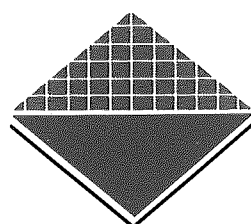


Caesarean births in Australia, 1985-1990

Paul A L Lancaster and Elvis L Pedisich

AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

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Definitions

Birthweight: Infant's weight at birth, usually recorded within one hour of birth and measured to the nearest 5 grams.

Caesarean section: Operative birth through an abdominal incision

Confinement: Pregnancy resulting in at least one 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

Forceps: Assisted birth using a metallic obstetric instrument

Hospital size: Number of confinements occurring annually in a hospital

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

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

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

Plurality: Number of fetuses or infants resulting from one pregnancy (singleton, twin, triplet, quadruplet)

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

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

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

Summary

The caesarean birth rate in Australia continued to increase during the late 1980s, reaching a peak of 18.0% of all confinements (excluding New South Wales) in 1989. The rate of 17.5% in 1990 was slightly lower. In that year, there were almost 45,000 caesarean births nationally, representing about 1 in 6 of all births. Other interventions during childbirth included the use of forceps in 10-15% of confinements and vacuum extraction in about 2% of confinements. Vaginal breech delivery occurred in 1.2-1.4% of confinements.

Caesarean rates were highest in South Australia, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory and lowest in Tasmania. Slightly more than half of all caesarean sections were performed electively before the onset of labour.

Older mothers had higher caesarean rates - those aged 40 years or more had a caesarean rate more than double that of teenage mothers. The caesarean rate was about 15-20% higher in first confinements than in subsequent confinements. With advancing maternal age, the rate was relatively higher for first confinements.

Mothers classified as private patients had higher caesarean rates than those classified as public patients. The greatest difference in rates occurred in Queensland, where private patients had rates 50% higher than public patients.

Caesarean rates in twin confinements were double those in singleton births. The majority of other multiple births were delivered by caesarean section.

Babies weighing 1000-1499g were more likely to be born by caesarean section than babies in other birthweight groups; the caesarean rate for this group was 50.1%. Caesarean rates were also relatively high for babies in the heaviest birthweight group (22.4% for babies of 4500g or more).

Introduction

As in many other countries, caesarean rates in Australia have increased markedly in recent decades. In its report in 1985, a National Health and Medical Research Council Working Party noted that caesarean rates had shown about a fourfold increase in the period between the 1960s and the early 1980s. Two States, Tasmania and Western Australia, have annual data on caesarean rates since the mid-1970s. In Tasmania, the rate increased from 5.4% in 1974 to 14.7% in 1990, while in Western Australia it rose from 4.8% in 1975 to 18.8% in 1990.

Caesarean sections are performed for a variety of indications in the mother or fetus including maternal medical conditions, obstetric complications arising during pregnancy, labour or delivery, previous caesarean births, and fetal distress or failure to progress during labour. There is considerable debate concerning the reasons for the higher caesarean rates in recent years and opinions differ on what is the optimal rate.

This report is based on data from the perinatal collections in each State and Territory and provides information about selected risk factors recorded in these population-based data systems.

Data sources and criteria

The groups responsible for the State and Territory perinatal collections obtain notifications of all births occurring in hospitals and of most births occurring outside hospitals. These notifications record information about the mothers and infants, including maternal age and country of birth; number of previous pregnancies; medical conditions; complications occurring during pregnancy, labour and delivery; type of delivery; and the baby's condition at birth and birthweight.

After discussion with representatives of the State and Territory perinatal data groups, the AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit requested tabulated data on agreed items. These tabulated data were used to prepare this report.

All tabulations in the report are based on the year of birth. Data include infants of at least 400g birthweight or at least 20 weeks' gestation, except for Western Australia which excluded births of less than 500g. The Victorian data prior to 1987 also excluded infants of less than 500g or less than 22 weeks' gestation. Data for the Northern Territory for 1988 and 1989 excluded Darwin Private Hospital. The tabulated data for the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory were based on births, not confinements. Queensland data for 1989 and 1990 are provisional.

Results

Type of delivery

In the period from 1985 to 1990, about two-thirds of women had a spontaneous vertex delivery (Tables 1-3). The national caesarean rate increased from 15.5% in 1985 to 18.0% in 1989 and 17.5% in 1990 (Figure 1), but data for several years were incomplete. Forceps deliveries declined from 14.9% in 1985 to 10.7% in 1990 and vacuum extraction was used in 1.8 - 2.5% of all deliveries. Vaginal breech delivery occurred in 1.2 - 1.4% of confinements.

Caesarean rates varied considerably among the States and Territories - in 1985, the rates ranged between 12.9% in Tasmania and 18.2% in the Australian Capital Territory and, in 1990, between

