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**Indigenous mothers
and their babies
Australia 1994–1996**

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AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit
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Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AHW	Aboriginal health worker
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
ATSIHWIU	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Welfare Information Unit
ELBW	Extremely low birthweight (less than 1,000 grams)
g	gram
ICD-9	International Classification of Diseases, 9 th Revision
LBW	Low birthweight (under 2,500 grams)
LMP	last menstrual period
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NPSU	National Perinatal Statistics Unit
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
na	not available
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SLA	Statistical Local Area
Tas	Tasmania
UNSW	University of New South Wales
VLBW	Very low birthweight (less than 1,500 grams)
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia
WHO	World Health Organization

Highlights

- In the period from 1994 to 1996, there were 22,996 confinements of Indigenous mothers resulting in the birth of 23,214 babies recorded in the State and Territory perinatal collections. These accounted for 3.0% of all mothers and births in Australia in those years.
- Based on births recorded in the State and Territory perinatal collections, in 1996 the total fertility rate was 2.2 for Indigenous women and 1.8 for non-Indigenous women. Indigenous women began childbearing at younger ages, had higher birth rates in their teenage years and early twenties, and tended to have more children than non-Indigenous women.
- Birth rates of teenage Indigenous women and those in their early 20s declined substantially between 1991 and 1996.
- Most Indigenous mothers (98.0%) gave birth in hospitals; they were more likely to have their babies in smaller hospitals than non-Indigenous mothers.
- Most Indigenous mothers (97.0%) gave birth in public accommodation in hospital.
- The States and Territories reporting the greatest numbers of Indigenous mothers for the period 1994 to 1996 were Queensland (7,436), New South Wales (4,981), Western Australia (4,290), and the Northern Territory (3,674).
- The average age of Indigenous mothers was 24.0 years, 4.6 years younger than the average of 28.6 years among non-Indigenous mothers for the 1994–1996 period. Almost one in four (23.1%) Indigenous mothers was a teenager, nearly five times higher than for non-Indigenous mothers (4.8%).
- Caesarean rates for Indigenous mothers in public accommodation in hospital ranged from 12.2% for confinements of teenage mothers to 25.1% for mothers aged 35 years and older. The age-adjusted caesarean rates for Indigenous mothers were consistently higher than for non-Indigenous mothers.
- The average length of antenatal stay in hospital was longer for Indigenous mothers than for non-Indigenous mothers.
- The average postnatal stay for Indigenous mothers of 4.2 days was slightly shorter than the average of 4.5 days for non-Indigenous mothers. The postnatal length of stay for Indigenous mothers was on average half a day shorter than the 4.7 days reported in the 1991–1993 period.
- The proportion of Indigenous babies having hospital stays of less than 3 days was 29.9%, almost double that of 17.6% for all other babies. The increasing trend towards early discharge is apparent in the 6-year period.
- The mean birthweight of babies born to Indigenous mothers was 3,149 g, 216 g less than the mean of 3,365 g for all other births. State and Territory differences in the mean birthweight of Indigenous babies were marked, ranging from 3,079 g in the Northern Territory and 3,111 g in Western Australia to 3,218 g in Victoria.
- The proportion of low birthweight (less than 2,500 g) babies of Indigenous mothers (12.4%) was twice as high as for babies of non-Indigenous mothers (6.2%).

- The fetal death rate among births to Indigenous mothers of 13.9 per 1,000 births was more than double that of 6.7 per 1,000 births for non-Indigenous births. There was little variation in rates for Queensland (15.5 per 1,000), the Northern Territory (14.8 per 1,000), South Australia (15.0 per 1,000) and Western Australia (15.0 per 1,000). Neonatal death rates of Indigenous babies were higher than for non-Indigenous babies in all States and Territories.
- The proportion of Indigenous mothers who were teenagers varied by ATSI region. There were also regional differences in the proportion of low birthweight babies, caesarean section rates and fetal death rates by ATSI region.
- The completeness and quality of information on Indigenous births can be improved by linking paternal information on Indigenous status currently recorded on birth registrations and on perinatal death registrations to the perinatal data collections.

