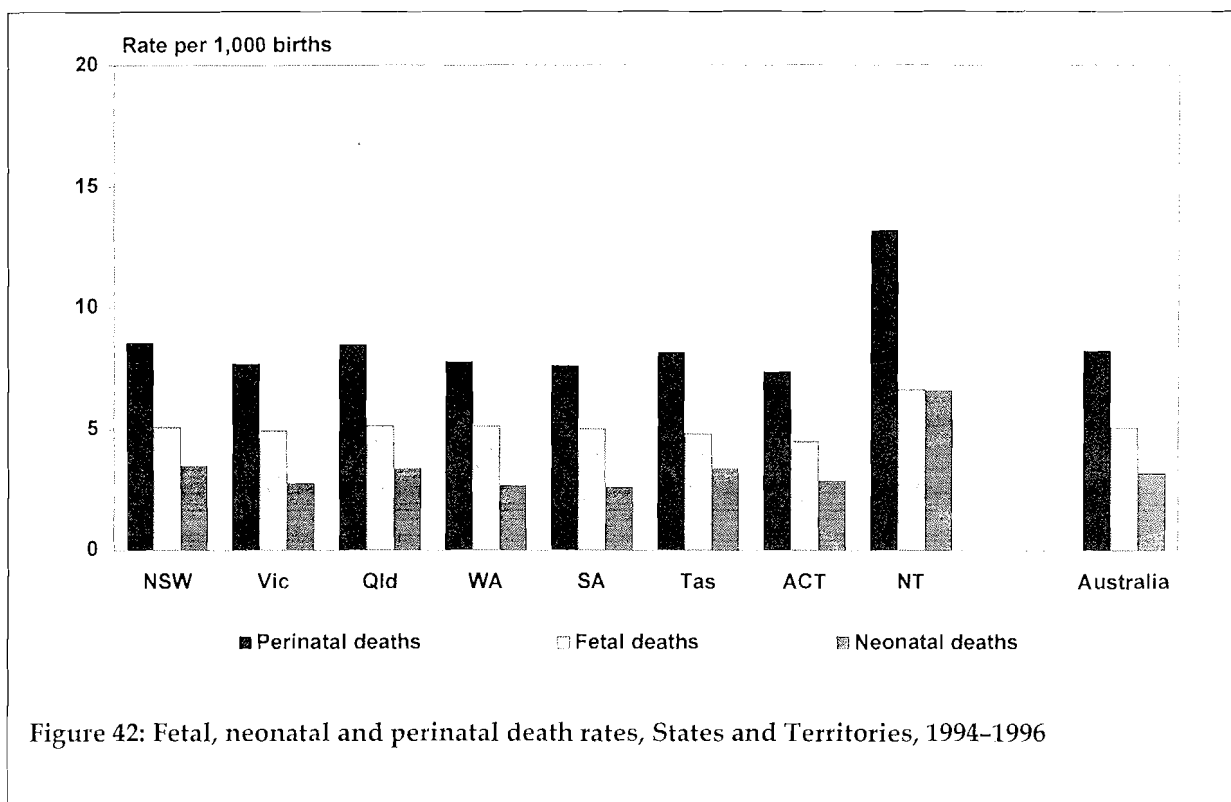


Figure 42: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates, States and Territories, 1994-1996

4.4 Perinatal deaths by maternal age

The perinatal death rate was almost double for infants of younger (less than 20 years) and older (40 years or more) mothers than for those in the 25-29 years age group, which had the lowest rate of 6.9 per 1,000 births in the period from 1994 to 1996 (Table 60, Figure 43). Infants of mothers aged 30-34 years had slightly lower perinatal death rates than those of mothers aged 20-24 years.

4.5 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 1994 to 1996.

There were 6,339 perinatal deaths in 1994-1996; 641 (10.1%) occurred in twins and 54 (0.8%) in other multiple births, so multiple births accounted for 11.0% of all perinatal deaths (Table 61). The perinatal death rate of twins for the period 1994-1996 was 3.7 times higher,

and of other multiple births 8.6 times higher, than that of singleton births (Table 61, Figure 44), mainly due to their increased occurrence of preterm birth and low birthweight.

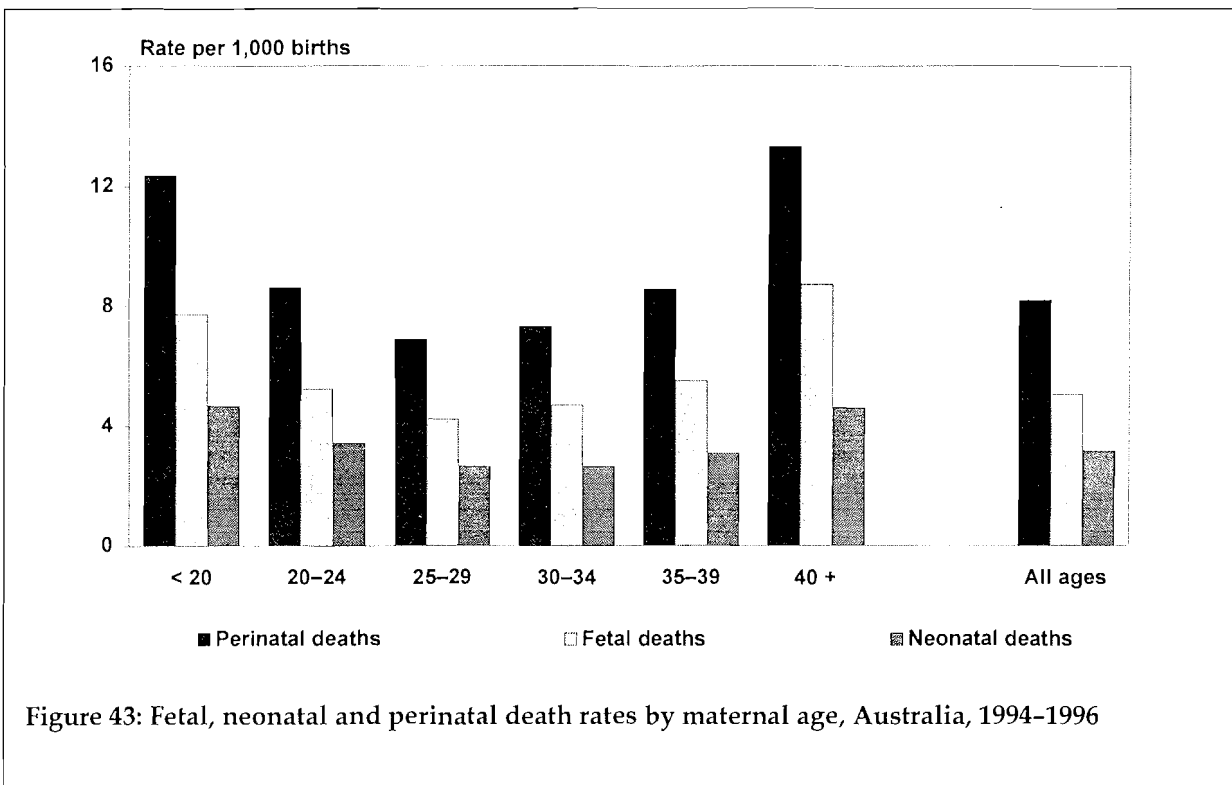


Figure 43: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates by maternal age, Australia, 1994-1996

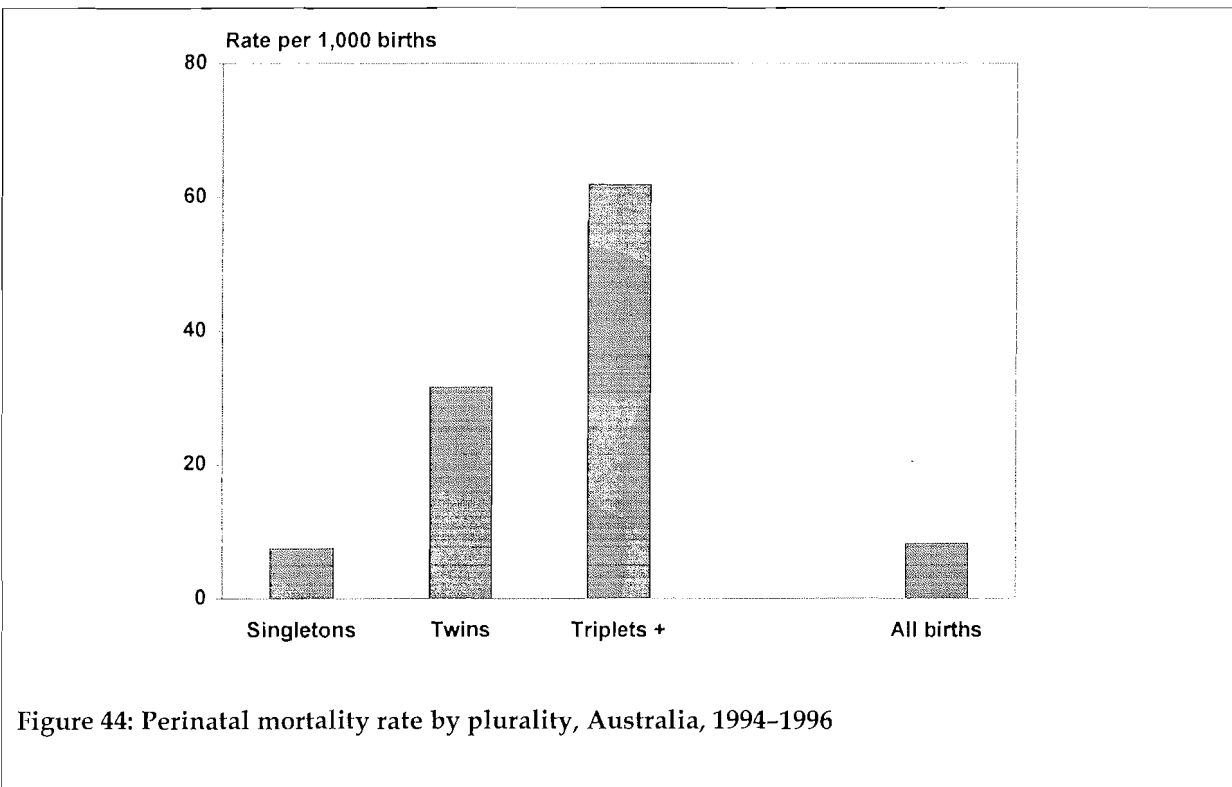
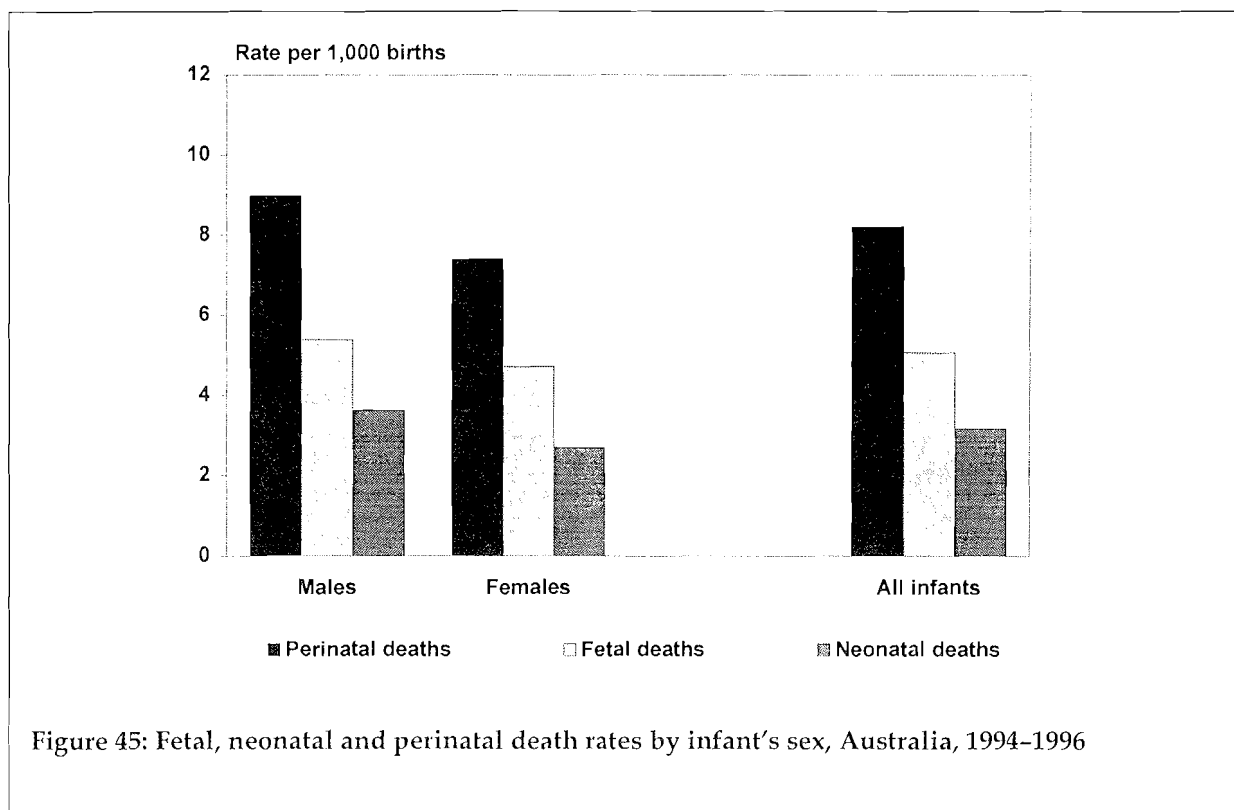


Figure 44: Perinatal mortality rate by plurality, Australia, 1994-1996



4.6 Perinatal deaths by infant's sex

Perinatal death rates for males are consistently higher than for females. In 1994-1996, the rate for males was 21.6% above that for females (Table 62, Figure 45). The difference in rates between the sexes was greater for neonatal deaths than for fetal deaths. The neonatal death rate for males was 33.3% higher than for females; the fetal death rate was 14.9% higher for males.

4.7 Proportionate perinatal death rates by gestational age

The duration of pregnancy is recorded in completed weeks on perinatal death certificates, based either on the gestational age (calculated using the date of the first day of the last menstrual period and the infant's date of birth), or on clinical assessment. As information about the gestational age distribution of all births between 1973 and 1996 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% of fetal deaths with stated gestational ages and those less than 28 weeks for 19%. In 1996, these proportions had increased to 67.5% and 29.6%, respectively (Table 63, Figure 46). Many countries still have a

lower limit of 28 weeks for registering fetal deaths, thereby excluding about one in four 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 1996 than in 1973 (Figure 47). The proportion in this group increased from 25% in 1973 to 42.1% in 1996 while the proportion of all neonatal deaths of known gestational age that were preterm was 68% in 1973 and 66.2% in 1996 (Table 64).

Between 1973 and 1996, 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 (Figure 48). In 1996, 34.0% of perinatal deaths were less than 28 weeks gestation (Table 65).

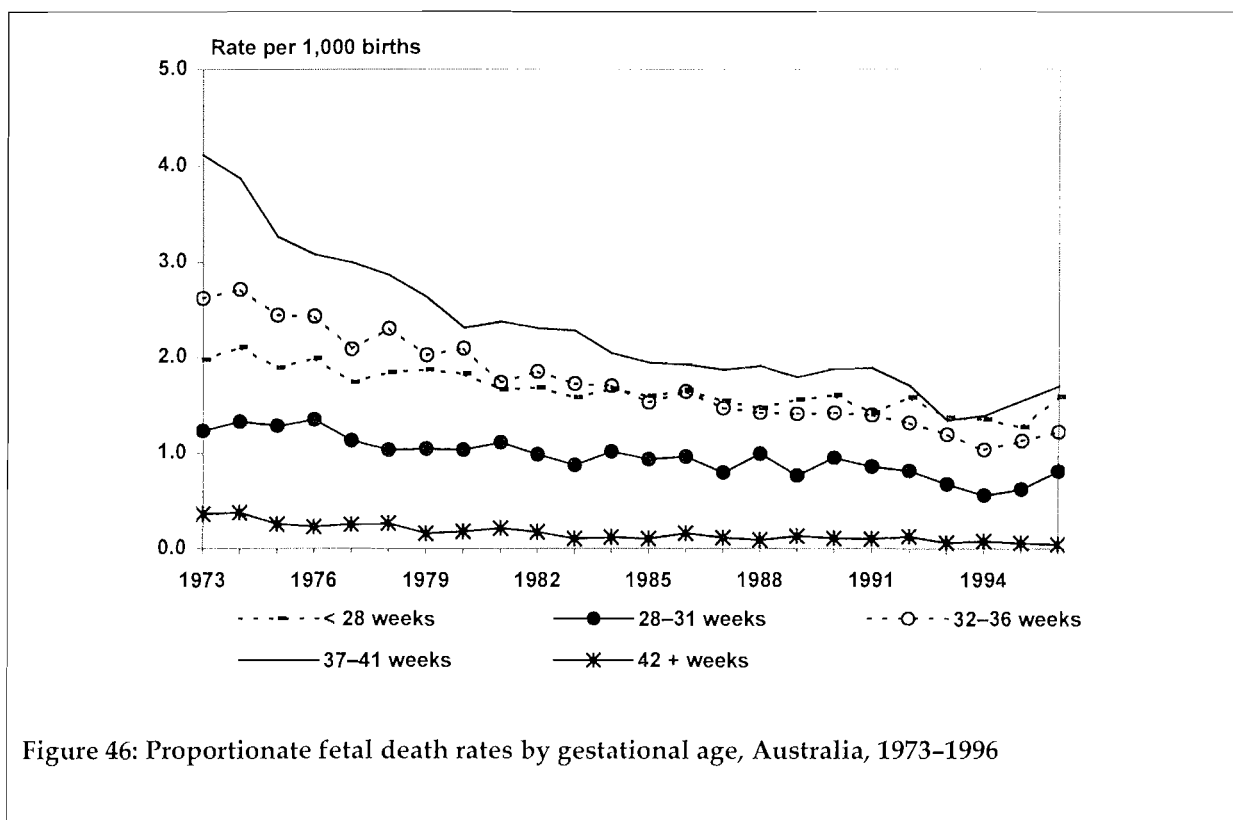


Figure 46: Proportionate fetal death rates by gestational age, Australia, 1973-1996

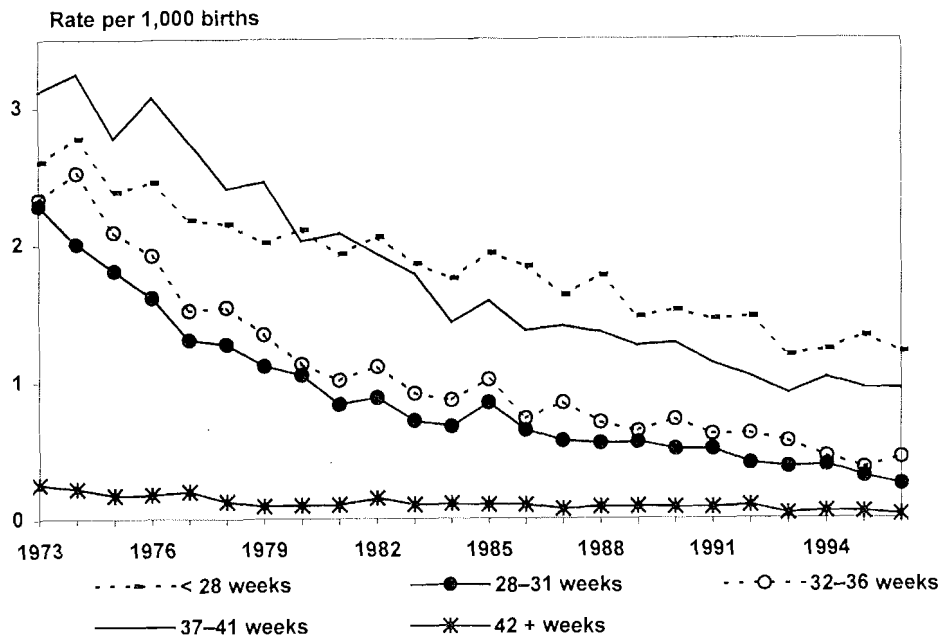


Figure 47: Proportionate neonatal death rates by gestational age, Australia, 1973-1996

