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Australia's Mothers and Babies 1994

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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%.
- 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.
- 2 duplicated records in New South Wales were deleted from the national data.
- In the tables on multiple births, 70 confinements for which plurality was not stated in New South Wales were counted as singleton pregnancies.
- Due to data editing, the figures in this report for Northern Territory (and some other States and Territories) may differ slightly from those in reports published by the States and Territories.

Highlights

- In 1994, 261,335 babies born to 257,657 mothers were notified to perinatal data collections in the States and Territories, an increase of 0.3% from 1993. More mothers had their babies in birth centres than in previous years and home births declined slightly in 1994.
- The average age of all mothers in 1994 was 28.3 years, and 26.3 years for those having their first baby, continuing the upward trend in recent years. There were 13,732 teenage mothers (5.3% of all mothers), of whom 4,291 were aged 17 years or younger.
- Although some women are deferring childbearing, in 1994 only 1 in 15 mothers had their first baby at 35 years or older. One in 10 mothers with private health insurance were in this group, compared with only 1 in 25 mothers who did not have health insurance.
- There were 7,397 Indigenous mothers (2.9% of all mothers), of whom 2,347 gave birth in Queensland, 1,530 in New South Wales, 1,433 in Western Australia, 1,220 in the Northern Territory, and smaller numbers in the other States and the Australian Capital Territory. Their average age was 23.8 years and there was a high proportion of teenage mothers (24.6%).
- The proportion of mothers who were born in other countries decreased slightly to 22.8% in 1994, down from 23.1% in 1993. Mothers born in Asia increased from 5.1% of all mothers in 1991 to 7.0% in 1994, reflecting the increasing number of confinements of mothers born in countries such as Vietnam (4,290), China (2,661), India (1,311), and Hong Kong (1,120).
- Multiple pregnancies accounted for 1.4% of all confinements and included 3,496 twin pregnancies, 85 triplet pregnancies, and 4 quadruplet pregnancies.
- In 1994, almost 1 in 5 (19.4%) births was by caesarean section, continuing the rising trend from 18.0% in 1991, 18.3% in 1992, and 19.0% in 1993. South Australia (23.5%) had the highest caesarean rate in 1994 and Tasmania (17.2%) 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 37.5%.
- More mothers had relatively short postnatal stays in hospital in 1994 than in previous years. The proportion who stayed less than 4 days increased from 20.2% in 1991 to 31.9% in 1994. Mothers without private health insurance had shorter postnatal stays than those with private health insurance.
- Low birthweight (less than 2,500g) occurred in 16,387 (6.3%) infants in 1994. The mean birthweight of infants of Indigenous mothers was 3,148g, 211g less than for all births; 12.8% of Indigenous infants had a low birthweight, just over twice the national proportion.
- Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates continued their downward trend of the last two decades, declining to 4.7, 3.4 and 8.0 per 1,000 births, respectively, in 1994, the lowest rates yet achieved. Early neonatal deaths and fetal deaths during labour have shown the greatest declines. The perinatal death rate of twins was 4.2 times higher, and of other multiple births 8.7 times higher, than the death rate of singleton babies.
- In 1994, the survival up to 28 days of low birthweight infants varied from 64.3% for infants of 500-999g to 94.5% for those weighing 1000-1499g, and 97.2% for infants of 1500-1999g.

1 Introduction

This report contains national data on births in Australia in 1994, 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 1994.

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 5.0 (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 1994. 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 1995; Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity 1995; Gee 1995; Marsden & Correy 1989; Markey, McComb, & Woods 1996; Taylor & Pym 1995; Queensland Health 1995).

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

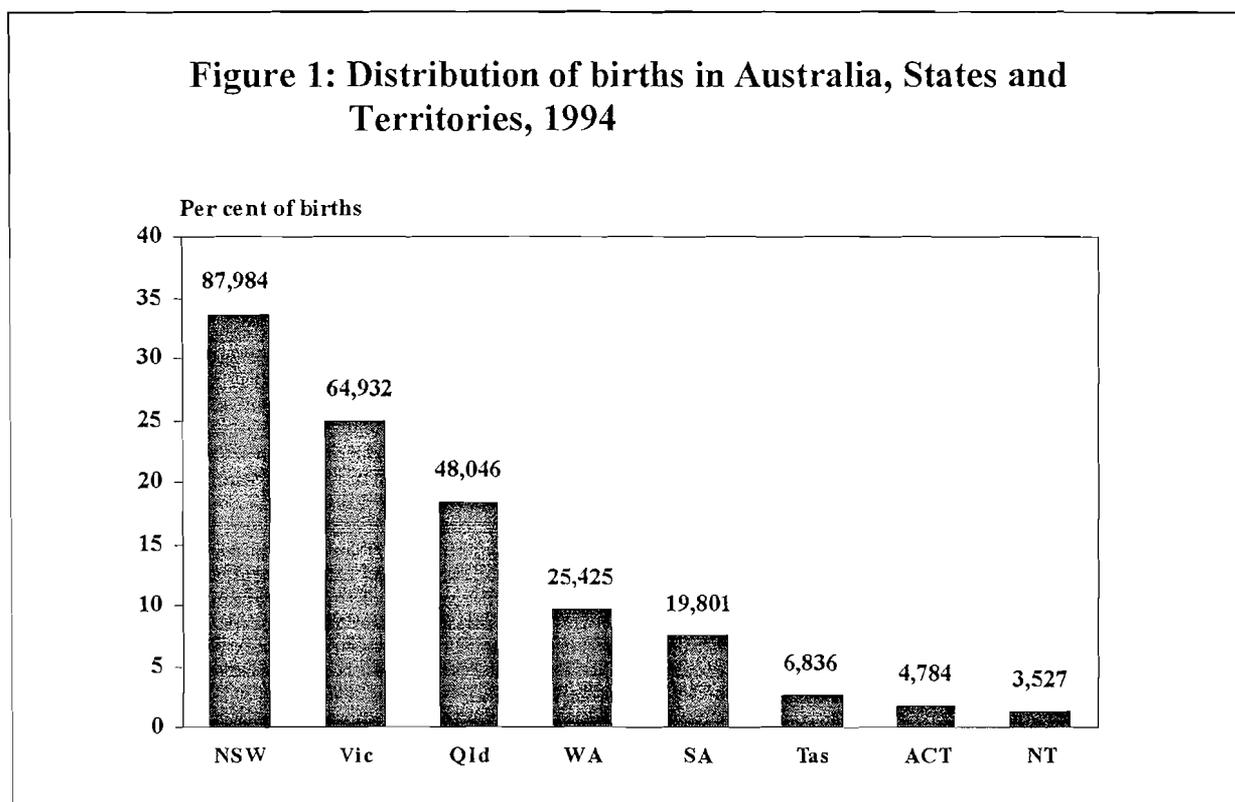
2.1 Introductory notes

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 257,657 confinements notified to State and Territory perinatal data groups in Australia in 1994, resulting in a total of 261,335 live births and fetal deaths (Table 1). Compared to the number of births notified in 1993, this was an increase of 757 births, or 0.3%. 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 1995). In the registration system, there were 257,371 live births in Australia in 1994 (ABS 1997), 2,219 fewer than the 259,590 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 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 1994, New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory designated birth centres separately on notification forms. The total of 3,650 confinements in birth centres in 1994 (Table 2) exceeded the 3,400 confinements in 1993 and 2,405 confinements in 1992. In 1994, confinements in birth centres accounted for 2.6% 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 59 'other' confinements were mainly births in bush clinics.

Planned home births are underascertained in some State and Territory perinatal collections. In 1994, 740 planned home births, representing 0.3% of all births, were notified nationally (Table 2), a decrease of 9.0% 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 1994, more than half (51.7%) of the maternity units in Australia had fewer than 100 confinements (Table 3, Figure 2). More than one-third (36.0%) had between 100 and 1,000 confinements, and 12.3% had more than 1,000 confinements.

Although most maternity units are relatively small in size, the majority of hospital confinements (61.3%) 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, 1994

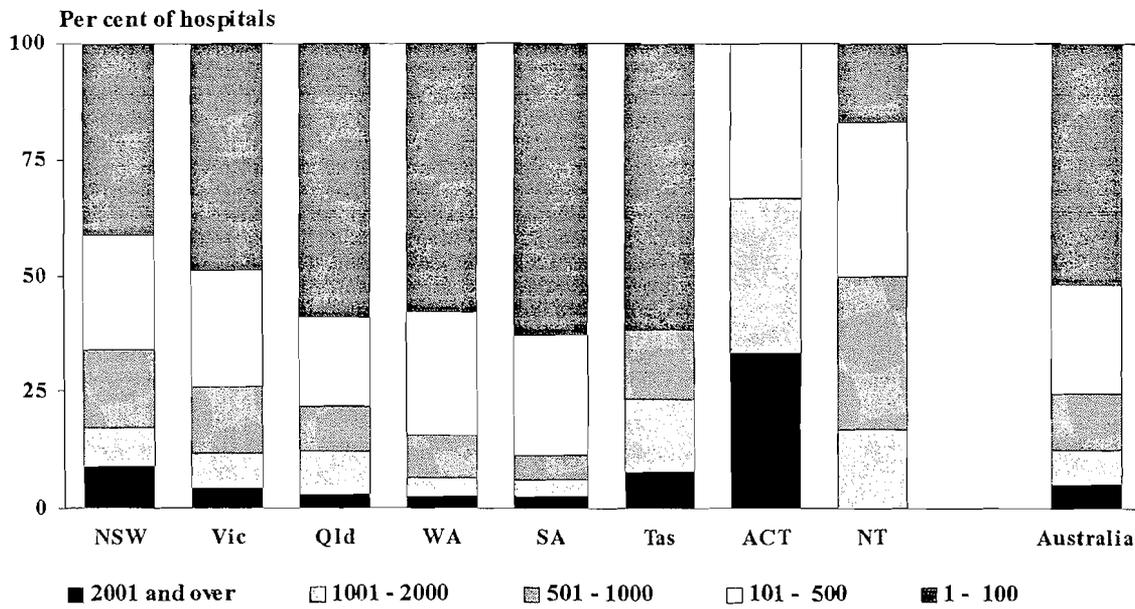
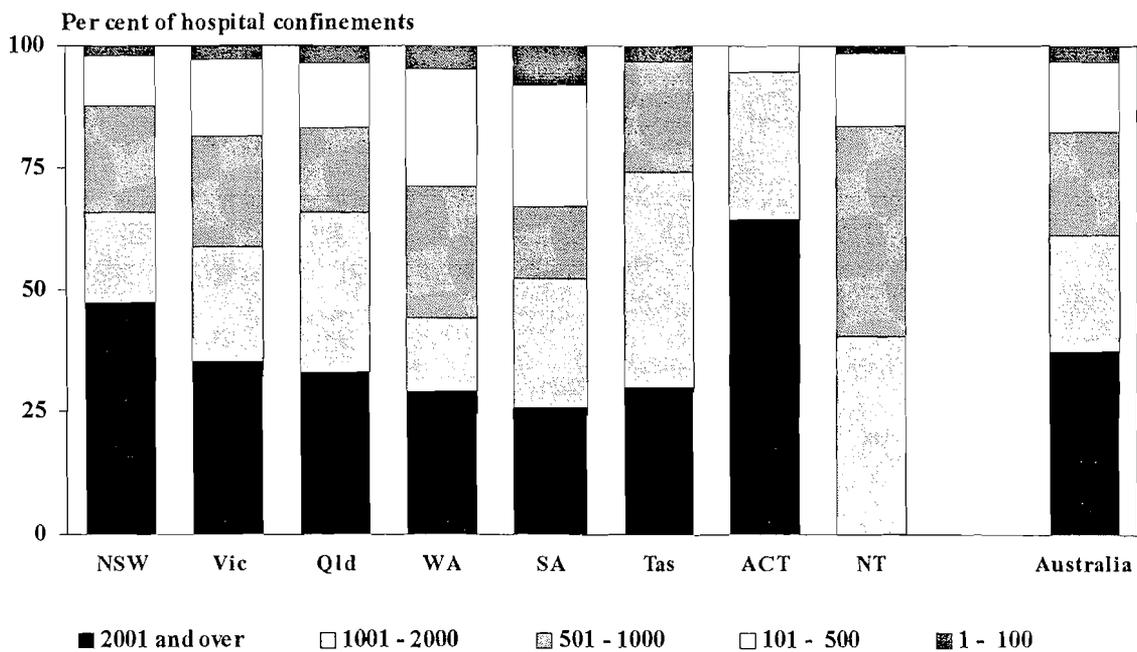


Figure 3: Distribution of confinements by size of maternity unit, States and Territories, 1994



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 1994 was 28.3 years, continuing the rise from 27.9 years in 1991, 28.1 in 1992, and 28.2 in 1993. 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 1994 was 26.3 years compared with 25.8 in 1991, 26.0 in 1992, and 26.2 in 1993. The proportion of teenage mothers in 1994 was similar to that in 1993, but older mothers aged 35 years and over increased from 11.7% in 1993 to 12.6% in 1994 (Figure 4).

The actual number of teenage confinements increased slightly from 13,622 in 1993 to 13,732 in 1994. The proportion of teenage confinements was 5.3% nationally and ranged from a low of 3.6% in Victoria to 14.6% 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, rose slightly to 22.1 per 1,000 in 1991, then declined again to 21.9 per 1,000 in 1992, 20.9 in 1993, and 20.7 in 1994 (ABS 1995). Teenage birth rates varied considerably in 1994 from relatively low rates of 14.2 per 1,000 females in Victoria and 14.0 per 1,000 in the Australian Capital Territory to the highest rate of 84.0 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 1994, there were 1,046 induced abortions among teenagers (Chan et al 1995) and 1,047 confinements, so it seems likely that there were more than 27,000 teenage pregnancies nationally in that year. Lack of data on induced abortions in most States considerably hampers analysis of trends in teenage pregnancies.

In 1994, the age-specific birth rates of women aged 20 to 24, 25 to 29, and 30 to 34 years were slightly lower than in 1993, whereas the rates for women in their late 30s and early 40s were slightly higher (ABS 1995).

Figure 4: Trends in maternal age, Australia, 1991-1994

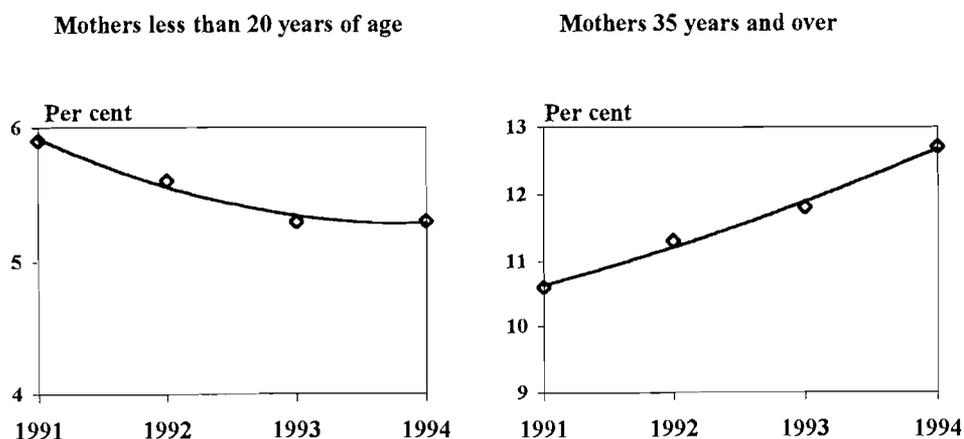


Figure 5: Proportion of teenage mothers, all confinements, States and Territories, 1994

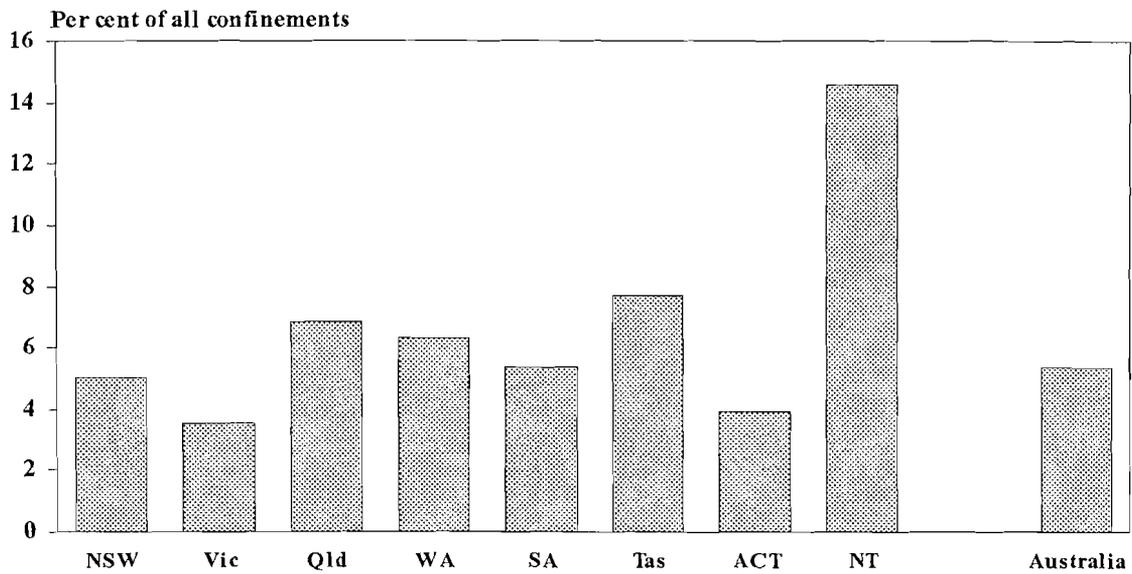
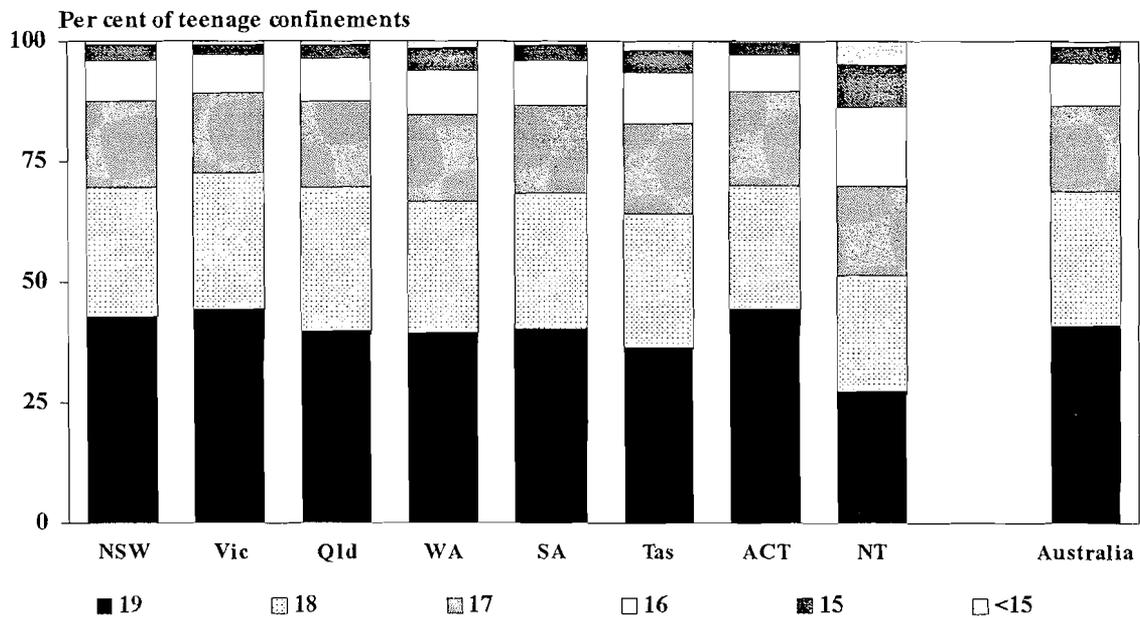


Figure 6: Age distribution of teenage mothers, States and Territories, 1994

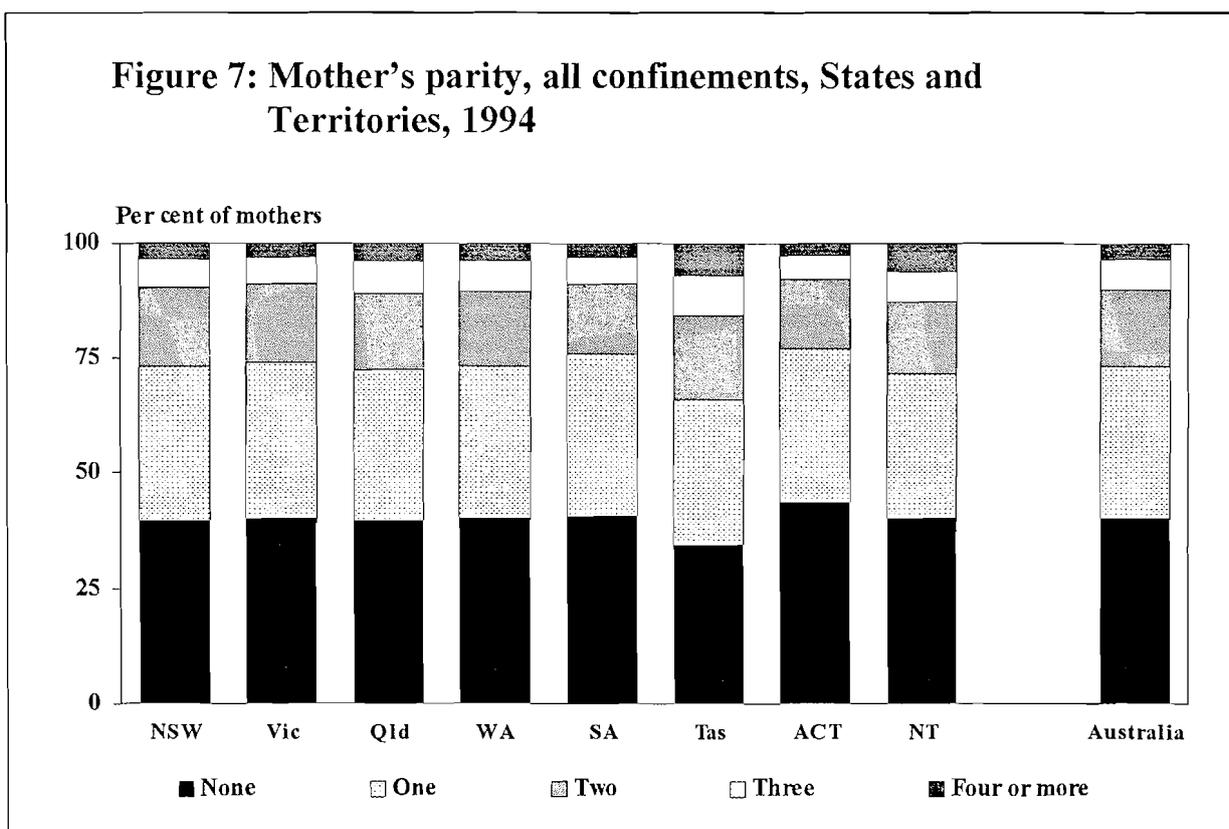


2.6 Maternal parity

Parity is the number of previous pregnancies that resulted in live births or stillbirths. In 1994, 39.8% of mothers were having their first baby and another 33.4% already had one child (Table 6, Figure 7). One in six mothers (16.9%) had given birth twice previously and 9.8% had three or more children. The proportion of mothers who had given birth at least twice previously increased with maternal age from 2.5% for teenagers to 54.2% 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 (72.3%) 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 15 (6.6%) of all primiparous women was 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 (9.9%) were more likely than those who were not insured (4.1%) 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 11.4% of all confinements in Australia in 1994 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 (51.2%) of all teenage mothers were single and the proportion of single mothers was higher as maternal age decreased (Table 9).

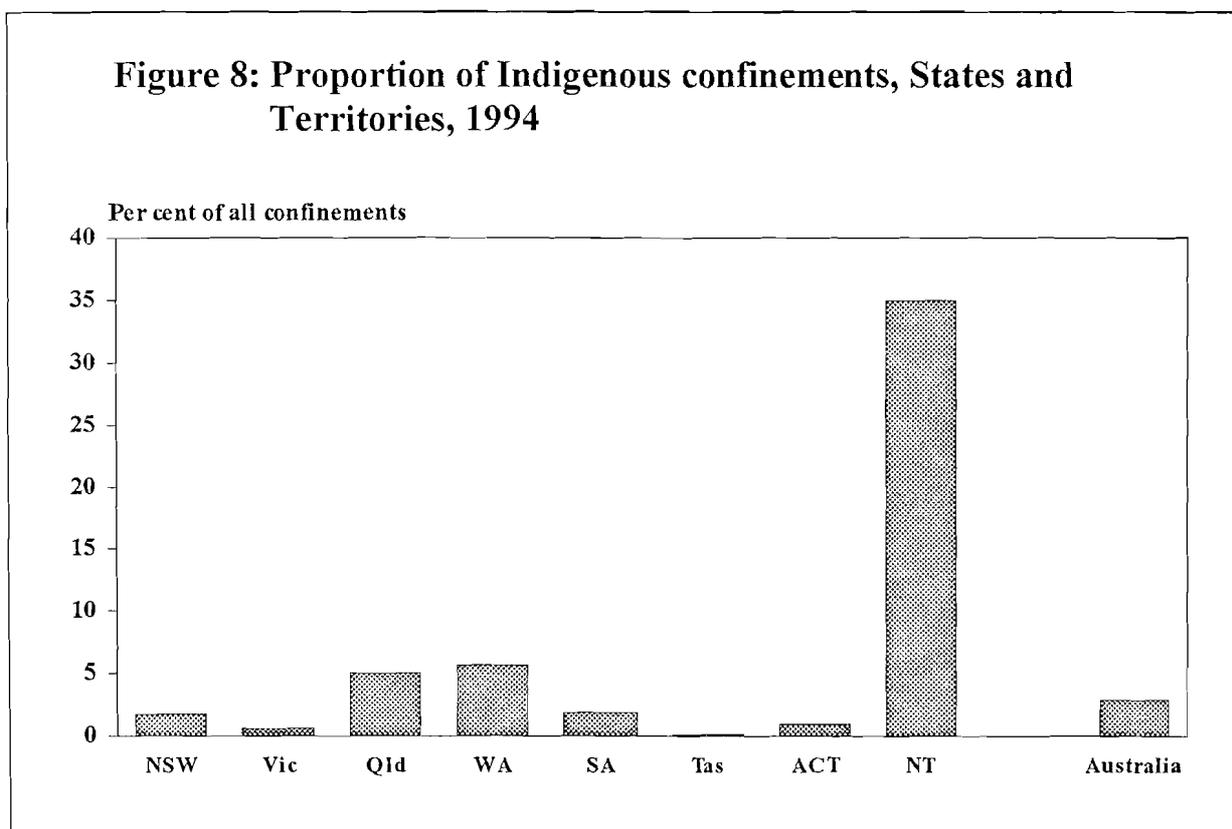
2.8 Aboriginality

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 1994, 7,397 Indigenous women gave birth in Australia; this was 2.9% of all confinements (Table 10), similar to the proportion of 2.8% in 1993. Indigenous mothers accounted for a much greater proportion of all confinements in the Northern Territory (35.1%) than elsewhere in Australia (Figure 8). There were also relatively high proportions of confinements to Indigenous women in Western Australia (5.7%) and Queensland (5.0%). Because of their larger populations, there were actually more confinements of Indigenous mothers in Queensland (2,347), New South Wales (1,530) and Western Australia (1,433) than in the Northern Territory (1,220).

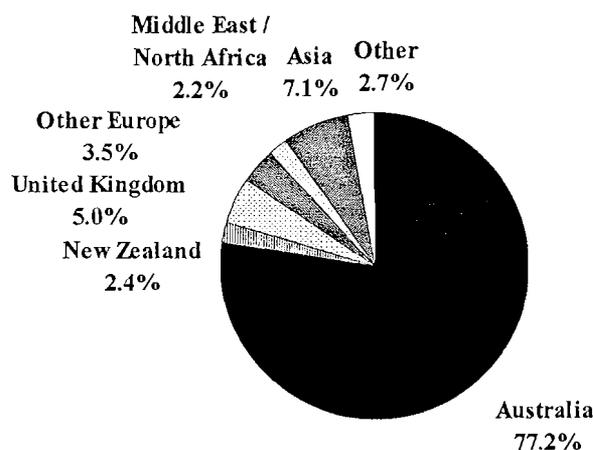


Indigenous mothers are more likely to have their babies at younger ages, and to have more babies, than other mothers (Tables 11, 12). In 1994, their average age was 23.8 years compared with 28.3 years for all confinements. Almost a quarter (24.6%) of all Indigenous mothers were teenagers. The proportion of teenagers among Indigenous mothers was higher in the Northern Territory (30.9%) 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 1994, 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, 1994

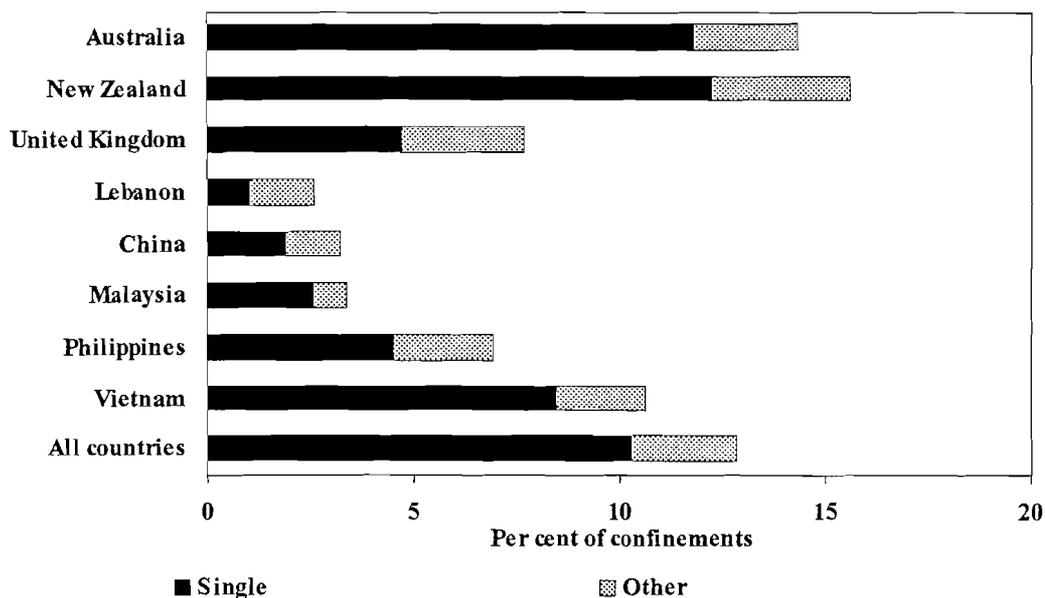


A high proportion (22.8%) of women giving birth in Australia in 1994 were born in other countries (Figure 9), slightly less than the 23.1% in 1993. Because of the large number of countries, only those countries with more than 1,000 confinements are reported separately (Table 13). Mothers born in the United Kingdom comprised 5.0% of all confinements and accounted for relatively higher proportions of all mothers in Western Australia and South Australia. New Zealand-born mothers comprised 2.4% 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 1994, 7.1% of mothers had been born in Asia, compared with 5.2% in 1991, 6.3% in 1992 and 6.9% in 1993. 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).