Figure 1. Caesarean rates, Australia, 1985-1990

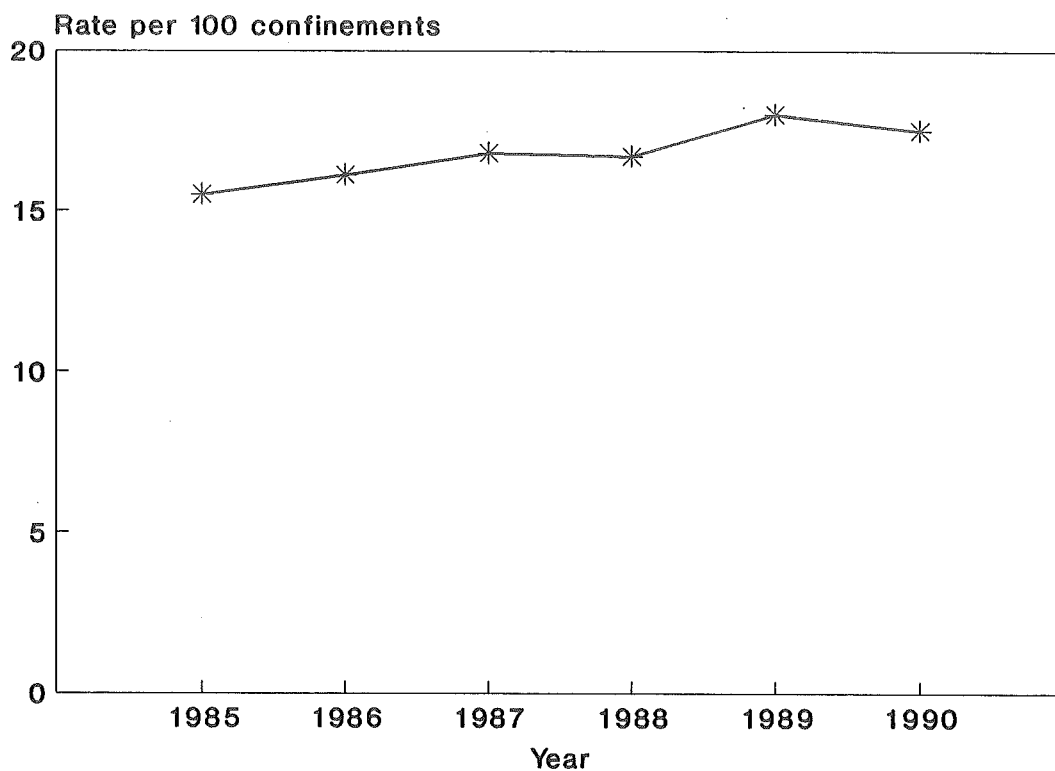


Figure 2. Caesarean rates, States and Territories, 1990

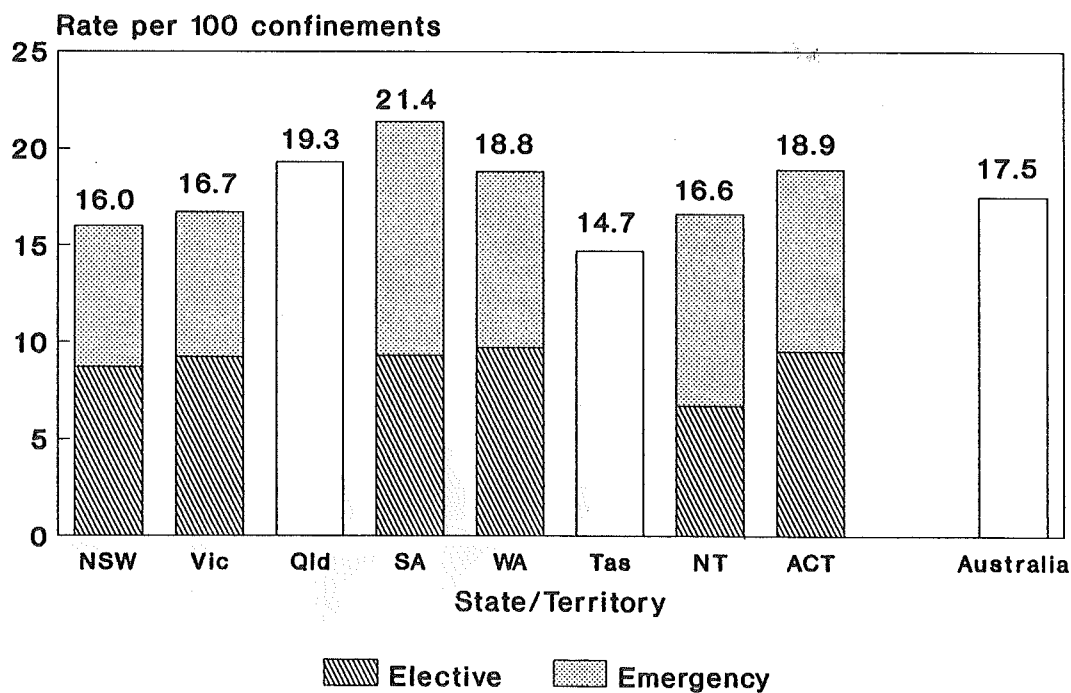


Figure 3. Caesarean rates by maternal age, Australia, 1987-1988

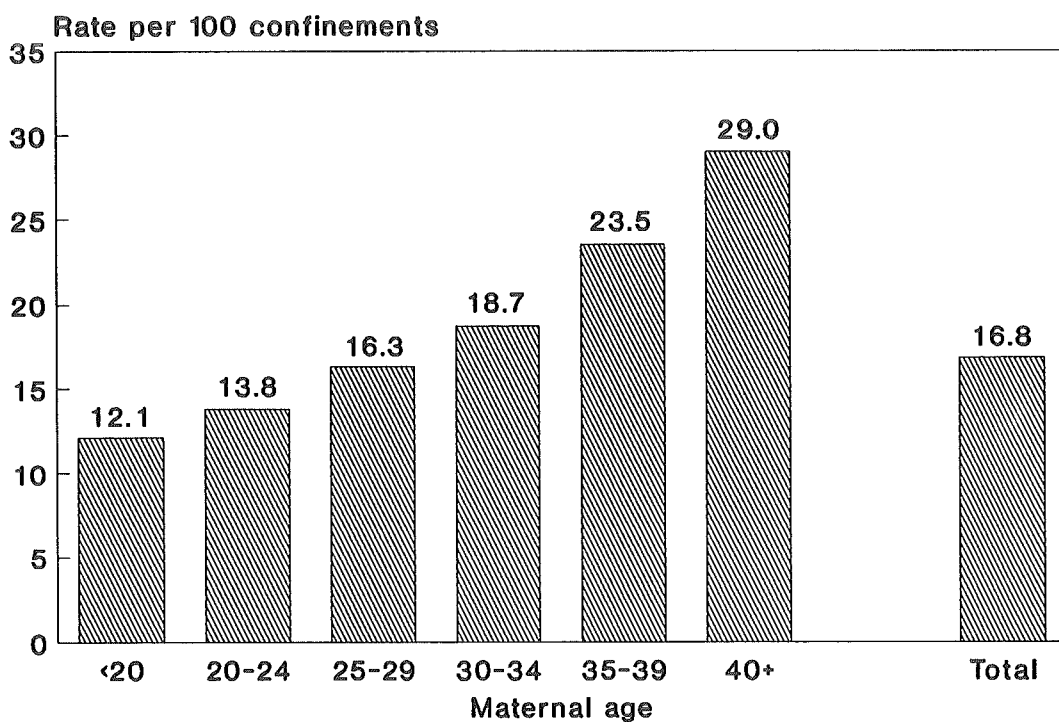
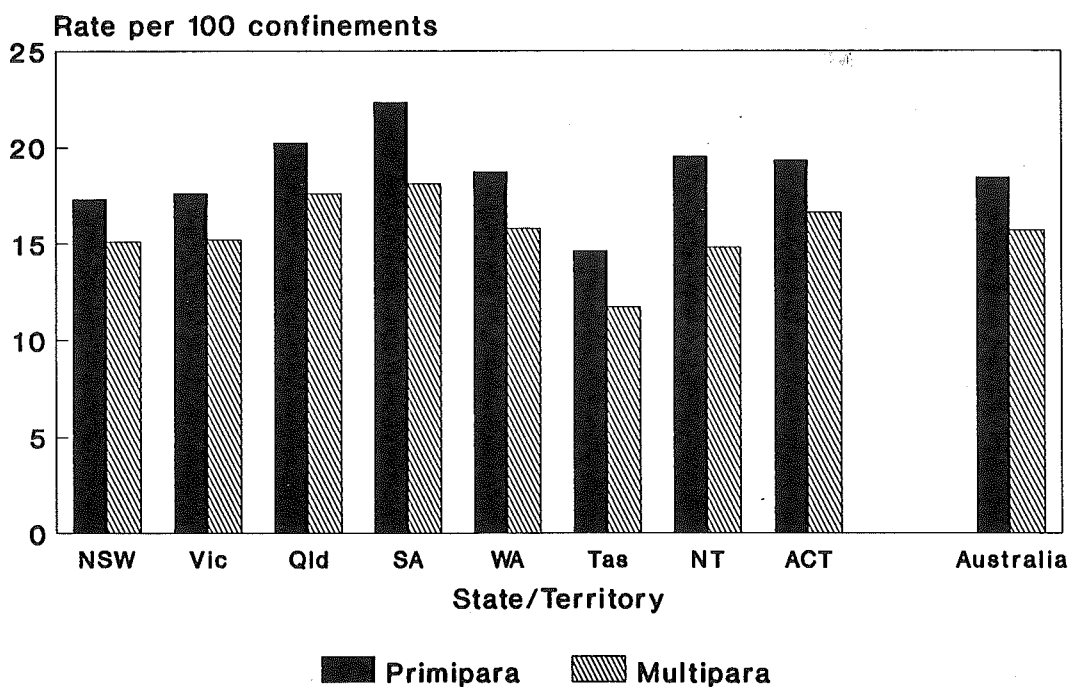


Figure 4. Caesarean rates by parity, States and Territories, 1987-1988



14.7% in Tasmania and 21.4% in South Australia (Figure 2). Tasmania consistently had the lowest caesarean rate, while the highest rates occurred in South Australia, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory. Vacuum extraction was not widely used in most States, except in Western Australia where it was used in 7-8% of all confinements. The Northern Territory had the lowest rate of obstetric intervention with spontaneous vertex delivery occurring in about three-quarters of confinements.

Data on elective and emergency caesarean deliveries were not available for every State and Territory but slightly more than half of all caesarean sections were performed electively. This pattern was not evident in South Australia, and particularly not in the Northern Territory, where emergency caesareans were relatively more likely than elective caesarean sections.

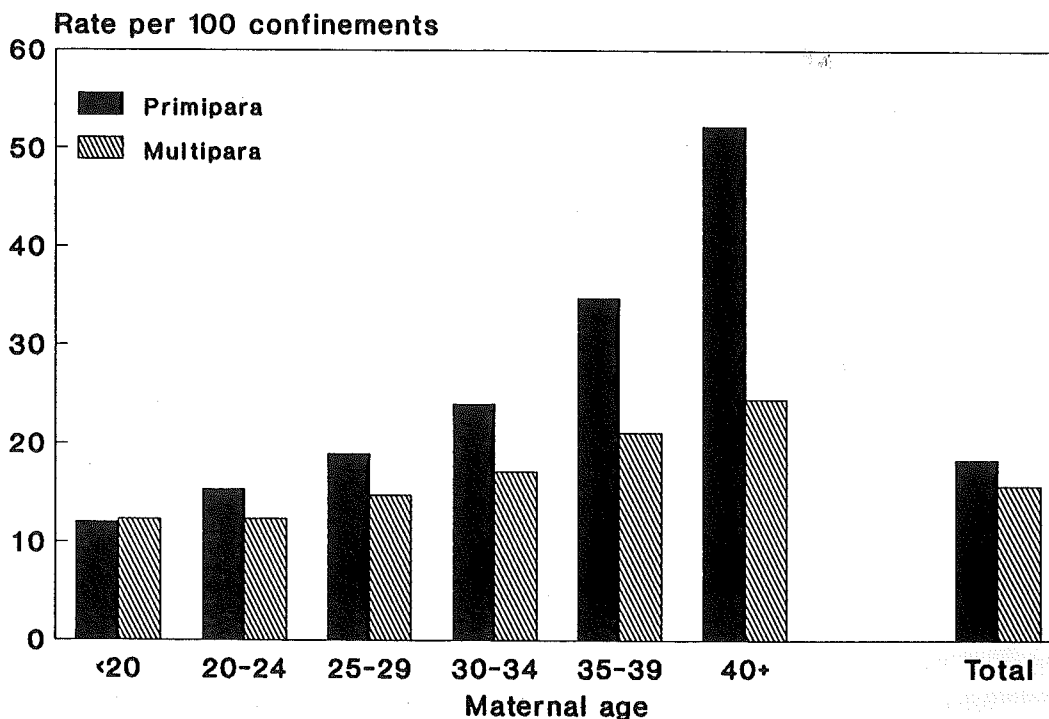
Caesarean rates by maternal age

Data for 1987 and 1988 show higher caesarean rates with advancing maternal age, increasing from about 12% in teenage mothers to about 30% in women aged 40 years and over (Tables 4, 5; Figure 3). In the Northern Territory, caesarean rates in teenagers were about 50% higher than the national rate. The previously noted high overall caesarean rates in Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory were apparent in most other age groups.

Caesarean rates by parity

Women having their first baby had higher caesarean rates than those with previous children (Table 6, Figure 4). The national rate in primiparas was 18.5% and 18.4% in 1987 and 1988, respectively, and, in multiparas, it was 15.7% and 15.8%, respectively.

Figure 5. Caesarean rates by maternal age and parity, Australia, 1987-1988



Caesarean rates by maternal age and parity

As maternal age and parity are interrelated, the caesarean rates for maternal age groups were examined separately for primiparas and multiparas (Tables 7-10; Figure 5). The majority of teenage confinements were primiparas, but caesarean rates were almost identical in primiparas and multiparas. As maternal age increased, caesarean delivery was relatively more likely in primiparas than in multiparas. For women of 40 years and over, primiparas had a caesarean rate that was more than double the rate in multiparas.

Caesarean rates by patient classification

The classification of mothers as 'private' or 'public' is not recorded in all perinatal collections. Available data from some States and the Australian Capital Territory enabled comparison of caesarean rates for the two classifications (Table 11, Figure 6). Mothers classified as private had caesarean rates about 40% higher than those classified as public. The greatest difference in rates was in Queensland where the caesarean rates for women admitted to hospital as private patients were 24.0% and 24.5% in 1989 and 1990, respectively, compared with 15.6% and 15.8%, respectively, for women admitted as public patients. The difference in caesarean rates between private and public patients was least pronounced in the Australian Capital Territory.

Caesarean rates by plurality

Data for 1987 and 1988 show a similar pattern of caesarean rates according to the plurality of the pregnancy (Table 12, Figure 7). Caesarean rates in twin pregnancies (33.3% and 33.4%, respectively) were double the rates in singleton pregnancies (16.6% and 16.5%, respectively). Three-quarters of triplet pregnancies were delivered by caesarean section. Reflecting the overall variations in caesarean rates among the States and Territories, the rates for singleton and twin pregnancies were generally higher in South Australia and Queensland than in the other States and Territories.

Caesarean rates by birthweight of infant

National caesarean rates vary markedly for infants in different birthweight groups (Tables 13, 14; Figure 8). The highest rate was for infants weighing 1000-1499g of whom 50.1% were born by caesarean section in 1987-88. With increasing birthweight, the caesarean rate declined to 15.0% for infants of 3500-3999g, then was higher again for infants in the heaviest birthweight groups (16.6% for infants of 4000-4499g, 22.4% for infants of 4500g or more).

Caesarean rates by hospital size

Hospital size was categorised on the basis of the number of confinements occurring annually in a hospital. Caesarean rates were much lower in the smallest hospitals than in other hospitals (Table 15, Figure 9). Those hospitals with up to 100 confinements annually in 1987-88 had caesarean rates of 7.0% compared with rates between 15.0% and 18.7% in hospitals ranging in size from 101-500 to more than 2,000 confinements annually. The majority of births occurred in moderate-sized or large hospitals with more than 500 confinements each year. In these hospitals, caesarean rates were, with some exceptions, generally highest in South Australia and Queensland, and also in Western Australia in the largest hospitals.