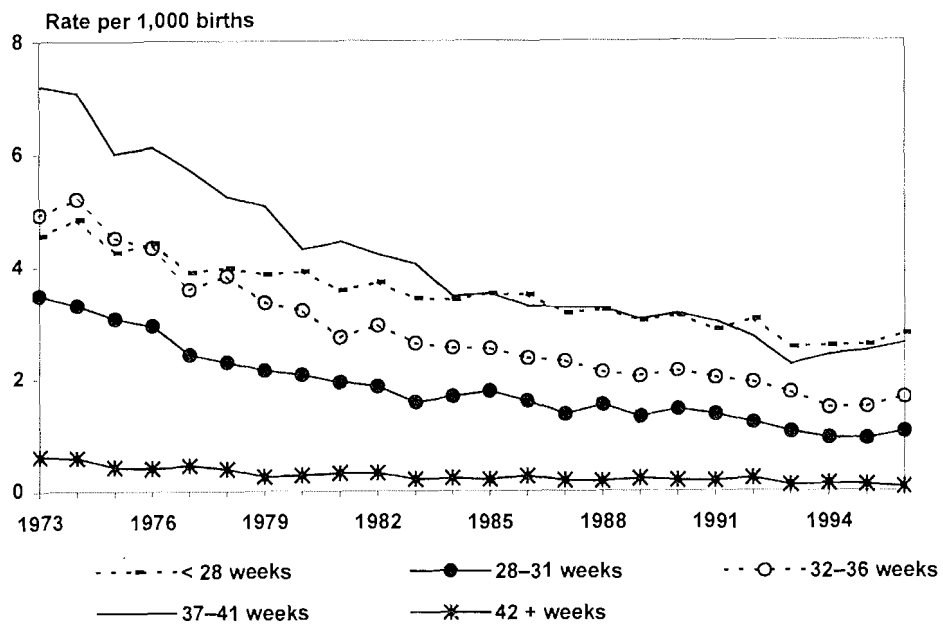


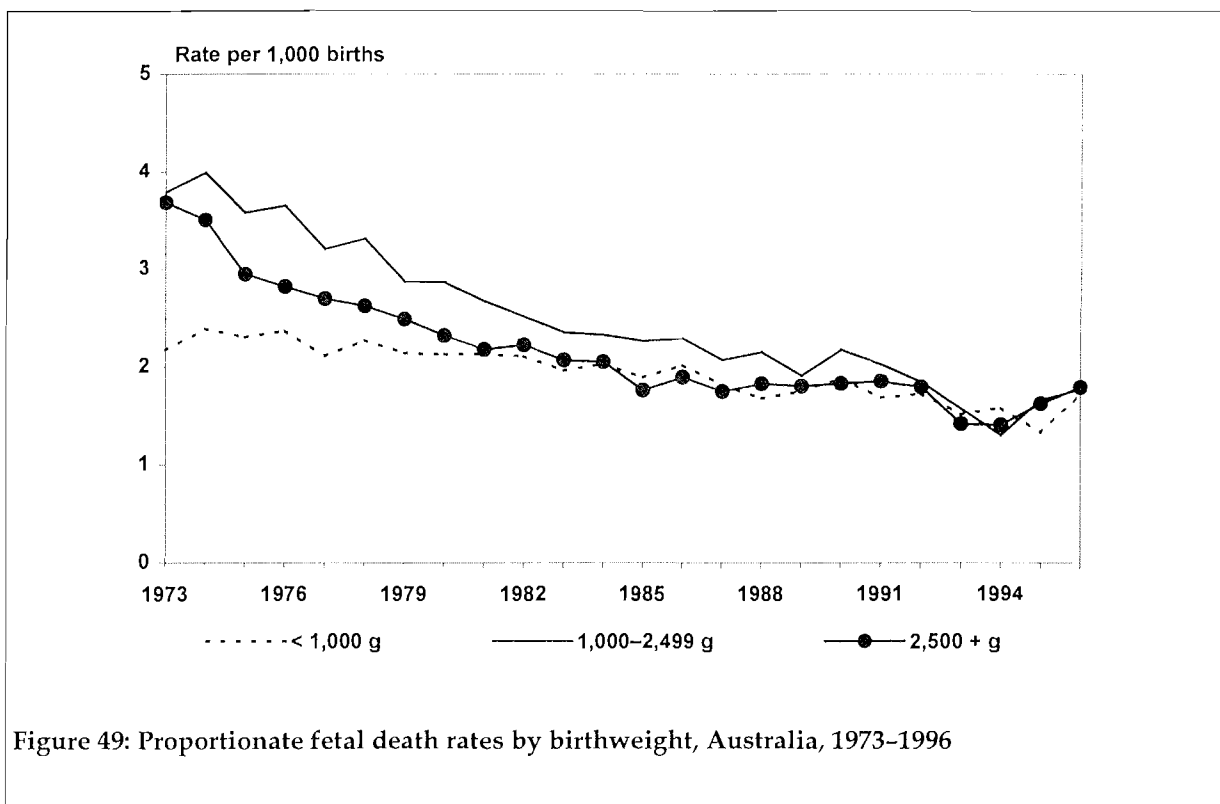
Figure 48: Proportionate perinatal death rates by gestational age, Australia, 1973-1996

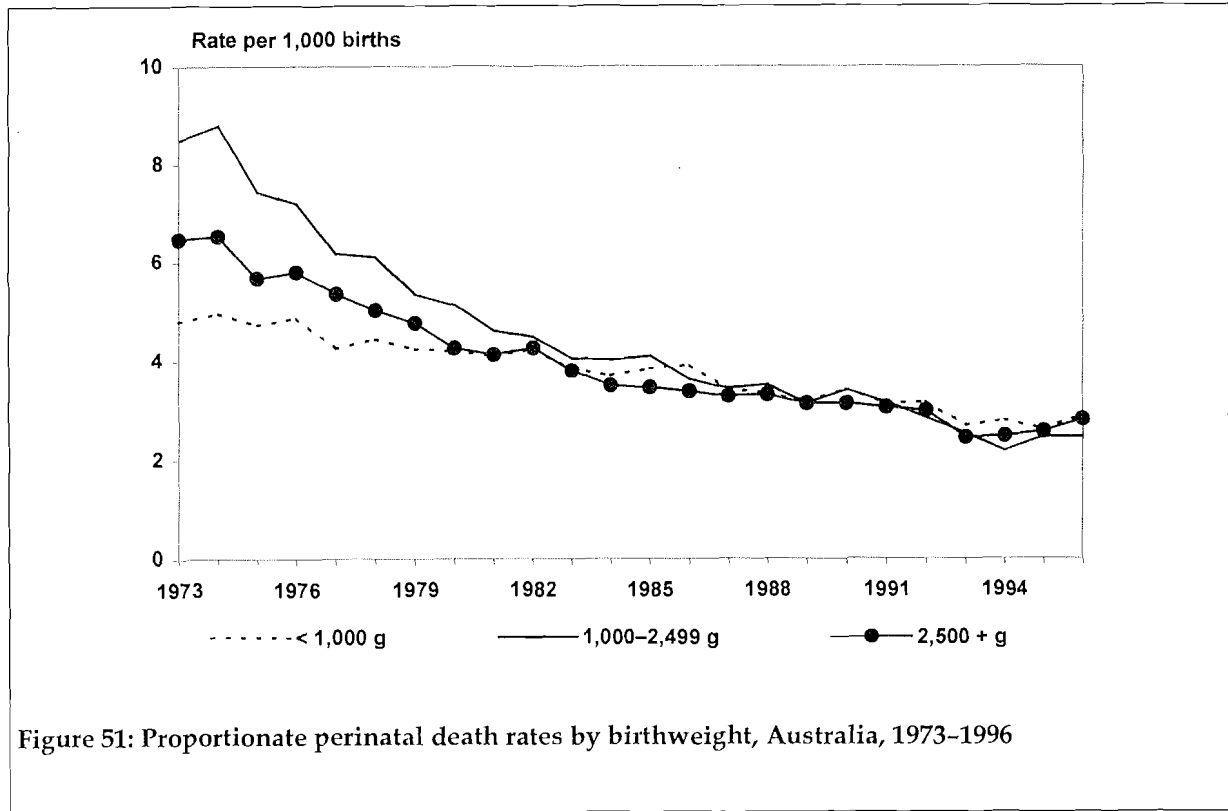
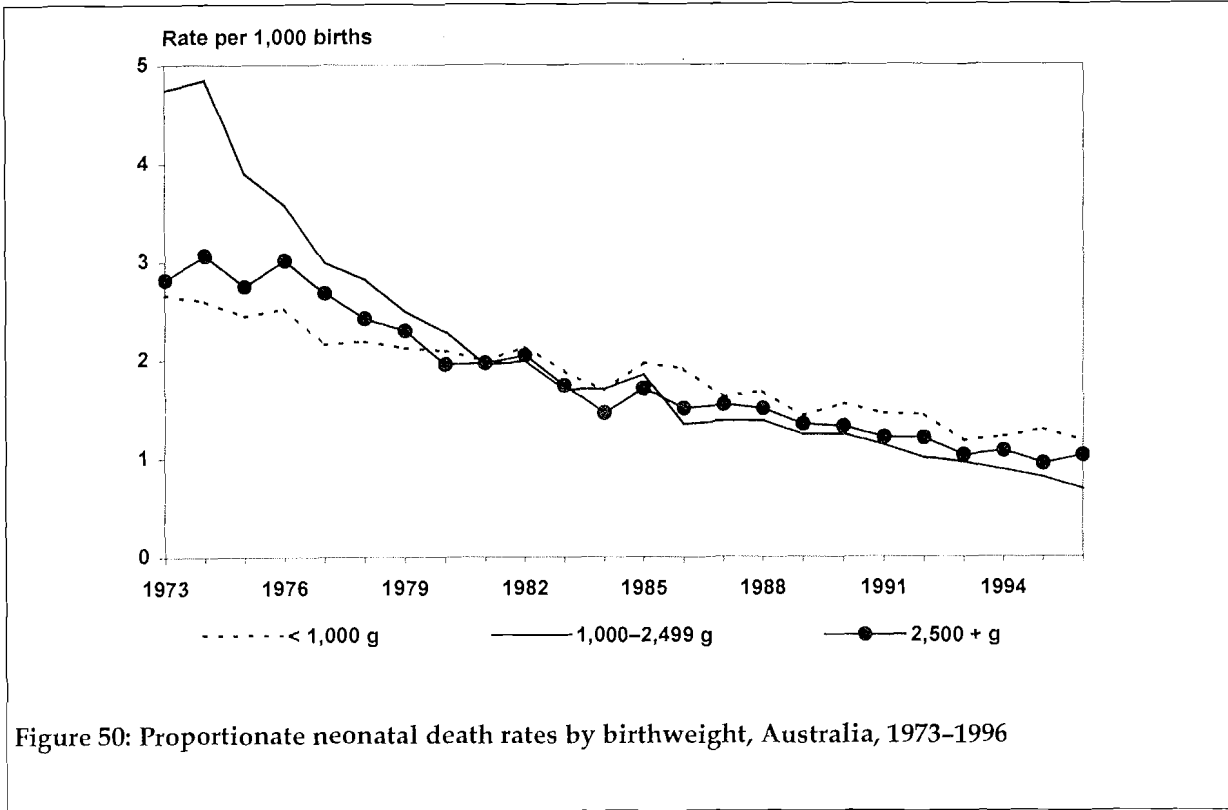
4.8 Proportionate perinatal death rates by birthweight

As for those deaths tabulated in gestational age groups, the fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates by birthweight for the period 1973 to 1996 are expressed as proportionate death rates. In 1973, low birthweight infants of less than 2,500 g accounted for 62% of fetal deaths with stated birthweights and those weighing 500–999 g for 23% (Table 66, Figure 49). In 1996, these proportions had increased to 66.1% and 32.7%, respectively.

The decline in the proportionate neonatal death rate was much greater for infants weighing 1,000–2,499 g than for those in lighter or heavier birthweight groups (Table 67, Figure 50). The rate for infants of 1,000–2,499 g fell from 4.7 per 1,000 live births in 1973 to 0.7 per 1,000 live births in 1996. For infants weighing 500–999 g, the proportionate death rate declined from 2.7 to 1.2 per 1,000 live births in the same period, while for those weighing 2,500 g and over, it declined from 2.8 per 1,000 in 1973 to 1.0 per 1,000 live births in 1996.

Although there were substantial falls in the proportionate perinatal death rates in all birthweight groups, the greatest decline of 70.6% was for infants weighing 1,000–2,499 g, particularly reflecting the decline in neonatal deaths in this birthweight group (Table 68, Figure 51).





4.9 Birthweight-specific fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths in Australia

The continuing decline in fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates noted in previous sections has been influenced by changes in the characteristics of pregnant women and their 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 have 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 perinatal death registrations 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 data on perinatal deaths published by the ABS are based on the year of registration rather than on the year of birth. When analysing perinatal death rates 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 near complete perinatal deaths by year of birth for the first of those two years. The disadvantage of such analyses is that publication of reports based on year-of-birth cohorts is delayed and some late registrations of deaths are not included. Missing information on the birthweight of some infants is an additional problem in analysing birthweight-specific death rates.

Comparisons of data from the 1996 State and Territory perinatal collections and from the 1996 ABS perinatal death registrations have been made (Table 69—see NPSU and ABS year of birth). ABS data on perinatal death registrations for 1997 were available, giving a more complete estimate of the numbers of perinatal deaths by year of birth. However, differences between the two collections in the number of perinatal deaths on a year of birth basis still remain. In the ABS data there were slightly more fetal deaths with known birthweights of 500 g and over and also more fetal deaths with unstated birthweights.

For neonatal deaths in 1996, no comparison between the two collections is possible. The baby's outcome is recorded only from the hospital of birth in the State and Territory data collections. Neonatal deaths within 28 days of infants transferred to another hospital, those readmitted to hospital, and those dying at home are included in the ABS data based on registrations of all perinatal deaths.

Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates for births of 500 g and over in 1996 were calculated using NPSU data on births as denominators (Table 42). Fetal birthweight-specific death rates varied markedly, ranging from 310.0 per 1,000 births for infants of 500–999 g to 1.0 per 1,000 for those weighing 4,000–4,499 g (Table 69). Neonatal death rates varied from 306.0 per 1,000 live births for infants of 500–999 g to 0.5 per 1,000 for those weighing 4,500 g and over.

4.10 Fetal deaths in State and Territory perinatal data collections

As noted in previous sections, fetal deaths are included in the State and Territory perinatal collections if the gestational age is 20 weeks and over or the birthweight is at least 400 g. Thus, there are more fetal deaths included in these perinatal collections than in the national data on perinatal deaths published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which are based on a lower limit of 500 g. Also, factors such as parity and Indigenous and health insurance status that are associated with varying fetal death rates are collected for most births in the perinatal collections.

In 1996, there were 1,818 fetal deaths notified to the perinatal collections, resulting in a fetal death rate of 7.1 per 1,000 births, 29% higher than the rate of 5.5 per 1,000 in the ABS registration data. The variations in fetal death rate with maternal age showed a pattern similar to that for perinatal deaths (see Section 4.4), ranging from 6.4 per 1,000 births for infants of mothers aged 30 to 34 years to 11.5 per 1,000 for infants of mothers aged 40 years and over (Table 70).

The fetal death rate of infants born to Indigenous mothers was 13.2 per 1,000 births, almost twice the rate of 6.9 per 1,000 in the non-Indigenous population (Table 71).

Fetal death was more likely among first-born infants (8.3 per 1,000 births) than among infants whose mothers already had one child (5.7 per 1,000 births) (Table 72). With higher parity, the fetal death rate increased to a maximum of 9.1 per 1,000 births for those with four or more previous children.

The fetal death rate of twins (27.4 per 1,000 births) and of infants born in other multiple births (50.3 per 1,000 births) was much higher than that of singleton infants (6.5 per 1,000 births) (Table 73).

Infants of single mothers (10.5 per 1,000 births) and of mothers who were widowed, divorced or separated (9.7 per 1,000 births) had higher fetal death rates than infants of mothers who were married or living in a de facto relationship (6.4 per 1,000 births) (Table 74).

Fetal death rates were higher for mothers who were not insured (7.6 per 1,000 births) than for those who had private status in hospital (5.3 per 1,000 births) (Table 75).

Several factors make it difficult to compare differences in birthweight-specific fetal and neonatal death rates among the States and Territories (Tables 76–82). Although birthweight was missing for only a small proportion of fetal deaths, comparisons are affected by this missing information. More importantly, data on neonatal deaths for New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory are incomplete because data in which perinatal death registrations had been linked to the perinatal collections were not available.

4.11 Causes of perinatal deaths

It is widely recognised that the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9 and ICD-10) does not adequately emphasise those causes of perinatal death that may be preventable. As a result, other classifications that specify various antecedent maternal conditions, pregnancy complications and fetal abnormalities have been developed (Whitfield et al. 1986). Several States (Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania) have now adopted the Whitfield classification, or local modifications, in their reports on the causes of perinatal deaths and other States are giving consideration to its use.

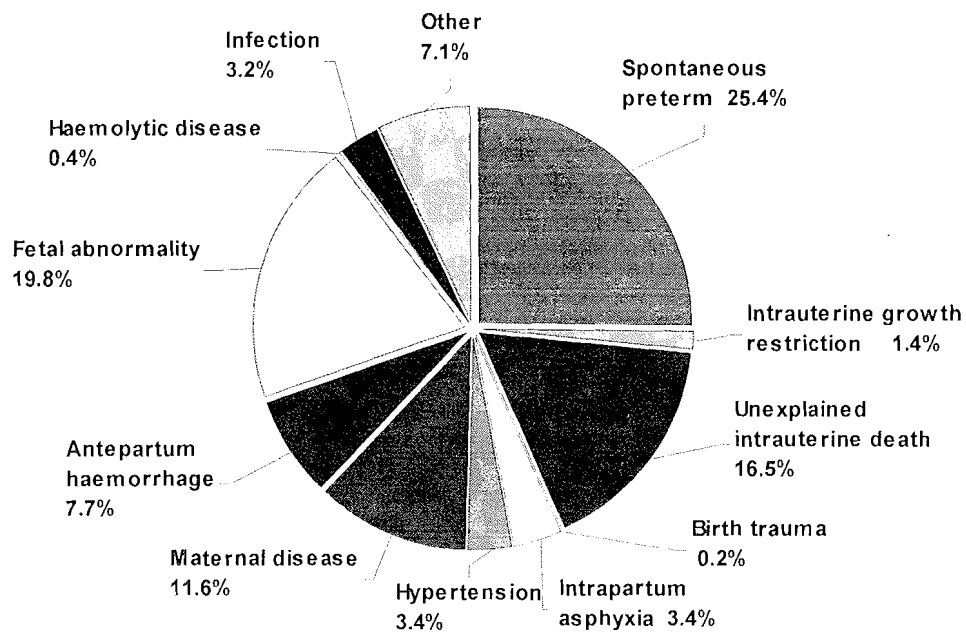
The main categories in the Whitfield classification are: spontaneous preterm; intrauterine growth restriction; unexplained intrauterine death; birth trauma; intrapartum asphyxia; hypertension; maternal disease; antepartum haemorrhage; fetal abnormality; haemolytic disease; infection; and other. Both Queensland and South Australia also give data on these categories separately for infants born preterm (less than 37 weeks gestation) and at term. In Queensland, the Whitfield classification is further amended to provide extra categories for multiple pregnancy and chorioamnionitis. Most multiple pregnancies are otherwise recorded as spontaneous preterm or intrauterine growth restriction. Chorioamnionitis is usually recorded in the category for infections.

In an effort to gain national consensus on classifying the causes of perinatal deaths, this report includes data for those States that have used the Whitfield classification. Data from Queensland and South Australia were available for 1995 and 1996; Western Australia and Tasmania provided data for 1996 (Tables 83, 84).

The main causes of perinatal deaths based on the Whitfield classification were spontaneous preterm birth, unexplained intrauterine fetal death, and fetal abnormality. These three groups of causes accounted for at least half of all perinatal deaths in each State in 1995 and 1996 (Figures 52, 53). Antepartum haemorrhage was the underlying cause for about another 10% of perinatal deaths and other causes were usually less frequent. In Queensland and South Australia, the proportion of deaths attributed to each causal group in 1995 and 1996 was remarkably similar.

Multiple pregnancy is included in the spontaneous preterm category of the Whitfield classification, but other perinatal deaths associated with multiple pregnancy may be classified as intrauterine growth restriction, or as twin-to-twin transfusion in the 'other' category. The number and proportion of all perinatal deaths included in the spontaneous preterm/multiple pregnancy category were: in Queensland, 58 (10.3%) in 1995 and 36 (6.4%) in 1996; in Western Australia, 14 (4.9%) in 1996; and in South Australia, 6 (2.7%) in 1995 and 15 (7.4%) in 1996. The additional perinatal deaths attributed to twin-to-twin transfusion were 9 (4.1%) in 1995 and 9 (4.5%) in 1996 in South Australia, and 9 (3.2%) in 1996 in Western Australia.