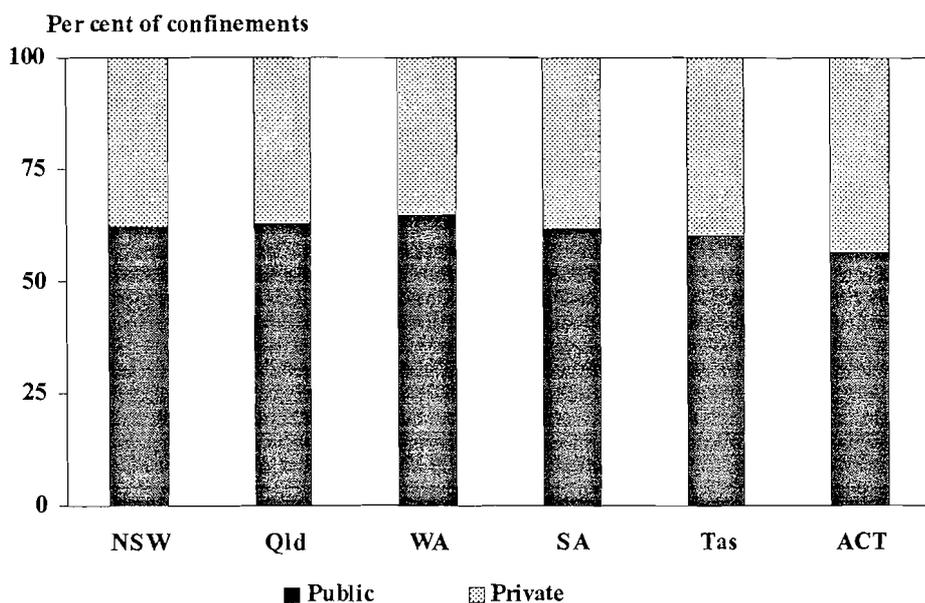
Figure 10: Marital status of mothers, selected countries, all confinements, 1994



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 1994. The proportion of mothers with private status in hospital in the other States and the Australian Capital Territory was 37.8% and ranged from 35.6% in Western Australia to 43.6% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 16, Figure 11).

Figure 11: Confinements by mother's status in hospital, selected States and Territories, 1994



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 1994, 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 6.3% 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 5.0%. There was a higher incidence of preterm birth in the Northern Territory (9.2%) 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, 1994

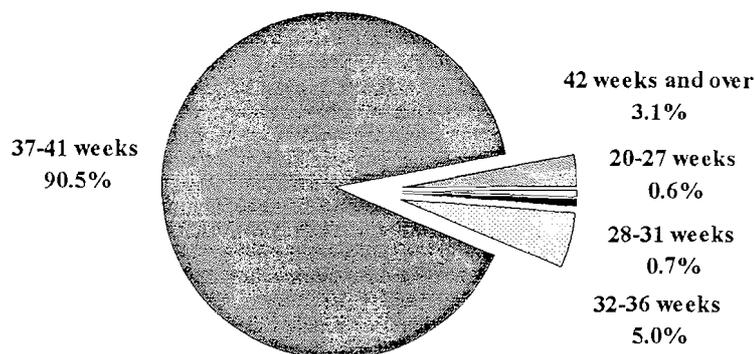


Figure 13: Preterm confinements, States and Territories, 1994

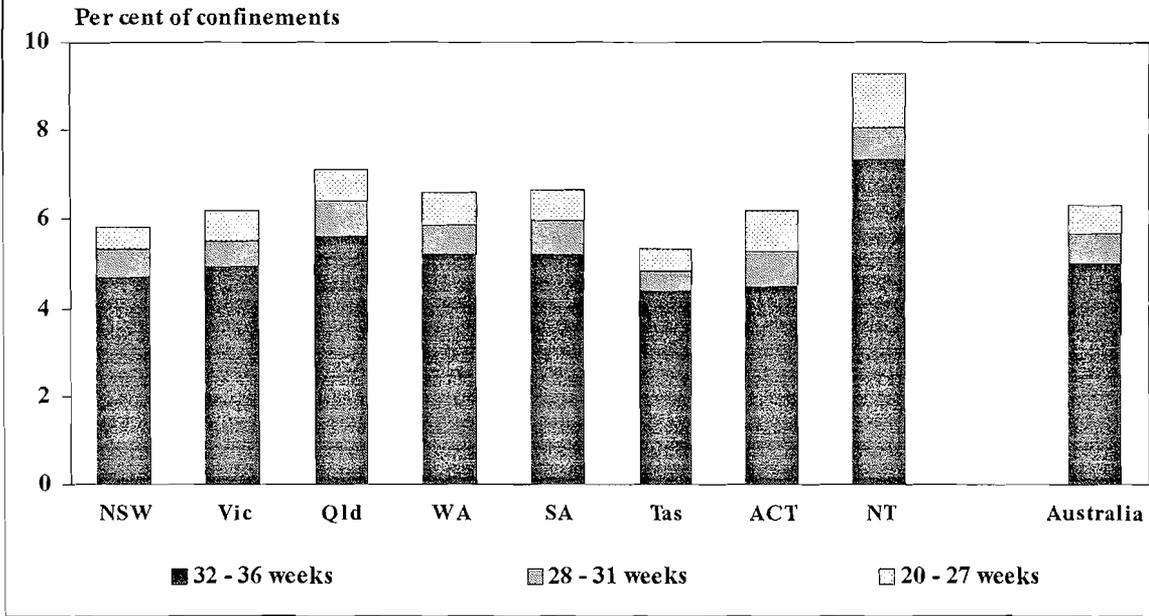


Figure 14: Preterm confinements by maternal age, Australia, 1994

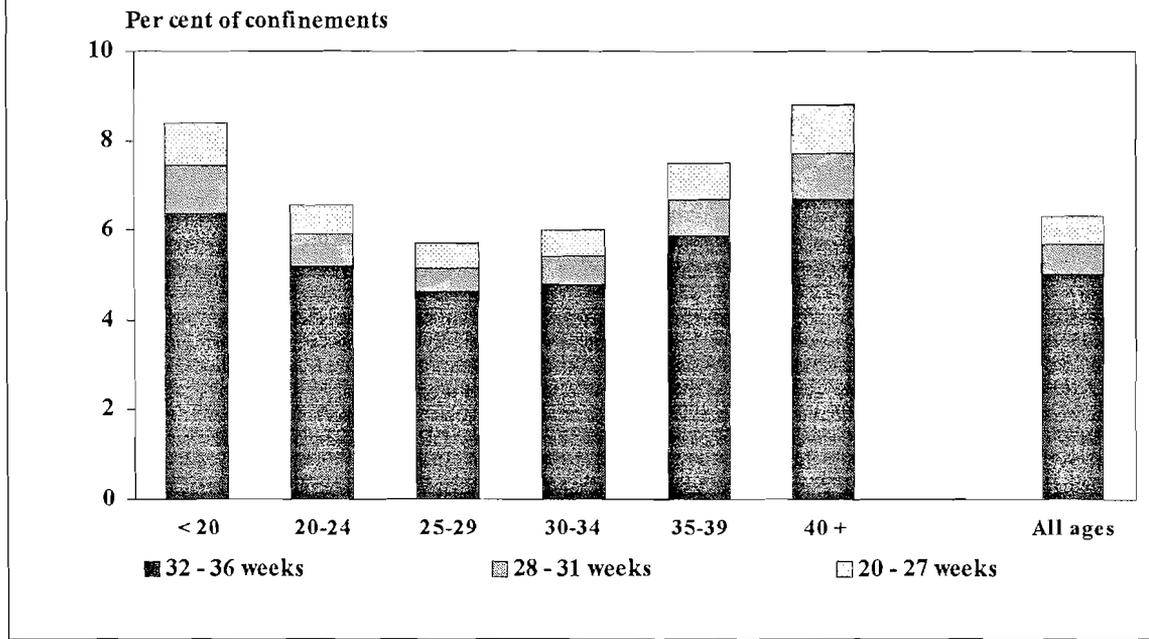
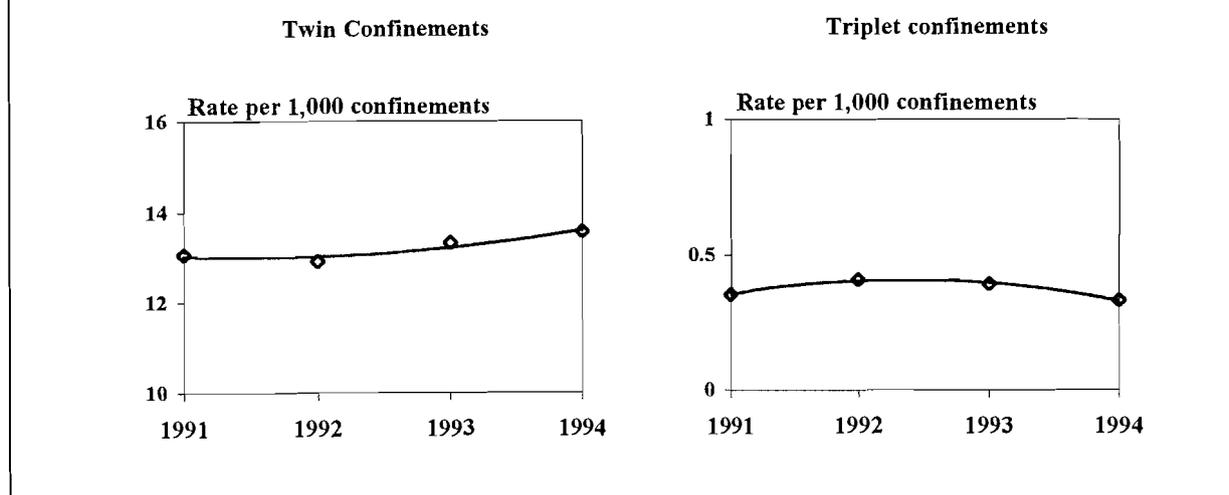


Figure 15: Trends in multiple births, Australia, 1991-1994



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 1994, there were 3,585 multiple pregnancies (1.4% of all confinements), consisting of 3,496 twin pregnancies, 85 triplet pregnancies, and 4 quadruplet pregnancies (Table 19). The twinning rate of 13.6 per 1,000 confinements in 1994 was higher than the rate of 13.3 per 1,000 in 1993 (Figure 15) and continued 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. 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 1994, the highest rate of twin confinements (1.9%) was among mothers aged 35 to 39 years (Table 20, Figure 16).

2.13 Onset of labour

The onset of labour was spontaneous in 67.3% of all confinements (Table 21, Figure 17); this proportion was highest in Tasmania (76.8%) and lowest in Western Australia (60.2%); there was considerable variation in whether labour was augmented. Labour was induced in 21.5% of pregnancies and induction was more likely in Western Australia (27.4%) 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, 1994

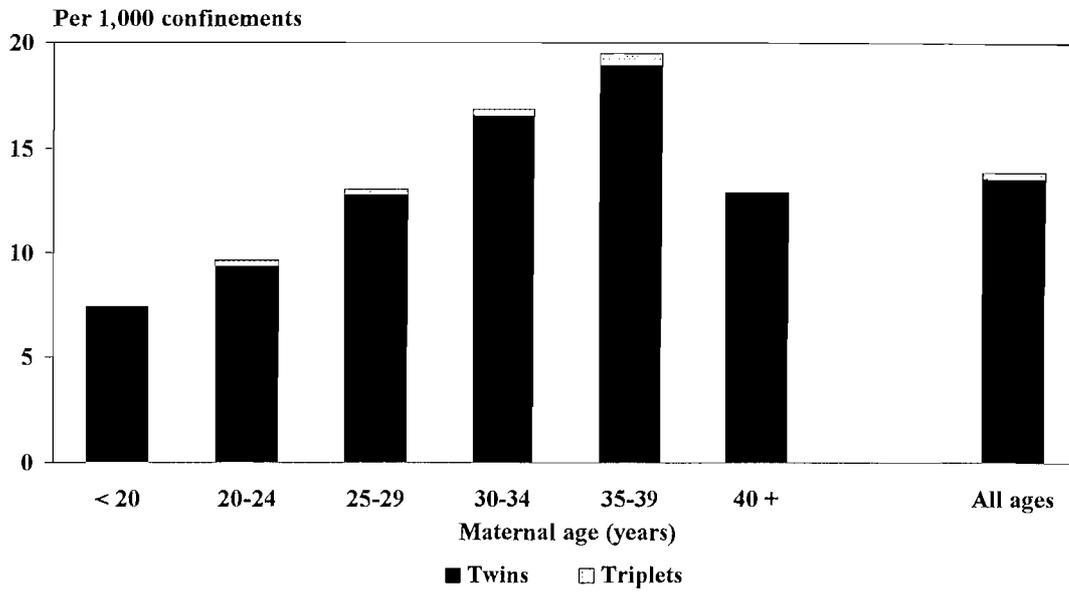
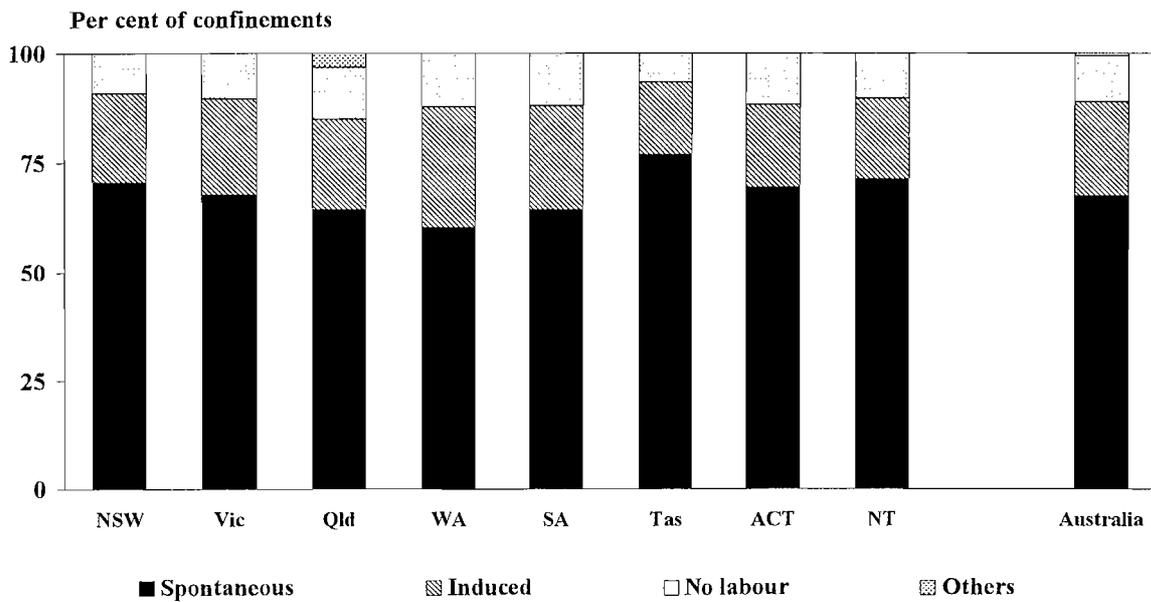


Figure 17: Onset of labour, all confinements, States and Territories, 1994



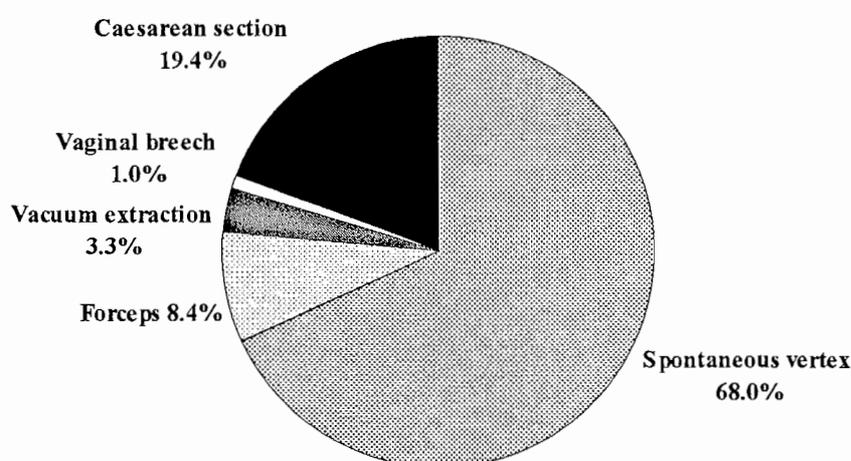
2.14 Presentation in labour

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 in labour, were recorded, so this State was excluded from the national data on presentation in labour. In multiple pregnancies, the presentation and type of delivery of the first-born infant was used to classify each confinement.

2.15 Type of delivery

More than two-thirds (68.0%) of all confinements were spontaneous vertex deliveries (Table 23, Figure 18). Forceps delivery occurred in 8.4%, vacuum extraction in 3.3%, and vaginal breech delivery in 1.0%.

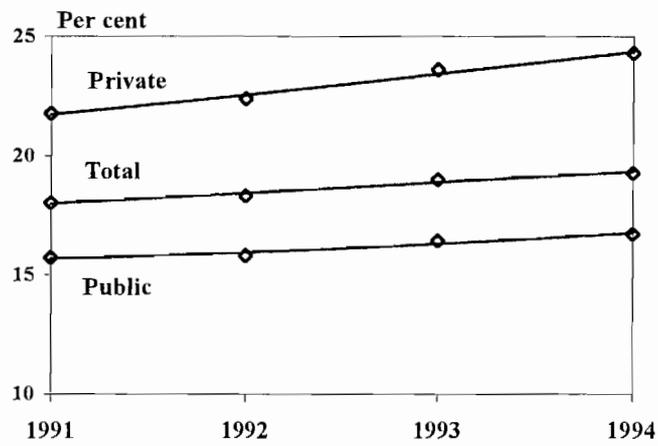
Figure 18: Type of delivery, all confinements, Australia, 1994



There were 49,849 caesarean sections performed in 1994, accounting for 19.4% of all confinements. The caesarean rate was higher than in 1991 (18.0%), 1992 (18.3%) and 1993 (19.0%) (Figure 19), continuing the upward trend that has occurred in recent decades (Lancaster & Pedisich 1993). South Australia (23.7%) had the highest caesarean rate in 1994 and Tasmania (17.2%) 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 24.3% for women who had private status in hospital was 46% higher than the rate of 16.7% 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 (28.6%), Queensland (28.4%) and Western Australia (26.5%) had their babies by caesarean section.

Figure 19: Trends in caesarean section rates by status in hospital, Australia*, 1991-1994



* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

Figure 20: Caesarean rates, States and Territories, 1994

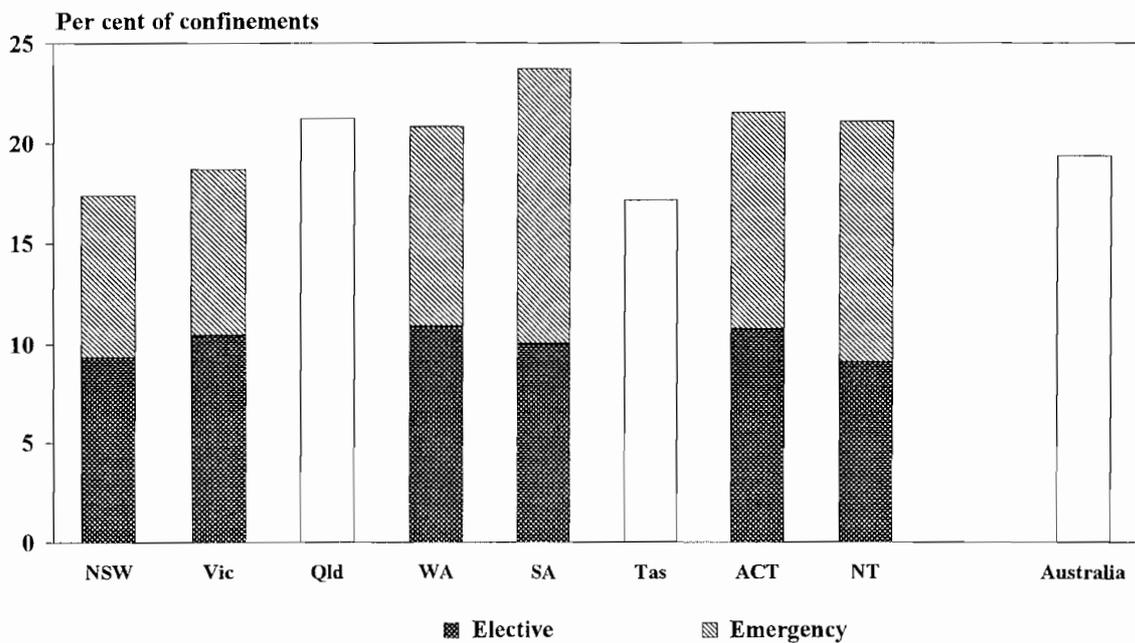
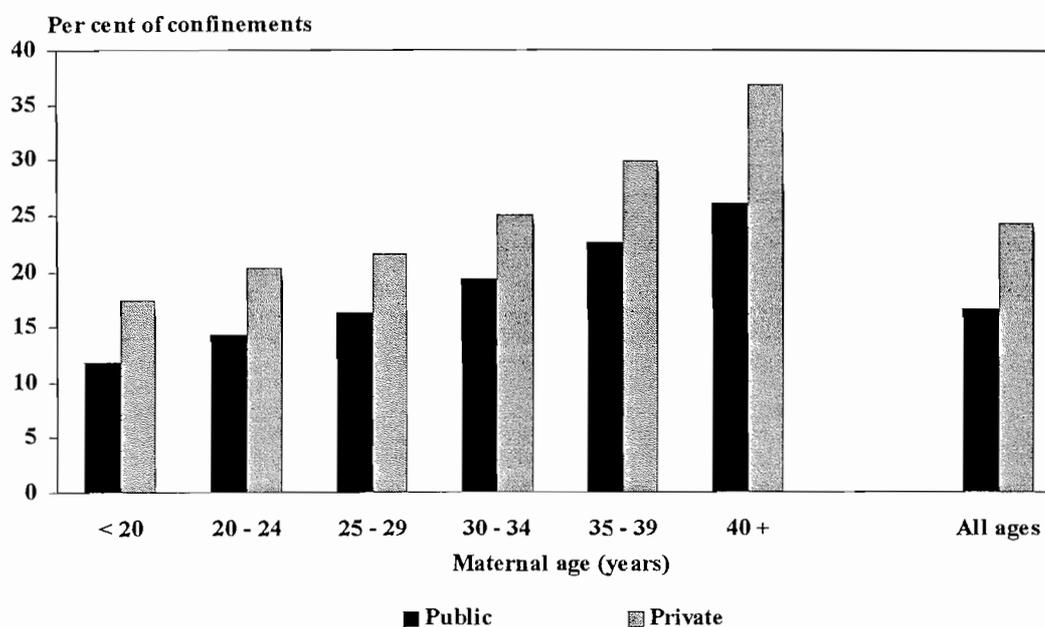


Figure 21: Caesarean rates by maternal age and status in hospital, selected States and Territories*, 1994



* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

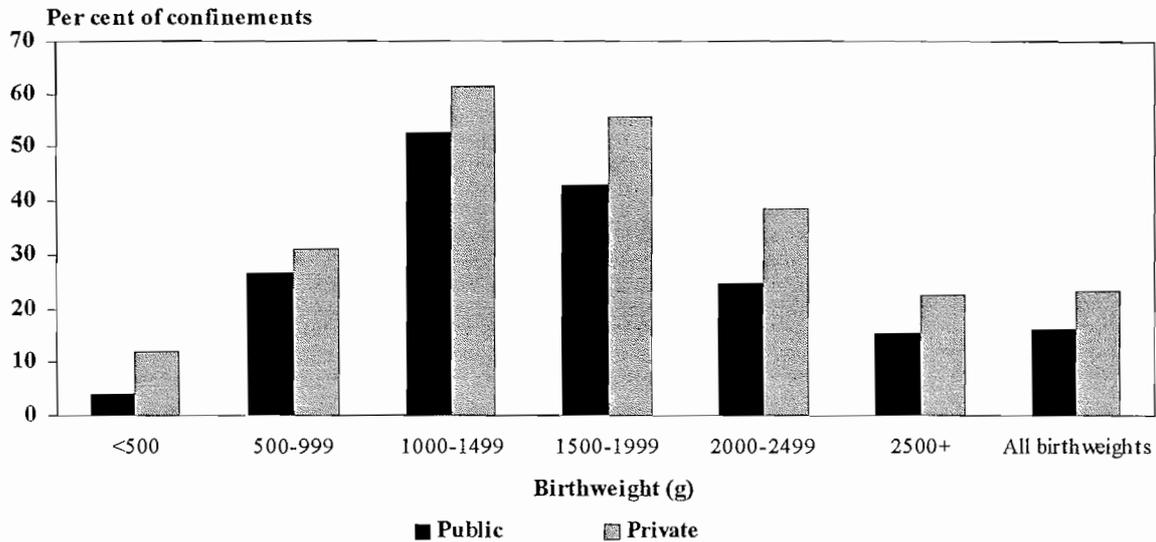
The independent association of maternal age, parity and status in hospital with caesarean rates was examined by analysing national caesarean rates by single year of maternal age, number of previous births, and public and private status in hospital (Tables 25, 26). Caesarean rates were generally higher 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 37.5% compared with 31.5% for those who had public status. For mothers aged 40 to 44 years, the comparable caesarean rates were 47.8% and 44.1%, respectively.

The caesarean rate of 17.4% for Indigenous mothers (Table 27) was less than that for all mothers (19.4%), 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 15.9% and 22.6%, respectively, slightly lower than the rates of 16.7% and 24.3% for 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 (23.3%) 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 42.2% for twins was more than twice that for singleton births (19.0%); for other multiple births, the caesarean rate was 83.1%. Most infants (75.7%) 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 (57.0%) and 1500-1999g (47.5%). For singleton births of 2500g and over, mothers who had private health insurance had a caesarean rate of 23.2%, 50% higher than the rate of 15.5% for those who were not insured.

Figure 22: Caesarean rates by birthweight and status in hospital, singleton births, selected States and Territories*, 1994



* 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 19.2% of confinements in Victoria, 23.7% in Western Australia, 22.3% in South Australia, and 31.5% in the Australian Capital Territory. Suturing of perineal lacerations was performed in 18.0% of confinements in New South Wales, 21.6% in Victoria, 25.2% in Western Australia, and 17.1% in South Australia.

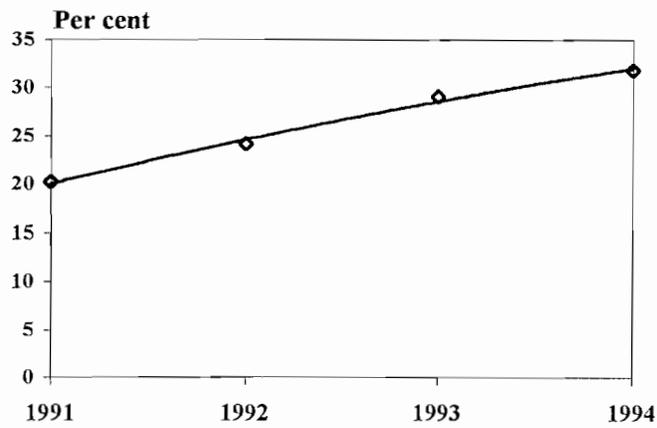
2.17 Mother's length of stay in hospital

Most women gave birth either on the day of admission to hospital (60.6%) or on the following day (31.8%) (Table 29). About 1 in 50 women were hospitalised for at least 7 days immediately before delivery and those in the Northern Territory were more likely to be in hospital for longer periods.

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 1994. The mean duration of postnatal stay in the other States and Territories was 4.7 days, less than the average of 5.3 days in 1991, 5.1 days in 1992 and 4.8 days in 1993. Postnatal stay in hospital was slightly longer than average in South Australia (5.0 days) and the Northern Territory (5.0 days) and shorter in the Australian Capital Territory (4.1 days) (Table 30).

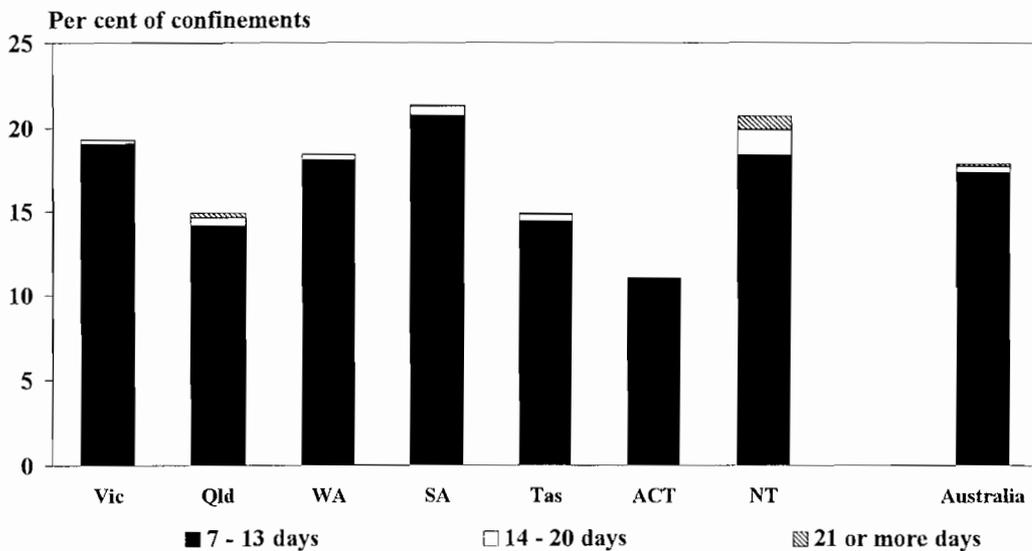
The trend towards shorter postnatal stays in hospital is indicated by the proportion of mothers who were discharged less than 4 days after giving birth. In 1994, 31.9% of mothers were in this category, compared with 29.0% in 1993, 24.1% in 1992, and 20.2% in 1991 (Figure 23). Relatively more mothers in Queensland (37.7%) and the Australian Capital Territory (41.1%) had this shortened stay in 1994 (Table 30), and relatively fewer mothers in these regions had postnatal stays of 7 or more days (Figures 24, 25).