1 Introduction

This is the second AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit (NPSU) triennial report on the health status of Indigenous mothers and their babies. It reports national data on births to Indigenous mothers in 1994–1996 based on notifications of these births to the groups responsible for the perinatal data collections in each State and Territory. Notification forms are completed for all births of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 g birthweight. The data are reported nationally and by State and Territory for 1994–1996 based on the State or Territory where the birth occurred. Because of significant under-reporting of Indigenous mothers in the Tasmanian perinatal collection, totals only have been included in the tables. Data are also reported for 1991–1996 by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) region based on identifiable mothers' place of usual residence. Where relevant, data from the report *Indigenous Mothers and Their Babies, Australia 1991–1993* are compared with the 1994–1996 data. Although some of the data have been published previously in annual reports on Australia's mothers and babies (Perinatal Statistics Series numbers 5–7), this report provides a more comprehensive range of information on births to Indigenous mothers. The information presented can be used in developing policies and health services for Indigenous mothers and their babies and can assist in the evaluation of the impact of those policies and health service initiatives.

1.1 Criteria for Indigenous status

The definition of Indigenous status is included in the *National Health Data Dictionary* Version 7.0 (National Health Data Committee 1998):

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

The term 'Indigenous' is used in this report to refer to mothers of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent and their babies. Information on babies born to Indigenous fathers and non-Indigenous mothers is not included in this report.

1.2 Indigenous population

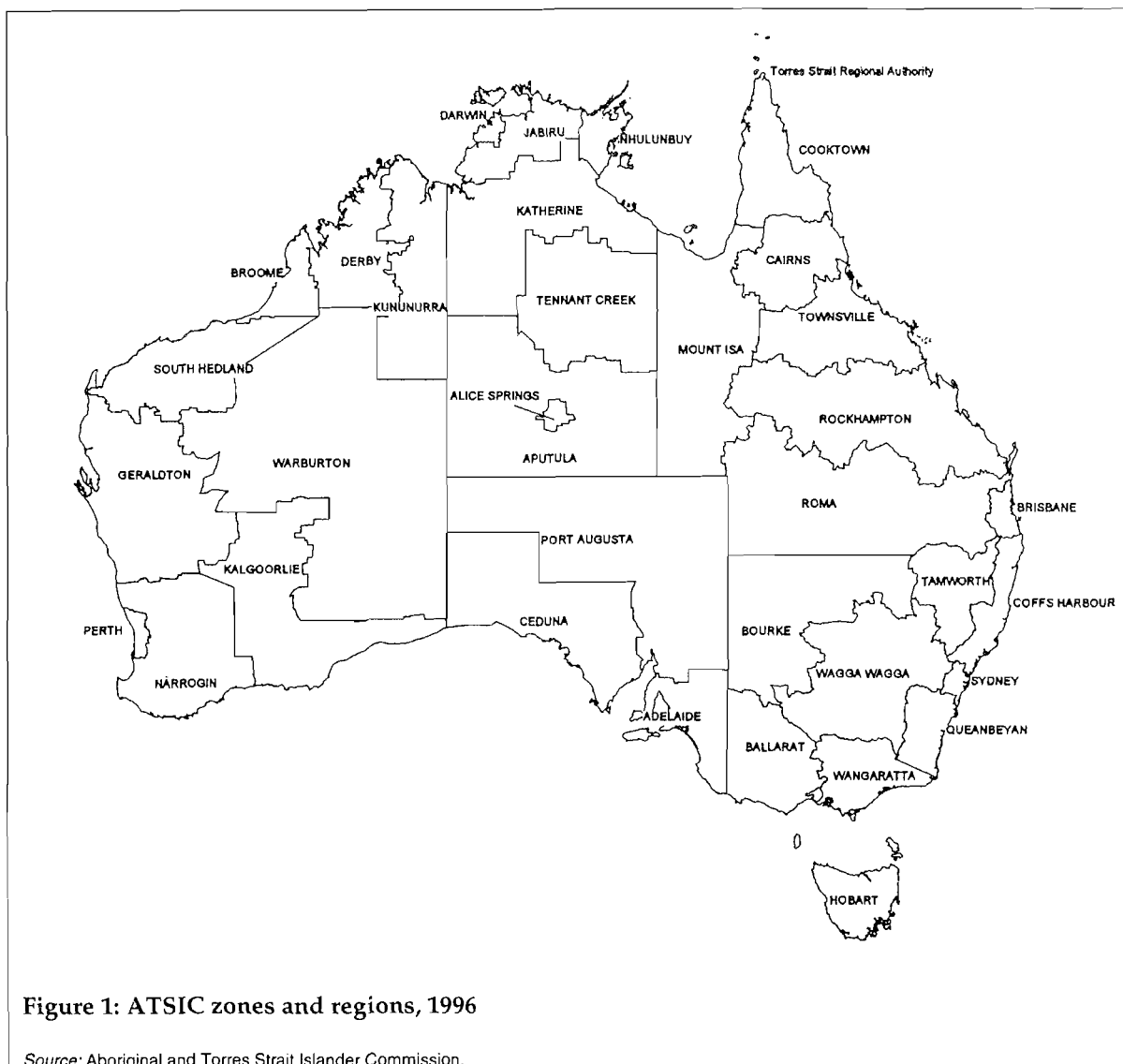
The estimated resident Indigenous population at 30 June 1996 was 386,049 persons, making up approximately 2.1% of the total Australian population (ABS 1998c). There were 93,405 women in the reproductive age group of 15 to 44 years accounting for almost one in four (24.2%) of the total Indigenous population. Data from this estimate have been used to calculate age-specific birth rates and total fertility rates in this report.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimates that there was a net effect of about 51,800 people who identified as Indigenous in the 1996 Census who had not identified as such in the 1991 Census (ABS 1998b). This propensity to identify can be seen as a social issue reflecting Indigenous perceptions and attitudes to the collection of public information about their heritage. It also can be seen as a data quality issue, revealing an undercount of the 'true' Indigenous population (Ross 1999, ABS 1998b).