Queensland



Western Australia

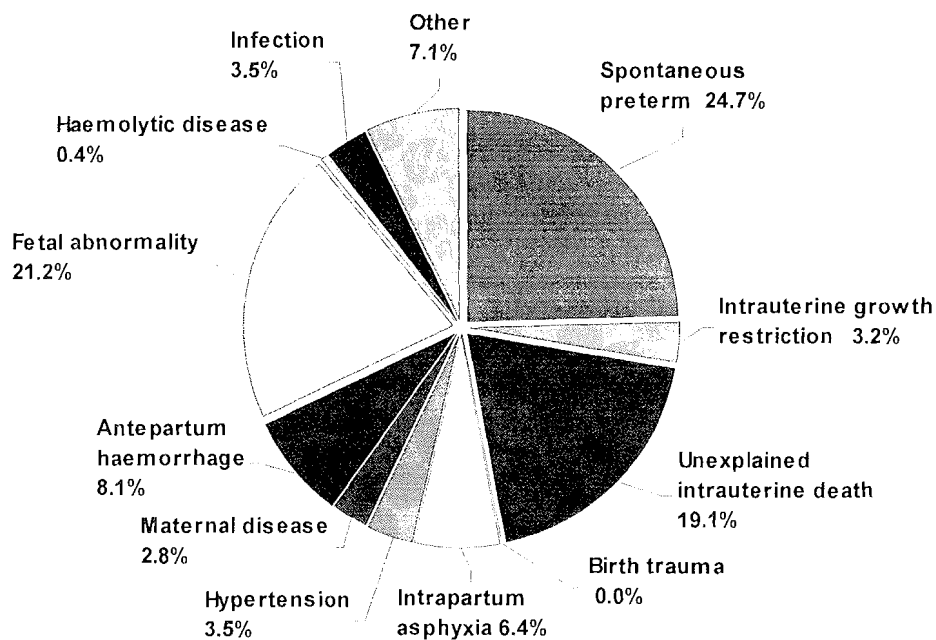
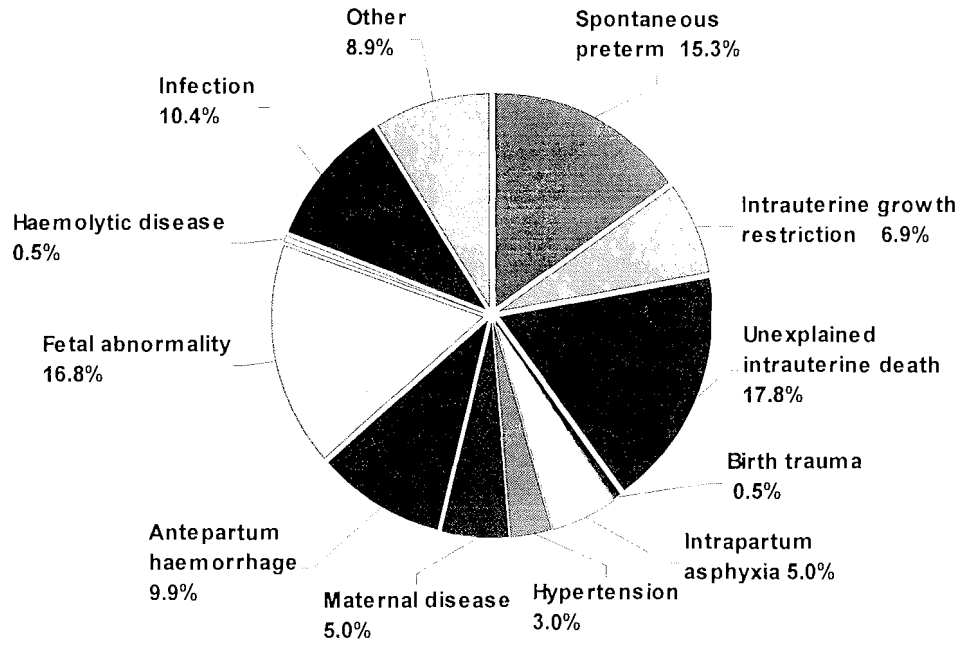


Figure 52: Causes of perinatal deaths, Queensland and Western Australia, 1996

South Australia



Tasmania

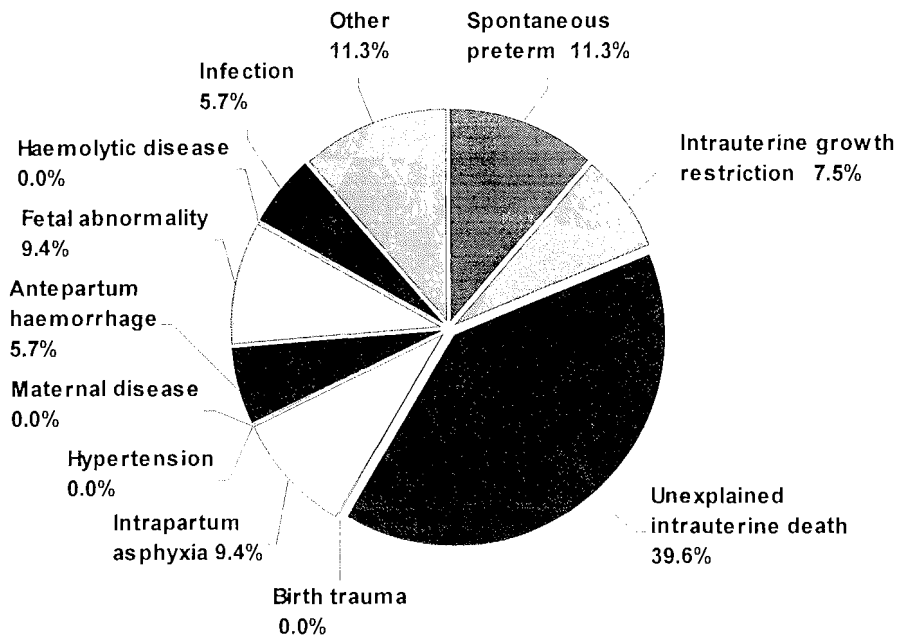


Figure 53: Causes of perinatal deaths, South Australia and Tasmania, 1996

Appendix: tables

Table 1: Confinements and births, States and Territories, 1996

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Confinements	85,302	62,028	47,302	25,192	18,784	6,682	4,701	3,422	253,413
Fetal deaths	545	467	362	201	132	47	37	27	1,818
Live births	85,884*	62,484	47,625	25,383	18,979	6,734	4,751	3,434	255,274
All births	86,429	62,951	47,987	25,584	19,111	6,781	4,788	3,461	257,092

* Includes 30 births in NSW with 'not stated' birth status.

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 2: Place of birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 1996

Place of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Hospital	81,885	61,697	46,545	24,619	18,001	6,561	4,312	3,342	246,962
Birth centre	2,899	-	339	369	679	-	364	2	4,652
Home	192	117	238	120	52	121	24	17	881
Born before arrival	324	214	180	84	52	-	-	-	854
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	45	46
Not stated	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	18
All places of birth	85,302	62,028	47,302	25,192	18,784	6,682	4,701	3,422	253,413
Per cent									
Hospital	96.0	99.5	98.4	97.7	95.8	98.2	91.7	98.1	97.5
Birth centre	3.4	-	0.7	1.5	3.6	-	7.7	0.1	1.8
Home	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.3	1.8	0.5	0.5	0.3
Born before arrival	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	-	-	-	0.3
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	1.3	0.0
All places of birth	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 3: Distribution of maternity units by size, States and Territories, 1996

Number of confinements annually	NSW	Vic	Qld ^(a)	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
1-100	66	58	79	40	38	2	-	2	285
101- 500	39	34	27	17	24	-	1	2	144
501-1,000	27	19	12	5	3	2	2	2	72
1,001-2,000	9	11	8	2	3	2	-	1	36
2,001 and over	15	7	6	2	2	1	1	-	34
All hospitals	156	129	132	66	70	7	4	7	571
Per cent									
1-100	42.3	45.0	59.8	60.6	54.3	28.6	-	28.6	49.9
101- 500	25.0	26.4	20.5	25.8	34.3	-	25.0	28.6	25.2
501-1,000	17.3	14.7	9.1	7.6	4.3	28.6	50.0	28.6	12.6
1,001-2,000	5.8	8.5	6.1	3.0	4.3	28.6	-	14.3	6.3
2,001 and over	9.6	5.4	4.5	3.0	2.9	14.3	25.0	-	6.0
All hospitals	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 4: Distribution of confinements by size of maternity unit, States and Territories, 1996

Number of confinements annually	NSW	Vic	Qld ^(a)	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
1-100	1,739	1,813	1,521	971	1,172	213	-	52	7,481
101- 500	8,892	8,788	7,298	4,856	5,468	-	345	486	36,133
501-1,000	19,617	13,127	8,694	4,049	1,883	1,451	1,920	1,379	52,120
1,001-2,000	12,008	14,137	11,284	2,539	4,516	2,901	-	1,427	48,812
2,001 and over	42,852	24,046	18,267	12,657	5,693	1,996	2,411	-	107,922
All hospitals	85,108	61,911	47,064	25,072	18,732	6,561	4,676	3,344	252,468
Per cent									
1-100	2.0	2.9	3.2	3.9	6.3	3.2	-	1.6	3.0
101- 500	10.4	14.2	15.5	19.4	29.2	-	7.4	14.5	14.3
501-1,000	23.0	21.2	18.5	16.1	10.1	22.1	41.1	41.2	20.6
1,001-2,000	14.1	22.8	24.0	10.1	24.1	44.2	-	42.7	19.3
2,001 and over	50.4	38.8	38.8	50.5	30.4	30.4	51.6	-	42.7
All hospitals	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 5: Maternal age, all confinements, States and Territories, 1996

Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean age (years)	28.7	29.3	28.0	28.4	28.4	27.6	29.2	26.6	28.6
	Number								
Less than 15	30	9	26	25	3	1	-	19	113
15	110	54	94	50	28	16	7	49	408
16	393	192	278	138	90	37	14	62	1,204
17	812	384	598	283	221	83	40	84	2,505
18	1,206	587	981	425	327	135	38	111	3,810
19	1,744	903	1,228	600	432	204	76	146	5,333
Less than 20	4,295	2,129	3,205	1,521	1,101	476	175	471	13,373
20-24	15,639	9,073	10,052	4,664	3,371	1,510	720	834	45,863
25-29	27,454	20,554	15,296	8,347	6,240	2,192	1,565	997	82,645
30-34	25,146	20,517	12,790	7,287	5,547	1,800	1,452	764	75,303
35-39	10,882	8,446	5,150	2,910	2,165	604	673	314	31,144
40-44	1,781	1,266	785	448	351	86	107	42	4,866
45 and over	49	43	24	15	9	5	5	-	150
Not stated	56	-	-	-	-	9	4	-	69
All ages	85,302	62,028	47,302	25,192	18,784	6,682	4,701	3,422	253,413
	Per cent								
Less than 15	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	-	0.6	0.0
15	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.4	0.2
16	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.3	1.8	0.5
17	1.0	0.6	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.9	2.5	1.0
18	1.4	0.9	2.1	1.7	1.7	2.0	0.8	3.2	1.5
19	2.0	1.5	2.6	2.4	2.3	3.1	1.6	4.3	2.1
Less than 20	5.0	3.4	6.8	6.0	5.9	7.1	3.7	13.8	5.3
20-24	18.3	14.6	21.3	18.5	17.9	22.6	15.3	24.4	18.1
25-29	32.2	33.1	32.3	33.1	33.2	32.8	33.3	29.1	32.6
30-34	29.5	33.1	27.0	28.9	29.5	27.0	30.9	22.3	29.7
35-39	12.8	13.6	10.9	11.6	11.5	9.1	14.3	9.2	12.3
40-44	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.3	2.3	1.2	1.9
45 and over	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	-	0.1
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 6: Mother's parity, all confinements, States and Territories, 1996

Parity	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
None	34,267	24,626	18,612	10,069	7,460	2,323	1,915	1,295	100,567
One	28,644	21,907	15,521	8,477	6,692	2,066	1,688	973	85,968
Two	13,951	10,247	7,968	4,107	2,975	1,189	744	554	41,735
Three	5,281	3,443	3,130	1,595	1,077	577	245	264	15,612
Four or more	3,053	1,805	2,062	944	580	490	109	336	9,379
Not stated	106	-	9	-	-	37	-	-	152
All parities	85,302	62,028	47,302	25,192	18,784	6,682	4,701	3,422	253,413
Per cent									
None	40.2	39.7	39.4	40.0	39.7	35.0	40.7	37.8	39.7
One	33.6	35.3	32.8	33.6	35.6	31.1	35.9	28.4	33.9
Two	16.4	16.5	16.8	16.3	15.8	17.9	15.8	16.2	16.5
Three	6.2	5.6	6.6	6.3	5.7	8.7	5.2	7.7	6.2
Four or more	3.6	2.9	4.4	3.7	3.1	7.4	2.3	9.8	3.7
All parities	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 7: Distribution of confinements by maternal age and parity, States and Territories, 1996

Parity	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
Number								
None	10,960	24,869	35,084	21,958	6,672	996	28	100,567
One	2,131	14,506	29,152	28,291	10,465	1,403	20	85,968
Two	235	4,771	12,307	15,803	7,504	1,104	11	41,735
Three	21	1,282	4,101	5,897	3,679	627	5	15,612
Four or more	21	413	1,957	3,305	2,798	882	3	9,379
Not stated	5	22	44	49	26	4	2	152
All parities	13,373	45,863	82,645	75,303	31,144	5,016	69	253,413
Per cent								
None	82.0	54.3	42.5	29.2	21.4	19.9	41.8	39.7
One	15.9	31.6	35.3	37.6	33.6	28.0	29.9	33.9
Two	1.8	10.4	14.9	21.0	24.1	22.0	16.4	16.5
Three	0.2	2.8	5.0	7.8	11.8	12.5	7.5	6.2
Four or more	0.2	0.9	2.4	4.4	9.0	17.6	4.5	3.7
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, 1996

Marital status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas ^(a)	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Married/de facto	75,067	54,643	40,887	22,379	15,995	4,744	4,187	2,654	220,556
Single	9,021	6,407	5,846	2,579	2,475	1,582	356	615	28,881
Widowed, divorced, or separated	1,082	784	535	234	312	89	56	58	3,150
Not stated/other	132	194	34	-	2	267	102	95	826
All marital status	85,302	62,028	47,302	25,192	18,784	6,682	4,701	3,422	253,413
Per cent									
Married/de facto	88.1	88.4	86.5	88.8	85.2	74.0	91.0	79.8	87.3
Single	10.6	10.4	12.4	10.2	13.2	24.7	7.7	18.5	11.4
Widowed, divorced, or separated	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.7	1.2
All marital status	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) De facto coded with single marital status.

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 9: Marital status of teenage mothers, Australia, 1996

Maternal age (years)	All confinements (n)	Married/de facto		Single ^(a)		Other	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 15	113	12	10.6	101	89.4	0	0.0
15	408	66	16.2	332	81.4	10	2.5
16	1,204	283	23.5	910	75.6	11	0.9
17	2,505	906	36.2	1,583	63.2	16	0.6
18	3,810	1,675	44.0	2,103	55.2	32	0.8
19	5,333	2,834	53.1	2,443	45.8	56	1.1
Less than 20	13,373	5,776	43.2	7,472	55.9	125	0.9

(a) Data for Tasmania includes de facto status

Table 10: Indigenous status of mothers, all confinements, States and Territories, 1996

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Non-Indigenous	83,557	61,580	44,665	23,781	18,436	6,587	4,620	2,212	245,438
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	1,712	448	2,606	1,411	348	5	80	1,210	7,820
Not stated	33	-	31	-	-	90	1	-	155
All confinements	85,302	62,028	47,302	25,192	18,784	6,682	4,701	3,422	253,413
Per cent									
Non-Indigenous	98.0	99.3	94.5	94.4	98.1	99.9	98.3	64.6	96.9
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	2.0	0.7	5.5	5.6	1.9	0.1	1.7	35.4	3.1
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 11: Distribution of confinements of Indigenous mothers by maternal age and parity, Australia, 1996

Parity	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
Number								
None	1,201	700	260	87	30	2	-	2,280
One	428	869	439	154	34	10	-	1,934
Two	90	621	447	188	53	6	-	1,405
Three	3	351	421	186	59	8	-	1,028
Four or more	8	131	456	388	172	14	-	1,169
Not stated	0	1	1	1	1	-	-	4
All parities	1,730	2,673	2,024	1,004	349	40	-	7,820
Per cent								
None	69.4	26.2	12.9	8.7	8.6	5.0	-	29.2
One	24.7	32.5	21.7	15.4	9.8	25.0	-	24.7
Two	5.2	23.2	22.1	18.7	15.2	15.0	-	18.0
Three	0.2	13.1	20.8	18.5	17.0	20.0	-	13.2
Four or more	0.5	4.9	22.5	38.7	49.4	35.0	-	15.0
All parities	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0

Table 12: Confinements of Indigenous mothers by maternal age, States and Territories, 1996

Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean age (years)	24.1	25.7	24.6	23.8	23.8	27.2	25.9	23.5	24.2
	Number								
Less than 15	9	1	10	18	2	-	-	18	58
15	20	2	20	28	3	-	-	45	118
16	52	8	65	49	3	-	2	51	230
17	82	12	105	87	23	-	4	65	378
18	97	21	147	64	23	-	4	84	440
19	114	27	154	102	27	-	6	76	506
Less than 20	374	71	501	348	81	-	16	339	1,730
20-24	624	133	889	480	128	1	16	402	2,673
25-29	424	135	725	345	93	3	26	273	2,024
30-34	207	71	354	177	34	1	18	142	1,004
35-39	73	33	124	58	11	-	4	46	349
40-44	10	4	12	3	1	-	-	8	38
45 and over	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All confinements	1,712	448	2,606	1,411	348	5	80	1,210	7,820
	Per cent								
Less than 15	0.5	0.2	0.4	1.3	0.6	-	-	1.5	0.7
15	1.2	0.4	0.8	2.0	0.9	-	-	3.7	1.5
16	3.0	1.8	2.5	3.5	0.9	-	2.5	4.2	2.9
17	4.8	2.7	4.0	6.2	6.6	-	5.0	5.4	4.8
18	5.7	4.7	5.6	4.5	6.6	-	5.0	6.9	5.6
19	6.7	6.0	5.9	7.2	7.8	-	7.5	6.3	6.5
Less than 20	21.8	15.8	19.2	24.7	23.3	-	20.0	28.0	22.1
20-24	36.4	29.7	34.1	34.0	36.8	20.0	20.0	33.2	34.2
25-29	24.8	30.1	27.8	24.5	26.7	60.0	32.5	22.6	25.9
30-34	12.1	15.8	13.6	12.5	9.8	20.0	22.5	11.7	12.8
35-39	4.3	7.4	4.8	4.1	3.2	-	5.0	3.8	4.5
40-44	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.3	-	-	0.7	0.5
45 and over	-	0.2	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	0.0
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 13: Maternal country of birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 1996

Country of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Australia	62,309	46,340	39,455	17,276	15,502	6,084	3,747	2,883	193,596
New Zealand	1,790	1,009	1,918	842	216	52	69	81	5,977
United Kingdom	2,707	2,362	1,807	2,511	1,343	202	187	100	11,219
Italy	285	379	46	59	73	3	5	3	853
Former Yugoslavia	1,245	1,414	199	205	156	7	56	11	3,293
Other Europe and former USSR	1,254	1,103	602	556	298	65	79	42	3,999
Lebanon	2,042	720	38	29	40	4	9	-	2,882
Other Middle East and North Africa	1,359	1,035	105	128	64	13	24	6	2,734
China	1,950	869	190	118	77	5	45	15	3,269
Hong Kong	659	219	109	50	12	3	12	4	1,068
India	576	463	87	160	50	6	34	3	1,379
Malaysia	308	348	125	214	58	12	34	24	1,123
Philippines	1,266	582	434	157	132	23	39	42	2,675
Vietnam	1,865	1,731	327	291	291	2	52	17	4,576
Other Asia	2,356	1,591	572	462	163	34	123	96	5,397
Northern America	497	294	237	157	84	31	64	31	1,395
South and Central America, and the Caribbean	751	386	118	71	38	5	29	1	1,399
Africa (excluding North Africa)	553	597	192	247	67	12	27	9	1,704
Other countries	1,430	449	706	96	61	29	55	47	2,873
Not stated	100	137	35	1,563	59	90	11	7	2,002
All countries	85,302	62,028	47,302	25,192	18,784	6,682	4,701	3,422	253,413
Per cent									
Australia	73.1	74.9	83.5	73.1	82.8	92.3	79.9	84.4	77.0
New Zealand	2.1	1.6	4.1	3.6	1.2	0.8	1.5	2.4	2.4
United Kingdom	3.2	3.8	3.8	10.6	7.2	3.1	4.0	2.9	4.5
Italy	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3
Former Yugoslavia	1.5	2.3	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.1	1.2	0.3	1.3
Other Europe and former USSR	1.5	1.8	1.3	2.4	1.6	1.0	1.7	1.2	1.6
Lebanon	2.4	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	-	1.1
Other Middle East and North Africa	1.6	1.7	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.2	1.1
China	2.3	1.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.3
Hong Kong	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.4
India	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.5
Malaysia	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.4
Philippines	1.5	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.8	1.2	1.1
Vietnam	2.2	2.8	0.7	1.2	1.6	0.0	1.1	0.5	1.8
Other Asia	2.8	2.6	1.2	2.0	0.9	0.5	2.6	2.8	2.1
Northern America	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.5	1.4	0.9	0.6
South and Central America, and the Caribbean	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.6
Africa (excluding North Africa)	0.6	1.0	0.4	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.7
Other countries	1.7	0.7	1.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	1.2	1.4	1.1
All countries	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 14: Maternal age distribution by selected country of birth, all confinements, Australia, 1996