Figure 23: Mother's length of stay of less than 4 days, Australia*, 1991-1994



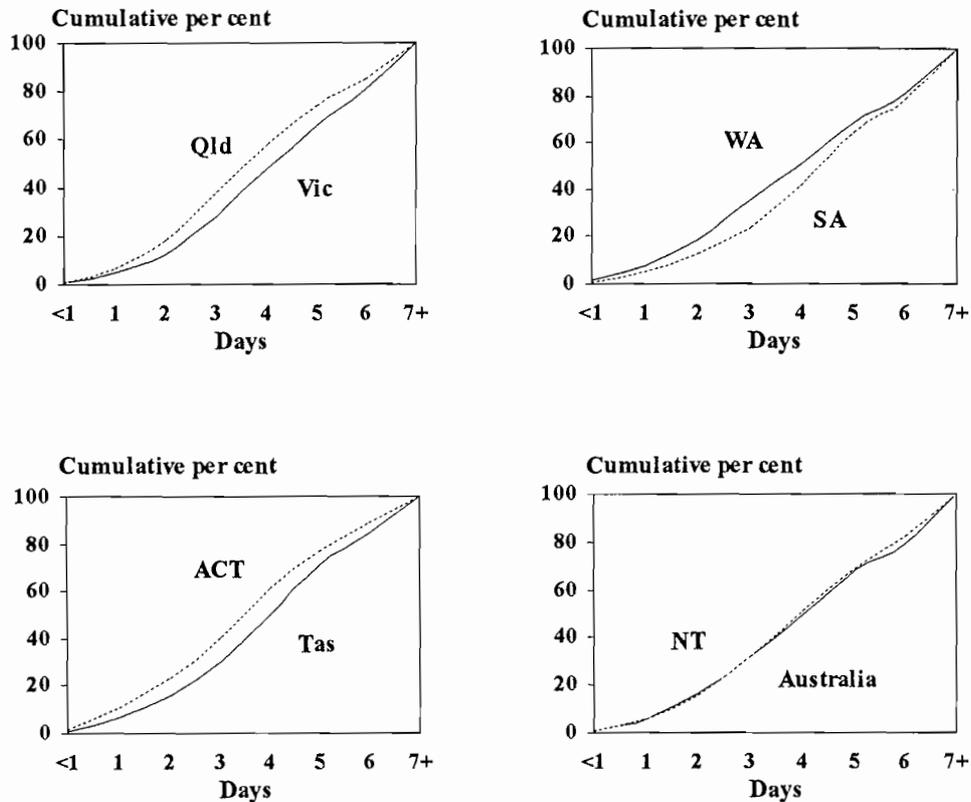
* Data exclude New South Wales

Figure 24: Maternal postnatal stay of 7 or more days, hospital confinements, States* and Territories, 1994



* Data exclude New South Wales

Figure 25: Length of maternal postnatal stay, hospital confinements, States* and Territories, 1994

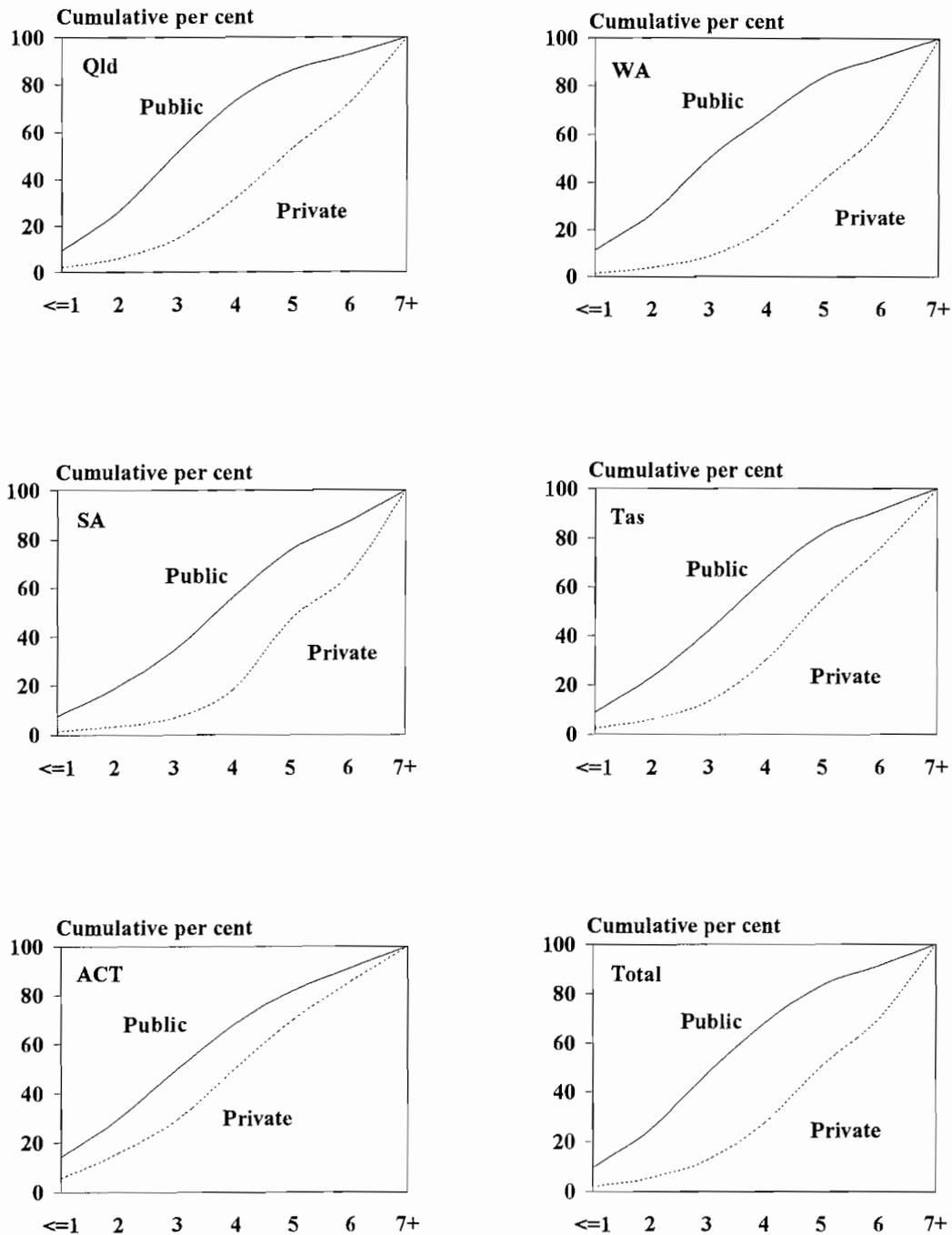


* Data exclude New South Wales

In selected States with available data, mothers who had private status in hospital had an average postnatal stay of 5.7 days, compared with 3.9 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 67.9% for mothers without private health insurance, more than double that of 27.3% 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, 56.7% in the public category stayed for less than 5 days compared with only 15.1% in the private category.

Figure 26: Length of maternal postnatal stay by status in hospital, selected States* and Territories, 1994



* 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. Twelve maternal deaths were reported through the perinatal collections in 1994.

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.

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 1994, there were 261,335 births in Australia and 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 (Figure 27). The March and September peaks represented respective increases of 6.1% and 4.8% above the number expected for that month.

Figure 27: Monthly variation in births, Australia, 1994

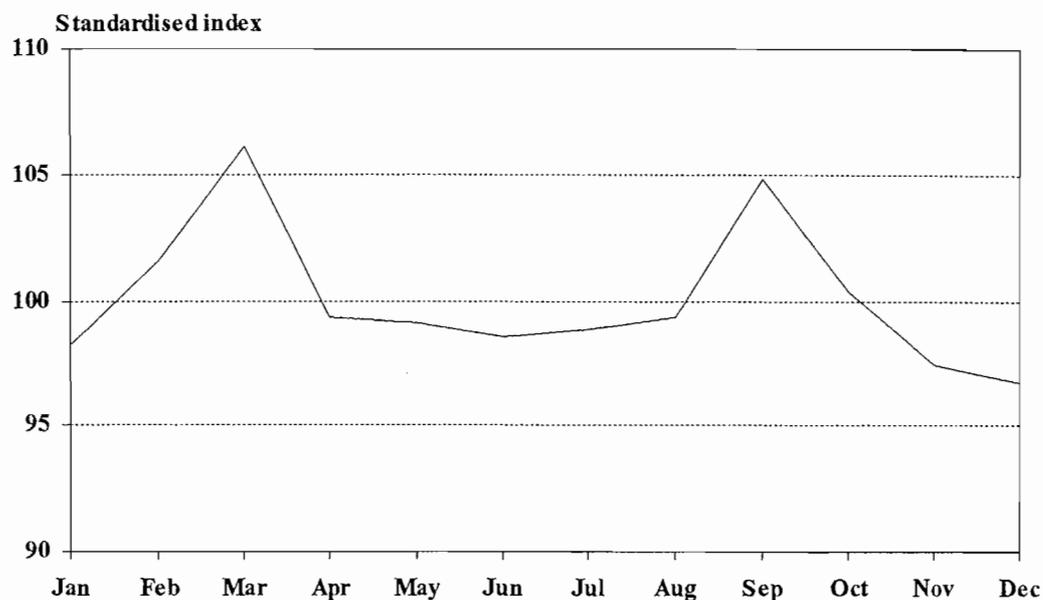
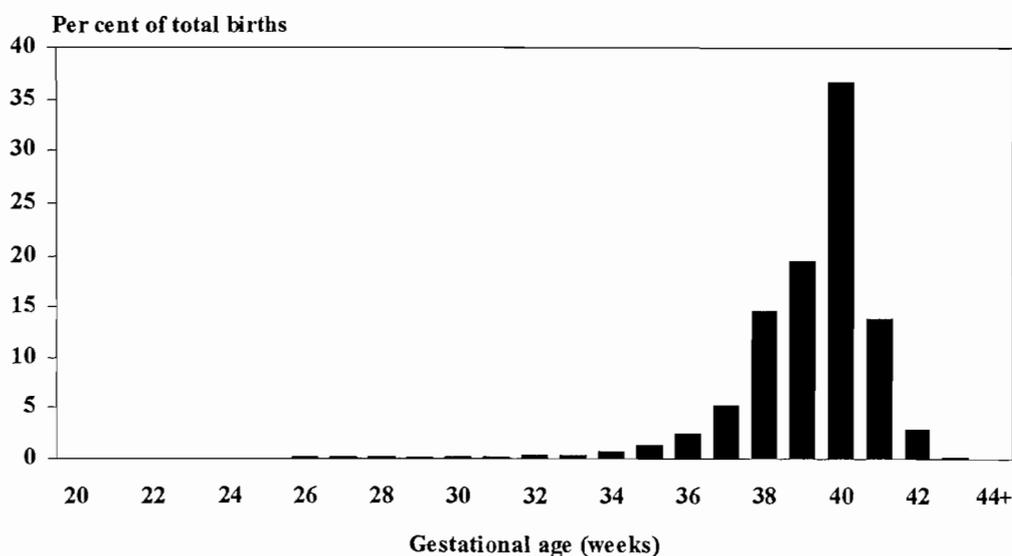


Figure 28: Distribution of births by gestational age, Australia, 1994

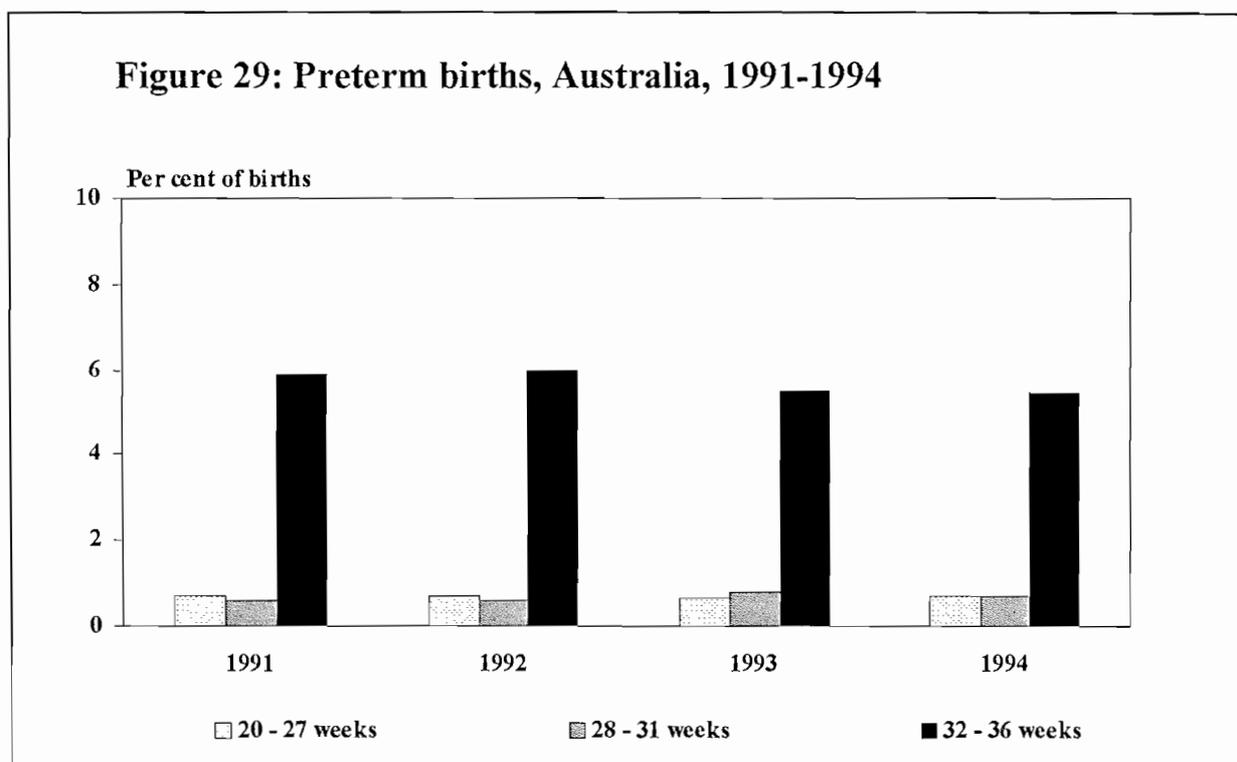


2.21 Infant's sex

Male births exceeded female births in all States and Territories (Table 37). The national sex ratio was 106.3 male births per 100 female births; for singleton births it was 106.4, for twins, 104.2, and for other multiple births, 95.0.

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 142 at 20 weeks to 95,508 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, 7.0% 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 48.4% of twins and in 89.4% of triplet births, much higher than the proportion of 5.7% 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 9.4% in the Northern Territory (Table 40).

2.23 Infant's birthweight

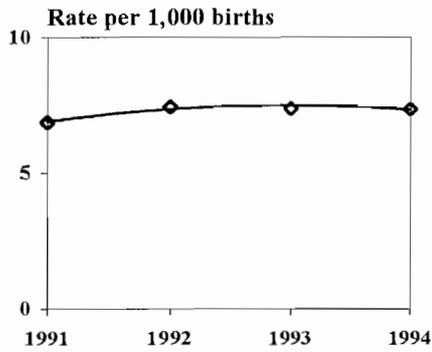
The infant's birthweight is a key indicator of health status and inequalities in health. Infants are defined as low birthweight if their birthweight is less than 2500g. Within this category, those weighing less than 1500g are designated as very low birthweight and those less than 1000g as extremely low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

In 1994, there were 16,387 (6.3%) infants of low birthweight, the same proportion as in the years 1991 to 1993. 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 1994 (Figure 30).

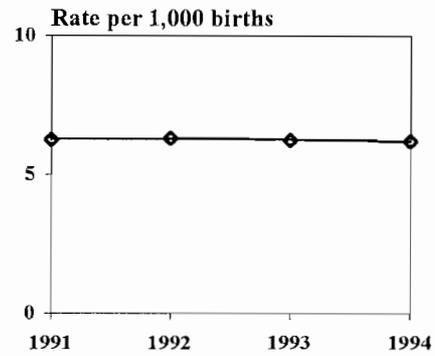
The mean birthweight of all liveborn and stillborn infants in Australia in 1994 was 3,359g and showed relatively little variation among the different States, except for a lower average of 3,221g in the Northern Territory where there was also the highest proportion of low birthweight infants (9.4%) (Figure 31).

Figure 30: Trends in low birthweight, Australia, 1991-1994

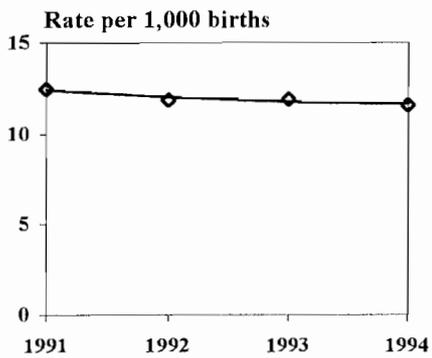
Births of less than 1000g



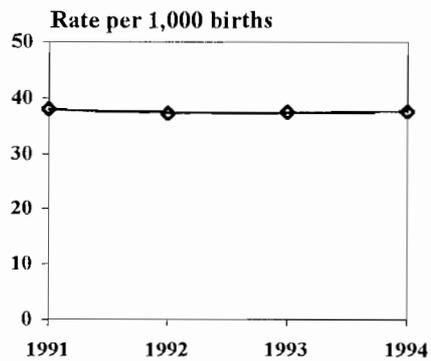
Births of 1000g to 1499g



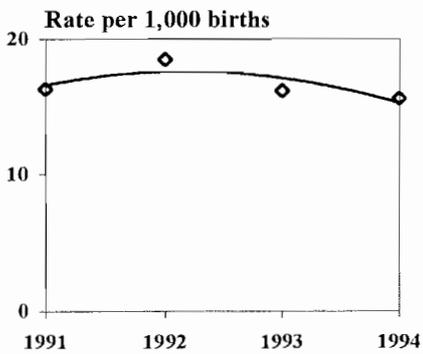
Births of 1500g to 1999g



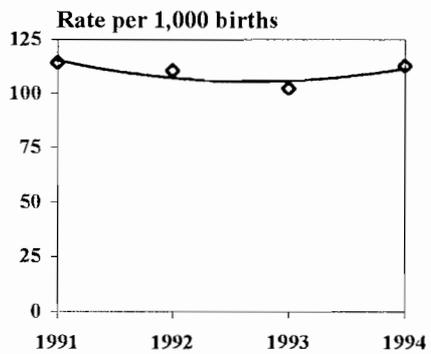
Births of 2000g to 2499g



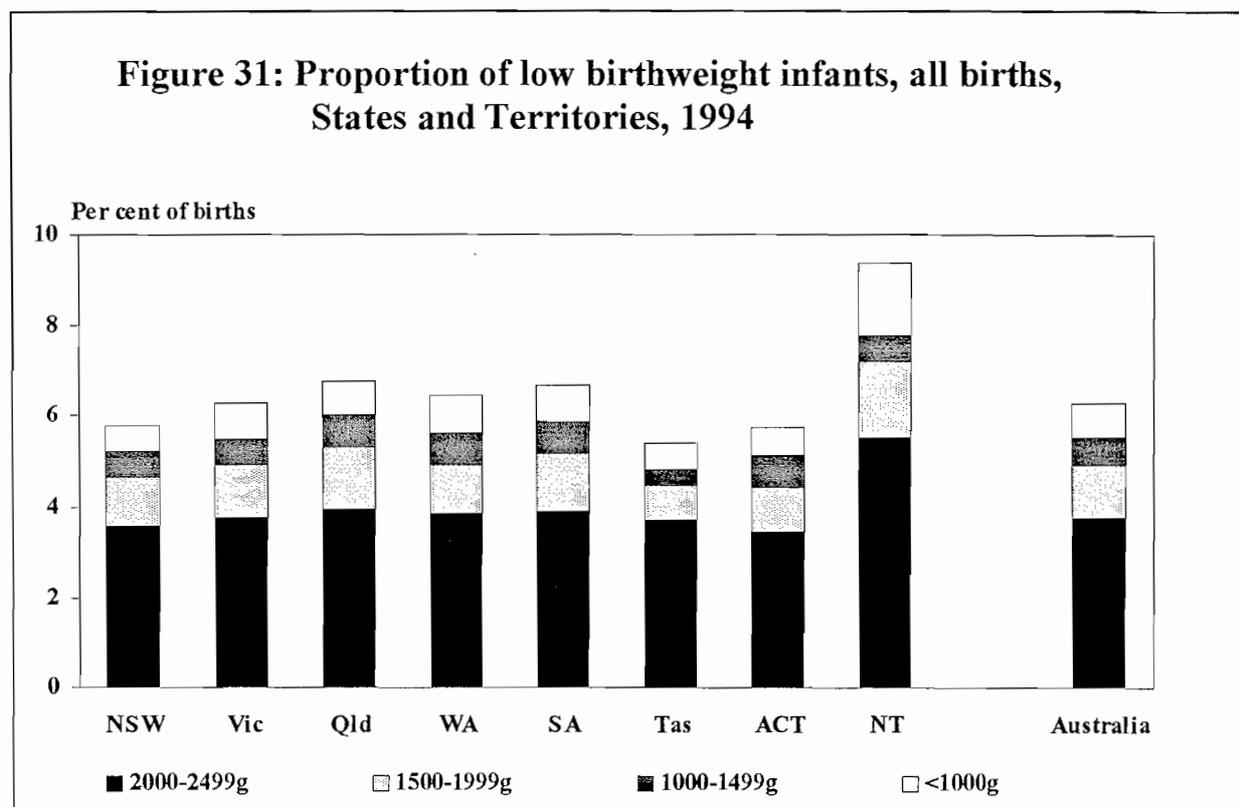
Indigenous births of less than 1000g



Indigenous births of 1000g to 2499g



The mean birthweight of liveborn infants was 3,371g (Table 42). Low birthweight occurred in 5.8% of liveborn infants and in 73.3% of stillborn infants. Almost half (49.7%) of the stillborn infants had a birthweight of less than 1000g.



In twins, the proportion of low birthweight was 50.1%, ten times higher than in singleton births (5.0%); in triplets, this proportion was 90.2% and, in other multiple births, 100% (Table 43, Figure 32). The mean birthweight was 3,387g in singletons, 2,386g in twins, 1,645g in triplets, and 1,546g in the four sets of quadruplets.

Male infants were less likely to be low birthweight (5.8%) than were females (6.7%) (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 3,421g, which was 128g higher than that of females (3,293g).

The mean birthweight of Indigenous infants was 3,148g; this was 211g less than the national average of 3,359g for all births. The proportion of low birthweight in Indigenous infants was 12.8% (Table 45), more than twice that of 6.3% in all infants; between 1991 and 1994, 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 (16.2%), the Northern Territory (14.4%) and Western Australia (14.2%) 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 6.1% in the infants of Australian-born non-Indigenous mothers, low birthweight was slightly more common in infants whose mothers were born in New Zealand, India, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Vietnam (Table 46, Figure 34). Mothers born in China, Malaysia, Lebanon and former Yugoslavia were less likely to have infants of low birthweight.

Figure 32: Distribution of birthweight, singleton and multiple births, Australia, 1994

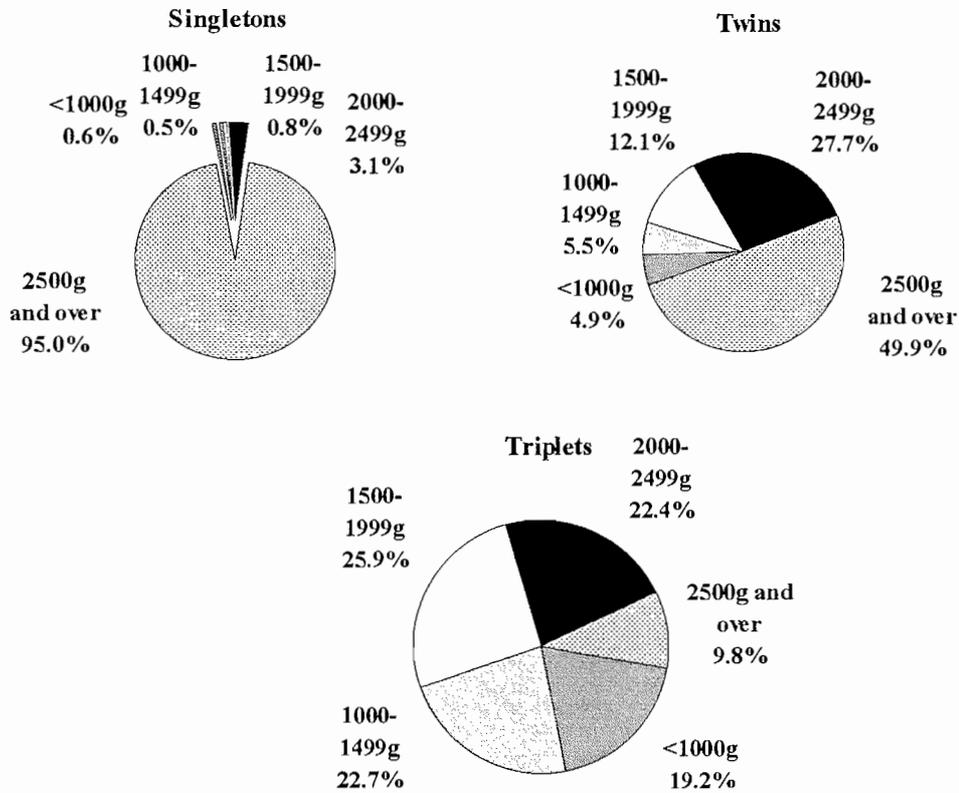


Figure 33: Proportion of low birthweight infants, Indigenous births, States and Territories, 1994

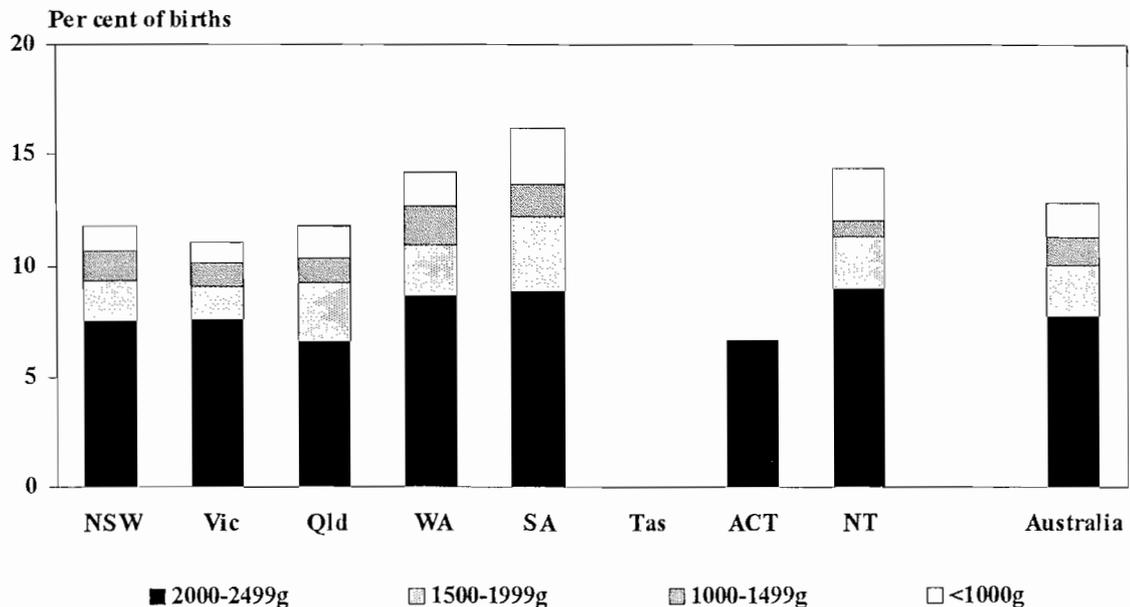
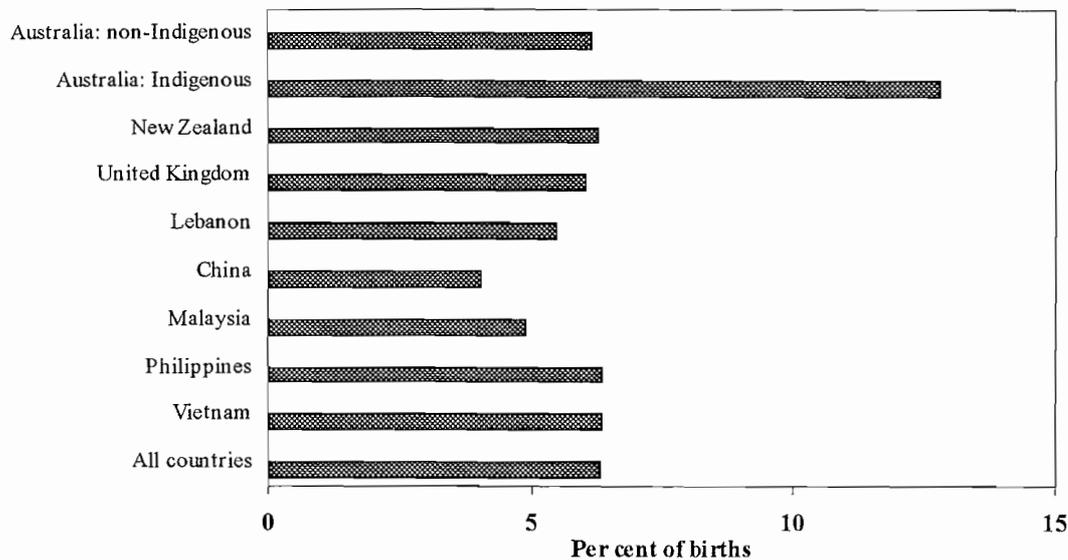


Figure 34: Low birthweight rates, selected maternal countries of birth, Australia, 1994



Mothers aged 25-29 years had the lowest proportion of low birthweight infants (5.7%); this proportion was higher as maternal age increased or decreased (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).

