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# Australia's Mothers and Babies 1995

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# Australia's Mothers and Babies 1995

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# Contents

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List of tables .....	v
List of figures.....	ix
Acknowledgements.....	xii
Abbreviations.....	xiii
Explanatory notes.....	xiii
Highlights .....	1
1 Introduction	
1.1 Data sources.....	2
1.2 Perinatal minimum data set and definitions.....	2
1.3 Criteria.....	3
1.4 Data quality.....	3
1.5 Scope of report.....	3
2 Results	
2.1 Introductory notes.....	4
2.2 Confinements and births .....	4
2.3 Place of birth.....	5
2.4 Size of maternity unit.....	5
2.5 Maternal age .....	7
2.6 Maternal parity.....	9
2.7 Marital status .....	9
2.8 Aboriginality .....	10
2.9 Maternal country of birth.....	11
2.10 Status in hospital .....	12
2.11 Duration of pregnancy .....	13
2.12 Multiple pregnancy.....	15
2.13 Onset of labour.....	15
2.14 Presentation at birth.....	17
2.15 Type of delivery .....	17
2.16 Perineal repair after delivery.....	20
2.17 Mother's length of stay in hospital .....	20
2.18 Mother's mode of separation from hospital.....	24
2.19 Infant's birth status.....	24
2.20 Infant's month of birth.....	24
2.21 Infant's sex.....	25
2.22 Infant's gestational age .....	26
2.23 Infant's birthweight .....	26
2.24 Apgar scores .....	31
2.25 Resuscitation at birth.....	33
2.26 Infant's length of stay in hospital .....	33
2.27 Infant's mode of separation from hospital.....	33
3 Perinatal mortality	
3.1 Definitions.....	35
3.2 Trends in fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths .....	35
3.3 Perinatal deaths by State and Territory of residence.....	37
3.4 Perinatal deaths by maternal age.....	38
3.5 Perinatal deaths by plurality.....	38
3.6 Perinatal deaths by infant's sex.....	38

3.7	Proportionate perinatal death rates by gestational age .....	40
3.8	Proportionate perinatal death rates by birthweight .....	42
3.9	Birthweight-specific fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths in Australia .....	44
3.10	Fetal deaths in State and Territory perinatal data collections .....	44
4	References .....	46
	Tables .....	48
	Appendix	
1	Definitions .....	107

# Tables

---

Table 1:	Confinements and births, States and Territories, 1995 .....	48
Table 2:	Place of birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995 .....	48
Table 3:	Distribution of maternity units by size, States and Territories, 1995.....	49
Table 4:	Distribution of confinements by size of maternity unit, States and Territories, 1995 .....	49
Table 5:	Maternal age, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995.....	50
Table 6:	Mother's parity, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995.....	51
Table 7:	Distribution of confinements by maternal age and parity, Australia 1995 .....	51
Table 8:	Marital status, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995 .....	52
Table 9:	Marital status of teenage mothers, Australia, 1995 .....	52
Table 10:	Indigenous mothers, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995 .....	53
Table 11:	Distribution of confinements of Indigenous mothers, by maternal age and parity, Australia, 1995.....	53
Table 12:	Confinements of Indigenous mothers by maternal age, States and Territories, 1995.....	54
Table 13:	Maternal country of birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995 .....	55
Table 14:	Maternal age distribution by selected country of birth, all confinements, Australia 1995.....	56
Table 15:	Marital status of mother by selected country of birth, all confinements, Australia, 1995.....	57
Table 16:	Mother's accommodation status in hospital, all confinements, selected States and Territories, 1995 .....	57
Table 17:	Duration of pregnancy, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995 .....	58
Table 18:	Duration of pregnancy by maternal age, all confinements, Australia, 1995 .....	58
Table 19:	Plurality, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995 .....	59
Table 20:	Multiple confinements by maternal age, Australia, 1995 .....	59
Table 21:	Onset of labour, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995 .....	60
Table 22:	Presentation at birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995 .....	60
Table 23:	Type of delivery, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995.....	61

Table 24:	Caesarean rates by maternal age and status in hospital, States and Territories, 1995 .....	62
Table 25:	Caesarean rates by maternal age, parity and public status in hospital, Australia, 1995.....	63
Table 26:	Caesarean rates by maternal age, parity and private status in hospital, Australia, 1995.....	64
Table 27:	Caesarean rates by maternal age and status in hospital, Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1995 .....	65
Table 28:	Caesarean rates by parity, plurality, breech presentation, and birthweight, States and Territories, 1995 .....	66
Table 29:	Length of antenatal stay in hospital, selected States and Territories, 1995 .....	67
Table 30:	Length of postnatal stay, hospital confinements, selected States and Territories, 1995 .....	68
Table 31:	Length of postnatal stay by accommodation status, hospital confinements, selected States and Territories, 1995 .....	69
Table 32:	Length of postnatal stay in hospital by mother's age, parity, Aboriginality, status, type of delivery, and size of hospital, Australia, 1995 .....	70
Table 33:	Length of postnatal stay for public status in hospital by mother's age, parity, Aboriginality, type of delivery, and size of hospital, Australia, 1995 .....	71
Table 34:	Length of postnatal stay for private status in hospital by mother's age, parity, Aboriginality, type of delivery, and size of hospital, Australia, 1995 .....	72
Table 35:	Mode of separation of mother, hospital confinements, selected States and Territories, 1995 .....	73
Table 36:	Infant's month of birth, all births, States and Territories, 1995 .....	74
Table 37:	Infant's sex by plurality, all births, States and Territories, 1995 .....	75
Table 38:	Infant's gestational age, live births and fetal deaths, Australia, 1995.....	76
Table 39:	Infant's gestational age by plurality, all births, Australia, 1995 .....	77
Table 40:	Duration of pregnancy, preterm births, States and Territories, 1995.....	77
Table 41:	Infant's birthweight, all births, States and Territories, 1995.....	78
Table 42:	Infant's birthweight, live births and fetal deaths, Australia, 1995 .....	79
Table 43:	Infant's birthweight by plurality, all births, Australia, 1995.....	79
Table 44:	Infant's birthweight by sex, all births, Australia, 1995.....	80
Table 45:	Infant's birthweight, Indigenous births, States and Territories, 1995 .....	81

Table 46:	Distribution of birthweight by mother's Aboriginality, country of birth, age, parity, marital status, public and private status, and place of birth, Australia, 1995 .....	82
Table 47:	Proportion of liveborn low birthweight infants born in hospitals of different sizes, States and Territories, 1995 .....	83
Table 48:	Infant's Apgar score at 1 minute, live births, selected States and Territories, 1995 .....	84
Table 49:	Infant's Apgar score at 5 minutes, live births, States and Territories, 1995 .....	84
Table 50:	Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes, by birthweight and Aboriginality, live births, Australia, 1995 .....	85
Table 51:	Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes, by birthweight and plurality, live births, Australia, 1995 .....	86
Table 52:	Length of infant's stay in hospital, live births, States and Territories, 1995 .....	87
Table 53:	Length of infant's stay in hospital by plurality, Aboriginality, gestational age, and birthweight, live births, Australia, 1995 .....	88
Table 54:	Mode of separation of infants born in hospitals or birth centres, States and Territories, 1995 .....	89
Table 55:	Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths and rates, various definitions, Australia, 1993-1995 .....	90
Table 56:	Type of fetal death, Australia, 1991-1995 .....	91
Table 57:	Neonatal deaths by age at death, Australia, 1991-1995 .....	91
Table 58:	Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, Australia, 1991-1995 .....	91
Table 59:	Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by maternal State or Territory of usual residence, 1991-1995 .....	92
Table 60:	Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by maternal age, Australia, 1991-1995 .....	94
Table 61:	Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, singleton and multiple births, Australia, 1991-1995 .....	96
Table 62:	Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by infant's sex, Australia, 1991-1995 .....	97
Table 63:	Fetal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1991-1995 .....	98
Table 64:	Neonatal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1991-1995 .....	98
Table 65:	Perinatal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1991-1995 .....	99
Table 66:	Fetal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1991-1995 .....	99
Table 67:	Neonatal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1991-1995 .....	100
Table 68:	Perinatal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1991-1995 .....	100



Table 69:	Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths according to various criteria, and birthweight-specific death rates, Australia, 1995 .....	101
Table 70:	Fetal deaths by maternal age, Australia, 1995 .....	102
Table 71:	Fetal deaths by maternal age and Aboriginality, Australia, 1995 .....	102
Table 72:	Fetal deaths by parity, Australia, 1995 .....	102
Table 73:	Fetal deaths by plurality, Australia, 1995 .....	103
Table 74:	Fetal deaths by marital status, Australia, 1995 .....	103
Table 75:	Fetal deaths by mother's status in hospital, selected States and Territories, 1995 .....	103
Table 76:	Infant's outcome by birthweight, New South Wales, 1995 .....	104
Table 77:	Infant's outcome by birthweight, Victoria, 1995 .....	104
Table 78:	Infant's outcome by birthweight, Queensland, 1995 .....	104
Table 79:	Infant's outcome by birthweight, Western Australia, 1995 .....	105
Table 80:	Infant's outcome by birthweight, South Australia, 1995 .....	105
Table 81:	Infant's outcome by birthweight, Tasmania, 1995 .....	105
Table 82:	Infant's outcome by birthweight, Australian Capital Territory, 1995 .....	106
Table 83:	Infant's outcome by birthweight, Northern Territory, 1995 .....	106

# Figures

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Figure 1:	Distribution of births in Australia, States and Territories, 1995 .....	4
Figure 2:	Distribution of maternity units by size, States and Territories, 1995.....	6
Figure 3:	Distribution of confinements by size of maternity unit, States and Territories, 1995 .....	6
Figure 4:	Trends in maternal age, Australia, 1991-1995 .....	7
Figure 5:	Proportion of teenage mothers, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995 .....	8
Figure 6:	Age distribution of teenage mothers, States and Territories, 1995 .....	8
Figure 7:	Mother's parity, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995 .....	9
Figure 8:	Proportion of Indigenous confinements, States and Territories, 1995.....	10
Figure 9:	Maternal country of birth, all confinements, Australia, 1995.....	11
Figure 10:	Marital status of mothers, selected countries, all confinements, 1995 .....	12
Figure 11:	Confinements by mother's accommodation status in hospital, selected States and Territories, 1995 .....	12
Figure 12:	Duration of pregnancy, all confinements, Australia, 1995 .....	13
Figure 13:	Preterm confinements, States and Territories, 1995 .....	14
Figure 14:	Preterm confinements by maternal age, Australia, 1995 .....	14
Figure 15:	Trends in multiple births, Australia, 1991-1995 .....	15
Figure 16:	Maternal age-specific multiple birth rates, Australia, 1995 .....	16
Figure 17:	Onset of labour, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995 .....	16
Figure 18:	Type of delivery, all confinements, Australia, 1995 .....	17
Figure 19:	Trends in caesarean section rates by accommodation status in hospital, Australia, 1991-1995 .....	18
Figure 20:	Caesarean rates, States and Territories, 1995 .....	18
Figure 21:	Caesarean rates by maternal age and status in hospital, selected States and Territories, 1995 .....	19
Figure 22:	Caesarean rates by birthweight and status in hospital, singleton births, selected States and Territories, 1995 .....	20
Figure 23:	Mother's length of stay of less than 4 days, Australia, 1991-1995 .....	21

Figure 24:	Maternal postnatal stay of 7 or more days, hospital confinements, States and Territories, 1995 .....	21
Figure 25:	Length of maternal postnatal stay, hospital confinements, States and Territories, 1995 .....	22
Figure 26:	Length of maternal postnatal stay by status in hospital, selected States and Territories, 1995 .....	23
Figure 27:	Monthly variation in births, Australia, 1995 .....	25
Figure 28:	Distribution of births by gestational age, Australia, 1995 .....	25
Figure 29:	Preterm births, Australia, 1991-1995 .....	26
Figure 30:	Trends in low birthweight, Australia, 1991-1995.....	27
Figure 31:	Proportion of low birthweight infants, all births, States and Territories, 1995 .....	28
Figure 32:	Distribution of birthweight, singleton and multiple births, Australia, 1995 .....	29
Figure 33:	Proportion of low birthweight infants, Indigenous births, States and Territories, 1995 .....	29
Figure 34:	Low birthweight rates, selected maternal countries of birth, Australia, 1995 .....	30
Figure 35:	Low birthweight by maternal accommodation status, selected States and Territories, 1995 .....	31
Figure 36:	Low Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes after birth, live births, States and Territories, 1995 .....	32
Figure 37:	Low Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes by birthweight, live births, Australia, 1995.....	32
Figure 38:	Length of infant's stay in hospital by birthweight, Australia, 1995.....	34
Figure 39:	Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates, Australia, 1973-1995 .....	36
Figure 40:	Type of fetal death, Australia, 1973-1995 .....	36
Figure 41:	Distribution of fetal deaths by type, Australia, 1973 and 1995.....	37
Figure 42:	Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates, States and Territories, 1993-1995 .....	37
Figure 43:	Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates by maternal age, Australia, 1993-1995 .....	38
Figure 44:	Perinatal mortality rate by plurality, Australia, 1993-1995 .....	39
Figure 45:	Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates by infant's sex, Australia, 1993-1995 .....	39
Figure 46:	Proportionate fetal death rates by gestational age, Australia, 1973-1995 .....	40
Figure 47:	Proportionate neonatal death rates by gestational age, Australia, 1973-1995 .....	41

Figure 48: Proportionate perinatal death rates by gestational age, Australia, 1973-1995 .....	41
Figure 49: Proportionate fetal death rates by birthweight, Australia, 1973-1995 .....	42
Figure 50: Proportionate neonatal death rates by birthweight, Australia, 1973-1995 .....	43
Figure 51: Proportionate perinatal death rates by birthweight, Australia, 1973-1995.....	43

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## Abbreviations

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

## Explanatory notes

- The term 'Indigenous' is used to refer to mothers and babies of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.
- 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 (Klienbaum, kupper, Muller 1988).
- For most States and Territories, maternal age in this report is calculated as an integer function of the difference in days between baby date of birth and maternal date of birth divided by 365.25.
- Lengths of stay in this report are calculated as a function of the difference in days between dates and in most cases only account for stays at the hospital of confinement. All means are arithmetically derived excluding unknowns and may differ from those derived by the States and Territories.
- 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 400g. Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths in the tables based on data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics have a birthweight of at least 500g or, when birthweight was not available, a gestational age of at least 22 weeks.
- 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.



# Highlights

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- In 1995, 260,044 babies born to 256,378 mothers were notified to perinatal data collections in the States and Territories, a decrease of 0.5% from 1994. More mothers had their babies in birth centres than in previous years and home births increased in 1995.
- The average age of all mothers in 1995 was 28.4 years, and 26.5 years for those having their first baby, continuing the upward trend in recent years. There were 13,562 teenage mothers (5.3% of all mothers), of whom 4,388 were aged 17 years or younger.
- Although some women are deferring childbearing, in 1995 only 1 in 14 mothers had their first baby at 35 years or older. Nearly one in 9 mothers with private health insurance were in this group, compared with only 1 in 23 mothers who did not have health insurance.
- There were 7,779 Indigenous mothers (3.0% of all mothers), of whom 2,483 gave birth in Queensland, 1,739 in New South Wales, 1,446 in Western Australia, 1,244 in the Northern Territory, and smaller numbers in the other States and the Australian Capital Territory. Their average age was 24.0 years and there was a high proportion of teenage mothers (22.7%).
- The proportion of mothers who were born in other countries decreased slightly to 22.7% in 1995, down from 22.8% in 1994. Mothers born in Asia increased from 5.1% of all mothers in 1991 to 7.3% in 1995, reflecting the increasing number of confinements of mothers born in countries such as Vietnam (4,672), China (2,833), India (1,352), and the Philippines (2,665).
- Multiple pregnancies accounted for 1.4% of all confinements and included 3,476 twin pregnancies, 92 triplet pregnancies, and 2 quadruplet pregnancies.
- In 1995, almost 1 in 5 (19.3%) births was by caesarean section, slightly down from 19.4% in 1994, but still higher than in previous years. South Australia (23.2%) had the highest caesarean rate in 1995 and New South Wales (17.5%) 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 37.6%.
- More mothers had relatively short postnatal stays in hospital in 1995 than in previous years. The proportion who stayed less than 4 days increased from 20.2% in 1991 to 35.5% in 1995. Mothers without private health insurance had shorter postnatal stays than those with private health insurance.
- Low birthweight (less than 2,500g) occurred in 16,571 (6.4%) infants in 1995. The mean birthweight of infants of Indigenous mothers was 3,159g, 199g less than for all births; 11.8% of Indigenous infants had a low birthweight, almost twice the national proportion.
- Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates were 5.0, 3.2 and 8.1 per 1,000 births, respectively, in 1995, slightly higher for fetal and perinatal death rates and slightly lower for neonatal death rates when compared to 1994. Rates remain low, having steadily declined for the past two decades. The perinatal death rate of twins was 4.3 times higher, and of other multiple births nearly 10 times higher, than the death rate of singleton babies.
- In 1995, the survival up to 28 days of low birthweight infants varied from 63.9% for infants of 500-999g to 94.1% for those weighing 1000-1499g, and 98.2% for infants of 1500-1999g.



# 1 Introduction

---

This report contains national data on births in Australia in 1995, based on notifications to the groups responsible for the perinatal data collection in each State and Territory.

The major purposes of these perinatal collections are:

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

The report also contains national data on trends in perinatal deaths.

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

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) compiles statistics and publishes reports on live births and perinatal deaths from data made available by the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each State and Territory. Data obtained from ABS and its published reports were used to analyse trends and variations in perinatal deaths in the period from 1973 to 1995.

## 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 Advisory Committee has recommended definitions for these data items, which have been approved by the National Health Data Committee and the National Health Information Management Group. These definitions are included in the National Health Data Dictionary version 6.0 (National Health Data Committee 1996).

### **1.3 Criteria**

Tabulated data in this report are based on births that occurred in each State and Territory in 1995. Because of differences in data items, and varying practices for coding the mother's place of residence if she lived in a State or Territory other than that in which the birth occurred, it is presently not possible to analyse the perinatal data according to region of residence. Notification forms are completed for all births of 20 weeks or more gestation, or a birthweight of 400g or more.

### **1.4 Data quality**

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

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

### **1.5 Scope of report**

Until all State and Territory perinatal collections are linked to registrations of perinatal deaths, these collections cannot provide national data on perinatal mortality. Annual reports based on registrations of perinatal deaths are published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. These data have been used to examine trends in perinatal mortality. Additional tables based on linkage of perinatal deaths to birth records in some States provide information on perinatal mortality by birthweight.

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.

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

Reports based on each State or Territory perinatal collection are published by State and Territory health authorities and by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the University of Tasmania (Ascroft 1992; Chan, Scott, McCaul & Keane 1996; Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity 1997; Gee 1996; Marsden 1996; d'Espaignet, Woods, & Measey 1997; Taylor & Pym 1996; Queensland Health 1997).

Based on data from the State and Territory perinatal collections, a comprehensive report on *Indigenous mothers and their babies, Australia, 1991-1993* was published in 1996 (Plunkett, Lancaster & Huang 1996). Other similar reports will be published in the future.

## 2 Results

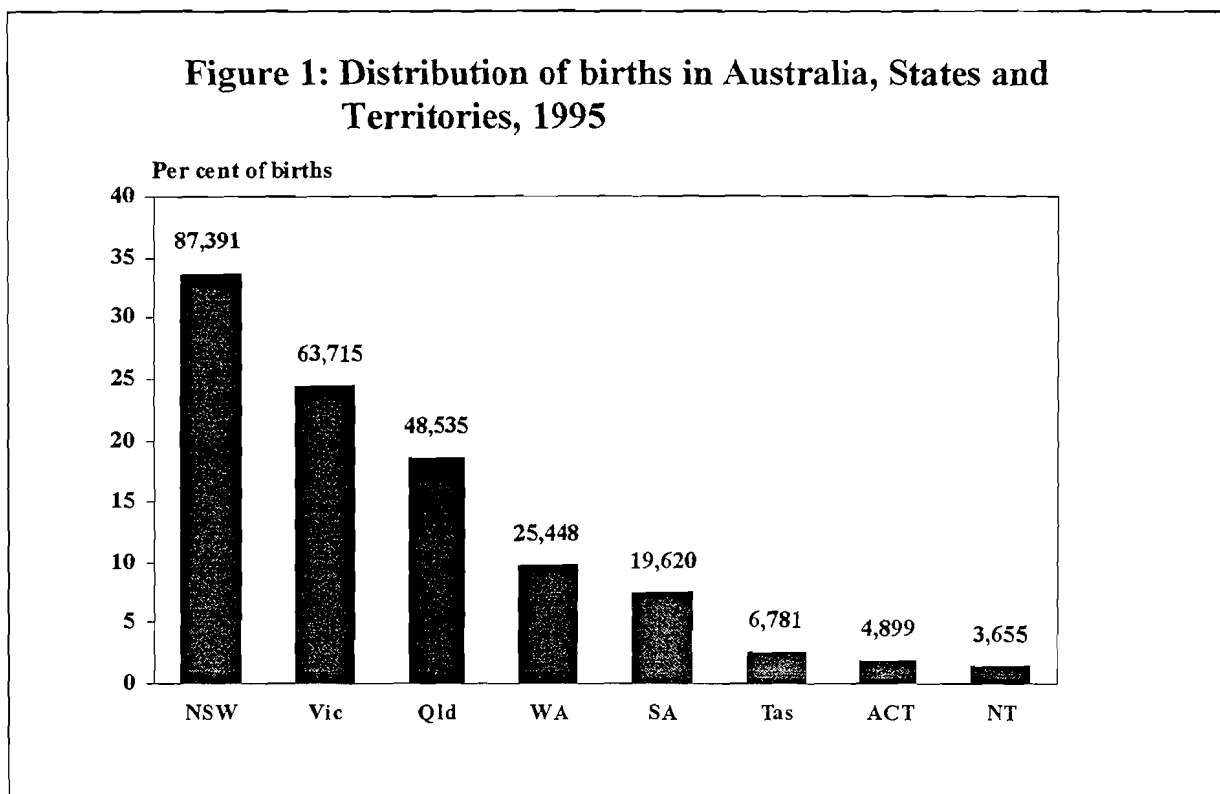
### 2.1 Introductory notes

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

Each State and Territory has developed its own forms for collecting perinatal data, often to maintain compatibility with its other data collections. While the perinatal collections are based on a national minimum data set, there may be differences in the options recorded for individual data items. The data in this report 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 256,378 confinements notified to State and Territory perinatal data groups in Australia in 1995, resulting in a total of 260,044 live births and fetal deaths (Table 1). Compared to the number of births notified in 1994, this was a decrease of 1,291 births, or 0.5%. 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 1996). In the registration system, there were 251,897 live births in Australia in 1995 (ABS 1996), 6,324 fewer than the 258,221 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 perinatal collections. Birth registrations include information on paternal age, Aboriginality (except in Queensland), country of birth and occupation, so enhanced analysis is 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 1995, New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory designated birth centres separately on notification forms. There were 4,199 confinements in birth centres in 1995 (Table 2), continuing the rising trend from 2,405 confinements in 1992. In 1995, confinements in birth centres accounted for 1.6% of all confinements in the specified States and Territories. 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 63 'other' confinements were mainly births in bush clinics.

Planned home births are underascertained in some State and Territory perinatal collections. In 1995, 869 planned home births, representing 0.3% of all births, were notified nationally (Table 2), an increase of 17.0% since the previous year.

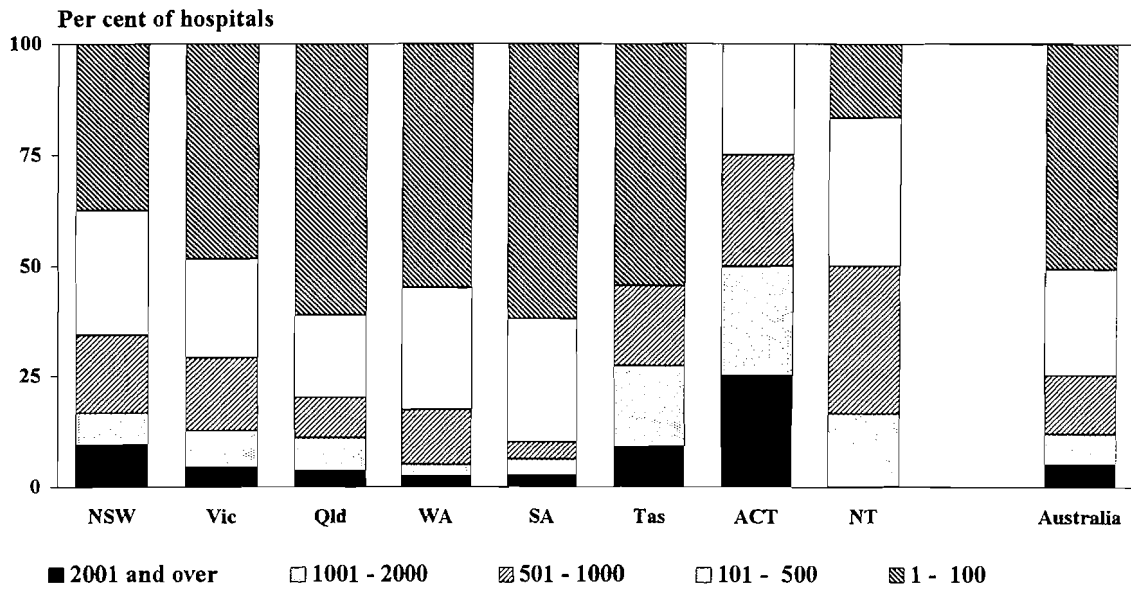
### **2.4 Size of maternity unit**

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.

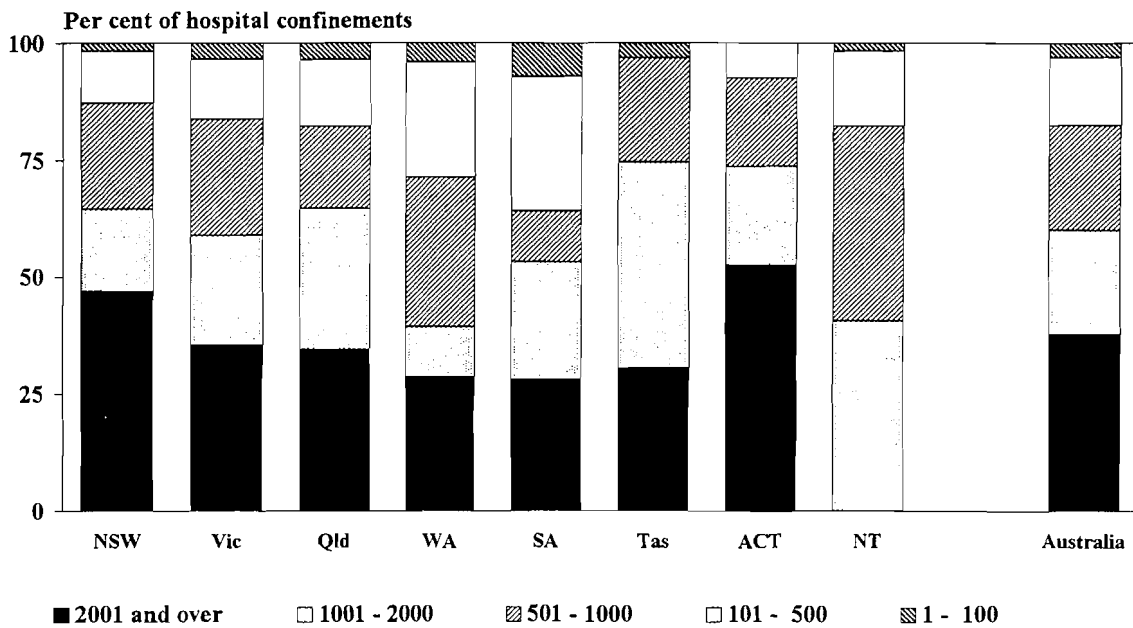
In 1995, more than half (50.8%) of the maternity units in Australia had fewer than 100 confinements (Table 3, Figure 2). More than one-third (37.2%) had between 100 and 1,000 confinements, and 12.1% had more than 1,000 confinements.

Although most maternity units are relatively small in size, the majority of hospital confinements (59.9%) occurred in the larger maternity units that had more than 1,000 confinements annually (Table 4, Figure 3). More than one-third (37.6%) of hospital confinements were in units with more than 2,000 confinements annually.

**Figure 2: Distribution of maternity units by size, States and Territories, 1995**



**Figure 3: Distribution of confinements by size of maternity unit, States and Territories, 1995**



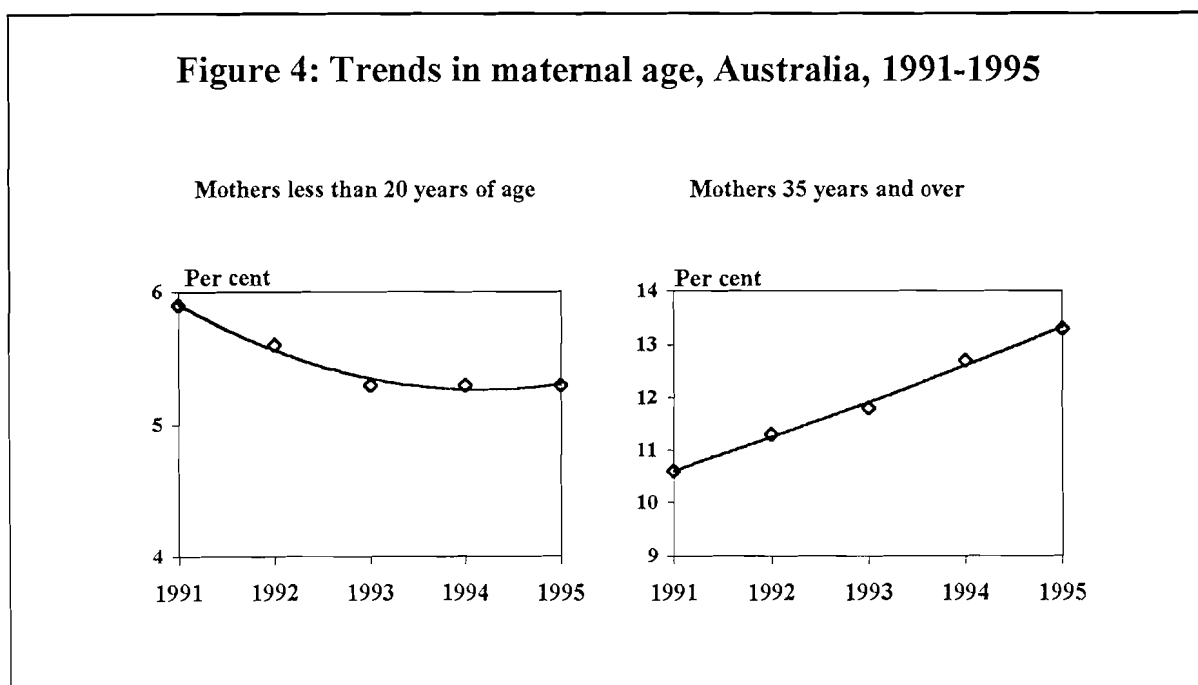
## 2.5 Maternal age

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 mean age in 1995 was 28.4 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 1995 was 26.5 years compared with 25.8 in 1991. The proportion of teenage mothers in 1995 was similar to that in 1994, but older mothers aged 35 years and over increased from 12.6% in 1994 to 13.3% in 1995 (Figure 4).

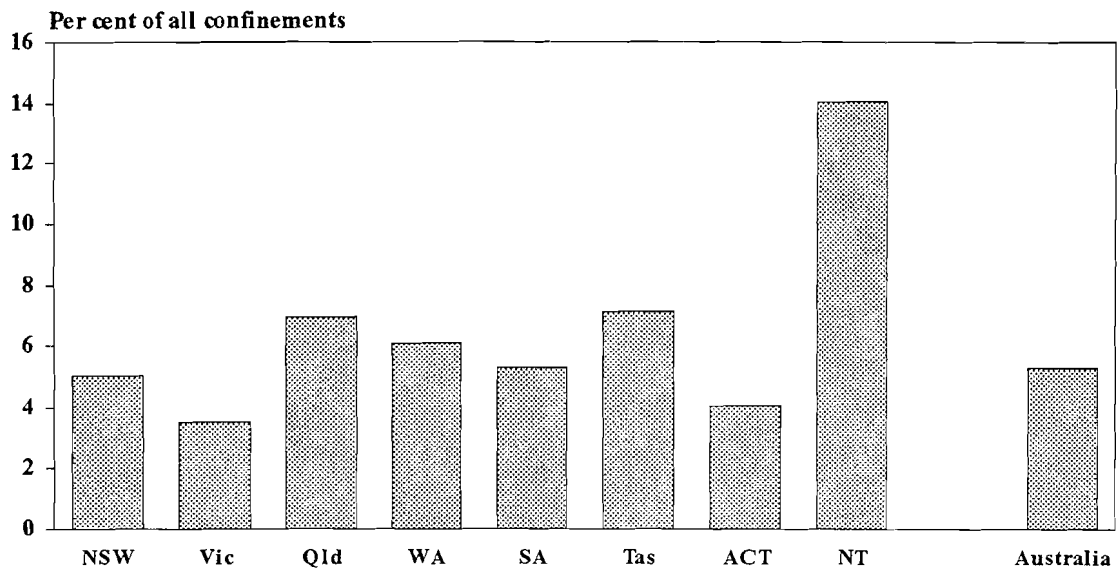
The actual number of teenage confinements decreased slightly from 13,732 in 1994 to 13,562 in 1995. The proportion of teenage confinements was 5.3% nationally and ranged from a low of 3.5% in Victoria to 14.0% in the Northern Territory (Table 5, Figure 5). There were relatively more younger teenage mothers 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 20.2 per 1,000 in 1988 and then rose slightly to 22.1 per 1,000 in 1991. Since 1991, the teenage birth rate has shown a slight fall to 20.5 per 1,000 in 1995 (ABS 1996). Teenage birth rates varied considerably in 1995 from relatively low rates of 13.8 per 1,000 females in Victoria and 14.6 per 1,000 in the Australian Capital Territory to the highest rate of 88.0 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 1995, there were 1,183 induced abortions among teenagers (Chan et al 1996) and 1,022 confinements, so it seems likely that there were more than 29,000 teenage pregnancies nationally in that year. Lack of data on induced abortions in most States considerably hampers analysis of trends in teenage pregnancies.