Figure 6. Caesarean rates by patient classification, selected States and Territories, 1990

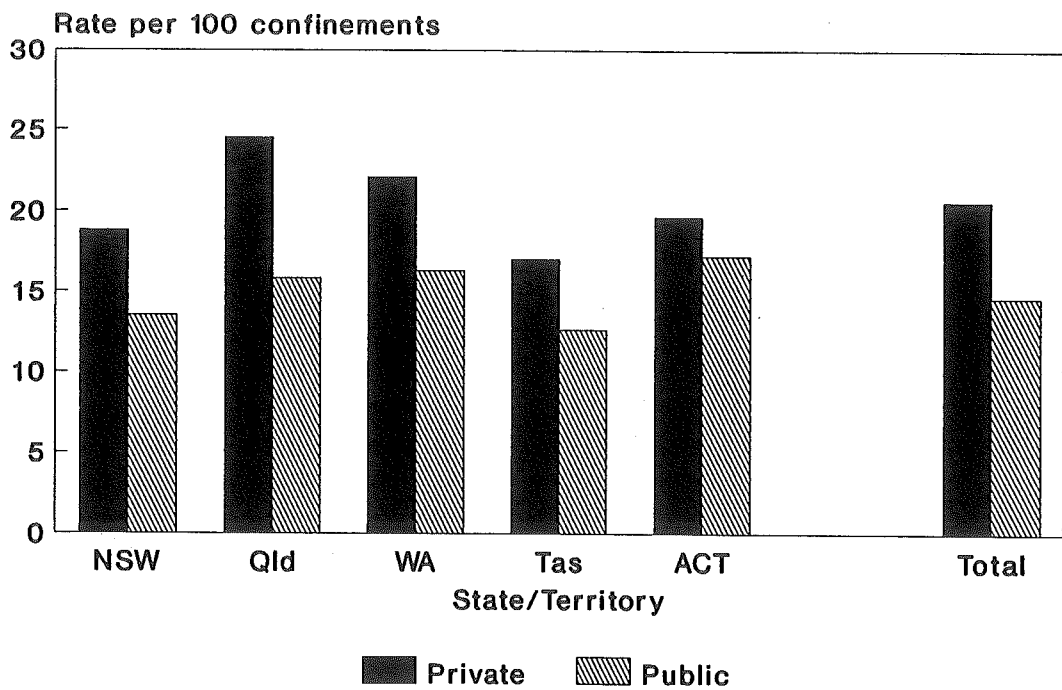


Figure 7. Caesarean rates by plurality, Australia, 1987-1988

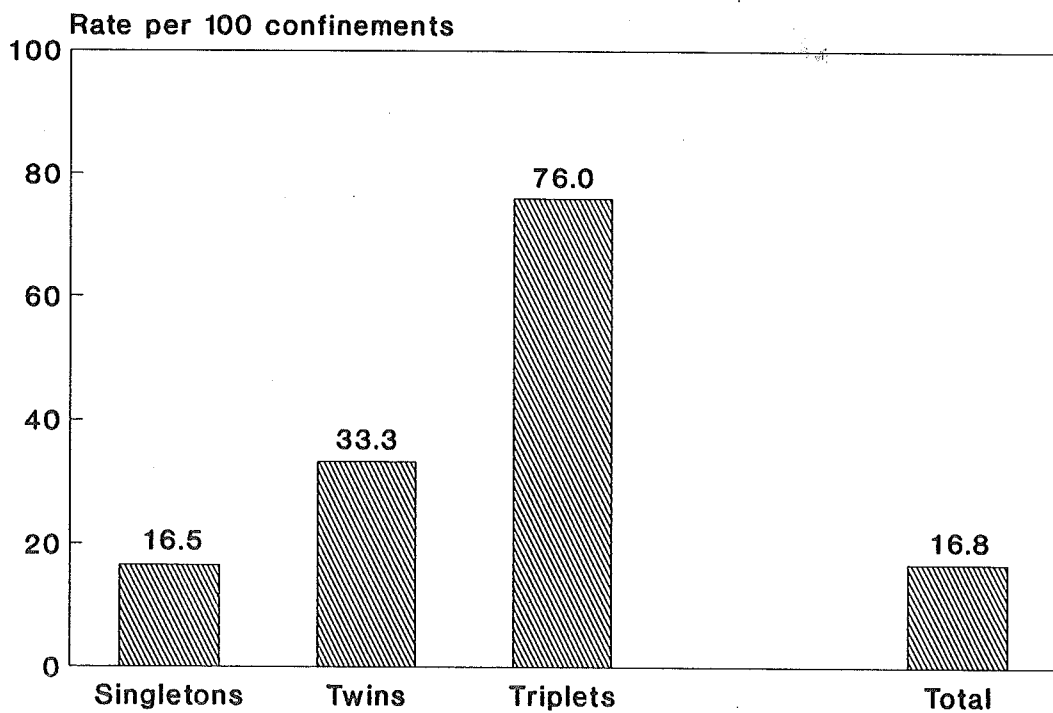


Figure 8. Caesarean rates by birthweight, Australia, 1987-1988

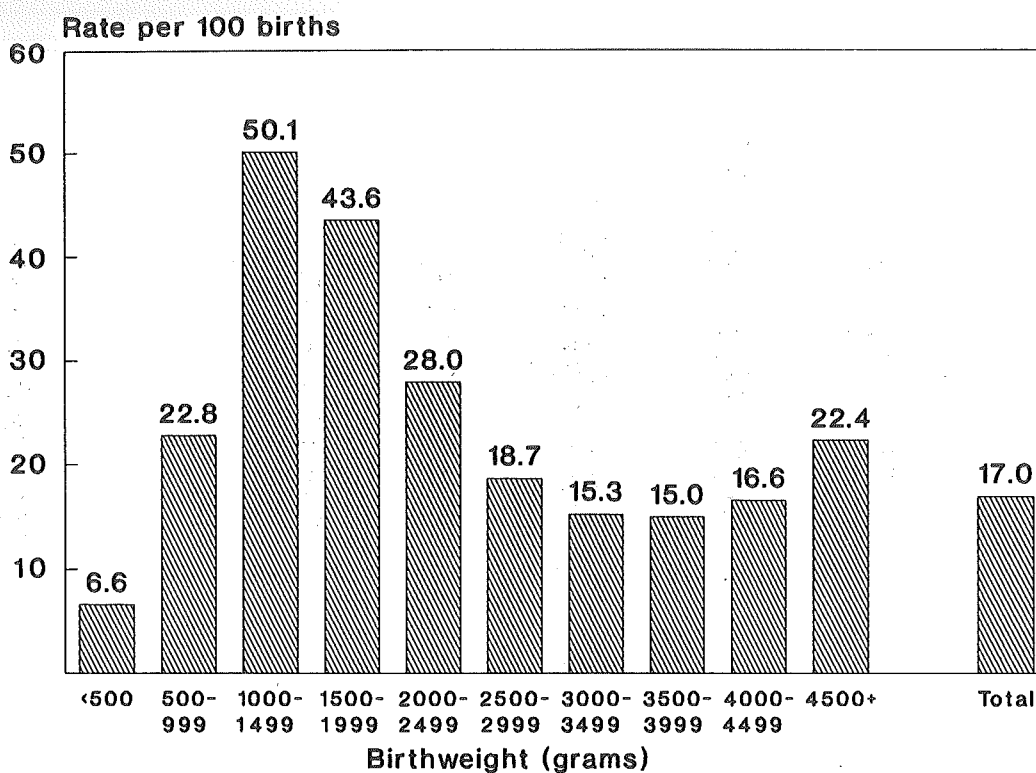
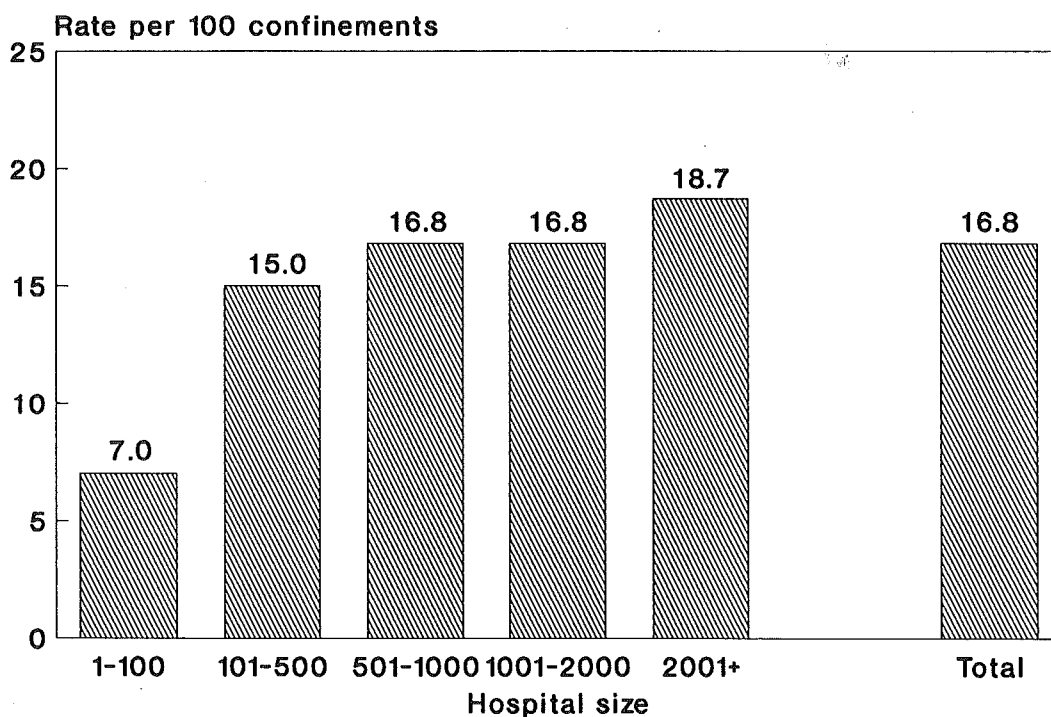


Figure 9. Caesarean rates by hospital size, Australia, 1987-1988



Comments

The factors influencing the decision to perform a caesarean section are complex and not all are readily measurable. This report provides data on population-based trends in caesarean rates over a relatively short period of time and on variations in rates for selected risk factors that are recorded in State and Territory perinatal data collections.

The national caesarean rate of 18.0% for 1989 in this report probably slightly overestimates the actual rate. Data for New South Wales were not available for that year. As about one-third of the national births occur in New South Wales, the annual caesarean rates in that State have an important influence on national figures. The caesarean rate in New South Wales was 15.9% in 1988 and 16.0% in 1990. If it is assumed that the NSW rate in 1989 was 16.0%, then the national rate would have been about 17.3%, not the figure of 18.0% reported here.

The health insurance status of pregnant women, and whether or not they are admitted as private or public patients to hospitals, are important factors influencing caesarean rates in some States. Patient classification was not recorded in most perinatal collections until recent years. It is essential information for analysing current trends and indications for caesarean section.

Except for the comparisons of caesarean rates in primiparous and multiparous women in different age groups, this report based on tabulated data lacks analysis of the interrelationship of various risk factors that affect caesarean rates. For example, to some extent the high caesarean rates in very low birthweight infants of 1000-1499g are affected by the disproportionate number of infants from multiple births in this birthweight group. Similarly, although most teaching hospitals with tertiary levels of care, and relatively more high-risk pregnant women, would be included in that group of hospitals with more than 2,000 confinements annually, it would be of interest to compare caesarean rates in other large hospitals.

Future reports based on unit record data from the State and Territory perinatal collections will enable more detailed analysis of factors influencing caesarean rates. Other studies are also needed in hospitals to determine the reasons for the higher caesarean rates in women admitted as private patients. Regular audit of caesarean sections by perinatal committees within hospitals provides one important approach for evaluating current obstetric practices.