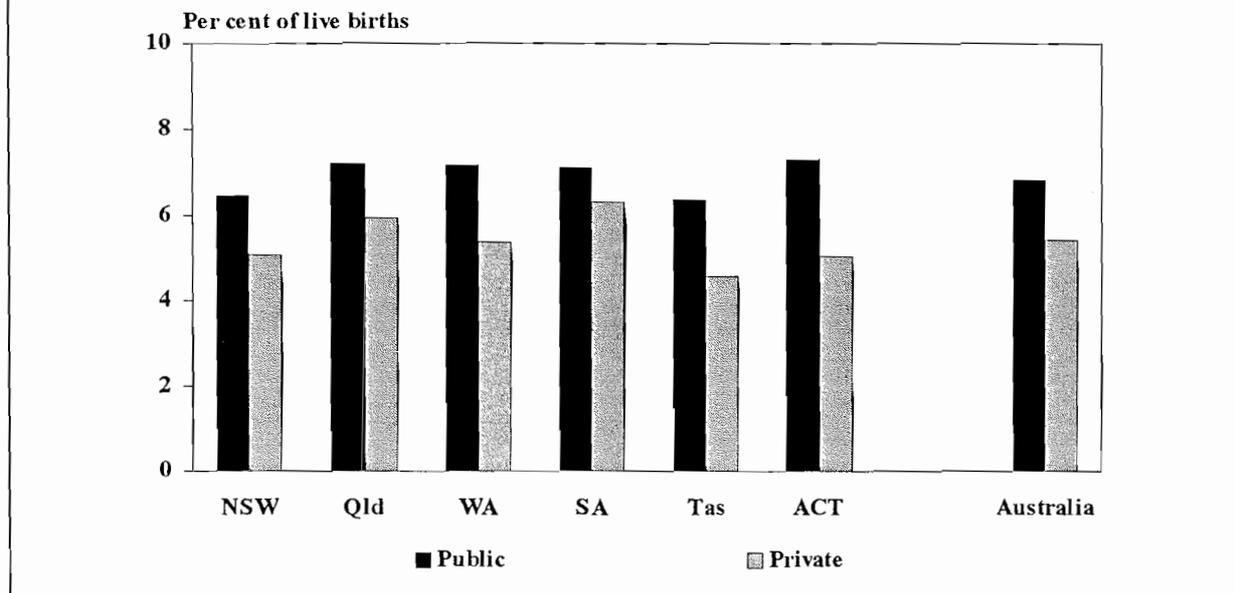
The proportion of low birthweight among infants born to single mothers (8.5%), and to mothers who were divorced, widowed or separated (10.2%), was considerably higher than for infants born to married mothers (5.9%) (Table 46).

Mothers who were not insured had a higher rate of low birthweight infants (6.7%) 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 (0.8%), and in birth centres (1.5%), than in hospital births (6.3%) (Table 46). On the other hand, there was a high proportion of low birthweight infants among those born before arrival in hospital (11.7%) and elsewhere (40.5%).

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 status in hospital, selected States and Territories, 1994



More than three-quarters (79.7%) of the highest risk infants weighing 500-999g were born in hospitals that had more than 2,000 confinements annually, and another 11.1% were born in hospitals with 1,001-2,000 confinements annually. In New South Wales, 11.1% of infants in this birthweight group were born in hospitals with up to 1,000 confinements, relatively more than in the other States. 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 1994. 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 (51.0%) of all liveborn infants weighing less than 1,000g had low scores at 1 minute, compared with 2.3% of infants weighing 2500g or more. Nearly one third (30.5%) 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, 1994

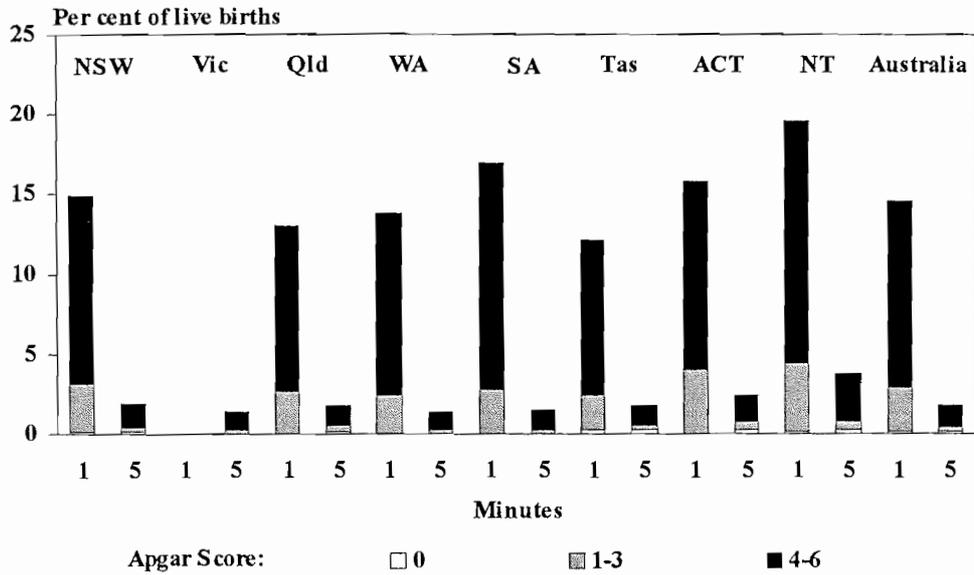
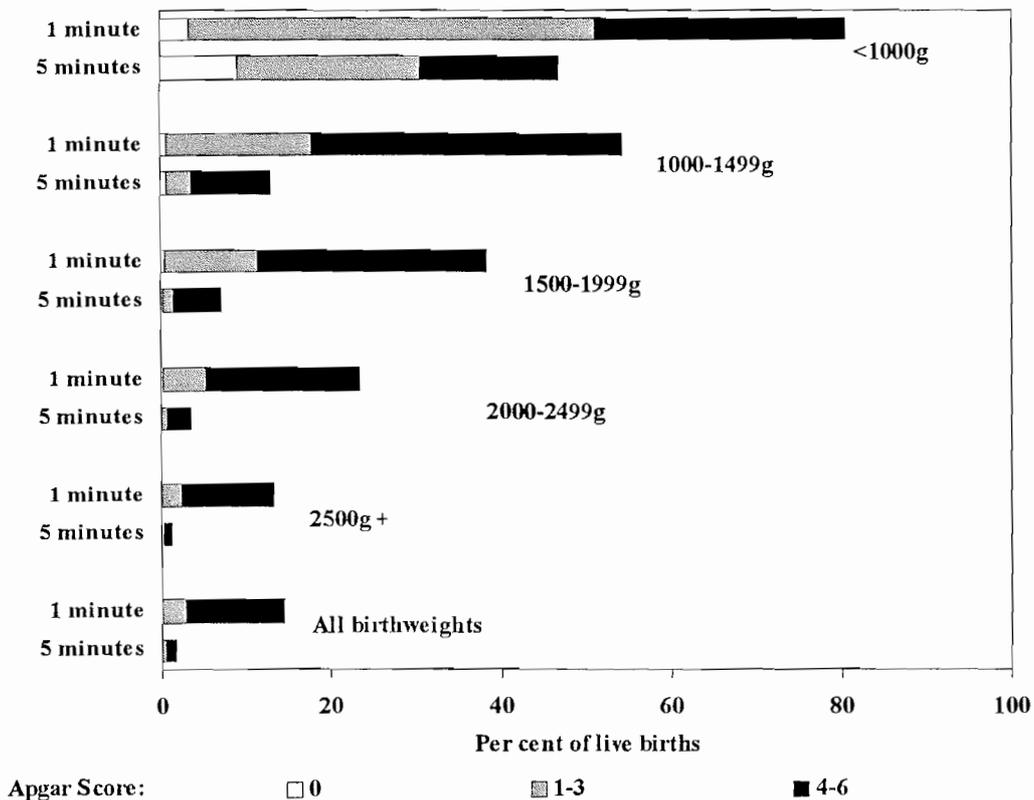


Figure 37: Low Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes by birthweight, live births, Australia, 1994



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, Victoria, Tasmania and Australian Capital Territory in 1994. Ventilatory assistance by intermittent positive pressure respiration (IPPR) through a bag and mask, or after intubation was recorded for 8.3% of infants in Queensland, 5.6% in Western Australia, 3.0% in South Australia, and 5.3% in the Northern Territory. Excluding those States and Territories where this information was not available, IPPR was given to 6.4% of all births. Endotracheal intubation was recorded in 2.1% of births in Queensland, 2.5% in Western Australia, and 0.4% in South Australia. 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 1.0% of infants born in Western Australia, and 4.3% 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 (81.3%) 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 1994 than in the previous three years. In 1994, 32.0% of infants stayed in hospital for this period compared with 28.8% in 1993, 23.0% in 1992, and 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 1994, relatively more infants born in Queensland (36.5%) and in the Australian Capital Territory (40.5%) were in the short-stay group whereas those born in South Australia had relatively longer stays (22.3% had stays of less than 4 days).

The duration of hospitalisation was 28 or more days for 1.1% of infants. As the period of hospitalisation of infants transferred from their hospital of birth to another hospital is not included here, these figures underestimate the proportion of infants staying in hospital for long periods.

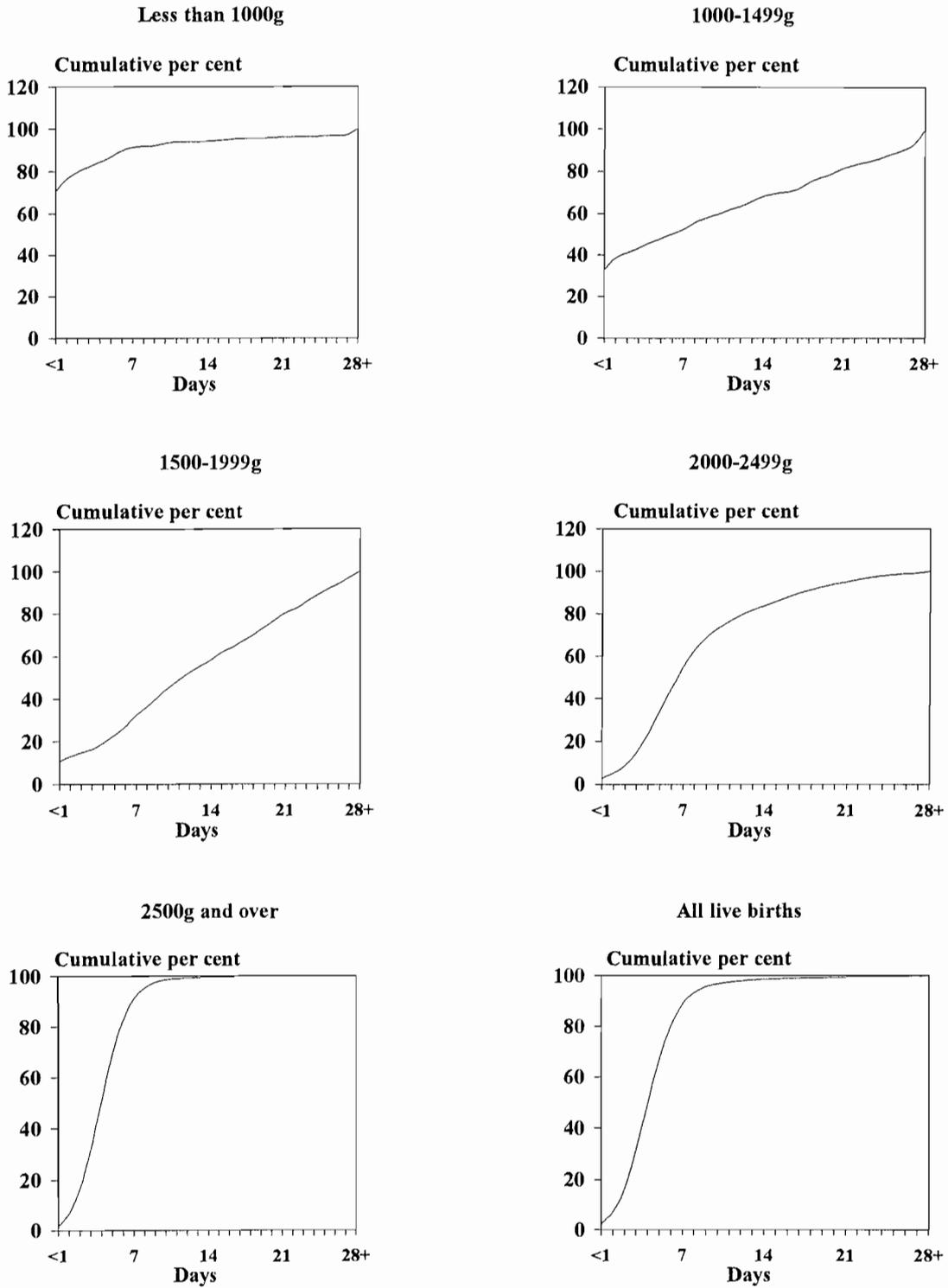
The infant's gestational age and birthweight are usually the main factors influencing the duration of hospitalisation (Table 53, Figure 38). Twins and other infants from multiple births thus had longer stays than singleton infants. Indigenous infants were more likely to be discharged relatively early 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 4.5% 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*, 1994



* Data exclude New South Wales

3 Perinatal mortality

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 1992 to 1994, the perinatal death rate for deaths of at least 20 weeks or 400g (10.7 per 1,000 births) was more than double the rate of 5.0 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 8.5 per 1,000 births was 70% higher than the rate of 5.0 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 1990 were given in the previous 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 1994, the fetal death rate declined by 55% from 10.5 to 4.7 per 1,000 births (Table 56, Figure 39). The fall of 67% for intrapartum fetal deaths was greater than the decline of 49% 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 67.3% in 1994, and intrapartum fetal deaths decreased from 34.5% in 1973 to 25.0% in 1994 (Figure 41).

The neonatal death rate declined even more sharply than the fetal death rate, falling by 70% from 11.3 per 1,000 live births in 1973 to 3.4 per 1,000 live births in 1994 (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 8.0 per 1,000 births in 1994 (Table 58, Figure 39).

Figure 39: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates, Australia, 1973-1994

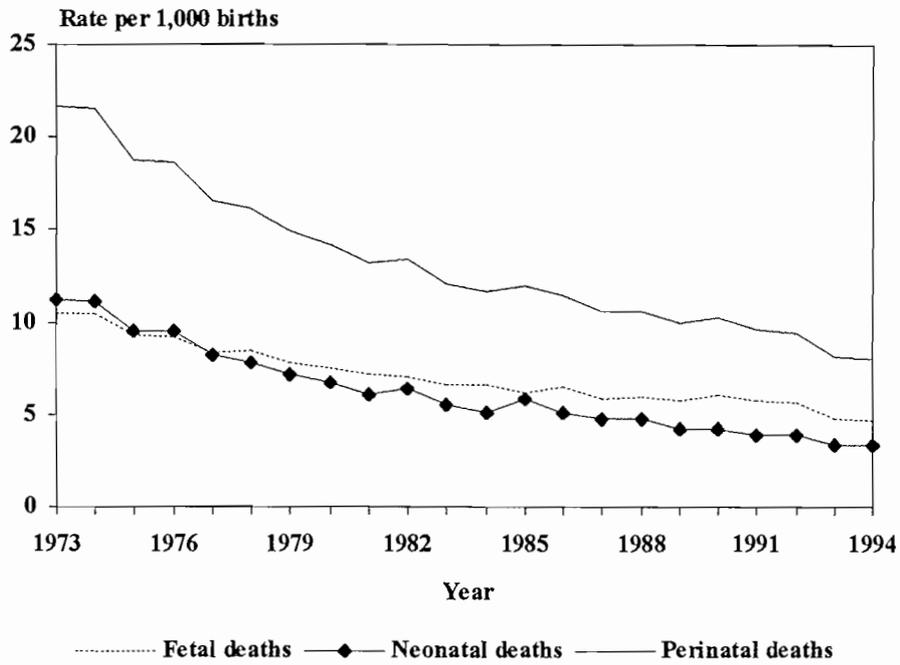


Figure 40: Type of fetal death, Australia, 1973-1994

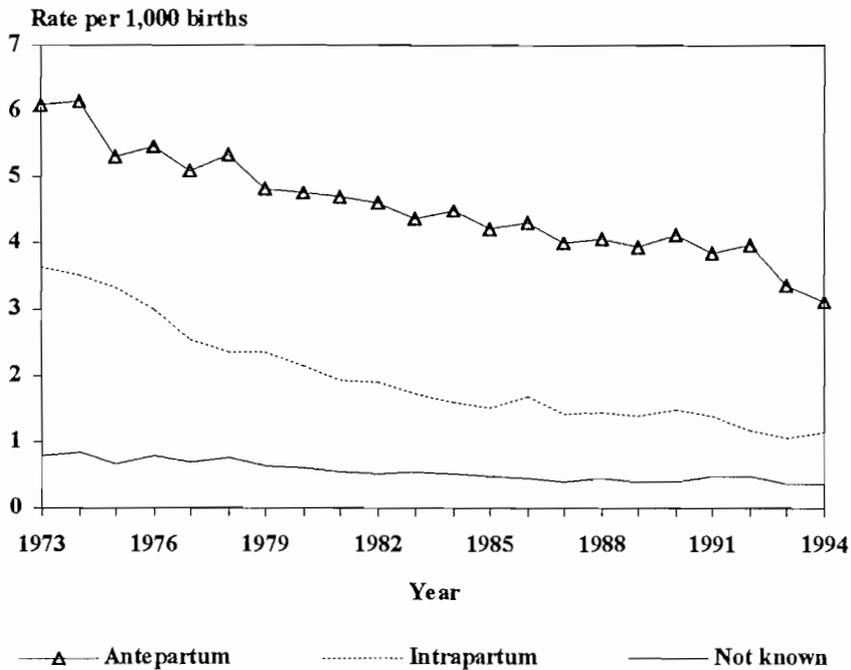
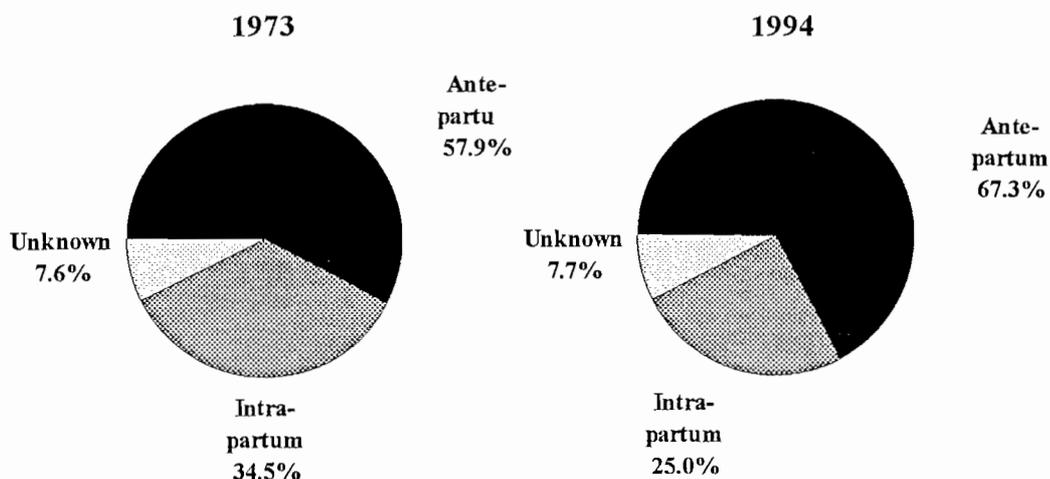


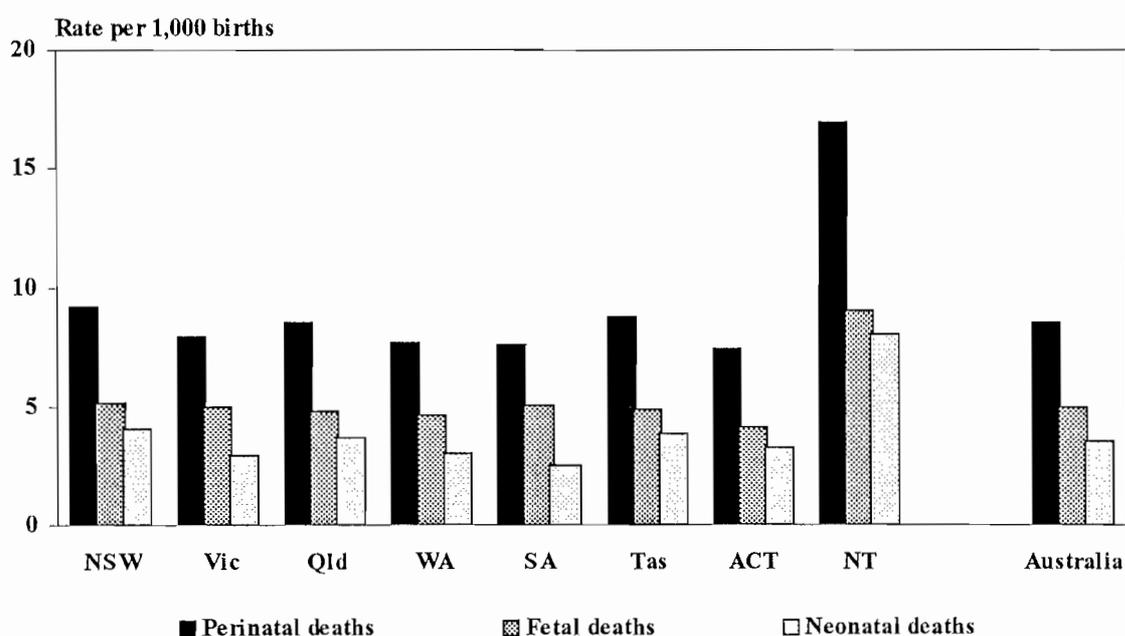
Figure 41: Distribution of fetal deaths by type, Australia, 1973 and 1994



3.3 Perinatal deaths by State and Territory of residence

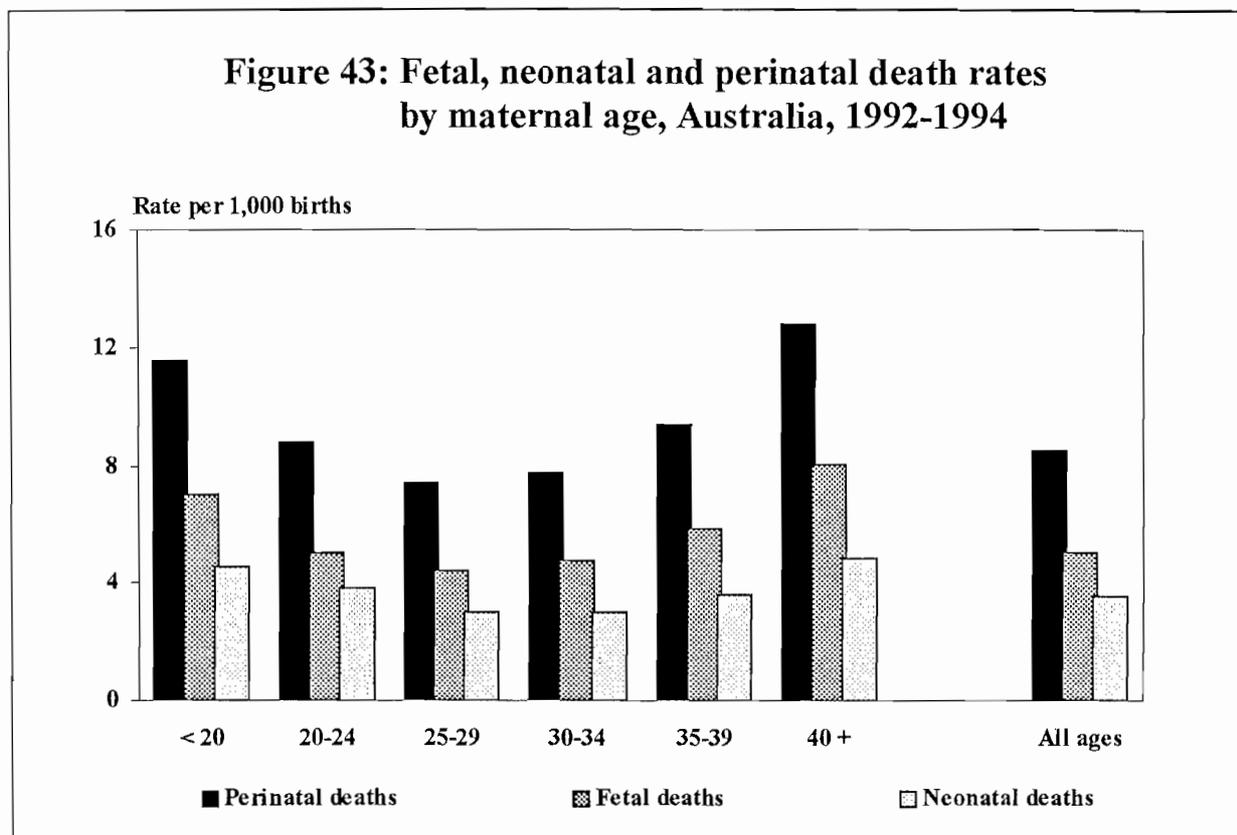
Except for a higher rate in the Northern Territory, there were relatively small differences in perinatal death rates among the States and Territories (Table 59, Figure 42). In the three-year period from 1992 to 1994, the Australian Capital Territory, South Australia and Western Australia had the lowest perinatal death rates. Neonatal death rates varied more than did fetal death rates.

Figure 42: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates, States and Territories, 1992-1994



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 7.4 per 1,000 births in the period from 1992 to 1994 (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 73% higher than that of infants whose mothers were in the lowest-risk age group.



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 1992 to 1994.

There were 6,713 perinatal deaths in 1992-1994; 651 (9.7%) occurred in twins and 57 (0.8%) in other multiple births, so multiple births accounted for 10.5% of all perinatal deaths (Table 61). The perinatal death rate of twins was 4.1 times higher, and of other multiple births 8.2 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 1992-1994, the rate for males was 21% above that for females (Table 62, Figure 45). The difference in rates between the sexes was greater for neonatal deaths than for fetal deaths. The neonatal death rate for males was 33% higher than for females; the fetal death rate was 13% higher for males.

Figure 44: Perinatal mortality rate by plurality, Australia, 1992-1994

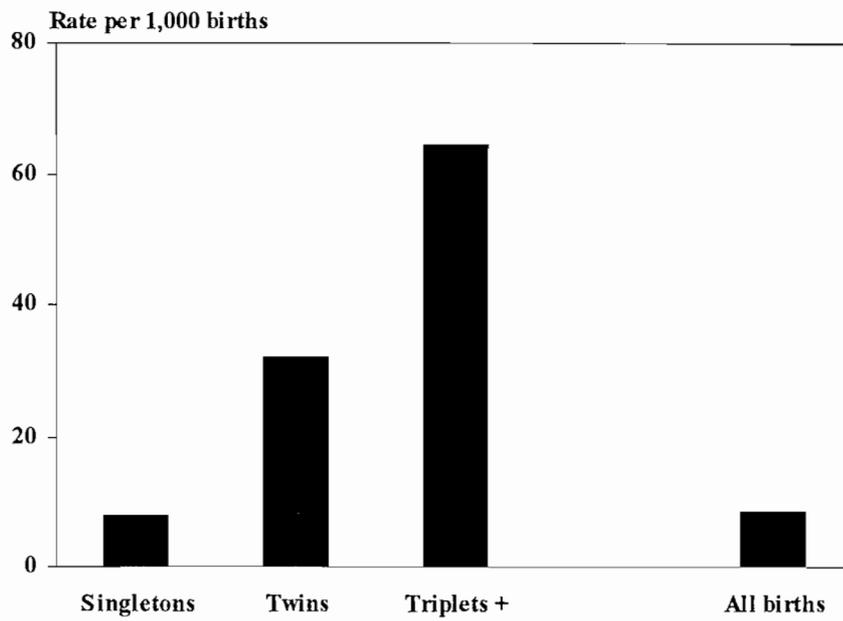
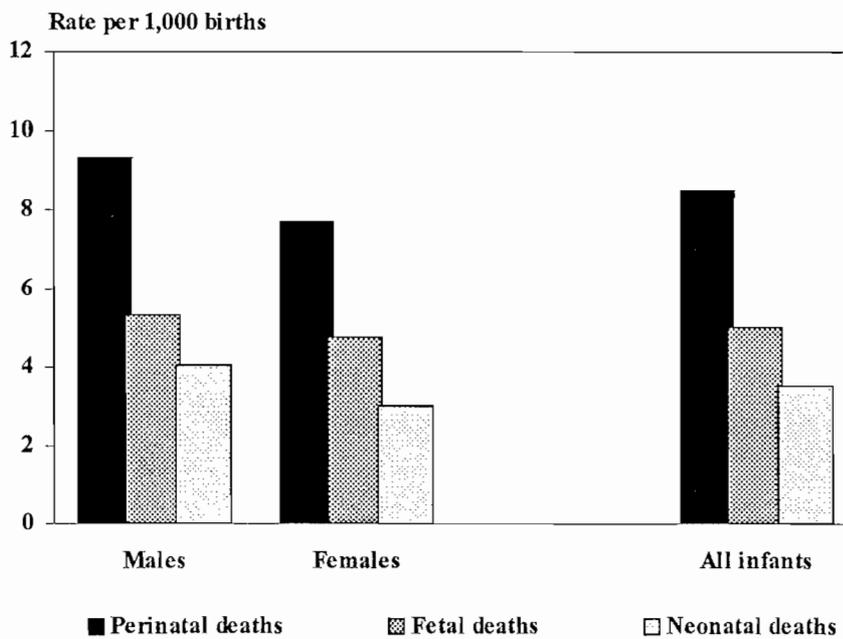


Figure 45: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates by infant's sex, Australia, 1992-1994



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 1994 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% (Table 63, Figure 46). In 1994, these proportions had increased to 67% and 31%, respectively. Many countries that still have a lower limit of 28 weeks for registering fetal deaths thus exclude almost one-third of the fetal deaths included in the Australian data.

The distribution of neonatal deaths by gestational age was similar to that for fetal deaths but there were relatively more neonatal deaths of less than 28 weeks in 1994 than in 1973 (Table 64, Figure 47). The proportion in this group increased from 25% in 1973 to 39% in 1994 while the proportion of all neonatal deaths of known gestational age that were preterm was 68% in 1973 and 66% in 1994.

Between 1973 and 1994, there were substantial falls in the proportionate perinatal death rates in all gestational age groups, but the decline for deaths of less than 28 weeks was not as marked as for deaths in the other gestational age groups (Table 65, Figure 48).