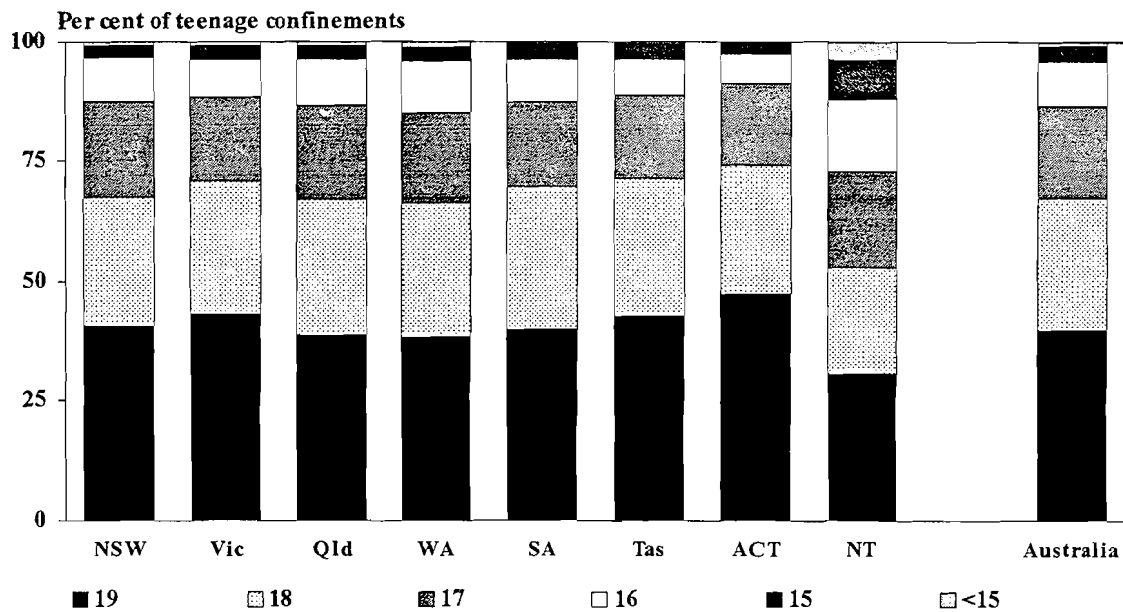
In 1995, the age-specific birth rates of women aged 20 to 29 years were slightly lower than in 1994, whereas the rates for women over 30 were slightly higher (ABS 1996).



**Figure 5: Proportion of teenage mothers, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995**



**Figure 6: Age distribution of teenage mothers, States and Territories, 1995**

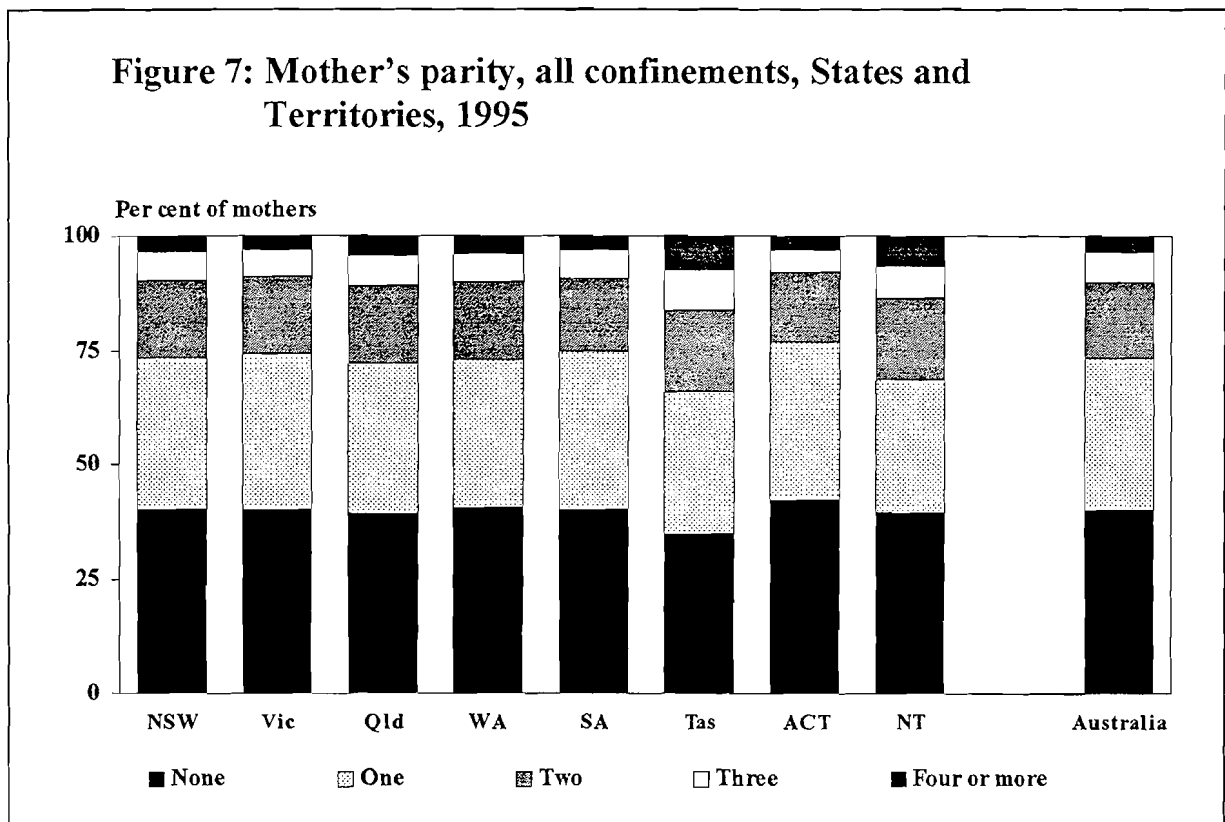


## 2.6 Maternal parity

Parity is the number of previous pregnancies that resulted in live births or stillbirths. In 1995, 39.8% of mothers were having their first baby and another 33.6% already had one child (Table 6, Figure 7). One in six mothers (16.7%) had given birth twice previously and 10.0% had three or more children. The proportion of mothers who had given birth at least twice previously increased with maternal age from 2.4% for teenagers to 53.3% for mothers aged 40 years and over (Table 7).

As indicated in Section 2.5, the average age at which women are having their first baby is gradually increasing. Nevertheless, the majority (71.4%) 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 14 (6.9%) of all primiparous women were in this age group.

The mother's health insurance status can be used as an indicator of socioeconomic status. Excluding confinements in Victoria and the Northern Territory where this information was not recorded, mothers who had private health insurance (10.6%) were more likely than those who were not insured (4.4%) to have their first baby at 35 years or older, but clearly the proportion in this age group is still relatively small.



## 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 11.5% of all confinements in Australia in 1995 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 (51.3%) of all teenage mothers were single and the proportion of single mothers was higher as maternal age decreased (Table 9).



## 2.8 Aboriginality

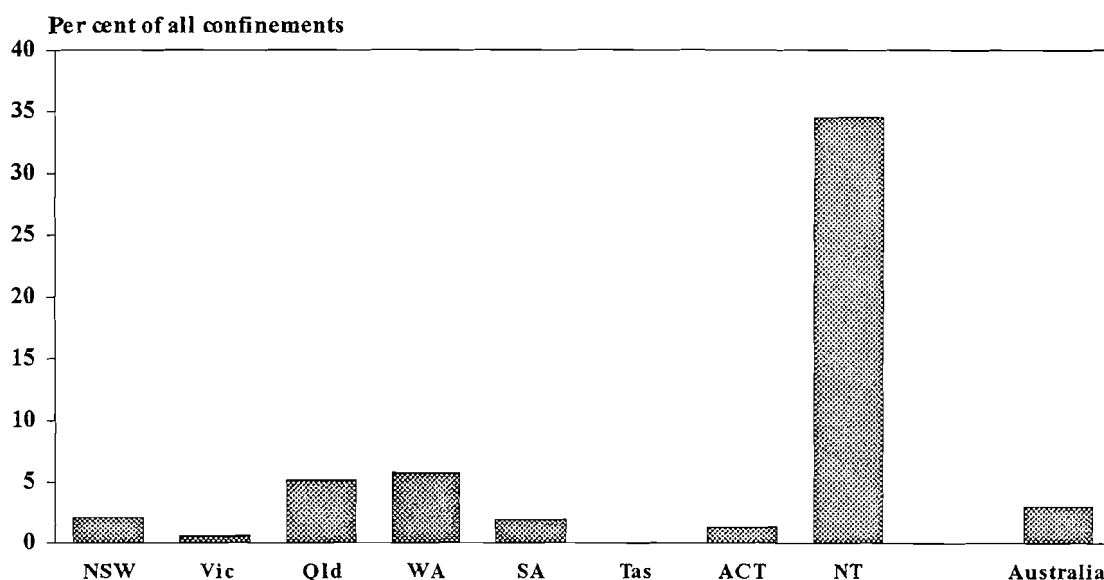
The National Health Data Dictionary (National Health Data Committee 1996) uses the definition of Aboriginality recommended by the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs:

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

All States and Territories except Tasmania have a separate data item on Aboriginality 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 1995, 7,779 Indigenous women gave birth in Australia; this was 3.0% 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 (34.5%) than elsewhere in Australia (Figure 8). There were also relatively high proportions of confinements to Indigenous women in Western Australia (5.8%) and Queensland (5.2%). Because of their larger populations, there were actually more confinements of Indigenous mothers in Queensland (2,483), New South Wales (1,739) and Western Australia (1,446) than in the Northern Territory (1,224).

**Figure 8: Proportion of Indigenous confinements, States and Territories, 1995**

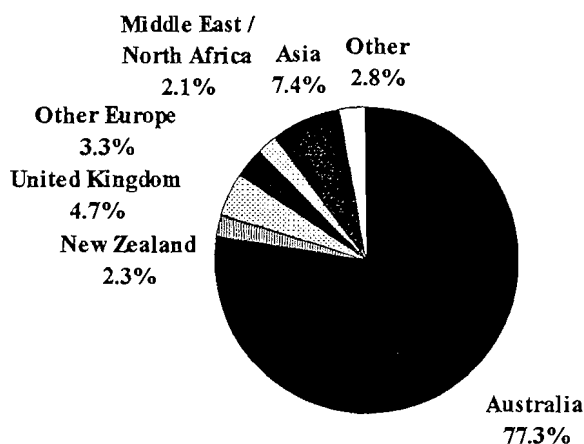


Indigenous mothers are more likely to have their babies at younger ages, and to have more babies, than other mothers (Tables 11, 12). In 1995, their average age was 24.0 years compared with 28.4 years for all confinements. Almost a quarter (22.7%) of all Indigenous mothers were teenagers. The proportion of teenagers among Indigenous mothers was higher in the Northern Territory (29.3%) 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 1995, most States and Territories were using the 4-digit ABS classification but Western Australia and Tasmania used other modified classifications.

**Figure 9: Maternal country of birth, all confinements, Australia, 1995**

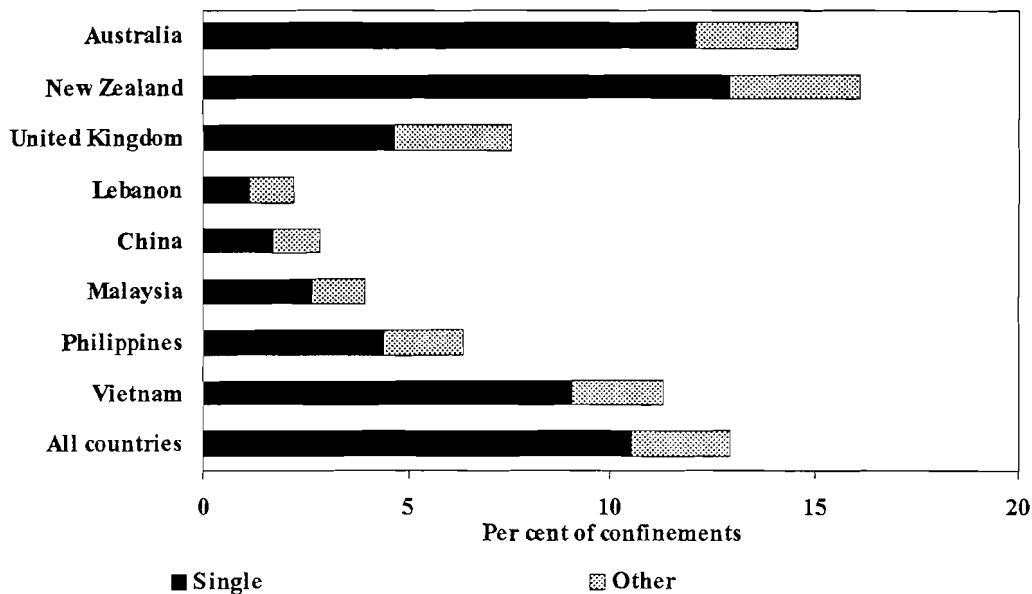


A high proportion (22.7%) of women giving birth in Australia in 1995 were born in other countries (Figure 9), slightly less than the 22.8% in 1994. Because of the large number of countries, only those countries with more than 1,000 confinements are reported separately (Table 13). Mothers born in the United Kingdom comprised 4.7% of all confinements and accounted for relatively higher proportions of all mothers in Western Australia and South Australia. New Zealand-born mothers comprised 2.3% 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 1995, 7.3% 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, the Philippines, India and Malaysia.

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, but 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 and New Zealand were single than those born in most other countries (Table 15, Figure 10).

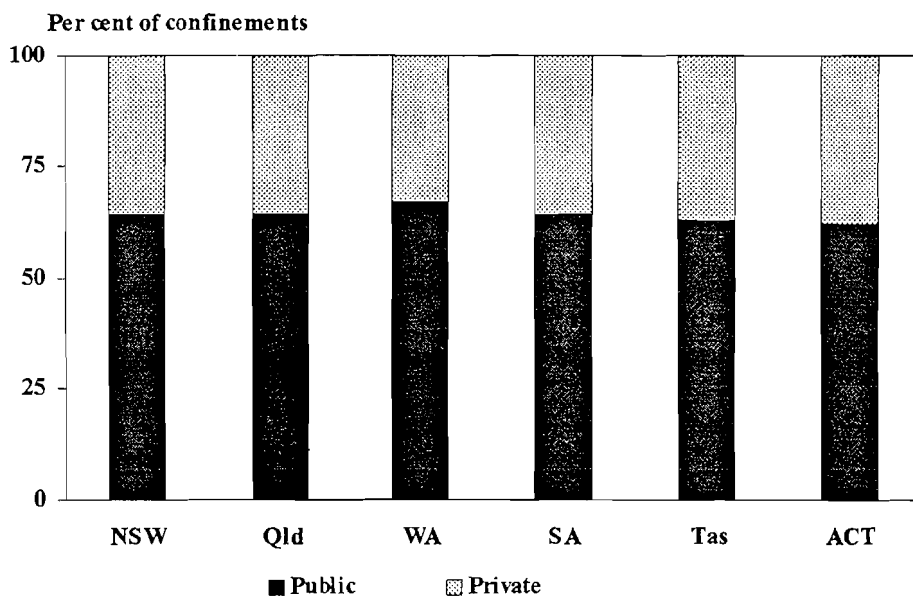
**Figure 10: Marital status of mothers, selected countries, all confinements, 1995**



### 2.10 Status in hospital

The proportion of the Australian population with private health insurance declined from about 68% in 1982 to 34.3% in December 1995 (AIHW 1996). 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 status in hospital in their perinatal collections in 1995. The proportion of mothers with private status in hospital in the other States and the Australian Capital Territory was 35.5% and ranged from 33.0% in Western Australia to 38.0% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 16, Figure 11).

**Figure 11: Confinements by mother's accommodation status in hospital, selected States and Territories, 1995**



## 2.11 Duration of pregnancy

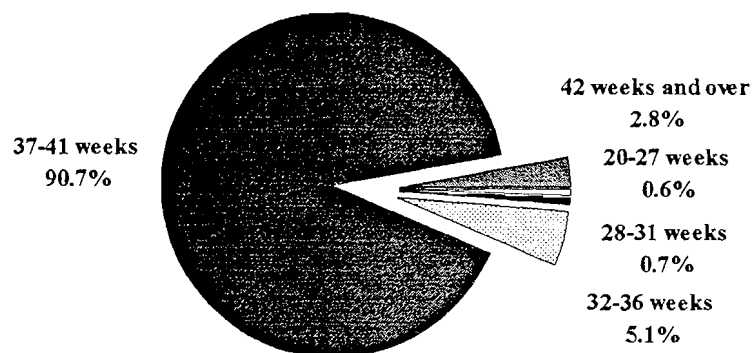
Accurate population data on gestational age are difficult to obtain. Estimations based on the calculated interval between the first day of the last menstrual period (LMP) and the infant's date of birth may be imprecise for some women because of uncertainty about the date of the LMP, irregular cycles, 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 1995, 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.

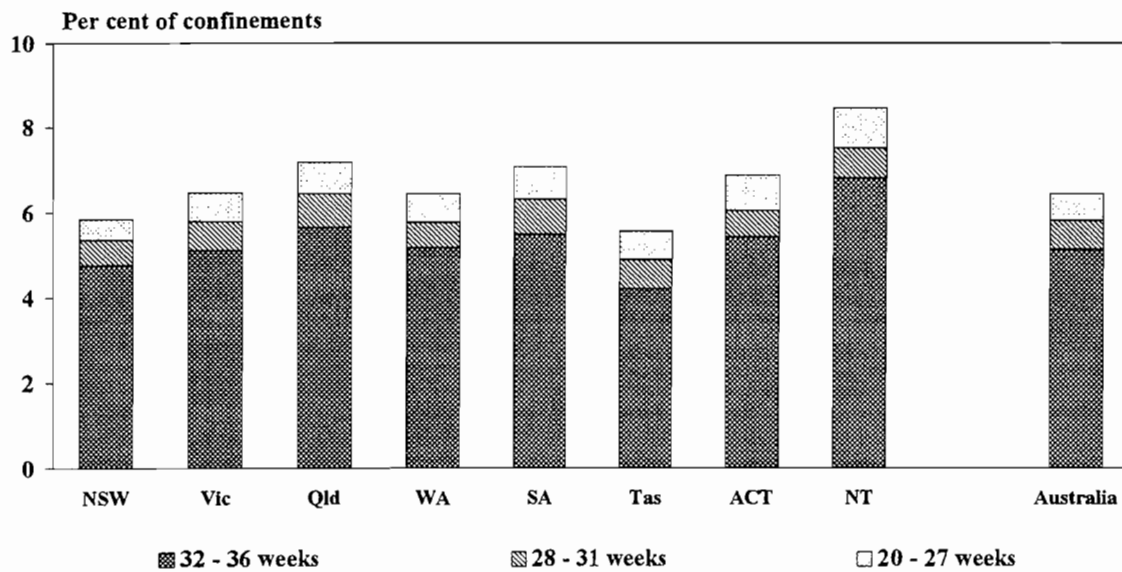
Preterm birth (less than 37 completed weeks' gestation) occurred in 6.4% of all confinements (Table 17, Figure 12). The average duration of pregnancy in Australia was 39.1 weeks. Mothers gave birth at 20-27 weeks in 0.6% of confinements, at 28-31 weeks in 0.7%, and at 32-36 weeks in 5.1%. There was a higher incidence of preterm birth in the Northern Territory (8.5%) than elsewhere (Figure 13).

Preterm birth varied with maternal age and was more likely among the youngest and oldest mothers than among those in their 20s or early 30s (Table 18, Figure 14).

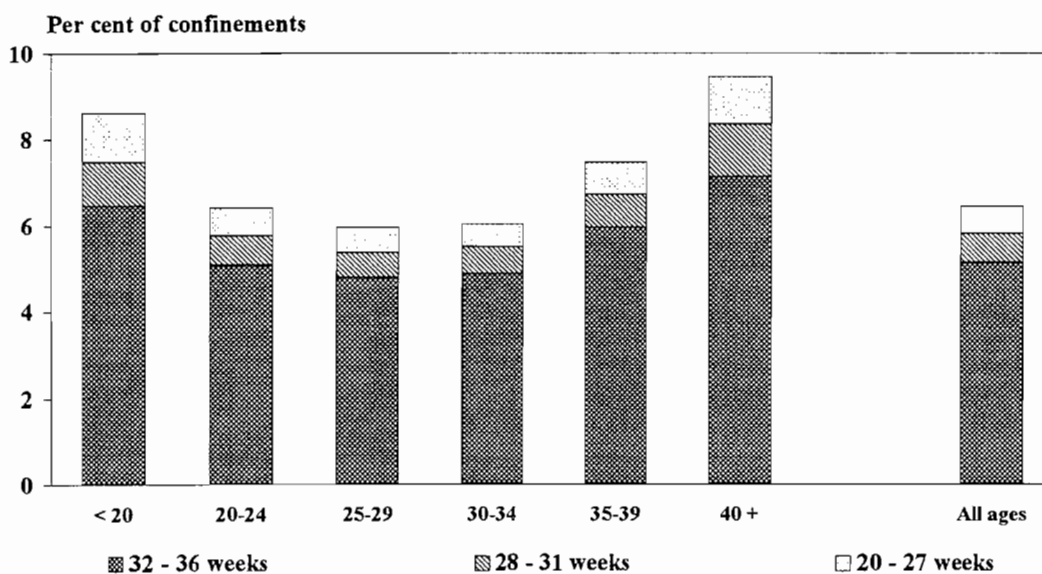
**Figure 12: Duration of pregnancy, all confinements, Australia, 1995**



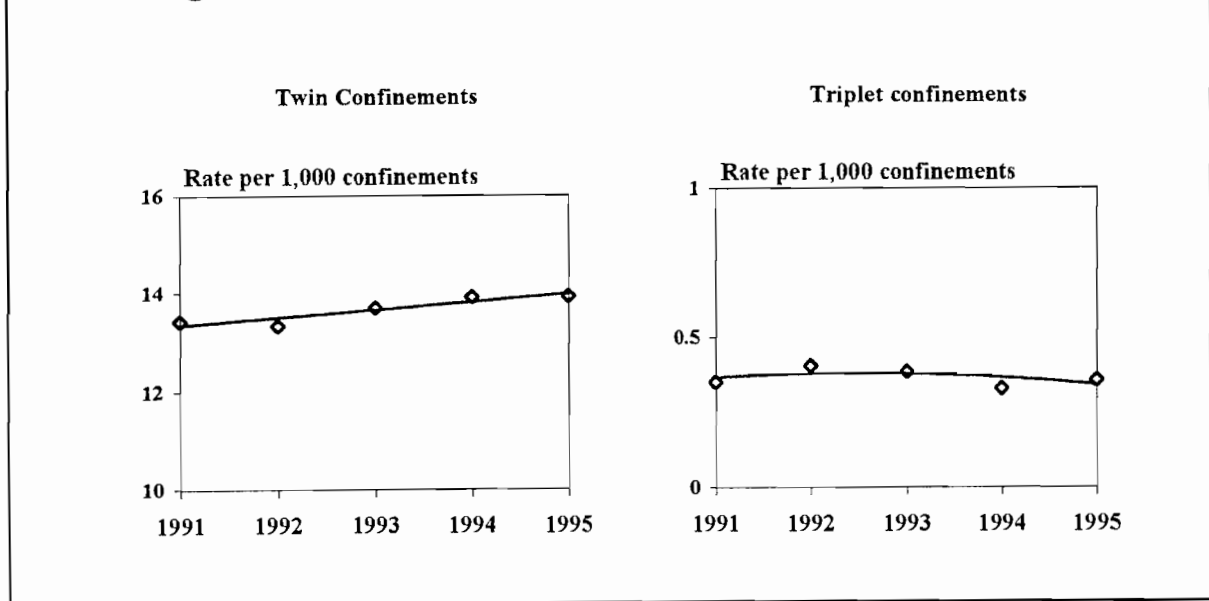
**Figure 13: Preterm confinements, States and Territories, 1995**



**Figure 14: Preterm confinements by maternal age, Australia, 1995**



**Figure 15: Trends in multiple births, Australia, 1991-1995**



## 2.12 Multiple pregnancy

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

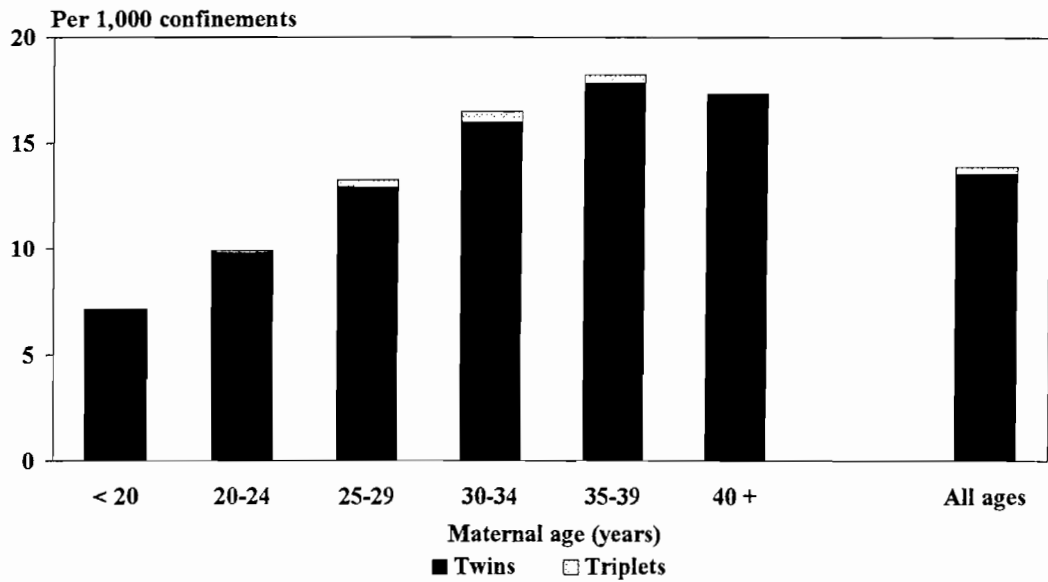
In 1995, there were 3,570 multiple pregnancies (1.4% of all confinements), consisting of 3,476 twin pregnancies, 92 triplet pregnancies, and 2 quadruplet pregnancies (Table 19). The twinning rate of 13.6 per 1,000 confinements in 1995 remained unchanged from the rate in 1994 (Figure 15) following the upward trend since its 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. 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 declines among older mothers. In 1995, the highest rate of twin confinements (1.8%) was among mothers aged 35 to 39 years, and (1.7%) for mothers aged 40 and over (Table 20, Figure 16).

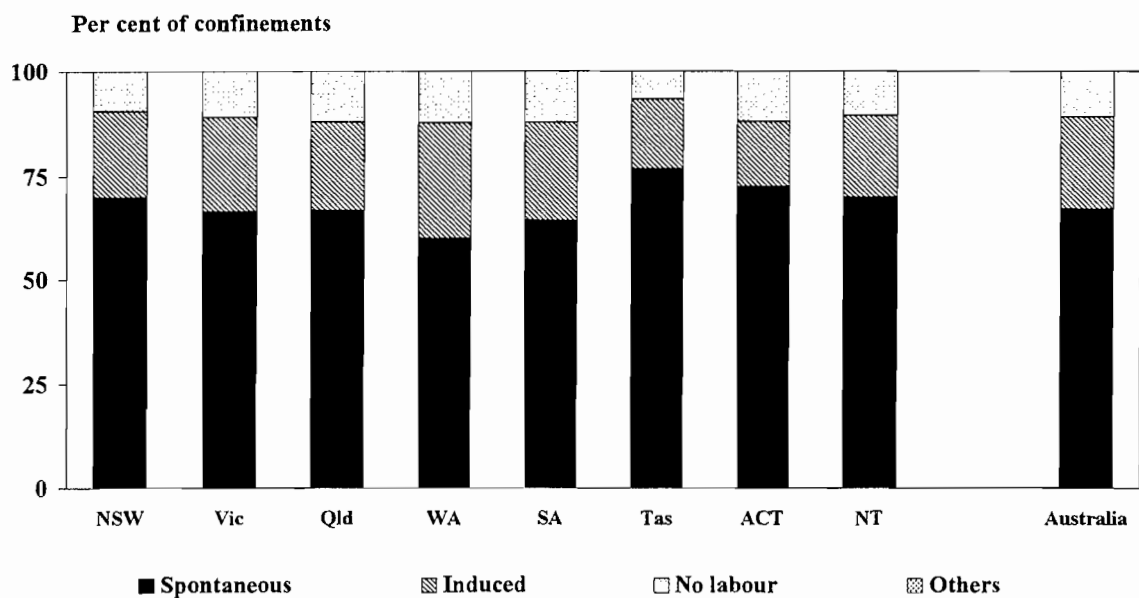
## 2.13 Onset of labour

The onset of labour was spontaneous in 67.2% of all confinements (Table 21, Figure 17); this proportion was highest in Tasmania (76.8%) and lowest in Western Australia (59.9%); there was considerable variation in whether labour was augmented. Labour was induced in 22.0% 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.

**Figure 16: Maternal age-specific multiple birth rates, Australia, 1995**



**Figure 17: Onset of labour, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995**

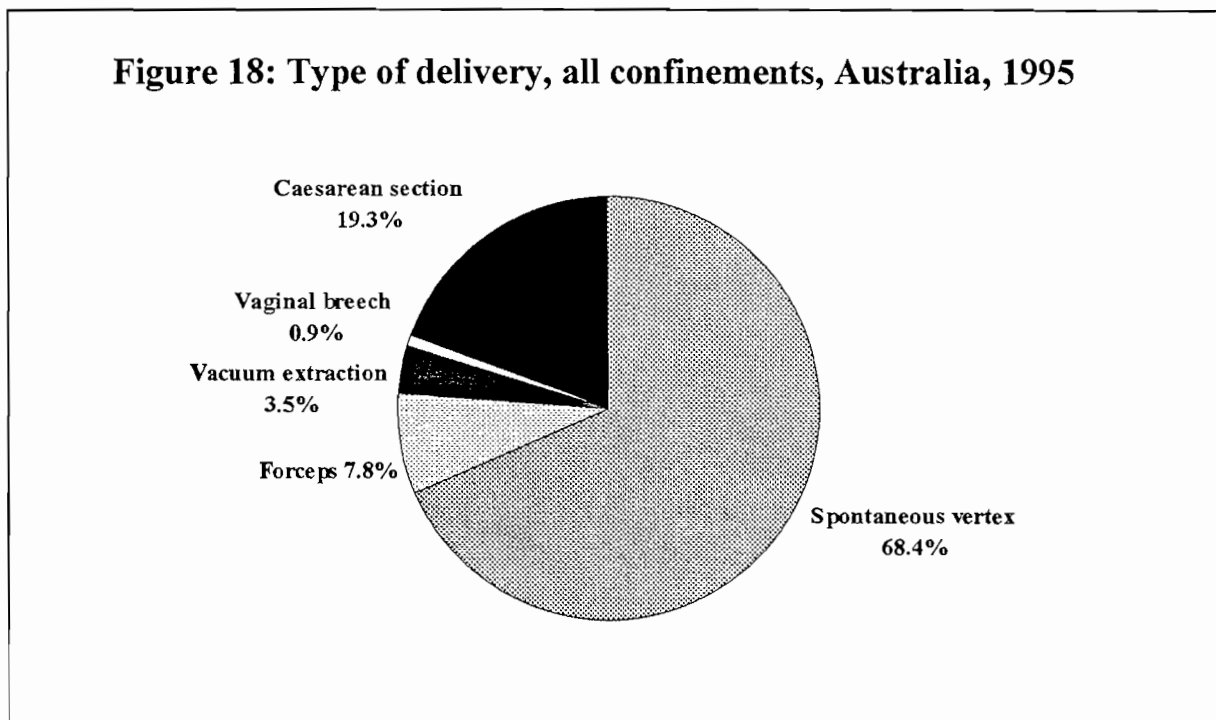


## 2.14 Presentation at birth

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

## 2.15 Type of delivery

More than two-thirds (68.4%) of all confinements were spontaneous vertex deliveries (Table 23, Figure 18). Forceps delivery occurred in 7.8%, vacuum extraction in 3.5%, and vaginal breech delivery in 0.9%.