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Table 1. Type of delivery, States and Territories, 1985 and 1986

| Type of delivery | NSW | | Vic | | Qld | | SA | | WA | | Tas | | NT | | ACT | | Total | | |
|--------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|---|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|---------|-------|--|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | |
| 1985 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spontaneous vertex | n.a. | | 40,448 | 66.9 | n.a. | | 12,648 | 64.6 | 14,421 | 62.7 | 4,739 | 67.2 | 2,508 | 75.6 | 2,584 | 61.4 | 77,348 | 65.8 | |
| Forceps | n.a. | | 9,535 | 15.8 | n.a. | | 2,865 | 14.6 | 2,757 | 12.0 | 1,365 | 19.4 | 292 | 8.8 | 752 | 17.9 | 17,566 | 14.9 | |
| Vaginal breech | n.a. | | 875 | 1.4 | n.a. | | 240 | 1.2 | 289 | 1.3 | 124 | 1.8 | 53 | 1.6 | 29 | 0.7 | 1,610 | 1.4 | |
| Caesarean section | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| * total | n.a. | | 9,270 | 15.3 | n.a. | | 3,515 | 18.0 | 3,491 | 15.2 | 810 | 11.5 | 429 | 12.9 | 767 | 18.2 | 18,282 | 15.5 | |
| * elective | n.a. | | 5,054 | 8.4 | n.a. | | 1,777 | 9.1 | 1,804 | 7.8 | n.a. | | n.a. | | 402 | 9.6 | n.a. | | |
| * emergency | n.a. | | 4,216 | 7.0 | n.a. | | 1,738 | 8.9 | 1,687 | 7.3 | n.a. | | n.a. | | 365 | 8.7 | n.a. | | |
| Vacuum extraction | n.a. | | 326 | 0.5 | n.a. | | 300 | 1.5 | 2,057 | 8.9 | 16 | 0.2 | 34 | 1.0 | 67 | 1.6 | 2,800 | 2.4 | |
| Other / Unknown | n.a. | | - | 0.0 | n.a. | | - | 0.0 | - | 0.0 | - | 0.0 | - | 0.0 | 10 | 0.2 | 10 | 0.0 | |
| Total | n.a. | | 60,454 | 100.0 | n.a. | | 19,568 | 100.0 | 23,015 | 100.0 | 7,054 | 100.0 | 3,316 | 100.0 | 4,209 | 100.0 | 117,616 | 100.0 | |
| 1986 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spontaneous vertex | 54,190 | 66.9 | 39,951 | 66.1 | n.a. | | 12,381 | 63.3 | 14,922 | 63.3 | 4,771 | 69.0 | 2,575 | 73.1 | 2,570 | 59.7 | 131,360 | 65.9 | |
| Forceps | 11,990 | 14.8 | 9,490 | 15.7 | n.a. | | 2,909 | 14.9 | 2,677 | 11.4 | 1,115 | 16.1 | 308 | 8.7 | 749 | 17.4 | 29,238 | 14.7 | |
| Vaginal breech | 1,169 | 1.4 | 782 | 1.3 | n.a. | | 185 | 0.9 | 278 | 1.2 | 155 | 2.2 | 59 | 1.7 | 25 | 0.6 | 2,653 | 1.3 | |
| Caesarean section | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| * total | 12,634 | 15.6 | 9,886 | 16.3 | n.a. | | 3,712 | 19.0 | 3,686 | 15.6 | 828 | 12.0 | 531 | 15.1 | 833 | 19.4 | 32,110 | 16.1 | |
| * elective | 6,403 | 7.9 | 5,292 | 8.8 | n.a. | | 1,765 | 9.0 | 1,851 | 7.9 | n.a. | | 231 | 6.6 | 416 | 9.7 | n.a. | | |
| * emergency | 6,231 | 7.7 | 4,594 | 7.6 | n.a. | | 1,947 | 10.0 | 1,835 | 7.8 | n.a. | | 300 | 8.5 | 417 | 9.7 | n.a. | | |
| Vacuum extraction | 1,031 | 1.3 | 360 | 0.6 | n.a. | | 377 | 1.9 | 1,998 | 8.5 | 38 | 0.5 | 44 | 1.2 | 78 | 1.8 | 3,926 | 2.0 | |
| Other / Unknown | - | 0.0 | 10 | 0.0 | n.a. | | - | 0.0 | - | 0.0 | 3 | 0.0 | 6 | 0.2 | 47 | 1.1 | 66 | 0.0 | |
| Total | 81,014 | 100.0 | 60,479 | 100.0 | n.a. | | 19,564 | 100.0 | 23,561 | 100.0 | 6,910 | 100.0 | 3,523 | 100.0 | 4,302 | 100.0 | 199,353 | 100.0 | |

Table 2. Type of delivery, States and Territories, 1987 and 1988

| Type of delivery | NSW | | Vic | | Qld | | SA | | WA | | Tas | | NT | | ACT | | Australia | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| 1987 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spontaneous vertex | 55,601 | 67.7 | 40,696 | 66.9 | 26,352 | 67.8 | 12,170 | 63.6 | 15,088 | 63.3 | 4,589 | 68.5 | 2,375 | 73.8 | 2,648 | 62.6 | 159,519 | 66.8 |
| Forceps | 11,426 | 13.9 | 8,951 | 14.7 | 3,837 | 9.9 | 2,723 | 14.2 | 2,438 | 10.2 | 1,073 | 16.0 | 208 | 6.5 | 692 | 16.4 | 31,348 | 13.1 |
| Vaginal breech | 1,179 | 1.4 | 838 | 1.4 | 478 | 1.2 | 172 | 0.9 | 253 | 1.1 | 112 | 1.7 | 45 | 1.4 | 28 | 0.7 | 3,105 | 1.3 |
| Caesarean section | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| * total | 13,029 | 15.9 | 9,969 | 16.4 | 7,183 | 18.5 | 3,732 | 19.5 | 4,029 | 16.9 | 848 | 12.7 | 545 | 16.9 | 743 | 17.6 | 40,078 | 16.8 |
| * elective | 6,669 | 8.1 | 5,387 | 8.9 | n.a. | n.a. | 1,674 | 8.8 | 2,063 | 8.7 | n.a. | n.a. | 179 | 5.6 | 392 | 9.3 | n.a. | n.a. |
| * emergency | 6,360 | 7.7 | 4,582 | 7.5 | n.a. | n.a. | 2,058 | 10.8 | 1,966 | 8.2 | n.a. | n.a. | 366 | 11.4 | 351 | 8.3 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Vacuum extraction | 890 | 1.1 | 372 | 0.6 | 812 | 2.1 | 331 | 1.7 | 2,027 | 8.5 | 80 | 1.2 | 43 | 1.3 | 55 | 1.3 | 4,610 | 1.9 |
| Other / Unknown | - | 0.0 | 9 | 0.0 | 180 | 0.5 | - | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | - | 0.0 | 2 | 0.1 | 63 | 1.5 | 255 | 0.1 |
| Total | 82,125 | 100.0 | 60,835 | 100.0 | 38,842 | 100.0 | 19,128 | 100.0 | 23,836 | 100.0 | 6,702 | 100.0 | 3,218 | 100.0 | 4,229 | 100.0 | 238,915 | 100.0 |
| 1988 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spontaneous vertex | 56,405 | 68.3 | 43,025 | 68.5 | 27,749 | 68.3 | 12,286 | 63.8 | 16,113 | 65.1 | 4,755 | 69.6 | 2,011 | 75.3 | 2,813 | 63.4 | 165,157 | 67.7 |
| Forceps | 10,670 | 12.9 | 8,529 | 13.6 | 3,908 | 9.6 | 2,582 | 13.4 | 2,391 | 9.7 | 972 | 14.2 | 153 | 5.7 | 613 | 13.8 | 29,818 | 12.2 |
| Vaginal breech | 1,164 | 1.4 | 872 | 1.4 | 519 | 1.3 | 159 | 0.8 | 232 | 0.9 | 123 | 1.8 | 42 | 1.6 | 49 | 1.1 | 3,160 | 1.3 |
| Caesarean section | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| * total | 13,083 | 15.9 | 9,984 | 15.9 | 7,599 | 18.7 | 3,875 | 20.1 | 4,191 | 16.9 | 882 | 12.9 | 405 | 15.2 | 790 | 17.8 | 40,809 | 16.7 |
| * elective | 6,697 | 8.1 | 5,405 | 8.6 | n.a. | n.a. | 1,679 | 8.7 | 2,196 | 8.9 | n.a. | n.a. | 160 | 6.0 | 379 | 8.5 | n.a. | n.a. |
| * emergency | 6,386 | 7.7 | 4,579 | 7.3 | n.a. | n.a. | 2,196 | 11.4 | 1,995 | 8.1 | n.a. | n.a. | 245 | 9.2 | 411 | 9.3 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Vacuum extraction | 857 | 1.0 | 429 | 0.7 | 825 | 2.0 | 357 | 1.9 | 1,809 | 7.3 | 94 | 1.4 | 56 | 2.1 | 85 | 1.9 | 4,512 | 1.8 |
| Other / Unknown | 357 | 0.4 | 6 | 0.0 | 28 | 0.1 | - | 0.0 | - | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 2 | 0.1 | 87 | 2.0 | 481 | 0.2 |
| Total | 82,536 | 100.0 | 62,845 | 100.0 | 40,628 | 100.0 | 19,259 | 100.0 | 24,736 | 100.0 | 6,827 | 100.0 | 2,669 | 100.0 | 4,437 | 100.0 | 243,937 | 100.0 |

Table 3. Type of delivery, States and Territories, 1989 and 1990

| Type of delivery | NSW | | Vic | | Qld | | SA | | WA | | Tas | | NT | | ACT | | Total | |
|--------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|---------|-------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| 1989 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spontaneous vertex | n.a. | | 43,303 | 68.3 | 28,660 | 67.8 | 12,237 | 62.6 | 16,093 | 64.1 | 4,832 | 70.6 | 2,077 | 76.8 | 2,949 | 63.1 | 110,151 | 66.9 |
| Forceps | n.a. | | 8,162 | 12.9 | 3,976 | 9.4 | 2,542 | 13.0 | 2,267 | 9.0 | 875 | 12.8 | 147 | 5.4 | 637 | 13.6 | 18,606 | 11.3 |
| Vaginal breech | n.a. | | 869 | 1.4 | 517 | 1.2 | 181 | 0.9 | 239 | 1.0 | 109 | 1.6 | 26 | 1.0 | 61 | 1.3 | 2,002 | 1.2 |
| Caesarean section | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| * total | n.a. | | 10,542 | 16.6 | 8,087 | 19.1 | 4,129 | 21.1 | 4,538 | 18.1 | 950 | 13.9 | 397 | 14.7 | 936 | 20.0 | 29,579 | 18.0 |
| * elective | n.a. | | 5,818 | 9.2 | n.a. | | 1,790 | 9.2 | 2,356 | 9.4 | n.a. | | 135 | 5.0 | 518 | 11.1 | n.a. | |
| * emergency | n.a. | | 4,724 | 7.5 | n.a. | | 2,339 | 12.0 | 2,182 | 8.7 | n.a. | | 262 | 9.7 | 418 | 8.9 | n.a. | |
| Vacuum extraction | n.a. | | 524 | 0.8 | 990 | 2.3 | 455 | 2.3 | 1,963 | 7.8 | 82 | 1.2 | 56 | 2.1 | 88 | 1.9 | 4,158 | 2.5 |
| Other / Unknown | n.a. | | 8 | 0.0 | 66 | 0.2 | - | 0.0 | - | 0.0 | - | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 76 | 0.0 |
| Total | n.a. | | 63,408 | 100.0 | 42,296 | 100.0 | 19,544 | 100.0 | 25,100 | 100.0 | 6,848 | 100.0 | 2,704 | 100.0 | 4,672 | 100.0 | 164,572 | 100.0 |
| 1990 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spontaneous vertex | 60,781 | 70.2 | 45,254 | 68.6 | 30,076 | 67.6 | 12,350 | 62.7 | 16,396 | 64.0 | 4,902 | 70.0 | 2,499 | 74.6 | 3,044 | 64.3 | 175,302 | 68.1 |
| Forceps | 8,931 | 10.3 | 8,146 | 12.3 | 4,101 | 9.2 | 2,506 | 12.7 | 2,211 | 8.6 | 889 | 12.7 | 202 | 6.0 | 642 | 13.6 | 27,628 | 10.7 |
| Vaginal breech | 1,163 | 1.3 | 879 | 1.3 | 532 | 1.2 | 189 | 1.0 | 196 | 0.8 | 93 | 1.3 | 46 | 1.4 | 58 | 1.2 | 3,156 | 1.2 |
| Caesarean section | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| * total | 13,869 | 16.0 | 10,991 | 16.7 | 8,593 | 19.3 | 4,211 | 21.4 | 4,828 | 18.8 | 1,033 | 14.7 | 557 | 16.6 | 896 | 18.9 | 44,978 | 17.5 |
| * elective | 7,512 | 8.7 | 6,067 | 9.2 | n.a. | | 1,825 | 9.3 | 2,493 | 9.7 | n.a. | 0.0 | 225 | 6.7 | 449 | 9.5 | n.a. | |
| * emergency | 6,357 | 7.3 | 4,924 | 7.5 | n.a. | | 2,386 | 12.1 | 2,335 | 9.1 | n.a. | 0.0 | 332 | 9.9 | 447 | 9.4 | n.a. | |
| Vacuum extraction | 1,462 | 1.7 | 713 | 1.1 | 1,081 | 2.4 | 431 | 2.2 | 2,006 | 7.8 | 38 | 0.5 | 45 | 1.3 | 95 | 2.0 | 5,871 | 2.3 |
| Other / Unknown | 339 | 0.4 | 17 | 0.0 | 96 | 0.2 | - | 0.0 | - | 0.0 | 49 | 0.7 | - | 0.0 | - | 0.0 | 501 | 0.2 |
| Total | 86,545 | 100.0 | 66,000 | 100.0 | 44,479 | 100.0 | 19,687 | 100.0 | 25,637 | 100.0 | 7,004 | 100.0 | 3,349 | 100.0 | 4,735 | 100.0 | 257,436 | 100.0 |