Figure 46: Proportionate fetal death rates by gestational age, Australia, 1973-1994

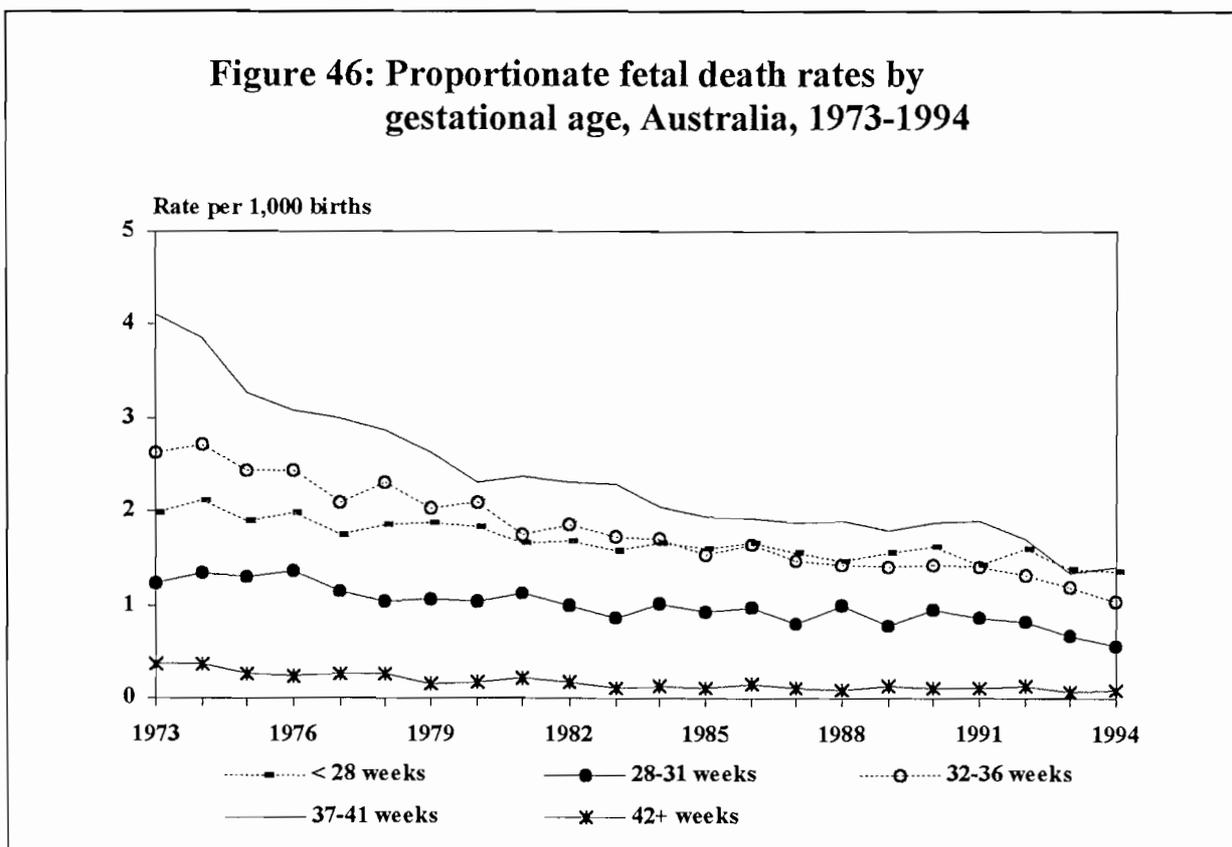


Figure 47: Proportionate neonatal death rates by gestational age, Australia, 1973-1994

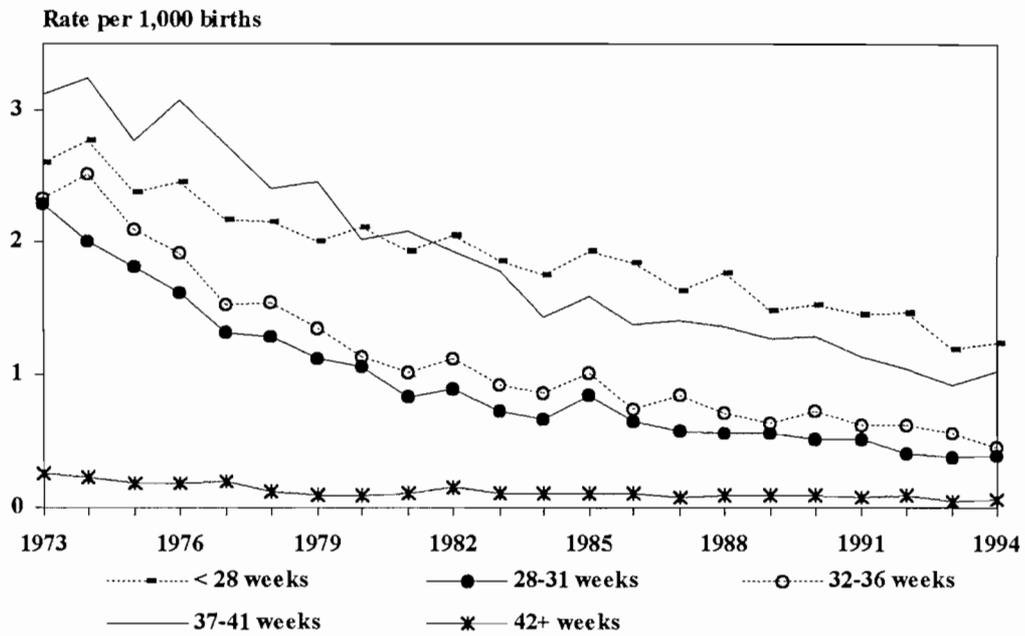
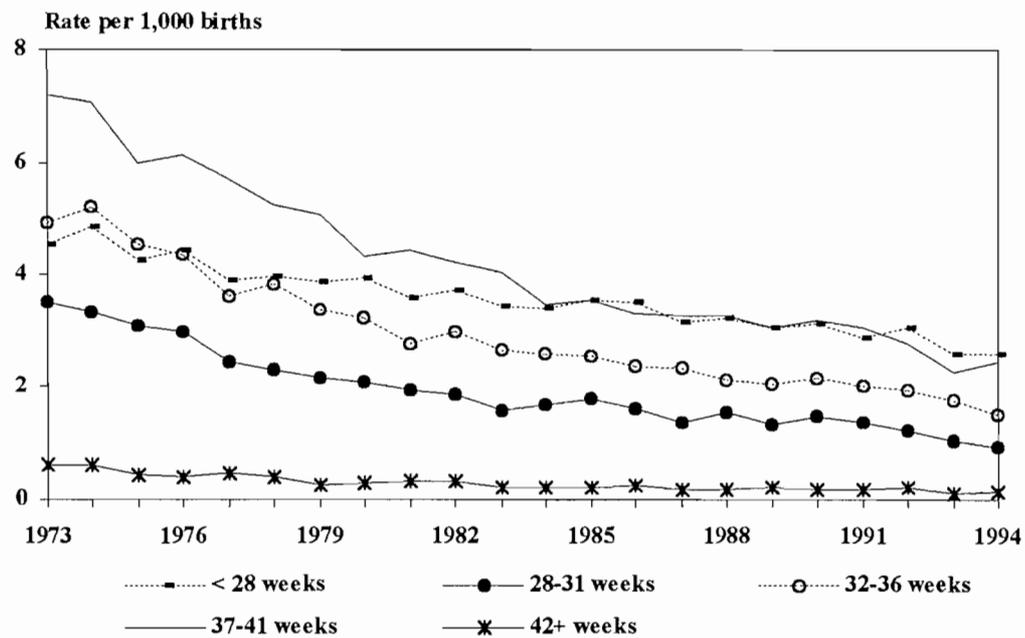


Figure 48: Proportionate perinatal death rates by gestational age, Australia, 1973-1994



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 1994 are expressed as proportionate death rates. In 1973, low birthweight infants of less than 2500g accounted for 61.8% of fetal deaths with stated birthweights and those weighing 500-999g for 22.5% (Table 66, Figure 49). In 1994, these proportions had increased to 67.2% and 36.9%, 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 0.9 per 1,000 live births in 1994. For infants weighing 500-999g, the rate declined from 2.7 to 1.2 per 1,000 live births in the same period, while for those weighing 2500g and over, it declined from 2.8 per 1,000 in 1973 to 1.1 per 1,000 live births in 1994.

Although there were substantial falls in the proportionate perinatal death rates in all birthweight groups, the greatest decline of 74% 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, 1973-1994

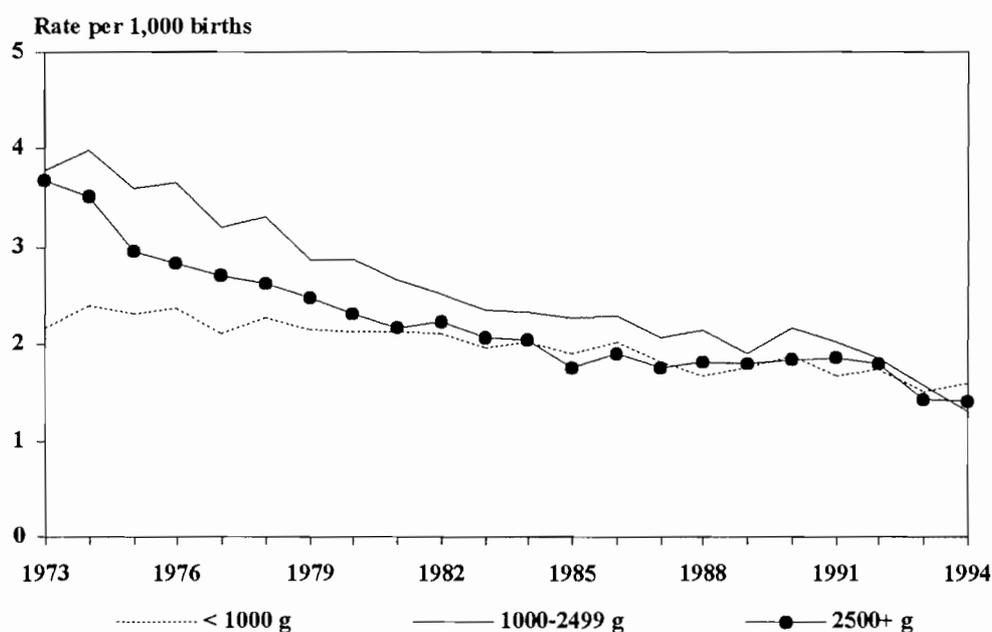


Figure 50: Proportionate neonatal death rates by birthweight, Australia, 1973-1994

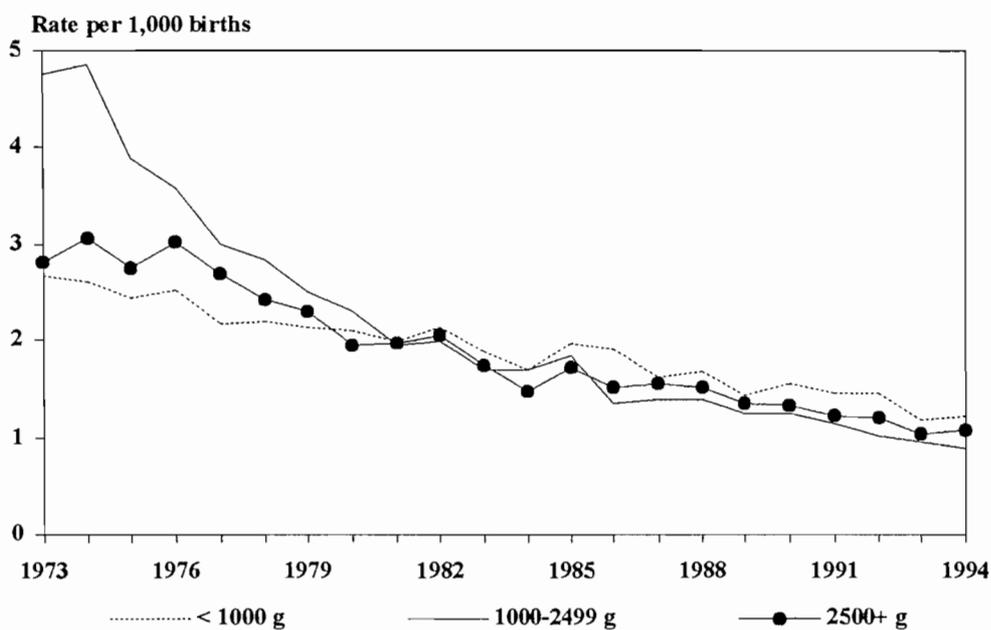
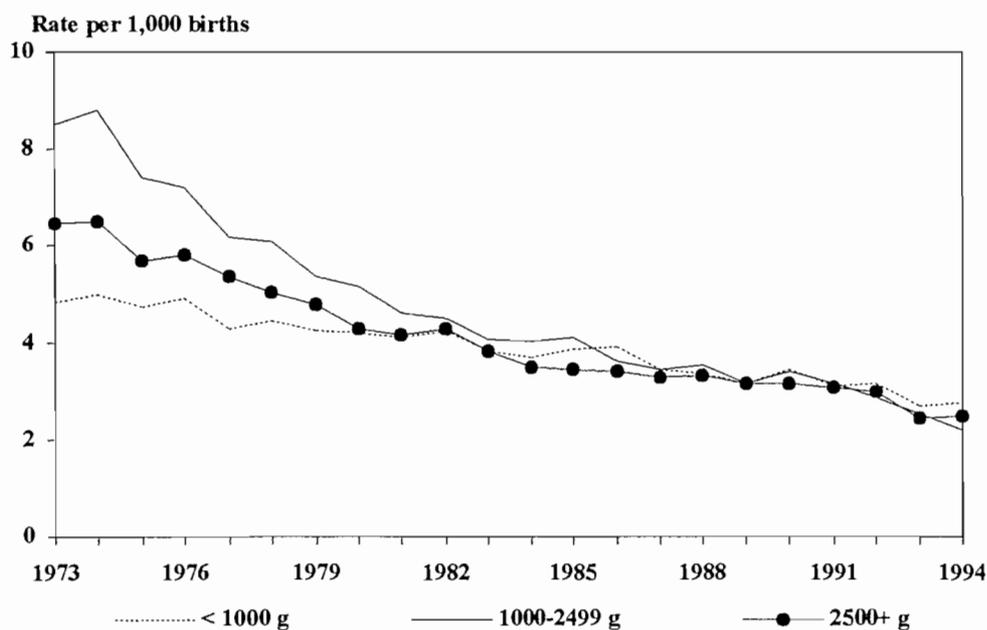


Figure 51: Proportionate perinatal death rates by birthweight, Australia, 1973-1994



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, there were 20% fewer deaths recorded in the 1994 State and Territory perinatal data collections than in the ABS data. This difference is due to the baby's outcome being recorded only from the hospital of birth in the State and Territory data collections. Neonatal deaths within 28 days of infants transferred to another hospital, those readmitted to hospital, and those dying at home are included in the ABS data based on registrations of all perinatal deaths. Accordingly, fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates for births of 500g and over in 1994 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 299.2 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 356.8 per 1,000 live births for infants of 500-999g to 0.7 per 1,000 for those in the two heaviest birthweight groups. Survival up to 28 days of various groups of low birthweight infants was 64.3% for those weighing 500-999g, 94.5% for infants of 1000-1499g, and 97.3% 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 1994, there were 1,745 fetal deaths notified to the perinatal collections, resulting in a fetal death rate of 6.7 per 1,000 births, 40% higher than the rate of 4.8 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 5.6 per 1,000 births for infants of mothers aged 25 to 29 years to 10.3 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 14.1 per 1,000 births, more than twice the rate of 6.5 per 1,000 in the non-Indigenous population (Table 71).

Fetal death was more likely among first-born infants (7.5 per 1,000 births) than among infants whose mothers already had one child (5.4 per 1,000 births) (Table 72). With higher parity, the fetal death rate increased to a maximum of 10.9 per 1,000 births for those with four or more previous children.

The fetal death rate of twins (24.0 per 1,000 births) and of infants born in other multiple births (40.6 per 1,000 births) was much higher than that of singleton infants (6.2 per 1,000 births) (Table 73).

Infants of single mothers (8.4 per 1,000 births) and of mothers who were widowed, divorced or separated (9.8 per 1,000 births) had higher fetal death rates than infants of mothers who were married or living in a de facto relationship (6.3 per 1,000 births) (Table 74).

Fetal death rates were higher for mothers who were not insured (6.8 per 1,000 births) than for those who had private health insurance (5.2 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.

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Table 1 : Confinements and births, States and Territories, 1994

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Confinements	86,736	63,983	47,356	25,071	19,519	6,782	4,730	3,480	257,657
Fetal deaths	496	484	330	188	128	46	36	37	1,745
Live births	87,488*	64,448	47,716	25,237	19,673	6,790	4,748	3,490	259,590
All births	87,984	64,932	48,046	25,425	19,801	6,836	4,784	3,527	261,335

* Includes 254 births in NSW with 'not stated' birth status

Table 2 : Place of birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 1994

Place of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Hospital	83,734	63,653	47,014	24,506	18,977	6,684	4,368	3,411	252,347
Birth centre	2,502	na	na	363	468	na	310	7	3,650
Home	172	115	171	109	31	98	41	3	740
Born before arrival	298	215	171	93	43	-	-	-	820
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59	59
Not stated	30	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	41
All places of birth	86,736	63,983	47,356	25,071	19,519	6,782	4,730	3,480	257,657
Per cent									
Hospital	96.6	99.5	99.3	97.7	97.2	98.6	92.6	98.0	98.0
Birth centre	2.9	na	na	1.4	2.4	na	6.6	0.2	1.4
Home	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	1.4	0.9	0.1	0.3
Born before arrival	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	-	-	-	0.3
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.7	0.0
All places of birth	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 3 : Distribution of maternity units by size, States and Territories, 1994

Number of confinements annually	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
1 - 100	62	70	74	45	51	8	-	1	311
101 - 500	38	37	24	21	21	-	1	2	144
501 - 1000	26	20	12	7	4	2	-	2	73
1001 - 2000	12	11	11	3	3	2	1	1	44
2001 and over	14	6	4	2	2	1	1	-	30
All hospitals	152	144	125	78	81	13	3	6	602
Per cent									
1 - 100	40.8	48.6	59.2	57.7	63.0	61.5	-	16.7	51.7
101 - 500	25.0	25.7	19.2	26.9	25.9	-	33.3	33.3	23.9
501 - 1000	17.1	13.9	9.6	9.0	4.9	15.4	-	33.3	12.1
1001 - 2000	7.9	7.6	8.8	3.8	3.7	15.4	33.3	16.7	7.3
2001 and over	9.2	4.2	3.2	2.6	2.5	7.7	33.3	-	5.0
All hospitals	100.0								

Table 4 : Distribution of confinements by size of maternity unit, States and Territories, 1994

Number of confinements annually	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
1 - 100	1,897	1,966	1,828	1,185	1,586	221	-	56	8,739
101 - 500	8,880	9,961	6,199	5,994	4,840	-	253	505	36,632
501 - 1000	18,855	14,423	8,145	6,811	2,878	1,522	-	1,475	54,109
1001 - 2000	15,994	14,873	15,369	3,709	5,133	2,925	1,394	1,375	60,772
2001 and over	40,874	22,645	15,620	7,263	5,051	2,016	3,031	-	96,500
All hospitals	86,500	63,868	47,161	24,962	19,488	6,684	4,678	3,411	256,752
Per cent									
1 - 100	2.2	3.1	3.9	4.7	8.1	3.3	-	1.6	3.4
101 - 500	10.3	15.6	13.1	24.0	24.8	-	5.4	14.8	14.3
501 - 1000	21.8	22.6	17.3	27.3	14.8	22.8	-	43.2	21.1
1001 - 2000	18.5	23.3	32.6	14.9	26.3	43.8	29.8	40.3	23.7
2001 and over	47.3	35.5	33.1	29.1	25.9	30.2	64.8	-	37.6
All hospitals	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 5 : Maternal age, all confinements, States and Territories, 1994

Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean age (years)	28.4	28.9	27.8	28.1	28.2	27.5	28.8	26.3	28.3
	Number								
Less than 15	40	17	21	28	10	10	1	26	153
15	150	53	95	70	34	24	4	44	474
16	362	180	289	147	96	56	14	82	1,226
17	776	378	580	286	191	96	36	95	2,438
18	1,162	636	956	430	291	144	47	120	3,786
19	1,880	1,010	1,300	631	421	191	82	140	5,655
Less than 20	4,370	2,274	3,241	1,592	1,043	521	184	507	13,732
20 - 24	17,004	10,524	10,516	4,994	3,859	1,572	813	935	50,217
25 - 29	28,323	21,596	15,436	8,329	6,731	2,220	1,565	956	85,156
30 - 34	25,563	20,611	12,855	7,192	5,623	1,788	1,492	747	75,871
35 - 39	9,766	7,750	4,576	2,556	1,957	596	561	291	28,053
40 - 44	1,529	1,181	708	389	297	80	101	43	4,328
45 and over	63	46	24	19	9	3	2	1	167
Not stated	118	1	-	-	-	2	12	-	133
All ages	86,736	63,983	47,356	25,071	19,519	6,782	4,730	3,480	257,657
	Per cent								
Less than 15	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.1
15	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	1.3	0.2
16	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.3	2.4	0.5
17	0.9	0.6	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.4	0.8	2.7	0.9
18	1.3	1.0	2.0	1.7	1.5	2.1	1.0	3.4	1.5
19	2.2	1.6	2.7	2.5	2.2	2.8	1.7	4.0	2.2
Less than 20	5.0	3.6	6.8	6.3	5.3	7.7	3.9	14.6	5.3
20 - 24	19.6	16.4	22.2	19.9	19.8	23.2	17.2	26.9	19.5
25 - 29	32.7	33.8	32.6	33.2	34.5	32.7	33.2	27.5	33.1
30 - 34	29.5	32.2	27.1	28.7	28.8	26.4	31.6	21.5	29.5
35 - 39	11.3	12.1	9.7	10.2	10.0	8.8	11.9	8.4	10.9
40 - 44	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.2	2.1	1.2	1.7
45 and over	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 6 : Mother's parity, all confinements, States and Territories, 1994

Parity	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
None	34,287	25,690	18,812	10,033	7,897	2,315	2,052	1,387	102,473
One	28,995	21,735	15,299	8,285	6,845	2,104	1,592	1,099	85,954
Two	14,769	10,925	8,079	4,168	3,083	1,246	712	561	43,543
Three	5,342	3,744	3,226	1,636	1,130	595	248	226	16,147
Four or more	2,997	1,888	1,897	949	564	468	126	207	9,096
Not stated	346	1	43	-	-	54	-	-	444
All parities	86,736	63,983	47,356	25,071	19,519	6,782	4,730	3,480	257,657
Per cent									
None	39.7	40.2	39.8	40.0	40.5	34.4	43.4	39.9	39.8
One	33.6	34.0	32.3	33.0	35.1	31.3	33.7	31.6	33.4
Two	17.1	17.1	17.1	16.6	15.8	18.5	15.1	16.1	16.9
Three	6.2	5.9	6.8	6.5	5.8	8.8	5.2	6.5	6.3
Four or more	3.5	3.0	4.0	3.8	2.9	7.0	2.7	5.9	3.5
All parities	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 7 : Distribution of confinements by maternal age and parity, Australia, 1994

Parity	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
Number								
None	11,111	27,217	35,715	21,618	5,910	862	40	102,473
One	2,262	16,002	29,868	27,594	8,982	1,193	53	85,954
Two	299	5,279	13,244	16,786	6,967	951	17	43,543
Three	30	1,233	4,238	6,485	3,475	678	8	16,147
Four or more	9	394	1,930	3,280	2,674	804	5	9,096
Not stated	21	92	161	108	45	7	10	444
All parities	13,732	50,217	85,156	75,871	28,053	4,495	133	257,657
Per cent								
None	81.0	54.3	42.0	28.5	21.1	19.2	32.5	39.8
One	16.5	31.9	35.1	36.4	32.1	26.6	43.1	33.4
Two	2.2	10.5	15.6	22.2	24.9	21.2	13.8	16.9
Three	0.2	2.5	5.0	8.6	12.4	15.1	6.5	6.3
Four or more	0.1	0.8	2.3	4.3	9.5	17.9	4.1	3.5
All parities	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 8 : Marital status, all confinements, States and Territories, 1994

Marital status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas*	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Married/de facto	75,903	56,614	41,366	22,175	16,881	4,951	4,234	2,502	224,626
Single	9,354	6,431	5,445	2,642	2,355	1,664	392	925	29,208
Widowed, divorced, or separated	1,054	783	518	254	279	120	75	28	3,111
Not stated / other	425	155	27	-	4	47	29	25	712
All marital status	86,736	63,983	47,356	25,071	19,519	6,782	4,730	3,480	257,657
	Per cent								
Married/de facto	87.9	88.7	87.4	88.4	86.5	73.5	90.1	72.4	87.4
Single	10.8	10.1	11.5	10.5	12.1	24.7	8.3	26.8	11.4
Widowed, divorced, or separated	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.8	1.6	0.8	1.2
All marital status	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* *De facto coded with single marital status*

Table 9 : Marital status of teenage mothers, Australia, 1994

Maternal age (years)	All confinements (n)	Married/de facto		Single		Other	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 15	153	20	13.1	104	68.0	29	19.0
15	474	67	14.1	347	73.2	60	12.7
16	1,226	290	23.7	824	67.2	112	9.1
17	2,438	773	31.7	1,463	60.0	202	8.3
18	3,786	1,622	42.8	1,920	50.7	244	6.4
19	5,655	2,990	52.9	2,376	42.0	289	5.1
Less than 20	13,732	5,762	42.0	7,034	51.2	936	6.8

Table 10 : Indigenous mothers, all confinements, States and Territories, 1994

Aboriginality	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Non-Indigenous	85,094	63,555	45,000	23,638	19,131	5,836	4,681	2,260	249,195
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	1,530	428	2,347	1,433	388	7	44	1,220	7,397
Not stated	112	-	9	-	-	939	5	-	1,065
All confinements	86,736	63,983	47,356	25,071	19,519	6,782	4,730	3,480	257,657
Per cent									
Non-Indigenous	98.2	99.3	95.0	94.3	98.0	99.9	99.1	64.9	97.1
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	1.8	0.7	5.0	5.7	2.0	0.1	0.9	35.1	2.9
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 11 : Distribution of confinements of Indigenous mothers by maternal age and parity, Australia, 1994

Parity	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
Number								
None	1,251	688	223	90	18	1	3	2,274
One	452	898	344	131	34	7	-	1,866
Two	103	640	425	183	52	4	4	1,411
Three	8	288	333	154	47	12	1	843
Four or more	1	122	393	319	131	24	-	990
Not stated	1	7	3	1	1	-	-	13
All parities	1,816	2,643	1,721	878	283	48	8	7,397
Per cent								
None	68.9	26.1	13.0	10.3	6.4	2.1	37.5	30.8
One	24.9	34.1	20.0	14.9	12.1	14.6	-	25.3
Two	5.7	24.3	24.7	20.9	18.4	8.3	50.0	19.1
Three	0.4	10.9	19.4	17.6	16.7	25.0	12.5	11.4
Four or more	0.1	4.6	22.9	36.4	46.5	50.0	-	13.4
All parities	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 12 : Confinements of Indigenous mothers by maternal age, States and Territories, 1994

Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean age (years)	24.0	25.3	24.0	23.2	24.2	26.9	26.8	23.0	23.8
	Number								
Less than 15	5	3	6	20	5	-	-	24	63
15	19	3	34	37	4	-	-	40	137
16	40	6	70	49	10	-	2	67	244
17	64	13	108	79	20	-	3	67	354
18	98	21	151	103	17	-	1	84	475
19	123	17	162	119	27	-	-	95	543
Less than 20	349	63	531	407	83	-	6	377	1,816
20 - 24	551	142	862	516	141	2	11	418	2,643
25 - 29	358	131	543	319	92	2	14	262	1,721
30 - 34	188	61	311	145	58	2	8	105	878
35 - 39	67	26	85	41	11	1	3	49	283
40 - 44	9	5	14	5	3	-	1	9	46
45 and over	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
Not stated	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
All confinements	1,530	428	2,347	1,433	388	7	44	1,220	7,397
	Per cent								
Less than 15	0.3	0.7	0.3	1.4	1.3	-	-	2.0	0.9
15	1.2	0.7	1.4	2.6	1.0	-	-	3.3	1.9
16	2.6	1.4	3.0	3.4	2.6	-	4.5	5.5	3.3
17	4.2	3.0	4.6	5.5	5.2	-	6.8	5.5	4.8
18	6.4	4.9	6.4	7.2	4.4	-	2.3	6.9	6.4
19	8.1	4.0	6.9	8.3	7.0	-	-	7.8	7.3
Less than 20	22.9	14.7	22.6	28.4	21.4	-	13.6	30.9	24.6
20 - 24	36.2	33.2	36.7	36.0	36.3	28.6	25.0	34.3	35.8
25 - 29	23.5	30.6	23.1	22.3	23.7	28.6	31.8	21.5	23.3
30 - 34	12.4	14.3	13.3	10.1	14.9	28.6	18.2	8.6	11.9
35 - 39	4.4	6.1	3.6	2.9	2.8	14.3	6.8	4.0	3.8
40 - 44	0.6	1.2	0.6	0.3	0.8	-	2.3	0.7	0.6
45 and over	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	2.3	-	0.0
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 13 : Maternal country of birth, all confinements, States and Territories, 1994

Country of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Australia	63,766	47,988	39,651	17,543	15,943	5,334	3,651	2,953	196,829
New Zealand	1,814	1,006	1,904	906	227	48	75	91	6,071
United Kingdom	3,065	2,694	1,881	3,012	1,563	172	242	102	12,731
Italy	353	502	48	97	85	6	16	-	1,107
Former Yugoslavia	698	783	111	102	74	8	43	2	1,821
Other Europe and former USSR	2,051	1,948	732	555	422	43	131	49	5,931
Lebanon	2,299	705	43	30	40	1	12	-	3,130
Other Middle East and North Africa	1,208	1,057	94	50	59	8	35	8	2,519
China	1,562	712	147	117	73	7	28	15	2,661
Hong Kong	668	261	97	46	25	2	21	-	1,120
India	555	430	88	165	37	-	29	7	1,311
Malaysia	309	413	138	217	58	10	30	16	1,191
Philippines	1,163	609	458	153	140	29	37	41	2,630
Vietnam	1,658	1,668	300	249	336	2	63	14	4,290
Other Asia	2,036	1,425	482	488	178	29	141	60	4,839
Northern America	494	315	252	151	70	14	40	26	1,362
South and Central America, and the Caribbean	683	378	107	62	39	5	37	3	1,314
Africa (excluding North Africa)	508	544	189	210	66	7	17	8	1,549
Other countries	1,186	417	623	143	64	18	72	61	2,584
Not stated	660	128	11	775	20	1,039	14	20	2,667
All countries	86,736	63,983	47,356	25,071	19,519	6,782	4,734	3,476	257,657
Per cent									
Australia	74.1	75.2	83.7	72.2	81.8	92.9	77.4	85.4	77.2
New Zealand	2.1	1.6	4.0	3.7	1.2	0.8	1.6	2.6	2.4
United Kingdom	3.6	4.2	4.0	12.4	8.0	3.0	5.1	3.0	5.0
Italy	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.3	-	0.4
Former Yugoslavia	0.8	1.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.7
Other Europe and former USSR	2.4	3.1	1.5	2.3	2.2	0.7	2.8	1.4	2.3
Lebanon	2.7	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.3	-	1.2
Other Middle East and North Africa	1.4	1.7	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.2	1.0
China	1.8	1.1	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.4	1.0
Hong Kong	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.4	-	0.4
India	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.2	-	0.6	0.2	0.5
Malaysia	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.5
Philippines	1.4	1.0	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.0
Vietnam	1.9	2.6	0.6	1.0	1.7	0.0	1.3	0.4	1.7
Other Asia	2.4	2.2	1.0	2.0	0.9	0.5	3.0	1.7	1.9
Northern America	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.8	0.5
South and Central America, and the Caribbean	0.8	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.5
Africa (excluding North Africa)	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.6
Other countries	1.4	0.7	1.3	0.6	0.3	0.3	1.5	1.8	1.0
All countries	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 14 : Maternal age distribution by selected country of birth, all confinements, Australia, 1994