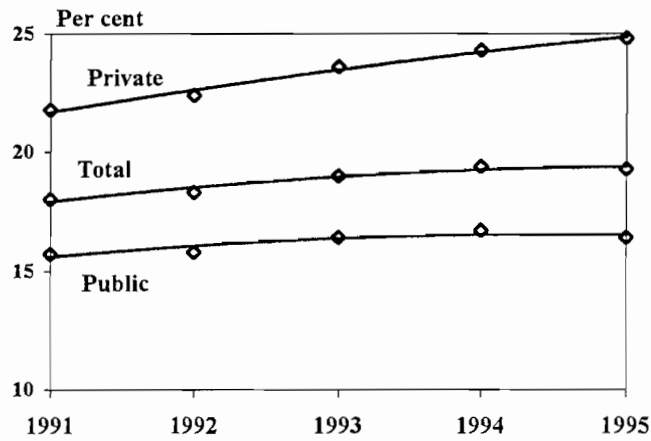


There were 49,509 caesarean sections performed in 1995, accounting for 19.3% of all confinements. The caesarean rate was higher than in 1991 (18.0%), 1992 (18.3%) and 1993 (19.0%) but slightly down from 1994 (19.4%) (Figure 19). However, there has been an overall upward trend in recent decades (Lancaster & Pedisich 1993). South Australia (23.2%) had the highest caesarean rate in 1995 and New South Wales (17.5%) 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 24.8% for women who had private status in hospital was 51% higher than the rate of 16.4% 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 South Australia (28.9%), Queensland (28.2%) and Western Australia (26.3%) had their babies by caesarean section.

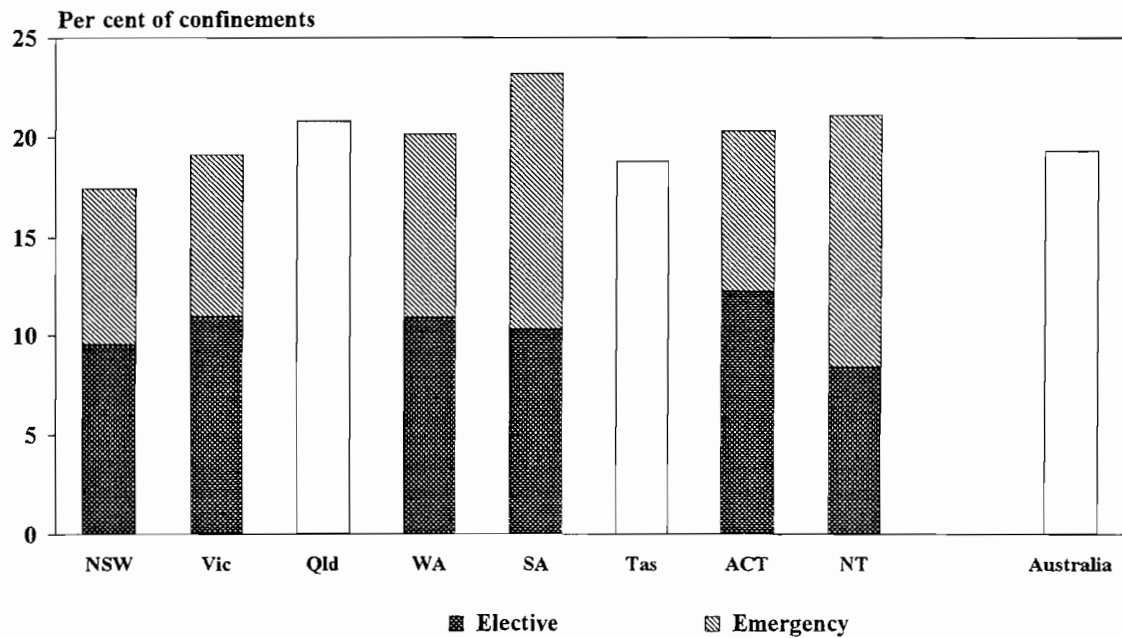


**Figure 19: Trends in caesarean section rates by accommodation status in hospital, Australia\*, 1991-1995**

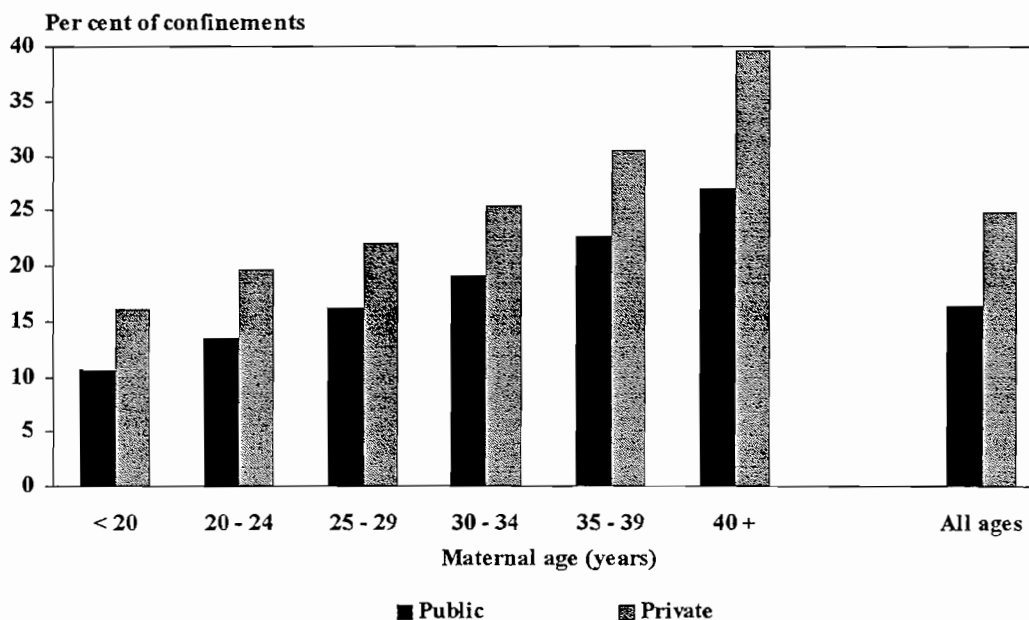


\* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

**Figure 20: Caesarean rates, States and Territories, 1995**



**Figure 21: Caesarean rates by maternal age and status in hospital, selected States and Territories\*, 1995**



\* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

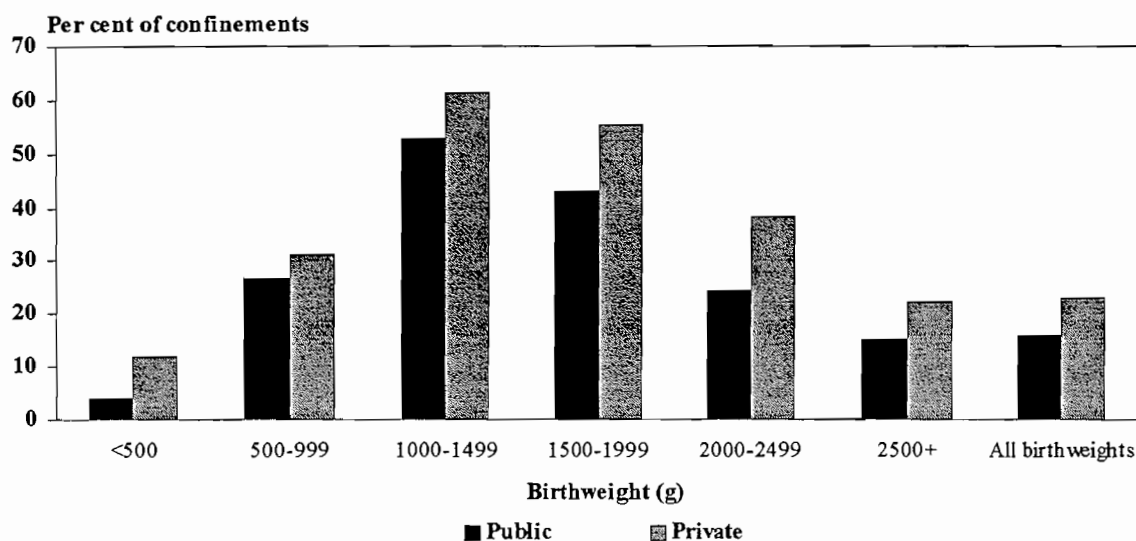
The independent association of maternal age, parity and status in hospital with caesarean rates was examined by analysing national caesarean rates by single year of maternal age, number of previous births, and public and private status in hospital (Tables 25, 26). Caesarean rates were generally higher 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 37.6% compared with 34.2% for those who had public status. For mothers aged 40 to 44 years, the difference in rates was far greater, caesarean rates being 55.0% and 39.0%, respectively.

The caesarean rate of 18.1% for Indigenous mothers (Table 27) was less than that for all mothers (19.3%), 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 16.3% and 26.8%, respectively, comparable with the overall rate of 16.4% for public status, but higher than the 24.8% 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 the Northern Territory had a higher caesarean rate (25.2%) than did all mothers (21.1%).

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 42.9% for twins was more than twice that for singleton births (19.0%); for other multiple births, the caesarean rate was 86.2%. Most infants (77.2%) 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 1000-1499g (54.9%) and 1500-1999g (47.6%). For singleton births of 2500g and over, mothers who had private health insurance had a caesarean rate of 23.6%, 54% higher than the rate of 15.3% for those who were not insured.

**Figure 22: Caesarean rates by birthweight and status in hospital, singleton births, selected States and Territories\*, 1995**



\* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

## 2.16 Perineal repair after delivery

Several States 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 16.6% of confinements in Victoria, 17.2% in Queensland, 21.2% in Western Australia, 20.2% in South Australia, and 25.4% in the Australian Capital Territory. Suturing of perineal lacerations was performed in 20.6% of confinements in Victoria, 25.6% in Queensland, 26.9% in Western Australia, 19.1% in South Australia, and 25.9% in the Australian Capital Territory. In New South Wales, 16.8% of women had episiotomy performed.

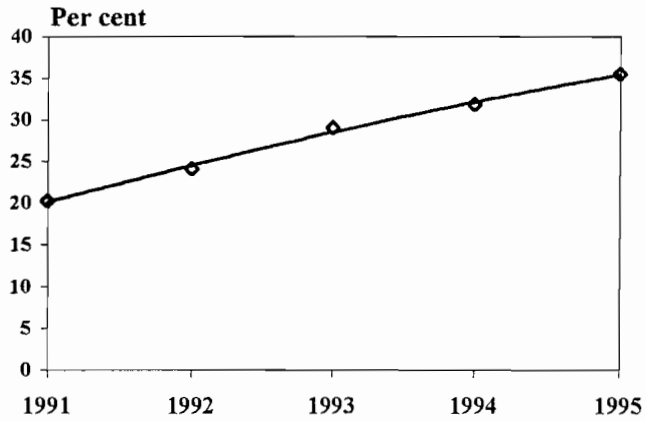
## 2.17 Mother's length of stay in hospital

Most women gave birth either on the day of admission to hospital (60.8%) or on the following day (31.6%) (Table 29). About 1 in 50 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. Data for New South Wales were not available for 1995. The mean duration of postnatal stay in the other States and Territories was 4.5 days, having steadily declined from the average of 5.3 days in 1991. Postnatal stay in hospital was slightly longer than average in Victoria (4.6 days) and the Northern Territory (4.7 days) and shorter in Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory (4.3 days) (Table 30).

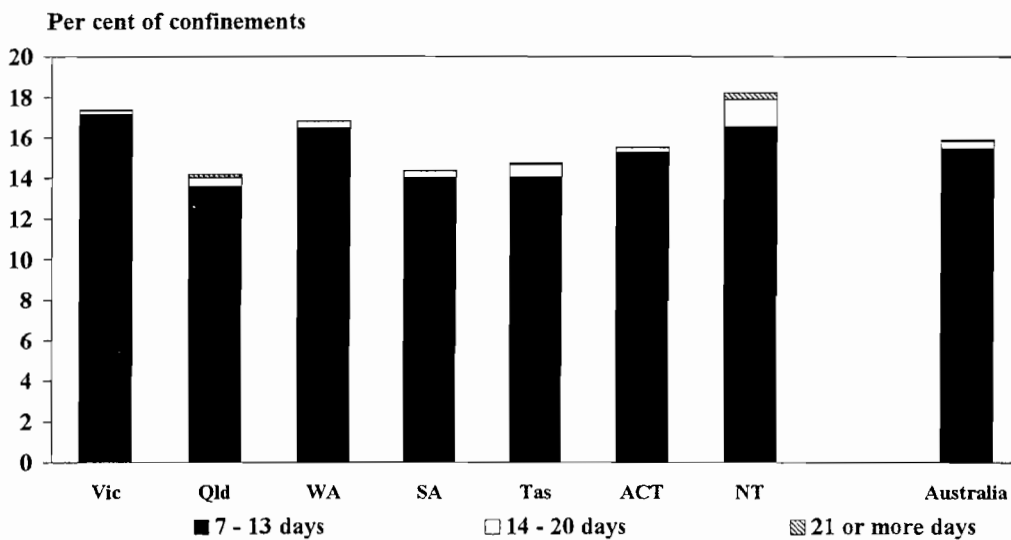
The trend towards shorter postnatal stays in hospital is indicated by the higher proportion of mothers who were discharged less than 4 days after giving birth. In 1995, 35.5% of mothers were in this category, compared with only 20.2% in 1991 (Figure 23). Relatively more mothers in Queensland (40.0%) and the Australian Capital Territory (38.6%) had this shortened stay in 1995. Longer lengths of stay of 7 or more days were relatively more common in Victoria (17.3%) and the Northern Territory (18.2%) (Table 30) (Figures 24, 25).

**Figure 23: Mother's length of stay of less than 4 days, Australia\*, 1991-1995**



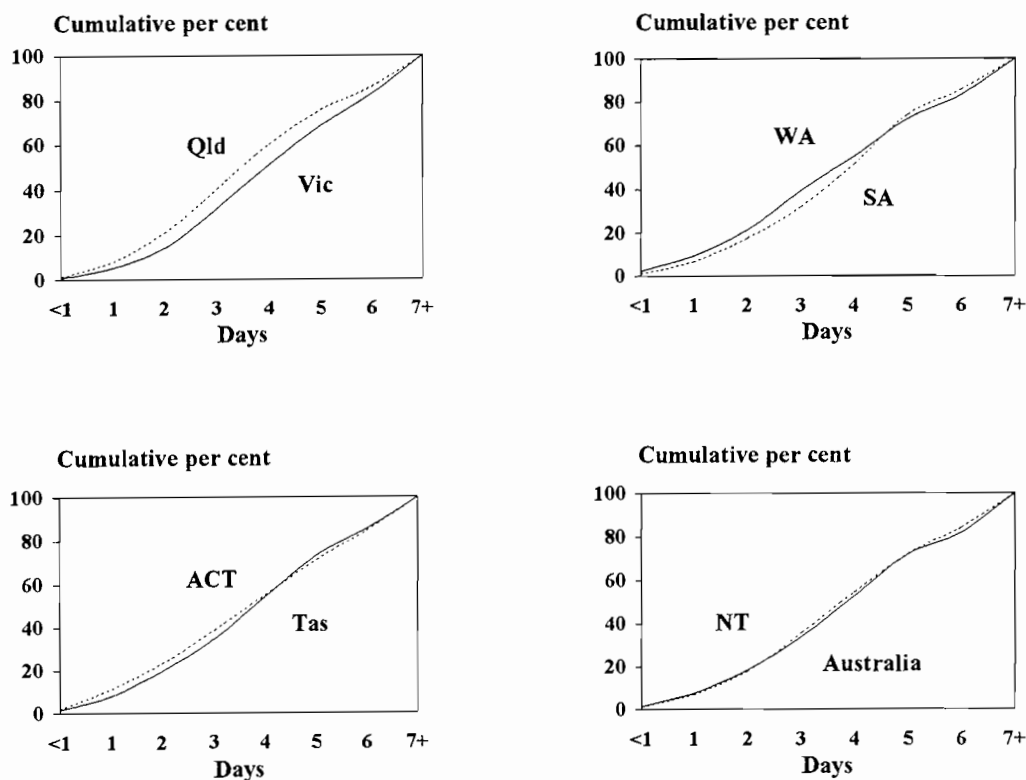
\* Data exclude New South Wales

**Figure 24: Maternal postnatal stay of 7 or more days, hospital confinements, States\* and Territories, 1995**



\* Data exclude New South Wales

**Figure 25: Length of maternal postnatal stay, hospital confinements, States\* and Territories, 1995**

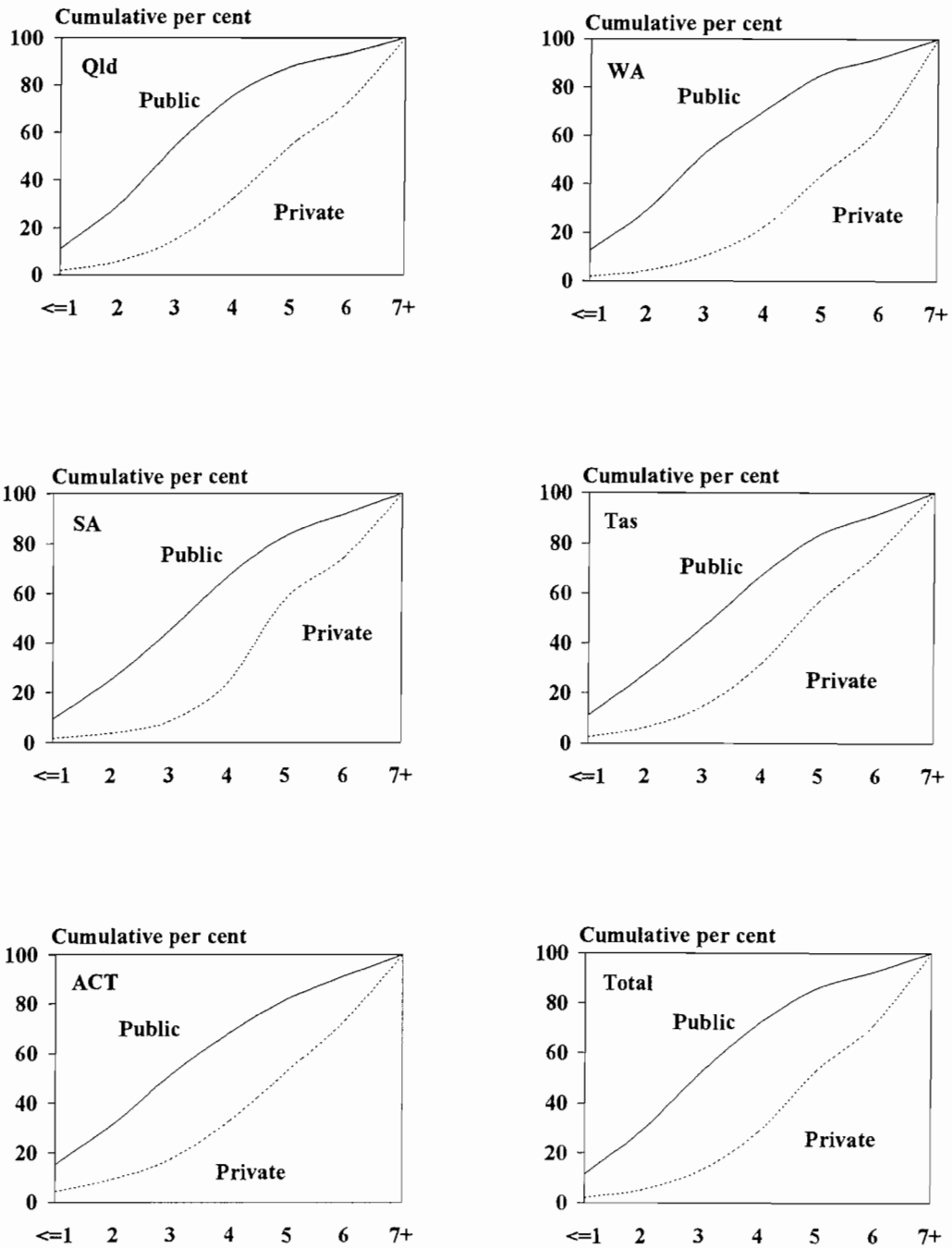


\* Data exclude New South Wales

In selected States with available data, mothers who had private status in hospital had an average postnatal stay of 5.6 days, compared with 3.7 days for those who had public status (Table 31) and were less likely to have short postnatal stays (Figure 26). Data for New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory were not available for these comparisons.

Factors associated with periods of postnatal hospitalisation of less than 5 days were younger maternal age, higher parity, Aboriginality, spontaneous delivery, and giving birth in maternity units of medium size (Table 32). Data on both the duration of postnatal stay and status in hospital were not available for New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory, but there were marked differences in postnatal stays between public and private categories in the other States. The proportion in hospital postnatally for less than 5 days was 71.6% for mothers without private health insurance, two and a half times that of 28.4% for those who were insured (Table 32). The differences between public and private categories were apparent in all maternal age, parity, Aboriginality, type of delivery and size of hospital groups (Tables 33 and 34). For mothers having their first baby, 61.7% in the public category stayed for less than 5 days compared with only 15.6% in the private category.

**Figure 26: Length of maternal postnatal stay by status in hospital, selected States\* and Territories, 1995**



\* Data exclude New South Wales

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

Most mothers who gave birth in hospitals were discharged to their homes but 3.4% 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 in New South Wales 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. Fifteen maternal deaths were reported through the perinatal collections in 1995.

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

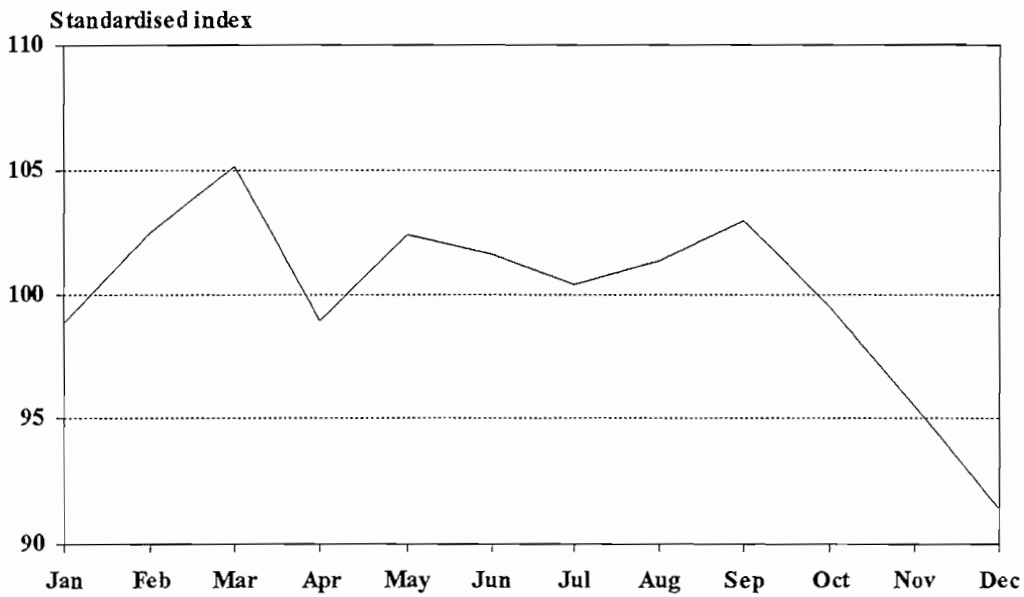
## **2.19 Infant's birth status**

Infants are recorded as liveborn or stillborn (fetal deaths) on perinatal notification forms. There is a separate requirement for legal registration of stillbirths and liveborn infants dying within 28 days of birth. The Australian Bureau of Statistics 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 500g but who meet the criteria of at least 20 weeks' gestation or 400g birthweight. As noted previously, there were 258,221 live births and 1,823 fetal deaths in 1995, a total of 260,044 births (Table 1).

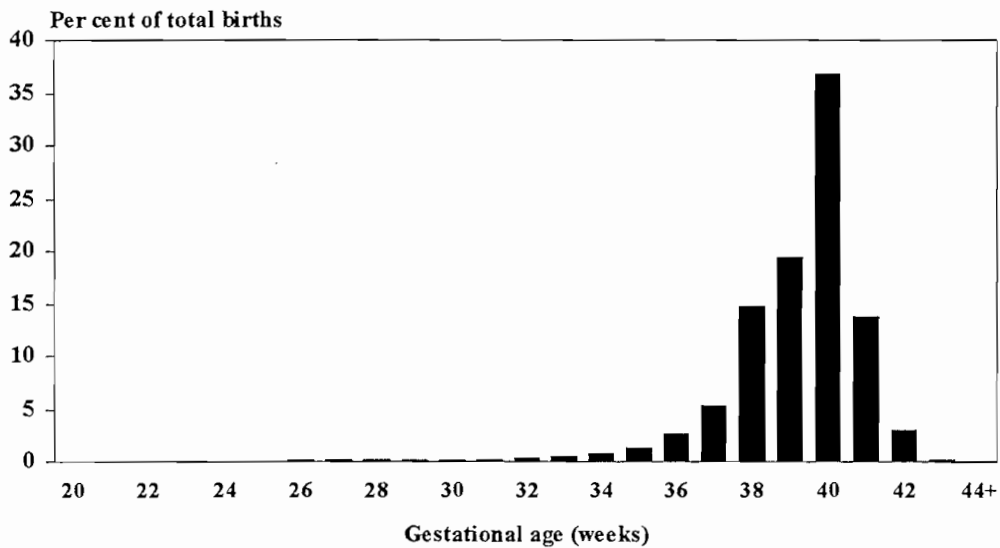
## **2.20 Infant's month of birth**

Changing seasonal patterns of birth have been evident in Australia in recent decades (Mathers and Harris 1983). A bimodal pattern with peaks in the autumn and spring has occurred in recent years. In 1995, of the 260,044 births in Australia, most births occurred in the months of March, May, July, August, September and 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 March and September, the low months November and December (Figure 27). The March and September peaks represented respective increases of 5.1% and 2.9% above the number expected for that month, compared with November and December lows of 4.6% and 8.7% below the numbers expected for these months.

**Figure 27: Monthly variation in births, Australia, 1995**



**Figure 28: Distribution of births by gestational age, Australia, 1995**



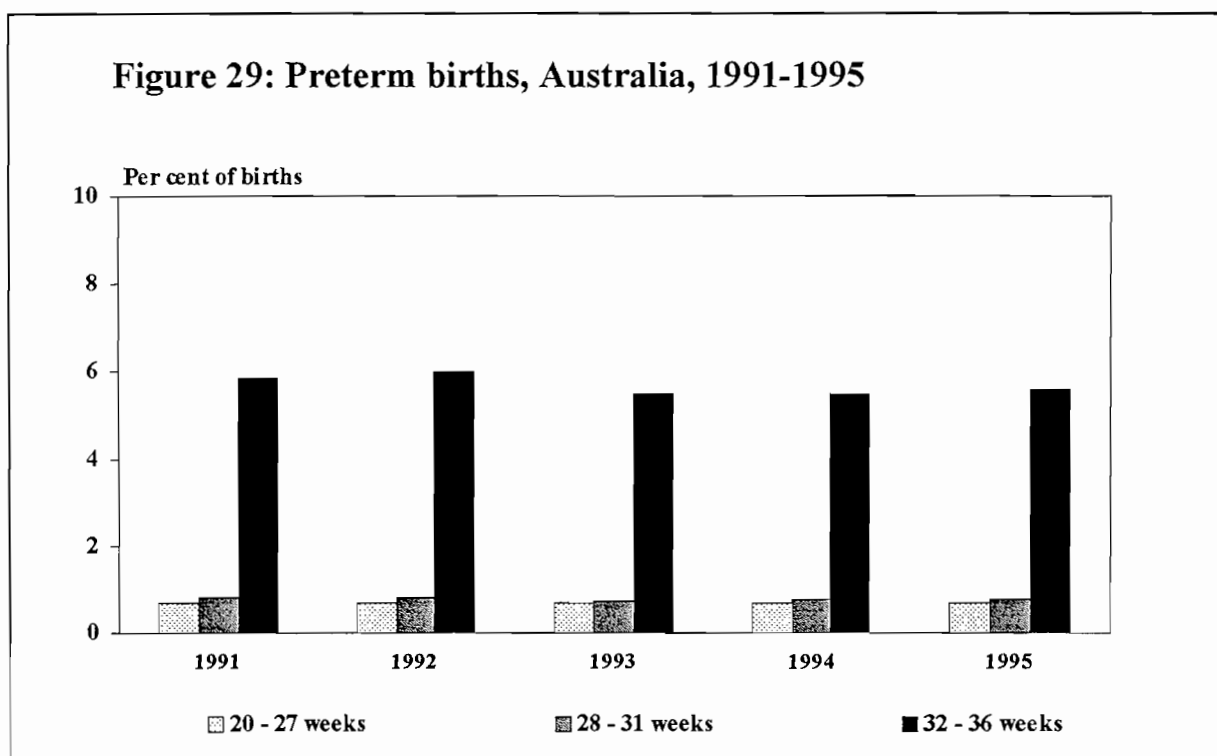
### 2.21 Infant's sex

Male births exceeded female births in all States and Territories (Table 37). The national sex ratio was 105.9 male births per 100 female births; for singleton births it was 106.1, for twins, 98.7, and for other multiple births, 78.6.



## 2.22 Infant's gestational age

Preterm birth before 37 weeks' gestation accounts for a high proportion of perinatal deaths and for many neonatal problems that cause significant morbidity in newborn infants and that 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 135 at 20 weeks to 94,624 at 40 weeks (Table 38, Figure 28). Preterm births were classified according to the criteria of the World Health Organization into groups at 20-27 weeks, 28-31 weeks, and 32-36 weeks. Among all births, 7.1% were preterm; most of the preterm births were at 32-36 weeks, but about 1 in 5 were at earlier gestational ages (Figure 29).



Preterm birth occurred in 48.0% of twins and in 97.8% of triplet births, much higher than the proportion of 5.8% among singleton births (Table 39). 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 8.8% in the Northern Territory (Table 40).

## 2.23 Infant's birthweight

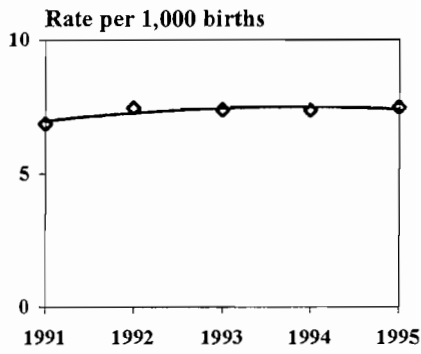
The infant's birthweight is a key indicator of health status and inequalities in health. Infants are defined as low birthweight if their birthweight is less than 2500g. Within this category, those weighing less than 1500g are designated as very low birthweight and those less than 1000g as extremely low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

In 1995, there were 16,571 (6.4%) infants of low birthweight, a slightly higher proportion than in the years 1991 to 1994. Very low birthweight infants comprised 1.4% of all births and extremely low birthweight infants, 0.7% (Table 41). There was little change in the proportion of infants in the various categories of low birthweight between 1991 and 1995 (Figure 30).

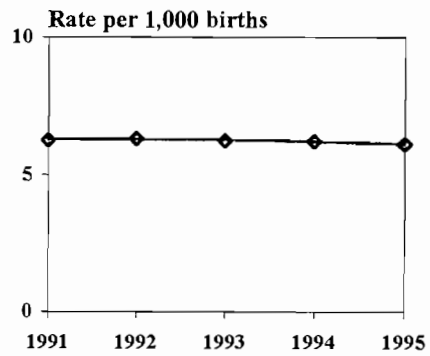
The mean birthweight of all liveborn and stillborn infants in Australia in 1995 was 3,358g and showed relatively little variation among the different States, except for a lower average of 3,253g in the Northern Territory where there was also the highest proportion of low birthweight infants (8.8%) (Figure 31).