Country of birth	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
	Number							
Australia	12,033	38,043	64,890	54,465	20,994	3,128	43	193,596
New Zealand	329	1,133	1,788	1,693	883	149	2	5,977
United Kingdom	150	822	3,073	4,799	2,043	330	2	11,219
Italy	2	25	200	380	193	51	2	853
Former Yugoslavia	35	432	1,126	1,110	488	102	0	3,293
Lebanon	121	759	911	731	300	57	3	2,882
China	8	149	773	1,477	734	123	5	3,269
Hong Kong	1	41	186	504	309	27	0	1,068
India	5	172	485	508	189	20	0	1,379
Malaysia	11	64	263	431	292	62	0	1,123
Philippines	86	310	655	891	596	137	0	2,675
Vietnam	114	874	1,479	1,230	707	172	0	4,576
Other countries	403	2,784	6,137	6,445	3,118	607	7	19,501
Not stated	75	255	679	639	298	51	5	2,002
All countries	13,373	45,863	82,645	75,303	31,144	5,016	69	253,413
	Per cent							
Australia	6.2	19.7	33.5	28.1	10.8	1.6	-	100.0
New Zealand	5.5	19.0	29.9	28.3	14.8	2.5	-	100.0
United Kingdom	1.3	7.3	27.4	42.8	18.2	2.9	-	100.0
Italy	0.2	2.9	23.4	44.5	22.6	6.0	-	100.0
Former Yugoslavia	1.1	13.1	34.2	33.7	14.8	3.1	-	100.0
Lebanon	4.2	26.3	31.6	25.4	10.4	2.0	-	100.0
China	0.2	4.6	23.6	45.2	22.5	3.8	-	100.0
Hong Kong	0.1	3.8	17.4	47.2	28.9	2.5	-	100.0
India	0.4	12.5	35.2	36.8	13.7	1.5	-	100.0
Malaysia	1.0	5.7	23.4	38.4	26.0	5.5	-	100.0
Philippines	3.2	11.6	24.5	33.3	22.3	5.1	-	100.0
Vietnam	2.5	19.1	32.3	26.9	15.5	3.8	-	100.0
Other countries	2.1	14.3	31.5	33.0	16.0	3.1	-	100.0
All countries	5.3	18.1	32.6	29.7	12.3	2.0	-	100.0

Table 15: Marital status of mother by selected country of birth, all confinements, Australia, 1996

Country of birth	All confinements (n)	Married /de facto		Single		Other	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Australia	193,596	165,548	85.5	25,087	13.0	2,961	1.5
New Zealand	5,977	4,970	83.2	902	15.1	105	1.8
United Kingdom	11,219	10,332	92.1	703	6.3	184	1.6
Italy	853	825	96.7	18	2.1	10	1.2
Former Yugoslavia	3,293	3,111	94.5	115	3.5	67	2.0
Lebanon	2,882	2,817	97.7	27	0.9	38	1.3
China	3,269	3,154	96.5	83	2.5	32	1.0
Hong Kong	1,068	1,045	97.8	17	1.6	6	0.6
India	1,379	1,346	97.6	24	1.7	9	0.7
Malaysia	1,123	1,070	95.3	44	3.9	9	0.8
Philippines	2,675	2,456	91.8	163	6.1	56	2.1
Vietnam	4,576	4,000	87.4	470	10.3	106	2.3
Other countries	19,501	18,109	92.9	1,086	5.6	306	1.6
Not stated	2,002	1,773	88.6	142	7.1	87	4.3
All countries	253,413	220,556	87.0	28,881	11.4	3,976	1.6

Table 16: Mother's accommodation status, all confinements, selected States and Territories, 1996

Status in hospital	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	ACT	Total ^(a)
Number						
Public	57,708	30,918	16,367	12,696	3,021	120,710
Private	27,579	16,113	7,074	6,088	1,662	58,516
Not stated/other	15	271	1,751	-	18	2,055
All classifications	85,302	47,302	25,192	18,784	4,701	181,281
Per cent						
Public	67.7	65.7	69.8	67.6	64.5	67.4
Private	32.3	34.3	30.2	32.4	35.5	32.6
All classifications	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Data exclude Victoria, Tasmania and Northern Territory.

Table 17: Duration of pregnancy, all confinements, States and Territories, 1996

Duration of pregnancy (weeks)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean (weeks)	39.1	39.0	39.0	38.9	39.0	39.4	39.0	38.7	39.0
	Number								
20-27	473	452	385	180	159	45	38	35	1,767
28-31	514	393	358	161	133	46	45	42	1,692
32-36	4,275	3,355	2,647	1,377	1,076	280	263	266	13,539
37-41	77,811	56,471	42,798	23,067	17,139	5,949	4,173	3,017	230,425
42 and over	2,187	1,336	1,110	407	271	359	135	52	5,857
Not stated	42	21	4	-	6	3	47	10	133
All confinements	85,302	62,028	47,302	25,192	18,784	6,682	4,701	3,422	253,413
	Per cent								
20-27	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.7
28-31	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.2	0.7
32-36	5.0	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.7	4.2	5.7	7.8	5.3
37-41	91.3	91.1	90.5	91.6	91.3	89.1	89.7	88.4	91.0
42 and over	2.6	2.2	2.3	1.6	1.4	5.4	2.9	1.5	2.3
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 18: Duration of pregnancy by maternal age, all confinements, Australia, 1996

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	
Confinements		Number						
20-27	165	368	485	441	258	49	1	1,767
28-31	121	306	548	430	236	51	0	1,692
32-36	879	2,424	4,192	3,737	1,936	370	1	13,539
37-41	11,866	41,512	75,413	69,038	28,066	4,466	64	230,425
42 and over	333	1,223	1,965	1,625	632	79	-	5,857
Not stated	9	30	42	32	16	1	3	133
All confinements	13,373	45,863	82,645	75,303	31,144	5,016	69	253,413
		Per cent						
20-27	1.2	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.5	0.7
28-31	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.0	0.7
32-36	6.6	5.3	5.1	5.0	6.2	7.4	1.5	5.3
37-41	88.8	90.6	91.3	91.7	90.2	89.1	97.0	91.0
42 and over	2.5	2.7	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.6	0.0	2.3
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 19: Plurality, all confinements, Australia, 1996

Plurality	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Singleton	84,201	61,126	46,645	24,817	18,469	6,585	4,618	3,383	249,844
Twin	1,076	881	633	360	303	95	79	39	3,466
Triplet	24	21	21	13	12	2	4	-	97
Quadruplet	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	5
Quintuplet	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
All confinements	85,302	62,028	47,302	25,192	18,784	6,682	4,701	3,422	253,413
Per cent									
Singleton	98.7	98.5	98.6	98.5	98.3	98.5	98.2	98.9	98.6
Twin	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.7	1.1	1.4
Triplet	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	-	0.0
Quadruplet	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.0
Quintuplet	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	0.0
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 20: Multiple confinements by maternal age, Australia, 1996

Plurality	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
	Number							
Singleton	13,273	45,422	81,521	74,055	30,582	4,922	69	249,844
Twin	100	433	1,098	1,201	546	88	-	3,466
Triplet	-	7	25	45	14	6	-	97
Quadruplet	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	5
Quintuplet	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
All confinements	13,373	45,863	82,645	75,303	31,144	5,016	69	253,413
	Per cent							
Singleton	99.3	99.0	98.6	98.3	98.2	98.1	100.0	98.6
Twin	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.8	-	1.4
Triplet	-	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	-	0.0
Quadruplet	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Quintuplet	-	-	-	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, 1996

Onset of labour	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Spontaneous	59,677	40,613	31,485	14,984	12,231	5,132	3,271	2,456	169,849
—no augmentation	39,891	32,823	17,362	9,248	7,614	4,013	2,536	1,970	115,457
—augmentation	19,786	7,790	14,123	5,736	4,617	1,119	735	486	54,392
Induced	17,523	14,423	10,224	7,036	4,412	1,108	817	597	56,140
—medical only	5,644	5,622	4,324	na	1,669	606	284	255	18,404*
—surgical only	1,211	2,045	1,510	na	459	263	87	52	5,627*
—combined	10,601	6,756	4,305	na	2,284	239	446	273	24,904*
—other	67	-	85	na	-	-	-	11	152*
No labour	8,052	6,992	5,592	3,172	2,141	442	594	362	27,347
Not stated	50	-	1	-	-	-	19	7	77
All confinements	85,302	62,028	47,302	25,192	18,784	6,682	4,701	3,422	253,413
Per cent									
Spontaneous	70.0	65.5	66.6	59.5	65.1	76.8	69.9	71.9	67.0
—no augmentation	46.8	52.9	36.7	36.7	40.5	60.1	54.2	57.7	45.6
—augmentation	23.2	12.6	29.9	22.8	24.6	16.7	15.7	14.2	21.5
Induced	20.6	23.3	21.6	27.9	23.5	16.6	17.4	17.5	22.2
—medical only	6.6	9.1	9.1	na	8.9	9.1	6.1	7.5	8.1*
—surgical only	1.4	3.3	3.2	na	2.4	3.9	1.9	1.5	2.5*
—combined	12.4	10.9	9.1	na	12.2	3.6	9.5	8.0	10.9*
—other	0.1	-	0.2	na	-	-	-	0.3	0.1*
No labour	9.4	11.3	11.8	12.6	11.4	6.6	12.7	10.6	10.8
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Data exclude WA.

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 22: Presentation at delivery, all confinements, States and Territories, 1996

Presentation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Vertex	80,897	58,589	44,986	23,989	17,773	5,385	4,371	3,187	239,177
Breech	3,421	2,621	2,101	1,067	834	58	209	130	10,441
Other	596	434	183	136	153	1	26	20	1,549
Not stated	388	384	32	-	24	1,238	95	85	2,246
All confinements	85,302	62,028	47,302	25,192	18,784	6,682	4,701	3,422	253,413
Per cent									
Vertex	95.3	95.0	95.2	95.2	94.7	98.9	94.9	95.5	95.2
Breech	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.4	1.1	4.5	3.9	4.2
Other	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.6
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 23: Type of delivery, all confinements, States and Territories, 1996

Type of delivery	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Spontaneous vertex	60,339	41,692	32,543	16,118	11,920	4,711	3,070	2,512	172,905
Forceps	5,724	6,198	2,711	1,341	1,653	590	362	177	18,756
Vacuum extraction	3,286	1,395	1,878	2,440	750	66	243	30	10,088
Vaginal breech	874	554	363	145	124	58	38	30	2,186
Caesarean section	15,007	12,178	9,754	5,148	4,337	1,255	985	666	49,320
—elective	8,052	6,992	na	2,865	1,826	374	574	103	20,786*
—emergency	6,955	5,186	na	2,283	2,511	500	411	136	17,982*
—other	-	11	na	-	-	-	-	-	11*
Other	-	11	50	-	-	-	-	-	61
Not stated	72	-	3	-	-	2	3	17	97
All types of delivery	85,302	62,028	47,302	25,192	18,784	6,682	4,701	3,422	253,413
Per cent									
Spontaneous vertex	70.8	67.2	68.8	64.0	63.5	70.5	65.3	73.8	68.3
Forceps	6.7	10.0	5.7	5.3	8.8	8.8	7.7	5.2	7.4
Vacuum extraction	3.9	2.2	4.0	9.7	4.0	1.0	5.2	0.9	4.0
Vaginal breech	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9
Caesarean section	17.6	19.6	20.6	20.4	23.1	18.8	21.0	19.3	19.5
—elective	9.4	11.3	na	11.4	9.7	5.6	12.2	3.0	10.1*
—emergency	8.2	8.4	na	9.1	13.4	7.5	8.7	4.0	8.7*
—other	-	0.0	na	-	-	-	-	-	0.0*
Other	-	0.0	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	0.0
All types of delivery	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Elective and emergency caesarean section data exclude Queensland. The total caesarean section rate include all States and Territories.

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 24: Caesarean rates by maternal age and accommodation status in hospital, States and Territories, 1996

Hospital status/ Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Public^(a)	Number								
Less than 20	404	na	302	164	165	51	24	na	1,110
20–24	1,715	na	1,145	538	517	190	92	na	4,197
25–29	2,754	na	1,644	944	859	229	178	na	6,608
30–34	2,513	na	1,228	853	696	151	152	na	5,593
35–39	1,258	na	582	366	302	66	74	na	2,648
40 and over	233	na	123	59	61	13	9	na	498
Not stated	3	na	-	-	-	-	-	na	3
All ages	8,880	na	5,024	2,924	2,600	700	529	na	20,657
Private^(a)	Number								
Less than 20	17	na	23	6	8	3	-	na	57
20–24	270	na	295	87	71	44	20	na	787
25–29	1,678	na	1,382	538	525	187	136	na	4,446
30–34	2,497	na	1,912	767	744	216	178	na	6,314
35–39	1,364	na	946	406	321	89	92	na	3,218
40 and over	296	na	172	79	68	14	30	na	659
Not stated	2	na	-	-	-	2	-	na	4
All ages	6,124	na	4,730	1,883	1,737	555	456	na	15,485
Public^(a)	Caesarean rate (per cent)								
Less than 20	9.7	na	9.9	11.6	15.4	11.2	14.4	na	10.8
20–24	12.4	na	13.2	13.5	17.1	15.0	15.1	na	13.4
25–29	14.8	na	16.7	17.8	20.5	17.5	16.9	na	16.4
30–34	17.7	na	19.2	21.7	22.8	18.0	19.0	na	19.1
35–39	21.5	na	23.0	24.3	26.0	22.6	22.0	na	22.7
40 and over	24.1	na	30.4	25.8	31.1	28.9	17.0	na	26.3
All ages	15.4	na	16.2	17.9	20.5	16.6	17.5	na	16.5
Private^(a)	Caesarean rate (per cent)								
Less than 20	11.6	na	16.0	13.3	25.0	15.8	-	na	14.5
20–24	14.7	na	22.0	19.3	20.8	17.9	18.7	na	18.2
25–29	19.2	na	25.6	22.0	25.6	21.1	26.6	na	22.2
30–34	22.9	na	30.4	27.6	29.8	22.5	27.5	na	26.2
35–39	27.2	na	36.8	35.0	32.0	28.5	28.0	na	31.0
40 and over	34.3	na	44.9	41.4	41.5	30.4	51.7	na	38.7
All ages	22.2	na	29.4	26.6	28.5	22.5	27.5	na	25.4
All confinements	Caesarean rate (per cent)								
Less than 20	9.8	11.0	10.1	11.5	15.7	11.3	13.7	17.6	11.1
20–24	12.7	13.8	14.3	14.0	17.4	15.5	15.6	17.4	14.0
25–29	16.2	18.2	19.8	19.0	22.2	19.0	20.1	18.8	18.3
30–34	19.9	21.4	24.6	23.9	26.0	20.4	22.7	19.0	22.0
35–39	24.1	25.3	29.7	29.1	28.8	25.7	24.7	25.8	26.2
40 and over	28.9	31.5	36.5	32.6	35.8	29.7	34.8	35.7	31.8
All ages	17.6	19.6	20.6	20.4	23.1	18.8	21.0	19.2	19.5

(a) Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory.

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 25: Caesarean rates by maternal age, parity and public accommodation status in hospital, Australia, 1996

Maternal age (years)	Parity				Parity			
	None	One	Two +	Total ^(a)	None	One	Two +	Total ^(a)
	Number				Rate (per cent)			
<i>Less than 15</i>	10	-	-	10	13.2	-	-	12.8
15	27	-	-	27	9.7	-	-	9.4
16	78	1	-	79	9.3	2.0	-	8.8
17	162	18	2	182	9.4	8.1	15.4	9.3
18	281	51	3	335	11.7	9.6	5.7	11.2
19	366	94	17	477	12.0	10.4	12.4	11.7
<i>15-19</i>	914	164	22	1,100	11.0	9.6	10.4	10.8
20	397	133	42	572	12.6	10.0	11.4	11.8
21	404	187	90	681	13.4	10.6	14.4	12.6
22	412	233	110	755	13.2	11.0	12.0	12.3
23	519	314	175	1,008	15.7	13.2	13.1	14.4
24	576	367	238	1,181	16.3	13.6	13.8	14.9
<i>20-24</i>	2,308	1,234	655	4,197	14.3	12.0	13.2	13.4
25	624	407	282	1,313	17.7	13.9	14.7	15.7
26	553	412	323	1,288	17.5	14.6	14.8	15.8
27	567	442	351	1,360	18.7	15.1	14.9	16.4
28	531	438	376	1,345	19.5	16.4	14.5	16.9
29	471	427	404	1,302	20.6	16.0	15.6	17.3
<i>25-29</i>	2,746	2,126	1,736	6,608	18.7	15.2	14.9	16.4
30	438	415	386	1,239	22.0	17.0	14.9	17.6
31	428	410	402	1,240	24.9	17.8	16.0	19.0
32	338	370	412	1,120	22.8	19.2	16.6	19.0
33	329	358	375	1,062	27.7	20.3	16.2	20.2
34	277	287	368	932	27.5	20.4	17.5	20.7
<i>30-34</i>	1,810	1,840	1,943	5,593	24.5	18.7	16.2	19.1
35	180	235	326	741	25.3	21.2	16.9	19.8
36	169	213	265	647	29.3	23.9	17.9	22.0
37	133	159	238	530	34.2	25.9	20.0	24.2
38	96	116	205	417	36.6	25.5	21.7	25.1
39	85	95	133	313	43.1	28.7	21.8	27.5
<i>35-39</i>	663	818	1,167	2,648	31.1	24.1	19.0	22.7
40	45	58	102	205	33.8	29.1	23.3	26.6
41	34	41	61	136	41.5	31.8	20.2	26.5
42	20	24	30	74	40.8	35.3	17.0	25.3
43	8	13	25	46	42.1	35.1	21.9	27.1
44	5	5	9	19	41.7	35.7	13.0	20.0
<i>40-44</i>	112	141	227	480	38.0	31.5	20.7	26.1
<i>45 and over</i>	7	2	9	18	58.3	18.2	31.0	34.6
Not stated	2	-	1	3	11.1	-	9.1	7.7
Total^(a)	8,572	6,325	5,760	20,657	17.5	15.9	16.0	16.5

(a) Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory.

Table 26: Caesarean rates by maternal age, parity and private accommodation status in hospital, Australia, 1996

Maternal age (years)	Parity				Parity			
	None	One	Two +	Total ^(a)	None	One	Two +	Total ^(a)
	Number				Rate (per cent)			
<i>Less than 15</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	-	1	7.1	-	-	7.1
16	6	-	-	6	13.0	-	-	13.0
17	5	1	-	6	9.4	100.0	-	11.1
18	11	-	-	11	10.9	-	-	10.5
19	32	1	-	33	20.9	6.7	-	19.3
<i>15-19</i>	55	2	-	57	15.0	10.5	-	14.6
20	33	4	1	38	17.9	9.1	33.3	16.5
21	53	9	2	64	16.6	11.5	20.0	15.7
22	90	29	7	126	18.6	18.7	21.2	18.8
23	120	51	7	178	15.8	16.7	10.9	15.8
24	253	111	17	381	20.4	21.6	13.5	20.3
<i>20-24</i>	549	204	34	787	18.4	18.6	14.4	18.2
25	360	153	31	544	22.1	19.5	17.1	20.9
26	482	205	74	761	23.8	18.2	22.1	21.8
27	510	307	92	909	22.7	21.1	19.5	21.8
28	531	389	126	1,046	22.9	21.9	19.7	22.1
29	614	400	172	1,186	27.3	20.3	20.7	23.5
<i>25-29</i>	2,497	1,454	495	4,446	23.8	20.4	20.1	22.2
30	580	490	202	1,272	27.2	23.1	20.0	24.2
31	553	561	250	1,364	27.3	25.9	20.8	25.3
32	467	527	302	1,296	30.0	25.0	23.1	26.1
33	405	504	301	1,210	31.3	27.0	22.8	27.0
34	369	503	300	1,172	34.4	30.7	23.7	29.5
<i>30-34</i>	2,374	2,585	1,355	6,314	29.4	26.1	22.2	26.2
35	304	367	249	920	36.9	28.6	21.7	28.3
36	243	308	218	769	37.9	30.8	22.8	29.6
37	194	250	207	651	40.8	34.1	26.6	32.8
38	140	181	157	478	44.2	33.3	26.0	32.7
39	127	145	128	400	46.9	39.1	29.2	37.0
<i>35-39</i>	1,008	1,251	959	3,218	39.9	31.8	24.4	31.0
40	78	94	94	266	45.9	39.2	30.7	37.2
41	50	71	58	179	46.7	45.5	31.0	39.8
42	42	30	34	106	56.8	39.5	30.4	40.5
43	16	20	26	62	61.5	44.4	30.6	39.7
44	9	2	15	26	50.0	15.4	41.7	38.8
<i>40-44</i>	195	217	227	639	49.4	40.9	31.3	38.7
<i>45 and over</i>	4	6	10	20	40.0	46.2	33.3	37.7
Not stated	1	1	2	4	12.5	12.5	28.6	17.4
Total^(a)	6,683	5,720	3,082	15,485	26.9	25.3	22.8	25.4

(a) Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory.