Table 4. Caesarean confinements and rates by maternal age, States and Territories, 1987

| Maternal age group | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Australia |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Less than 20 | Caesarean sections | 269 | 371 | 175 | 181 | 56 | 108 | 11 | 1,703 |
| | Total confinements | 2,666 | 2,887 | 1,122 | 1,492 | 539 | 549 | 139 | 14,050 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 10.1 | 12.9 | 15.6 | 12.1 | 10.4 | 19.7 | 7.9 | 12.1 |
| 20 - 24 | Caesarean sections | 1,738 | 1,398 | 780 | 801 | 179 | 127 | 130 | 7,531 |
| | Total confinements | 12,521 | 9,840 | 4,517 | 5,665 | 1,757 | 888 | 788 | 54,722 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 13.9 | 14.2 | 17.3 | 14.1 | 10.2 | 14.3 | 16.5 | 13.8 |
| 25 - 29 | Caesarean sections | 3,788 | 2,757 | 1,455 | 1,563 | 332 | 166 | 258 | 15,089 |
| | Total confinements | 24,193 | 14,743 | 7,691 | 9,320 | 2,643 | 1,002 | 1,608 | 92,676 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 15.7 | 18.7 | 18.9 | 16.8 | 12.6 | 16.6 | 16.0 | 16.3 |
| 30 - 34 | Caesarean sections | 2,868 | 1,833 | 934 | 1,051 | 194 | 105 | 217 | 10,789 |
| | Total confinements | 15,880 | 8,419 | 4,386 | 5,563 | 1,353 | 575 | 1,066 | 57,079 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 18.1 | 21.8 | 21.3 | 18.9 | 14.3 | 18.3 | 20.4 | 18.9 |
| 35 - 39 | Caesarean sections | 1,096 | 696 | 340 | 364 | 76 | 33 | 71 | 4,143 |
| | Total confinements | 4,886 | 2,545 | 1,234 | 1,567 | 364 | 164 | 344 | 17,526 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 22.4 | 27.3 | 27.6 | 23.2 | 20.9 | 20.1 | 20.6 | 23.6 |
| 40 and over | Caesarean sections | 210 | 127 | 48 | 69 | 11 | 5 | 22 | 787 |
| | Total confinements | 688 | 393 | 176 | 229 | 45 | 32 | 60 | 2,611 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 30.5 | 32.3 | 27.3 | 30.1 | 24.4 | 15.6 | 36.7 | 30.1 |
| Not stated | Caesarean sections | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 34 | 36 |
| | Total confinements | - | 15 | 2 | - | 1 | 8 | 224 | 251 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | - | 6.7 | 0.0 | - | 0.0 | 12.5 | 15.2 | 14.3 |
| Total | Caesarean sections | 13,029 | 9,969 | 3,732 | 4,029 | 848 | 545 | 743 | 40,078 |
| | Total confinements | 82,125 | 60,835 | 19,128 | 23,836 | 6,702 | 3,218 | 4,229 | 238,915 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 15.9 | 16.4 | 18.5 | 16.9 | 12.7 | 16.9 | 17.6 | 16.8 |

Table 5. Caesarean confinements and rates by maternal age, States and Territories, 1988

| Maternal age group | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Australia |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Less than 20 | Caesarean sections | 279 | 341 | 200 | 202 | 57 | 86 | 28 | 1,727 |
| | Total confinements | 4,725 | 2,976 | 1,152 | 1,628 | 484 | 492 | 171 | 14,351 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 11.3 | 10.2 | 11.5 | 12.4 | 11.8 | 17.5 | 16.4 | 12.0 |
| 20 - 24 | Caesarean sections | 1,601 | 1,513 | 744 | 778 | 189 | 98 | 130 | 7,353 |
| | Total confinements | 17,700 | 9,912 | 4,303 | 5,528 | 1,690 | 779 | 810 | 52,862 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 13.0 | 13.2 | 15.3 | 14.1 | 11.2 | 12.6 | 16.0 | 13.9 |
| 25 - 29 | Caesarean sections | 4,710 | 3,809 | 2,946 | 1,555 | 342 | 105 | 253 | 15,212 |
| | Total confinements | 31,283 | 24,726 | 15,465 | 9,497 | 2,725 | 786 | 1,584 | 93,737 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 15.1 | 15.4 | 19.0 | 16.4 | 12.6 | 13.4 | 16.0 | 16.2 |
| 30 - 34 | Caesarean sections | 3,622 | 2,948 | 1,941 | 1,118 | 208 | 77 | 222 | 11,161 |
| | Total confinements | 20,343 | 17,195 | 9,135 | 6,008 | 1,465 | 450 | 1,135 | 60,324 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 17.8 | 17.1 | 21.2 | 18.6 | 14.2 | 17.1 | 19.6 | 18.5 |
| 35 - 39 | Caesarean sections | 1,500 | 1,166 | 712 | 463 | 73 | 30 | 100 | 4,408 |
| | Total confinements | 6,716 | 5,314 | 2,700 | 1,844 | 404 | 139 | 419 | 18,912 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 22.3 | 21.9 | 26.4 | 25.1 | 18.1 | 21.6 | 23.9 | 23.3 |
| 40 and over | Caesarean sections | 278 | 181 | 146 | 75 | 13 | 9 | 24 | 775 |
| | Total confinements | 1,045 | 745 | 440 | 231 | 58 | 23 | 70 | 2,775 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 26.6 | 24.3 | 33.2 | 30.1 | 22.4 | 39.1 | 34.3 | 27.9 |
| Not stated | Caesarean sections | 139 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 33 | 173 |
| | Total confinements | 724 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 248 | 976 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 19.2 | 0.0 | - | 100.0 | 0.0 | - | 13.3 | 17.7 |
| Total | Caesarean sections | 13,083 | 9,984 | 7,599 | 3,875 | 882 | 405 | 790 | 40,809 |
| | Total confinements | 82,536 | 62,845 | 40,628 | 19,259 | 24,736 | 6,827 | 2,669 | 243,937 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 15.9 | 15.9 | 18.7 | 20.1 | 16.9 | 12.9 | 15.2 | 17.8 |

Table 6. Caesarean confinements and rates by parity, States and Territories, 1987 and 1988

| Year | Parity | NSW | Vic | Qld* | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Australia |
|------|-----------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| 1987 | Primipara | Caesarean sections | 4,320 | 2,980 | 1,729 | 1,735 | 354 | 198 | 323 | 17,315 |
| | | Total confinements | 24,063 | 14,869 | 7,710 | 9,262 | 2,528 | 936 | 1,781 | 93,697 |
| | | Caesarean rate (%) | 18.0 | 20.0 | 22.4 | 18.7 | 14.0 | 21.2 | 18.1 | 18.1 |
| | Multipara | Caesarean sections | 5,649 | 4,203 | 2,003 | 2,294 | 494 | 347 | 420 | 22,763 |
| | | Total confinements | 36,768 | 23,973 | 11,418 | 14,574 | 4,172 | 2,282 | 2,448 | 145,212 |
| | | Caesarean rate (%) | 15.4 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 15.7 | 11.8 | 15.2 | 17.2 | 17.2 |
| | Total** | Caesarean sections | 9,969 | 7,183 | 3,732 | 4,029 | 848 | 545 | 743 | 40,078 |
| | | Total confinements | 60,835 | 38,842 | 19,128 | 23,836 | 6,702 | 3,218 | 4,229 | 238,915 |
| | | Caesarean rate (%) | 16.4 | 18.5 | 19.5 | 16.9 | 12.7 | 16.9 | 17.6 | 17.6 |
| 1988 | Primipara | Caesarean sections | 4,312 | 3,214 | 1,729 | 1,781 | 389 | 135 | 365 | 16,262 |
| | | Total confinements | 25,092 | 15,723 | 7,763 | 9,539 | 2,553 | 773 | 1,782 | 88,518 |
| | | Caesarean rate (%) | 17.2 | 20.4 | 22.3 | 18.7 | 15.2 | 17.5 | 20.5 | 20.5 |
| | Multipara | Caesarean sections | 5,672 | 4,385 | 2,146 | 2,410 | 493 | 270 | 425 | 24,540 |
| | | Total confinements | 37,751 | 24,905 | 11,496 | 15,197 | 4,274 | 1,896 | 2,655 | 155,373 |
| | | Caesarean rate (%) | 15.0 | 17.6 | 18.7 | 15.9 | 11.5 | 14.2 | 16.0 | 16.0 |
| | Total** | Caesarean sections | 9,984 | 7,599 | 3,875 | 4,191 | 882 | 405 | 790 | 40,809 |
| | | Total confinements | 62,845 | 40,628 | 19,259 | 24,736 | 6,827 | 2,669 | 4,437 | 243,937 |
| | | Caesarean rate (%) | 15.9 | 18.7 | 20.1 | 16.9 | 12.9 | 15.2 | 17.8 | 17.8 |

* For Queensland, multipara category includes confinements in which parity was not stated.