**Figure 30: Trends in low birthweight, Australia, 1991-1995**

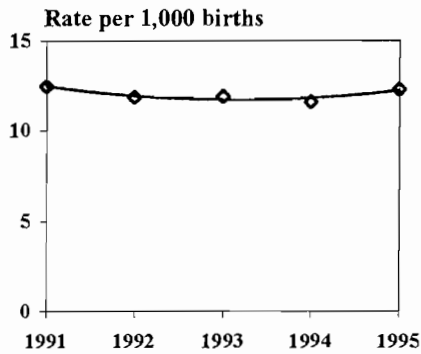
**Births of less than 1000g**



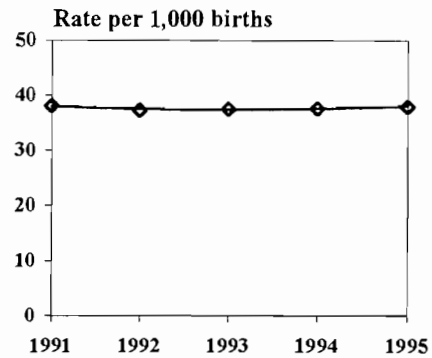
**Births of 1000g to 1499g**



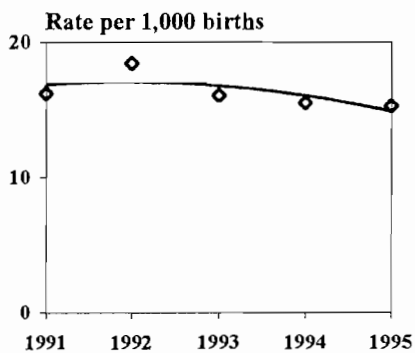
**Births of 1500g to 1999g**



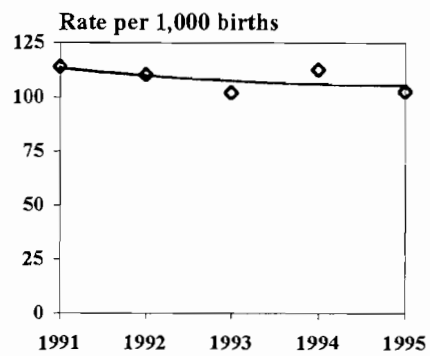
**Births of 2000g to 2499g**



**Indigenous births of less than 1000g**

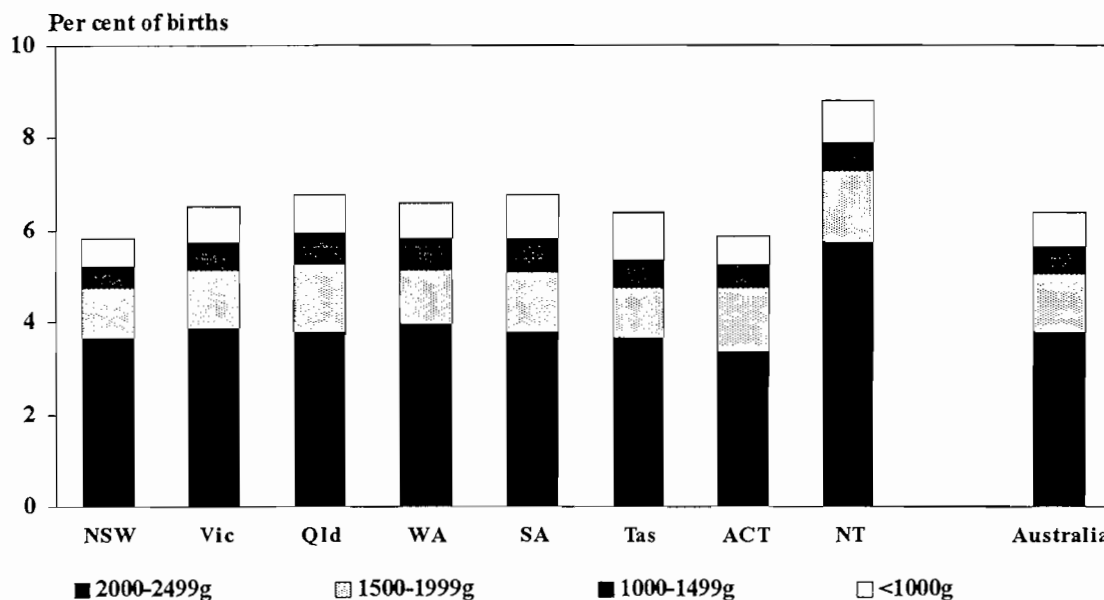


**Indigenous births of 1000g to 2499g**



The mean birthweight of liveborn infants was 3,371g (Table 42). Low birthweight occurred in 5.9% of liveborn infants and in 74.0% of stillborn infants. Almost half (47.1%) of the stillborn infants had a birthweight of less than 1000g.

**Figure 31: Proportion of low birthweight infants, all births, States and Territories, 1995**



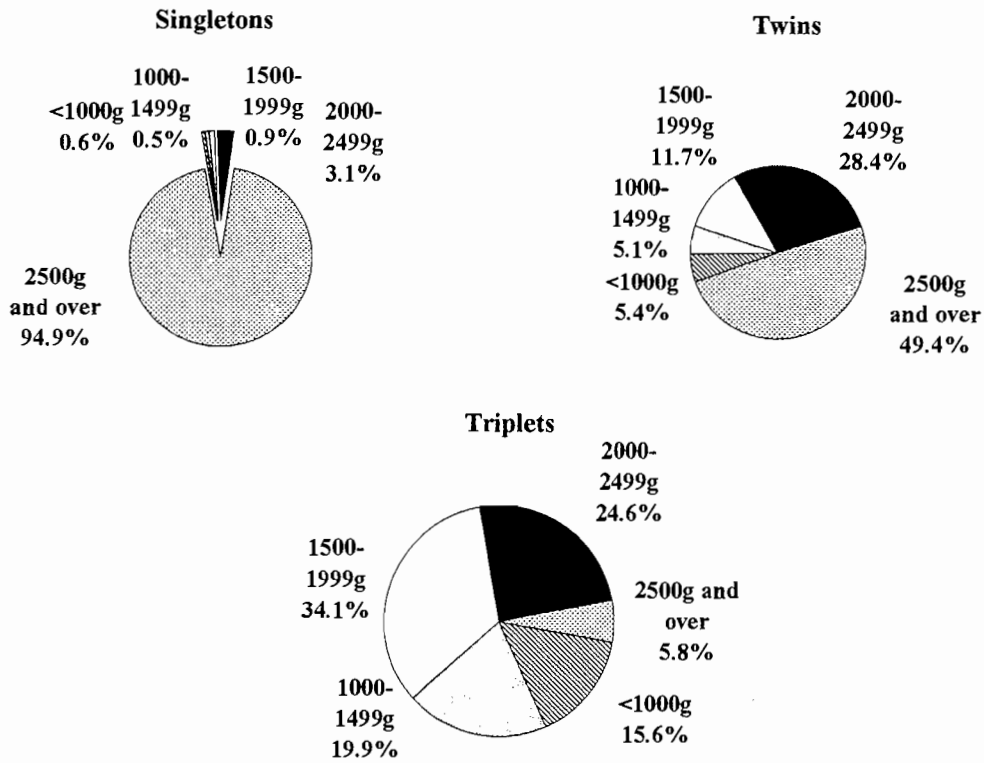
In twins, the proportion of low birthweight was 50.6%, almost ten times higher than in singleton births (5.1%); in triplets, this proportion was 94.2% and, in other multiple births, 100% (Table 43, Figure 32). The mean birthweight was 3,387g in singletons, 2,388g in twins, 1,665g in triplets, and 1,203g in the two sets of quadruplets.

Male infants were less likely to be low birthweight (5.9%) than were females (6.9%) (Table 44). In the higher birthweight categories, there were relatively more males in the groups with birthweights of 3500-3999g and over. The mean birthweight of males was 3,420g, which was 126g higher than that of females (3,294g).

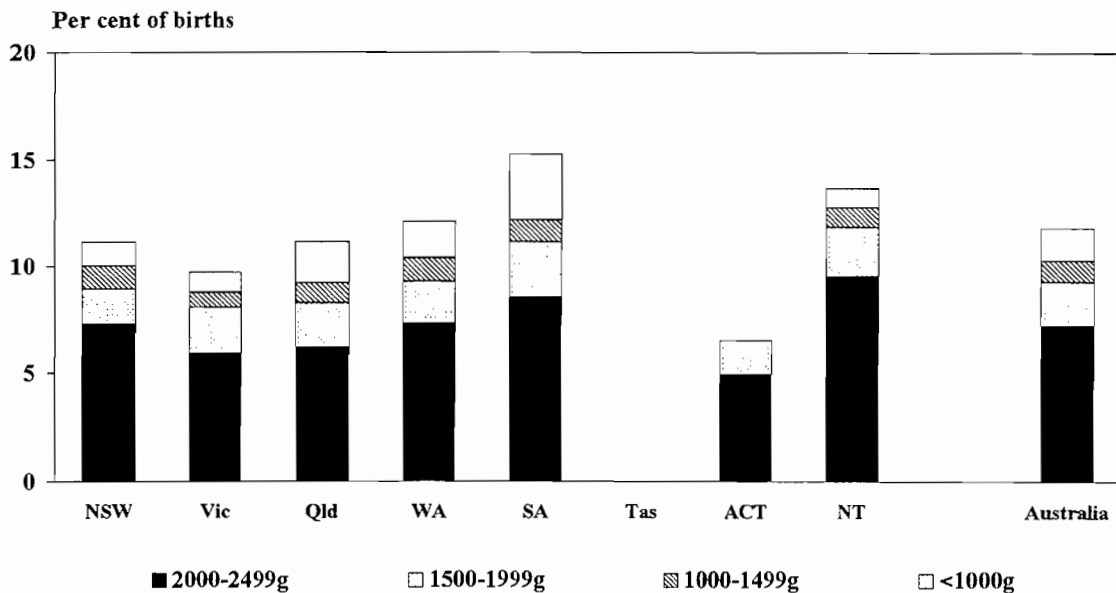
The mean birthweight of Indigenous infants was 3,159g; this was 199g less than the national average of 3,358g for all births. The proportion of low birthweight in Indigenous infants was 11.8% (Table 45), nearly twice that of 6.4% in all infants; between 1991 and 1995, there was no clear trend in the 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 South Australia (15.3%), the Northern Territory (13.7%) and Western Australia (12.1%) 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 6.2% 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, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam (Table 46, Figure 34). Mothers born in China, Lebanon and Hong Kong were less likely to have infants of low birthweight.

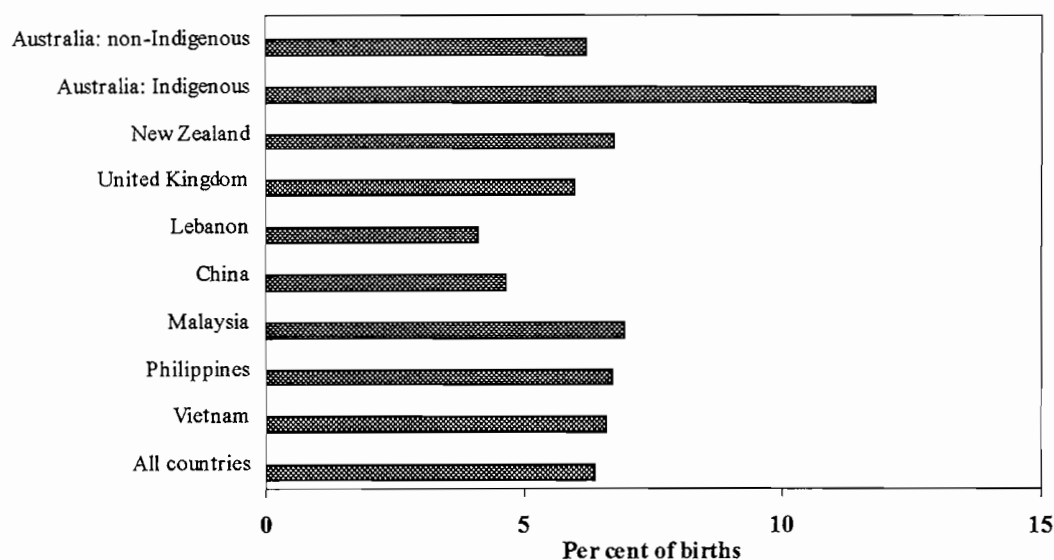
**Figure 32: Distribution of birthweight, singleton and multiple births, Australia, 1995**



**Figure 33: Proportion of low birthweight infants, Indigenous births, States and Territories, 1995**



**Figure 34: Low birthweight rates, selected maternal countries of birth, Australia, 1995**



Mothers aged 25-34 years had the lowest proportion of low birthweight infants (6.0%); 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).

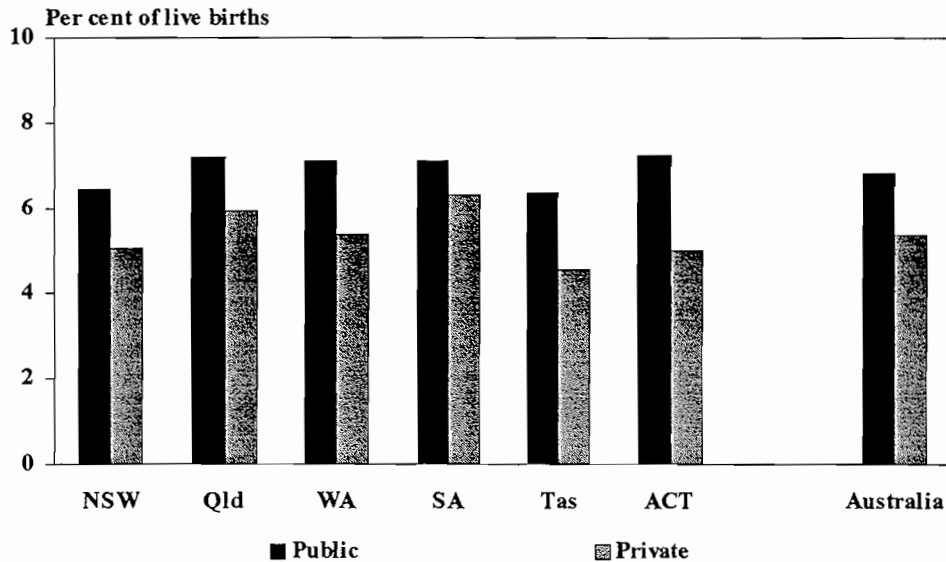
The proportion of low birthweight among infants born to single mothers (8.9%), and to mothers who were divorced, widowed or separated (10.3%), was considerably higher than for infants born to married or de facto mothers (6.0%) (Table 46).

Mothers who were not insured had a higher rate of low birthweight infants (6.8%) than those who were insured (5.4%) (Table 46, Figure 35).

Women giving birth at home and in birth centres have usually been selected to exclude those with major risk factors for low birthweight. This is reflected in the lower proportion of low birthweight in home births (1.4%), and in birth centres (1.2%), than in hospital births (6.4%) (Table 46). On the other hand, there was a high proportion of low birthweight infants among those born before arrival in hospital (12.3%) and elsewhere (47.5%).

The proportion of various categories of low birthweight infants, especially those weighing less than 1500g, who were born in larger hospitals that have adequate staffing and facilities provides an indicator of the effectiveness of regionalization 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).

**Figure 35: Low birthweight by maternal accommodation status, selected States and Territories, 1995**



More than four-fifths (81.0%) of the highest risk infants weighing 500-999g were born in hospitals that had more than 2,000 confinements annually, and another 8.5% 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 1000 confinements annually - New South Wales (12.4%), Victoria (11.4%), and Queensland (11.5%). In Victoria and the Northern Territory, a relatively higher proportion of infants weighing 1500-1999g were born in hospitals with less than 1,000 confinements annually.

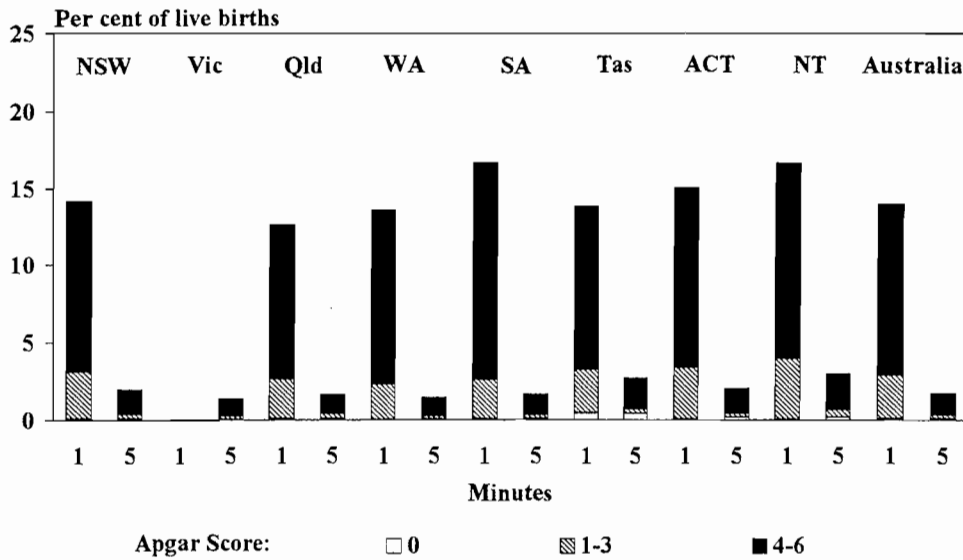
## 2.24 Apgar scores

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.

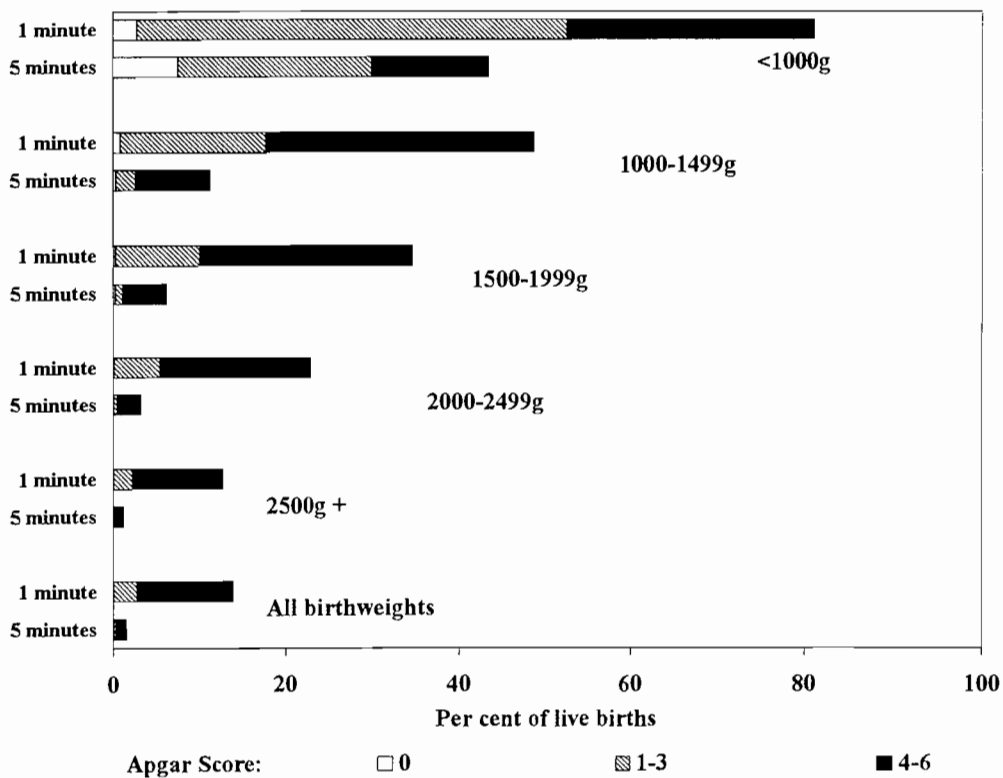
Consistent with the usual convention for grouping Apgar scores, the distribution in each State and Territory was compared (Tables 48, 49; Figure 36). The Apgar score at 1 minute was not recorded in the perinatal collection in Victoria in 1995. In the other States and Territories, the distribution of 1-minute and 5-minute Apgar scores was similar. Low Apgar scores of 1-3 were recorded at 1 minute in 2.8% 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). Over half (52.4%) of all liveborn infants weighing less than 1,000g had low scores at 1 minute, compared with 2.4% of infants weighing 2500g or more. Nearly one-third (29.9%) of the extremely low birthweight infants had low Apgar scores at 5 minutes compared with 0.2% of those weighing 2500g 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, 1995**



**Figure 37: Low Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes by birthweight, live births, Australia, 1995**



## **2.25 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, Tasmania and the Northern Territory in 1995. Ventilatory assistance by intermittent positive pressure respiration (IPPR) through a bag and mask, or after intubation was recorded for 14.0% of infants in Victoria, 8.4% in Queensland, 6.2% in Western Australia, 18.6% in South Australia, and 13.8% in the Australian Capital Territory. Excluding those States and Territories where this information was not available, IPPR was given to 7.5% of all births. Endotracheal intubation was recorded in 1.1% of births in Victoria, 1.5% in Queensland, 2.3% in Western Australia, 1.8% in South Australia and 1.5% in the Australian Capital 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 1.9% of infants born in Victoria, 1.1% in Western Australia, and 1.6% in South Australia.

## **2.26 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 (82.6%) 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 1995 than in the previous four years. In 1995, 34.8% 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 1995, relatively more infants born in Queensland (38.9%) and in the Australian Capital Territory (40.4%) 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 1500g, were more likely to have short periods of stay of less than 3 days in their hospital of birth because of higher risks of neonatal death or transfer to other hospitals.

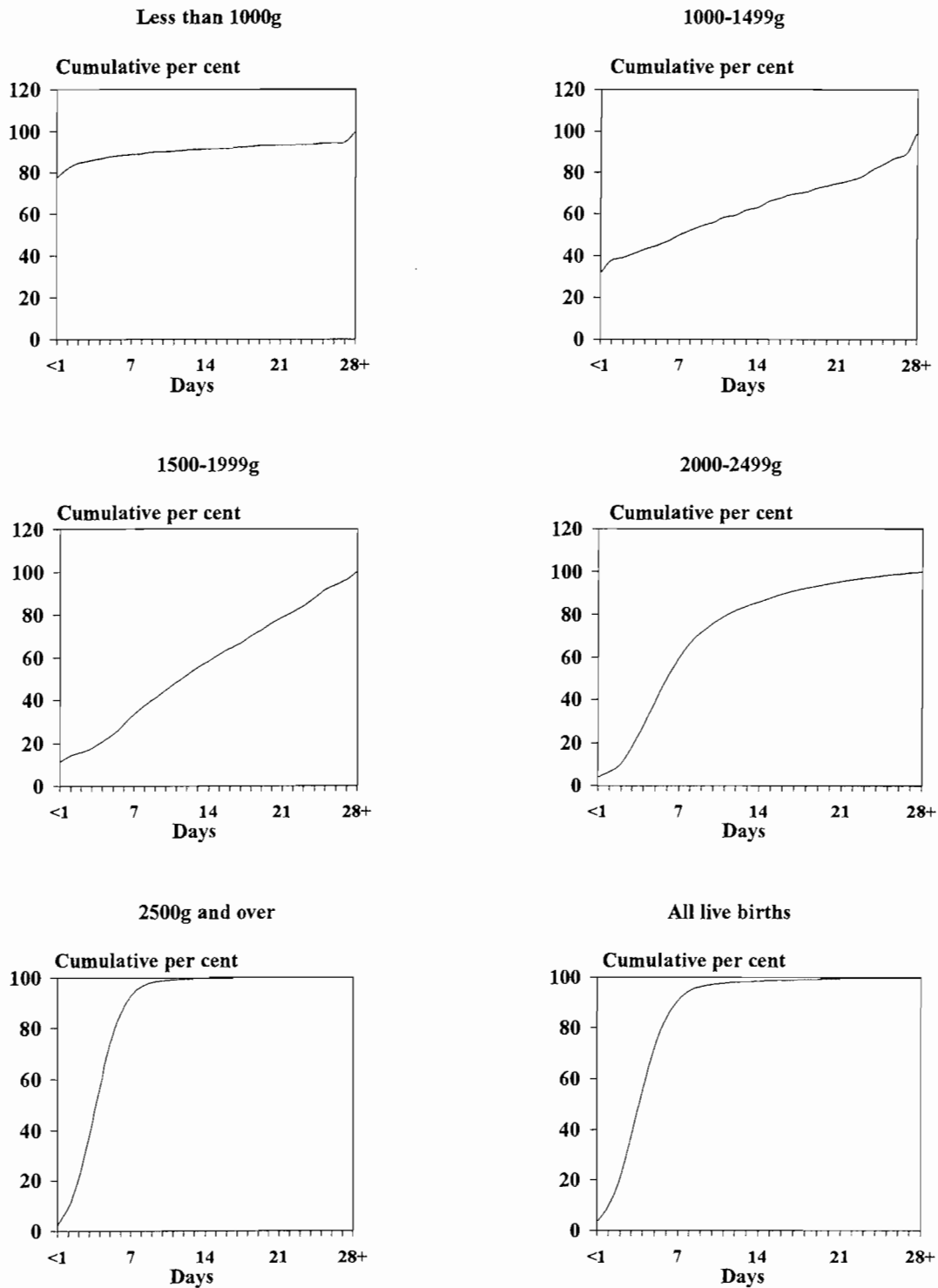
## **2.27 Infant's mode of separation from hospital**

A total of 4.4% 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.



**Figure 38: Length of infant's stay in hospital by birthweight, Australia\*, 1995**



\* Data exclude New South Wales

## 3 Perinatal mortality

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### 3.1 Definitions

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

WHO has also recommended that for international comparisons countries should report data based on lower limits of 1,000g or, when birthweight is not available, 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 1993 to 1995, the perinatal death rate for deaths of at least 20 weeks or 400g (9.9 per 1,000 births) was more than double the rate of 4.7 per 1,000 births based on the WHO definition for international comparisons. Using the ABS criteria of 500g/22 weeks for national data, the perinatal death rate of 8.1 per 1,000 births was 72% higher than the rate of 4.7 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 500g, or 22 weeks when birthweight was unknown, and including neonatal deaths within 28 days of birth. Annual data are based on the year of registration. Data for the years prior to 1991 were given in the report for 1993 (Lancaster, Huang & Lin 1996).

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

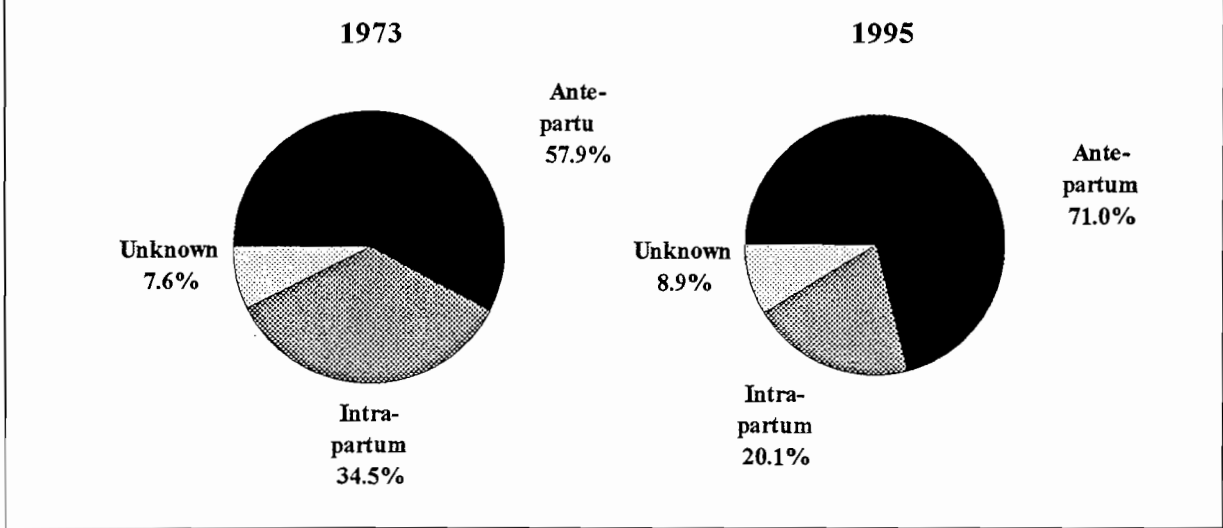
Depending on when the fetal heart stopped beating, fetal deaths can be grouped as antepartum deaths, when the heartbeat ceased before labour commenced; intrapartum deaths, when the heartbeat ceased during labour; and unknown deaths, when it was not known whether the heartbeat ceased before or during labour. There is another small group of registered perinatal deaths for which it was not known whether the heartbeat ceased before or after birth. 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 1995, the fetal death rate declined by 55% from 10.5 to 5.0 per 1,000 births (Table 56, Figure 39). The fall of 72% for intrapartum fetal deaths was greater than the decline of 43% and 50%, respectively, for antepartum and unknown fetal death rates (Figure 40). As a result, antepartum fetal deaths increased as a proportion of all fetal deaths from 57.9% in 1973 to 71.0% in 1995, and intrapartum fetal deaths decreased from 34.5% in 1973 to 20.1% in 1995 (Figure 41).

The neonatal death rate declined even more sharply than the fetal death rate, falling by 72% from 11.3 per 1,000 live births in 1973 to 3.2 per 1,000 live births in 1995 (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 63% from 21.7 per 1,000 births in 1973 to 8.1 per 1,000 births in 1995 (Table 58, Figure 39).

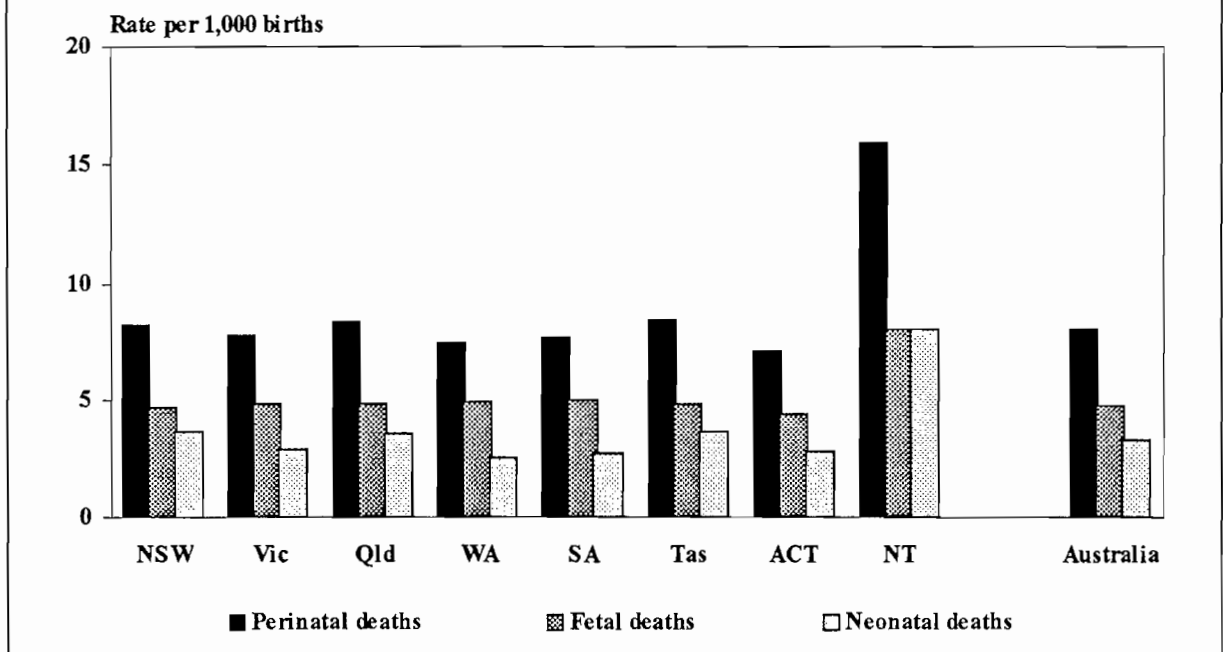
**Figure 41: Distribution of fetal deaths by type, Australia, 1973 and 1995**



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

Except for a higher rate in the Northern Territory, there were relatively small differences in perinatal death rates among the States and Territories (Table 59, Figure 42). In the three-year period from 1993 to 1995, the Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia had the lowest perinatal death rates. Neonatal death rates varied more than did fetal death rates.

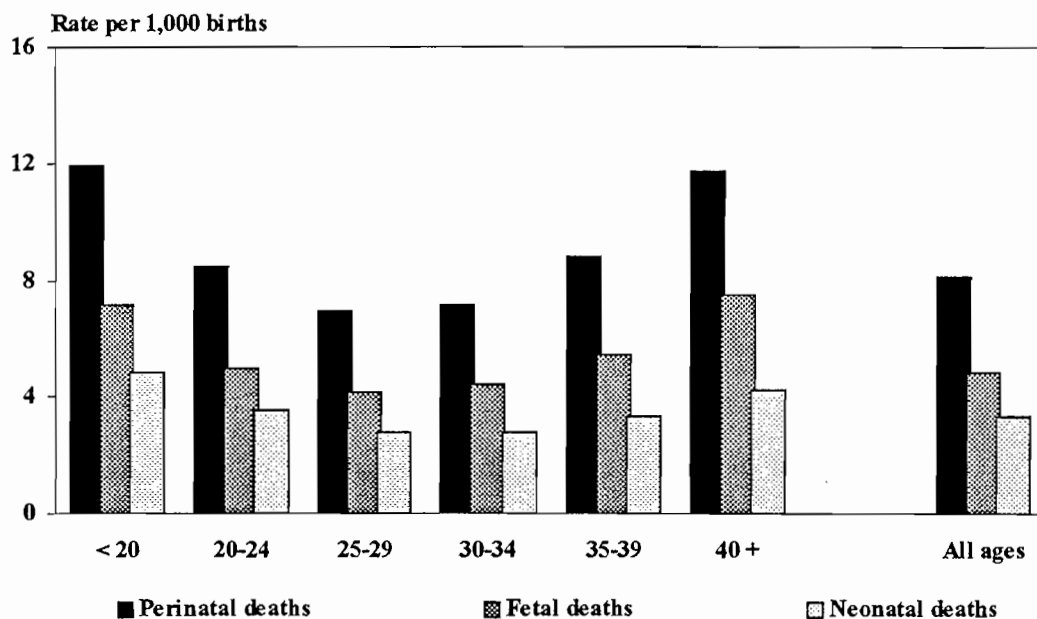
**Figure 42: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates, States and Territories, 1993-1995**



### 3.4 Perinatal deaths by maternal age

The perinatal death rate was higher for infants of younger and older mothers than for those in the 25-29 years age group, which had the lowest rate of 6.9 per 1,000 births in the period from 1993 to 1995 (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. Infants of mothers aged 40 years and over had a perinatal death rate which was 70% higher than that of infants whose mothers were in the lowest-risk age group.