Table 27: Caesarean rates by maternal age, parity and accommodation status in hospital, Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1996

Hospital status/ Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Public^(a)	Number								
Less than 20	41	na	59	42	16	-	1	na	159
20-24	104	na	120	72	29	-	3	na	328
25-29	72	na	109	53	27	2	6	na	269
30-34	41	na	61	40	12	-	6	na	160
35-39	12	na	35	11	1	-	-	na	59
40 and over	2	na	2	1	1	-	-	na	6
Not stated	-	na	-	-	-	-	-	na	-
All ages	272	na	386	219	86	2	16	na	981
Private^(a)									
Less than 20	-	na	-	-	1	-	-	na	1
20-24	-	na	3	-	-	-	-	na	3
25-29	1	na	3	-	1	-	2	na	7
30-34	1	na	5	-	1	-	2	na	9
35-39	-	na	8	-	-	-	-	na	8
40 and over	-	na	-	-	-	-	-	na	-
Not stated	-	na	-	-	-	-	-	na	-
All ages	2	na	19	-	3	-	4	na	28
Public^(a)	Caesarean rate (per cent)								
Less than 20	11.1	na	11.9	12.8	20.0	-	6.3	na	12.3
20-24	16.8	na	13.8	15.8	23.0	-	18.8	na	15.7
25-29	17.6	na	15.6	16.5	30.0	66.7	28.6	na	17.4
30-34	20.1	na	18.8	23.8	36.4	-	40.0	na	21.5
35-39	18.2	na	31.3	20.8	10.0	-	-	na	24.3
40 and over	22.2	na	20.0	50.0	100.0	-	-	na	27.3
All ages	16.2	na	15.4	16.5	25.3	40.0	22.9	na	16.5
Private^(a)									
Less than 20	-	na	-	-	100.0	-	-	na	9.1
20-24	-	na	18.8	-	-	-	-	na	13.6
25-29	7.7	na	12.0	-	33.3	-	40.0	na	14.3
30-34	33.3	na	16.7	-	100.0	-	66.7	na	23.7
35-39	-	na	66.7	-	-	-	-	na	34.8
40 and over	-	na	-	-	-	-	-	na	-
All ages	6.3	na	20.7	-	37.5	-	40.0	na	19.0
All confinements									
Less than 20	11.0	22.5	11.8	12.6	21.0	-	6.3	20.1	14.2
20-24	16.7	14.3	13.8	15.2	22.7	-	18.8	20.4	16.2
25-29	17.3	14.8	15.4	15.9	30.1	66.7	30.8	22.5	17.8
30-34	20.3	23.9	18.6	23.2	38.2	-	44.4	19.3	21.4
35-39	16.4	33.3	34.7	22.4	9.1	-	-	26.1	26.4
40 and over	20.0	60.0	15.4	33.3	100.0	-	-	25.0	27.5
All ages	16.0	19.2	15.5	16.1	25.6	40.0	25.0	20.9	17.3

(a) Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory.

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 28: Caesarean rates by parity, plurality, breech presentation, and birthweight, States and Territories, 1996

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Parity	Number								
Primipara	6,531	5,126	4,003	2,110	1,853	475	414	271	20,783
Multipara	8,458	7,052	5,747	3,038	2,484	767	571	385	28,502
Not stated	18	-	4	-	-	13	-	-	35
All parity	15,007	12,178	9,754	5,148	4,337	1,255	985	656	49,320
Plurality									
Singleton	14,576	11,759	9,426	4,991	4,174	1,204	949	640	47,719
Twin	410	402	305	145	152	49	33	16	1,512
Other multiple	21	17	23	12	11	2	3	-	89
All confinements	15,007	12,178	9,754	5,148	4,337	1,255	985	656	49,320
Breech presentation in singleton births	2,412	1,876	1,598	831	659	na	153	95	7,624
Birthweight (singleton births)									
Less than 500 g	6	9	5	-	1	1	-	-	22
500–999 g	89	66	65	29	47	13	7	9	325
1,000–1,499 g	215	151	136	49	57	16	16	15	655
1,500–1,999 g	287	253	222	88	101	31	18	15	1,015
2,000–2,499 g	714	526	472	245	219	58	43	44	2,321
2,500 g and over ^(a)	13,261	10,753	8,524	4,580	3,749	1,085	862	557	43,371
—public	7,751	na	4,281	2,570	2,199	591	451	na	17,843
—private	5,507	na	4,243	1,691	1,550	494	411	na	13,896
—other	3	na	-	319	-	-	-	na	11,632
Not stated	4	1	2	-	-	-	3	-	10
All singleton births	14,576	11,759	9,426	4,991	4,174	1,204	949	640	47,719
Parity	Caesarean rate (per cent)								
Primipara	19.1	20.8	21.5	21.0	24.8	20.4	21.6	20.9	20.7
Multipara	16.6	18.9	20.0	20.1	21.9	17.7	20.5	18.1	18.7
All parity	17.6	19.6	20.6	20.4	23.1	18.8	21.0	19.2	19.5
Plurality									
Singleton	17.3	19.2	20.2	20.1	22.6	18.3	20.6	18.9	19.1
Twin	38.1	45.6	48.2	40.3	50.2	51.6	41.8	41.0	43.6
Other multiple	84.0	81.0	95.8	80.0	91.7	100.0	75.0	-	86.4
All confinements	17.6	19.6	20.6	20.4	23.1	18.8	21.0	19.2	19.5
Breech presentation in singleton births	74.7	77.1	81.9	83.1	85.6	na	78.9	77.9	78.2
Birthweight (singleton births)									
Less than 500 g	4.5	4.9	3.7	-	2.4	6.7	-	-	3.7
500–999 g	30.7	29.2	28.0	28.2	45.2	44.8	31.8	40.9	31.6
1,000–1,499 g	62.0	59.2	59.1	40.2	67.9	53.3	66.7	48.4	58.3
1,500–1,999 g	44.2	49.5	52.0	39.5	52.9	51.7	46.2	32.6	47.3
2,000–2,499 g	27.9	28.1	32.0	30.1	35.2	30.2	31.9	22.0	29.5
2,500 g and over ^(a)	16.5	18.5	19.3	19.5	21.5	17.3	19.7	18.2	18.3
—public	14.3	na	14.9	17.0	18.8	15.1	16.2	na	15.3
—private	21.1	na	27.9	25.3	27.2	21.2	26.3	na	24.1
All singleton births	17.3	19.2	20.2	20.1	22.6	18.3	20.6	18.9	19.1

(a) Data include hospital status 'not stated' and 'other'.

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 29: Length of mother's antenatal stay in hospital, States and Territories, 1996

Length of stay	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean length of stay (days)	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8
	Number								
Less than 1 day	50,365	39,961	28,727	13,643	11,105	3,904	2,819	2,059	152,583
1 day	25,907	18,061	14,404	8,192	6,093	1,958	1,413	923	76,951
2-6 days	5,475	2,884	2,782	1,296	1,125	492	306	283	14,643
7-13 days	871	417	498	234	203	110	77	45	2,455
14-20 days	291	159	166	94	78	37	36	21	882
21-27 days	92	64	79	38	35	16	15	5	344
28 or more days	150	151	189	60	41	41	9	5	646
Not stated	1,633	-	10	1,431	-	3	1	3	3,081
All confinements	84,784	61,697	46,855	24,988	18,680	6,561	4,676	3,344	251,585
	Per cent								
Less than 1 day	60.6	64.8	61.3	57.9	59.4	59.5	60.3	61.6	61.4
1 day	31.2	29.3	30.7	34.8	32.6	29.9	30.2	27.6	31.0
2-6 days	6.6	4.7	5.9	5.5	6.0	7.5	6.5	8.5	5.9
7-13 days	1.0	0.7	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.0
14-20 days	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.4
21-27 days	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1
28 or more days	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.3
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 30: Length of mother's postnatal stay in hospital, all confinements, States and Territories, 1996

Length of stay ^(a)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean length of stay (days)	4.1	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.5	4.2
	Number								
Less than 1 day	1,579	632	574	633	260	102	112	36	3,928
1 day	6,944	2,743	3,564	1,717	1,134	407	415	201	17,125
2 days	11,557	6,075	6,569	3,015	2,271	745	629	377	31,238
3 days	14,039	12,427	8,945	4,343	3,157	961	840	592	45,304
4 days	14,685	11,407	8,678	3,836	3,722	1,247	752	583	44,910
5 days	12,834	10,833	6,752	3,862	4,145	1,229	646	592	40,893
6 days	8,313	7,985	4,498	2,643	1,933	782	541	281	26,976
7-13 days	8,754	8,517	5,924	3,429	2,066	899	610	471	30,670
14-20 days	181	101	176	67	34	42	17	32	650
21-27 days	27	15	41	8	5	4	2	8	110
28 or more days	105	3	22	4	5	1	-	2	142
Not stated	1,536	1	4	1,515	-	3	1	-	3,060
All hospital confinements	80,554	60,739	45,747	25,072	18,732	6,422	4,565	3,175	245,006
	Per cent								
Less than 1 day	2.0	1.0	1.3	2.7	1.4	1.6	2.5	1.1	1.6
1 day	8.8	4.5	7.8	7.3	6.1	6.3	9.1	6.3	7.1
2 days	14.6	10.0	14.4	12.8	12.1	11.6	13.8	11.9	12.9
3 days	17.8	20.5	19.6	18.4	16.9	15.0	18.4	18.6	18.7
4 days	18.6	18.8	19.0	16.3	19.9	19.4	16.5	18.4	18.6
5 days	16.2	17.8	14.8	16.4	22.1	19.1	14.2	18.6	16.9
6 days	10.5	13.1	9.8	11.2	10.3	12.2	11.9	8.9	11.1
7-13 days	11.1	14.0	13.0	14.6	11.0	14.0	13.4	14.8	12.7
14-20 days	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.4	1.0	0.3
21-27 days	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0
28 or more days	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.1	0.1
All hospital confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Length of mother's stay in hospital or birth centre of birth only. Transfers, home births and length of stay 'not stated' are excluded.

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 31: Mother's length of postnatal stay by accommodation status, hospital confinements, selected States and Territories, 1996

Status in hospital/ Length of postnatal stay ^(a)	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	ACT	Total
Public^(b) (n)	55,206	29,991	16,366	12,669	2,944	117,176
Mean length of stay (days)	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.4	3.6
	Per cent					
1 day or less	13.2	12.8	13.4	10.2	16.2	12.9
2 days	18.4	20.1	17.0	16.9	18.1	18.5
3 days	20.9	25.1	23.9	22.6	23.6	22.7
4 days	19.2	19.9	18.0	21.3	17.5	19.4
5 days	13.8	11.2	14.2	15.0	11.4	13.2
6 days	7.4	5.1	7.0	7.4	7.7	6.7
7 or more days	7.2	5.7	6.4	6.6	5.4	6.6
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Private^(b) (n)	23,798	15,751	7,074	6,063	1,614	54,300
Mean length of stay (days)	5.1	5.5	5.9	5.3	5.5	5.4
	Per cent					
1 day or less	5.2	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.8	3.3
2 days	5.8	3.4	3.0	2.2	5.9	4.4
3 days	10.5	8.9	5.8	4.8	8.9	8.7
4 days	17.2	17.1	12.4	16.9	14.6	16.4
5 days	22.0	21.6	21.5	37.0	19.2	23.4
6 days	17.9	18.9	21.0	16.4	19.5	18.5
7 or more days	21.5	28.2	34.4	20.9	29.1	25.3
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Length of mother's stay in hospital or birth centre of birth only. Transfers, home births and length of stay 'not stated' are excluded.

(b) Data exclude Victoria, Tasmania and Northern Territory.

Table 32: Mother's length of postnatal stay in hospital by age, parity, Indigenous status, accommodation status, type of delivery, and size of hospital, Australia, 1996

Characteristic	Confinements ^(a) (n)	Per cent						
		0-2 days	3-4 days	5-6 days	7-8 days	9-10 days	11-13 days	14 or more days
All confinements	241,946	21.6	37.3	28.1	9.9	2.1	0.7	0.4
Maternal age								
Less than 20	12,766	28.4	46.8	18.9	4.0	0.9	0.5	0.5
20-24	44,124	30.1	43.0	20.6	4.6	1.0	0.4	0.3
25-29	78,996	21.5	38.1	28.1	9.6	1.8	0.6	0.3
30-34	71,707	17.6	34.0	32.1	12.3	2.7	0.8	0.4
35-39	29,556	16.8	31.7	32.5	14.1	3.4	1.1	0.5
40 and over	4,746	16.5	28.9	32.0	15.7	4.6	1.5	0.8
Not stated	51	31.4	35.3	21.6	7.8	2.0	-	2.0
Parity								
None	96,165	12.4	35.7	33.7	13.7	3.1	1.0	0.5
One	82,149	25.2	38.4	26.2	8.0	1.5	0.5	0.3
Two or three	54,625	29.9	38.7	22.5	6.6	1.5	0.5	0.3
Four or more	8,874	38.0	35.8	17.9	5.6	1.6	0.7	0.4
Not stated	133	24.8	43.6	22.6	6.0	1.5	0.8	0.8
Indigenous status								
Indigenous	7,226	34.9	36.5	17.5	6.3	2.0	1.6	1.2
Non-Indigenous	234,720	21.2	37.3	28.4	10.0	2.1	0.7	0.3
Hospital accommodation status^(b)								
Public	121,175	31.2	42.0	20.1	4.7	1.1	0.5	0.4
Private	56,720	7.6	25.2	41.9	19.3	4.2	1.2	0.5
Other	139	30.2	27.3	28.1	9.4	2.9	2.2	-
Type of delivery								
Spontaneous cephalic	109,183	26.9	43.7	23.2	4.9	0.9	0.3	0.2
Caesarean section	33,151	1.9	20.1	41.7	26.8	6.4	2.1	1.0
Other	20,594	10.7	34.7	36.8	13.7	2.8	0.9	0.3
Size of hospital								
1-100	5,337	19.8	40.3	30.1	8.0	1.4	0.3	0.0
101-500	26,484	16.1	37.6	32.3	10.9	2.2	0.7	0.2
501-1,000	31,310	14.3	32.2	34.9	14.2	3.1	0.9	0.5
1,001-2,000	36,121	23.1	37.2	27.2	9.8	1.8	0.6	0.3
2,001 and over	63,676	22.1	40.6	24.9	9.0	2.3	0.8	0.4

(a) Length of mother's stay in hospital or birth centre of birth only. Transfers, home births and length of stay 'not stated' are excluded.

(b) Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory.

Table 33: Length of mother's postnatal stay for public accommodation status in hospital by age, parity, Indigenous status, type of delivery, and size of hospital, Australia 1996

Characteristic ^(a)	Confinements ^(b) (n)	0-2 days	3-4 days	5-6 days	7-8 days	9-10 days	11-13 days	14 or more days
		Per cent						
Confinements	121,175	31.2	42.0	20.1	4.7	1.1	0.5	0.4
Maternal age								
Less than 20	9,898	30.9	45.9	17.9	3.6	0.9	0.4	0.4
20-24	30,402	34.8	42.6	17.7	3.4	0.8	0.4	0.4
25-29	39,202	31.1	42.4	20.2	4.6	1.0	0.4	0.3
30-34	28,447	29.4	41.1	21.8	5.5	1.4	0.5	0.4
35-39	11,350	27.6	38.9	23.5	6.8	1.8	0.9	0.5
40 and over	1,837	27.0	35.7	23.5	9.6	2.3	1.1	0.8
Not stated	39	35.9	38.5	23.1	2.6	-	-	-
Parity								
None	47,597	18.4	44.5	27.9	6.6	1.5	0.6	0.5
One	38,617	38.2	41.7	15.5	3.3	0.8	0.3	0.2
Two or three	29,115	40.4	39.7	14.7	3.6	1.0	0.4	0.3
Four or more	5,741	44.6	35.0	14.2	4.0	1.0	0.7	0.4
Not stated	105	26.7	45.7	20.0	5.7	1.0	-	1.0
Indigenous Status								
Indigenous	5,597	39.1	36.1	15.6	5.4	1.6	1.3	0.8
Non-Indigenous	115,578	30.9	42.3	20.3	4.7	1.1	0.4	0.3
Type of delivery								
Spontaneous cephalic	89,610	39.0	44.3	13.2	2.4	0.6	0.2	0.2
Caesarean section	19,855	3.5	29.6	47.2	14.3	3.1	1.3	1.0
Other	11,710	19.1	45.5	26.8	6.0	1.6	0.8	0.3
Size of hospital								
1-100	4,239	25.6	43.7	24.3	5.3	0.6	0.2	0.2
101-500	17,703	24.8	43.5	24.1	5.8	1.1	0.5	0.3
501-1,000	21,610	27.1	43.2	22.7	5.0	1.1	0.4	0.4
1,001-2,000	19,245	34.5	42.5	17.2	4.1	1.0	0.5	0.2
2,001 and over	58,378	34.0	40.8	18.6	4.5	1.2	0.5	0.4

(a) Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory.

(b) Length of mother's stay in hospital or birth centre of birth only. Transfers, home births and length of stay 'not stated' are excluded.

Table 34: Length of mother's postnatal stay for private accommodation status in hospital by age, parity, Indigenous status, type of delivery, and size of hospital, Australia 1996

Characteristic ^(a)	Confinements ^(b) (n)	0-2 days	3-4 days	5-6 days	7-8 days	9-10 days	11-13 days	14 or more days
		Per cent						
Confinements	56,720	7.6	25.2	41.9	19.3	4.2	1.2	0.5
Maternal age								
Less than 20	365	17.5	37.0	32.9	9.6	1.6	1.1	0.3
20-24	4,030	11.2	32.2	40.6	12.7	2.2	0.6	0.5
25-29	18,667	7.6	26.3	42.4	18.8	3.5	0.9	0.4
30-34	22,424	7.0	24.0	42.6	19.9	4.6	1.3	0.6
35-39	9,632	7.4	23.2	40.8	21.2	5.3	1.6	0.6
40 and over	1,591	7.1	20.2	39.1	22.8	7.1	2.5	1.1
Not stated	11	9.1	27.3	18.2	27.3	9.1	-	9.1
Parity								
None	23,187	4.5	15.7	44.3	26.7	6.2	1.8	0.8
One	21,070	8.3	31.0	41.7	15.0	2.8	0.9	0.3
Two or three	11,361	11.7	32.9	38.5	13.0	2.7	0.7	0.4
Four or more	1,076	17.9	32.3	32.5	11.6	3.8	1.0	0.7
Not stated	26	11.5	38.5	34.6	7.7	3.8	3.8	-
Indigenous status								
Indigenous	134	14.2	35.1	31.3	12.7	3.0	3.0	0.7
Non-Indigenous	56,586	7.6	25.1	42.0	19.3	4.2	1.2	0.5
Type of delivery								
Spontaneous cephalic	32,137	11.2	34.6	42.0	9.7	1.7	0.5	0.3
Caesarean section	14,782	1.3	8.2	38.1	39.0	9.6	2.8	1.1
Other	9,801	5.5	19.9	47.6	21.1	4.4	1.1	0.5
Size of hospital								
1-100	875	11.9	30.4	38.6	15.2	3.8	0.1	-
101-500	8,199	6.1	30.8	42.7	16.3	3.0	0.8	0.2
501-1,000	13,703	5.7	25.3	42.8	19.8	4.5	1.2	0.7
1,001-2,000	12,394	4.3	22.5	46.3	21.5	3.8	1.0	0.5
2,001 and over	21,549	11.3	24.3	38.7	19.0	4.7	1.5	0.6
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(a) Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory.

(b) Length of mother's stay in hospital or birth centre of birth only. Transfers, home births and length of stay 'not stated' are excluded.

Table 35: Mode of separation of mother, hospital confinements, selected States and Territories, 1996

Mode of separation	NSW	Vic	Qld	ACT	NT	Total ^(a)
Number						
Discharge home	80,531	60,738	45,739	4,559	3,316	194,883
Transfer to another hospital	4,554	1,172	1,288	111	24	7,149
Died	4	1	3	-	1	9
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not stated	19	-	5	6	3	33
All confinements	85,108	61,911	47,035	4,676	3,344	202,074
Per cent						
Discharge home	94.6	98.1	97.3	97.6	99.3	96.5
Transfer to another hospital	5.4	1.9	2.7	2.4	0.7	3.5
Died	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.0
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Data exclude Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania.

Table 36: Infant's month of birth, all births, States and Territories, 1996

Month of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
January	7,121	5,254	3,913	2,044	1,576	543	386	256	21,093
February	6,826	4,973	3,902	2,133	1,610	508	373	289	20,614
March	7,236	5,456	4,185	2,147	1,649	588	384	317	21,962
April	6,949	5,068	3,985	2,157	1,541	579	386	294	20,959
May	7,349	5,270	4,189	2,198	1,638	541	402	296	21,883
June	6,969	5,052	3,909	2,150	1,557	562	382	311	20,892
July	7,344	5,297	4,104	2,173	1,618	604	441	303	21,884
August	7,454	5,269	4,152	2,193	1,625	632	404	282	22,011
September	7,501	5,287	4,122	2,187	1,618	592	416	286	22,009
October	7,576	5,675	4,010	2,209	1,625	578	424	286	22,383
November	7,015	5,176	3,679	1,957	1,561	511	398	253	20,550
December	7,089	5,174	3,837	2,036	1,493	542	392	288	20,851
All births	86,429	62,951	47,987	25,584	19,111	6,781*	4,788	3,461	257,092
	Per cent								
January	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.0	8.2	8.0	8.1	7.4	8.2
February	7.9	7.9	8.1	8.3	8.4	7.5	7.8	8.4	8.0
March	8.4	8.7	8.7	8.4	8.6	8.7	8.0	9.2	8.5
April	8.0	8.1	8.3	8.4	8.1	8.5	8.1	8.5	8.2
May	8.5	8.4	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.0	8.4	8.6	8.5
June	8.1	8.0	8.1	8.4	8.1	8.3	8.0	9.0	8.1
July	8.5	8.4	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.9	9.2	8.8	8.5
August	8.6	8.4	8.7	8.6	8.5	9.3	8.4	8.1	8.6
September	8.7	8.4	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.7	8.7	8.3	8.6
October	8.8	9.0	8.4	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.9	8.3	8.7
November	8.1	8.2	7.7	7.6	8.2	7.5	8.3	7.3	8.0
December	8.2	8.2	8.0	8.0	7.8	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.1
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Data include one infant with date of birth 'not stated'.