** Total includes 'not stated' parity

Table 7. Caesarean confinements by maternal age, primiparas, States and Territories, 1987

| Maternal age group | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Australia |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|------|-------|-----------|
| Less than 20 | Caesarean sections | 433 | 240 | 299 | 146 | 50 | 64 | 8 | 1,385 |
| | Total confinements | 3,857 | 2,285 | 2,308 | 920 | 422 | 321 | 113 | 11,416 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 11.2 | 10.5 | 13.0 | 15.9 | 11.8 | 19.9 | 7.1 | 12.1 |
| 20 - 24 | Caesarean sections | 1,391 | 1,096 | 774 | 469 | 104 | 48 | 83 | 4,445 |
| | Total confinements | 10,159 | 7,258 | 4,936 | 2,423 | 873 | 271 | 492 | 29,414 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 13.7 | 15.1 | 15.7 | 19.4 | 11.9 | 17.7 | 16.9 | 15.1 |
| 25 - 29 | Caesarean sections | 2,205 | 1,770 | 1,173 | 677 | 119 | 53 | 119 | 6,784 |
| | Total confinements | 12,300 | 9,697 | 5,314 | 2,923 | 888 | 234 | 692 | 35,493 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 17.9 | 18.3 | 22.1 | 23.2 | 13.4 | 22.6 | 17.2 | 19.1 |
| 30 - 34 | Caesarean sections | 1,148 | 864 | 518 | 322 | 55 | 24 | 73 | 3,322 |
| | Total confinements | 4,815 | 3,843 | 1,847 | 1,173 | 278 | 89 | 302 | 13,633 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 23.8 | 22.5 | 28.0 | 27.5 | 19.8 | 27.0 | 24.2 | 24.4 |
| 35 - 39 | Caesarean sections | 407 | 283 | 178 | 99 | 24 | 8 | 17 | 1,120 |
| | Total confinements | 1,233 | 859 | 404 | 237 | 62 | 19 | 76 | 3,193 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 33.0 | 32.9 | 44.1 | 41.8 | 38.7 | 42.1 | 22.4 | 35.1 |
| 40 and over | Caesarean sections | 92 | 67 | 37 | 16 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 245 |
| | Total confinements | 184 | 121 | 52 | 32 | 5 | 2 | 18 | 450 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 50.0 | 55.4 | 71.2 | 50.0 | 40.0 | 50.0 | 55.6 | 54.4 |
| Not stated | Caesarean sections | - | - | 1 | 0 | - | - | 13 | 14 |
| | Total confinements | - | - | 8 | 2 | - | - | 88 | 98 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | - | - | 12.5 | 0.0 | - | - | 14.8 | 14.3 |
| Total | Caesarean sections | 5,676 | 4,320 | 2,980 | 1,729 | 354 | 198 | 323 | 17,315 |
| | Total confinements | 32,548 | 24,063 | 14,869 | 7,710 | 2,528 | 936 | 1,781 | 93,697 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 17.4 | 18.0 | 20.0 | 22.4 | 14.0 | 21.2 | 18.1 | 18.5 |

Table 8. Caesarean confinements by maternal age, multiparas, States and Territories, 1987

| Maternal age group | NSW | Vic | Qld* | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Australia |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Less than 20 | Caesarean sections | 29 | 72 | 29 | 36 | 6 | 44 | 3 | 318 |
| | Total confinements | 381 | 579 | 202 | 302 | 117 | 228 | 26 | 2,633 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 7.6 | 12.4 | 14.4 | 11.9 | 5.1 | 19.3 | 11.5 | 12.1 |
| 20 - 24 | Caesarean sections | 642 | 624 | 311 | 321 | 75 | 79 | 47 | 3,086 |
| | Total confinements | 5,263 | 4,904 | 2,094 | 2,663 | 884 | 617 | 296 | 25,308 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 12.2 | 12.7 | 14.9 | 12.1 | 8.5 | 12.8 | 15.9 | 12.2 |
| 25 - 29 | Caesarean sections | 2,018 | 1,584 | 778 | 895 | 213 | 113 | 139 | 8,305 |
| | Total confinements | 14,494 | 9,429 | 4,768 | 5,875 | 1,753 | 768 | 916 | 57,179 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 13.9 | 16.8 | 16.3 | 15.2 | 12.2 | 14.7 | 15.2 | 14.5 |
| 30 - 34 | Caesarean sections | 2,004 | 1,315 | 612 | 733 | 139 | 81 | 144 | 7,467 |
| | Total confinements | 12,036 | 6,572 | 3,213 | 4,277 | 1,075 | 486 | 764 | 43,445 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 16.7 | 20.0 | 19.0 | 17.1 | 12.9 | 16.7 | 18.8 | 17.2 |
| 35 - 39 | Caesarean sections | 813 | 518 | 241 | 260 | 52 | 25 | 54 | 3,023 |
| | Total confinements | 4,027 | 2,141 | 997 | 1,264 | 302 | 145 | 268 | 14,333 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 20.2 | 24.2 | 24.2 | 20.6 | 17.2 | 17.2 | 20.1 | 21.1 |
| 40 and over | Caesarean sections | 143 | 90 | 32 | 49 | 9 | 4 | 12 | 542 |
| | Total confinements | 567 | 341 | 144 | 193 | 40 | 30 | 42 | 2,162 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 25.2 | 26.4 | 22.2 | 25.4 | 22.5 | 13.3 | 28.6 | 25.1 |
| Not stated | Caesarean sections | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 21 | 22 |
| | Total confinements | - | 7 | - | - | 1 | 8 | 136 | 152 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | - | 0.0 | - | - | 0.0 | 12.5 | 15.4 | 14.5 |
| Total | Caesarean sections | 7,353 | 4,203 | 2,003 | 2,294 | 494 | 347 | 420 | 22,763 |
| | Total confinements | 49,577 | 23,973 | 11,418 | 14,574 | 4,172 | 2,282 | 2,448 | 145,212 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 14.8 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 15.7 | 11.8 | 15.2 | 17.2 | 15.7 |

* For Queensland, multipara category includes confinements in which parity was not stated.

Table 9. Caesarean confinements by maternal age, primiparas, States and Territories, 1988

| Maternal age group | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Australia |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|------|-------|-----------|
| Less than 20 | Caesarean sections | 371 | 245 | 276 | 164 | 50 | 55 | 26 | 1,332 |
| | Total confinements | 3,313 | 2,345 | 2,428 | 947 | 390 | 303 | 147 | 11,154 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 11.2 | 10.4 | 11.4 | 17.3 | 12.8 | 18.2 | 17.7 | 11.9 |
| 20 - 24 | Caesarean sections | 1,093 | 1,030 | 871 | 439 | 106 | 29 | 90 | 4,095 |
| | Total confinements | 7,569 | 7,171 | 4,957 | 2,355 | 813 | 226 | 474 | 26,453 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 14.4 | 14.4 | 17.6 | 18.6 | 13.0 | 12.8 | 19.0 | 15.5 |
| 25 - 29 | Caesarean sections | 1,606 | 1,735 | 1,260 | 690 | 151 | 29 | 122 | 6,261 |
| | Total confinements | 9,427 | 10,076 | 5,686 | 2,960 | 950 | 160 | 675 | 33,470 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 17.0 | 17.2 | 22.2 | 23.3 | 15.9 | 18.1 | 18.1 | 18.7 |
| 30 - 34 | Caesarean sections | 863 | 928 | 588 | 324 | 58 | 19 | 81 | 3,213 |
| | Total confinements | 3,751 | 4,337 | 2,152 | 1,184 | 322 | 69 | 324 | 13,583 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 23.0 | 21.4 | 27.3 | 27.4 | 18.0 | 27.5 | 25.0 | 23.7 |
| 35 - 39 | Caesarean sections | 285 | 321 | 181 | 94 | 19 | 3 | 21 | 1,079 |
| | Total confinements | 890 | 1,024 | 438 | 287 | 72 | 14 | 77 | 3,153 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 32.0 | 31.3 | 41.3 | 32.8 | 26.4 | 21.4 | 27.3 | 34.2 |
| 40 and over | Caesarean sections | 61 | 53 | 38 | 17 | 5 | - | 11 | 209 |
| | Total confinements | 130 | 139 | 62 | 29 | 6 | 1 | 14 | 420 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 46.9 | 38.1 | 61.3 | 58.6 | 83.3 | 0.0 | 78.6 | 49.8 |
| Not stated | Caesarean sections | 58 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 14 | 73 |
| | Total confinements | 213 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 71 | 285 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 27.2 | - | - | 100.0 | - | - | 19.7 | 25.6 |
| Total | Caesarean sections | 4,337 | 4,312 | 3,214 | 1,729 | 389 | 135 | 365 | 16,262 |
| | Total confinements | 25,293 | 25,092 | 15,723 | 7,763 | 2,553 | 773 | 1,782 | 88,518 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 17.1 | 17.2 | 20.4 | 22.3 | 15.2 | 17.5 | 20.5 | 18.4 |

Table 10. Caesarean confinements by maternal age, multiparas, States and Territories, 1988

| Maternal age group | NSW | Vic | Qld* | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Australia |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Less than 20 | Caesarean sections | 163 | 34 | 65 | 36 | 57 | 31 | 2 | 395 |
| | Total confinements | 1,402 | 378 | 548 | 205 | 347 | 189 | 24 | 3,187 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 11.6 | 9.0 | 11.9 | 17.6 | 16.4 | 16.4 | 8.3 | 12.4 |
| 20 - 24 | Caesarean sections | 1,205 | 571 | 642 | 305 | 341 | 69 | 40 | 3,256 |
| | Total confinements | 10,114 | 4,969 | 4,955 | 1,948 | 2,640 | 553 | 336 | 26,392 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 11.9 | 11.5 | 13.0 | 15.7 | 12.9 | 12.5 | 11.9 | 12.3 |
| 25 - 29 | Caesarean sections | 3,101 | 2,074 | 1,686 | 802 | 887 | 76 | 131 | 8,948 |
| | Total confinements | 21,845 | 14,650 | 9,779 | 4,711 | 5,961 | 626 | 909 | 60,256 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 14.2 | 14.2 | 17.2 | 17.0 | 14.9 | 12.1 | 14.4 | 14.8 |
| 30 - 34 | Caesarean sections | 2,758 | 2,020 | 1,353 | 701 | 766 | 58 | 141 | 7,947 |
| | Total confinements | 16,590 | 12,858 | 6,983 | 3,409 | 4,564 | 381 | 811 | 46,739 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 16.6 | 15.7 | 19.4 | 20.6 | 16.8 | 15.2 | 17.4 | 17.0 |
| 35 - 39 | Caesarean sections | 1,214 | 845 | 531 | 270 | 308 | 27 | 79 | 3,328 |
| | Total confinements | 5,825 | 4,290 | 2,262 | 1,089 | 1,493 | 125 | 342 | 15,758 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 20.8 | 19.7 | 23.5 | 24.8 | 20.6 | 21.6 | 23.1 | 21.1 |
| 40 and over | Caesarean sections | 217 | 128 | 108 | 32 | 51 | 9 | 13 | 566 |
| | Total confinements | 915 | 606 | 378 | 134 | 192 | 22 | 56 | 2,355 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 23.7 | 21.1 | 28.6 | 23.9 | 26.6 | 40.9 | 23.2 | 24.0 |
| Not stated | Caesarean sections | 81 | - | - | - | - | - | 19 | 100 |
| | Total confinements | 508 | - | - | - | - | - | 177 | 686 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 15.9 | - | - | - | - | - | 10.7 | 14.6 |
| Total | Caesarean sections | 8,739 | 5,672 | 4,385 | 2,146 | 2,410 | 270 | 425 | 24,540 |
| | Total confinements | 57,199 | 37,751 | 24,905 | 11,496 | 15,197 | 1,896 | 2,655 | 155,373 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 15.3 | 15.0 | 17.6 | 18.7 | 15.9 | 14.2 | 16.0 | 15.8 |

* For Queensland, multipara category includes confinements in which parity was not stated.