1.3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission regions

The Australian Bureau of Statistics in its publication *Australian Indigenous Geographical Classification* defines Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) regions as 'a legally prescribed area for the purpose of administration by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), and for the election of members to that Commission.' (ABS 1998a).

At the time of the 1996 Census there were 36 ATSIC regions which together covered all of Australia (Figure 1). These regions did not generally cross State and Territory borders, with the notable exception of Queanbeyan which incorporated part of New South Wales, all of the Australian Capital Territory and the Territory of Jervis Bay. The Territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands were included in the ATSIC region of Perth (ABS 1998a). Since the 1991 Population Census only minor changes have been made to ATSIC region boundaries.



The 36 ATSiC regions in Australia vary markedly in their population size. The estimated resident Indigenous population in 1996 shows the most populous regions were Sydney (37,117 people or 9.6% of the total Indigenous population) and Brisbane (30,325 or 7.9%) while the least populous regions were Warburton (2,952 or 0.8%) in Western Australia and Ceduna (2,014 or 0.5%) in South Australia (ABS 1997c, ABS 1998d). Also see Table 63.

2 Indigenous status

2.1 State and Territory perinatal data collections

The primary source of national data on Indigenous mothers and their babies used in this report is the perinatal database held by the AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit. This data is derived from the State and Territory perinatal data collections. State and Territory tabulations derived from the national perinatal data set held by the NPSU may differ slightly from those published by the State and Territories due to data editing and subsequent updates to State and Territory databases. In the national data held by the NPSU, coding of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status of mothers is available for each State and Territory from 1991 onwards. Some States and Territories have perinatal data containing information on the mother's Indigenous status for earlier years.

Each State and Territory has a perinatal data collection in which midwives and other staff, using information obtained from mothers and from hospital or other records, complete notification forms for each birth. The information collected includes characteristics of the mother; previous pregnancies; the current pregnancy; labour, delivery and the puerperium; and the baby's birth status (live birth or stillbirth), sex, birthweight, Apgar scores and outcome. The national minimum data set and definitions for the perinatal collections are presently being revised. Data processing and checking are performed by each State or Territory perinatal data group and annual data are submitted in electronic format to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare National Perinatal Statistics Unit at the University of New South Wales.

Information on Indigenous births in the perinatal data collections is published by State and Territory health authorities (Bourne & Kee 1998; Chan et al. 1997; Gee 1996; d'Espaignet et al. 1997; Riley & Halliday 1998; Taylor et al. 1998; Queensland Health 1998). Some States have published separate reports on these births (Koori Health Unit and Department of Human Services 1999; Gee 1995; NSW Health Department 1994) or may have used the data for other studies published in journals.