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 37: Infant's sex by plurality, all births, States and Territories, 1996

Infant's sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
All births									
Male	44,520	32,567	24,543	13,191	9,735	3,531	2,469	1,827	132,383
Female	41,841	30,375	23,441	12,388	9,375	3,248	2,318	1,633	124,619
Indeterminate	18	9	3	5	1	-	1	-	37
Not stated	50	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	53
All births	86,429	62,951	47,987	25,584	19,111	6,781	4,788	3,461	257,092
Sex ratio	106.4	107.2	104.7	106.5	103.8	108.7	106.5	111.9	106.2
Singletons									
Male	43,441	31,606	23,838	12,821	9,435	3,427	2,384	1,785	128,737
Female	40,694	29,512	22,804	11,999	9,034	3,156	2,233	1,597	121,029
Indeterminate	17	8	3	5	-	-	1	-	34
Not stated	49	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	52
Sex ratio	106.8	107.1	104.5	106.9	104.4	108.6	106.8	111.8	106.4
Twins									
Male	1,043	931	671	347	285	99	81	42	3,499
Female	1,107	830	595	363	320	91	77	36	3,419
Indeterminate	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Not stated	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sex ratio	94.2	112.2	112.8	95.6	89.1	108.8	105.2	116.7	102.3
Other multiple births									
Male	36	30	34	23	15	5	4	-	147
Female	40	33	42	26	21	1	8	-	171
Indeterminate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sex ratio	90.0	90.9	81.0	88.5	71.4	500.0	12	0.0	86.0
Per cent									
All births									
Male	51.5	51.7	51.1	51.6	50.9	52.1	51.6	52.8	51.5
Female	48.4	48.3	48.8	48.4	49.1	47.9	48.4	47.2	48.5
Indeterminate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Singletons									
Male	51.6	51.7	51.1	51.6	51.1	52.1	51.6	52.8	51.5
Female	48.4	48.3	48.9	48.3	48.9	47.9	48.4	47.2	48.5
Twins									
Male	48.5	52.8	53.0	48.9	47.0	52.1	51.3	53.8	50.6
Female	51.5	47.1	47.0	51.1	52.8	47.9	48.7	46.2	49.4
Other multiple births									
Male	47.4	47.6	44.7	46.9	41.7	83.3	-	-	46.2
Female	52.6	52.4	55.3	53.1	58.3	16.7	-	-	53.8

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 38: Infant's gestational age, live births and fetal deaths, Australia, 1996

Gestational age (weeks)	Live births		Fetal deaths		All births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
20	50	0.0	151	8.3	201	0.1
21	68	0.0	165	9.1	233	0.1
22	96	0.0	172	9.5	268	0.1
23	99	0.0	95	5.2	194	0.1
24	135	0.1	117	6.5	252	0.1
25	173	0.1	78	4.3	251	0.1
26	237	0.1	66	3.6	303	0.1
27	224	0.1	50	2.8	274	0.1
28	297	0.1	74	4.1	371	0.1
29	352	0.1	38	2.1	390	0.2
30	456	0.2	60	3.3	516	0.2
31	620	0.2	33	1.8	653	0.3
32	939	0.4	39	2.2	978	0.4
33	1,270	0.5	54	3.0	1,324	0.5
34	2,184	0.9	55	3.0	2,239	0.9
35	3,499	1.4	51	2.8	3,550	1.4
36	6,814	2.7	80	4.4	6,894	2.7
37	14,797	5.8	64	3.5	14,861	5.8
38	40,227	15.8	114	6.3	40,341	15.7
39	52,331	20.5	76	4.2	52,407	20.4
40	91,386	35.8	119	6.6	91,505	35.6
41	33,048	13.0	49	2.7	33,097	12.9
42	5,654	2.2	10	0.6	5,664	2.2
43	159	0.1	1	0.1	160	0.1
44 and over	32	0.0	-	-	32	0.0
Not stated	127		7		134	
All births	255,274	100.0	1,818	100.0	257,092	100.0
Preterm Births						
20-27	1,082	0.4	894	49.4	1,976	0.8
28-31	1,725	0.7	205	11.3	1,930	0.8
32-36	14,706	5.8	279	15.4	14,985	5.8
All preterm births	17,513	6.9	1,378	76.1	18,891	7.4

Table 39: Infant's gestational age by plurality, all births, Australia, 1996

Gestational age (weeks)	Singletons		Twins		Triplets		All births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
20-27	1,577	0.6	346	5.0	44	15.0	1,976	0.8
28-31	1,477	0.6	388	5.6	57	19.5	1,930	0.8
32-36	12,153	4.9	2,644	38.2	180	61.4	14,985	5.8
37-41	228,657	91.6	3,542	51.2	12	4.1	232,211	90.4
42 and over	5,856	2.3	-	-	-	-	5,856	2.3
Not stated	132	-	2	-	-	-	134	-
All births	249,852	100.0	6,922	100.0	293	100.0	257,092	100.0
20-36 weeks	15,207	6.1	3,378	48.8	281	95.9	18,891	7.4
Mean gestational age (weeks)								
20+ weeks	39.1		35.5		31.8		39.0	

Table 40: Duration of pregnancy, preterm births, States and Territories, 1996

Duration of pregnancy (weeks)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean (weeks)	33.5	33.2	33.0	33.2	33.1	32.8	33.0	33.1	33.2
Number									
20-27	530	503	425	204	179	54	44	37	1,976
28-31	573	457	421	179	150	55	53	42	1,930
32-36	4,689	3,736	2,933	1,518	1,217	309	298	285	14,985
All preterm births	5,792	4,696	3,779	1,901	1,546	418	395	364	18,891
Per cent of total births									
20-27	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.8
28-31	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.2	0.8
32-36	5.4	5.9	6.1	5.9	6.4	4.6	6.2	8.2	5.8
All preterm births	6.7	7.5	7.9	7.4	8.1	6.2	8.2	10.5	7.3

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 41: Infant's birthweight, all births, States and Territories, 1996

Birthweight (g)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean birthweight (g)	3,370	3,364	3,358	3,331	3,345	3,388	3,384	3,232	3,360
	Number								
Less than 500	158	223	165	84	58	21	12	14	735
500-999	362	299	292	145	129	48	32	22	1,329
1,000-1,499	454	353	316	159	109	40	33	33	1,497
1,500-1,999	906	752	635	327	271	74	68	59	3,092
2,000-2,499	3,158	2,382	1,804	1,025	842	248	190	223	9,872
2,500-2,999	13,098	9,508	6,935	4,160	2,869	977	634	672	38,853
3,000-3,499	31,378	22,533	17,306	9,334	6,830	2,288	1,634	1,233	92,536
3,500-3,999	26,793	19,425	14,811	7,689	5,736	2,172	1,540	893	79,059
4,000-4,499	8,593	6,297	4,885	2,305	1,941	767	523	264	25,575
4,500 and over	1,477	1,155	835	356	326	143	100	41	4,433
Not stated	52	24	3	-	-	3	22	7	111
All births	86,429	62,951	47,987	25,584	19,111	6,781	4,788	3,461	257,092
Less than 1,000	520	522	457	229	187	69	44	36	2,064
Less than 1,500	974	875	773	388	296	109	77	69	3,561
Less than 2,500	5,038	4,009	3,212	1,740	1,409	431	335	351	16,525
	Per cent								
Less than 500	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
500-999	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5
1,000-1,499	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.6
1,500-1,999	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.7	1.2
2,000-2,499	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.4	3.7	4.0	6.5	3.8
2,500-2,999	15.2	15.1	14.5	16.3	15.0	14.4	13.3	19.5	15.1
3,000-3,499	36.3	35.8	36.1	36.5	35.7	33.8	34.3	35.7	36.0
3,500-3,999	31.0	30.9	30.9	30.1	30.0	32.0	32.3	25.9	30.8
4,000-4,499	9.9	10.0	10.2	9.0	10.2	11.3	11.0	7.6	10.0
4,500 and over	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.7	2.1	2.1	1.2	1.7
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 1,000	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.8
Less than 1,500	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.4
Less than 2,500	5.8	6.4	6.7	6.8	7.4	6.4	7.0	10.2	6.4

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 42: Infant's birthweight, live births and fetal deaths, Australia, 1996

Birthweight (g)	Live births		Fetal deaths		All births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	200	0.1	535	30.2	735	0.3
500-999	928	0.4	401	22.6	1,329	0.5
1,000-1,499	1,361	0.5	136	7.7	1,497	0.6
1,500-1,999	2,957	1.2	135	7.6	3,092	1.2
2,000-2,499	9,734	3.8	138	7.8	9,872	3.8
2,500-2,999	38,692	15.2	161	9.1	38,853	15.1
3,000-3,499	92,394	36.2	142	8.0	92,536	36.0
3,500-3,999	78,970	30.9	89	5.0	79,059	30.8
4,000-4,499	25,549	10.0	26	1.5	25,575	10.0
4,500 and over	4,422	1.7	11	0.6	4,433	1.7
Not stated	67		44		111	
All births	255,274	100.0	1,818	100.0	257,092	100.0
Less than 1,000	1,128	0.4	936	52.8	2,064	0.8
Less than 1,500	2,489	1.0	1,072	60.4	3,561	1.4
Less than 2,500	15,180	5.9	1,345	75.8	16,525	6.4
			Mean birthweight (g)			
All birthweights	3,373		1,449		3,360	

Table 43: Infant's birthweight by plurality, all births, Australia, 1996

Birthweight (g)	Singletons		Twins		Triplets		Other multiple births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	599	0.2	112	1.6	18	6.2	6	24.0
500-999	1,032	0.4	257	3.7	35	12.0	5	20.0
1,000-1,499	1,123	0.4	314	4.5	49	16.8	11	44.0
1,500-1,999	2,149	0.9	845	12.2	96	32.9	2	8.0
2,000-2,499	7,873	3.2	1,920	27.8	78	26.7	1	4.0
2,500-2,999	36,472	14.6	2,366	34.2	15	5.1	-	-
3,000-3,499	91,564	36.7	971	14.0	1	0.3	-	-
3,500-3,999	78,940	31.6	119	1.7	-	-	-	-
4,000-4,499	25,567	10.2	8	0.1	-	-	-	-
4,500 and over	4,433	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not stated	100	-	10	-	1	-	-	-
All births	249,852	100.0	6,922	100.0	293	100.0	25	100.0
Less than 1,000	1,631	0.7	369	5.3	53	18.2	11	44.0
Less than 1,500	2,754	1.1	683	9.9	102	34.9	22	88.0
Less than 2,500	12,776	5.1	3,448	49.9	276	94.5	25	100.0
Mean birthweight (g)								
All birthweights	3,389		2,392		1,642		1,052	

Table 44: Infant's birthweight by sex, all births, Australia, 1996

Birthweight (g)	Male		Female		Indeterminate / Not stated	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	367	0.3	356	0.3	12	14.8
500-999	673	0.5	650	0.5	6	7.4
1,000-1,499	761	0.6	734	0.6	2	2.5
1,500-1,999	1,532	1.2	1,558	1.3	2	2.5
2,000-2,499	4,599	3.5	5,272	4.2	1	1.2
2,500-2,999	16,937	12.8	21,903	17.6	13	16.0
3,000-3,499	44,268	33.5	48,252	38.7	16	19.8
3,500-3,999	43,955	33.2	35,083	28.2	21	25.9
4,000-4,499	16,154	12.2	9,414	7.6	7	8.6
4,500 and over	3,079	2.3	1,353	1.1	1	1.2
Not stated	58	-	44	-	9	-
All births	132,383	100.0	124,619	100.0	90	100.0
Less than 1,000	1,040	0.8	1,006	0.8	18	22.2
Less than 1,500	1,801	1.4	1,740	1.4	20	24.7
Less than 2,500	7,932	6.0	8,570	6.9	23	28.4
Mean birthweight (g)						
All birthweights	3,421		3,295		2,647	

Table 45: Infant's birthweight, Indigenous births, States and Territories, 1996

Birthweight (g)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean birthweight (g)	3,177	3,211	3,167	3,107	3,076	3,235	3,212	3,056	3,140
	Number								
Less than 500	10	4	17	8	4	-	-	9	52
500-999	15	7	32	14	6	-	2	16	92
1,000-1,499	15	-	30	14	3	-	1	17	80
1,500-1,999	32	6	63	28	17	-	3	31	180
2,000-2,499	111	33	171	125	25	-	5	118	588
2,500-2,999	390	97	555	344	85	3	16	298	1,788
3,000-3,499	630	158	948	516	114	-	24	444	2,834
3,500-3,999	381	99	617	291	76	-	20	218	1,702
4,000-4,499	119	40	166	76	23	2	8	60	494
4,500 and over	18	8	35	6	2	-	2	11	82
Not stated	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
All births	1,724	452	2,634	1,422	355	5	81	1,224	7,897
Less than 1,000	25	11	49	22	10	-	2	25	144
Less than 1,500	40	11	79	36	13	-	3	42	224
Less than 2,500	183	50	313	189	55	-	11	191	992
	Per cent								
Less than 500	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.6	1.1	-	-	0.7	0.7
500-999	0.9	1.5	1.2	1.0	1.7	-	2.5	1.3	1.2
1,000-1,499	0.9	-	1.1	1.0	0.8	-	1.2	1.4	1.0
1,500-1,999	1.9	1.3	2.4	2.0	4.8	-	3.7	2.5	2.3
2,000-2,499	6.4	7.3	6.5	8.8	7.0	-	6.2	9.7	7.5
2,500-2,999	22.7	21.5	21.1	24.2	23.9	60.0	19.8	24.4	22.7
3,000-3,499	36.6	35.0	36.0	36.3	32.1	-	29.6	36.3	35.9
3,500-3,999	22.1	21.9	23.4	20.5	21.4	-	24.7	17.8	21.6
4,000-4,499	6.9	8.8	6.3	5.3	6.5	40.0	9.9	4.9	6.3
4,500 and over	1.0	1.8	1.3	0.4	0.6	-	2.5	0.9	1.0
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 1,000	1.5	2.4	1.9	1.5	2.8	-	2.5	2.0	1.8
Less than 1,500	2.3	2.4	3.0	2.5	3.7	-	3.7	3.4	2.8
Less than 2,500	10.6	11.1	11.9	13.3	15.5	-	13.6	15.6	12.6

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 46: Distribution of birthweight by mother's Indigenous status, country of birth, age, parity, marital status, public and private accommodation status, and place of birth, Australia, 1996

Characteristic	Less than 1,000 g		Less than 1,500 g		Less than 2,500 g		2,500 g and over	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Maternal country of birth/								
Indigenous status								
Australia: non-Indigenous	1,444	0.8	2,563	1.4	11,813	6.3	176,694	93.7
Australia:Indigenous	143	1.8	223	2.8	991	12.6	6,886	87.4
New Zealand	52	0.9	84	1.4	411	6.8	5,662	93.2
United Kingdom	95	0.8	157	1.4	729	6.4	10,677	93.6
Italy	7	0.8	9	1.0	54	6.2	821	93.8
Former Yugoslavia	26	0.8	47	1.4	191	5.7	3,154	94.3
Lebanon	23	0.8	28	1.0	140	4.8	2,786	95.2
China	15	0.5	30	0.9	150	4.5	3,149	95.5
Hong Kong	8	0.7	15	1.4	76	7.0	1,006	93.0
India	15	1.1	24	1.7	137	9.8	1,262	90.2
Malaysia	8	0.7	13	1.1	69	6.1	1,066	93.9
Philippines	18	0.7	38	1.4	184	6.8	2,518	93.2
Vietnam	27	0.6	41	0.9	263	5.7	4,336	94.3
Other countries	136	0.7	230	1.2	1,167	5.9	18,560	94.1
Not stated	47	2.3	59	2.9	150	7.4	1,879	92.6
Maternal age								
Less than 15	4	3.5	5	4.4	15	13.2	99	86.8
15-19	176	1.3	293	2.2	1,169	8.8	12,187	91.2
20-24	411	0.9	684	1.5	3,096	6.7	43,194	93.3
25-29	579	0.7	1,034	1.2	5,089	6.1	78,677	93.9
30-34	520	0.7	923	1.2	4,471	5.8	72,095	94.2
35-39	308	1.0	509	1.6	2,236	7.1	29,472	92.9
40 and over	65	1.3	112	2.2	446	8.7	4,668	91.3
Not stated	1	1.5	1	1.5	3	4.5	64	95.5
Parity								
None	977	1.0	1,745	1.7	7,993	7.8	93,998	92.2
One	555	0.6	944	1.1	4,529	5.2	82,674	94.8
Two	270	0.6	460	1.1	2,216	5.2	40,069	94.8
Three	149	0.9	252	1.6	1,021	6.5	14,800	93.5
Four or more	112	1.2	159	1.7	761	8.0	8,770	92.0
Not stated	1	0.7	1	0.7	5	3.3	145	96.7
Marital status								
Married/de facto	1,601	0.7	2,830	1.3	13,454	6.0	210,345	94.0
Single	379	1.3	608	2.1	2,669	9.2	26,493	90.8
Other	84	2.1	123	3.1	402	10.0	3,618	90.0
Hospital status^(a)								
Public	1,078	0.9	1,883	1.5	8,616	6.8	117,768	93.2
Private	388	0.6	691	1.1	3,430	5.5	58,704	94.5
Place of birth								
Hospital	2,013	0.8	3,503	1.4	16,347	6.5	234,145	93.5
Birth centre	2	0.0	2	0.0	40	0.9	4,616	99.1
Home	-	-	-	-	9	1.0	873	99.0
Born before arrival	18	2.1	23	2.7	86	10.0	774	90.0
Other	31	41.9	32	43.2	40	54.1	34	45.9
Not stated	-	-	1	5.9	3	17.6	14	82.4

(a) Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory.

Table 47: Proportion of liveborn low birthweight infants born in hospitals of different sizes, States and Territories, 1996

Low birthweight category/Hospital size	NSW	Vic	Qld ^(a)	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Birthweight: 500–999 g									
Number of births	248	214	191	104	91	36	26	18	928
Per cent									
1–100 confinements	-	0.5	1.6	1.0	-	-	-	-	0.5
101–500 confinements	2.0	1.4	3.7	1.0	8.8	-	-	-	2.6
501–1,000 confinements	5.2	7.0	7.3	2.9	-	2.8	-	27.8	5.5
1,001–2,000 confinements	2.0	4.2	13.1	-	4.4	2.8	-	72.2	6.1
2,001 and over confinements	90.7	86.9	74.3	95.2	86.8	94.4	100.0	-	85.2
All births: 500–999 g	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Birthweight: 1,000–1,499 g									
Number of births	412	323	283	143	105	36	31	27	1,360
Per cent									
1–100 confinements	0.2	-	2.1	2.1	1.0	-	-	3.7	0.9
101–500 confinements	2.7	2.5	2.8	2.1	2.9	-	-	-	2.4
501–1,000 confinements	4.6	7.4	7.1	2.8	1.0	5.6	-	37.0	5.9
1,001–2,000 confinements	3.9	5.0	17.7	1.4	4.8	2.8	-	59.3	7.8
2,001 and over confinements	88.6	85.1	70.3	91.6	90.5	91.7	100.0	-	83.0
All births: 1,000–1,499 g	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Birthweight: 1,500–1,999 g									
Number of births	860	729	606	310	261	70	65	55	2,956
Per cent									
1–100 confinements	0.5	0.7	1.7	1.6	1.9	-	-	-	1.0
101–500 confinements	2.8	6.4	5.9	6.5	9.6	-	-	3.6	5.2
501–1,000 confinements	14.2	17.3	13.5	5.8	2.7	14.3	13.8	29.1	13.2
1,001–2,000 confinements	7.8	10.3	24.1	1.0	18.4	32.9	-	67.3	13.5
2,001 and over confinements	74.8	65.3	54.8	85.2	67.4	52.9	86.2	-	67.1
All births: 1,500–1,999 g	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 48: Infant's Apgar score at 1 minute, live births, selected States and Territories, 1996

Apgar score	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia ^(a)
All live births (n)	85,854	47,625	25,383	18,979	6,734	4,751	3,434	192,760
	Per cent							
0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1
1-3	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.8	3.2	3.6	2.7
4-6	11.2	9.8	11.3	13.0	10.6	11.2	12.8	11.1
7-10	85.9	87.6	86.1	84.5	86.2	85.5	83.4	86.2
All live births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Data exclude Victoria.