Table 11. Caesarean confinements and rates by patient classification, selected States and Territories, 1989 and 1990

| Year | Classification | NSW | Qld | WA* | Tas | ACT | TOTAL |
|---------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|---------|
| 1989 | Caesarean sections | n.a. | 4,330 | 2,455 | 559 | 584 | 7,928 |
| | Total confinements | | 18,040 | 11,722 | 3,521 | 2,908 | 36,191 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | | 24.0 | 20.9 | 15.9 | 20.1 | 21.9 |
| Public | Caesarean sections | n.a. | 3,757 | 2,083 | 391 | 325 | 6,556 |
| | Total confinements | | 24,080 | 13,378 | 3,327 | 1,691 | 42,476 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | | 15.6 | 15.6 | 11.8 | 19.2 | 15.4 |
| Total** | Caesarean sections | | 8,087 | 4,538 | 950 | 909 | 14,484 |
| | Total confinements | | 42,296 | 25,100 | 6,848 | 4,672 | 78,916 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | | 19.1 | 18.1 | 13.9 | 19.5 | 18.4 |
| 1990 | Caesarean sections | 7,747 | 4,499 | 2,491 | 587 | 558 | 15,882 |
| | Total confinements | 41,207 | 18,357 | 11,280 | 3,462 | 2,848 | 77,154 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 18.8 | 24.5 | 22.1 | 17.0 | 19.6 | 20.6 |
| Public | Caesarean sections | 5,622 | 4,094 | 2,337 | 446 | 316 | 12,815 |
| | Total confinements | 41,791 | 25,960 | 14,357 | 3,541 | 1,835 | 87,484 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 13.5 | 15.8 | 16.3 | 12.6 | 17.2 | 14.6 |
| Total** | Caesarean sections | 13,869 | 8,593 | 4,828 | 1,033 | 874 | 29,197 |
| | Total confinements | 86,545 | 44,479 | 25,637 | 7,004 | 4,735 | 168,400 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 16.0 | 19.3 | 18.8 | 14.7 | 18.5 | 17.3 |

* Numbers are based on estimates

** Totals include confinements for which patient classification was not stated.

** In Queensland there were 176 and 162 non-hospital confinements in 1989 and 1990, respectively.

Table 12. Caesarean confinements and rates by plurality, States and Territories, 1987 and 1988

| Plurality | Numbers and rates | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Australia | |
| 1987 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Singleton | Caesarean sections Total confinements Caesarean rate (%) | 9,744 60,121 16.2 | 7,014 38,411 18.3 | 3,619 18,870 19.2 | 3,916 23,538 16.6 | 831 6,634 12.5 | 528 3,155 16.7 | 713 4,126 17.3 | 39,089 236,036 16.6 | |
| Twins | Caesarean sections Total confinements Caesarean rate (%) | 287 917 31.3 | 213 695 30.6 | 159 420 37.9 | 106 249 42.6 | 16 67 23.9 | 14 60 23.3 | 25 84 29.8 | 927 2,782 33.3 | |
| Triplets+ | Caesarean sections Total confinements Caesarean rate (%) | 18 25 72.0 | 12 18 66.7 | 10 11 90.9 | 7 9 77.8 | 1 1 100.0 | 3 3 100.0 | 1 1 100.0 | 58 76 76.3 | |
| Total* | Caesarean sections Total confinements Caesarean rate (%) | 13,029 82,125 15.9 | 9,969 60,835 16.4 | 7,183 38,842 18.5 | 3,732 19,128 19.5 | 848 6,702 12.7 | 545 3,218 16.9 | 743 4,229 17.6 | 40,078 238,915 16.8 | |
| 1988 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Singleton | Caesarean sections Total confinements Caesarean rate (%) | 12,789 81,625 15.7 | 9,737 62,052 15.7 | 7,414 40,153 18.5 | 3,749 18,999 19.7 | 858 6,735 12.7 | 393 2,622 15.0 | 772 4,329 17.8 | 39,761 240,920 16.5 | |
| Twins | Caesarean sections Total confinements Caesarean rate (%) | 271 878 30.9 | 235 774 30.4 | 167 455 36.7 | 117 251 46.6 | 23 91 25.3 | 12 44 27.3 | 17 99 17.2 | 970 2,907 33.4 | |
| Triplets | Caesarean sections Total confinements Caesarean rate (%) | 22 30 73.3 | 12 19 63.2 | 18 20 90.0 | 7 7 100.0 | 1 1 100.0 | - 3 0.0 | 1 3 33.3 | 75 99 75.8 | |
| Total** | Caesarean sections Total confinements Caesarean rate (%) | 13,083 82,536 15.9 | 9,984 62,845 15.9 | 7,599 40,628 18.7 | 3,875 19,259 20.1 | 882 6,827 12.9 | 405 2,669 15.2 | 790 4,437 17.8 | 40,809 243,937 16.7 | |

+ Quadruplets in Queensland are included in the triplets category.

+ Triplet category for Tasmania includes 1 set of quadruplets delivered by caesarean.

* Total includes 3 quadruplet pregnancies (2 in NSW, 1 in Victoria), all delivered vaginally, and 4 caesarean sections among 18 confinements in the ACT in which plurality was not stated.

** Total includes 1 caesarean and 3 vaginal deliveries in NSW in which plurality was not stated.

** Total includes 2 quadruplet pregnancies in South Australia delivered by caesarean section, and 6 vaginal deliveries in the ACT in which plurality was not stated.

Table 13. Caesarean births and rates by birthweight, States and Territories, 1987

| Birthweight (grams) | | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Australia |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Less than 500 | Caesarean sections | 3 | 1 | 12 | 1 | - | - | 3 | - | 20 |
| | Total births | 139 | 48 | 67 | 32 | - | 6 | 9 | - | 301 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 2.2 | 2.1 | 17.9 | 3.1 | - | 0.0 | 33.3 | - | 6.6 |
| 500 - 999 | Caesarean sections | 84 | 55 | 58 | 34 | 32 | 8 | 1 | - | 272 |
| | Total births | 347 | 291 | 219 | 83 | 134 | 28 | 32 | - | 1,134 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 24.2 | 18.9 | 26.5 | 41.0 | 23.9 | 28.6 | 3.1 | - | 24.0 |
| 1000 - 1499 | Caesarean sections | 220 | 157 | 143 | 71 | 73 | 22 | 7 | 9 | 702 |
| | Total births | 420 | 331 | 261 | 129 | 141 | 39 | 25 | 18 | 1,364 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 52.4 | 47.4 | 54.8 | 55.0 | 51.8 | 56.4 | 28.0 | 50.0 | 51.5 |
| 1500 - 1999 | Caesarean sections | 359 | 275 | 246 | 122 | 134 | 24 | 16 | 10 | 1,186 |
| | Total births | 891 | 658 | 485 | 250 | 279 | 74 | 67 | 31 | 2,735 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 40.3 | 41.8 | 50.7 | 48.8 | 48.0 | 32.4 | 23.9 | 32.3 | 43.4 |
| 2000 - 2499 | Caesarean sections | 794 | 552 | 477 | 253 | 259 | 41 | 31 | 44 | 2,451 |
| | Total births | 3,041 | 2,172 | 1,429 | 758 | 932 | 218 | 191 | 137 | 8,878 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 26.1 | 25.4 | 33.4 | 33.4 | 27.8 | 18.8 | 16.2 | 32.1 | 27.6 |
| 2500 - 2999 | Caesarean sections | 2,215 | 1,751 | 1,243 | 613 | 757 | 149 | 118 | 138 | 6,984 |
| | Total births | 12,630 | 9,433 | 5,918 | 2,856 | 3,754 | 1,103 | 679 | 663 | 37,036 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 17.5 | 18.6 | 21.0 | 21.5 | 20.2 | 13.5 | 17.4 | 20.8 | 18.9 |
| 3000 - 3499 | Caesarean sections | 4,445 | 3,458 | 2,447 | 1,284 | 1,429 | 268 | 176 | 244 | 13,751 |
| | Total births | 31,158 | 22,791 | 14,445 | 7,095 | 9,064 | 2,516 | 1,186 | 1,598 | 89,853 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 14.3 | 15.2 | 16.9 | 18.1 | 15.8 | 10.7 | 14.8 | 15.3 | 15.3 |
| 3500 - 3999 | Caesarean sections | 3,630 | 2,823 | 1,932 | 1,061 | 1,030 | 238 | 148 | 195 | 11,057 |
| | Total births | 25,200 | 19,056 | 11,907 | 5,957 | 7,235 | 2,030 | 779 | 1,183 | 73,347 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 14.4 | 14.8 | 16.2 | 17.8 | 14.2 | 11.7 | 19.0 | 16.5 | 15.1 |
| 4000 - 4499 | Caesarean sections | 1,291 | 926 | 629 | 343 | 354 | 92 | 38 | 56 | 3,729 |
| | Total births | 7,862 | 5,728 | 3,840 | 1,895 | 2,250 | 647 | 210 | 349 | 22,781 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 16.4 | 16.2 | 16.4 | 18.1 | 15.7 | 14.2 | 18.1 | 16.0 | 16.4 |
| 4500 and over | Caesarean sections | 325 | 207 | 154 | 63 | 85 | 25 | 7 | 13 | 879 |
| | Total births | 1,410 | 964 | 630 | 322 | 349 | 111 | 40 | 53 | 3,879 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 23.0 | 21.5 | 24.4 | 19.6 | 24.4 | 22.5 | 17.5 | 24.5 | 22.7 |
| Not stated | Caesarean sections | - | 12 | 13 | 2 | - | - | - | 34 | 61 |
| | Total births | - | 95 | 85 | 18 | - | - | - | 197 | 395 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | - | 12.6 | 15.3 | 11.1 | - | - | - | 17.3 | 15.4 |
| Total | Caesarean sections | 13,366 | 10,217 | 7,354 | 3,847 | 4,153 | 867 | 545 | 743 | 41,092 |
| | Total births | 83,098 | 61,567 | 39,286 | 19,395 | 24,138 | 6,772 | 3,218 | 4,229 | 241,703 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 16.1 | 16.6 | 18.7 | 19.8 | 17.2 | 12.8 | 16.9 | 17.6 | 17.0 |