Country of birth	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
	Number							
Australia	12,256	41,426	65,883	55,432	18,920	2,839	73	196,829
New Zealand	339	1,178	1,863	1,795	767	127	2	6,071
United Kingdom	162	1,187	4,202	4,898	1,956	325	1	12,731
Italy	7	56	328	486	192	38	0	1,107
Former Yugoslavia	21	280	760	518	203	39	0	1,821
Lebanon	153	893	1,015	708	298	54	9	3,130
China	3	161	735	1,181	505	73	3	2,661
Hong Kong	7	31	235	570	244	32	1	1,120
India	9	155	487	463	171	25	1	1,311
Malaysia	6	83	290	489	266	57	0	1,191
Philippines	53	292	735	908	527	111	-	2,630
Vietnam	116	878	1,307	1,155	681	148	5	4,290
Other countries	405	3,003	6,486	6,546	3,046	590	22	20,098
Not stated	195	594	830	722	277	37	12	2,667
All countries	13,732	50,217	85,156	75,871	28,053	4,495	133	257,657
	Per cent							
Australia	6.2	21.0	33.5	28.2	9.6	1.4	-	100.0
New Zealand	5.6	19.4	30.7	29.6	12.6	2.1	-	100.0
United Kingdom	1.3	9.3	33.0	38.5	15.4	2.6	-	100.0
Italy	0.6	5.1	29.6	43.9	17.3	3.4	-	100.0
Former Yugoslavia	1.2	15.4	41.7	28.4	11.1	2.1	-	100.0
Lebanon	4.9	28.5	32.4	22.6	9.5	1.7	-	100.0
China	0.1	6.1	27.6	44.4	19.0	2.7	-	100.0
Hong Kong	0.6	2.8	21.0	50.9	21.8	2.9	-	100.0
India	0.7	11.8	37.1	35.3	13.0	1.9	-	100.0
Malaysia	0.5	7.0	24.3	41.1	22.3	4.8	-	100.0
Philippines	2.0	11.1	27.9	34.5	20.0	4.2	-	100.0
Vietnam	2.7	20.5	30.5	26.9	15.9	3.4	-	100.0
Other countries	2.0	14.9	32.3	32.6	15.2	2.9	-	100.0
All countries	5.3	19.5	33.1	29.4	10.9	1.7	-	100.0

Table 15 : Marital status of mother by selected country of birth, all confinements, Australia, 1994

Country of birth	All confinements* (n)	Married /de facto		Single		Other	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Australia	196,829	168,660	85.7	23,206	11.8	4,963	2.5
New Zealand	6,071	5,125	84.4	743	12.2	203	3.3
United Kingdom	12,731	11,759	92.4	597	4.7	375	2.9
Italy	1,107	1,073	96.9	20	1.8	14	1.3
Former Yugoslavia	1,821	1,726	94.8	70	3.8	25	1.4
Lebanon	3,130	3,048	97.4	32	1.0	50	1.6
China	2,661	2,575	96.8	51	1.9	35	1.3
Hong Kong	1,120	1,099	98.1	16	1.4	5	0.4
India	1,311	1,283	97.9	16	1.2	12	0.9
Malaysia	1,191	1,151	96.6	31	2.6	9	0.8
Philippines	2,630	2,448	93.1	119	4.5	63	2.4
Vietnam	4,290	3,833	89.3	362	8.4	95	2.2
Other countries	20,098	18,731	93.2	914	4.5	453	2.3
Not stated	2,667	2,115	79.3	389	14.6	163	6.1
All countries	257,657	224,626	87.2	26,566	10.3	6,465	2.5

Table 16 : Mother's status in hospital, all confinements, selected States and Territories, 1994

Status in hospital	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	Total*
Number							
Public	53,644	29,561	15,966	11,962	4,078	2,602	117,813
Private	33,036	17,599	8,833	7,557	2,704	2,014	71,743
Not stated/other	56	196	272	-	-	114	638
All classifications	86,736	47,356	25,071	19,519	6,782	4,730	190,194
Per cent							
Public	61.9	62.7	64.4	61.3	60.1	56.4	62.2
Private	38.1	37.3	35.6	38.7	39.9	43.6	37.8
All classifications	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

Table 17 : Duration of pregnancy, all confinements, States and Territories, 1994

Duration of pregnancy (weeks)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Mean (weeks)	39.2	39.1	39.1	39.1	39.1	39.4	39.1	38.9
	Number								
20 - 27	447	433	311	177	136	35	37	40	1,616
28 - 31	535	397	385	175	153	28	36	24	1,733
32 - 36	4,094	3,114	2,663	1,299	1,012	299	189	243	12,913
37 - 41	78,783	57,277	42,435	22,806	17,899	6,041	3,851	2,926	232,018
42 and over	2,767	2,182	1,560	614	319	379	124	80	8,025
Not stated	110	580	2	-	-	-	493	167	1,352
All confinements	86,736	63,983	47,356	25,071	19,519	6,782	4,730	3,480	257,657
	Per cent								
20 - 27	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.9	1.2	0.6
28 - 31	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.7
32 - 36	4.7	4.9	5.6	5.2	5.2	4.4	4.5	7.3	5.0
37 - 41	90.9	90.3	89.6	91.0	91.7	89.1	90.9	88.3	90.5
42 and over	3.2	3.4	3.3	2.4	1.6	5.6	2.9	2.4	3.1
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 18 : Duration of pregnancy by maternal age, all confinements, Australia, 1994

Duration of pregnancy (weeks)	Maternal age (years)							Not stated	All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over			
	Number								
Confinements									
20 - 27	129	297	470	439	234	47	-	1,616	
28 - 31	149	370	465	475	228	46	-	1,733	
32 - 36	865	2,593	3,898	3,617	1,634	299	7	12,913	
37 - 41	11,986	44,817	77,210	68,818	25,090	3,975	122	232,018	
42 and over	496	1,806	2,717	2,181	724	99	2	8,025	
Not stated	107	334	396	341	143	29	2	1,352	
All confinements	13,732	50,217	85,156	75,871	28,053	4,495	133	257,657	
	Per cent								
20 - 27	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.1	0.0	0.6	
28 - 31	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.0	0.7	
32 - 36	6.3	5.2	4.6	4.8	5.9	6.7	5.3	5.0	
37 - 41	88.0	89.8	91.1	91.1	89.9	89.0	93.1	90.5	
42 and over	3.6	3.6	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.2	1.5	3.1	
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Table 19 : Plurality, all confinements, States and Territories, 1994

Plurality	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Singleton	85,518	63,052	46,689	24,728	19,247	6,728	4,677	3,433	254,072
Twin	1,188	915	644	333	263	54	52	47	3,496
Triplet	30	14	23	9	8	-	1	-	85
Quadruplet	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	4
All confinements	86,736	63,983	47,356	25,071	19,519	6,782	4,730	3,480	257,657
Per cent									
Singleton	98.6	98.5	98.6	98.6	98.6	99.2	98.9	98.6	98.6
Twin	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	0.8	1.1	1.4	1.4
Triplet	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0
Quadruplet	-	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	0.0
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 20 : Multiple confinements by maternal age, Australia, 1994

Plurality	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
Number								
Singleton	13,630	49,735	84,043	74,588	27,506	4,437	133	254,072
Twin	102	467	1,085	1,254	530	58	-	3,496
Triplet	-	15	27	26	17	-	-	85
All confinements*	13,732	50,217	85,156	75,871	28,053	4,495	133	257,657
Per cent								
Singleton	99.3	99.0	98.7	98.3	98.1	98.7	100.0	98.6
Twin	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.7	1.9	1.3	-	1.4
Triplet	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	-	-	0.0
All confinements*	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Includes 4 quadruplet pregnancies

Table 21 : Onset of labour, all confinements, States and Territories, 1994

Onset of labour	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Spontaneous	60,985	43,311	30,457	15,092	12,561	5,210	3,274	2,478	173,368
- no augmentation	40,745	35,596	26,692	9,052	7,897	4,260	na	na	129,994**
- augmentation	20,240	7,715	5,357	6,040	4,664	950	na	na	44,966**
- other	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	13
Induced	17,512	13,990	9,694	6,876	4,616	1,120	894	636	55,338
- medical only	5,303	5,109	1,466	na	1,939	605	na	na	14,422*
- surgical only	1,637	1,916	874	na	484	270	na	na	5,181*
- combined	10,546	6,965	2,214	na	2,193	245	na	na	22,163*
- other	26	-	5,159	na	-	-	na	na	5,185*
No labour	8,066	6,682	5,564	3,103	2,342	452	556	363	27,128
Others	-	-	1,624	-	-	-	-	-	1,624
Not stated	173	-	17	-	-	-	6	3	199
All confinements	86,736	63,983	47,356	25,071	19,519	6,782	4,730	3,480	257,657
Per cent									
Spontaneous	70.5	67.7	64.3	60.2	64.4	76.8	69.3	71.3	67.3
- no augmentation	47.1	55.6	56.4	36.1	40.5	62.8	na	na	50.5**
- augmentation	23.4	12.1	11.3	24.1	23.9	14.0	na	na	17.5**
Induced	20.2	21.9	20.5	27.4	23.6	16.5	18.9	18.3	21.5
- medical only	6.1	8.0	3.1	na	9.9	8.9	na	na	5.6*
- surgical only	1.9	3.0	1.8	na	2.5	4.0	na	na	2.0*
- combined	12.2	10.9	4.7	na	11.2	3.6	na	na	8.6*
- other	0.0	-	10.9	na	-	-	na	na	2.0*
No labour	9.3	10.4	11.8	12.4	12.0	6.7	11.8	10.4	10.5
Others	-	-	3.4	-	-	-	-	-	0.6
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Data exclude WA, ACT, and NT

** Data exclude ACT and NT

Table 22 : Presentation at delivery, all confinements, States and Territories, 1994

Presentation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Vertex	82,374	60,162	44,958	23,848	18,470	5,586	4,457	3,265	243,120
Breech	3,486	2,703	2,193	1,071	859	62	175	134	10,683
Other	613	399	189	-	166	6	-	38	1,411
Not stated	263	719	16	152	24	1,128	98	43	2,443
All confinements	86,736	63,983	47,356	25,071	19,519	6,782	4,730	3,480	257,657
Per cent									
Vertex	95.3	95.1	95.0	95.7	94.7	98.8	96.2	95.0	95.3
Breech	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.3	4.4	1.1	3.8	3.9	4.2
Other	0.7	0.6	0.4	-	0.9	0.1	-	1.1	0.6
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 23 : Type of delivery, all confinements, States and Territories, 1994

Type of delivery	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Spontaneous vertex	61,198	43,225	32,051	15,935	12,221	4,890	2,978	2,525	175,023
Forceps	6,619	7,282	2,922	1,451	2,027	623	508	130	21,562
Vacuum extraction	2,714	841	1,800	2,287	511	43	194	63	8,453
Vaginal breech	924	656	503	175	131	62	30	26	2,507
Caesarean section	15,046	11,968	10,067	5,223	4,629	1,164	1,018	734	49,849
- <i>elective</i>	8,066	6,681	na	2,729	1,957	249	508	315	20,505*
- <i>emergency</i>	6,980	5,287	na	2,494	2,672	450	510	419	18,812*
- <i>other</i>	-	-	na	-	-	-	-	1	1*
Other	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	1	11
Not stated	235	11	3	-	-	-	2	1	252
All types of delivery	86,736	63,983	47,356	25,071	19,519	6,782	4,730	3,480	257,657
Per cent									
Spontaneous vertex	70.7	67.6	67.7	63.6	62.6	72.1	63.0	72.6	68.0
Forceps	7.7	11.4	6.2	5.8	10.4	9.2	10.7	3.7	8.4
Vacuum extraction	3.1	1.3	3.8	9.1	2.6	0.6	4.1	1.8	3.3
Vaginal breech	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.7	1.0
Caesarean section	17.4	18.7	21.3	20.8	23.7	17.2	21.5	21.1	19.4
- <i>elective</i>	9.3	10.4	na	10.9	10.0	3.7	10.7	9.1	8.0*
- <i>emergency</i>	8.1	8.3	na	9.9	13.7	6.6	10.8	12.0	7.3*
- <i>other</i>	-	-	na	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0*
Other	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0
All types of delivery	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Data exclude Queensland

Table 24 : Caesarean rates by maternal age and status in hospital, States and Territories, 1994

Hospital status/ Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Public*									
					Number				
Less than 20	473	na	352	161	138	59	42	na	1,225
20 - 24	1,756	na	1,304	619	612	181	142	na	4,614
25 - 29	2,459	na	1,596	910	793	190	178	na	6,126
30 - 34	2,214	na	1,202	788	648	127	158	na	5,137
35 - 39	966	na	524	307	235	42	55	na	2,129
40 and over	200	na	93	60	40	10	8	na	411
Not stated	13	na	-	-	-	-	-	na	13
All ages	8,081	na	5,071	2,845	2,466	609	583	na	19,655
Private*									
Less than 20	28	na	37	10	5	5	2	na	87
20 - 24	506	na	419	173	126	48	32	na	1,304
25 - 29	2,008	na	1,527	730	761	181	131	na	5,338
30 - 34	2,790	na	2,016	934	820	224	169	na	6,953
35 - 39	1,370	na	840	407	375	85	66	na	3,143
40 and over	257	na	157	87	76	12	10	na	599
Not stated	-	na	-	-	-	-	-	na	-
All ages	6,959	na	4,996	2,341	2,163	555	410	na	17,424
Public*									
					Caesarean rate (per cent)				
Less than 20	11.3	na	11.5	10.5	13.9	12.4	23.9	na	11.8
20 - 24	12.4	na	14.9	14.8	18.9	14.4	21.7	na	14.3
25 - 29	14.3	na	17.3	18.1	20.1	15.3	21.1	na	16.3
30 - 34	17.6	na	19.9	21.2	23.7	16.0	24.0	na	19.4
35 - 39	21.1	na	24.7	23.8	25.8	15.6	23.9	na	22.7
40 and over	25.9	na	24.9	28.3	28.6	23.8	21.6	na	26.1
All ages	15.1	na	17.2	17.8	20.6	14.9	22.4	na	16.7
Private*									
Less than 20	15.9	na	21.3	18.5	10.2	11.1	40.0	na	17.3
20 - 24	17.8	na	24.1	22.5	20.2	15.1	23.0	na	20.3
25 - 29	18.2	na	24.8	22.8	27.4	18.5	19.2	na	21.5
30 - 34	21.6	na	29.8	27.6	28.4	22.5	21.1	na	25.1
35 - 39	26.5	na	34.8	33.1	35.8	26.1	20.9	na	29.9
40 and over	31.7	na	44.2	44.6	45.8	29.3	16.1	na	36.7
All ages	21.1	na	28.4	26.5	28.6	20.5	20.4	na	24.3
All confinements									
Less than 20	11.5	10.1	12.0	10.7	13.7	12.3	23.9	20.9	12.0
20 - 24	13.3	13.7	16.4	16.0	19.1	14.6	21.8	18.0	15.0
25 - 29	15.8	17.7	20.2	19.9	23.1	16.7	20.0	19.8	18.2
30 - 34	19.6	20.1	25.0	24.1	26.1	19.6	22.7	24.8	21.7
35 - 39	23.9	25.0	29.8	28.1	31.2	21.3	22.1	24.7	26.0
40 and over	28.8	31.9	34.2	36.0	37.9	26.5	19.4	31.8	31.5
All ages	17.4	18.7	21.3	20.8	23.7	17.2	21.6	21.1	19.4

* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

Table 25: Caesarean rates by maternal age, parity and public status in hospital, Australia, 1994

Maternal age (years)	Parity				Parity			
	None	One	Two +	Total	None	One	Two +	Total
	Number				Rate (per cent)			
Less than 15	17	-	-	17	18.5	-	-	16.5
15	30	2	1	33	8.9	11.8	33.3	9.2
16	83	7	-	90	9.6	12.7	-	9.7
17	196	14	2	212	11.7	7.3	13.3	11.3
18	291	62	8	361	12.5	12.4	11.9	12.5
19	384	109	19	512	12.7	10.7	9.5	12.0
15 - 19	984	194	30	1,208	12.0	10.9	10.3	11.7
20	417	149	48	614	13.4	10.0	12.6	12.3
21	476	245	66	787	14.9	13.3	9.1	13.6
22	549	269	141	959	16.1	11.5	13.3	14.1
23	569	372	182	1,123	17.0	14.5	13.3	15.4
24	569	334	228	1,131	18.0	13.3	13.9	15.4
20-24	2,580	1,369	665	4,614	15.9	12.7	12.8	14.3
25	529	405	246	1,180	17.5	14.6	12.7	15.2
26	552	416	297	1,265	19.5	15.7	13.7	16.6
27	472	403	345	1,220	18.4	15.2	14.8	16.2
28	467	399	355	1,221	19.7	15.6	14.1	16.4
29	440	434	366	1,240	20.8	18.4	14.0	17.5
25 - 29	2,460	2,057	1,609	6,126	19.1	15.8	13.9	16.3
30	453	389	405	1,247	24.0	17.3	15.6	18.5
31	399	347	405	1,151	25.9	17.2	15.5	18.6
32	334	384	378	1,096	27.0	20.8	16.4	20.3
33	237	320	336	893	24.4	22.1	15.6	19.5
34	205	217	328	750	28.5	20.2	17.7	20.5
30 - 34	1,628	1,657	1,852	5,137	25.6	19.2	16.1	19.4
35	163	197	271	631	28.4	22.7	17.7	21.2
36	149	151	229	529	34.3	23.0	18.4	22.6
37	91	122	203	416	30.8	26.3	18.9	22.7
38	73	93	145	311	38.8	27.0	19.5	24.4
39	48	62	132	242	27.7	27.3	22.8	24.7
35 - 39	524	625	980	2,129	31.5	24.4	18.9	22.7
40	47	46	84	177	46.1	29.7	21.2	27.1
41	27	22	55	104	42.9	27.2	21.0	25.6
42	13	12	29	54	39.4	26.7	18.6	23.1
43	8	7	32	47	47.1	28.0	27.6	29.7
44	2	3	9	14	40.0	50.0	20.0	25.0
40 - 44	97	90	209	396	44.1	28.8	21.4	26.3
45 and over	4	4	7	15	44.4	44.4	14.3	22.4
Not stated	6	3	4	13	26.1	8.6	12.9	14.6
Total	8,300	5,999	5,356	19,655	18.1	16.2	15.4	16.7

Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

Table 26: Caesarean rates by maternal age, parity and private status in hospital, Australia, 1994

Maternal age (years)	Parity				Parity			
	None	One	Two +	Total	None	One	Two +	Total
	Number				Rate (per cent)			
Less than 15	1	-	1	2	20.0	-	100.0	33.3
15	2	-	-	2	12.5	-	-	12.5
16	8	-	-	8	23.5	-	-	21.6
17	6	1	-	7	8.8	20.0	-	9.6
18	22	-	-	22	17.7	-	-	16.5
19	41	4	1	46	19.2	19.0	33.3	19.3
15 - 19	79	5	1	85	17.3	14.3	16.7	17.1
20	54	11	4	69	16.9	18.0	33.3	17.6
21	94	17	4	115	19.4	11.3	25.0	17.6
22	168	47	8	223	21.2	19.6	15.7	20.6
23	243	74	21	338	20.5	16.7	22.1	19.6
24	359	163	37	559	21.7	22.1	19.9	21.7
20- 24	918	312	74	1,304	20.7	19.1	20.6	20.3
25	420	217	54	691	20.2	20.1	18.4	20.0
26	546	258	82	886	22.1	18.6	17.4	20.5
27	604	379	94	1,077	22.8	20.7	17.2	21.4
28	631	447	143	1,221	23.0	20.8	16.7	21.3
29	700	526	237	1,463	26.2	21.5	20.2	23.2
25 - 29	2,901	1,827	610	5,338	23.0	20.6	18.3	21.5
30	660	564	285	1,509	26.6	22.6	21.3	23.9
31	570	611	328	1,509	27.2	23.7	20.6	24.1
32	546	570	356	1,472	31.1	24.7	21.1	25.6
33	469	513	362	1,344	33.0	25.9	21.6	26.5
34	375	423	321	1,119	33.4	25.7	20.7	25.9
30 - 34	2,620	2,681	1,652	6,953	29.5	24.3	21.1	25.1
35	321	376	297	994	35.8	30.0	22.8	28.8
36	231	269	253	753	36.3	29.2	24.3	29.0
37	167	251	206	624	37.1	35.4	24.0	31.0
38	124	153	135	412	39.5	32.1	22.2	29.4
39	109	128	123	360	44.9	37.6	27.2	34.7
35 - 39	952	1,177	1,014	3,143	37.5	31.8	23.8	29.9
40	76	99	81	256	46.6	45.6	26.0	37.0
41	53	52	52	157	54.1	36.9	26.1	35.8
42	28	38	24	90	50.9	46.3	22.4	36.9
43	13	18	16	47	37.1	40.0	24.2	32.2
44	4	10	9	23	30.8	62.5	30.0	39.0
40 - 44	174	217	182	573	47.8	43.3	25.5	36.3
45 and over	9	9	8	26	69.2	47.4	40.0	50.0
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	7,654	6,228	3,542	17,424	26.1	24.1	21.4	24.3

Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

Table 27 : Caesarean rates by maternal age and status in hospital, Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994

Hospital status/ Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Public*	Number								
Less than 20	42	na	60	47	13	-	2	na	164
20 - 24	90	na	103	77	33	-	2	na	305
25 - 29	52	na	82	58	21	-	3	na	216
30 - 34	31	na	57	30	15	-	1	na	134
35 - 39	12	na	27	8	3	-	-	na	50
40 and over	1	na	3	1	1	-	-	na	6
Not stated	5	na	-	-	-	-	-	na	5
All ages	233	na	332	221	86	-	8	na	880
Private*									
Less than 20	1	na	1	-	-	-	-	na	2
20 - 24	3	na	3	1	1	-	-	na	8
25 - 29	2	na	6	2	1	-	1	na	12
30 - 34	1	na	12	1	2	-	-	na	16
35 - 39	-	na	1	-	-	-	-	na	1
40 and over	1	na	-	-	-	-	-	na	1
Not stated	-	na	-	-	-	-	-	na	-
All ages	8	na	23	4	4	-	1	na	40
Public*	Caesarean rate (per cent)								
Less than 20	12.2	na	11.4	11.6	16.3	-	33.3	na	12.0
20 - 24	16.6	na	12.2	15.1	23.7	-	20.0	na	14.9
25 - 29	15.3	na	16.1	18.6	25.6	-	33.3	na	17.3
30 - 34	17.0	na	20.1	22.1	30.0	-	20.0	na	20.4
35 - 39	20.3	na	33.8	19.5	30.0	-	-	na	25.9
40 and over	14.3	na	21.4	20.0	33.3	-	-	na	20.0
All ages	15.8	na	14.7	15.7	23.6	-	23.5	na	15.9
Private*									
Less than 20	33.3	na	25.0	-	-	-	-	na	20.0
20 - 24	42.9	na	18.8	50.0	50.0	-	-	na	28.6
25 - 29	12.5	na	17.1	50.0	10.0	-	25.0	na	17.1
30 - 34	16.7	na	42.9	20.0	25.0	-	-	na	32.0
35 - 39	-	na	20.0	-	-	-	-	na	6.7
40 and over	50.0	na	-	-	-	-	-	na	25.0
All ages	19.0	na	25.8	36.4	16.7	-	11.1	na	22.6
All confinements									
Less than 20	12.4	11.1	11.5	11.5	15.7	-	33.3	22.0	14.1
20 - 24	16.9	17.6	12.3	15.3	24.1	-	18.2	22.2	16.4
25 - 29	15.2	22.9	16.2	18.8	23.9	-	28.6	22.9	18.5
30 - 34	17.0	13.1	22.2	22.1	29.3	-	12.5	30.5	21.8
35 - 39	17.9	34.6	32.9	19.5	27.3	-	-	24.5	25.4
40 and over	22.2	-	20.0	20.0	33.3	-	-	44.4	22.9
All ages	15.9	18.5	15.1	15.8	23.2	-	20.5	23.3	17.4

* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

Table 28 : Caesarean rates by parity, plurality, breech presentation, and birthweight, States and Territories, 1994

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Parity	Number								
Primipara	6,497	5,141	4,311	2,202	2,103	439	436	316	21,445
Multipara	8,491	6,827	5,745	3,021	2,526	724	582	418	28,334
Not stated	58	-	11	-	-	1	-	-	70
All parity	15,046	11,968	10,067	5,223	4,629	1,164	1,018	734	49,849
Plurality									
Singleton	14,602	11,566	9,745	5,047	4,483	1,142	1,005	710	48,300
Twin	421	389	302	166	138	22	13	24	1,475
Other multiple	23	13	20	10	8	-	-	-	74
All confinements	15,046	11,968	10,067	5,223	4,629	1,164	1,018	734	49,849
Breech presentation in singleton births	2,406	1,888	1,557	801	690	na	30	95	7,467
Birthweight (singleton births)									
Less than 500 g	6	11	7	2	6	-	-	1	33
500 - 999 g	89	70	65	31	30	4	6	9	304
1000 - 1499 g	195	153	156	65	69	12	8	11	669
1500 - 1999 g	320	247	214	88	98	14	9	16	1,006
2000 - 2499 g	667	499	517	228	209	46	36	48	2,250
2500 g and over *	13,314	10,583	8,783	4,633	4,071	1,060	936	624	44,004
- public	7,007	na	4,269	2,508	2,140	546	539	na	17,009
- private	6,301	na	4,514	2,097	1,931	514	373	na	15,730
- other	6	na	-	28	-	-	24	na	11,265
Not stated	11	3	3	-	-	6	10	1	34
All singleton births	14,602	11,566	9,745	5,047	4,483	1,142	1,005	710	48,300
Parity	Caesarean rate (per cent)								
Primipara	18.9	20.0	22.9	21.9	26.6	19.0	21.2	22.8	20.9
Multipara	16.3	17.8	20.2	20.1	21.7	16.4	21.7	20.0	18.3
All parity	17.3	18.7	21.3	20.8	23.7	17.2	21.5	21.1	19.3
Plurality									
Singleton	17.1	18.3	20.9	20.4	23.3	17.0	21.5	20.7	19.0
Twin	35.4	42.5	46.9	49.8	52.5	40.7	25.0	51.1	42.2
Other multiple	76.7	81.3	87.0	100.0	88.9	-	-	-	83.1
All confinements	17.3	18.7	21.3	20.8	23.7	17.2	21.5	21.1	19.3
Breech presentation in singleton births	73.7	74.7	80.9	80.7	85.1	na	18.5	77.2	75.7
Birthweight (singleton births)									
Less than 500 g	6.3	7.2	8.6	3.0	14.0	-	-	12.5	7.1
500 - 999 g	27.6	27.3	32.2	27.9	31.9	19.0	31.6	25.7	28.7
1000 - 1499 g	54.0	57.1	61.9	54.2	63.9	60.0	28.6	68.8	57.0
1500 - 1999 g	48.8	47.7	46.7	45.4	58.7	31.8	27.3	34.8	47.5
2000 - 2499 g	26.7	26.4	34.0	29.4	34.0	20.7	26.1	28.2	28.7
2500 g and over *	16.3	17.7	19.9	19.7	22.3	16.6	21.2	19.8	18.2
- public	14.0	na	15.6	16.9	19.2	14.3	22.4	na	15.5
- private	20.1	na	27.2	25.1	27.2	20.0	19.8	na	23.2
All singleton births	17.1	18.3	20.9	20.4	23.3	17.0	21.5	20.7	19.0

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

Table 29 : Length of antenatal stay in hospital, selected States and Territories, 1994

Length of stay	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia*
Mean length of stay (days)	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.8
	Number							
Less than 1 day	40,885	27,863	13,819	11,176	4,081	2,899	2,057	102,780
1 day	18,804	14,935	9,014	6,751	2,000	1,467	939	53,910
2 - 6 days	3,046	3,089	1,435	1,117	429	205	314	9,635
7 - 13 days	465	534	305	212	89	63	62	1,730
14 - 20 days	165	221	110	89	35	23	19	662
21 - 27 days	90	139	36	36	12	6	12	331
28 or more days	196	158	69	64	38	12	14	551
Not stated	2	51	81	-	-	3	1	138
All confinements	63,653	46,990	24,869	19,445	6,684	4,678	3,418	169,737
	Per cent							
Less than 1 day	64.2	59.4	55.7	57.5	61.1	62.0	60.2	60.6
1 day	29.5	31.8	36.4	34.7	29.9	31.4	27.5	31.8
2 - 6 days	4.8	6.6	5.8	5.7	6.4	4.4	9.2	5.7
7 - 13 days	0.7	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.0
14 - 20 days	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4
21 - 27 days	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2
28 or more days	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Data exclude New South Wales

Table 30 : Length of postnatal stay, hospital confinements, selected States and Territories, 1994

Length of stay	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia*
Mean length of stay (days)	4.8	4.5	4.6	5.0	4.6	4.1	5.0	4.7
	Number							
Less than 1 day	471	417	480	184	81	91	34	1,758
1 day	2,473	2,641	1,396	822	340	402	170	8,244
2 days	4,853	5,434	2,647	1,492	662	595	376	16,059
3 days	10,007	8,806	4,064	2,130	939	808	488	27,242
4 days	12,366	9,188	3,731	3,464	1,289	911	614	31,563
5 days	11,343	7,461	4,332	4,479	1,383	742	621	30,361
6 days	9,039	5,102	3,141	2,758	921	556	372	21,889
7 - 13 days	11,925	6,479	4,383	4,035	948	507	620	28,897
14 - 20 days	144	222	72	105	27	1	51	622
21 - 27 days	14	58	8	9	5	1	15	110
28 or more days	12	85	4	10	1	3	13	128
Not stated	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	3
All hospital confinements	62,648	45,893	24,260	19,488	6,596	4,617	3,374	166,876
	Per cent							
Less than 1 day	0.8	0.9	2.0	0.9	1.2	2.0	1.0	1.1
1 day	3.9	5.8	5.8	4.2	5.2	8.7	5.0	4.9
2 days	7.7	11.8	10.9	7.7	10.0	12.9	11.1	9.6
3 days	16.0	19.2	16.8	10.9	14.2	17.5	14.5	16.3
4 days	19.7	20.0	15.4	17.8	19.5	19.7	18.2	18.9
5 days	18.1	16.3	17.9	23.0	21.0	16.1	18.4	18.2
6 days	14.4	11.1	12.9	14.2	14.0	12.0	11.0	13.1
7 - 13 days	19.0	14.1	18.1	20.7	14.4	11.0	18.4	17.3
14 - 20 days	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.0	1.5	0.4
21 - 27 days	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.1
28 or more days	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1
All hospital confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Data exclude New South Wales

Table 31 : Length of postnatal stay by status, hospital confinements, selected States and Territories, 1994