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 49: Infant's Apgar score at 5 minutes, live births, States and Territories, 1996

Apgar score	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
All live births (n)	85,854	62,484	47,625	25,383	18,979	6,734	4,751	3,434	255,244
	Per cent								
0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1
1-3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.3
4-6	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	2.0	1.4	2.5	1.3
7-10	98.2	98.6	98.4	98.5	98.5	97.3	98.1	96.7	98.3
All live births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 50: Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes, by birthweight and Indigenous status, live births, Australia, 1996

Apgar score ^(a)	Less than 1,000 g	1,000–1,499 g	1,500–1,999 g	2,000–2,499 g	2,500 g and over	Not stated
All live births						
Apgar score: 1 minute^(b)						
Live births (n)	860	1,038	2,228	7,385	181,191	58
	Per cent					
0	2.6	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.1	9.6
1–3	45.8	16.4	8.8	4.9	2.2	23.1
4–6	32.7	31.7	23.6	17.4	10.4	21.2
7–10	18.9	51.3	67.3	77.6	87.3	46.2
Apgar score: 5 minutes						
Live births (n)	1,128	1,361	2,957	9,732	240,000	66
	Per cent					
0	6.6	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	8.3
1–3	22.2	2.3	1.3	0.5	0.2	11.7
4–6	15.3	8.1	4.5	2.5	1.1	21.7
7–10	55.9	89.2	94.1	96.9	98.7	58.3
Indigenous live births						
Apgar score: 1 minute^(b)						
Live births (n)	78	68	166	549	6,482	3
	Per cent					
0	-	-	-	-	0.1	-
1–3	48.0	20.6	4.9	7.6	2.8	-
4–6	29.3	32.4	26.2	14.2	11.9	100.0
7–10	22.7	47.1	68.9	78.2	85.2	-
Apgar score: 5 minutes						
Live births (n)	84	68	172	582	6,884	3
	Per cent					
0	2.5	-	-	-	0.0	-
1–3	30.9	1.5	1.2	0.7	0.3	-
4–6	16.0	16.2	3.5	4.5	1.7	66.7
7–10	50.6	82.4	95.3	94.8	97.9	33.3

(a) Table excludes Apgar scores 'not stated'.

(b) Data exclude Victoria.

Table 51: Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes, by birthweight and plurality, live births, Australia, 1996

Apgar score ^(a)	Less than 1,000 g	1,000–1,499 g	1,500–1,999 g	2,000–2,499 g	2,500 g and over	Not stated
Singleton live births						
Apgar score: 1 minute^(b)						
Live births (n)	634	776	1,541	5,907	178,612	58
	Per cent					
0	2.7	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	9.8
1–3	48.1	18.2	9.7	5.2	2.2	21.6
4–6	31.8	33.2	23.9	17.8	10.4	21.6
7–10	17.4	48.0	65.8	77.0	87.3	47.1
Apgar score: 5 minutes						
Live births (n)	834	1,003	2,030	7,748	236,559	66
	Per cent					
0	7.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	6.8
1–3	23.8	2.4	1.6	0.5	0.2	11.9
4–6	14.7	8.6	5.6	2.7	1.1	22.0
7–10	54.4	88.6	92.7	96.7	98.7	59.3
Multiple live births						
Apgar score: 1 minute^(b)						
Live births (n)	226	262	687	1,480	2,606	1
	Per cent					
0	2.2	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.2	-
1–3	39.4	11.1	6.7	3.6	2.7	100.0
4–6	35.4	27.1	22.7	16.1	12.8	-
7–10	23.0	61.1	70.4	80.1	84.4	-
Apgar score: 5 minutes						
Live births (n)	294	358	927	1,986	3,468	1
	Per cent					
0	5.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	100.0
1–3	17.9	2.0	0.5	0.7	0.2	-
4–6	16.8	6.7	2.3	1.8	1.7	-
7–10	60.1	91.1	97.1	97.5	98.0	-

(a) Table excludes Apgar scores 'not stated'.

(b) Data exclude Victoria.

Table 52: Length of infant's stay in hospital, live births, States and Territories, 1996

Length of stay ^(a)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA ^(b)	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean length of stay (days)	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.7	5.2	4.9	5.9	5.0
	Number								
Less than 1 day	1,766	560	544	518	243	99	99	46	3,875
1 day	5,597	2,461	3,318	1,463	1,030	381	404	189	14,843
2 days	10,249	5,806	6,404	2,908	2,183	721	614	363	29,248
3 days	13,758	12,106	8,758	4,266	3,040	944	825	524	44,221
4 days	14,841	11,066	8,482	3,974	3,586	1,227	705	492	44,373
5 days	13,537	10,488	6,562	4,089	3,972	1,207	586	522	40,963
6 days	9,079	7,822	4,390	2,842	1,832	768	483	235	27,451
7-13 days	9,733	8,767	5,964	3,761	2,169	904	584	442	32,324
14-20 days	663	613	422	183	287	77	41	62	2,348
21-27 days	332	268	285	80	200	35	20	40	1,260
28 or more days	695	460	483	190	385	84	48	71	2,416
Not stated	64	-	26	-	-	3	1	140	234
All live births	80,314	60,417	45,638	24,274	18,927	6,450	4,410	3,126	243,556
	Per cent								
Less than 1 day	2.2	0.9	1.2	2.1	1.3	1.5	2.2	1.5	1.6
1 day	7.0	4.1	7.3	6.0	5.4	5.9	9.2	6.3	6.1
2 days	12.8	9.6	14.0	12.0	11.5	11.2	13.9	12.2	12.0
3 days	17.1	20.0	19.2	17.6	16.1	14.6	18.7	17.5	18.2
4 days	18.5	18.3	18.6	16.4	18.9	19.0	16.0	16.5	18.2
5 days	16.9	17.4	14.4	16.8	21.0	18.7	13.3	17.5	16.8
6 days	11.3	12.9	9.6	11.7	9.7	11.9	11.0	7.9	11.3
7-13 days	12.1	14.5	13.1	15.5	11.5	14.0	13.2	14.8	13.3
14-20 days	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.5	1.2	0.9	2.1	1.0
21-27 days	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.3	1.1	0.5	0.5	1.3	0.5
28 or more days	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.8	2.0	1.3	1.1	2.4	1.0
All live births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Length of stay for live births in hospital or birth centre of birth only, transfers are excluded.

(b) South Australia data includes entire postnatal length of stay under care.

Note: Data for Tasmania unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 53: Length of infant's stay in hospital, by plurality, Indigenous status, gestational age, and birthweight, live births, Australia, 1996

Characteristic	Infants ^(a) (n)	0-2 days	3-4 days	5-6 days	7-13 days	14-20 days	21-27 days	28 or more days
Plurality		Per cent						
Singleton	247,053	22.0	36.1	27.5	12.3	0.8	0.4	0.8
Twin	6,717	6.6	9.5	18.3	41.0	9.4	5.7	9.5
Other multiple birth	302	8.3	1.0	1.3	17.2	16.6	17.5	38.1
Indigenous status								
Indigenous	7,663	35.4	34.0	15.9	10.0	1.7	0.9	2.0
Non-Indigenous	246,409	21.2	35.4	27.6	13.2	1.0	0.6	1.1
Gestational age								
20-27 weeks	1,075	41.1	2.5	0.9	4.4	1.8	1.5	47.8
28-31 weeks	1,717	10.7	3.0	3.4	9.7	7.6	8.5	57.0
32-36 weeks	14,661	10.3	13.5	17.6	31.9	12.9	7.5	6.2
37-41 weeks	230,706	22.3	37.0	28.2	12.0	0.3	0.1	0.2
42 or more weeks	5,797	23.0	39.1	26.9	10.4	0.3	0.1	0.2
Not stated	116	32.8	31.0	26.7	7.8	1.7	-	-
Birthweight								
Less than 1,000 g	1,120	38.6	2.3	1.0	4.4	2.1	1.4	50.3
1,000-1,499 g	1,356	11.1	1.6	2.5	8.0	7.2	10.3	59.3
1,500-1,999 g	2,951	7.9	3.6	6.8	21.7	18.4	17.4	24.3
2,000-2,499 g	9,702	9.7	17.8	20.7	32.4	11.1	5.3	3.1
2,500 g and over	238,887	22.2	36.8	28.0	12.3	0.4	0.1	0.2
Not stated	56	50.0	19.6	17.9	3.6	3.6	3.6	1.8

(a) Length of infant's stay in hospital or birth centre of birth only. Transfers, home births and length of stay 'not stated' are excluded.

Table 54: Mode of separation of infants born in hospitals, States and Territories, 1996

Mode of separation	NSW	Vic ^(a)	Qld	WA	ACT	NT	Total ^(b)
Number							
Discharge home	80,105	60,178	45,445	24,252	4,394	3,009	217,383
Transfer to another hospital	5,358	1,910	1,748	926	317	238	10,497
Fetal death	542	467	361	201	36	27	1,634
Liveborn/Died	210	209	163	63	15	24	684
Other	-	69	-	22	-	-	91
Not stated	19	-	30	-	2	146	197
All births	86,234	62,833	47,747	25,464	4,764	3,444	230,486
Per cent							
Discharge home	92.9	95.8	95.2	95.2	92.3	91.5	94.4
Transfer to another hospital	6.2	3.0	3.7	3.6	6.7	7.2	4.6
Fetal death	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7
Liveborn/Died	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.3
Other	-	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	0.0
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) 'Other' includes 69 babies whose discharge status was recorded as infant death.

(b) Data exclude South Australia and Tasmania.

Table 55: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths and rates, various definitions, Australia, 1994–1996

Definition/Outcome	Number				Rate per 1,000 births			
	1994	1995	1996	1994–1996	1994	1995	1996	1994–1996
400 g/20 weeks								
Fetal deaths	1,638	1,512	1,668	4,818	6.3	5.9	6.5	6.2
Early neonatal deaths	1,005	908	879	2,792	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.6
<i>Perinatal deaths (WHO)</i>	<i>2,643</i>	<i>2,420</i>	<i>2,547</i>	<i>7,610</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>9.4</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>9.8</i>
Live births	258,051	256,190	253,834	768,075				
500 g/22 weeks								
Fetal deaths	1,207	1,283	1,411	3,901	4.7	5.0	5.5	5.1
Early neonatal deaths	693	629	582	1,904	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.5
Neonatal deaths	868	811	759	2,438	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.2
<i>Perinatal deaths (WHO)</i>	<i>1,900</i>	<i>1,912</i>	<i>1,993</i>	<i>5,805</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>7.4</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>7.5</i>
<i>Perinatal deaths (ABS)</i>	<i>2,075</i>	<i>2,094</i>	<i>2,170</i>	<i>6,339</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>8.1</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>8.2</i>
Live births	257,867	256,004	253,567	767,438				
1,000 g/28 weeks								
Fetal deaths	765	903	958	2,626	3.0	3.5	3.8	3.4
Early neonatal deaths	402	340	334	1,076	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.4
<i>Perinatal deaths (WHO)</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>1,243</i>	<i>1,292</i>	<i>3,702</i>	<i>4.5</i>	<i>4.9</i>	<i>5.1</i>	<i>4.8</i>
Live births ^(a)	257,543	255,228	253,098	765,869				

(a) Estimated live births.

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

Table 56: Type of fetal death, Australia, 1991-1996

Year	Antepartum		Intrapartum ^(a)		Not known ^(b)		All fetal deaths	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births
1991	993	3.8	359	1.4	126	0.5	1,478	5.7
1992	1,052	4.0	312	1.2	129	0.5	1,493	5.6
1993	877	3.4	274	1.0	94	0.4	1,245	4.8
1994	812	3.1	302	1.2	93	0.4	1,207	4.7
1995	911	3.5	258	1.0	114	0.4	1,283	5.0
1996	956	3.7	351	1.4	104	0.4	1,411	5.5

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

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

Note: Fetal deaths from ABS based on year of registration.

Table 57: Neonatal deaths by age at death, Australia, 1991-1996

Year	Less than 1 day		1-6 days		7-27 days		All neonatal deaths ^(a)	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births
1991	529	2.1	289	1.1	192	0.7	1,012	3.9
1992	545	2.1	268	1.0	200	0.8	1,015	3.8
1993	449	1.7	238	0.9	198	0.8	886	3.4
1994	439	1.7	254	1.0	175	0.7	868	3.4
1995	417	1.6	212	0.8	181	0.7	811	3.2
1996	369	1.5	213	0.8	174	0.7	759	3.0

(a) Includes 'not stated' age at death.

Note: Neonatal deaths from ABS based on year of registration.

Table 58: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, Australia, 1991-1996

Year	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births
1991	1,478	5.7	1,012	3.9	2,490	9.6
1992	1,493	5.6	1,015	3.8	2,508	9.4
1993	1,245	4.8	886	3.4	2,131	8.2
1994	1,207	4.7	868	3.4	2,075	8.0
1995	1,283	5.0	811	3.2	2,094	8.1
1996	1,411	5.5	759	3.0	2,170	8.5

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

Table 59: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by maternal State or Territory of usual residence, 1991–1996

Outcome/Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Fetal deaths									
1991	521	340	269	143	104	38	29	34	1,478
1992	582	345	242	121	111	35	19	38	1,493
1993	451	288	197	117	96	41	21	34	1,245
1994	370	329	235	113	91	26	15	28	1,207
1995	405	309	245	139	105	31	22	27	1,283
1996	565	291	246	134	95	39	23	18	1,411
1994–1996	1,340	929	726	386	291	96	60	73	3,901
Neonatal deaths									
1991	359	238	188	81	54	44	21	27	1,012
1992	409	196	191	97	46	29	21	26	1,015
1993	315	194	181	67	58	24	11	36	886
1994	362	184	144	66	46	28	12	26	868
1995	288	176	170	58	57	22	14	26	811
1996	267	159	160	76	48	17	12	20	759
1994–1996	917	519	474	200	151	67	38	72	2,438
Perinatal deaths									
1991	880	578	457	224	158	82	50	61	2,490
1992	991	541	433	218	157	64	40	64	2,508
1993	766	482	378	184	154	65	32	70	2,131
1994	732	513	379	179	137	54	27	54	2,075
1995	693	485	415	197	162	53	36	53	2,094
1996	832	450	406	210	143	56	35	38	2,170
1994–1996	2,257	1,448	1,200	586	442	163	98	145	6,339

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

Table 59: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by maternal State or Territory of usual residence, 1991-1996 (cont.)

Outcome/Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Rate per 1,000 births									
Fetal deaths									
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
1993	5.0	4.5	4.2	4.6	4.8	6.0	4.7	9.4	4.8
1994	4.2	5.1	5.0	4.5	4.7	3.8	3.4	7.7	4.7
1995	4.6	4.9	5.2	5.5	5.4	4.7	5.0	7.1	5.0
1996	6.5	4.7	5.1	5.4	5.0	6.0	5.2	5.0	5.5
1994-1996	5.1	4.9	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.5	6.6	5.1
Neonatal deaths									
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
1993	3.5	3.0	3.9	2.7	2.9	3.5	2.5	10.0	3.4
1994	4.1	2.9	3.1	2.6	2.4	4.1	2.7	7.2	3.4
1995	3.3	2.8	3.7	2.3	2.9	3.4	3.2	6.9	3.2
1996	3.1	2.6	3.4	3.1	2.5	2.6	2.7	5.6	3.0
1994-1996	3.5	2.8	3.4	2.7	2.6	3.4	2.9	6.6	3.2
Perinatal deaths									
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
1993	8.5	7.5	8.1	7.3	7.6	9.5	7.2	19.3	8.2
1994	8.3	8.0	8.1	7.1	7.0	7.9	6.0	14.8	8.0
1995	7.9	7.7	8.9	7.8	8.3	8.0	8.1	14.0	8.1
1996	9.6	7.3	8.5	8.4	7.5	8.6	7.9	10.6	8.5
1994-1996	8.6	7.7	8.5	7.8	7.6	8.2	7.4	13.2	8.2

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

Table 60: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by maternal age, Australia, 1991-1996

Outcome/Year	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
Number								
Fetal deaths								
1991	128	310	443	412	135	45	5	1,478
1992	118	288	458	410	161	41	17	1,493
1993	94	253	380	320	154	33	11	1,245
1994	72	229	338	362	162	30	14	1,207
1995	112	252	354	341	154	41	29	1,283
1996	112	263	380	389	186	59	22	1,411
1994-1996	296	744	1,072	1,092	502	130	65	3,901
Neonatal deaths								
1991	80	210	309	252	101	24	36	1,012
1992	66	226	295	251	100	23	54	1,015
1993	56	178	259	232	90	12	59	886
1994	62	176	242	211	102	27	48	868
1995	68	165	213	199	94	19	53	811
1996	47	144	216	199	85	22	46	759
1994-1996	177	485	671	609	281	68	147	2,438
Perinatal deaths								
1991	208	520	752	664	236	69	41	2,490
1992	184	514	753	661	261	64	71	2,508
1993	150	431	639	552	244	45	70	2,131
1994	134	405	580	573	264	57	62	2,075
1995	180	417	567	540	248	60	82	2,094
1996	159	407	596	588	271	81	68	2,170
1994-1996	473	1,229	1,743	1,701	783	198	212	6,339

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

Table 60: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by maternal age, Australia, 1991–1996 (cont.)

Outcome / Year	Maternal age (years)						All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	
Rate per 1,000 births							
Fetal deaths							
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
1993	7.1	5.0	4.3	4.1	5.7	7.7	4.8
1994	5.6	4.6	3.9	4.7	5.6	6.6	4.7
1995	8.8	5.3	4.2	4.4	5.1	8.2	5.0
1996	8.9	5.8	4.6	5.1	5.8	11.1	5.5
1994–1996	7.7	5.2	4.2	4.7	5.5	8.7	5.1
Neonatal deaths							
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
1993	4.3	3.5	2.9	3.0	3.4	2.8	3.4
1994	4.8	3.6	2.8	2.7	3.6	5.9	3.4
1995	5.4	3.5	2.6	2.6	3.1	3.8	3.2
1996	3.8	3.2	2.6	2.6	2.7	4.2	3.0
1994–1996	4.7	3.4	2.7	2.6	3.1	4.6	3.2
Perinatal deaths							
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
1993	11.3	8.5	7.2	7.1	9.1	10.6	8.2
1994	10.4	8.2	6.8	7.4	9.2	12.5	8.0
1995	14.1	8.8	6.8	6.9	8.2	12.0	8.1
1996	12.6	9.0	7.2	7.7	8.5	15.3	8.5
1994–1996	12.4	8.6	6.9	7.3	8.6	13.3	8.2

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

Table 61: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, singleton and multiple births, Australia, 1991–1996

Outcome/ Year	Singletons		Twins		Other multiple births		All infants	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births
Fetal deaths								
1991	1,349	5.4	122	18.6	7	25.8	1,478	5.7
1992	1,393	5.4	92	13.9	7	21.4	1,492	5.6
1993	1,136	4.5	101	14.8	8	26.8	1,245	4.8
1994	1,107	4.4	95	13.9	5	19.9	1,207	4.7
1995	1,164	4.6	111	16.4	8	26.7	1,283	5.0
1996	1,294	5.2	107	15.9	10	31.1	1,411	5.5
1994–1996	3,565	4.7	313	15.4	23	26.3	3,901	5.1
Neonatal deaths								
1991	870	3.5	124	19.3	18	68.2	1,012	3.9
1992	876	3.4	135	20.7	4	12.5	1,015	3.8
1993	752	3.0	112	16.6	22	75.9	886	3.4
1994	741	3.0	116	17.2	11	44.7	868	3.4
1995	683	2.7	120	18.0	8	27.4	811	3.2
1996	655	2.7	92	13.9	12	38.5	759	3.0
1994–1996	2,079	2.8	328	16.4	31	36.5	2,438	3.2
Perinatal deaths								
1991	2,219	8.8	246	37.5	25	92.3	2,490	9.6
1992	2,269	8.8	227	34.3	11	33.6	2,507	9.4
1993	1,888	7.4	213	31.2	30	100.7	2,131	8.2
1994	1,848	7.3	211	30.8	16	63.7	2,075	8.0
1995	1,847	7.4	231	34.2	16	53.3	2,094	8.1
1996	1,949	7.9	199	29.6	22	68.3	2,170	8.5
1994–1996	5,644	7.5	641	31.5	54	61.9	6,339	8.2

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

Table 62: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by infant's sex, Australia, 1991-1996

Outcome/Year	Number			Rate per 1,000 births		
	Males	Females	All infants	Males	Females	All infants
Fetal deaths						
1991	777	701	1,478	5.9	5.6	5.7
1992	779	714	1,493	5.7	5.5	5.6
1993	668	577	1,245	5.0	4.5	4.8
1994	692	515	1,207	5.2	4.1	4.7
1995	681	602	1,283	5.2	4.8	5.0
1996	759	652	1,411	5.8	5.3	5.5
1994-1996	2,132	1,769	3,901	5.4	4.7	5.1
Neonatal deaths						
1991	571	441	1,012	4.3	3.5	3.9
1992	596	419	1,015	4.4	3.3	3.8
1993	511	375	886	3.8	3.0	3.4
1994	517	351	868	3.9	2.8	3.4
1995	467	344	811	3.6	2.8	3.2
1996	446	313	759	3.4	2.5	3.0
1994-1996	1,430	1,008	2,438	3.6	2.7	3.2
Perinatal deaths						
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
1993	1,179	952	2,131	8.8	7.5	8.2
1994	1,209	866	2,075	9.1	6.9	8.0
1995	1,148	946	2,094	8.7	7.6	8.1
1996	1,205	965	2,170	9.2	7.8	8.5
1994-1996	3,562	2,777	6,339	9.0	7.4	8.2

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

Table 63: Fetal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1991-1996

Year	Gestational age (weeks)						Total
	Less than 28	28-31	32-36	37-41	42 and over	Not stated	
	Number						
1991	368	223	362	489	26	10	1,478
1992	421	216	350	453	34	19	1,493
1993	358	176	312	351	16	32	1,245
1994	351	144	268	361	20	63	1,207
1995	327	160	290	398	15	93	1,283
1996	405	206	311	433	11	45	1,411
	Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births						
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
1993	1.4	0.7	1.2	1.3	0.1	0.1	4.8
1994	1.4	0.6	1.0	1.4	0.1	0.2	4.7
1995	1.3	0.6	1.1	1.5	0.1	0.4	5.0
1996	1.6	0.8	1.2	1.7	0.0	0.2	5.5

Note: Fetal deaths from ABS based on year of registration.