In the period covered by this report, all States and Territories except Tasmania had a specific data item on the Indigenous status of mothers in their perinatal collections. In Tasmania, a separate code for Aboriginality was recorded under the data item on maternal country of birth.

There was no specific data item on the Indigenous status of babies in the perinatal collections. Instead this information was derived from the reported status of the mother. However, as the Indigenous status of fathers is not recorded in the perinatal data collections, information on Indigenous babies born to Indigenous fathers and non-Indigenous mothers cannot be obtained from this source.

2.2 Registration and Census collections

The two other primary collections of national information on Indigenous births and deaths are the State and Territory registries of births and deaths and Census data. Both collections have different characteristics, varying levels of completeness and potential limitations. The

ABS considers data on the registrations of Indigenous births as reliable only in those States and Territories where the number of births fall within 20% of 1996 Census-based projections and have also remained within 10% of these projections in the latest 3 years (ABS 1998b). Although the Indigenous status of both parents has been collected for birth registrations in most States and Territories in recent years, in 1996 only South Australia, Western Australia, and Northern Territory had data that were considered to be publishable (ABS 1998b). Indigenous origin was introduced for births registered in Queensland from January 1996; Indigenous birth registrations were not considered publishable in the other States. Among birth registrations in 1994–1996, derived data shows that the proportion of all Indigenous births in which the father was Indigenous and the mother non-Indigenous ranged from 38.5% in the Australian Capital Territory, 27.6% in South Australia and 18.6% in Western Australia to 5.5% in the Northern Territory. This indicates the level of under-reporting of Indigenous births in the perinatal collections when the Indigenous status of both parents is taken into account. Estimates of Indigenous births can also be derived from the national Census held every 5 years, but many other data items that are included in the perinatal collections are not available from Census data.

2.3 Comparisons between data collections

As birth registrations include information on the Indigenous status of both parents, the number of Indigenous live births registered in each State and Territory often differs substantially from the number recorded in the perinatal data collection, in which only the mother's Indigenous status is recorded. This is shown in the following table where there are marked differences in the number of live births recorded in the two data systems for the 1994–1996 period.

State or Territory	Registered Indigenous live births 1994–1996 ^(a)	Live births to Indigenous mothers in perinatal data collection 1994–1996
New South Wales	6,800	4,971
Victoria	1,536	1,294
Queensland (1996 only)	2,588	2,598
Western Australia	4,608	4,263
South Australia	1,642	1,118
Tasmania	758	17
Australian Capital Territory	177	188
Northern Territory	4,035	3,653

(a) Australian Bureau of Statistics 1998b.

As discussed, some of the discrepancy in birth numbers between State and Territory Registry and perinatal data collections is explained by the inclusion of additional births to non-Indigenous mothers whose partners are Indigenous. Other possible explanations for the differences are the failure to ascertain Indigenous status at the data recording level. It has been shown that sometimes midwives may not ask women if they are Aboriginal and that midwives perceive that some Aboriginal women may be reluctant to identify themselves as Aboriginal, resulting in misclassification of the mother's Indigenous status (Robertson 1994).

In the birth registration collection, incomplete and late birth registration and identification of the baby's Indigenous status as volunteered by the adult reporting the

baby's birth or death limit the Registry data. Another possible explanation is inconsistent 'self-identification' of Indigenous status, where for some collections parents and their babies are identified as Indigenous and for others they are not.

Another significant issue in data ascertainment is the continually evolving definition of Indigenous status and the implications this has in primary data collection and maintaining quality assurance. It is important to have consistency with data items and an adequate timeframe and resources to implement changes.

Regarding the registration of perinatal deaths, the Indigenous status of babies is recorded from the medical certificate or death information form. These are completed by either a medical practitioner or funeral director and reflect a degree of subjective ascertainment of Indigenous status. The ABS considers data on Indigenous perinatal deaths of publishable standard only from those States and Territories where it estimates that more than 90% of Indigenous perinatal deaths are identified (ABS 1997b). These were Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory in 1996.