Status in hospital/ Length of postnatal stay	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	Total
Public (n)	28,736	15,504	11,937	3,941	2,566	62,684
Mean length of stay (days)	3.8	3.7	4.4	4.0	3.7	3.9
	Per cent					
1 day or less	9.3	11.2	7.5	9.0	14.2	9.6
2 days	16.8	15.7	11.4	14.4	15.1	15.3
3 days	25.5	23.3	15.6	18.9	20.5	22.4
4 days	21.7	17.6	21.7	21.4	18.7	20.5
5 days	13.0	16.1	19.4	18.3	13.3	15.3
6 days	6.3	8.3	11.6	9.3	9.4	8.1
7 or more days	7.4	7.9	12.9	8.7	8.7	8.7
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Private (n)	17,223	8,673	7,551	2,655	1,970	38,072
Mean length of stay (days)	5.5	6.0	6.0	5.4	4.5	5.7
	Per cent					
1 day or less	2.3	1.5	1.5	2.5	5.8	2.1
2 days	3.6	2.4	1.8	3.5	9.9	3.3
3 days	8.7	5.0	3.6	7.4	13.6	7.0
4 days	17.2	11.5	11.5	16.8	21.0	15.0
5 days	21.7	21.0	28.7	25.0	19.8	23.0
6 days	19.1	21.4	18.2	20.9	15.7	19.4
7 or more days	27.4	37.3	34.8	24.0	14.2	30.2
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 32 : Length of postnatal stay in hospital by mother's age, parity, Aboriginality, status, type of delivery, and size of hospital, Australia, 1994

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								
All confinements	166,962	15.6	35.2	31.3	13.2	3.2	0.9	0.5
Maternal age								
Less than 20	9,060	21.1	47.1	22.8	5.6	1.9	0.7	0.8
20-24	32,428	21.4	43.2	25.7	7.1	1.5	0.6	0.5
25-29	55,607	15.1	35.2	32.4	13.3	2.9	0.8	0.4
30-34	49,183	12.7	30.8	34.6	16.3	4.0	1.0	0.5
35-39	17,841	12.6	28.3	33.4	18.1	5.3	1.7	0.7
40 and over	2,834	13.2	26.4	32.0	19.2	6.6	1.8	0.8
Not stated	9	44.4	11.1	22.2	22.2	-	-	-
Parity								
None	66,622	7.8	31.4	36.1	18.0	4.7	1.3	0.7
One	55,803	18.4	37.5	29.9	10.8	2.4	0.7	0.4
Two or three	38,557	22.7	38.3	26.8	9.1	2.1	0.7	0.4
Four or more	5,890	31.7	36.9	20.1	7.8	2.3	0.7	0.4
Not stated	90	30.0	38.9	20.0	5.6	3.3	2.2	-
Aboriginality								
Indigenous	5,521	27.3	36.5	21.0	8.4	3.0	1.9	2.0
Non-Indigenous	161,441	15.2	35.2	31.7	13.3	3.2	0.9	0.5
Hospital status**								
Public	62,684	24.9	43.0	23.5	6.1	1.4	0.6	0.6
Private	38,072	5.4	21.9	42.4	22.2	5.8	1.5	0.7
Other	183	28.4	36.1	20.8	10.9	2.7	1.1	-
Type of delivery								
Spontaneous cephalic	111,317	21.3	42.5	27.2	7.1	1.2	0.4	0.3
Caesarean section	33,808	1.8	14.8	39.8	30.3	9.4	2.6	1.3
Other	21,837	8.0	29.9	38.9	17.6	3.8	1.1	0.5
Size of hospital								
1-100	6,612	12.9	39.6	34.2	10.8	2.0	0.4	0.2
101-500	26,818	10.9	33.0	36.7	14.8	3.3	0.9	0.4
501-1000	34,243	11.2	28.8	36.1	17.7	4.5	1.1	0.6
1001-2000	44,069	19.4	36.7	28.3	11.5	2.8	0.9	0.5
2001 and over	55,213	18.0	38.6	27.8	11.2	2.9	0.9	0.5

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, 1994

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								
Confinements	62,684	24.9	43.0	23.5	6.1	1.4	0.6	0.6
Maternal age								
Less than 20	6,030	23.8	47.2	21.2	4.9	1.6	0.5	0.7
20-24	17,647	26.4	44.7	22.0	4.9	1.0	0.4	0.5
25-29	19,896	25.0	43.0	23.8	5.8	1.4	0.5	0.5
30-34	13,615	23.9	40.6	25.1	7.5	1.5	0.7	0.6
35-39	4,707	23.2	38.5	25.1	9.3	2.2	1.0	0.7
40 and over	785	22.2	36.4	27.1	8.9	3.1	1.3	1.0
Not stated	4	75.0	-	25.0	-	-	-	-
Parity								
None	24,285	12.7	44.0	31.3	8.4	2.0	0.8	0.8
One	19,685	30.5	44.0	18.9	4.8	1.0	0.4	0.4
Two or three	15,545	34.2	41.0	18.4	4.4	1.0	0.5	0.5
Four or more	3,105	37.6	38.1	16.5	5.3	1.5	0.5	0.4
Not stated	64	35.9	40.6	15.6	4.7	1.6	1.6	-
Aboriginality								
Indigenous	3,833	32.0	38.0	18.9	6.6	2.1	1.0	1.3
Non-Indigenous	58,851	24.4	43.3	23.7	6.1	1.4	0.6	0.5
Type of delivery								
Spontaneous cephalic	45,168	31.5	46.8	17.1	3.3	0.7	0.3	0.3
Caesarean section	11,189	3.5	27.2	45.4	16.8	4.1	1.7	1.4
Other	6,327	15.3	43.7	30.1	7.7	2.0	0.6	0.6
Size of hospital								
1-100	3,582	16.6	42.7	29.5	8.8	1.6	0.4	0.3
101-500	9,005	19.2	40.6	29.8	8.0	1.3	0.6	0.5
501-1000	8,273	24.4	41.7	25.6	5.6	1.4	0.6	0.6
1001-2000	18,114	28.6	44.0	20.3	4.9	1.1	0.4	0.5
2001 and over	23,710	25.6	43.6	21.8	6.1	1.7	0.7	0.6
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, 1994

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								
Confinements	38,072	5.4	21.9	42.4	22.2	5.8	1.5	0.7
Maternal age								
Less than 20	318	8.5	31.1	43.7	11.6	4.1	-	0.9
20-24	3,520	7.0	27.6	43.9	16.2	3.7	1.0	0.6
25-29	13,566	5.2	22.4	44.3	21.6	4.7	1.3	0.6
30-34	14,616	5.0	21.2	42.0	23.5	6.2	1.5	0.6
35-39	5,251	5.5	19.3	39.3	24.1	8.1	2.5	1.1
40 and over	796	7.8	16.6	34.3	26.0	11.6	2.6	1.1
Not stated	5	20.0	20.0	20.0	40.0	-	-	-
Parity								
None	15,730	2.5	12.6	44.0	29.7	8.1	2.2	0.9
One	13,669	6.3	27.8	42.8	17.4	4.3	1.0	0.5
Two or three	7,900	8.7	29.9	39.7	16.1	3.9	1.0	0.7
Four or more	747	15.4	28.4	33.3	15.1	5.2	2.0	0.5
Not stated	26	15.4	34.6	30.8	7.7	7.7	3.8	-
Aboriginality								
Indigenous	131	11.5	29.8	41.2	9.9	3.1	3.8	0.8
Non-Indigenous	37,941	5.4	21.9	42.5	22.2	5.8	1.5	0.7
Type of delivery								
Spontaneous cephalic	21,114	8.1	31.0	45.8	12.2	1.9	0.6	0.4
Caesarean section	10,284	1.2	7.2	32.0	40.8	14.0	3.4	1.4
Other	6,674	3.5	16.0	47.9	25.0	5.3	1.6	0.6
Size of hospital								
1-100	1,073	8.2	35.2	39.9	13.8	2.5	0.2	0.2
101-500	7,676	4.1	22.3	45.1	21.3	5.6	1.2	0.4
501-1000	10,561	5.2	21.8	44.5	21.3	5.2	1.2	0.7
1001-2000	9,965	5.3	21.7	42.6	22.4	5.7	1.5	0.7
2001 and over	8,797	6.5	20.4	37.8	24.7	7.2	2.4	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, 1994

Mode of separation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia*
	Number							
Discharge home	81,405	62,645	45,957	24,193	6,595	4,598	3,375	228,768
Transfer to another hospital	4,895	1,218	1,201	616	88	58	43	8,119
Died	1	5	3	-	-	3	-	12
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not stated	233	-	-	153	1	19	-	406
All confinements	86,534	63,868	47,161	24,962	6,684	4,678	3,418	237,305
	Per cent							
Discharge home	94.3	98.1	97.4	97.5	98.7	98.7	98.7	96.6
Transfer to another hospital	5.7	1.9	2.5	2.5	1.3	1.2	1.3	3.4
Died	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.1	-	0.0
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Data exclude South Australia

Table 36 : Infant's month of birth, all births, States and Territories, 1994

Month of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
January	7,373	5,505	3,859	2,134	1,708	519	420	277	21,795
February	6,796	5,109	3,778	1,941	1,521	526	378	314	20,363
March	8,023	5,756	4,311	2,284	1,778	632	439	317	23,540
April	7,147	5,309	3,929	2,086	1,662	508	400	296	21,337
May	7,320	5,449	4,097	2,227	1,619	561	401	322	21,996
June	7,035	5,245	3,958	2,077	1,608	581	368	286	21,158
July	7,455	5,297	4,125	2,181	1,641	565	387	280	21,931
August	7,449	5,543	4,099	2,138	1,606	548	374	286	22,043
September	7,653	5,502	4,026	2,265	1,726	617	440	286	22,515
October	7,479	5,693	4,038	2,048	1,700	618	406	295	22,277
November	6,988	5,297	3,839	1,952	1,583	577	407	277	20,920
December	7,266	5,227	3,987	2,092	1,649	584	361	291	21,457
All births	87,984	64,932	48,046	25,425	19,801	6,836	4,784*	3,527	261,335
	Per cent								
January	8.4	8.5	8.0	8.4	8.6	7.6	8.8	7.9	8.3
February	7.7	7.9	7.9	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.9	8.9	7.8
March	9.1	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.2	9.2	9.0	9.0
April	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.4	7.4	8.4	8.4	8.2
May	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.8	8.2	8.2	8.4	9.1	8.4
June	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.5	7.7	8.1	8.1
July	8.5	8.2	8.6	8.6	8.3	8.3	8.1	7.9	8.4
August	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.1	8.0	7.8	8.1	8.4
September	8.7	8.5	8.4	8.9	8.7	9.0	9.2	8.1	8.6
October	8.5	8.8	8.4	8.1	8.6	9.0	8.5	8.4	8.5
November	7.9	8.2	8.0	7.7	8.0	8.4	8.5	7.9	8.0
December	8.3	8.0	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.5	7.6	8.3	8.2
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Data include 3 infants with date of birth 'not stated'

Table 37 : Infant's sex by plurality, all births, States and Territories, 1994

Infant's sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
All births									
Male	45,200	33,489	24,901	13,012	10,188	3,546	2,425	1,793	134,554
Female	42,589	31,430	23,138	12,403	9,612	3,290	2,356	1,733	126,551
Indeterminate	15	13	7	10	1	-	-	1	47
Not stated	180	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	183
All births	87,984	64,932	48,046	25,425	19,801	6,836	4,784	3,527	261,335
Sex ratio	106.1	106.6	107.6	104.9	106.0	107.8	102.9	103.5	106.3
Singletons									
Male	43,914	32,574	24,189	12,639	9,917	3,497	2,381	1,752	130,863
Female	41,418	30,472	22,493	12,079	9,330	3,231	2,293	1,680	122,996
Indeterminate	11	6	7	10	-	-	-	1	35
Not stated	175	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	178
Sex ratio	106.0	106.9	107.5	104.6	106.3	108.2	103.8	104.3	106.4
Twins									
Male	1245	893	671	360	259	49	41	41	3,559
Female	1122	930	617	306	266	59	63	53	3,416
Indeterminate	4	7	0	0	1	0	0	0	12
Not stated	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Sex ratio	111.0	96.0	108.8	117.6	97.4	83.1	65.1	77.4	104.2
Other multiple births									
Male	41	22	41	13	12	-	3	-	132
Female	49	28	28	18	16	-	-	-	139
Indeterminate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sex ratio	83.7	78.6	146.4	72.2	75.0	-	-	-	95.0
Per cent									
All births									
Male	51.5	51.6	51.8	51.2	51.5	51.9	50.7	50.8	51.5
Female	48.5	48.4	48.2	48.8	48.5	48.1	49.3	49.1	48.5
Indeterminate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0	0.0
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Singletons									
Male	51.5	51.7	51.8	51.1	51.5	52.0	50.9	51.0	51.5
Female	48.5	48.3	48.2	48.8	48.5	48.0	49.1	48.9	48.4
Twins									
Male	52.5	48.8	52.1	54.1	49.2	45.4	39.4	43.6	50.9
Female	47.3	50.8	47.9	45.9	50.6	54.6	60.6	56.4	48.9
Other multiple births									
Male	45.6	44.0	59.4	41.9	42.9	-	100.0	-	48.7
Female	54.4	56.0	40.6	58.1	57.1	-	-	-	51.3

Table 38 : Infant's gestational age, live births and fetal deaths, Australia, 1994

Gestational age (weeks)	Live births		Fetal deaths		All births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
20	35	0.0	107	6.2	142	0.1
21	45	0.0	133	7.7	178	0.1
22	79	0.0	153	8.8	232	0.1
23	102	0.0	99	5.7	201	0.1
24	124	0.0	93	5.4	217	0.1
25	172	0.1	54	3.1	226	0.1
26	213	0.1	81	4.7	294	0.1
27	261	0.1	50	2.9	311	0.1
28	325	0.1	42	2.4	367	0.1
29	325	0.1	43	2.5	368	0.1
30	518	0.2	54	3.1	572	0.2
31	629	0.2	48	2.8	677	0.3
32	954	0.4	61	3.5	1,015	0.4
33	1,194	0.5	48	2.8	1,242	0.5
34	2,072	0.8	45	2.6	2,117	0.8
35	3,238	1.3	69	4.0	3,307	1.3
36	6,546	2.5	100	5.8	6,646	2.6
37	13,722	5.3	72	4.2	13,794	5.3
38	38,118	14.8	84	4.9	38,202	14.7
39	50,389	19.5	97	5.6	50,486	19.4
40	95,379	36.9	129	7.5	95,508	36.7
41	35,789	13.9	51	2.9	35,840	13.8
42	7,732	3.0	16	0.9	7,748	3.0
43	254	0.1	2	0.1	256	0.1
44 and over	35	0.0	-	-	35	0.0
Not stated	1,340		14		1,354	
All births	259,590	100.0	1,745	100.0	261,335	100.0
20-27	1,031	0.4	770	44.5	1,801	0.7
28-31	1,797	0.7	187	10.8	1,984	0.8
32-36	14,004	5.4	323	18.7	14,327	5.5
All preterm births	16,832	6.5	1,280	73.9	18,112	7.0

Table 39 : Infant's gestational age by plurality, all births, Australia, 1994

Gestational age (weeks)	Singletons		Twins		Triplets		All births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
20-27	1,446	0.6	312	4.5	39	15.3	1,801	0.7
28-31	1,503	0.6	420	6.0	57	22.4	1,984	0.8
32-36	11,548	4.6	2,639	37.9	132	51.8	14,327	5.5
37-41	230,214	91.1	3,589	51.6	27	10.6	233,830	89.9
42 and over	8,037	3.2	2	0.0	-	-	8,039	3.1
Not stated	1,324	-	30	-	-	-	1,354	-
All births	254,072	100.0	6,992	100.0	255	100.0	261,335	100.0
20-36 weeks	14,497	5.7	3,371	48.4	228	89.4	18,112	7.0
Mean gestational age	39.2		35.6		32.1		39.1	

Table 40 : Duration of pregnancy, preterm births, States and Territories, 1994

Duration of pregnancy (weeks)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean (weeks)	33.5	33.2	33.3	33.2	33.1	33.5	32.4	33.0	33.3
	Number								
20 - 27	505	482	342	199	148	36	43	46	1,801
28 - 31	608	458	447	204	173	30	38	26	1,984
32 - 36	4,548	3,467	2,959	1,443	1,124	320	207	259	14,327
All preterm births	5,661	4,407	3,748	1,846	1,445	386	288	331	18,112
	Per cent of total births								
20 - 27	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.9	1.3	0.7
28 - 31	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.8
32 - 36	5.2	5.3	6.2	5.7	5.7	4.7	4.3	7.3	5.5
All preterm births	6.4	6.8	7.8	7.3	7.3	5.6	6.0	9.4	6.9

Table 41 : Infant's birthweight, all births, States and Territories, 1994

Birthweight (g)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean birthweight (g)	3,369	3,360	3,354	3,340	3,347	3,398	3,399	3,221	3,359
	Number								
Less than 500	123	187	96	84	49	14	3	14	570
500 - 999	414	326	261	137	114	26	27	42	1,347
1000 - 1499	494	384	350	174	141	24	33	20	1,620
1500 - 1999	935	756	654	277	253	51	45	59	3,030
2000 - 2499	3,146	2,432	1,886	975	768	254	164	195	9,820
2500 - 2999	13,440	9,841	7,228	4,080	3,064	1,019	658	722	40,052
3000 - 3499	32,013	23,749	17,293	9,364	7,225	2,402	1,628	1,286	94,960
3500 - 3999	27,171	19,750	14,694	7,552	5,912	2,125	1,562	920	79,686
4000 - 4499	8,637	6,325	4,724	2,399	1,927	773	520	226	25,531
4500 and over	1,515	1,165	842	383	348	132	91	41	4,517
Not stated	96	17	18	-	-	16	53	2	202
All births	87,984	64,932	48,046	25,425	19,801	6,836	4,784	3,527	261,335
Less than 1000	537	513	357	221	163	40	30	56	1,917
Less than 1500	1,031	897	707	395	304	64	63	76	3,537
Less than 2500	5,112	4,085	3,247	1,647	1,325	369	272	330	16,387
	Per cent								
Less than 500	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2
500 - 999	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.6	1.2	0.5
1000 - 1499	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.6
1500 - 1999	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.3	0.7	1.0	1.7	1.2
2000 - 2499	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.5	5.5	3.8
2500 - 2999	15.3	15.2	15.0	16.0	15.5	14.9	13.9	20.5	15.3
3000 - 3499	36.4	36.6	36.0	36.8	36.5	35.2	34.4	36.5	36.4
3500 - 3999	30.9	30.4	30.6	29.7	29.9	31.2	33.0	26.1	30.5
4000 - 4499	9.8	9.7	9.8	9.4	9.7	11.3	11.0	6.4	9.8
4500 and over	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.2	1.7
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 1000	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.6	1.6	0.7
Less than 1500	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.5	0.9	1.3	2.2	1.4
Less than 2500	5.8	6.3	6.8	6.5	6.7	5.4	5.7	9.4	6.3

Table 42 : Infant's birthweight, live births and fetal deaths, Australia, 1994

Birthweight (g)	Live births		Fetal deaths		All births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	159	0.1	411	24.0	570	0.2
500 - 999	908	0.4	439	25.7	1,347	0.5
1000 - 1499	1,492	0.6	128	7.5	1,620	0.6
1500 - 1999	2,907	1.1	123	7.2	3,030	1.2
2000 - 2499	9,669	3.7	151	8.8	9,820	3.8
2500 - 2999	39,876	15.4	176	10.3	40,052	15.3
3000 - 2499	94,818	36.5	143	8.4	94,961	36.4
3500 - 3999	79,594	30.7	91	5.3	79,685	30.5
4000 - 4499	25,500	9.8	31	1.8	25,531	9.8
4500 and over	4,501	1.7	16	0.9	4,517	1.7
Not stated	165		37		202	
All births	259,589	100.0	1,746	100.0	261,335	100.0
Less than 1000	1,067	0.4	850	49.7	1,917	0.7
Less than 1500	2,559	1.0	978	57.2	3,537	1.4
Less than 2500	15,135	5.8	1,252	73.3	16,387	6.3
Mean birthweight (g)	3,371		1,547		3,359	

Table 43 : Infant's birthweight by plurality, all births, Australia, 1994

Birthweight (g)	Singletons		Twins		Triplets		Other multiple births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	465	0.2	96	1.4	8	3.1	1	6.3
500 - 999	1,061	0.4	245	3.5	41	16.1	-	-
1000 - 1499	1,173	0.5	383	5.5	58	22.7	6	37.5
1500 - 1999	2,116	0.8	842	12.1	66	25.9	6	37.5
2000 - 2499	7,829	3.1	1,931	27.7	57	22.4	3	18.8
2500 - 2999	37,627	14.8	2,402	34.4	23	9.0	-	-
3000 - 3499	94,019	37.0	939	13.5	2	0.8	-	-
3500 - 3999	79,554	31.3	132	1.9	-	-	-	-
4000 - 4499	25,524	10.1	7	0.1	-	-	-	-
4500 and over	4,517	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not stated	187	-	15	-	-	-	-	-
All births	254,072	100.0	6,992	100.0	255	100.0	16	100.0
Less than 1000	1,526	0.6	341	4.9	49	19.2	1	6.3
Less than 1500	2,699	1.1	724	10.4	107	42.0	7	43.8
Less than 2500	12,644	5.0	3,497	50.1	230	90.2	16	100.0
Mean birthweight (g)	3,387		2,386		1,645		1,546	

Table 44: Infant's birthweight by sex, all births, Australia, 1994

Birthweight (g)	Male		Female		Indeterminate / Not stated	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	278	0.2	277	0.2	15	7.0
500 - 999	726	0.5	610	0.5	11	5.2
1000 - 1499	832	0.6	785	0.6	3	1.4
1500 - 1999	1,485	1.1	1,541	1.2	4	1.9
2000 - 2499	4,524	3.4	5,289	4.2	7	3.3
2500 - 2999	17,454	13.0	22,563	17.8	35	16.4
3000 - 3499	45,285	33.7	49,609	39.2	66	31.0
3500 - 3999	44,376	33.0	35,257	27.9	53	24.9
4000 - 4499	16,350	12.2	9,163	7.2	18	8.5
4500 and over	3,157	2.3	1,359	1.1	1	0.5
Not stated	87	-	98	-	17	-
All births	134,554	100.0	126,551	100.0	230	100.0
Less than 1000	1,004	0.7	887	0.7	26	12.2
Less than 1500	1,836	1.4	1,672	1.3	29	13.6
Less than 2500	7,845	5.8	8,502	6.7	40	18.8
Mean birthweight (g)	3,421		3,293		2,944	

Table 45 : Infant's birthweight, Indigenous births, States and Territories, 1994

Birthweight (g)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean birthweight (g)	3,182	3,211	3,183	3,098	3,103	3,361	3,340	3,080	3,148
	Number								
Less than 500	5	2	5	9	3	-	-	3	27
500 - 999	11	2	28	14	7	-	-	26	88
1000 - 1499	22	5	25	24	6	-	-	9	91
1500 - 1999	27	6	63	33	13	-	-	29	171
2000 - 2499	116	33	156	126	35	-	3	110	579
2500 - 2999	344	94	529	359	92	2	8	310	1,738
3000 - 3499	527	150	815	499	123	2	16	414	2,546
3500 - 3999	357	99	533	291	74	1	14	266	1,635
4000 - 4499	110	37	162	81	35	2	4	53	484
4500 and over	22	5	47	13	6	-	-	11	104
Not stated	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	6
All births	1,543	433	2,365	1,449	394	7	45	1,233	7,469
Less than 1000	16	4	33	23	10	-	-	29	115
Less than 1500	38	9	58	47	16	-	-	38	206
Less than 2500	181	48	277	206	64	-	3	177	956
	Per cent								
Less than 500	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.8	-	-	0.2	0.4
500 - 999	0.7	0.5	1.2	1.0	1.8	-	-	2.1	1.2
1000 - 1499	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.7	1.5	-	-	0.7	1.2
1500 - 1999	1.8	1.4	2.7	2.3	3.3	-	-	2.4	2.3
2000 - 2499	7.5	7.6	6.6	8.7	8.9	-	6.7	8.9	7.8
2500 - 2999	22.3	21.7	22.4	24.8	23.4	28.6	17.8	25.2	23.3
3000 - 3499	34.2	34.6	34.5	34.4	31.2	28.6	35.6	33.6	34.1
3500 - 3999	23.2	22.9	22.6	20.1	18.8	14.3	31.1	21.6	21.9
4000 - 4499	7.1	8.5	6.9	5.6	8.9	28.6	8.9	4.3	6.5
4500 and over	1.4	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.5	-	-	0.9	1.4
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 1000	1.0	0.9	1.4	1.6	2.5	-	-	2.4	1.5
Less than 1500	2.5	2.1	2.5	3.2	4.1	-	-	3.1	2.8
Less than 2500	11.7	11.1	11.7	14.2	16.2	-	6.7	14.4	12.8

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, 1994

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
Maternal country of birth/ Aboriginality								
Australia: Non-Indigenous	1,370	0.7	2,561	1.3	11,753	6.1	180,334	93.9
Australia:Indigenous	115	1.5	206	2.8	956	12.8	6,507	87.2
New Zealand	43	0.7	82	1.3	384	6.2	5,775	93.8
United Kingdom	96	0.7	170	1.3	776	6.0	12,160	94.0
Italy	6	0.5	8	0.7	69	6.1	1,053	93.9
Former Yugoslavia	15	0.9	26	1.5	87	5.1	1,605	94.9
Lebanon	20	0.6	33	1.0	175	5.5	3,013	94.5
China	10	0.4	17	0.6	109	4.1	2,575	95.9
Hong Kong	11	1.0	17	1.5	71	6.2	1,068	93.8
India	9	0.7	18	1.4	105	7.9	1,219	92.1
Malaysia	5	0.4	8	0.7	59	4.9	1,144	95.1
Philippines	18	0.7	29	1.1	168	6.3	2,482	93.7
Vietnam	25	0.6	45	1.0	274	6.3	4,050	93.7
Other countries	148	0.7	266	1.3	1,210	5.9	19,275	94.1
Not stated	26	-	51	-	191	7.1	2,486	92.9
Maternal age								
Less than 15	7	4.6	8	5.3	20	13.2	132	86.8
15-19	147	1.1	263	1.9	1,164	8.5	12,499	91.5
20-24	353	0.7	705	1.4	3,303	6.5	47,371	93.5
25-29	566	0.7	998	1.2	4,897	5.7	81,331	94.3
30-34	515	0.7	974	1.3	4,632	6.0	72,508	94.0
35-39	277	1.0	488	1.7	1,994	7.0	26,603	93.0
40 and over	51	1.1	100	2.2	372	8.2	4,178	91.8
Not stated	1	-	1	-	5	-	124	-
Parity								
None	867	0.8	1,668	1.6	7,806	7.5	96,028	92.5
One	531	0.6	960	1.1	4,542	5.2	82,634	94.8
Two	284	0.6	505	1.1	2,306	5.2	41,813	94.8
Three	135	0.8	219	1.3	1,008	6.2	15,336	93.8
Four or more	95	1.0	178	1.9	694	7.5	8,528	92.5
Not stated	5	-	7	-	31	-	407	-
Marital status								
Married / de facto	1,567	0.7	2,866	1.3	13,438	5.9	214,376	94.1
Single	251	0.9	491	1.8	2,286	8.5	24,511	91.5
Other	99	1.5	180	2.8	663	10.2	5,859	89.8
Hospital status*								
Public	922	0.8	1,732	1.5	8,010	6.7	111,090	93.3
Private	408	0.6	807	1.1	3,916	5.4	69,047	94.6
Place of birth								
Hospital	1,882	0.7	3,494	1.4	16,214	6.3	239,605	93.7
Birth centre	-	-	-	-	30	0.8	3,619	99.2
Home	-	-	-	-	11	1.5	720	98.5
Born before arrival	16	1.9	23	2.8	96	11.7	726	88.3
Other	16	21.6	17	23.0	30	40.5	44	59.5
Not stated	3	-	3	-	6	-	32	-

* Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

Table 47 : Proportion of liveborn low birthweight infants born in hospitals of different sizes, States and Territories, 1994

Low birthweight category/Hospital size	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Birthweight: 500 - 999g									
Number of births	276	217	187	92	71	13	22	26	904
	Per cent								
1-100 confinements	1.1	0.9	1.6	1.1	1.4	-	-	-	1.1
101-500 confinements	3.3	0.9	3.7	2.2	1.4	-	-	3.8	2.4
501-1000 confinements	6.9	6.5	2.7	3.3	-	-	-	23.1	5.2
1001-2000 confinements	4.3	9.7	21.4	-	4.2	38.5	4.5	73.1	11.2
2001 and over confinements	84.4	82.0	70.6	93.5	93.0	61.5	95.5	-	80.1
All births: 500 - 999g	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Birthweight: 1000 - 1499g									
Number of births	452	354	323	158	135	22	30	17	1,491
	Per cent								
1-100 confinements	0.4	0.3	0.9	1.9	1.5	-	-	-	0.7
101-500 confinements	2.2	3.1	2.5	1.3	2.2	-	-	-	2.3
501-1000 confinements	7.1	5.4	4.6	1.9	-	4.5	-	23.5	5.0
1001-2000 confinements	3.8	11.3	28.2	-	3.0	36.4	6.7	76.5	11.7
2001 and over confinements	86.5	79.9	63.8	94.9	93.3	59.1	93.3	-	80.3
All births: 1000 - 1499g	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Birthweight: 1500 - 1999g									
Number of births	900	720	628	264	245	46	45	58	2,906
	Per cent								
1-100 confinements	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.5	1.6	-	-	-	0.8
101-500 confinements	3.3	5.7	4.3	8.0	4.9	-	6.7	5.2	4.7
501-1000 confinements	11.4	15.7	13.2	6.8	2.4	17.4	-	31.0	12.0
1001-2000 confinements	11.1	19.0	32.8	3.4	14.7	32.6	4.4	63.8	18.7
2001 and over confinements	73.6	59.0	48.9	80.3	76.3	50.0	88.9	-	63.9
All births: 1500 - 1999g	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 48 : Infant's Apgar score at 1 minute, live births, selected States and Territories, 1994

Apgar score	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia*
All live births (n)	87,234	47,716	25,237	19,673	6,790	4,748	3,490	194,888
	Per cent							
0	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1
1 - 3	3.0	2.6	2.3	2.7	2.2	3.9	4.2	2.8
4 - 6	11.7	10.4	11.5	14.2	9.7	11.8	15.2	11.6
7 - 10	85.2	87.0	86.2	83.1	87.9	84.2	80.5	85.5
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, 1994

Apgar score	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
All live births (n)	87,234	64,448	47,716	25,237	19,673	6,790	4,748	3,490	259,336
	Per cent								
0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1
1 - 3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.3
4 - 6	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.6	3.0	1.3
7 - 10	98.1	98.6	98.3	98.6	98.5	98.3	97.8	96.2	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, 1994