**Figure 43: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates by maternal age, Australia, 1993-1995**



### 3.5 Perinatal deaths by plurality

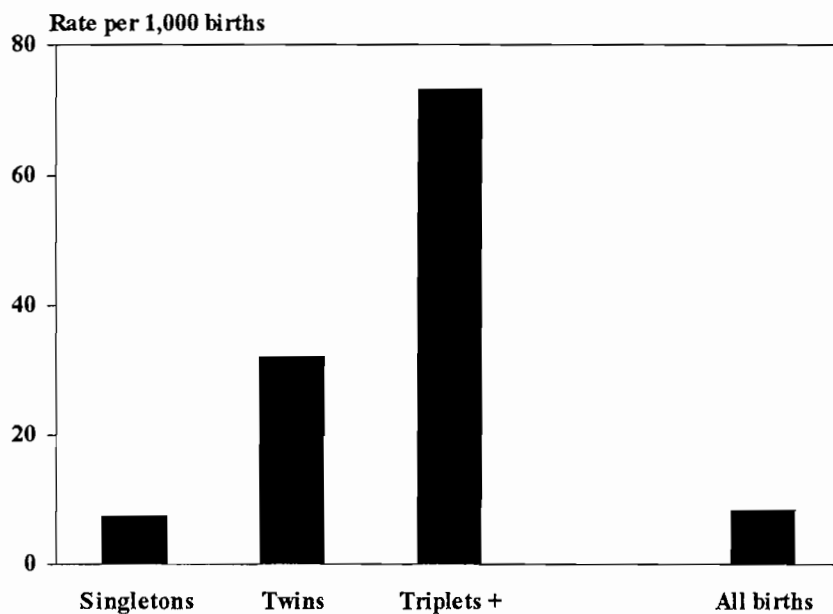
Perinatal death rates are higher for multiple than for singleton births. The number of perinatal deaths among triplet and higher order multiple births is relatively small each year so data were analysed for the three-year period of 1993 to 1995.

There were 6,300 perinatal deaths in 1993-1995; 655 (10.4%) occurred in twins and 62 (1.0%) in other multiple births, so multiple births accounted for 11.4% of all perinatal deaths (Table 61). The perinatal death rate of twins was 4.3 times higher, and of other multiple births 9.9 times higher, than that of singleton births (Figure 44), mainly due to their increased occurrence of preterm birth and low birthweight.

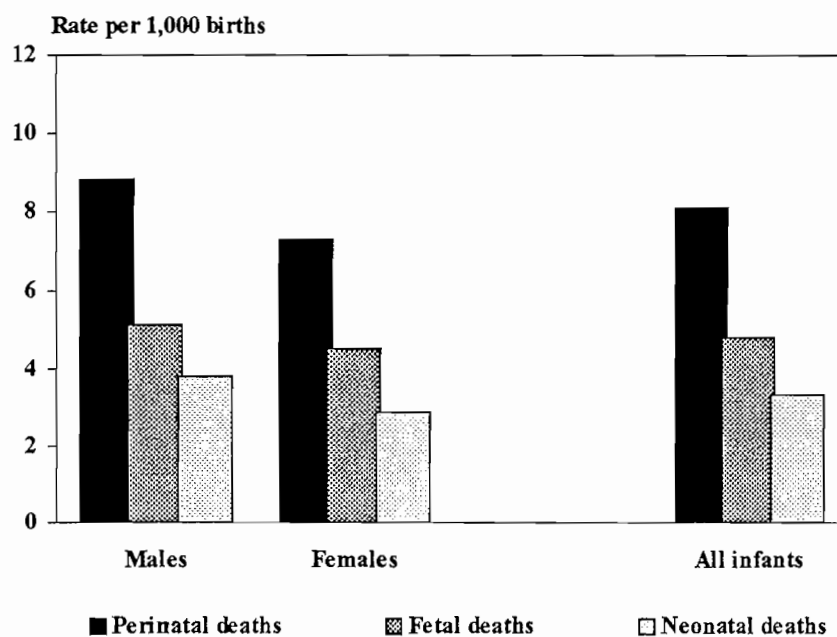
### 3.6 Perinatal deaths by infant's sex

Perinatal death rates for males are consistently higher than for females. In 1993-1995, the rate for males was 22% 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 36% higher than for females; the fetal death rate was 13% higher for males.

**Figure 44: Perinatal mortality rate by plurality, Australia, 1993-1995**



**Figure 45: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates by infant's sex, Australia, 1993-1995**



### 3.7 Proportionate perinatal death rates by gestational age

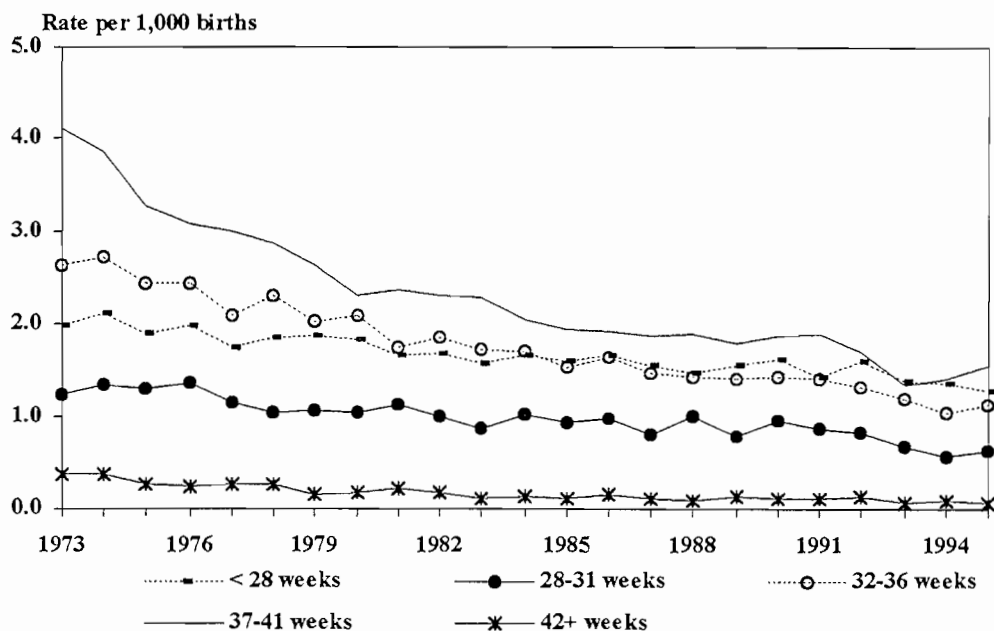
The duration of pregnancy is recorded in completed weeks on perinatal death certificates, based either on the gestational age calculated from the dates of the first day of the last menstrual period and birth, or on clinical assessment. As information about the gestational age of all births between 1973 and 1995 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 1995, these proportions had increased to 65% and 27%, respectively (Table 63, Figure 46). Many countries that still have a lower limit of 28 weeks for registering fetal deaths, thereby excluding about 1 in 4 fetal deaths included in the Australian data.

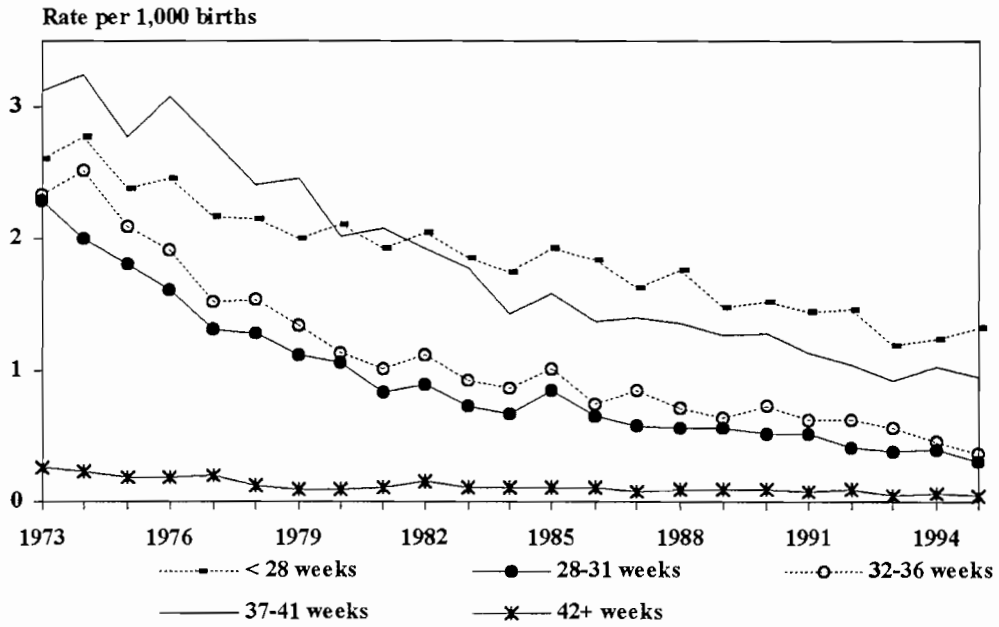
The distribution of neonatal deaths by gestational age was similar to that for fetal deaths but there were relatively more neonatal deaths of less than 28 weeks in 1995 than in 1973 (Figure 47). The proportion in this group increased from 25% in 1973 to 44% in 1995 while the proportion of all neonatal deaths of known gestational age that were preterm was 68% in 1973 and 67% in 1995 (Table 64).

Between 1973 and 1995, 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 1995, 34.1% of perinatal deaths were less than 28 weeks' gestation (Table 65).

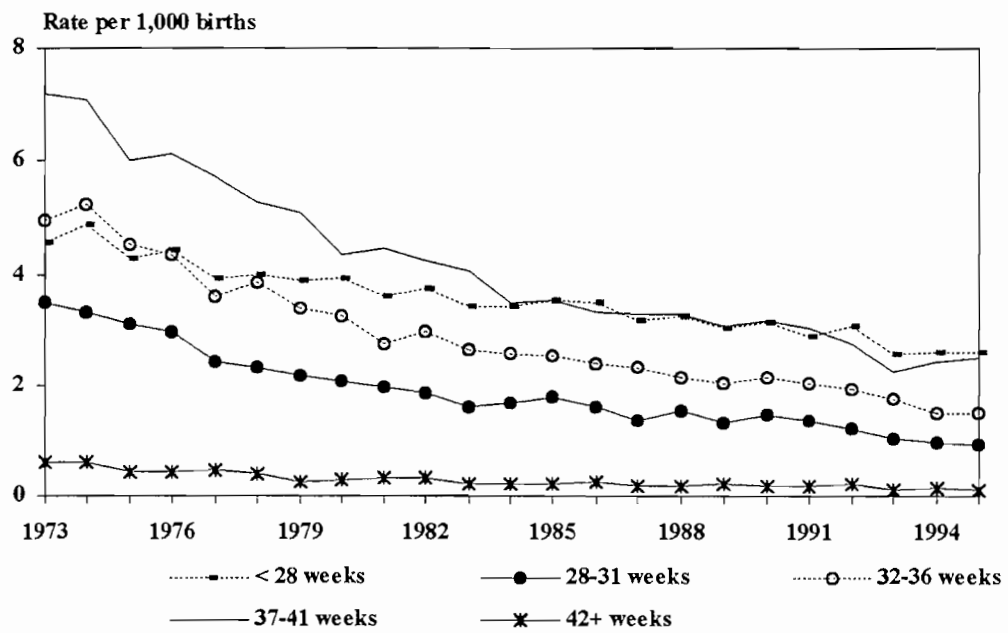
**Figure 46: Proportionate fetal death rates by gestational age, Australia, 1973-1995**



**Figure 47: Proportionate neonatal death rates by gestational age, Australia, 1973-1995**



**Figure 48: Proportionate perinatal death rates by gestational age, Australia, 1973-1995**



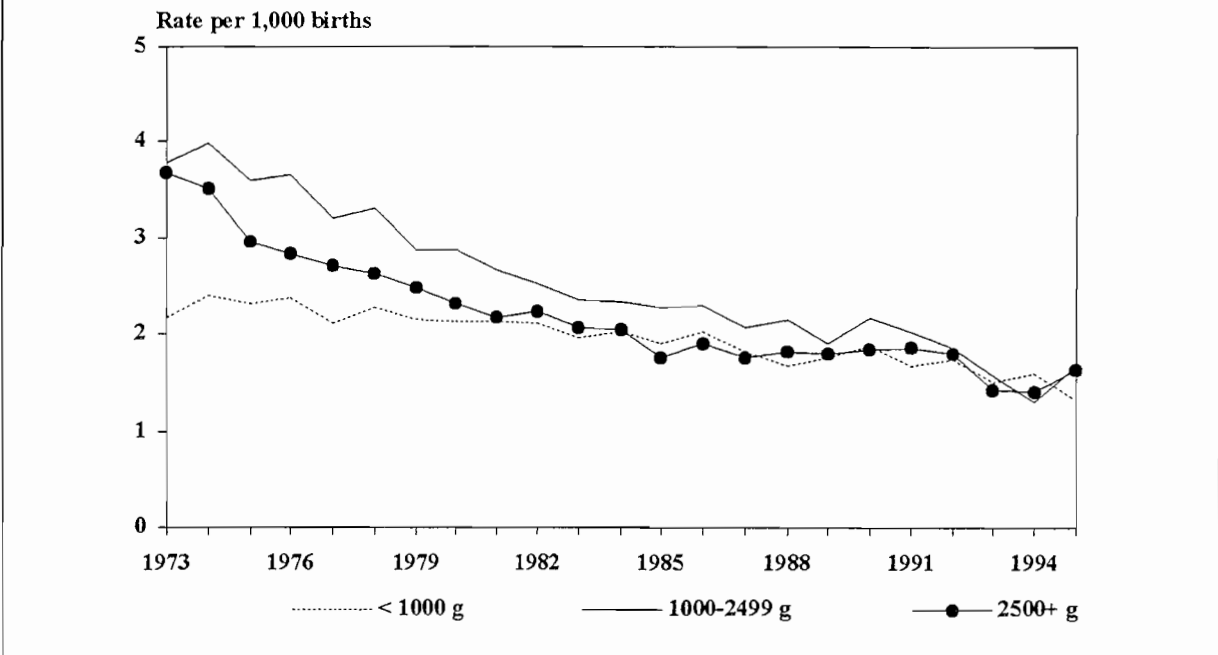
### 3.8 Proportionate perinatal death rates by birthweight

As for those deaths tabulated in gestational age groups, the fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates by birthweight for the period 1973 to 1995 are expressed as proportionate death rates. In 1973, low birthweight infants of less than 2500g accounted for 62% of fetal deaths with stated birthweights and those weighing 500-999g for 23% (Table 66, Figure 49). In 1995, these proportions had increased to 65% and 29%, respectively.

The decline in the proportionate neonatal death rate was much greater for infants weighing 1000-2499g than for those in lighter or heavier birthweight groups (Table 67, Figure 50). The rate for infants of 1000-2499g fell from 4.7 per 1,000 live births in 1973 to 0.8 per 1,000 live births in 1995. For infants weighing 500-999g, the proportionate death rate declined from 2.7 to 1.3 per 1,000 live births in the same period, while for those weighing 2500g and over, it declined from 2.8 per 1,000 in 1973 to 0.9 per 1,000 live births in 1995.

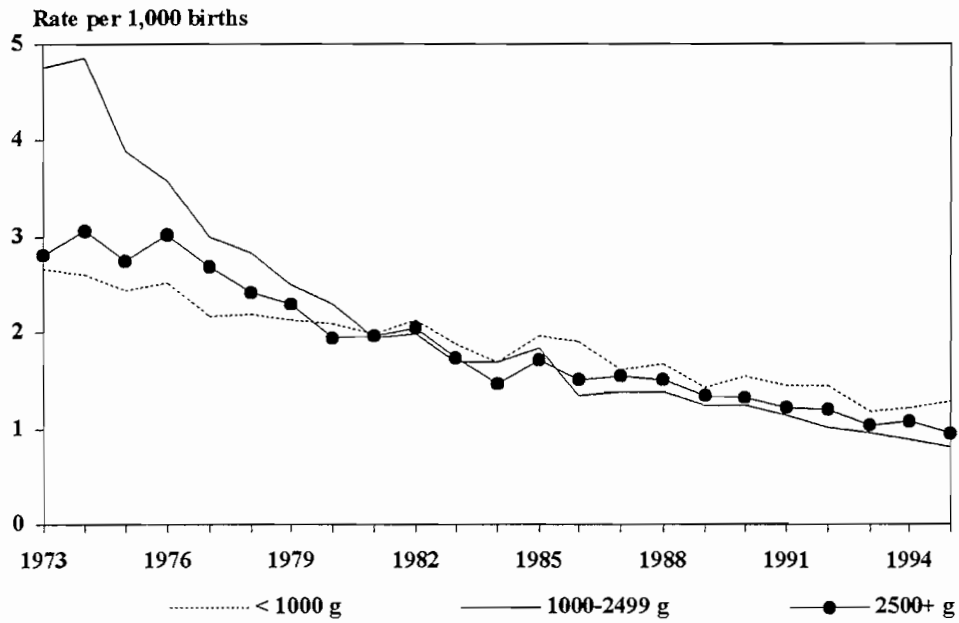
Although there were substantial falls in the proportionate perinatal death rates in all birthweight groups, the greatest decline of 71% was for infants weighing 1000-2499g, particularly reflecting the decline in neonatal deaths in this birthweight group (Table 68, Figure 51).

**Figure 49: Proportionate fetal death rates by birthweight, Australia, 1973-1995**

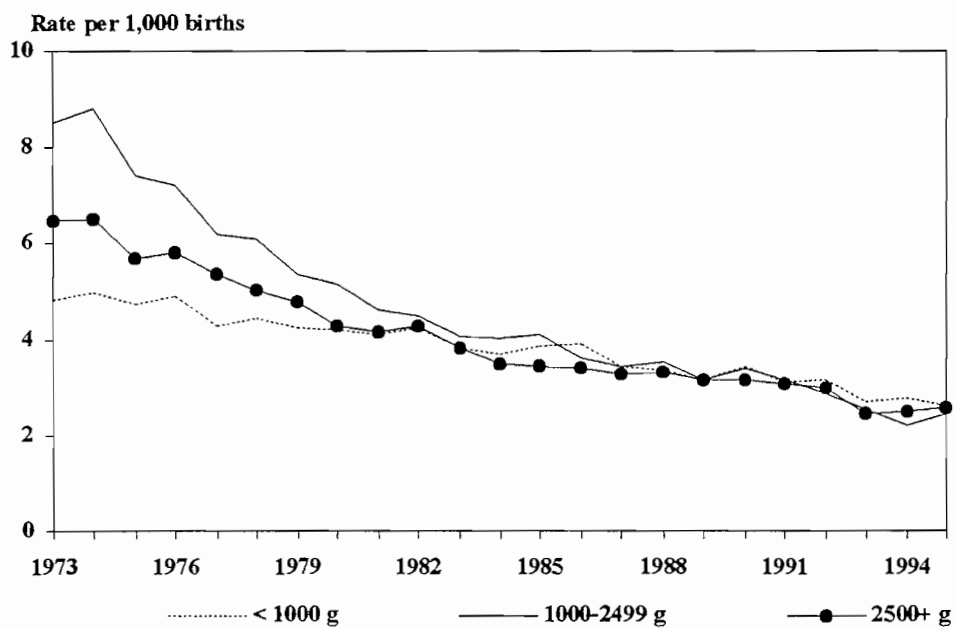




**Figure 50: Proportionate neonatal death rates by birthweight, Australia, 1973-1995**



**Figure 51: Proportionate perinatal death rates by birthweight, Australia, 1973-1995**



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

The continuing decline in fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates noted in previous sections 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 registered perinatal deaths to their birth records in the perinatal collections, but this linkage has not yet been achieved in all States and Territories. An advantage of the perinatal death certificates is that they enable more reliable distinction between fetal and neonatal deaths because the certifier is required to specify when the heartbeat ceased in relation to the onset of labour or to birth.

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

Missing information on the birthweight of some infants is an additional problem in analysing birthweight-specific death rates. Based on comparisons of data from the State and Territory perinatal collections (Table 69, see NPSU: year of birth) and from perinatal death registrations, there were more fetal deaths with known birthweights of 500g and over in the NPSU data and more fetal deaths with unstated birthweights in the ABS data. For neonatal deaths in 1995, there were slightly more deaths recorded in the ABS year-of-birth cohort than in the ABS registrations that year. The baby's outcome is recorded only from the hospital of birth in the State and Territory data collections, but 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. Accordingly, fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates for births of 500g and over in 1995 were calculated using NPSU data on live births (Table 42) and ABS data on fetal and neonatal deaths. Birthweight was not recorded in only 0.1% of live births.

Fetal birthweight-specific death rates varied markedly, ranging from 254.2 per 1,000 births for infants of 500-999g to 0.9 per 1,000 for those weighing 3500-3999g (Table 69).

Neonatal death rates varied from 361.5 per 1,000 live births for infants of 500-999g to 0.6 per 1,000 for those weighing 4000-4499g. Survival up to 28 days of various groups of low birthweight infants was 63.9% for those weighing 500-999g, 94.1% for infants of 1000-1499g, and 98.2% for infants of 1500-1999g.

### **3.10 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 400g. 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 500g. Also, factors such as parity, Aboriginality and health insurance status that are associated with varying fetal death rates are collected for most births in the perinatal collections.

In 1995, there were 1,823 fetal deaths notified to the perinatal collections, resulting in a fetal death rate of 7.0 per 1,000 births, 19% higher than the rate of 5.9 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 3.4), ranging from 6.2 per 1,000 births for infants of mothers aged 30 to 34 years to 13.0 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 14.4 per 1,000 births, more than twice the rate of 6.8 per 1,000 in the non-Indigenous population (Table 71).

Fetal death was more likely among first-born infants (8.1 per 1,000 births) than among infants whose mothers already had one child (5.8 per 1,000 births) (Table 72). With higher parity, the fetal death rate increased to a maximum of 10.6 per 1,000 births for those with four or more previous children.

The fetal death rate of twins (25.0 per 1,000 births) and of infants born in other multiple births (31.7 per 1,000 births) was much higher than that of singleton infants (6.5 per 1,000 births) (Table 73).

Infants of single mothers (9.2 per 1,000 births) and of mothers who were widowed, divorced or separated (12.4 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 (7.2 per 1,000 births) than for those who had private health insurance (5.7 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 76-83). 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, Western Australia, Tasmania 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 References

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**Table 1 : Confinements and births, States and Territories, 1995**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Confinements	86,263	62,732	47,864	25,090	19,310	6,682	4,830	3,607	256,378
Fetal deaths	521	470	363	191	148	47	46	37	1,823
Live births	86,870*	63,245	48,172	25,257	19,472	6,734	4,853	3,618	258,221
<b>All births</b>	<b>87,391</b>	<b>63,715</b>	<b>48,535</b>	<b>25,448</b>	<b>19,620</b>	<b>6,781</b>	<b>4,899</b>	<b>3,655</b>	<b>260,044</b>

\* Includes 22 births in NSW with 'not stated' birth status

**Table 2 : Place of birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995**

Place of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
Hospital	83,045	62,416	47,259	24,490	18,633	6,561	4,508	3,510	250,422
Birth centre	2,741	-	190	409	579	-	280	-	4,199
Home	179	110	242	96	52	121	35	34	869
Born before arrival	297	206	173	95	46	-	-	-	817
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	63	70
Not stated	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>All places of birth</b>	<b>86,263</b>	<b>62,732</b>	<b>47,864</b>	<b>25,090</b>	<b>19,310</b>	<b>6,682</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>3,607</b>	<b>256,378</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
Hospital	96.3	99.5	98.7	97.6	96.5	98.2	93.3	97.3	97.7
Birth centre	3.2	-	0.4	1.6	3.0	-	5.8	-	1.6
Home	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.3	1.8	0.7	0.9	0.3
Born before arrival	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	-	-	-	0.3
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	1.7	0.0
<b>All places of birth</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 3 : Distribution of maternity units by size, States and Territories, 1995**

Number of confinements annually	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
1 - 100	56	65	82	44	49	6	-	1	303
101 - 500	42	30	25	22	22	-	1	2	144
501 - 1000	26	22	12	10	3	2	1	2	78
1001 - 2000	11	11	10	2	3	2	1	1	41
2001 and over	14	6	5	2	2	1	1	-	31
<b>All hospitals</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>597</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
1 - 100	37.6	48.5	61.2	55.0	62.0	54.5	-	16.7	50.8
101 - 500	28.2	22.4	18.7	27.5	27.8	-	25.0	33.3	24.1
501 - 1000	17.4	16.4	9.0	12.5	3.8	18.2	25.0	33.3	13.1
1001 - 2000	7.4	8.2	7.5	2.5	3.8	18.2	25.0	16.7	6.9
2001 and over	9.4	4.5	3.7	2.5	2.5	9.1	25.0	-	5.2
<b>All hospitals</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 4 : Distribution of confinements by size of maternity unit, States and Territories, 1995**

Number of confinements annually	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
1 - 100	1,529	2,177	1,714	1,068	1,381	213	-	63	8,145
101 - 500	9,433	7,940	6,732	6,104	5,566	-	356	557	36,688
501 - 1000	19,566	15,648	8,340	8,002	2,089	1,451	904	1,464	57,464
1001 - 2000	15,103	14,659	14,350	2,672	4,842	2,901	1,018	1,426	56,971
2001 and over	40,452	22,198	16,449	7,148	5,380	1,996	2,510	-	96,133
<b>All hospitals</b>	<b>86,083</b>	<b>62,622</b>	<b>47,585</b>	<b>24,994</b>	<b>19,258</b>	<b>6,561</b>	<b>4,788</b>	<b>3,510</b>	<b>255,401</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
1 - 100	1.8	3.5	3.6	4.3	7.2	3.2	-	1.8	3.2
101 - 500	11.0	12.7	14.1	24.4	28.9	-	7.4	15.9	14.4
501 - 1000	22.7	25.0	17.5	32.0	10.8	22.1	18.9	41.7	22.5
1001 - 2000	17.5	23.4	30.2	10.7	25.1	44.2	21.3	40.6	22.3
2001 and over	47.0	35.4	34.6	28.6	27.9	30.4	52.4	-	37.6
<b>All hospitals</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 5 : Maternal age, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995**

Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Mean age (years)</b>	28.5	29.1	27.8	28.2	28.4	27.6	28.9	26.4	28.4
	<b>Number</b>								
Less than 15	29	18	30	19	4	1	-	20	121
15	124	64	96	47	34	16	5	42	428
16	387	173	313	160	89	37	12	76	1,247
17	866	384	651	290	184	83	33	101	2,592
18	1,174	601	935	421	301	135	52	112	3,731
19	1,769	953	1,274	585	410	204	93	155	5,443
<b>Less than 20</b>	<b>4,349</b>	<b>2,193</b>	<b>3,299</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>1,022</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>13,562</b>
20 - 24	16,491	9,819	10,404	4,921	3,529	1,510	832	930	48,436
25 - 29	27,633	21,057	15,506	8,156	6,631	2,192	1,585	1,063	83,823
30 - 34	25,852	20,487	13,068	7,318	5,704	1,800	1,495	768	76,492
35 - 39	10,139	7,859	4,825	2,754	2,084	604	626	286	29,177
40 - 44	1,699	1,275	734	402	330	86	96	54	4,676
45 and over	68	38	28	17	10	5	1	-	167
Not stated	32	4	-	-	-	9	-	-	45
<b>All ages</b>	<b>86,263</b>	<b>62,732</b>	<b>47,864</b>	<b>25,090</b>	<b>19,310</b>	<b>6,682</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>3,607</b>	<b>256,378</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>								
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	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.2	0.2
16	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.2	2.1	0.5
17	1.0	0.6	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.2	0.7	2.8	1.0
18	1.4	1.0	2.0	1.7	1.6	2.0	1.1	3.1	1.5
19	2.1	1.5	2.7	2.3	2.1	3.1	1.9	4.3	2.1
<b>Less than 20</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>5.3</b>
20 - 24	19.1	15.7	21.7	19.6	18.3	22.6	17.2	25.8	18.9
25 - 29	32.0	33.6	32.4	32.5	34.3	32.8	32.8	29.5	32.7
30 - 34	30.0	32.7	27.3	29.2	29.5	27.0	31.0	21.3	29.8
35 - 39	11.8	12.5	10.1	11.0	10.8	9.1	13.0	7.9	11.4
40 - 44	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.3	2.0	1.5	1.8
45 and over	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	-	0.1
<b>All ages</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Table 6 : Mother's parity, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995**

Parity	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
None	34,459	25,144	18,700	10,180	7,687	2,323	2,032	1,431	101,956
One	28,981	21,607	15,780	8,108	6,733	2,066	1,694	1,050	86,019
Two	14,317	10,416	8,115	4,248	3,135	1,189	731	633	42,784
Three	5,360	3,620	3,205	1,579	1,205	577	224	264	16,034
Four or more	3,047	1,942	2,055	975	550	490	149	229	9,437
Not stated	99	3	9	-	-	37	-	-	148
<b>All parities</b>	<b>86,263</b>	<b>62,732</b>	<b>47,864</b>	<b>25,090</b>	<b>19,310</b>	<b>6,682</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>3,607</b>	<b>256,378</b>
Per cent									
None	40.0	40.1	39.1	40.6	39.8	35.0	42.1	39.7	39.8
One	33.6	34.4	33.0	32.3	34.9	31.1	35.1	29.1	33.6
Two	16.6	16.6	17.0	16.9	16.2	17.9	15.1	17.5	16.7
Three	6.2	5.8	6.7	6.3	6.2	8.7	4.6	7.3	6.3
Four or more	3.5	3.1	4.3	3.9	2.8	7.4	3.1	6.3	3.7
<b>All parities</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 7 : Distribution of confinements by maternal age and parity, Australia, 1995**

Parity	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
Number								
None	11,118	26,068	35,612	22,089	6,160	902	7	101,956
One	2,113	15,561	29,269	28,156	9,552	1,359	9	86,019
Two	290	5,059	12,699	16,680	7,051	999	6	42,784
Three	29	1,374	4,182	6,162	3,574	713	0	16,034
Four or more	9	361	2,027	3,359	2,816	864	1	9,437
Not stated	3	13	34	46	24	6	22	148
<b>All parities</b>	<b>13,562</b>	<b>48,436</b>	<b>83,823</b>	<b>76,492</b>	<b>29,177</b>	<b>4,843</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>256,378</b>
Per cent								
None	82.0	53.8	42.5	28.9	21.1	18.6	30.4	39.8
One	15.6	32.1	34.9	36.8	32.8	28.1	39.1	33.6
Two	2.1	10.4	15.2	21.8	24.2	20.7	26.1	16.7
Three	0.2	2.8	5.0	8.1	12.3	14.7	0.0	6.3
Four or more	0.1	0.7	2.4	4.4	9.7	17.9	4.3	3.7
<b>All parities</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 8 : Marital status, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995**

Marital status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas*	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
Married/de facto	75,864	55,062	41,635	22,397	16,659	4,744	4,287	2,508	223,156
Single	9,283	6,671	5,697	2,463	2,324	1,582	420	1,019	29,459
Widowed, divorced, or separated	1,022	799	490	230	323	89	65	37	3,055
Not stated / other	94	200	42	-	4	267	58	43	708
<b>All marital status</b>	<b>86,263</b>	<b>62,732</b>	<b>47,864</b>	<b>25,090</b>	<b>19,310</b>	<b>6,682</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>3,607</b>	<b>256,378</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
Married/de facto	88.0	88.1	87.1	89.3	86.3	74.0	89.8	70.4	87.3
Single	10.8	10.7	11.9	9.8	12.0	24.7	8.8	28.6	11.5
Widowed, divorced, or separated	1.2	1.3	1.0	0.9	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.2
<b>All marital status</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* De facto coded with single marital status

**Table 9 : Marital status of teenage mothers, Australia, 1995**

Maternal age (years)	All confinements (n)	Married/de facto		Single		Other	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 15	121	13	10.7	89	73.6	19	15.7
15	428	60	14.0	324	75.7	44	10.3
16	1,247	307	24.6	813	65.2	127	10.2
17	2,592	852	32.9	1,552	59.9	188	7.3
18	3,731	1,626	43.6	1,869	50.1	236	6.3
19	5,443	2,844	52.3	2,310	42.4	289	5.3
<b>Less than 20</b>	<b>13,562</b>	<b>5,702</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>6,957</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>6.7</b>

**Table 10 : Indigenous mothers, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995**

Aboriginality	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
Non-Indigenous	84,485	62,315	45,381	23,644	18,928	6,587	4,767	2,363	248,470
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	1,739	417	2,483	1,446	382	5	63	1,244	7,779
Not stated	39	-	-	-	-	90	-	-	129
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>86,263</b>	<b>62,732</b>	<b>47,864</b>	<b>25,090</b>	<b>19,310</b>	<b>6,682</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>3,607</b>	<b>256,378</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
Non-Indigenous	98.0	99.3	94.8	94.2	98.0	99.9	98.7	65.5	97.0
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	2.0	0.7	5.2	5.8	2.0	0.1	1.3	34.5	3.0
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 11 : Distribution of confinements of Indigenous mothers by maternal age and parity, Australia, 1995**