Table 64: Neonatal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1991-1996

Year	Gestational age (weeks)						Total
	Less than 28	28-31	32-36	37-41	42 and over	Not stated	
	Number						
1991	374	131	159	292	21	35	1,012
1992	388	106	163	274	25	59	1,015
1993	311	98	146	238	10	83	886
1994	318	101	117	266	14	52	868
1995	341	78	94	244	12	42	811
1996	308	63	113	240	7	28	759
	Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births						
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
1993	1.2	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.0	0.3	3.4
1994	1.2	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.1	0.2	3.4
1995	1.3	0.3	0.4	1.0	0.0	0.2	3.2
1996	1.2	0.2	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.1	3.0

Note: Neonatal deaths from ABS based on year of registration.

Table 65: Perinatal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1991–1996

Year	Gestational age (weeks)						Total
	Less than 28	28–31	32–36	37–41	42 and over	Not stated	
Number							
1991	742	354	521	781	47	45	2,490
1992	809	322	513	727	59	78	2,508
1993	669	274	458	589	26	115	2,131
1994	669	245	385	627	34	115	2,075
1995	668	238	384	642	27	135	2,094
1996	713	269	424	673	18	73	2,170
Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births							
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
1993	2.6	1.0	1.8	2.3	0.1	0.4	8.2
1994	2.6	0.9	1.5	2.4	0.1	0.4	8.0
1995	2.6	0.9	1.5	2.5	0.1	0.5	8.1
1996	2.8	1.1	1.7	2.6	0.1	0.3	8.5

Note: Perinatal deaths from ABS based on year of registration.

Table 66: Fetal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1991–1996

Year	Birthweight (g)				Total
	500–999	1,000–2,499	2,500 and over	Not stated	
Number					
1991	435	525	479	39	1,478
1992	459	491	477	66	1,493
1993	396	411	371	67	1,245
1994	411	338	365	93	1,207
1995	341	428	418	96	1,283
1996	441	451	457	62	1,411
Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births					
1991	1.7	2.0	1.9	0.2	5.7
1992	1.7	1.8	1.8	0.2	5.6
1993	1.5	1.6	1.4	0.3	4.8
1994	1.6	1.3	1.4	0.4	4.7
1995	1.3	1.7	1.6	0.4	5.0
1996	1.7	1.8	1.8	0.2	5.5

Note: Fetal deaths from ABS based on year of registration.

Table 67: Neonatal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1991–1996

Year	Birthweight (g)				Total
	500–999	1,000–2,499	2,500 and over	Not stated	
Number					
1991	373	291	311	37	1,012
1992	381	265	318	51	1,015
1993	305	249	268	64	886
1994	314	227	277	50	868
1995	330	206	242	33	811
1996	299	175	261	24	759
Proportionate death rate per 1,000 live births					
1991	1.5	1.1	1.2	0.1	3.9
1992	1.4	1.0	1.2	0.2	3.8
1993	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.2	3.4
1994	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.2	3.4
1995	1.3	0.8	0.9	0.1	3.2
1996	1.2	0.7	1.0	0.1	3.0

Note: Neonatal deaths from ABS based on year of registration.

Table 68: Perinatal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1991–1996

Year	Birthweight (g)				Total
	500–999	1,000–2,499	2,500 and over	Not stated	
Number					
1991	808	816	790	76	2,490
1992	840	756	795	117	2,508
1993	701	660	639	131	2,131
1994	725	565	642	143	2,075
1995	671	634	660	129	2,094
1996	740	626	718	86	2,170
Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births					
1991	3.1	3.2	3.1	0.3	9.6
1992	3.2	2.8	3.0	0.4	9.4
1993	2.7	2.5	2.4	0.5	8.2
1994	2.8	2.2	2.5	0.6	8.0
1995	2.6	2.5	2.6	0.5	8.1
1996	2.9	2.5	2.8	0.3	8.5

Note: Perinatal deaths from ABS based on year of registration.

Table 69: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths according to various criteria, and birthweight-specific death rates, Australia, 1996

Outcome/ Birthweight (g)	NPSU: year of birth	ABS: year of registration	ABS: year of birth	Rate per 1,000 births ^(a)
	Number		Number	
Fetal deaths				
Less than 500	535	580	571	na
500–999	401	441	412	310.0
1,000–1,499	136	154	127	84.8
1,500–1,999	135	145	133	43.0
2,000–2,499	138	152	146	14.8
2,500–2,999	161	170	158	4.1
3,000–3,499	142	152	151	1.6
3,500–3,999	89	96	96	1.2
4,000–4,499	26	28	25	1.0
4,500 and over	11	11	13	2.9
Not stated	44	76	70	
All deaths: 500 g and over	1,283	1,425	1,331	5.2
Neonatal deaths				
Less than 500	na	200	185	na
500–999	na	299	284	306.0
1,000–1,499	na	61	61	44.8
1,500–1,999	na	47	47	15.9
2,000–2,499	na	67	67	6.9
2,500–2,999	na	74	69	1.8
3,000–3,499	na	98	102	1.1
3,500–3,999	na	63	61	0.8
4,000–4,499	na	24	25	1.0
4,500 and over	na	2	2	0.5
Not stated	na	28	26	
All deaths: 500 g and over	na	763	744	2.9
Perinatal deaths				
Less than 500	na	780	756	na
500–999	na	740	696	523.7
1,000–1,499	na	215	188	125.6
1,500–1,999	na	192	180	58.2
2,000–2,499	na	219	213	21.6
2,500–2,999	na	244	227	5.8
3,000–3,499	na	250	253	2.7
3,500–3,999	na	159	157	2.0
4,000–4,499	na	52	50	2.0
4,500 and over	na	13	15	3.4
Not stated	na	104	96	
All deaths: 500 g and over	na	2,188	2,075	8.1

(a) Denominators for calculation of rates are based on NPSU data (Table 42).

Table 70: Fetal deaths by maternal age, Australia, 1996

Maternal age (years)	Fetal deaths		Live births		Total births		Fetal death rate	
	Number				(per 1,000 births)			
Less than 20	145		13,328		13,473		10.8	
20–24	366		45,947		46,313		7.9	
25–29	512		83,282		83,794		6.1	
30–34	487		76,116		76,603		6.4	
35–39	247		31,477		31,724		7.8	
40 and over	59		5,057		5,116		11.5	
Not stated	2		67		69		29.0	
All ages	1,818		255,274		257,092		7.1	

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

Table 71: Fetal deaths by maternal age and Indigenous status, Australia, 1996

Maternal age (years)	Fetal deaths		Live births		Total births		Fetal death rate	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Number								
(per 1,000 births)								
Less than 20	23	122	1,717	11,611	1,740	11,733	13.2	10.4
20–24	38	328	2,657	43,290	2,695	43,618	14.1	7.5
25–29	23	489	2,024	81,258	2,047	81,747	11.2	6.0
30–34	15	472	1,005	75,111	1,020	75,583	14.7	6.2
35–39	5	242	350	31,127	355	31,369	14.1	7.7
40 and over	-	59	40	5,017	40	5,076	-	11.6
Not stated	-	2	-	67	-	69	-	29.0
All ages	104	1,714	7,793	247,481	7,897	249,195	13.2	6.9

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

Table 72: Fetal deaths by maternal parity, Australia, 1996

Parity	Fetal deaths		Live births		Total births		Fetal death rate	
	Number				(per 1,000 births)			
None	845		101,196		102,041		8.3	
One	500		86,736		87,236		5.7	
Two	263		42,036		42,299		6.2	
Three	122		15,709		15,831		7.7	
Four or more	87		9,446		9,533		9.1	
Not stated	1		151		152		6.6	
All parities	1,818		255,274		257,092		7.1	

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

Table 73: Fetal deaths by plurality, Australia, 1996

Plurality	Fetal deaths	Live births	Total births	Fetal death rate
		Number		(per 1,000 births)
Singletons	1,612	248,240	249,852	6.5
Twins	190	6,732	6,922	27.4
Other multiple births	16	302	318	50.3
All births	1,818	255,274	257,092	7.1

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

Table 74: Fetal deaths by maternal marital status, Australia, 1996

Marital status	Fetal deaths	Live births	Total births	Fetal death rate
		Number		(per 1,000 births)
Married/de facto	1,441	222,439	223,880	6.4
Single	306	28,875	29,181	10.5
Widowed, divorced or separated	31	3,162	3,193	9.7
Not stated	40	798	838	47.7
All marital status	1,818	255,274	257,092	7.1

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

Table 75: Fetal deaths by mother's accommodation status in hospital, selected States and Territories, 1996

Hospital status ^(a)	Fetal deaths	Live births	Total births	Fetal death rate
		Number		(per 1,000 births)
Public	956	125,366	126,322	7.6
Private	325	61,568	61,893	5.3
Not stated	38	1,675	1,713	22.2
All births	1,319	188,609	189,928	6.9

(a) Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory.

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

Table 76: Infant's outcome by birthweight, New South Wales, 1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	118	746.8	33	825.0	151	955.7	40
500-999	114	314.9	90	362.9	204	563.5	248
1,000-1,499	42	92.5	15	36.4	57	125.6	412
1,500-1,999	46	50.8	11	12.8	57	62.9	860
2,000-2,499	48	15.2	10	3.2	58	18.4	3,110
2,500-2,999	59	4.5	12	0.9	71	5.4	13,039
3,000-3,499	46	1.5	23	0.7	69	2.2	31,332
3,500-3,999	37	1.4	9	0.3	46	1.7	26,756
4,000-4,499	9	1.0	3	0.3	12	1.4	8,584
4,500 and over	4	2.7	-	-	4	2.7	1,473
Not stated	22	423.1	2	66.7	24	461.5	30
Total births	545	6.3	208	2.4	753	8.7	85,884

Note: Data include fetuses and infants of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 g birthweight. Rates expressed per 1,000 births.

Table 77: Infant's outcome by birthweight, Victoria, 1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	169	757.8	51	944.4	220	986.5	54
500-999	85	284.3	64	299.1	149	498.3	214
1,000-1,499	30	85.0	15	46.4	45	127.5	323
1,500-1,999	23	30.6	19	26.1	42	55.9	729
2,000-2,499	35	14.7	18	7.7	53	22.3	2,347
2,500-2,999	41	4.3	13	1.4	54	5.7	9,467
3,000-3,499	38	1.7	14	0.6	52	2.3	22,495
3,500-3,999	16	0.8	9	0.5	25	1.3	19,409
4,000-4,499	11	1.7	4	0.6	15	2.4	6,286
4,500 and over	3	2.6	-	-	3	2.6	1,152
Not stated	16	666.7	2	250.0	18	750.0	8
Total births	467	7.4	209	3.3	676	10.7	62,484

Note: Data include fetuses and infants of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 g birthweight. Rates expressed per 1,000 births.

Table 78: Infant's outcome by birthweight, Queensland, 1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	115	697.0	48	960.0	163	987.9	50
500-999	101	345.9	58	303.7	159	544.5	191
1,000-1,499	33	104.4	12	42.4	45	142.4	283
1,500-1,999	29	45.7	9	14.9	38	59.8	606
2,000-2,499	18	10.0	9	5.0	27	15.0	1,786
2,500-2,999	27	3.9	16	2.3	43	6.2	6,908
3,000-3,499	22	1.3	30	1.7	52	3.0	17,284
3,500-3,999	13	0.9	14	0.9	27	1.8	14,798
4,000-4,499	2	0.4	3	0.6	5	1.0	4,883
4,500 and over	2	2.4	1	1.2	3	3.6	833
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Total births	362	7.5	200	4.2	562	11.7	47,625

Note: Data include fetuses and infants of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 g birthweight. Rates expressed per 1,000 births.

Table 79: Infant's outcome by birthweight, Western Australia, 1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	65	773.8	19	1000.0	84	1000.0	19
500-999	41	282.8	28	269.2	69	475.9	104
1,000-1,499	16	100.6	6	42.0	22	138.4	143
1,500-1,999	17	52.0	2	6.5	19	58.1	310
2,000-2,499	16	15.6	7	6.9	23	22.4	1,009
2,500-2,999	9	2.2	9	2.2	18	4.3	4,151
3,000-3,499	16	1.7	14	1.5	30	3.2	9,318
3,500-3,999	16	2.1	9	1.2	25	3.3	7,673
4,000-4,499	3	1.3	2	0.9	5	2.2	2,302
4,500 and over	2	5.6	-	-	2	5.6	354
Total births	201	7.9	96	3.8	297	11.6	25,383

Note: Data include fetuses and infants of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 g birthweight. Rates expressed per 1,000 births.

Table 80: Infant's outcome by birthweight, South Australia, 1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	39	672.4	18	947.4	57	982.8	19
500-999	38	294.6	22	241.8	60	465.1	91
1,000-1,499	4	36.7	3	28.6	7	64.2	105
1,500-1,999	10	36.9	1	3.8	11	40.6	261
2,000-2,499	13	15.4	5	6.0	18	21.4	829
2,500-2,999	14	4.9	6	2.1	20	7.0	2,855
3,000-3,499	11	1.6	6	0.9	17	2.5	6,819
3,500-3,999	2	0.3	5	0.9	7	1.2	5,734
4,000-4,499	1	0.5	3	1.5	4	2.1	1,940
4,500 and over	-	-	1	3.1	1	3.1	326
Total births	132	6.9	70	3.7	202	10.6	18,979

Note: Data include fetuses and infants of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 g birthweight. Rates expressed per 1,000 births.

Table 81: Infant's outcome by birthweight, Australian Capital Territory, 1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	9	750.0	2	666.7	11	916.7	3
500-999	6	187.5	7	269.2	13	406.3	26
1,000-1,499	2	60.6	-	-	2	60.6	31
1,500-1,999	3	44.1	2	30.8	5	73.5	65
2,000-2,499	3	15.8	1	5.3	4	21.1	187
2,500-2,999	4	6.3	2	3.2	6	9.5	630
3,000-3,499	5	3.1	-	-	5	3.1	1,629
3,500-3,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,540
4,000-4,499	-	-	-	-	-	-	523
4,500 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
Not stated	5	227.3	-	-	5	22.7	17
Total births	37	7.7	14	2.9	51	10.7	4,751

Note: Data include fetuses and infants of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 g birthweight. Rates expressed per 1,000 births.

Table 82: Infant's outcome by birthweight, Northern Territory, 1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	5	357.1	8	-	13	928.6	9
500-999	4	181.8	4	222.2	8	363.6	18
1,000-1,499	5	151.5	4	142.9	9	272.7	28
1,500-1,999	3	50.8	1	17.9	4	67.8	56
2,000-2,499	3	13.5	1	4.5	4	17.9	220
2,500-2,999	3	4.5	4	6.0	7	10.4	669
3,000-3,499	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,233
3,500-3,999	3	3.4	-	-	3	3.4	890
4,000-4,499	-	-	-	-	-	-	264
4,500 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
Not stated	1	142.9	1	166.7	2	285.7	6
Total births	27	7.8	23	6.7	50	14.4	3,434

Note: Data include fetuses and infants of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 g birthweight. Rates expressed per 1,000 births.

Table 83: Causes of perinatal deaths, selected States, 1995

Causes ^(a)	Queensland		South Australia	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Spontaneous preterm	145	25.7	27	12.3
Intrauterine growth restriction	17	3.0	13	5.9
Unexplained intrauterine death	110	19.5	46	21.0
Birth trauma	3	0.5	1	0.5
Intrapartum asphyxia	17	3.0	6	2.7
Hypertension	19	3.4	8	3.7
Maternal disease	36	6.4	5	2.3
Antepartum haemorrhage	54	9.6	26	11.9
Fetal abnormality	120	21.3	49	22.4
Haemolytic disease	4	0.7	-	-
Infection	23	4.1	26	11.9
Other	16	2.8	12	5.5
All causes	564	100.0	219	100.0

(a) Causes of perinatal death based upon a modified Whitfield classification system.

Table 84: Causes of perinatal deaths, selected States, 1996

Causes ^(a)	Queensland		Western Australia		South Australia		Tasmania	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Spontaneous preterm	143	25.4	70	24.7	31	15.3	6	11.3
Intrauterine growth restriction	8	1.4	9	3.2	14	6.9	4	7.5
Unexplained intrauterine death	93	16.5	54	19.1	36	17.8	21	39.6
Birth trauma	1	0.2	-	-	1	0.5	-	-
Intrapartum asphyxia	19	3.4	18	6.4	10	5.0	5	9.4
Hypertension	19	3.4	10	3.5	6	3.0	-	-
Maternal disease	65	11.6	8	2.8	10	5.0	-	-
Antepartum haemorrhage	43	7.7	23	8.1	20	9.9	3	5.7
Fetal abnormality	111	19.8	60	21.2	34	16.8	5	9.4
Haemolytic disease	2	0.4	1	0.4	1	0.5	-	-
Infection	18	3.2	10	3.5	21	10.4	3	5.7
Other	40	7.1	20	7.1	18	8.9	6	11.3
All causes	562	100.0	283	100.0	202	100.0	53	100.0

(a) Causes of perinatal death based upon a modified Whitfield classification system.

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Explanatory notes

- The term 'Indigenous' is used to refer to mothers of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.
- Tabulated data in this report are based on births that occurred in each State and Territory in 1996. Because of differences in data items, and varying practices for coding the mother's place of residence if she lived in a State or Territory other than that in which the birth occurred, it is presently not possible to analyse the perinatal data according to region of residence.
- Confinements and births in 'not stated' categories are excluded from calculation of percentages. Due to rounding, percentages may not always add up to exactly 100.0%.
- Trend lines have been fitted using a second order polynomial regression model to approximate a line of best fit (Kleinbaum et al. 1988).
- Maternal age in this report is calculated as an integer function of the difference in days between the infant's and mother's dates of birth divided by 365.25. Slight differences in maternal age may exist compared to those in State and Territory reports.
- All mean values are arithmetically derived excluding unknowns and may differ from those derived by the States and Territories in their reports.
- Length of stay in this report is calculated as a function of the difference in days between the infant's date of birth and the mother's or infant's date of separation, and only accounts for stays at the hospital or birth centre of initial confinement. Those infants born before arrival are also included. Mothers or infants who are transferred and home births are excluded from length of stay statistics. Three States (Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania) collect information for the entire period under care, that is for the period up until final separation, including transfers to facilities after the hospital of birth.
- Data for New South Wales on mother's date of admission, discharge and length of antenatal and postnatal stay were obtained from linked Midwives Data Collection-NSW Inpatient Statistics Collection data.
- Perinatal data for Tasmania in 1996 were not available for inclusion in this report. All tables and figures in this report use estimated 1996 data for Tasmania. Data for Tasmania in 1995 have been used as an estimate for 1996.
- If data items such as presentation or type of delivery differed for twins or other multiple births, the confinement was arbitrarily included in the category of the first multiple birth.
- Fetal deaths (stillbirths) from the State and Territory perinatal collections have a gestational age of at least 20 weeks or a birthweight of at least 400 g and relate to year of birth. Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths in the tables based on data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics have a birthweight of at least 500 g or, when birthweight was not available, a gestational age of at least 22 weeks and relate to year of registration.
- Information on Australian Bureau of Statistics births denominators for gestational age and birthweight breakdowns for fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates are not available. These categories of gestational age and birthweight are expressed as proportionate death rates. The denominator used for calculating proportionate death

rates is the total number of births rather than the number of births in a particular gestational age or birthweight group.

- The National Health Data Dictionary version 7.0 definition defines the scope of perinatal data collection, except for neonatal deaths and length of stay, as morbidity occurring at the hospital of birth within the perinatal period of 28 days.
- Due to data editing and subsequent updates of State and Territory databases, the figures in this report may differ slightly from those in reports published by the States and Territories.

Glossary

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

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

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

Apgar score: numerical score to evaluate the 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 1,000 g.

Fetal death (stillbirth): death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception of 20 or more completed weeks of gestation or of 400 g or more birthweight. The death is indicated by the fact that after such separation the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles (tables based on ABS data have a lower limit of 500 g 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.

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

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).

International Classification of Diseases: WHO's internationally accepted classification of death and disease. The 9th Revision (ICD-9) is referred to in this report.

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 2,500 g.

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 heartbeat; or to treat depressed respiratory effort and to correct metabolic disturbances.

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

Stillbirth: See 'fetal death'.

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

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

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

Whitfield: a classification system for perinatal deaths.