Apgar score	Less than 1000g	1000-1499g	1500-1999g	2000-2499g	2500g and over	Not stated
All live births						
Apgar score: 1 minute *						
Live births (n)	807	1,133	2,178	7,262	183,369	139
	Per cent					
0	3.4	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.0	2.5
1-3	47.6	17.0	11.0	5.1	2.3	10.8
4-6	29.7	36.6	27.0	18.1	10.9	15.8
7-10	19.4	45.6	61.6	76.6	86.7	70.8
Apgar score: 5 minutes						
Live births (n)	1,062	1,487	2,898	9,658	244,078	153
	Per cent					
0	9.0	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.0	2.8
1-3	21.5	2.8	1.2	0.5	0.2	6.3
4-6	16.3	9.5	5.6	2.9	1.1	12.7
7-10	53.2	87.0	92.9	96.5	98.7	78.2
Indigenous live births						
Apgar score: 1 minute *						
Live births (n)	62	75	156	537	6,098	5
	Per cent					
0	3.3	-	0.7	0.2	0.0	25.0
1-3	54.1	25.7	10.6	5.9	3.6	25.0
4-6	29.5	31.1	24.5	16.5	13.2	25.0
7-10	13.1	43.2	64.2	77.4	83.1	25.0
Apgar score: 5 minutes						
Live births (n)	64	80	162	569	6,482	5
	Per cent					
0	12.9	1.3	0.6	0.4	0.0	50.0
1-3	27.4	3.8	0.6	0.7	0.3	-
4-6	21.0	15.2	5.7	4.0	2.2	25.0
7-10	38.7	79.7	93.0	95.0	97.5	25.0

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, 1994

Apgar score	Less than 1000g	1000-1499g	1500-1999g	2000-2499g	2500g and over	Not stated
Singleton live births						
Apgar score: 1 minute *						
Live births (n)	607	815	1,520	5,829	180,961	147
	Per cent					
0	3.2	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.0	2.5
1-3	46.8	18.1	13.1	5.6	2.3	10.7
4-6	30.1	37.2	27.8	18.6	10.9	14.0
7-10	20.0	44.0	58.5	75.6	86.7	72.7
Apgar score: 5 minutes						
Live births (n)	797	1,056	2,009	7,686	240,798	160
	Per cent					
0	8.8	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.0	2.8
1-3	22.1	3.2	1.7	0.5	0.2	5.6
4-6	16.4	10.5	6.3	3.2	1.1	12.6
7-10	52.7	85.6	91.7	96.1	98.7	79.0
Multiple live births						
Apgar score: 1 minute *						
Live births (n)	205	323	667	1,444	2,620	4
	Per cent					
0	4.5	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	-
1-3	49.5	13.8	6.3	3.1	2.6	-
4-6	28.7	34.7	25.1	16.0	11.6	50.0
7-10	17.3	50.3	68.4	80.8	85.6	50.0
Apgar score: 5 minutes						
Live births (n)	270	436	898	1,983	3,492	5
	Per cent					
0	9.5	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.2	-
1-3	20.1	1.6	0.2	0.4	0.1	20.0
4-6	15.9	7.0	3.9	1.7	1.3	-
7-10	54.5	90.5	95.6	97.9	98.5	80.0

Table excludes Apgar scores 'not stated'

* Data exclude Victoria

Table 52 : Length of infant's stay in hospital, live births, States and Territories, 1994

Length of stay	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean length of stay (days)	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.1	6.4	5.0	4.7	6.0	5.4
	Number								
Less than 1 day	1,836	448	407	420	176	84	78	52	3,501
1 day	4,655	2,155	2,426	1,246	716	307	381	151	12,037
2 days	8,969	4,634	5,287	2,594	1,429	634	579	366	24,492
3 days	12,554	9,763	8,634	3,891	2,067	917	784	475	39,085
4 days	15,061	12,103	9,029	3,676	3,368	1,266	870	597	45,970
5 days	14,607	11,101	7,319	4,234	4,379	1,366	699	603	44,308
6 days	10,031	8,844	4,987	3,112	2,670	904	523	354	31,425
7 - 13 days	11,251	11,984	6,460	4,440	3,963	974	497	611	40,180
14 - 20 days	686	521	506	165	286	53	29	69	2,315
21 - 27 days	313	307	275	51	152	43	22	35	1,198
28 or more days	814	536	538	173	436	44	42	55	2,638
Not stated	504	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	506
All live births	81,281	62,396	45,868	24,002	19,642	6,592	4,506	3,368	247,655
	Per cent								
Less than 1 day	2.3	0.7	0.9	1.7	0.9	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.4
1 day	5.8	3.5	5.3	5.2	3.6	4.7	8.5	4.5	4.9
2 days	11.1	7.4	11.5	10.8	7.3	9.6	12.9	10.9	9.9
3 days	15.5	15.6	18.8	16.2	10.5	13.9	17.4	14.1	15.8
4 days	18.6	19.4	19.7	15.3	17.1	19.2	19.3	17.7	18.6
5 days	18.1	17.8	16.0	17.6	22.3	20.7	15.5	17.9	17.9
6 days	12.4	14.2	10.9	13.0	13.6	13.7	11.6	10.5	12.7
7 - 13 days	13.9	19.2	14.1	18.5	20.2	14.8	11.0	18.1	16.3
14 - 20 days	0.8	0.8	1.1	0.7	1.5	0.8	0.6	2.0	0.9
21 - 27 days	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.8	0.7	0.5	1.0	0.5
28 or more days	1.0	0.9	1.2	0.7	2.2	0.7	0.9	1.6	1.1
All live births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 53 : Length of infant's stay in hospital by plurality, Aboriginality, gestational age, and birthweight, live births, Australia, 1994

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
Plurality		Per cent						
Singleton	167,879	16.9	34.4	30.2	16.3	0.8	0.4	0.9
Twin	4,613	8.2	6.4	16.0	43.3	9.6	5.6	10.9
Other multiple birth	181	8.8	0.6	0.6	18.2	12.2	12.7	47.0
Aboriginality								
Indigenous	5,866	28.8	33.7	19.5	12.8	2.3	1.1	1.8
Non-Indigenous	166,807	16.2	33.6	30.1	17.2	1.0	0.6	1.2
Gestational age								
20-27 weeks	1,268	67.5	1.1	0.6	1.9	0.6	0.8	27.5
28-31 weeks	1,374	19.7	2.6	2.8	6.5	4.8	7.9	55.6
32-36 weeks	9,763	10.6	11.5	17.0	32.9	12.5	7.7	7.7
37-41 weeks	153,829	16.5	35.4	31.1	16.4	0.3	0.1	0.1
42 or more weeks	5,203	17.8	38.3	30.0	13.5	0.3	0.1	0.1
Not stated	1,236	21.5	34.2	25.8	13.8	1.5	1.3	1.9
Birthweight								
Less than 1000g	1,362	67.3	1.2	0.7	1.8	0.5	0.7	27.8
1000-1499g	1,124	18.6	1.2	2.0	4.8	5.0	8.5	60.1
1500-1999g	2,093	12.0	3.1	5.6	17.3	16.4	17.2	28.3
2000-2499g	6,654	9.6	15.0	20.8	34.6	11.0	5.6	3.3
2500g and over	161,350	16.6	35.3	30.9	16.5	0.4	0.1	0.1
Not stated	90	60.0	12.2	13.3	10.0	-	-	4.4

Table excludes New South Wales

* Data exclude length of stay 'not stated'

Table 54 : Mode of separation of infants born in hospitals or birth centres, States and Territories, 1994

Mode of separation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia*
	Number							
Discharge home	81,060	62,164	45,728	23,981	6,411	4,496	3,387	227,227
Transfer to another hospital	5,770	1,888	1,674	1,059	100	191	66	10,748
Fetal death	496	484	328	188	46	36	37	1,615
Liveborn / Died	246	212	141	67	-	20	34	720
Other	-	69	-	21	-	-	-	90
Not stated	238	-	3	-	181	-	-	422
All births	87,810	64,817	47,874	25,316	6,738	4,743	3,524	240,822
	Per cent							
Discharge home	92.6	95.9	95.5	94.7	97.8	94.8	96.1	94.5
Transfer to another hospital	6.6	2.9	3.5	4.2	1.5	4.0	1.9	4.5
Fetal death	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.7
Liveborn / Died	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	-	0.4	1.0	0.3
Other	-	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	-	0.0
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Data exclude South Australia

Table 55: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths and rates, various definitions, Australia, 1992-1994

Definition/Outcome	Number				Rate per 1,000 births			
	1992**	1993	1994	1992-1994	1992**	1993	1994	1992-1994
400g/20 weeks								
Fetal deaths	1,943	1,656	1,638	5,237	7.3	6.3	6.3	6.6
Early neonatal deaths	1,203	1,017	1,005	3,225	4.6	3.9	3.9	4.1
Perinatal deaths (WHO)	3,146	2,673	2,643	8,462	11.8	10.2	10.1	10.7
Live births	264,151	260,229	258,051	782,431				
500g/22 weeks								
Fetal deaths	1,493	1,245	1,207	3,945	5.6	4.8	4.7	5.0
Early neonatal deaths	813	687	693	2,193	3.1	2.6	2.7	2.8
Neonatal deaths	1,015	886	868	2,769	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.5
Perinatal deaths (WHO)	2,306	1,932	1,900	6,138	8.7	7.4	7.3	7.8
Perinatal deaths (ABS)	2,508	2,131	2,075	6,714	9.4	8.2	8.0	8.5
Live births	263,963	260,061	257,867	781,891				
1000g/28 weeks								
Fetal deaths	1,012	823	765	2,600	3.8	3.2	3.0	3.3
Early neonatal deaths	466	409	402	1,277	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.6
Perinatal deaths (WHO)	1,478	1,232	1,167	3,877	5.6	4.7	4.5	5.0
Live births*	263,140	259,453	257,543	780,136				

* Estimated live births.

** The figures were adjusted by excluding postneonatal deaths which coded as '0' for cessation of heartbeat, but age at death > 28 days.

Table 56: Type of fetal death, Australia, 1990-1994

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
1990	1,087	4.1	395	1.5	108	0.4	1,590	6.0
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

* 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, 1990-1994

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
1990	576	2.2	310	1.2	235	0.9	1,122	4.3
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

* Includes 'not stated' age at death.

Table 58: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, Australia, 1990-1994

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
1990	1,590	6.0	1,122	4.3	2,712	10.3
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

Table 59: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by maternal State or Territory of usual residence, 1990-1994

Outcome / Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Fetal deaths									
1990	584	403	246	133	115	45	33	31	1,590
1991	521	340	269	143	104	38	29	34	1,478
1992	582	345	242	121	111	35	19	38	1,493
1993	451	288	197	117	96	41	21	34	1,245
1994	370	329	235	113	91	26	15	28	1,207
1992-1994	1,403	962	674	351	298	102	55	100	3,945
Neonatal deaths									
1990	376	302	173	105	89	26	21	30	1,122
1991	359	238	188	81	54	44	21	27	1,012
1992	409	196	191	97	46	29	21	26	1,015
1993	315	194	181	67	58	24	11	36	886
1994	362	184	144	66	46	28	12	26	868
1992-1994	1,086	574	516	230	150	81	44	88	2,769
Perinatal deaths									
1990	960	705	419	238	204	71	54	61	2,712
1991	880	578	457	224	158	82	50	61	2,490
1992	991	541	433	218	157	64	40	64	2,508
1993	766	482	378	184	154	65	32	70	2,131
1994	732	513	379	179	137	54	27	54	2,075
1992-1994	2,489	1,536	1,190	581	448	183	99	188	6,714

Table 59: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates by maternal State or Territory of usual residence, 1990-1994 (cont.)

Outcome / Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Rate per 1,000 births								
Fetal deaths									
1990	6.4	6.0	5.5	5.2	5.8	6.4	7.4	8.6	6.0
1991	5.9	5.2	6.1	5.6	5.3	5.5	6.1	9.4	5.7
1992	6.3	5.2	5.2	4.8	5.7	5.0	4.3	10.1	5.6
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
1992-1994	5.2	4.9	4.8	4.6	5.0	4.9	4.1	9.0	5.0
Neonatal deaths									
1990	4.2	4.5	3.9	4.1	4.5	3.7	4.7	8.4	4.3
1991	4.1	3.6	4.3	3.2	2.7	6.4	4.4	7.5	3.9
1992	4.4	3.0	4.1	3.9	2.4	4.2	4.7	7.0	3.8
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
1992-1994	4.0	3.0	3.7	3.1	2.6	3.9	3.3	8.0	3.5
Perinatal deaths									
1990	10.5	10.5	9.3	9.3	10.2	10.0	12.0	17.0	10.3
1991	10.0	8.8	10.3	8.8	8.0	11.9	10.5	16.8	9.6
1992	10.6	8.2	9.3	8.7	8.1	9.1	9.0	17.0	9.4
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
1992-1994	9.2	7.9	8.5	7.7	7.6	8.8	7.4	17.0	8.5

Table 60: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by maternal age, Australia, 1990-1994

Outcome / Year	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	Not stated	
Number								
Fetal deaths								
1990	119	340	525	413	152	35	6	1,590
1991	128	310	443	412	135	45	5	1,478
1992	118	288	458	410	161	41	17	1,493
1993	94	253	380	320	154	33	11	1,245
1994	72	229	338	362	162	30	14	1,207
1992-1994	284	770	1,176	1,092	477	104	42	3,945
Neonatal deaths								
1990	94	214	373	278	113	25	25	1,122
1991	80	210	309	252	101	24	36	1,012
1992	66	226	295	251	100	23	54	1,015
1993	56	178	259	232	90	12	59	886
1994	62	176	242	211	102	27	48	868
1992-1994	184	580	796	694	292	62	161	2,769
Perinatal deaths								
1990	213	554	898	691	265	60	31	2,712
1991	208	520	752	664	236	69	41	2,490
1992	184	514	753	661	261	64	71	2,508
1993	150	431	639	552	244	45	70	2,131
1994	134	405	580	573	264	57	62	2,075
1992-1994	468	1,350	1,972	1,786	769	166	203	6,714

Table 60: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates by maternal age, Australia, 1990-1994 (cont.)

Outcome / Year	Maternal age (years)						All ages
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 and over	
Rate per 1,000 births							
Fetal deaths							
1990	7.8	6.4	5.4	5.8	6.6	9.9	6.0
1991	8.6	6.0	4.8	5.7	5.6	12.4	5.7
1992	8.3	5.4	5.0	5.4	6.2	9.9	5.6
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
1992-1994	7.0	5.0	4.4	4.7	5.8	8.0	5.0
Neonatal deaths							
1990	6.2	4.0	3.8	3.9	5.0	7.1	4.3
1991	5.4	4.1	3.4	3.5	4.2	6.7	3.9
1992	4.7	4.3	3.2	3.3	3.9	5.6	3.8
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
1992-1994	4.6	3.8	3.0	3.0	3.6	4.8	3.5
Perinatal deaths							
1990	14.0	10.4	9.2	9.7	11.6	17.0	10.3
1991	14.0	10.0	8.1	9.3	9.8	18.9	9.6
1992	12.9	9.7	8.2	8.7	10.0	15.4	9.4
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
1992-1994	11.6	8.8	7.4	7.7	9.4	12.8	8.5

Table 61: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, singleton and multiple births, Australia, 1990-1994

Outcome / Year	Singletons		Twins		Other multiple births		All infants	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births
Fetal deaths								
1990	1,464	5.7	117	19.0	9	31.8	1,590	6.0
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
1992-1994	3,636	4.8	288	14.2	20	22.6	3,944	5.0
Neonatal deaths								
1990	987	3.9	127	21.0	8	29.2	1,122	4.3
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
1992-1994	2,369	3.1	363	18.1	37	42.7	2,769	3.5
Perinatal deaths								
1990	2,451	9.5	244	39.6	17	60.1	2,712	10.3
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
1992-1994	6,005	7.8	651	32.0	57	64.3	6,713	8.5

Table 62: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths by infant's sex, Australia, 1990-1994

Outcome / Year	Number			Rate per 1,000 births		
	Males	Females	All infants	Males	Females	All infants
Fetal deaths						
1990	888	702	1,590	6.5	5.5	6.0
1991	777	701	1,478	5.9	5.6	5.7
1992	779	714	1,493	5.7	5.5	5.6
1993	668	577	1,245	5.0	4.5	4.8
1994	692	515	1,207	5.2	4.1	4.7
1992-1994	2,139	1,806	3,945	5.3	4.7	5.0
Neonatal deaths						
1990	660	462	1,122	4.9	3.6	4.3
1991	571	441	1,012	4.3	3.5	3.9
1992	596	419	1,015	4.4	3.3	3.8
1993	511	375	886	3.8	3.0	3.4
1994	517	351	868	3.9	2.8	3.4
1992-1994	1,624	1,145	2,769	4.0	3.0	3.5
Perinatal deaths						
1990	1,548	1,164	2,712	11.4	9.1	10.3
1991	1,348	1,142	2,490	10.2	9.1	9.6
1992	1,375	1,133	2,508	10.1	8.8	9.4
1993	1,179	952	2,131	8.8	7.5	8.2
1994	1,209	866	2,075	9.1	6.9	8.0
1992-1994	3,763	2,951	6,714	9.3	7.7	8.5

Table 63: Fetal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1990-1994

Year	Gestational age (weeks)						Total
	Less than 28	28-31	32-36	37-41	42 and over	Not stated	
Number							
1990	425	251	376	498	28	12	1,590
1991	368	223	362	489	26	10	1,478
1992	421	216	350	453	34	19	1,493
1993	358	176	312	351	16	32	1,245
1994	351	144	268	361	20	63	1,207
Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births							
1990	1.6	1.0	1.4	1.9	0.1	0.0	6.0
1991	1.4	0.9	1.4	1.9	0.1	0.0	5.7
1992	1.6	0.8	1.3	1.7	0.1	0.1	5.6
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

Table 64: Neonatal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1990-1994

Year	Gestational age (weeks)						Total
	Less than 28	28-31	32-36	37-41	42 and over	Not stated	
Number							
1990	399	133	190	337	22	41	1,122
1991	374	131	159	292	21	35	1,012
1992	388	106	163	274	25	59	1,015
1993	311	98	146	238	10	83	886
1994	318	101	117	266	14	52	868
Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births							
1990	1.5	0.5	0.7	1.3	0.1	0.2	4.3
1991	1.5	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.1	0.1	3.9
1992	1.5	0.4	0.6	1.0	0.1	0.2	3.8
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

Table 65: Perinatal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1990-1994

Year	Gestational age (weeks)						Total
	Less than 28	28-31	32-36	37-41	42 and over	Not stated	
	Number						
1990	824	384	566	835	50	53	2,712
1991	742	354	521	781	47	45	2,490
1992	809	322	513	727	59	78	2,508
1993	669	274	458	589	26	115	2,131
1994	669	245	385	627	34	115	2,075
	Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births						
1990	3.1	1.5	2.1	3.2	0.2	0.2	10.3
1991	2.9	1.4	2.0	3.0	0.2	0.2	9.6
1992	3.0	1.2	1.9	2.7	0.2	0.3	9.4
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

Table 66: Fetal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1990-1994

Year	Birthweight (g)				Total
	500-999	1000-2499	2500 and over	Not stated	
	Number				
1990	497	574	483	36	1,590
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
	Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births				
1990	1.9	2.2	1.8	0.1	6.0
1991	1.7	2.0	1.9	0.2	5.7
1992	1.7	1.8	1.8	0.2	5.6
1993	1.5	1.6	1.4	0.3	4.8
1994	1.6	1.3	1.4	0.4	4.7

Table 67: Neonatal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1990-1994

Year	Birthweight (g)				Total
	500-999	1000-2499	2500 and over	Not stated	
Number					
1990	408	327	347	40	1,122
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
Proportionate death rate per 1,000 live births					
1990	1.6	1.2	1.3	0.2	4.3
1991	1.5	1.1	1.2	0.1	3.9
1992	1.4	1.0	1.2	0.2	3.8
1993	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.2	3.4
1994	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.2	3.4

Table 68: Perinatal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1990-1994

Year	Birthweight (g)				Total
	500-999	1000-2499	2500 and over	Not stated	
Number					
1990	905	901	830	76	2,712
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
Proportionate death rate per 1,000 births					
1990	3.4	3.4	3.1	0.3	10.3
1991	3.1	3.2	3.1	0.3	9.6
1992	3.2	2.8	3.0	0.4	9.4
1993	2.7	2.5	2.4	0.5	8.2
1994	2.8	2.2	2.5	0.6	8.0

Table 69: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths according to various criteria, and birthweight-specific death rates, Australia, 1994

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*
Fetal deaths				
Less than 500	411	412	412	
500 - 999	439	411	403	299.2
1000 - 1499	128	108	114	70.4
1500 - 1999	123	105	114	37.6
2000 - 2499	151	125	137	14.0
2500 - 2999	176	149	153	3.8
3000 - 3499	143	109	118	1.2
3500 - 3999	90	72	74	0.9
4000 - 4499	31	22	23	0.9
4500 and over	16	13	13	2.9
Not stated	37	112	113	
All deaths: 500g and over	1,334	1,226	1,262	4.8
Neonatal deaths				
Less than 500	na	133	133	
500 - 999	na	314	324	356.8
1000 - 1499	na	79	82	55.0
1500 - 1999	na	80	80	27.5
2000 - 2499	na	68	70	7.2
2500 - 2999	na	81	83	2.1
3000 - 3499	na	108	97	1.0
3500 - 3999	na	65	67	0.8
4000 - 4499	na	18	18	0.7
4500 and over	na	5	3	0.7
Not stated	na	54	48	
All deaths: 500g and over	na	872	872	3.4
Perinatal deaths				
Less than 500	na	545	545	
500 - 999	na	725	727	539.7
1000 - 1499	na	187	196	121.0
1500 - 1999	na	185	194	64.0
2000 - 2499	na	193	207	21.1
2500 - 2999	na	230	236	5.9
3000 - 3499	na	217	215	2.3
3500 - 3999	na	137	141	1.8
4000 - 4499	na	40	41	1.6
4500 and over	na	18	16	3.5
Not stated	na	166	161	
All deaths: 500g and over	na	2,098	2,134	8.2

Table 70: Fetal deaths by maternal age, Australia, 1994

Maternal age (years)	Fetal deaths		Live births		Total births		Fetal death rate	
	Number							
					(per 1,000 births)			
Less than 20	129		13,705		13,834		9.3	
20 - 24	334		50,380		50,714		6.6	
25 - 29	483		85,815		86,298		5.6	
30 - 34	504		76,681		77,185		6.5	
35 - 39	247		28,371		28,618		8.6	
40 and over	47		4,506		4,553		10.3	
Not stated	1		132		133		7.5	
All ages	1,745		259,590		261,335		6.7	

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

Table 71: Fetal deaths by maternal age and Aboriginality, Australia, 1994

Maternal age (years)	Fetal deaths		Live births		Total births		Fetal death rate	
	Non-Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	Number							
					(per 1,000 births)			
Less than 20	36	93	1,792	11,913	1,828	12,006	19.7	7.7
20 - 24	31	303	2,635	47,745	2,666	48,048	11.6	6.3
25 - 29	19	464	1,721	84,094	1,740	84,558	10.9	5.5
30 - 34	14	490	879	75,802	893	76,292	15.7	6.4
35 - 39	3	244	283	28,088	286	28,332	10.5	8.6
40 and over	2	45	46	4,460	48	4,505	41.7	10.0
Not stated	-	1	8	124	8	125	-	8.0
All ages	105	1,640	7,364	252,226	7,469	253,866	14.1	6.5

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

Table 72: Fetal deaths by parity, Australia, 1994

Parity	Fetal deaths		Live births		Total births		Fetal death rate	
	Number							
					(per 1,000 births)			
None	781		103,133		103,914		7.5	
One	468		86,762		87,230		5.4	
Two	265		43,889		44,154		6.0	
Three	125		16,238		16,363		7.6	
Four or more	99		9,130		9,229		10.7	
Not stated	7		438		445		15.7	
All parities	1,745		259,590		261,335		6.7	

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

Table 73: Fetal deaths by plurality, Australia, 1994

Plurality	Fetal deaths	Live births	Total births	Fetal death rate
		Number		(per 1,000 births)
Singletons	1,566	252,506	254,072	6.2
Twins	168	6,824	6,992	24.0
Other multiple births	11	260	271	40.6
All births	1,745	259,590	261,335	6.7

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

Table 74: Fetal deaths by marital status, Australia, 1994

Marital status	Fetal deaths	Live births	Total births	Fetal death rate
		Number		(per 1,000 births)
Married / de facto	1,437	226,536	227,973	6.3
Single	224	26,598	26,822	8.4
Widowed, divorced or separated	57	5,763	5,820	9.8
Not stated	27	693	720	37.5
All marital status	1,745	259,590	261,335	6.7

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*, 1994

Hospital status	Fetal deaths	Live births	Total births	Fetal death rate
		Number		(per 1,000 births)
Public	814	118,278	119,092	6.8
Private	382	72,442	72,824	5.2
Not stated	26	309	335	77.6
All births	1,222	191,029	192,251	6.4

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, 1994

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	80	650.4	30	697.7	110	894.3	43
500-999	135	326.1	101	362.0	236	570.0	279
1000-1499	42	85.0	19	42.0	61	123.5	452
1500-1999	35	37.4	24	26.7	59	63.1	900
2000-2499	49	15.6	12	3.9	61	19.4	3,097
2500-2999	58	4.3	16	1.2	74	5.5	13,382
3000-3499	44	1.4	27	0.8	71	2.2	31,969
3500-3999	29	1.1	15	0.6	44	1.6	27,142
4000-4499	9	1.0	-	-	9	1.0	8,628
4500 and over	6	4.0	-	-	6	4.0	1,509
Not stated	9	93.8	2	23.0	11	114.6	87
Total births	496	5.6	246	2.8	742	8.4	87,488

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, 1994

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	149	796.8	34	894.7	183	978.6	38
500-999	109	334.4	68	313.4	177	542.9	217
1000-1499	30	78.1	20	56.5	50	130.2	354
1500-1999	36	47.6	21	29.2	57	75.4	720
2000-2499	36	14.8	20	8.3	56	23.0	2,396
2500-2999	42	4.3	19	1.9	61	6.2	9,799
3000-3499	39	1.6	15	0.6	54	2.3	23,710
3500-3999	25	1.3	11	0.6	36	1.8	19,725
4000-4499	11	1.7	3	0.5	14	2.2	6,314
4500 and over	4	3.4	2	1.7	6	5.2	1,161
Not stated	3	176.5	1	71.4	4	235.3	14
Total births	484	7.5	214	3.3	698	10.7	64,448

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, 1994

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	69	718.8	22	814.8	91	947.9	27
500-999	74	283.5	55	294.1	129	494.3	187
1000-1499	27	77.1	17	52.6	44	125.7	323
1500-1999	26	39.8	15	23.9	41	62.7	628
2000-2499	28	14.8	16	8.6	44	23.3	1,858
2500-2999	40	5.5	17	2.4	57	7.9	7,188
3000-3499	31	1.8	13	0.8	44	2.5	17,262
3500-3999	17	1.2	9	0.6	26	1.8	14,677
4000-4499	8	1.7	6	1.3	14	3.0	4,716
4500 and over	3	3.6	-	-	3	3.6	839
Not stated	7	388.9	3	272.7	10	555.6	11
Total births	330	6.9	173	3.6	503	10.5	47,716

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, 1994

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	57	678.6	26	963.0	83	988.1	27
500-999	45	328.5	23	250.0	68	496.4	92
1000-1499	16	92.0	1	6.3	17	97.7	158
1500-1999	13	46.9	5	18.9	18	65.0	264
2000-2499	20	20.5	1	1.0	21	21.5	955
2500-2999	15	3.7	5	1.2	20	4.9	4,065
3000-3499	10	1.1	6	0.6	16	1.7	9,354
3500-3999	10	1.3	1	0.1	11	1.5	7,542
4000-4499	1	0.4	-	-	1	0.4	2,398
4500 and over	1	2.6	-	-	1	2.6	382
Total births	188	7.4	68	2.7	256	10.1	25,237

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, 1994

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	33	673.5	14	875.0	47	959.2	16
500-999	43	377.2	19	267.6	62	543.9	71
1000-1499	6	42.6	6	44.4	12	85.1	135
1500-1999	8	31.6	6	24.5	14	55.3	245
2000-2499	9	11.7	6	7.9	15	19.5	759
2500-2999	12	3.9	5	1.6	17	5.5	3,052
3000-3499	11	1.5	7	1.0	18	2.5	7,214
3500-3999	3	0.5	2	0.3	5	0.8	5,909
4000-4499	2	1.0	1	0.5	3	1.6	1,925
4500 and over	1	2.9	-	-	1	2.9	347
Total births	128	6.5	66	3.4	194	9.8	19,673

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, 1994

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	13	928.6	1	1000.0	14	1000.0	1
500-999	13	500.0	2	153.8	15	576.9	13
1000-1499	2	83.3	2	90.9	4	166.7	22
1500-1999	5	98.0	1	21.7	6	117.6	46
2000-2499	2	7.9	1	4.0	3	11.8	252
2500-2999	4	3.9	1	1.0	5	4.9	1,015
3000-3499	1	0.4	-	-	1	0.4	2,401
3500-3999	4	1.9	-	-	4	1.9	2,121
4000-4499	-	-	1	1.3	1	1.3	773
4500 and over	1	7.6	-	-	1	7.6	131
Not stated	1	6.3	1	6.7	2	12.5	15
Total births	46	6.7	10	1.5	56	8.2	6,790

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, 1994

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	1	333.3	1	500.0	2	666.7	2
500-999	5	185.2	12	545.5	17	629.6	22
1000-1499	3	90.9	2	66.7	5	151.5	30
1500-1999	-	-	-	-	-	-	45
2000-2499	3	18.3	-	-	3	18.3	161
2500-2999	3	4.6	-	-	3	4.6	655
3000-3499	5	3.1	2	1.2	7	4.3	1,623
3500-3999	-	-	2	1.3	2	1.3	1,562
4000-4499	-	-	-	-	-	-	520
4500 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	91
Not stated	16	301.9	1	27.0	17	32.1	37
Total births	36	7.5	20	4.2	56	11.7	4,748

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, 1994

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	9	642.9	5	-	14	1000.0	5
500-999	15	357.1	16	592.6	31	738.1	27
1000-1499	2	100.0	1	55.6	3	150.0	18
1500-1999	-	-	2	33.9	2	33.9	59
2000-2499	4	20.5	2	10.5	6	30.8	191
2500-2999	2	2.8	1	1.4	3	4.2	720
3000-3499	2	1.6	5	3.9	7	5.4	1,284
3500-3999	2	2.2	1	1.1	3	3.3	918
4000-4499	-	-	-	-	-	-	226
4500 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
Not stated	1	500.0	1	1000.0	2	1000.0	1
Total births	37	10.5	34	9.7	71	20.1	3,490

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

Appendix 1 Definitions

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.