Parity	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
<b>Number</b>								
None	1,224	707	250	79	21	5	-	2,286
One	437	891	374	162	42	3	-	1,909
Two	97	694	496	160	58	3	-	1,508
Three	7	328	390	147	46	5	-	923
Four or more	0	115	506	355	156	19	-	1,151
Not stated	0	1	1	0	0	-	-	2
<b>All parities</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>2,736</b>	<b>2,017</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,779</b>
<b>Per cent</b>								
None	69.3	25.9	12.4	8.7	6.5	14.3	-	29.4
One	24.8	32.6	18.6	17.9	13.0	8.6	-	24.5
Two	5.5	25.4	24.6	17.7	18.0	8.6	-	19.4
Three	0.4	12.0	19.3	16.3	14.2	14.3	-	11.9
Four or more	0.0	4.2	25.1	39.3	48.3	54.3	-	14.8
<b>All parities</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 12 : Confinements of Indigenous mothers by maternal age, States and Territories, 1995**

<b>Maternal age (years)</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Vic</b>	<b>Qld</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Tas</b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>Australia</b>
<b>Mean age (years)</b>	24.1	25.5	24.2	23.6	24.4	27.2	28.3	23.1	24.0
	<b>Number</b>								
Less than 15	4	3	13	16	1	-	-	19	56
15	24	2	28	27	5	-	1	41	128
16	47	6	68	54	9	-	-	64	248
17	74	15	116	76	17	-	-	71	369
18	87	18	144	88	25	-	-	67	429
19	106	35	172	96	23	-	1	102	535
<b>Less than 20</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>1,765</b>
20 - 24	645	115	888	507	136	1	14	430	2,736
25 - 29	480	118	634	370	97	3	25	290	2,017
30 - 34	209	74	292	151	46	1	15	115	903
35 - 39	57	29	109	59	20	-	7	42	323
40 - 44	6	2	19	2	2	-	-	3	34
45 and over	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>1,739</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>2,483</b>	<b>1,446</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1,244</b>	<b>7,779</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>								
Less than 15	0.2	0.7	0.5	1.1	0.3	-	-	1.5	0.7
15	1.4	0.5	1.1	1.9	1.3	-	1.6	3.3	1.6
16	2.7	1.4	2.7	3.7	2.4	-	-	5.1	3.2
17	4.3	3.6	4.7	5.3	4.5	-	-	5.7	4.7
18	5.0	4.3	5.8	6.1	6.5	-	-	5.4	5.5
19	6.1	8.4	6.9	6.6	6.0	-	1.6	8.2	6.9
<b>Less than 20</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>22.7</b>
20 - 24	37.1	27.6	35.8	35.1	35.6	20.0	22.2	34.6	35.2
25 - 29	27.6	28.3	25.5	25.6	25.4	60.0	39.7	23.3	25.9
30 - 34	12.0	17.7	11.8	10.4	12.0	20.0	23.8	9.2	11.6
35 - 39	3.3	7.0	4.4	4.1	5.2	-	11.1	3.4	4.2
40 - 44	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.1	0.5	-	-	0.2	0.4
45 and over	-	-	-	-	0.3	-	-	-	0.0
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 13 : Maternal country of birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995**

Country of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
Australia	63,624	47,133	40,055	17,249	15,824	6,084	3,809	3,056	196,834
New Zealand	1,821	997	1,912	842	196	52	77	86	5,983
United Kingdom	2,724	2,485	1,912	2,872	1,445	202	204	124	11,968
Italy	312	419	63	93	93	3	28	4	1,015
Former Yugoslavia	746	728	97	104	95	7	42	3	1,822
Other Europe and former USSR	1,989	1,759	657	515	433	65	120	57	5,595
Lebanon	2,153	704	41	23	45	4	16	1	2,987
Other Middle East and North Africa	1,256	955	95	61	73	13	22	6	2,481
China	1,649	753	156	132	83	5	47	8	2,833
Hong Kong	676	219	92	50	20	3	17	3	1,080
India	587	457	90	135	44	6	30	4	1,353
Malaysia	299	410	129	242	58	12	29	21	1,200
Philippines	1,245	583	440	157	144	23	35	38	2,665
Vietnam	1,828	1,802	337	296	316	2	68	23	4,672
Other Asia	2,233	1,481	504	510	180	34	118	75	5,135
Northern America	477	316	246	166	78	31	40	26	1,380
South and Central America, and the Caribbean	663	384	125	53	42	5	31	4	1,307
Africa (excluding North Africa)	531	568	211	226	63	12	34	9	1,654
Other countries	1,375	416	649	138	47	29	53	55	2,762
Not stated	75	163	53	1,226	31	90	10	4	1,652
<b>All countries</b>	<b>86,263</b>	<b>62,732</b>	<b>47,864</b>	<b>25,090</b>	<b>19,310</b>	<b>6,682</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>3,607</b>	<b>256,378</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
Australia	73.8	75.3	83.8	72.3	82.1	92.3	79.0	84.8	77.3
New Zealand	2.1	1.6	4.0	3.5	1.0	0.8	1.6	2.4	2.3
United Kingdom	3.2	4.0	4.0	12.0	7.5	3.1	4.2	3.4	4.7
Italy	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.4
Former Yugoslavia	0.9	1.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.7
Other Europe and former USSR	2.3	2.8	1.4	2.2	2.2	1.0	2.5	1.6	2.2
Lebanon	2.5	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	1.2
Other Middle East and North Africa	1.5	1.5	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.2	1.0
China	1.9	1.2	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.1	1.0	0.2	1.1
Hong Kong	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.4
India	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.5
Malaysia	0.3	0.7	0.3	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.5
Philippines	1.4	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.7	1.1	1.0
Vietnam	2.1	2.9	0.7	1.2	1.6	0.0	1.4	0.6	1.8
Other Asia	2.6	2.4	1.1	2.1	0.9	0.5	2.4	2.1	2.0
Northern America	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.5
South and Central America, and the Caribbean	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.5
Africa (excluding North Africa)	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.6
Other countries	1.6	0.7	1.4	0.6	0.2	0.4	1.1	1.5	1.1
<b>All countries</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 14 : Maternal age distribution by selected country of birth, all confinements, Australia, 1995**

Country of birth	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
	<b>Number</b>							
Australia	12,127	40,378	65,615	55,730	19,903	3,059	22	196,834
New Zealand	342	1,148	1,854	1,763	759	116	1	5,983
United Kingdom	142	969	3,671	4,977	1,860	348	1	11,968
Italy	5	34	278	434	212	52	0	1,015
Former Yugoslavia	37	250	741	551	204	39	0	1,822
Lebanon	150	852	934	687	298	65	1	2,987
China	4	132	678	1,324	596	99	0	2,833
Hong Kong	2	28	202	556	261	31	0	1,080
India	7	151	501	505	167	22	0	1,353
Malaysia	14	82	307	471	269	57	0	1,200
Philippines	69	299	688	910	571	127	1	2,665
Vietnam	136	982	1,446	1,197	752	159	0	4,672
Other countries	448	2,859	6,386	6,850	3,137	634	0	20,314
Not stated	79	272	522	537	188	35	19	1,652
<b>All countries</b>	<b>13,562</b>	<b>48,436</b>	<b>83,823</b>	<b>76,492</b>	<b>29,177</b>	<b>4,843</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>256,378</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>							
Australia	6.2	20.5	33.3	28.3	10.1	1.6	-	100.0
New Zealand	5.7	19.2	31.0	29.5	12.7	1.9	-	100.0
United Kingdom	1.2	8.1	30.7	41.6	15.5	2.9	-	100.0
Italy	0.5	3.3	27.4	42.8	20.9	5.1	-	100.0
Former Yugoslavia	2.0	13.7	40.7	30.2	11.2	2.1	-	100.0
Lebanon	5.0	28.5	31.3	23.0	10.0	2.2	-	100.0
China	0.1	4.7	23.9	46.7	21.0	3.5	-	100.0
Hong Kong	0.2	2.6	18.7	51.5	24.2	2.9	-	100.0
India	0.5	11.2	37.0	37.3	12.3	1.6	-	100.0
Malaysia	1.2	6.8	25.6	39.3	22.4	4.8	-	100.0
Philippines	2.6	11.2	25.8	34.1	21.4	4.8	-	100.0
Vietnam	2.9	21.0	31.0	25.6	16.1	3.4	-	100.0
Other countries	2.2	14.1	31.4	33.7	15.4	3.1	-	100.0
<b>All countries</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 15 : Marital status of mother by selected country of birth, all confinements, Australia, 1995**

Country of birth	All confinements* (n)	Married /de facto		Single		Other	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Australia	196,834	168,169	85.4	23,824	12.1	4,841	2.5
New Zealand	5,983	5,020	83.9	775	13.0	188	3.1
United Kingdom	11,968	11,060	92.4	560	4.7	348	2.9
Italy	1,015	970	95.6	29	2.9	16	1.6
Former Yugoslavia	1,822	1,728	94.8	66	3.6	28	1.5
Lebanon	2,987	2,921	97.8	33	1.1	33	1.1
China	2,833	2,753	97.2	48	1.7	32	1.1
Hong Kong	1,080	1,062	98.3	13	1.2	5	0.5
India	1,353	1,331	98.4	14	1.0	8	0.6
Malaysia	1,200	1,153	96.1	32	2.7	15	1.3
Philippines	2,665	2,495	93.6	117	4.4	53	2.0
Vietnam	4,672	4,142	88.7	424	9.1	106	2.3
Other countries	20,314	18,936	93.2	1,008	5.0	370	1.8
Not stated	1,652	1,416	85.7	53	3.2	183	11.1
<b>All countries</b>	<b>256,378</b>	<b>223,156</b>	<b>87.0</b>	<b>26,996</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>6,226</b>	<b>2.4</b>

**Table 16 : Mother's accomodation status in hospital, all confinements, selected States and Territories, 1995**

Status in hospital	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	Total*
<b>Number</b>							
Public	55,485	30,561	16,458	12,389	4,209	2,965	122,067
Private	30,757	17,013	8,112	6,921	2,473	1,817	67,093
Not stated/other	21	290	520	-	-	48	879
<b>All classifications</b>	<b>86,263</b>	<b>47,864</b>	<b>25,090</b>	<b>19,310</b>	<b>6,682</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>190,039</b>
<b>Per cent</b>							
Public	64.3	64.2	67.0	64.2	63.0	62.0	64.5
Private	35.7	35.8	33.0	35.8	37.0	38.0	35.5
<b>All classifications</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

**Table 17 : Duration of pregnancy, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995**

Duration of pregnancy (weeks)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	<b>Mean (weeks)</b>	39.2	39.1	39.1	39.0	39.1	39.4	39.1	38.9
	<b>Number</b>								
20 - 27	424	421	353	166	147	45	37	34	1,627
28 - 31	508	420	373	153	158	46	27	25	1,710
32 - 36	4,109	3,182	2,702	1,294	1,057	280	240	242	13,106
37 - 41	78,723	56,379	42,916	22,981	17,665	5,949	3,998	3,177	231,788
42 and over	2,480	1,872	1,511	496	281	359	129	82	7,210
Not stated	19	458	9	-	2	3	399	47	937
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>86,263</b>	<b>62,732</b>	<b>47,864</b>	<b>25,090</b>	<b>19,310</b>	<b>6,682</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>3,607</b>	<b>256,378</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>								
20 - 27	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.6
28 - 31	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7
32 - 36	4.8	5.1	5.6	5.2	5.5	4.2	5.4	6.8	5.1
37 - 41	91.3	90.5	89.7	91.6	91.5	89.1	90.2	89.2	90.7
42 and over	2.9	3.0	3.2	2.0	1.5	5.4	2.9	2.3	2.8
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 18 : Duration of pregnancy by maternal age, all confinements, Australia, 1995**

Duration of pregnancy (weeks)	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
	<b>Number</b>							
20 - 27	153	312	492	401	213	53	3	1,627
28 - 31	136	325	479	484	226	59	1	1,710
32 - 36	871	2,453	4,005	3,702	1,726	343	6	13,106
37 - 41	11,862	43,554	76,176	69,684	26,207	4,273	32	231,788
42 and over	466	1,576	2,406	1,970	699	93	-	7,210
Not stated	74	216	265	251	106	22	3	937
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>13,562</b>	<b>48,436</b>	<b>83,823</b>	<b>76,492</b>	<b>29,177</b>	<b>4,843</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>256,378</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>							
20 - 27	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7	1.1	7.1	0.6
28 - 31	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.2	2.4	0.7
32 - 36	6.5	5.1	4.8	4.9	5.9	7.1	14.3	5.1
37 - 41	87.9	90.3	91.2	91.4	90.1	88.6	76.2	90.7
42 and over	3.5	3.3	2.9	2.6	2.4	1.9	0.0	2.8
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Table 19 : Plurality, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995**

Plurality	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
Singleton	85,155	61,778	47,224	24,741	19,003	6,585	4,761	3,561	252,808
Twin	1,088	925	611	340	304	95	69	44	3,476
Triplet	20	29	27	9	3	2	-	2	92
Quadruplet	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>86,263</b>	<b>62,732</b>	<b>47,864</b>	<b>25,090</b>	<b>19,310</b>	<b>6,682</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>3,607</b>	<b>256,378</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
Singleton	98.7	98.5	98.7	98.6	98.4	98.5	98.6	98.7	98.6
Twin	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.4
Triplet	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.1	0.0
Quadruplet	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	0.0
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 20 : Multiple confinements by maternal age, Australia, 1995**

Plurality	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
<b>Number</b>								
Singleton	13,465	47,958	82,709	75,229	28,644	4,759	44	252,808
Twin	97	473	1,081	1,220	520	84	1	3,476
Triplet	-	5	32	43	12	-	-	92
<b>All confinements*</b>	<b>13,562</b>	<b>48,436</b>	<b>83,823</b>	<b>76,492</b>	<b>29,177</b>	<b>4,843</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>256,378</b>
<b>Per cent</b>								
Singleton	99.3	99.0	98.7	98.3	98.2	98.3	97.8	98.6
Twin	0.7	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.7	2.2	1.4
Triplet	-	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	-	-	0.0
<b>All confinements*</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Includes 2 quadruplet pregnancies

**Table 21 : Onset of labour, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995**

Onset of labour	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
Spontaneous	60,178	41,616	31,914	15,025	12,424	5,132	3,433	2,512	172,234
- no augmentation	40,155	33,918	18,912	9,195	7,839	4,013	2,793	na	119,337**
- augmentation	20,023	7,698	12,986	5,830	4,585	1,119	640	na	52,881**
- other	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	16
Induced	17,810	14,231	10,162	6,989	4,530	1,108	734	707	56,271
- medical only	5,514	5,372	3,825	na	1,802	606	185	na	17,304*
- surgical only	1,155	2,257	1,759	na	456	263	49	na	5,939*
- combined	11,071	6,602	4,432	na	2,270	239	424	na	25,038*
- other	70	-	146	na	2	-	76	na	294*
No labour	8,231	6,885	5,785	3,076	2,356	442	570	375	27,720
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not stated	44	-	3	-	-	-	93	13	153
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>86,263</b>	<b>62,732</b>	<b>47,864</b>	<b>25,090</b>	<b>19,310</b>	<b>6,682</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>3,607</b>	<b>256,378</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
Spontaneous	69.8	66.3	66.7	59.9	64.3	76.8	72.5	69.9	67.2
- no augmentation	46.6	54.1	39.5	36.6	40.6	60.1	59.0	na	46.6**
- augmentation	23.2	12.3	27.1	23.2	23.7	16.7	13.5	na	20.6**
Induced	20.7	22.7	21.2	27.9	23.5	16.6	15.5	19.7	22.0
- medical only	6.4	8.6	8.0	na	9.3	9.1	3.9	na	6.8*
- surgical only	1.3	3.6	3.7	na	2.4	3.9	1.0	na	2.3*
- combined	12.8	10.5	9.3	na	11.8	3.6	9.0	na	9.8*
- other	0.1	-	0.3	na	0.0	-	1.6	na	0.1*
No labour	9.5	11.0	12.1	12.3	12.2	6.6	12.0	10.4	10.8
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Data exclude WA and NT

\*\* Data exclude NT

**Table 22 : Presentation at birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995**

Presentation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
Vertex	81,862	59,001	45,445	23,918	18,253	5,385	4,457	3,388	241,709
Breech	3,548	2,707	2,176	1,041	856	58	207	148	10,741
Other	605	401	207	131	181	1	14	21	1,561
Not stated	248	623	36	-	20	1,238	152	50	2,367
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>86,263</b>	<b>62,732</b>	<b>47,864</b>	<b>25,090</b>	<b>19,310</b>	<b>6,682</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>3,607</b>	<b>256,378</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
Vertex	95.2	95.0	95.0	95.3	94.6	98.9	95.3	95.2	95.2
Breech	4.1	4.4	4.5	4.1	4.4	1.1	4.4	4.2	4.2
Other	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.3	0.6	0.6
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 23 : Type of delivery, all confinements, States and Territories, 1995**

Type of delivery	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
Spontaneous vertex	61,215	42,329	32,916	16,208	12,263	4,711	3,058	2,607	175,307
Forceps	6,083	6,817	2,750	1,371	1,782	590	432	166	19,991
Vacuum extraction	2,943	946	1,818	2,301	650	66	310	43	9,077
Vaginal breech	918	637	390	152	141	58	42	26	2,364
Caesarean section	15,049	11,996	9,937	5,058	4,474	1,255	979	761	49,509
- <i>elective</i>	8,231	6,885	na	2,740	1,989	374	590	302	21,111*
- <i>emergency</i>	6,818	5,111	na	2,318	2,485	500	389	459	18,080*
- <i>other</i>	-	-	na	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	2	22
Not stated	55	7	33	-	-	2	9	2	108
<b>All types of delivery</b>	<b>86,263</b>	<b>62,732</b>	<b>47,864</b>	<b>25,090</b>	<b>19,310</b>	<b>6,682</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>3,607</b>	<b>256,378</b>
<b>Per cent</b>									
Spontaneous vertex	71.0	67.5	68.8	64.6	63.5	70.5	63.4	72.3	68.4
Forceps	7.1	10.9	5.7	5.5	9.2	8.8	9.0	4.6	7.8
Vacuum extraction	3.4	1.5	3.8	9.2	3.4	1.0	6.4	1.2	3.5
Vaginal breech	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.9
Caesarean section	17.5	19.1	20.8	20.2	23.2	18.8	20.3	21.1	19.3
- <i>elective</i>	9.5	11.0	na	10.9	10.3	5.6	12.2	8.4	10.1*
- <i>emergency</i>	7.9	8.1	na	9.2	12.9	7.5	8.1	12.7	8.7*
- <i>other</i>	-	-	na	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.0
<b>All types of delivery</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Data exclude Queensland

**Table 24 : Caesarean rates by maternal age and status in hospital, States and Territories, 1995**

Hospital status/ Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Public*</b>	<b>Number</b>								
Less than 20	394	na	342	149	128	51	28	na	1,092
20 - 24	1,728	na	1,176	602	532	190	113	na	4,341
25 - 29	2,574	na	1,633	889	838	229	168	na	6,331
30 - 34	2,325	na	1,325	799	674	151	156	na	5,430
35 - 39	1,069	na	547	376	257	66	59	na	2,374
40 and over	226	na	114	51	48	13	10	na	462
Not stated	1	na	-	-	-	-	-	na	1
<b>All ages</b>	<b>8,317</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>5,137</b>	<b>2,866</b>	<b>2,477</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>20,031</b>
<b>Private*</b>									
Less than 20	27	na	23	12	5	3	3	na	73
20 - 24	399	na	351	124	113	44	23	na	1,054
25 - 29	1,868	na	1,469	657	626	187	119	na	4,926
30 - 34	2,758	na	1,923	835	807	216	182	na	6,721
35 - 39	1,345	na	869	416	376	89	94	na	3,189
40 and over	334	na	164	91	70	14	17	na	690
Not stated	-	na	-	-	-	2	-	na	2
<b>All ages</b>	<b>6,731</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>4,799</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>1,997</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>16,655</b>
<b>Public*</b>	<b>Caesarean rate (per cent)</b>								
Less than 20	9.5	na	10.9	10.4	13.0	11.2	15.2	na	10.6
20 - 24	12.2	na	13.3	14.4	17.4	15.0	16.1	na	13.5
25 - 29	14.6	na	17.1	17.2	19.8	17.5	16.6	na	16.3
30 - 34	17.2	na	20.8	20.1	23.1	18.0	21.1	na	19.1
35 - 39	20.8	na	24.4	25.5	25.1	22.6	20.7	na	22.7
40 and over	26.8	na	29.5	23.8	27.1	28.9	25.0	na	27.1
<b>All ages</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>16.4</b>
<b>Private*</b>									
Less than 20	13.4	na	17.6	22.2	12.5	15.8	33.3	na	16.0
20 - 24	16.9	na	22.9	19.9	23.7	17.9	18.5	na	19.7
25 - 29	18.8	na	25.1	23.3	26.1	21.1	21.2	na	21.9
30 - 34	22.5	na	29.2	26.1	29.0	22.5	24.8	na	25.3
35 - 39	26.9	na	34.4	33.8	35.5	28.5	28.8	na	30.5
40 and over	36.3	na	45.1	47.6	42.9	30.4	30.9	na	39.7
<b>All ages</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>24.8</b>
<b>All confinements</b>									
Less than 20	9.7	10.5	11.1	11.0	13.0	11.3	15.9	19.0	11.0
20 - 24	12.9	13.0	14.7	14.9	18.3	15.5	16.5	21.4	14.2
25 - 29	16.1	17.6	20.0	19.2	22.1	19.0	18.2	20.4	18.1
30 - 34	19.7	21.3	24.9	22.5	26.0	20.4	22.8	21.5	21.8
35 - 39	23.8	25.3	29.3	29.0	30.4	25.7	24.6	23.8	26.1
40 and over	31.7	32.8	36.5	34.6	34.7	29.7	27.8	29.6	33.1
<b>All ages</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>19.3</b>

\* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

**Table 25: Caesarean rates by maternal age, parity and public status in hospital, Australia, 1995**

Maternal age (years)	Parity				Parity			
	None	One	Two +	Total	None	One	Two +	Total
	Number				Rate (per cent)			
Less than 15	5	-	-	5	7.5	-	-	6.9
15	30	-	-	30	10.3	-	-	9.8
16	88	7	-	95	9.9	12.3	-	10.0
17	176	14	4	194	9.8	6.7	20.0	9.6
18	255	40	6	301	10.8	8.4	10.9	10.4
19	346	100	21	467	11.4	10.9	12.4	11.3
15 - 19	895	161	31	1,087	10.7	9.6	12.1	10.6
20	391	169	52	612	12.6	11.9	13.5	12.4
21	436	193	86	715	13.8	10.8	12.6	12.7
22	490	243	112	845	15.3	11.0	11.2	13.2
23	498	322	179	999	14.6	12.6	12.8	13.6
24	591	363	216	1,170	17.6	13.3	12.5	14.9
20- 24	2,406	1,290	645	4,341	14.8	12.0	12.4	13.5
25	513	357	265	1,135	15.9	12.9	13.7	14.3
26	557	413	314	1,284	17.8	14.6	14.0	15.7
27	553	429	360	1,342	19.7	15.6	15.2	16.9
28	497	451	309	1,257	19.8	16.6	13.0	16.5
29	466	420	427	1,313	21.5	16.5	16.6	18.0
25 - 29	2,586	2,070	1,675	6,331	18.7	15.2	14.6	16.3
30	445	393	375	1,213	22.0	16.9	14.7	17.6
31	412	426	408	1,246	23.5	19.5	15.4	18.9
32	350	375	387	1,112	25.5	19.3	15.7	19.2
33	300	325	410	1,035	28.4	19.9	17.7	20.6
34	234	266	324	824	27.0	20.7	16.5	20.0
30 - 34	1,741	1,785	1,904	5,430	24.6	19.0	15.9	19.1
35	179	207	293	679	30.1	20.8	17.3	20.7
36	182	151	270	603	37.3	19.8	19.0	22.6
37	129	138	206	473	35.4	25.7	19.7	24.3
38	73	115	173	361	32.4	29.0	19.1	23.6
39	68	76	114	258	39.1	27.5	20.1	25.4
35 - 39	631	687	1,056	2,374	34.2	23.2	18.7	22.7
40	42	39	87	168	40.0	24.8	22.1	25.6
41	27	25	72	124	42.2	23.8	23.8	26.3
42	17	13	47	77	41.5	24.1	26.7	28.4
43	8	17	27	52	33.3	45.9	25.0	30.8
44	2	3	13	18	16.7	23.1	28.3	25.4
40 - 44	96	97	246	439	39.0	26.5	24.0	26.8
45 and over	7	4	12	23	53.8	33.3	28.6	34.3
Not stated	1	-	-	1	25.0	-	-	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,368</b>	<b>6,094</b>	<b>5,569</b>	<b>20,031</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>16.4</b>

*Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory*

**Table 26: Caesarean rates by maternal age, parity and private status in hospital, Australia, 1995**

Maternal age (years)	Parity				Parity			
	None	One	Two +	Total	None	One	Two +	Total
	Number				Rate (per cent)			
Less than 15	1	1	1	3	16.7	100.0	33.3	30.0
15	3	-	-	3	27.3	-	-	27.3
16	4	1	-	5	10.3	100.0	-	12.2
17	13	-	-	13	16.5	-	-	16.0
18	15	1	-	16	14.0	12.5	-	13.8
19	29	4	-	33	17.6	14.8	-	16.8
15 - 19	64	6	-	70	16.0	15.8	-	15.7
20	33	9	1	43	14.0	15.5	12.5	14.2
21	60	18	-	78	15.9	16.1	-	15.6
22	146	38	5	189	22.8	17.6	13.2	21.1
23	196	71	17	284	20.4	17.7	19.1	19.6
24	300	141	19	460	20.2	23.5	14.4	20.8
20- 24	735	277	42	1,054	19.9	20.0	15.2	19.7
25	420	173	47	640	21.9	19.3	19.4	21.0
26	495	258	78	831	22.0	19.9	19.6	21.1
27	562	327	103	992	22.9	20.3	18.3	21.4
28	581	388	139	1,108	22.5	20.6	19.1	21.3
29	674	468	213	1,355	27.6	21.3	21.1	24.0
25 - 29	2,732	1,614	580	4,926	23.4	20.5	19.7	21.9
30	596	527	258	1,381	25.9	22.0	21.1	23.3
31	597	566	312	1,475	28.7	23.8	22.0	25.1
32	541	555	345	1,441	30.9	24.6	21.8	25.8
33	425	522	338	1,285	31.3	25.9	21.6	26.0
34	371	429	339	1,139	32.4	26.5	23.2	27.0
30 - 34	2,530	2,599	1,592	6,721	29.3	24.4	22.0	25.3
35	305	369	295	969	34.9	28.8	23.6	28.4
36	216	300	258	774	34.2	32.0	24.4	29.5
37	182	238	192	612	39.0	31.6	23.9	30.3
38	143	192	159	494	44.3	37.4	26.4	34.3
39	96	128	116	340	45.5	36.1	29.2	35.3
35 - 39	942	1,227	1,020	3,189	37.6	32.0	24.8	30.5
40	96	93	95	284	55.8	39.6	29.4	38.9
41	52	53	63	168	50.0	36.8	33.7	38.6
42	36	48	34	118	54.5	52.2	26.8	41.4
43	18	23	24	65	62.1	51.1	29.3	41.7
44	8	11	11	30	72.7	45.8	29.7	41.7
40 - 44	210	228	227	665	55.0	42.2	30.0	39.6
45 and over	7	8	10	25	53.8	36.4	37.0	40.3
Not stated	1	-	1	2	50.0	-	16.7	15.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,222</b>	<b>5,960</b>	<b>3,473</b>	<b>16,655</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>24.8</b>

*Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory*

**Table 27 : Caesarean rates by maternal age and status in hospital, Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1995**

Hospital status/ Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Public*</b>	<b>Number</b>								
Less than 20	45	na	63	33	18	-	-	na	159
20 - 24	92	na	133	68	28	-	2	na	323
25 - 29	67	na	101	63	23	2	2	na	258
30 - 34	46	na	50	31	10	-	3	na	140
35 - 39	16	na	19	13	12	-	1	na	61
40 and over	1	na	11	2	1	-	-	na	15
Not stated	-	na	-	-	-	-	-	na	-
<b>All ages</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>956</b>
<b>Private*</b>									
Less than 20	-	na	-	-	-	-	-	na	-
20 - 24	4	na	6	-	-	-	-	na	10
25 - 29	6	na	8	-	2	-	3	na	19
30 - 34	3	na	10	-	1	-	1	na	15
35 - 39	3	na	4	1	1	-	1	na	10
40 and over	-	na	1	-	-	-	-	na	1
Not stated	-	na	-	-	-	-	-	na	-
<b>All ages</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Public*</b>	<b>Caesarean rate (per cent)</b>								
Less than 20	13.3	na	11.7	9.5	22.5	-	-	na	12.2
20 - 24	14.6	na	15.3	13.7	20.9	-	18.2	na	15.1
25 - 29	14.6	na	17.0	17.7	26.1	66.7	13.3	na	17.1
30 - 34	23.1	na	19.4	22.0	25.0	-	25.0	na	21.5
35 - 39	31.4	na	19.2	23.6	75.0	-	50.0	na	27.4
40 and over	16.7	na	61.1	100.0	33.3	-	-	na	51.7
<b>All ages</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>16.3</b>
<b>Private*</b>									
Less than 20	-	na	-	-	-	-	-	na	-
20 - 24	26.7	na	37.5	-	-	-	-	na	27.8
25 - 29	28.6	na	20.5	-	22.2	-	30.0	na	24.1
30 - 34	30.0	na	29.4	-	16.7	-	33.3	na	26.8
35 - 39	50.0	na	40.0	50.0	25.0	-	20.0	na	37.0
40 and over	-	na	100.0	-	-	-	-	na	100.0
<b>All ages</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>26.8</b>
<b>All confinements</b>									
Less than 20	13.2	17.7	11.6	9.5	22.5	-	-	23.1	14.6
20 - 24	14.9	13.0	15.7	13.6	20.6	-	14.3	27.3	17.1
25 - 29	15.2	23.7	17.2	17.3	25.8	66.7	20.0	24.8	18.8
30 - 34	23.4	18.9	20.5	20.5	23.9	-	26.7	24.3	21.8
35 - 39	33.3	20.7	21.1	23.7	65.0	-	28.6	26.2	27.2
40 and over	16.7	50.0	63.2	100.0	33.3	-	-	33.3	51.4
<b>All ages</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>18.1</b>

\* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

**Table 28 : Caesarean rates by parity, plurality, breech presentation, and birthweight, States and Territories, 1995**

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Parity</b>	<b>Number</b>								
Primipara	6,562	5,072	4,092	2,077	1,967	475	451	333	21,029
Multipara	8,468	6,924	5,839	2,981	2,507	767	528	428	28,442
Not stated	19	-	6	-	-	13	-	-	38
<b>All parity</b>	<b>15,049</b>	<b>11,996</b>	<b>9,937</b>	<b>5,058</b>	<b>4,474</b>	<b>1,255</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>49,509</b>
<b>Plurality</b>									
Singleton	14,627	11,578	9,627	4,893	4,315	1,204	953	741	47,938
Twin	406	395	283	157	156	49	26	18	1,490
Other multiple	16	23	27	8	3	2	-	2	81
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>15,049</b>	<b>11,996</b>	<b>9,937</b>	<b>5,058</b>	<b>4,474</b>	<b>1,255</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>49,509</b>
<b>Breech presentation in singleton births</b>	2,491	1,876	1,678	794	657	na	152	108	7,756
<b>Birthweight (singleton births)</b>									
Less than 500 g	10	3	2	-	3	1	-	-	19
500 - 999 g	89	86	62	31	29	13	9	5	324
1000 - 1499 g	190	155	132	68	51	16	15	9	636
1500 - 1999 g	322	242	254	89	112	31	21	15	1,086
2000 - 2499 g	719	525	447	223	201	58	41	42	2,256
2500 g and over *	13,291	10,561	8,727	4,482	3,919	1,085	852	670	43,587
- public	7,246	na	4,398	2,535	2,142	591	453	na	17,365
- private	6,044	na	4,329	1,901	1,777	494	396	na	14,941
- other	1	na	-	46	-	-	3	na	11,281
Not stated	6	6	3	-	-	-	15	-	30
<b>All singleton births</b>	<b>14,627</b>	<b>11,578</b>	<b>9,627</b>	<b>4,893</b>	<b>4,315</b>	<b>1,204</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>47,938</b>
<b>Parity</b>	<b>Caesarean rate (per cent)</b>								
Primipara	19.0	20.2	21.9	20.4	25.6	20.4	22.2	23.3	20.6
Multipara	16.4	18.4	20.0	20.0	21.6	17.7	18.9	19.7	18.4
<b>All parity</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>19.3</b>
<b>Plurality</b>									
Singleton	17.2	18.7	20.4	19.8	22.7	18.3	20.0	20.8	19.0
Twin	37.3	42.7	46.3	46.2	51.3	51.6	37.7	40.9	42.9
Other multiple	80.0	79.3	93.1	88.9	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	86.2
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>19.3</b>
<b>Breech presentation in singleton births</b>	74.6	75.0	81.7	81.0	83.3	na	78.4	76.6	77.2
<b>Birthweight (singleton births)</b>									
Less than 500 g	9.3	2.0	1.9	-	6.1	6.7	-	-	3.7
500 - 999 g	30.2	36.3	28.6	32.3	29.9	44.8	37.5	29.4	32.0
1000 - 1499 g	54.9	55.2	54.3	58.6	51.0	53.3	68.2	45.0	54.9
1500 - 1999 g	46.9	45.7	49.8	41.4	57.7	51.7	46.7	35.7	47.6
2000 - 2499 g	27.9	27.3	30.7	27.6	35.7	30.2	32.5	22.5	28.8
2500 g and over *	16.4	18.0	19.5	19.1	21.8	17.3	19.1	20.4	18.2
- public	13.9	na	15.5	16.5	18.6	15.1	16.8	na	15.3
- private	20.7	na	26.9	24.9	27.4	21.2	23.2	na	23.6
<b>All singleton births</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>19.0</b>