Table 14. Caesarean births and rates by birthweight, States and Territories, 1988

| Birthweight (grams) | | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Australia |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Less than 500 | Caesarean sections | 12 | 2 | 6 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 21 |
| | Total births | 159 | 56 | 54 | 32 | - | 8 | 11 | - | 320 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 7.5 | 3.6 | 11.1 | 3.1 | - | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | 6.6 |
| 500 - 999 | Caesarean sections | 83 | 59 | 50 | 31 | 27 | 6 | 2 | - | 258 |
| | Total births | 359 | 324 | 209 | 109 | 125 | 40 | 22 | - | 1,188 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 23.1 | 18.2 | 23.9 | 28.4 | 21.6 | 15.0 | 9.1 | - | 21.7 |
| 1000 - 1499 | Caesarean sections | 216 | 169 | 136 | 88 | 93 | 9 | 10 | 4 | 725 |
| | Total births | 424 | 404 | 275 | 133 | 179 | 30 | 25 | 17 | 1,487 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 50.9 | 41.8 | 49.5 | 66.2 | 52.0 | 30.0 | 40.0 | 23.5 | 48.8 |
| 1500 - 1999 | Caesarean sections | 390 | 300 | 233 | 144 | 130 | 24 | 12 | 26 | 1,259 |
| | Total births | 877 | 749 | 513 | 251 | 301 | 79 | 54 | 52 | 2,876 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 44.5 | 40.1 | 45.4 | 57.4 | 43.2 | 30.4 | 22.2 | 50.0 | 43.8 |
| 2000 - 2499 | Caesarean sections | 800 | 580 | 508 | 251 | 293 | 48 | 41 | 46 | 2,567 |
| | Total births | 3,055 | 2,211 | 1,527 | 744 | 931 | 263 | 188 | 151 | 9,070 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 26.2 | 26.2 | 33.3 | 33.7 | 31.5 | 18.3 | 21.8 | 30.5 | 28.3 |
| 2500 - 2999 | Caesarean sections | 2,177 | 1,765 | 1,349 | 649 | 745 | 155 | 92 | 123 | 7,055 |
| | Total births | 12,812 | 9,747 | 6,321 | 3,027 | 3,890 | 1,050 | 610 | 666 | 38,123 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 17.0 | 18.1 | 21.3 | 21.4 | 19.2 | 14.8 | 15.1 | 18.5 | 18.5 |
| 3000 - 3499 | Caesarean sections | 4,494 | 3,469 | 2,554 | 1,361 | 1,476 | 297 | 124 | 270 | 14,045 |
| | Total births | 31,065 | 23,822 | 14,777 | 7,236 | 9,372 | 2,568 | 1,008 | 1,661 | 91,509 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 14.5 | 14.6 | 17.3 | 18.8 | 15.7 | 11.6 | 12.3 | 16.3 | 15.3 |
| 3500 - 3999 | Caesarean sections | 3,670 | 2,721 | 2,052 | 1,067 | 1,111 | 257 | 90 | 218 | 11,186 |
| | Total births | 25,204 | 19,199 | 12,543 | 5,909 | 7,637 | 2,100 | 567 | 1,342 | 74,501 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 14.6 | 14.2 | 16.4 | 18.1 | 14.5 | 12.2 | 15.9 | 16.2 | 15.0 |
| 4000 - 4499 | Caesarean sections | 1,268 | 968 | 717 | 358 | 389 | 95 | 28 | 73 | 3,896 |
| | Total births | 7,794 | 6,001 | 4,127 | 1,797 | 2,291 | 665 | 163 | 412 | 23,250 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 16.3 | 16.1 | 17.4 | 19.9 | 17.0 | 14.3 | 17.2 | 17.7 | 16.8 |
| 4500 and over | Caesarean sections | 293 | 212 | 183 | 56 | 84 | 15 | 6 | 18 | 867 |
| | Total births | 1,307 | 1,008 | 745 | 286 | 350 | 117 | 21 | 72 | 3,906 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 22.4 | 21.0 | 24.6 | 19.6 | 24.0 | 12.8 | 28.6 | 25.0 | 22.2 |
| Not stated | Caesarean sections | 56 | 13 | 8 | - | - | - | - | 12 | 89 |
| | Total births | 499 | 131 | 32 | 6 | - | - | - | 64 | 732 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 11.2 | 9.9 | 25.0 | 0.0 | - | - | - | 18.8 | 12.2 |
| Total | Caesarean sections | 13,459 | 10,258 | 7,796 | 4,006 | 4,348 | 906 | 405 | 790 | 41,968 |
| | Total births | 83,555 | 63,652 | 41,123 | 19,530 | 25,076 | 6,920 | 2,669 | 4,437 | 246,962 |
| | Caesarean rate (%) | 16.1 | 16.1 | 19.0 | 20.5 | 17.3 | 13.1 | 15.2 | 17.8 | 17.0 |

Table 15. Caesarean confinements and rates by hospital size, States and Territories, 1987 and 1988

| Hospital category (confinements per annum) | Number of hospitals | | Caesarean sections | | Total confinements | | Caesarean section rate | |
|--|------------------------|------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------|
| | 1987 | 1988 | 1987 | 1988 | 1987 | 1988 | 1987 | 1988 |
| New South Wales | | | | | | | | |
| 1 - 100 | 77 | 76 | 116 | 154 | 2,434 | 2,429 | 4.8 | 6.3 |
| 101 - 500 | 43 | 45 | 1,396 | 1,350 | 9,962 | 10,139 | 14.0 | 13.3 |
| 501 - 1000 | 18 | 21 | 1,893 | 2,363 | 12,830 | 15,441 | 14.8 | 15.3 |
| 1001 - 2000 | 14 | 13 | 3,288 | 3,133 | 19,436 | 18,442 | 16.9 | 17.0 |
| 2001 or more | 13 | 12 | 6,336 | 6,083 | 37,463 | 36,085 | 16.9 | 16.9 |
| Total | 165 | 167 | 13,029 | 13,083 | 82,125 | 82,536 | 15.9 | 15.9 |
| Victoria | | | | | | | | |
| 1 - 99 | 80 | | 216 | 154 | 2,561 | 2,231 | 8.4 | 6.9 |
| 100 - 499 | 39 | | 1,328 | 1,287 | 8,769 | 8,913 | 15.1 | 14.4 |
| 500 - 999 | 23 | | 2,428 | 2,440 | 14,756 | 14,783 | 16.5 | 16.5 |
| 1000 - 1999 | 10 | | 2,388 | 2,248 | 14,013 | 14,268 | 17.0 | 15.8 |
| 2000 or more | 6 | | 3,609 | 3,855 | 20,593 | 22,512 | 17.5 | 17.1 |
| Total | 158 | | 9,969 | 9,984 | 60,835 | 62,845 | 16.4 | 15.9 |
| Queensland | | | | | | | | |
| 1 - 100 | 75 | 71 | 136 | 126 | 2,230 | 1,954 | 6.1 | 6.4 |
| 101 - 500 | 20 | 25 | 677 | 857 | 4,380 | 5,612 | 15.5 | 15.3 |
| 501 - 1000 | 12 | 12 | 1,620 | 1,636 | 8,167 | 8,119 | 19.8 | 20.2 |
| 1001 - 2000 | 9 | 10 | 1,985 | 2,273 | 12,456 | 13,414 | 15.9 | 16.9 |
| 2001 or more | 2 | 2 | 2,765 | 2,707 | 11,541 | 11,462 | 24.0 | 23.6 |
| Total | 118 | 120 | 7,183 | 7,599 | 38,842 | 40,628 | 18.5 | 18.7 |
| South Australia | | | | | | | | |
| 1 - 100 | 61 | | 192 | 190 | 1,695 | 1,827 | 11.3 | 10.4 |
| 101 - 500 | 16 | | 621 | 699 | 3,538 | 3,461 | 17.6 | 20.2 |
| 501 - 1000 | 5 | | 612 | 567 | 3,114 | 3,050 | 19.7 | 18.6 |
| 1001 - 2000 | 4 | | 1,038 | 1,125 | 4,932 | 5,147 | 21.0 | 21.9 |
| 2001 or more | 2 | | 1,269 | 1,294 | 5,765 | 5,702 | 22.0 | 22.7 |
| Total | 88 | | 3,732 | 3,875 | 19,128 | 19,259 | 19.5 | 20.1 |
| Western Australia | | | | | | | | |
| 1 - 100 | 54 | | 100 | 83 | 1,567 | 1,514 | 6.4 | 5.5 |
| 101 - 500 | 21 | | 719 | 888 | 4,872 | 5,817 | 14.8 | 15.3 |
| 501 - 1000 | 6 | | 773 | 686 | 4,598 | 4,343 | 16.8 | 15.8 |
| 1001 - 2000 | 5 | | 887 | 897 | 6,037 | 5,884 | 14.7 | 15.2 |
| 2001 or more | 2 | | 1,550 | 1,637 | 6,762 | 7,178 | 22.9 | 22.8 |
| Total | 88 | | 4,029 | 4,191 | 23,836 | 24,736 | 16.9 | 16.9 |

Note : Total confinements include homebirths

Table 15. Caesarean confinements and rates by hospital size, States and Territories, 1987 and 1988 (cont.)

| Hospital category (confinements per annum) | Number of hospitals | | Caesarean sections | | Total confinements | | Caesarean section rate | |
|--|------------------------|------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|
| | 1987 | 1988 | 1987 | 1988 | 1987 | 1988 | 1987 | 1988 |
| Tasmania | 1987 | 1988 | | | | | | |
| 1 - 100 | 13 | 14 | 4 | 16 | 282 | 493 | 1.4 | 3.2 |
| 101 - 500 | 1 | - | - | - | 107 | - | - | - |
| 501 - 1000 | 2 | 2 | 211 | 201 | 1,439 | 1,377 | 14.7 | 14.6 |
| 1001 - 2000 | 2 | 2 | 372 | 365 | 2,758 | 2,724 | 13.5 | 13.4 |
| 2001 or more | 1 | 1 | 261 | 300 | 2,116 | 2,233 | 12.3 | 13.4 |
| Total | 19 | 19 | 848 | 882 | 6,702 | 6,827 | 12.7 | 12.9 |
| Northern Territory | | | | | | | | |
| 1 - 100 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 67 | 83 | 1.5 | 2.4 |
| 101 - 500 | 2 | - | 72 | 96 | 455 | 525 | 15.8 | 18.3 |
| 501 - 1000 | 1 | - | 138 | 142 | 814 | 763 | 17.0 | 18.6 |
| 1001 - 2000 | 1 | - | 334 | 165 | 1,742 | 1,184 | 19.2 | 13.9 |
| 2001 or more | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 5 | | 545 | 405 | 3,218 | 2,669 | 16.9 | 15.2 |
| A.C.T. | 1987 | 1988 | | | | | | |
| 1 - 100 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 101 - 500 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 501 - 1000 | 1 | - | 144 | - | 918 | - | 15.7 | - |
| 1001 - 2000 | 2 | 3 | 599 | 790 | 3,273 | 4,402 | 18.3 | 17.9 |
| 2001 or more | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 3 | 3 | 743 | 790 | 4,229 | 4,437 | 17.6 | 17.8 |
| Australia | 1987 | 1988 | | | | | | |
| 1 - 100 | 361 | 357 | 765 | 725 | 10,836 | 10,531 | 7.1 | 6.9 |
| 101 - 500 | 142 | 148 | 4,813 | 5,177 | 32,083 | 34,467 | 15.0 | 15.0 |
| 501 - 1000 | 68 | 70 | 7,819 | 8,035 | 46,636 | 47,876 | 16.8 | 16.8 |
| 1001 - 2000 | 47 | 48 | 10,891 | 10,996 | 64,647 | 65,465 | 16.8 | 16.8 |
| 2001 or more | 26 | 25 | 15,790 | 15,876 | 84,240 | 85,172 | 18.7 | 18.6 |
| Total | 644 | 648 | 40,078 | 40,809 | 238,915 | 243,937 | 16.8 | 16.7 |

Note : Total confinements include homebirths