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



**Table 29 : Length of antenatal stay in hospital, selected States and Territories, 1995**

Length of stay	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia*
<b>Mean length of stay (days)</b>	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.8
	<b>Number</b>							
Less than 1 day	39,944	28,474	13,692	11,272	3,904	2,871	2,118	102,275
1 day	18,446	14,922	8,754	6,461	1,958	1,489	1,043	53,073
2 - 6 days	3,158	3,018	1,358	1,106	492	311	245	9,688
7 - 13 days	468	504	235	203	110	63	66	1,649
14 - 20 days	173	202	86	65	37	30	21	614
21 - 27 days	80	98	54	34	16	11	9	302
28 or more days	142	155	75	71	41	10	8	502
Not stated	5	39	645	-	3	3	-	695
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>62,416</b>	<b>47,412</b>	<b>24,899</b>	<b>19,212</b>	<b>6,561</b>	<b>4,788</b>	<b>3,510</b>	<b>168,798</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>							
Less than 1 day	64.0	60.1	56.5	58.7	59.5	60.0	60.3	60.8
1 day	29.6	31.5	36.1	33.6	29.9	31.1	29.7	31.6
2 - 6 days	5.1	6.4	5.6	5.8	7.5	6.5	7.0	5.8
7 - 13 days	0.7	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.7	1.3	1.9	1.0
14 - 20 days	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4
21 - 27 days	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
28 or more days	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.3
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Data exclude New South Wales

**Table 30 : Length of postnatal stay, hospital confinements, selected States and Territories, 1995**

Length of stay	Vic	Qld	WA	SA**	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia*
<b>Mean length of stay (days)</b>	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.7	4.5
	<b>Number</b>							
Less than 1 day	515	508	557	248	102	93	55	2,078
1 day	2,632	3,116	1,641	1,040	407	435	209	9,480
2 days	5,402	6,019	2,843	2,090	745	565	375	18,039
3 days	10,910	8,889	4,251	2,760	961	733	531	29,035
4 days	11,789	9,182	3,691	3,743	1,247	772	657	31,081
5 days	10,790	7,178	4,093	4,392	1,229	770	658	29,110
6 days	8,683	4,742	2,642	2,218	782	637	347	20,051
7 - 13 days	10,510	6,259	3,904	2,696	899	723	572	25,563
14 - 20 days	129	200	81	64	42	12	47	575
21 - 27 days	22	45	5	6	4	-	8	90
28 or more days	7	43	2	1	1	2	4	60
Not stated	-	15	632	-	3	1	-	651
<b>All hospital confinements</b>	<b>61,389</b>	<b>46,196</b>	<b>24,342</b>	<b>19,258</b>	<b>6,422</b>	<b>4,743</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>165,813</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>							
Less than 1 day	0.8	1.1	2.3	1.3	1.6	2.0	1.6	1.3
1 day	4.3	6.7	6.9	5.4	6.3	9.2	6.0	5.7
2 days	8.8	13.0	12.0	10.9	11.6	11.9	10.8	10.9
3 days	17.8	19.2	17.9	14.3	15.0	15.5	15.3	17.6
4 days	19.2	19.9	15.6	19.4	19.4	16.3	19.0	18.8
5 days	17.6	15.5	17.3	22.8	19.1	16.2	19.0	17.6
6 days	14.1	10.3	11.1	11.5	12.2	13.4	10.0	12.1
7 - 13 days	17.1	13.6	16.5	14.0	14.0	15.2	16.5	15.5
14 - 20 days	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.3	1.4	0.3
21 - 27 days	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	-	0.2	0.1
28 or more days	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
<b>All hospital confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Data exclude New South Wales

\*\*South Australia data includes entire postnatal length of stay duration

**Table 31 : Length of postnatal stay by accommodation status, hospital confinements, selected States and Territories, 1995**

Status in hospital/ Length of postnatal stay	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	Total
<b>Public (n)</b>	29,602	16,012	12,349	3,999	2,926	64,888
Mean length of stay (days)	3.6	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7
<b>Per cent</b>						
1 day or less	11.2	12.7	9.5	11.1	15.2	11.4
2 days	18.2	16.4	15.8	16.4	16.2	17.1
3 days	24.9	23.6	19.8	19.0	20.0	23.0
4 days	21.3	17.2	21.7	20.8	16.8	20.1
5 days	12.0	15.3	16.4	15.8	13.8	14.0
6 days	5.7	7.1	8.7	8.1	9.3	6.9
7 or more days	6.7	7.6	8.2	8.8	8.6	7.4
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Private (n)</b>	16,573	7,548	6,909	2,420	1,797	35,247
Mean length of stay (days)	5.5	5.9	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.6
<b>Per cent</b>						
1 day or less	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.7	4.3	2.0
2 days	3.7	2.6	2.0	3.7	4.8	3.2
3 days	9.1	6.0	4.6	8.3	8.1	7.5
4 days	17.4	11.9	15.4	17.1	15.4	15.7
5 days	21.9	21.4	34.2	24.6	20.3	24.3
6 days	18.4	19.8	16.6	18.9	20.2	18.5
7 or more days	27.6	36.5	25.4	24.6	26.9	28.8
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 32 : Length of postnatal stay in hospital by mother's age, parity, Aboriginality, status, type of delivery, and size of hospital, Australia, 1995**

Characteristic	Confinements (n) *	0-2 days	3-4 days	5-6 days	7-8 days	9-10 days	11-13 days	14 or more days
<b>Per cent</b>								
<b>All confinements</b>	165,162	17.9	36.4	29.8	11.9	2.7	0.8	0.4
<b>Maternal age</b>								
Less than 20	8,856	24.4	47.8	20.6	4.2	1.6	0.7	0.7
20-24	31,044	25.6	43.8	22.6	5.8	1.3	0.5	0.4
25-29	54,614	17.7	36.4	30.7	11.8	2.4	0.7	0.3
30-34	49,201	14.1	32.5	33.5	15.1	3.5	0.9	0.5
35-39	18,448	13.5	30.0	33.4	16.9	4.2	1.4	0.6
40 and over	2,992	13.8	29.0	30.6	18.3	5.4	2.0	0.8
Not stated	7	14.3	42.9	14.3	14.3	14.3	-	-
<b>Parity</b>								
None	65,524	9.5	33.5	34.7	16.4	4.0	1.2	0.6
One	55,541	21.0	38.2	28.4	9.6	1.9	0.6	0.3
Two or three	37,930	25.6	38.7	24.8	8.3	1.7	0.6	0.4
Four or more	6,122	33.0	36.6	19.6	7.3	2.1	0.9	0.5
Not stated	45	15.6	44.4	24.4	11.1	2.2	-	2.2
<b>Aboriginality</b>								
Indigenous	5,709	29.8	36.2	19.7	7.3	3.6	1.7	1.7
Non-Indigenous	159,453	17.5	36.4	30.1	12.1	2.7	0.8	0.4
<b>Hospital status**</b>								
Public	64,888	28.5	43.1	20.9	5.1	1.3	0.6	0.4
Private	35,248	5.2	23.2	42.7	21.9	4.8	1.5	0.7
Other	174	28.2	37.9	24.1	6.9	1.1	1.1	0.6
<b>Type of delivery</b>								
Spontaneous cephalic	110,830	24.5	42.9	24.9	6.0	1.1	0.4	0.2
Caesarean section	33,404	1.6	17.4	40.7	29.1	7.7	2.3	1.2
Other	20,928	9.3	32.2	38.1	15.5	3.6	1.0	0.3
<b>Size of hospital</b>								
1-100	6,344	18.7	38.8	30.9	9.0	1.9	0.5	0.3
101-500	24,295	13.0	35.8	34.6	12.6	2.8	0.8	0.4
501-1000	33,856	12.2	30.5	35.3	16.6	3.9	1.0	0.5
1001-2000	41,076	23.5	39.3	25.6	8.8	1.7	0.6	0.4
2001 and over	59,591	19.2	37.7	27.5	11.4	2.8	1.0	0.4

Table excludes confinements in New South Wales

\* Data exclude length of stay 'not stated'

\*\*Data exclude Victoria and the Northern Territory

**Table 33 : Length of postnatal stay for public status in hospital by mother's age, parity, Aboriginality, type of delivery, and size of hospital, Australia, 1995**

Characteristic	Confinements (n) *	0-2 days	3-4 days	5-6 days	7-8 days	9-10 days	11-13 days	14 or more days
Per cent								
<b>Confinements</b>	64,888	28.5	43.1	20.9	5.1	1.3	0.6	0.4
<b>Maternal age</b>								
Less than 20	6,002	27.3	47.6	18.8	3.7	1.4	0.6	0.6
20-24	17,591	31.7	44.2	18.4	3.9	1.0	0.5	0.4
25-29	20,778	28.8	42.7	21.4	5.1	1.2	0.5	0.3
30-34	14,497	26.3	42.1	22.9	6.1	1.5	0.6	0.4
35-39	5,176	25.2	39.6	24.0	8.1	1.8	0.9	0.5
40 and over	841	23.5	39.7	24.1	8.6	2.3	1.2	0.6
Not stated	3	33.3	66.7	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Parity</b>								
None	25,080	15.8	45.9	28.2	7.1	1.8	0.8	0.5
One	20,472	35.1	43.1	16.6	3.7	0.8	0.4	0.3
Two or three	16,028	37.7	40.4	16.2	3.9	1.0	0.5	0.4
Four or more	3,276	40.5	36.3	15.4	5.1	1.5	0.8	0.5
Not stated	32	21.9	40.6	21.9	9.4	3.1	-	3.1
<b>Aboriginality</b>								
Indigenous	3,986	35.3	37.2	16.7	5.7	2.8	1.2	1.2
Non-Indigenous	60,902	28.1	43.5	21.2	5.1	1.2	0.5	0.4
<b>Type of delivery</b>								
Spontaneous cephalic	47,171	36.2	45.7	14.4	2.6	0.6	0.3	0.2
Caesarean section	11,363	3.2	30.6	44.8	14.7	4.0	1.6	1.2
Other	6,354	17.2	46.8	26.6	6.9	1.5	0.7	0.3
<b>Size of hospital</b>								
1-100	3,313	24.8	41.3	24.7	7.0	1.5	0.4	0.3
101-500	9,567	21.9	42.4	27.1	6.4	1.3	0.6	0.3
501-1000	9,109	26.1	42.2	23.9	5.5	1.3	0.6	0.5
1001-2000	18,033	32.7	44.4	17.0	4.0	1.0	0.5	0.4
2001 and over	24,866	29.4	43.1	19.8	5.1	1.5	0.6	0.4
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table excludes data from New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory

\* Data exclude length of stay 'not stated'

**Table 34 : Length of postnatal stay for private status in hospital by mother's age, parity, Aboriginality, type of delivery, and size of hospital, Australia, 1995**

Characteristic	Confinements (n) *	0-2 days	3-4 days	5-6 days	7-8 days	9-10 days	11-13 days	14 or more days
Per cent								
<b>Confinements</b>	35,248	5.2	23.2	42.7	21.9	4.8	1.5	0.7
<b>Maternal age</b>								
Less than 20	241	9.1	41.9	33.6	10.8	2.9	0.4	1.2
20-24	2,906	6.4	28.8	44.5	15.3	3.4	0.9	0.6
25-29	12,165	4.8	24.4	43.8	21.4	3.8	1.3	0.5
30-34	13,842	5.3	21.6	43.1	22.8	5.3	1.3	0.7
35-39	5,288	5.1	20.9	39.9	24.3	6.3	2.4	1.1
40 and over	803	6.5	18.9	36.1	26.7	6.7	3.9	1.2
Not stated	3	-	33.3	-	33.3	33.3	-	-
<b>Parity</b>								
None	14,394	2.4	13.2	44.1	29.9	7.3	2.2	1.0
One	12,814	6.0	29.5	43.0	17.0	3.2	1.0	0.4
Two or three	7,284	8.8	30.7	40.7	15.6	2.8	0.9	0.5
Four or more	744	14.0	32.3	32.3	15.2	4.0	1.5	0.8
Not stated	12	-	58.3	33.3	8.3	-	-	-
<b>Aboriginality</b>								
Indigenous	149	7.4	28.2	41.6	18.8	3.4	-	0.7
Non-Indigenous	35,099	5.2	23.1	42.8	21.9	4.8	1.5	0.7
<b>Type of delivery</b>								
Spontaneous cephalic	19,466	8.1	32.9	44.8	11.6	1.8	0.6	0.3
Caesarean section	9,645	0.7	7.2	34.5	42.0	10.7	3.4	1.5
Other	6,137	3.4	17.4	49.4	22.9	5.1	1.3	0.5
<b>Size of hospital</b>								
1-100	858	10.7	34.7	37.6	12.9	3.0	0.6	0.3
101-500	6,492	5.7	26.5	45.4	17.8	3.4	0.9	0.4
501-1000	8,197	4.8	25.1	44.0	20.8	4.0	0.9	0.5
1001-2000	7,198	5.8	24.0	44.0	20.5	3.6	1.3	0.8
2001 and over	12,503	4.7	18.9	40.2	26.2	6.9	2.3	0.9
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table excludes data from New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory

\* Data exclude length of stay 'not stated'

**Table 35 : Mode of separation of mother, hospital confinements, selected States and Territories, 1995**

Mode of separation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia*
	<b>Number</b>							
Discharge home	81,570	61,385	46,171	23,603	6,420	4,431	3,463	227,043
Transfer to another hospital	4,491	1,233	1,389	652	139	45	47	7,996
Died	4	4	6	1	-	-	-	15
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not stated	18	-	19	739	2	312	-	1,090
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>86,083</b>	<b>62,622</b>	<b>47,585</b>	<b>24,994</b>	<b>6,561</b>	<b>4,788</b>	<b>3,510</b>	<b>236,143</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>							
Discharge home	94.8	98.0	97.1	97.3	97.9	99.0	98.7	96.6
Transfer to another hospital	5.2	2.0	2.9	2.7	2.1	1.0	1.3	3.4
Died	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	0.0
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>All confinements</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Data exclude South Australia

**Table 36 : Infant's month of birth, all births, States and Territories, 1995**

Month of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	<b>Number</b>								
January	7,225	5,407	4,080	2,123	1,719	543	411	319	21,827
February	6,800	5,031	3,854	2,067	1,522	508	366	290	20,438
March	7,719	5,621	4,418	2,337	1,753	588	442	341	23,219
April	7,049	5,166	3,951	2,102	1,604	579	405	291	21,147
May	7,676	5,467	4,260	2,220	1,699	541	423	323	22,609
June	7,236	5,326	4,011	2,143	1,666	562	428	340	21,712
July	7,537	5,332	4,190	2,160	1,632	604	398	316	22,169
August	7,595	5,422	4,155	2,163	1,688	632	404	317	22,376
September	7,367	5,272	4,146	2,221	1,719	592	389	293	21,999
October	7,357	5,534	4,068	2,123	1,576	578	426	306	21,968
November	6,981	5,033	3,777	1,952	1,494	511	401	262	20,411
December	6,849	5,104	3,625	1,837	1,548	542	406	257	20,168
<b>All births</b>	<b>87,391</b>	<b>63,715</b>	<b>48,535</b>	<b>25,448</b>	<b>19,620</b>	<b>6,781*</b>	<b>4,899</b>	<b>3,655</b>	<b>260,044</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>								
January	8.3	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.8	8.0	8.4	8.7	8.4
February	7.8	7.9	7.9	8.1	7.8	7.5	7.5	7.9	7.9
March	8.8	8.8	9.1	9.2	8.9	8.7	9.0	9.3	8.9
April	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.2	8.5	8.3	8.0	8.1
May	8.8	8.6	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.0	8.6	8.8	8.7
June	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.3	8.7	9.3	8.3
July	8.6	8.4	8.6	8.5	8.3	8.9	8.1	8.6	8.5
August	8.7	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.6	9.3	8.2	8.7	8.6
September	8.4	8.3	8.5	8.7	8.8	8.7	7.9	8.0	8.5
October	8.4	8.7	8.4	8.3	8.0	8.5	8.7	8.4	8.4
November	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.5	8.2	7.2	7.8
December	7.8	8.0	7.5	7.2	7.9	8.0	8.3	7.0	7.8
<b>All births</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Data include 1 infant with date of birth 'not stated'



**Table 37 : Infant's sex by plurality, all births, States and Territories, 1995**

Infant's sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
<b>All births</b>									
Male	44,759	32,744	24,960	13,139	10,142	3,531	2,540	1,893	133,708
Female	42,599	30,949	23,566	12,302	9,476	3,248	2,355	1,762	126,257
Indeterminate	16	22	8	7	2	-	-	-	55
Not stated	17	-	1	-	-	2	4	-	24
<b>All births</b>	<b>87,391</b>	<b>63,715</b>	<b>48,535</b>	<b>25,448</b>	<b>19,620</b>	<b>6,781</b>	<b>4,899</b>	<b>3,655</b>	<b>260,044</b>
Sex ratio	105.1	105.8	105.9	106.8	107.0	108.7	107.9	107.4	105.9
<b>Singletons</b>									
Male	43,671	31,796	24,308	12,778	9,843	3,427	2,468	1,846	130,137
Female	41,461	29,961	22,908	11,956	9,159	3,156	2,289	1,715	122,605
Indeterminate	11	21	7	7	1	-	-	-	47
Not stated	12	-	1	-	-	2	4	-	19
Sex ratio	105.3	106.1	106.1	106.9	107.5	108.6	107.8	107.6	106.1
<b>Twins</b>									
Male	1,063	908	617	348	294	99	72	45	3,446
Female	1,103	941	604	332	313	91	66	43	3,493
Indeterminate	5	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	8
Not stated	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Sex ratio	96.4	96.5	102.2	104.8	93.9	108.8	109.1	104.7	98.7
<b>Other multiple births</b>									
Male	25	40	35	13	5	5	-	2	125
Female	35	47	54	14	4	1	-	4	159
Indeterminate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sex ratio	71.4	85.1	64.8	92.9	125.0	500.0	-	50.0	78.6
<b>Per cent</b>									
<b>All births</b>									
Male	51.2	51.4	51.4	51.6	51.7	52.1	51.9	51.8	51.4
Female	48.8	48.6	48.6	48.3	48.3	47.9	48.1	48.2	48.6
Indeterminate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	0.0
<b>All births</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Singletons</b>									
Male	51.3	51.5	51.5	51.6	51.8	52.1	51.9	51.8	51.5
Female	48.7	48.5	48.5	48.3	48.2	47.9	48.1	48.2	48.5
<b>Twins</b>									
Male	49.0	49.1	50.5	51.2	48.4	52.1	52.2	51.1	49.6
Female	50.8	50.9	49.4	48.8	51.5	47.9	47.8	48.9	50.3
<b>Other multiple births</b>									
Male	41.7	46.0	39.3	48.1	55.6	83.3	-	33.3	44.0
Female	58.3	54.0	60.7	51.9	44.4	16.7	-	66.7	56.0

**Table 38 : Infant's gestational age, live births and fetal deaths, Australia, 1995**

Gestational age (weeks)	Live births		Fetal deaths		All births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
20	29	0.0	106	5.8	135	0.1
21	46	0.0	143	7.9	189	0.1
22	93	0.0	160	8.8	253	0.1
23	103	0.0	102	5.6	205	0.1
24	137	0.1	91	5.0	228	0.1
25	173	0.1	67	3.7	240	0.1
26	257	0.1	64	3.5	321	0.1
27	193	0.1	59	3.3	252	0.1
28	293	0.1	60	3.3	353	0.1
29	353	0.1	44	2.4	397	0.2
30	501	0.2	51	2.8	552	0.2
31	604	0.2	52	2.9	656	0.3
32	961	0.4	66	3.6	1,027	0.4
33	1,224	0.5	59	3.3	1,283	0.5
34	2,092	0.8	51	2.8	2,143	0.8
35	3,218	1.3	64	3.5	3,282	1.3
36	6,670	2.6	102	5.6	6,772	2.6
37	14,489	5.6	88	4.9	14,577	5.6
38	38,759	15.1	108	6.0	38,867	15.0
39	50,404	19.6	84	4.6	50,488	19.5
40	94,503	36.7	121	6.7	94,624	36.5
41	34,988	13.6	50	2.8	35,038	13.5
42	6,950	2.7	20	1.1	6,970	2.7
43	208	0.1	-	-	208	0.1
44 and over	32	0.0	-	-	32	0.0
Not stated	941		11		952	
<b>All births</b>	<b>258,221</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>260,044</b>	<b>100.0</b>
20-27	1,031	0.4	792	43.7	1,823	0.7
28-31	1,751	0.7	207	11.4	1,958	0.8
32-36	14,165	5.5	342	18.9	14,507	5.6
<b>All preterm births</b>	<b>16,947</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>1,341</b>	<b>74.0</b>	<b>18,288</b>	<b>7.1</b>

**Table 39 : Infant's gestational age by plurality, all births, Australia, 1995**

Gestational age (weeks)	Singletons		Twins		Triplets		All births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
20-27	1,443	0.6	344	5.0	36	13.2	1,823	0.7
28-31	1,481	0.6	424	6.1	45	16.5	1,958	0.8
32-36	11,767	4.7	2,554	36.9	186	68.1	14,507	5.6
37-41	229,986	91.3	3,602	52.0	6	2.2	233,594	90.2
42 and over	7,208	2.9	2	0.0	-	-	7,210	2.8
Not stated	923	-	26	-	3	-	952	-
<b>All births</b>	<b>252,808</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,952</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>260,044</b>	<b>100.0</b>
20-36 weeks	14,691	5.8	3,322	48.0	267	97.8	18,288	7.1
<b>Mean gestational age</b>	<b>39.2</b>		<b>35.6</b>		<b>32.1</b>		<b>39.1</b>	

**Table 40 : Duration of pregnancy, preterm births, States and Territories, 1995**

Duration of pregnancy (weeks)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Mean (weeks)</b>	33.5	33.2	33.2	33.3	33.1	32.8	33.1	33.1	33.3
	<b>Number</b>								
20 - 27	480	477	386	183	166	54	41	36	1,823
28 - 31	569	489	435	179	177	55	28	26	1,958
32 - 36	4,477	3,568	3,011	1,430	1,190	309	264	258	14,507
<b>All preterm births</b>	<b>5,526</b>	<b>4,534</b>	<b>3,832</b>	<b>1,792</b>	<b>1,533</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>18,288</b>
	<b>Per cent of total births</b>								
20 - 27	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.7
28 - 31	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.8
32 - 36	5.1	5.6	6.2	5.6	6.1	4.6	5.4	7.1	5.6
<b>All preterm births</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>7.0</b>

**Table 41 : Infant's birthweight, all births, States and Territories, 1995**

Birthweight (g)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Mean birthweight (g)</b>	3,372	3,353	3,358	3,338	3,343	3,388	3,387	3,253	3,358
	<b>Number</b>								
Less than 500	140	188	124	79	57	21	5	11	625
500 - 999	378	322	273	112	134	48	25	22	1,314
1000 - 1499	446	387	347	172	136	40	25	22	1,575
1500 - 1999	921	787	713	306	262	74	66	57	3,186
2000 - 2499	3,206	2,467	1,836	1,004	740	248	161	209	9,871
2500 - 2999	13,314	9,868	7,193	4,043	3,009	977	647	693	39,744
3000 - 3499	31,879	22,960	17,250	9,466	7,129	2,288	1,746	1,348	94,066
3500 - 3999	26,835	19,437	14,905	7,557	5,844	2,172	1,521	970	79,241
4000 - 4499	8,644	6,151	5,033	2,356	1,978	767	522	273	25,724
4500 and over	1,593	1,122	847	353	331	143	82	45	4,516
Not stated	35	26	14	-	-	3	99	5	182
<b>All births</b>	<b>87,391</b>	<b>63,715</b>	<b>48,535</b>	<b>25,448</b>	<b>19,620</b>	<b>6,781</b>	<b>4,899</b>	<b>3,655</b>	<b>260,044</b>
Less than 1000	518	510	397	191	191	69	30	33	1,939
Less than 1500	964	897	744	363	327	109	55	55	3,514
Less than 2500	5,091	4,151	3,293	1,673	1,329	431	282	321	16,571
	<b>Per cent</b>								
Less than 500	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2
500 - 999	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5
1000 - 1499	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6
1500 - 1999	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.2
2000 - 2499	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.4	5.7	3.8
2500 - 2999	15.2	15.5	14.8	15.9	15.3	14.4	13.5	19.0	15.3
3000 - 3499	36.5	36.1	35.6	37.2	36.3	33.8	36.4	36.9	36.2
3500 - 3999	30.7	30.5	30.7	29.7	29.8	32.0	31.7	26.6	30.5
4000 - 4499	9.9	9.7	10.4	9.3	10.1	11.3	10.9	7.5	9.9
4500 and over	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.7	2.1	1.7	1.2	1.7
<b>All births</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Less than 1000	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.6	0.9	0.7
Less than 1500	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.1	1.5	1.4
Less than 2500	5.8	6.5	6.8	6.6	6.8	6.4	5.9	8.8	6.4

**Table 42 : Infant's birthweight, live births and fetal deaths, Australia, 1995**

Birthweight (g)	Live births		Fetal deaths		All births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	156	0.1	469	26.3	625	0.2
500 - 999	942	0.4	372	20.8	1,314	0.5
1000 - 1499	1,397	0.5	178	10.0	1,575	0.6
1500 - 1999	3,033	1.2	153	8.6	3,186	1.2
2000 - 2499	9,722	3.8	149	8.3	9,871	3.8
2500 - 2999	39,573	15.3	170	9.5	39,743	15.3
3000 - 2499	93,895	36.4	172	9.6	94,067	36.2
3500 - 3999	79,161	30.7	80	4.5	79,241	30.5
4000 - 4499	25,693	10.0	31	1.7	25,724	9.9
4500 and over	4,505	1.7	11	0.6	4,516	1.7
Not stated	144		38		182	
<b>All births</b>	<b>258,221</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>260,044</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Less than 1000	1,098	0.4	841	47.1	1,939	0.7
Less than 1500	2,495	1.0	1,019	57.1	3,514	1.4
Less than 2500	15,250	5.9	1,321	74.0	16,571	6.4
<b>Mean birthweight (g)</b>	<b>3,371</b>		<b>1,542</b>		<b>3,358</b>	

**Table 43 : Infant's birthweight by plurality, all births, Australia, 1995**

Birthweight (g)	Singletons		Twins		Triplets		Other multiple births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	510	0.2	101	1.5	14	5.1	-	-
500 - 999	1,012	0.4	272	3.9	29	10.5	1	12.5
1000 - 1499	1,158	0.5	355	5.1	55	19.9	7	87.5
1500 - 1999	2,280	0.9	812	11.7	94	34.1	-	-
2000 - 2499	7,837	3.1	1,966	28.4	68	24.6	-	-
2500 - 2999	37,412	14.8	2,316	33.4	15	5.4	-	-
3000 - 3499	93,089	36.8	977	14.1	1	0.4	-	-
3500 - 3999	79,117	31.3	124	1.8	-	-	-	-
4000 - 4499	25,715	10.2	9	0.1	-	-	-	-
4500 and over	4,515	1.8	1	0.0	-	-	-	-
Not stated	163	-	19	-	-	-	-	-
<b>All births</b>	<b>252,808</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,952</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Less than 1000	1,522	0.6	373	5.4	43	15.6	1	12.5
Less than 1500	2,680	1.1	728	10.5	98	35.5	8	100.0
Less than 2500	12,797	5.1	3,506	50.6	260	94.2	8	100.0
<b>Mean birthweight (g)</b>	<b>3,387</b>		<b>2,388</b>		<b>1,665</b>		<b>1,203</b>	

**Table 44: Infant's birthweight by sex, all births, Australia, 1995**

Birthweight (g)	Male		Female		Indeterminate / Not stated	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	300	0.2	302	0.2	23	36.5
500 - 999	699	0.5	611	0.5	4	6.3
1000 - 1499	776	0.6	796	0.6	3	4.8
1500 - 1999	1,548	1.2	1,632	1.3	6	9.5
2000 - 2499	4,505	3.4	5,363	4.3	3	4.8
2500 - 2999	17,297	12.9	22,441	17.8	5	7.9
3000 - 3499	45,354	33.9	48,705	38.6	8	12.7
3500 - 3999	43,662	32.7	35,572	28.2	7	11.1
4000 - 4499	16,333	12.2	9,388	7.4	3	4.8
4500 and over	3,151	2.4	1,364	1.1	1	1.6
Not stated	83	-	83	-	16	-
<b>All births</b>	<b>133,708</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>126,257</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Less than 1000	999	0.7	913	0.7	27	42.9
Less than 1500	1,775	1.3	1,709	1.4	30	47.6
Less than 2500	7,828	5.9	8,704	6.9	39	61.9
<b>Mean birthweight (g)</b>	<b>3,420</b>		<b>3,294</b>		<b>1,813</b>	

**Table 45 : Infant's birthweight, Indigenous births, States and Territories, 1995**

<b>Birthweight (g)</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Vic</b>	<b>Qld</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Tas</b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>Australia</b>
<b>Mean birthweight (g)</b>	3,177	3,232	3,182	3,131	3,112	3,235	3,416	3,099	3,159
	<b>Number</b>								
Less than 500	4	2	13	7	3	-	-	4	33
500 - 999	16	2	35	18	9	-	-	7	87
1000 - 1499	19	3	24	16	4	-	-	12	78
1500 - 1999	29	9	52	28	10	-	1	29	158
2000 - 2499	128	25	155	107	33	-	3	119	570
2500 - 2999	413	82	521	348	92	3	6	311	1,776
3000 - 3499	625	158	928	531	118	-	24	451	2,835
3500 - 3999	376	104	557	299	82	-	18	248	1,684
4000 - 4499	122	33	179	92	29	2	9	58	524
4500 and over	26	4	39	9	6	-	-	10	94
Not stated	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	2	7
<b>All births</b>	<b>1,759</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>2,504</b>	<b>1,455</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>7,846</b>
Less than 1000	20	4	48	25	12	-	-	11	120
Less than 1500	39	7	72	41	16	-	-	23	198
Less than 2500	196	41	279	176	59	-	4	171	926
	<b>Per cent</b>								
Less than 500	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	-	-	0.3	0.4
500 - 999	0.9	0.5	1.4	1.2	2.3	-	-	0.6	1.1
1000 - 1499	1.1	0.7	1.0	1.1	1.0	-	-	1.0	1.0
1500 - 1999	1.6	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.6	-	1.6	2.3	2.0
2000 - 2499	7.3	5.9	6.2	7.4	8.5	-	4.9	9.5	7.3
2500 - 2999	23.5	19.4	20.8	23.9	23.8	60.0	9.8	24.9	22.7
3000 - 3499	35.6	37.4	37.1	36.5	30.6	-	39.3	36.1	36.2
3500 - 3999	21.4	24.6	22.3	20.5	21.2	-	29.5	19.9	21.5
4000 - 4499	6.9	7.8	7.2	6.3	7.5	40.0	14.8	4.6	6.7
4500 and over	1.5	0.9	1.6	0.6	1.6	-	-	0.8	1.2
<b>All births</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Less than 1000	1.1	0.9	1.9	1.7	3.1	-	-	0.9	1.5
Less than 1500	2.2	1.7	2.9	2.8	4.1	-	-	1.8	2.5
Less than 2500	11.1	9.7	11.1	12.1	15.3	-	6.6	13.7	11.8

**Table 46 : Distribution of birthweight by mother's Aboriginality, country of birth, age, parity, marital status, public and private status, and place of birth, Australia, 1995**

Characteristic	Less than 1000g		Less than 1500g		Less than 2500g		2500g and over	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<b>Maternal country of birth/</b>								
<b>Aboriginality</b>								
Australia: Non-Indigenous	1,343	0.7	2,478	1.3	11,897	6.2	179,872	93.8
Australia:Indigenous	120	1.5	198	2.5	926	11.8	6,913	88.2
New Zealand	52	0.9	86	1.4	409	6.7	5,658	93.3
United Kingdom	77	0.6	149	1.2	724	6.0	11,426	94.0
Italy	8	0.8	17	1.7	63	6.1	963	93.9
Former Yugoslavia	18	1.0	24	1.3	104	5.6	1,745	94.4
Lebanon	21	0.7	29	1.0	125	4.1	2,891	95.9
China	12	0.4	21	0.7	133	4.7	2,717	95.3
Hong Kong	4	0.4	7	0.6	52	4.8	1,036	95.2
India	17	1.2	34	2.5	146	10.6	1,226	89.4
Malaysia	12	1.0	17	1.4	84	6.9	1,127	93.1
Philippines	15	0.6	36	1.3	181	6.7	2,509	93.3
Vietnam	25	0.5	48	1.0	311	6.6	4,397	93.4
Other countries	198	1.0	339	1.6	1,322	6.4	19,451	93.6
Not stated	17	1.2	31	2.1	94	6.5	1,360	93.5
<b>Maternal age</b>								
Less than 15	5	4.1	8	6.6	18	14.9	103	85.1
15-19	159	1.2	278	2.1	1,162	8.6	12,370	91.4
20-24	360	0.7	651	1.3	3,181	6.5	45,699	93.5
25-29	611	0.7	1,060	1.2	5,092	6.0	79,830	94.0
30-34	477	0.6	931	1.2	4,648	6.0	73,091	94.0
35-39	261	0.9	462	1.6	2,036	6.9	27,669	93.1
40 and over	63	1.3	121	2.5	428	8.7	4,493	91.3
Not stated	3	7.1	3	7.1	6	14.3	36	85.7
<b>Parity</b>								
None	940	0.9	1,747	1.7	8,061	7.8	95,334	92.2
One	493	0.6	891	1.0	4,449	5.1	82,693	94.9
Two	267	0.6	474	1.1	2,327	5.4	41,067	94.6
Three	126	0.8	227	1.4	1,009	6.2	15,215	93.8
Four or more	108	1.1	170	1.8	708	7.4	8,852	92.6
Not stated	5	3.4	5	3.4	17	11.6	130	88.4
<b>Marital status</b>								
Married / de facto	1,565	0.7	2,833	1.3	13,514	6.0	212,814	94.0
Single	259	1.0	512	1.9	2,412	8.9	24,840	91.1
Other	115	1.8	169	2.7	645	10.3	5,637	89.7
<b>Hospital status*</b>								
Public	959	0.8	1,789	1.4	8,346	6.8	115,037	93.2
Private	402	0.6	733	1.1	3,657	5.4	64,233	94.6
<b>Place of birth</b>								
Hospital	1,889	0.7	3,447	1.4	16,363	6.4	238,022	93.6
Birth centre	5	0.1	6	0.2	44	1.2	3,646	98.8
Home	2	0.2	2	0.2	12	1.4	847	98.6
Born before arrival	12	1.5	25	3.0	101	12.3	723	87.7
Other	31	30.7	31	30.7	48	47.5	53	52.5
Not stated	-	-	3	100.0	3	100.0	-	-

\* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory



**Table 47 : Proportion of liveborn low birthweight infants born in hospitals of different sizes, States and Territories, 1995**

Low birthweight category/Hospital size	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Birthweight: 500 - 999g</b>									
Number of births	274	237	182	82	97	36	18	16	942
	<b>Per cent</b>								
1-100 confinements	0.4	0.8	3.3	3.7	1.0	-	-	-	1.4
101-500 confinements	2.9	1.3	2.2	2.4	4.1	-	-	-	2.2
501-1000 confinements	9.1	9.3	6.0	2.4	-	2.8	-	25.0	6.9
1001-2000 confinements	4.4	4.6	19.8	-	8.2	2.8	-	75.0	8.5
2001 and over confinements	83.2	84.0	68.7	91.5	86.6	94.4	100.0	-	81.0
<b>All births: 500 - 999g</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Birthweight: 1000 - 1499g</b>									
Number of births	389	338	313	159	119	36	22	18	1,394
	<b>Per cent</b>								
1-100 confinements	0.3	-	1.3	1.3	1.7	-	-	5.6	0.7
101-500 confinements	1.3	0.9	2.6	2.5	5.0	-	-	-	1.9
501-1000 confinements	4.1	14.8	3.5	0.6	0.8	5.6	-	33.3	6.2
1001-2000 confinements	4.1	4.7	20.8	0.6	10.1	2.8	-	61.1	8.8
2001 and over confinements	90.2	79.6	71.9	95.0	82.4	91.7	100.0	-	82.4
<b>All births: 1000 - 1499g</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Birthweight: 1500 - 1999g</b>									
Number of births	884	745	685	286	249	70	62	50	3,031
	<b>Per cent</b>								
1-100 confinements	0.6	0.1	0.7	2.4	2.4	-	-	-	0.8
101-500 confinements	3.3	5.0	4.7	4.9	4.4	-	3.2	4.0	4.2
501-1000 confinements	14.0	21.2	12.8	5.2	4.4	14.3	3.2	36.0	14.1
1001-2000 confinements	9.4	13.0	25.7	1.0	18.9	32.9	12.9	60.0	15.4
2001 and over confinements	72.7	60.7	55.6	86.4	69.9	52.9	80.6	-	65.5
<b>All births: 1500 - 1999g</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 48 : Infant's Apgar score at 1 minute, live births, selected States and Territories, 1995**

Apgar score	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia*
All live births (n)	86,848	48,172	25,257	19,472	6,734	4,853	3,618	194,954
	<b>Per cent</b>							
0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1
1 - 3	3.0	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.9	2.8
4 - 6	11.1	10.0	11.3	14.1	10.6	11.8	12.8	11.2
7 - 10	85.8	87.4	86.4	83.3	86.2	84.9	83.3	86.0
All live births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

\* Data exclude Victoria

**Table 49 : Infant's Apgar score at 5 minutes, live births, States and Territories, 1995**

Apgar score	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
All live births (n)	86,848	63,245	48,172	25,257	19,472	6,734	4,853	3,618	258,199
	<b>Per cent</b>								
0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
1 - 3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.3
4 - 6	1.6	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	2.0	1.6	2.3	1.4
7 - 10	98.1	98.7	98.4	98.6	98.4	97.3	98.0	97.0	98.3
All live births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Table 50 : Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes, by birthweight and Aboriginality, live births, Australia, 1995**

Apgar score	Less than 1000g	1000-1499g	1500-1999g	2000-2499g	2500g and over	Not stated
<b>All live births</b>						
<b>Apgar score: 1 minute *</b>						
Live births (n)	818	1,059	2,288	7,280	183,386	123
	<b>Per cent</b>					
0	2.8	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.1	3.8
1-3	49.6	16.9	9.9	5.4	2.3	18.1
4-6	28.8	30.9	24.5	17.4	10.6	10.5
7-10	18.8	51.3	65.3	77.0	87.1	67.6
<b>Apgar score: 5 minutes</b>						
Live births (n)	1,097	1,397	3,033	9,721	242,812	139
	<b>Per cent</b>					
0	7.6	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	4.9
1-3	22.3	2.4	0.9	0.4	0.2	8.9
4-6	13.6	8.6	5.2	2.9	1.1	11.4
7-10	56.5	88.7	93.6	96.6	98.7	74.8
<b>Indigenous live births</b>						
<b>Apgar score: 1 minute *</b>						
Live births (n)	68	63	136	536	6,505	5
	<b>Per cent</b>					
0	3.0	1.7	0.7	0.4	0.1	-
1-3	57.6	20.3	9.0	6.7	3.3	-
4-6	24.2	33.9	19.4	15.1	11.8	25.0
7-10	15.2	44.1	70.9	77.9	84.8	75.0
<b>Apgar score: 5 minutes</b>						
Live births (n)	69	65	145	561	6,886	5
	<b>Per cent</b>					
0	11.9	-	0.7	0.2	0.0	-
1-3	38.8	8.1	0.7	0.9	0.3	-
4-6	6.0	12.9	3.5	4.7	1.8	-
7-10	43.3	79.0	95.1	94.2	97.9	100.0

Table excludes Apgar scores 'not stated'

\* Data exclude Victoria

**Table 51 : Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes by birthweight and plurality, live births, Australia, 1995**

Apgar score	Less than 1000g	1000-1499g	1500-1999g	2000-2499g	2500g and over	Not stated
<b>Singleton live births</b>						
<b>Apgar score: 1 minute *</b>						
Live births (n)	603	769	1,652	5,798	180,872	118
	<b>Per cent</b>					
0	2.3	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	4.9
1-3	48.0	18.8	10.8	5.5	2.3	18.6
4-6	28.9	32.2	25.1	17.5	10.6	10.8
7-10	20.7	47.8	63.8	76.8	87.1	65.7
<b>Apgar score: 5 minutes</b>						
Live births (n)	794	1,007	2,142	7,697	239,397	131
	<b>Per cent</b>					
0	6.5	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.0	4.3
1-3	22.3	3.2	1.2	0.5	0.2	9.4
4-6	12.6	9.3	6.2	2.9	1.1	12.0
7-10	58.6	87.0	92.3	96.5	98.7	74.4
<b>Multiple live births</b>						
<b>Apgar score: 1 minute *</b>						
Live births (n)	216	290	636	1,483	2,529	10
	<b>Per cent</b>					
0	4.2	-	-	0.1	0.1	-
1-3	54.5	11.8	7.5	5.2	3.6	-
4-6	28.2	27.5	23.1	17.2	12.1	-
7-10	13.1	60.6	69.3	77.5	84.1	100.0
<b>Apgar score: 5 minutes</b>						
Live births (n)	304	390	891	2,025	3,430	13
	<b>Per cent</b>					
0	10.4	-	0.1	-	0.0	28.6
1-3	22.6	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	-
4-6	16.2	6.7	2.9	2.8	1.4	-
7-10	50.8	93.0	96.9	97.1	98.3	71.4

Table excludes Apgar scores 'not stated'

\* Data exclude Victoria

**Table 52 : Length of infant's stay in hospital, live births, States and Territories, 1995**

Length of stay	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA*	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Mean length of stay (days)</b>	4.9	5.2	5.0	5.0	6.0	5.2	4.9	5.8	5.1
	<b>Number</b>								
Less than 1 day	1,801	474	515	449	232	99	164	57	3,791
1 day	5,249	2,286	2,851	1,375	907	381	444	193	13,686
2 days	9,468	5,187	5,833	2,750	2,004	721	557	361	26,881
3 days	13,065	10,676	8,715	4,177	2,683	944	727	514	41,501
4 days	15,318	11,503	8,950	3,803	3,627	1,227	732	645	45,805
5 days	14,205	10,531	6,987	4,224	4,241	1,207	709	636	42,740
6 days	9,566	8,499	4,620	2,802	2,131	768	582	336	29,304
7 - 13 days	10,738	10,673	6,301	4,161	2,746	904	660	561	36,744
14 - 20 days	665	555	472	175	256	77	49	74	2,323
21 - 27 days	294	279	286	58	183	35	21	35	1,191
28 or more days	683	497	506	176	410	84	50	53	2,459
Not stated	111	-	15	-	-	3	-	-	129
<b>All live births</b>	<b>81,163</b>	<b>61,160</b>	<b>46,051</b>	<b>24,150</b>	<b>19,420</b>	<b>6,450</b>	<b>4,695</b>	<b>3,465</b>	<b>246,554</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>								
Less than 1 day	2.2	0.8	1.1	1.9	1.2	1.5	3.5	1.6	1.5
1 day	6.5	3.7	6.2	5.7	4.7	5.9	9.5	5.6	5.6
2 days	11.7	8.5	12.7	11.4	10.3	11.2	11.9	10.4	10.9
3 days	16.1	17.5	18.9	17.3	13.8	14.6	15.5	14.8	16.8
4 days	18.9	18.8	19.4	15.7	18.7	19.0	15.6	18.6	18.6
5 days	17.5	17.2	15.2	17.5	21.8	18.7	15.1	18.4	17.3
6 days	11.8	13.9	10.0	11.6	11.0	11.9	12.4	9.7	11.9
7 - 13 days	13.2	17.5	13.7	17.2	14.1	14.0	14.1	16.2	14.9
14 - 20 days	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.7	1.3	1.2	1.0	2.1	0.9
21 - 27 days	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.9	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.5
28 or more days	0.8	0.8	1.1	0.7	2.1	1.3	1.1	1.5	1.0
<b>All live births</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* South Australia data includes entire postnatal length of stay duration

**Table 53 : Length of infant's stay in hospital by plurality, Aboriginality, gestational age, and birthweight, live births, Australia, 1995**

Characteristic	Infants (n)*	0-2 days	3-4 days	5-6 days	7-13 days	14-20 days	21-27 days	28 or more days
<b>Plurality</b>		<b>Per cent</b>						
Singleton	251,236	20.8	35.0	28.5	13.7	0.8	0.4	0.9
Twin	6,889	8.1	8.6	17.1	43.3	8.5	5.2	9.2
Other multiple birth	279	11.1	0.7	2.5	21.5	15.1	12.5	36.6
<b>Aboriginality</b>								
Indigenous	7,777	32.7	33.9	17.3	11.5	1.9	1.0	1.6
Non-Indigenous	250,627	20.0	34.3	28.5	14.6	1.0	0.5	1.1
<b>Gestational age</b>								
20-27 weeks	1,553	64.0	1.5	0.8	2.4	1.5	1.2	28.6
28-31 weeks	1,902	19.6	2.6	3.2	9.0	6.4	6.6	52.6
32-36 weeks	14,381	11.6	12.5	17.2	33.2	11.9	7.0	6.6
37-41 weeks	232,534	20.6	36.0	29.2	13.6	0.3	0.1	0.2
42 or more weeks	7,143	21.8	39.0	27.3	11.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
Not stated	891	25.6	34.2	23.5	12.8	1.2	0.8	1.9
<b>Birthweight</b>								
Less than 1000g	1,666	62.1	1.6	1.2	2.2	1.4	1.3	30.3
1000-1499g	1,520	19.6	2.0	1.9	7.5	5.8	8.0	55.3
1500-1999g	3,134	12.3	3.8	6.2	20.8	16.4	15.8	24.6
2000-2499g	9,806	10.1	17.3	21.8	33.2	10.1	4.9	2.7
2500g and over	242,136	20.6	35.8	29.0	13.8	0.4	0.1	0.2
Not stated	142	52.1	19.7	15.5	8.5	1.4	0.7	2.1

\* Data exclude length of stay 'not stated'

**Table 54 : Mode of separation of infants born in hospitals or birth centres, States and Territories, 1995**

Mode of separation	NSW	Vic*	Qld	WA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia**
	<b>Number</b>							
Discharge home	80,944	60,920	45,882	24,122	6,249	4,392	3,497	226,006
Transfer to another hospital	5,506	1,928	1,877	957	162	114	64	10,608
Fetal death	521	467	362	191	47	46	37	1,671
Liveborn / Died	219	233	157	54	-	17	22	703
Other	-	57	-	28	-	-	-	85
Not stated	21	-	15	-	201	295	-	532
<b>All births</b>	<b>87,211</b>	<b>63,605</b>	<b>48,293</b>	<b>25,352</b>	<b>6,660</b>	<b>4,864</b>	<b>3,620</b>	<b>239,605</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>							
Discharge home	92.8	95.8	95.0	95.1	96.7	92.6	96.6	94.5
Transfer to another hospital	6.3	3.0	3.9	3.8	2.5	2.4	1.8	4.4
Fetal death	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.7
Liveborn / Died	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	-	0.4	0.6	0.3
Other	-	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	-	0.0
<b>All births</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 'Other' includes 57 babies whose discharge status was recorded as infant death

\*\* Data exclude South Australia

**Table 55: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths and rates, various definitions, Australia, 1993-1995**

Definition/Outcome	Number				Rate per 1,000 births			
	1993	1994	1995	1993-1995	1993	1994	1995	1993-1995
<b>400g/20 weeks</b>								
Fetal deaths	1,656	1,638	1,512	4,806	6.3	6.3	5.9	6.2
Early neonatal deaths	1,017	1,005	908	2,930	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.8
Perinatal deaths (WHO)	2,673	2,643	2,420	7,736	10.2	10.1	9.4	9.9
Live births	260,229	258,051	256,190	774,470				
<b>500g/22 weeks</b>								
Fetal deaths	1,245	1,207	1,283	3,735	4.8	4.7	5.0	4.8
Early neonatal deaths	687	693	629	2,009	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.6
Neonatal deaths	886	868	811	2,565	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.3
Perinatal deaths (WHO)	1,932	1,900	1,912	5,744	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.4
Perinatal deaths (ABS)	2,131	2,075	2,094	6,300	8.2	8.0	8.1	8.1
Live births	260,061	257,867	256,004	773,932				
<b>1000g/28 weeks</b>								
Fetal deaths	823	765	903	2,491	3.2	3.0	3.5	3.2
Early neonatal deaths	409	402	340	1,151	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.5
Perinatal deaths (WHO)	1,232	1,167	1,243	3,642	4.7	4.5	4.9	4.7
Live births*	259,453	257,543	255,228	772,224				

\* *Estimated live births.*



**Table 56: Type of fetal death, Australia, 1991-1995**

Year	Antepartum		Intrapartum*		Not known**		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

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

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

**Table 57: Neonatal deaths by age at death, Australia, 1991-1995**

Year	Less than 1 day		1-6 days		7-27 days		All neonatal deaths*	
	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

\* Includes 'not stated' age at death.

**Table 58: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, Australia, 1991-1995**

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

**Table 59: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by maternal State or Territory of usual residence, 1991-1995**

Outcome / Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	<b>Number</b>								
<b>Fetal deaths</b>									
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
1993-1995	1,226	926	677	369	292	98	58	89	3,735
<b>Neonatal deaths</b>									
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
1993-1995	965	554	495	191	161	74	37	88	2,565
<b>Perinatal deaths</b>									
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
1993-1995	2,191	1,480	1,172	560	453	172	95	177	6,300

**Table 59: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates by maternal State or Territory of usual residence, 1991-1995 (cont.)**

Outcome / Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	<b>Rate per 1,000 births</b>								
<b>Fetal deaths</b>									
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
1993-1995	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.3	8.0	4.8
<b>Neonatal deaths</b>									
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
1993-1995	3.6	2.9	3.5	2.5	2.7	3.7	2.8	8.0	3.3
<b>Perinatal deaths</b>									
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
1993-1995	8.2	7.7	8.3	7.4	7.7	8.5	7.1	16.0	8.1

**Table 60: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by maternal age, Australia, 1991-1995**

Outcome / Year	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
	<b>Number</b>							
<b>Fetal deaths</b>								
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
1993-1995	278	734	1,072	1,023	470	104	54	3,735
<b>Neonatal deaths</b>								
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
1993-1995	186	519	714	642	286	58	160	2,565
<b>Perinatal deaths</b>								
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
1993-1995	464	1,253	1,786	1,665	756	162	214	6,300

**Table 60: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates by maternal age, Australia, 1991-1995 (cont.)**

Outcome / Year	Maternal age (years)						All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	
<b>Rate per 1,000 births</b>							
<b>Fetal deaths</b>							
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
1993-1995	7.1	5.0	4.2	4.4	5.5	7.5	4.8
<b>Neonatal deaths</b>							
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
1993-1995	4.8	3.5	2.8	2.8	3.3	4.2	3.3
<b>Perinatal deaths</b>							
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
1993-1995	11.9	8.5	6.9	7.2	8.8	11.7	8.1

**Table 61: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, singleton and multiple births, Australia, 1991-1995**

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
<b>Fetal deaths</b>								
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
1993-1995	3,407	4.5	399	19.5	28	33.0	5,227	6.7
<b>Neonatal deaths</b>								
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
1993-1995	2,176	2.9	348	13.0	41	35.4	2,565	2.5
<b>Perinatal deaths</b>								
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
1993-1995	5,583	7.4	655	32.0	62	73.0	6,300	8.1

**Table 62: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by infant's sex, Australia, 1991-1995**

Outcome / Year	Number			Rate per 1,000 births		
	Males	Females	All infants	Males	Females	All infants
<b>Fetal deaths</b>						
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
1993-1995	2,041	1,694	3,735	5.1	4.5	4.8
<b>Neonatal deaths</b>						
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
1993-1995	1,495	1,070	2,565	3.8	2.8	3.3
<b>Perinatal deaths</b>						
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
1993-1995	3,536	2,764	6,300	8.9	7.3	8.1

**Table 63: Fetal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1991-1995**

Year	Gestational age (weeks)						Total
	Less than 28	28-31	32-36	37-41	42 and over	Not stated	
	<b>Number</b>						
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
	<b>Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births</b>						
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

**Table 64: Neonatal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1991-1995**

Year	Gestational age (weeks)						Total
	Less than 28	28-31	32-36	37-41	42 and over	Not stated	
	<b>Number</b>						
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
	<b>Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births</b>						
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



**Table 65: Perinatal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1991-1995**

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
	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

**Table 66: Fetal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1991-1995**

Year	Birthweight (g)				Total
	500-999	1000-2499	2500 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
	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

**Table 67: Neonatal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1991-1995**

Year	Birthweight (g)				Total
	500-999	1000-2499	2500 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
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

**Table 68: Perinatal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1991-1995**

Year	Birthweight (g)				Total
	500-999	1000-2499	2500 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
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

**Table 69: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths according to various criteria, and birthweight-specific death rates, Australia, 1995**

Outcome/ Birthweight (g)	NPSU: year of birth	ABS: year of registration	ABS: year of birth*	ABS: year of birth
	Number			Rate per 1,000 births*
<b>Fetal deaths</b>				
Less than 500	469	448	466	na
500 - 999	372	341	361	274.7
1000 - 1499	178	156	173	109.8
1500 - 1999	153	150	154	48.3
2000 - 2499	149	122	124	12.6
2500 - 2999	170	159	166	4.2
3000 - 3499	172	154	157	1.7
3500 - 3999	80	72	74	0.9
4000 - 4499	31	25	29	1.1
4500 and over	11	8	8	1.8
Not stated	38	126	127	
<b>All deaths: 500g and over</b>	<b>1,354</b>	<b>1,313</b>	<b>1,373</b>	<b>5.3</b>
<b>Neonatal deaths</b>				
Less than 500	na	138	147	na
500 - 999	na	330	332	352.4
1000 - 1499	na	79	74	53.0
1500 - 1999	na	55	51	16.8
2000 - 2499	na	72	71	7.3
2500 - 2999	na	82	82	2.1
3000 - 3499	na	88	85	0.9
3500 - 3999	na	50	51	0.6
4000 - 4499	na	16	16	0.6
4500 and over	na	6	6	1.3
Not stated	na	41	41	
<b>All deaths: 500g and over</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>Perinatal deaths</b>				
Less than 500	na	586	613	na
500 - 999	na	671	693	527.4
1000 - 1499	na	235	247	156.8
1500 - 1999	na	205	205	64.3
2000 - 2499	na	194	195	19.8
2500 - 2999	na	241	248	6.2
3000 - 3499	na	242	242	2.6
3500 - 3999	na	122	125	1.6
4000 - 4499	na	41	45	1.7
4500 and over	na	14	14	3.1
Not stated	na	167	168	
<b>All deaths: 500g and over</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>2,132</b>	<b>2,182</b>	<b>8.4</b>

\* Denominators for calculation of rates are based on NPSU data (Table 42)

**Table 70: Fetal deaths by maternal age, Australia, 1995**

Maternal age (years)	Fetal deaths		Live births		Total births		Fetal death rate	
			Number				(per 1,000 births)	
Less than 20	145		13,514		13,659		10.6	
20 - 24	353		48,565		48,918		7.2	
25 - 29	535		84,437		84,972		6.3	
30 - 34	482		77,316		77,798		6.2	
35 - 39	238		29,486		29,724		8.0	
40 and over	64		4,863		4,927		13.0	
Not stated	6		40		46		130.4	
<b>All ages</b>	<b>1,823</b>		<b>258,221</b>		<b>260,044</b>		<b>7.0</b>	

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

**Table 71: Fetal deaths by maternal age and Aboriginality, Australia, 1995**

Maternal age (years)	Fetal deaths		Live births		Total births		Fetal death rate	
	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous
			Number				(per 1,000 births)	
Less than 20	22	123	1,747	11,767	1,769	11,890	12.4	10.3
20 - 24	44	309	2,716	45,849	2,760	46,158	15.9	6.7
25 - 29	26	509	2,013	82,424	2,039	82,933	12.8	6.1
30 - 34	16	466	902	76,414	918	76,880	17.4	6.1
35 - 39	5	233	320	29,166	325	29,399	15.4	7.9
40 and over	-	64	35	4,828	35	4,892	-	13.1
Not stated	-	6	-	40	-	46	-	130.4
<b>All ages</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>1,710</b>	<b>7,733</b>	<b>250,488</b>	<b>7,846</b>	<b>252,198</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>6.8</b>

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

**Table 72: Fetal deaths by parity, Australia, 1995**

Parity	Fetal deaths		Live births		Total births		Fetal death rate	
			Number				(per 1,000 births)	
None	843		102,636		103,479		8.1	
One	508		86,689		87,197		5.8	
Two	266		43,154		43,420		6.1	
Three	100		16,131		16,231		6.2	
Four or more	101		9,466		9,567		10.6	
Not stated	5		145		150		33.3	
<b>All parities</b>	<b>1,823</b>		<b>258,221</b>		<b>260,044</b>		<b>7.0</b>	

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

**Table 73: Fetal deaths by plurality, Australia, 1995**

Plurality	Fetal deaths	Live births	Total births	Fetal death rate
		Number		(per 1,000 births)
Singletons	1,640	251,168	252,808	6.5
Twins	174	6,778	6,952	25.0
Other multiple births	9	275	284	31.7
<b>All births</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>258,221</b>	<b>260,044</b>	<b>7.0</b>

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

**Table 74: Fetal deaths by marital status, Australia, 1995**

Marital status	Fetal deaths	Live births	Total births	Fetal death rate
		Number		(per 1,000 births)
Married / de facto	1,458	225,015	226,473	6.4
Single	250	27,023	27,273	9.2
Widowed, divorced or separated	69	5,512	5,581	12.4
Not stated	46	671	717	64.2
<b>All marital status</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>258,221</b>	<b>260,044</b>	<b>7.0</b>

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

**Table 75: Fetal deaths by mother's status in hospital, selected States and Territories\*, 1995**

Hospital status	Fetal deaths	Live births	Total births	Fetal death rate
		Number		(per 1,000 births)
Public	886	122,429	123,315	7.2
Private	389	67,718	68,107	5.7
Not stated	40	486	526	76.0
<b>All births</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>190,633</b>	<b>191,948</b>	<b>6.9</b>

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

\*Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

**Table 76: Infant's outcome by birthweight, New South Wales, 1995**

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	91	650.0	35	714.3	126	900.0	49
500-999	104	275.1	89	324.8	193	510.6	274
1000-1499	54	121.1	21	53.6	75	168.2	392
1500-1999	37	40.2	16	18.1	53	57.5	884
2000-2499	58	18.1	11	3.5	69	21.5	3,148
2500-2999	55	4.1	13	1.0	68	5.1	13,259
3000-3499	68	2.1	15	0.5	83	2.6	31,811
3500-3999	25	0.9	11	0.4	36	1.3	26,810
4000-4499	15	1.7	5	0.6	20	2.3	8,629
4500 and over	6	3.8	-	-	6	3.8	1,587
Not stated	8	228.6	2	74.1	10	285.7	27
<b>Total births</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>86,870</b>

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

**Table 77: Infant's outcome by birthweight, Victoria, 1995**

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	146	776.6	40	952.4	186	989.4	42
500-999	85	264.0	69	291.1	154	478.3	237
1000-1499	49	126.6	21	62.1	70	180.9	338
1500-1999	42	53.4	14	18.8	56	71.2	745
2000-2499	26	10.5	23	9.4	49	19.9	2,441
2500-2999	43	4.4	21	2.1	64	6.5	9,824
3000-3499	42	1.8	26	1.1	68	3.0	22,919
3500-3999	21	1.1	13	0.7	34	1.7	19,416
4000-4499	5	0.8	3	0.5	8	1.3	6,146
4500 and over	1	0.9	1	0.9	2	1.8	1,121
Not stated	10	384.6	2	125.0	12	461.5	16
<b>Total births</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>63,245</b>

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

**Table 78: Infant's outcome by birthweight, Queensland, 1995**

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	99	798.4	25	1000.0	124	1000.0	25
500-999	91	333.3	84	461.5	175	641.0	182
1000-1499	34	98.0	16	51.1	50	144.1	313
1500-1999	28	39.3	11	16.1	39	54.7	685
2000-2499	27	14.7	14	7.7	41	22.3	1,809
2500-2999	34	4.7	17	2.4	51	7.1	7,159
3000-3499	25	1.4	18	1.0	43	2.5	17,225
3500-3999	14	0.9	9	0.6	23	1.5	14,891
4000-4499	6	1.2	2	0.4	8	1.6	5,027
4500 and over	1	1.2	3	3.5	4	4.7	846
Not stated	4	285.7	2	200.0	6	428.6	10
<b>Total births</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>48,172</b>

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

**Table 79: Infant's outcome by birthweight, Western Australia, 1995**

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	63	797.5	15	937.5	78	987.3	16
500-999	30	267.9	22	268.3	52	464.3	82
1000-1499	13	75.6	4	25.2	17	98.8	159
1500-1999	20	65.4	4	14.0	24	78.4	286
2000-2499	17	16.9	4	4.1	21	20.9	987
2500-2999	14	3.5	1	0.2	15	3.7	4,029
3000-3499	21	2.2	3	0.3	24	2.5	9,445
3500-3999	7	0.9	-	-	7	0.9	7,550
4000-4499	3	1.3	1	0.4	4	1.7	2,353
4500 and over	3	8.5	-	-	3	8.5	350
<b>Total births</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>25,257</b>

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

**Table 80: Infant's outcome by birthweight, South Australia, 1995**

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	44	771.9	12	923.1	56	982.5	13
500-999	37	276.1	34	350.5	71	529.9	97
1000-1499	17	125.0	5	42.0	22	161.8	119
1500-1999	13	49.6	3	12.0	16	61.1	249
2000-2499	9	12.2	3	4.1	12	16.2	731
2500-2999	11	3.7	7	2.3	18	6.0	2,998
3000-3499	8	1.1	3	0.4	11	1.5	7,121
3500-3999	8	1.4	2	0.3	10	1.7	5,836
4000-4499	1	0.5	1	0.5	2	1.0	1,977
4500 and over	-	-	1	3.0	1	3.0	331
<b>Total births</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>19,472</b>

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

**Table 81: Infant's outcome by birthweight, Tasmania, 1995**

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	15	714.3	5	833.3	20	952.4	6
500-999	12	250.0	9	250.0	21	437.5	36
1000-1499	4	100.0	1	27.8	5	125.0	36
1500-1999	4	54.1	2	28.6	6	81.1	70
2000-2499	2	8.1	-	-	2	8.1	246
2500-2999	4	4.1	1	1.0	5	5.1	973
3000-3499	4	1.7	1	0.4	5	2.2	2,284
3500-3999	2	0.9	1	0.5	3	1.4	2,170
4000-4499	-	-	-	-	-	-	767
4500 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	143
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
<b>Total births</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>6,734</b>

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

**Table 82: Infant's outcome by birthweight, Australian Capital Territory, 1995**

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	4	800.0	1	1000.0	5	1000.0	1
500-999	7	280.0	8	444.4	15	600.0	18
1000-1499	3	120.0	2	90.9	5	200.0	22
1500-1999	4	60.6	-	-	4	60.6	62
2000-2499	5	31.1	-	-	5	31.1	156
2500-2999	5	7.7	4	6.2	9	13.9	642
3000-3499	2	1.1	2	1.1	4	2.3	1,744
3500-3999	1	0.7	1	0.7	2	1.3	1,520
4000-4499	1	1.9	-	-	1	1.9	521
4500 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	82
Not stated	14	141.4	1	11.8	15	15.2	85
<b>Total births</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>4,853</b>

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

**Table 83: Infant's outcome by birthweight, Northern Territory, 1995**

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	7	636.4	4	-	11	1000.0	4
500-999	6	272.7	7	437.5	13	590.9	16
1000-1499	4	181.8	1	55.6	5	227.3	18
1500-1999	5	87.7	-	-	5	87.7	52
2000-2499	5	23.9	1	4.9	6	28.7	204
2500-2999	4	5.8	-	-	4	5.8	689
3000-3499	2	1.5	3	2.2	5	3.7	1,346
3500-3999	2	2.1	5	5.2	7	7.2	968
4000-4499	-	-	1	3.7	1	3.7	273
4500 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	45
Not stated	2	400.0	-	-	2	400.0	3
<b>Total births</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>3,618</b>

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



# Appendix 1 Definitions

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

**Admission date:** Date on which a pregnant women 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 or care as an admitted patient after giving birth.

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

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

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

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

**Fetal death (stillbirth):** Death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception of 20 or more completed weeks of gestation or of 400g or more birthweight; the death is indicated by the fact that after such separation the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles (Tables based on ABS data have a lower limit of 500g or, when birthweight is not available, of 22 weeks' gestation).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Low birthweight:** Birthweight of less than 2500g.

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

**Maternal age:** Mother's age at her child's birth.

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

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

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

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

**Neonatal death:** Death of a liveborn infant within 28 days of birth.

**Neonatal morbidity:** Any condition or disease of the infant diagnosed after birth and before separation from care.

**Obstetric complications:** Obstetric complications are conditions arising during pregnancy that are directly attributable to pregnancy and may significantly affect care during pregnancy and/or pregnancy outcome. Examples include threatened abortion, antepartum haemorrhage, pregnancy-induced hypertension and gestational diabetes.

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

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

**Plurality:** The number of births resulting from a pregnancy.

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

**Preterm birth:** Birth before 37 completed weeks of gestation.

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

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

**Resuscitation of infant:** Active measures taken shortly after birth to assist infant's ventilation and heart beat; or to treat depressed respiratory effort and to correct metabolic disturbances.

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

**Stillbirth:** See fetal death.

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

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

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