Not all States and Territories link registered perinatal deaths to the records for the same births in the perinatal data collections. Significant differences exist in the number of perinatal deaths identified as being Indigenous when comparing data from State and Territory perinatal data collections and registrations of perinatal deaths. This may well lead to varying estimates of important health outcomes such as perinatal and infant death rates and is likely to affect comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

2.4 Classification of perinatal data by ATSI region

For the first time this report on Indigenous mothers and their babies includes perinatal data tabulated by State and Territory and ATSI region. Tabulated State and Territory data are based on births that occurred in each State and Territory in the period 1994 to 1996. Tabulated ATSI region data are based on births in the period 1991 to 1996 that occurred in each State and Territory where this was the mother's place of usual residence. If this condition was met a birth was assigned to an ATSI region based on the mother's place of usual residence. Because of differences in data items, and varying practices for coding the mother's place of residence, if the mother lived in a State or Territory other than that in which the birth occurred, the birth was assigned to the category of unknown or Interstate.

State and Territory perinatal data items include a mother's usual place of residence code, consisting of either a Statistical Local Area code (SLA) or postcode. ATSI region codes based on 1996 boundaries were assigned to these using either a SLA to ATSI region concordance (ABS 1997d) or a 'composite' postcode to ATSI region concordance. The 'composite' concordance assigned a postcode to an ATSI region based on a comparison between two different geographic concordances. One concordance used the SLA to ATSI region concordance, where the greatest proportion of a postcode population in a SLA determined the SLA and ATSI region to which a postcode belonged. The other concordance used an overlay of 1996 postcode boundaries with ATSI region boundaries from the statistical mapping package MAPINFO. A postcode crossing an ATSI boundary was assigned to the ATSI region where the geographical centre or centroid of a postcode resided. A high level of agreement between the two concordances was achieved. Differences were reconciled in favor of the SLA and ATSI region where a postcode's greatest proportion of population resided.

Although every possible effort has been made to ensure accurate coding of mother's place of usual residence to ATSI region, deficiencies in this methodology do exist. Year to year

fluctuations in the numbers of Indigenous mothers and their births are apparent for some ATSI regions. The effects of boundary changes on postcodes and SLAs over the 6 years though minimal at the ATSI region level, need to be acknowledged. Finally, as previously explained, it has not been possible to assign Interstate births to ATSI regions. Some mothers and babies particularly those from remote Indigenous communities in the border regions of the Northern Territory with Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia are not identified in ATSI regions. Because of the small numbers of births by individual ATSI region and to ensure a higher degree of statistical power, tabulations of perinatal data by ATSI region have been combined for the 6-year period 1991 to 1996.

2.5 Improvements in data quality

Since the previous report on Indigenous mothers and their babies there has been progress in improving the completeness and quality of information on the identification of Indigenous status in both the State and Territory perinatal data collections and birth and death registration collections. This improvement in the identification of Indigenous status has varied by State and Territory as it is largely dependent upon the availability of resources and the establishment of linkages between perinatal and registration data collections.

All States and Territories participate in their State- or Territory-based Indigenous Working Group. These groups were established by ABS to improve Indigenous identification in birth and death registrations and other administrative data collections. The Indigenous Working Groups are made up of representatives from ABS, State and Territory Registrars, State and Territory Health and other Departments, Indigenous organisations and other groups as appropriate.

The establishment of data linkage projects by individual State and Territory perinatal data collections with their counterpart Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages will assist in enumerating the 'true' number of Indigenous births in the State or Territory. In Victoria a recent study has demonstrated clearly the discrepancies between data sets (Koori Health Counts No. 2, 1999).

The Indigenous status of fetal and neonatal deaths has been poorly recorded on perinatal death certificates in the past. The ABS is now working more closely at the data recording level, particularly with funeral directors, to ensure better ascertainment of Indigenous status. By linking perinatal death registrations to the records for the same babies in the perinatal data collections in all States and Territories, it would be possible to analyse perinatal deaths nationally according to the Indigenous status of the mother. Validation studies examining discordance in the recording of Indigenous status for perinatal deaths between the Registry and the perinatal data collections also need to be undertaken.

There is a need to improve the ascertainment of Indigenous births and to improve the availability of small population data on Indigenous births so that data are accessible to ATSI regions and smaller local communities with the aim of improving reproductive and perinatal health outcomes.

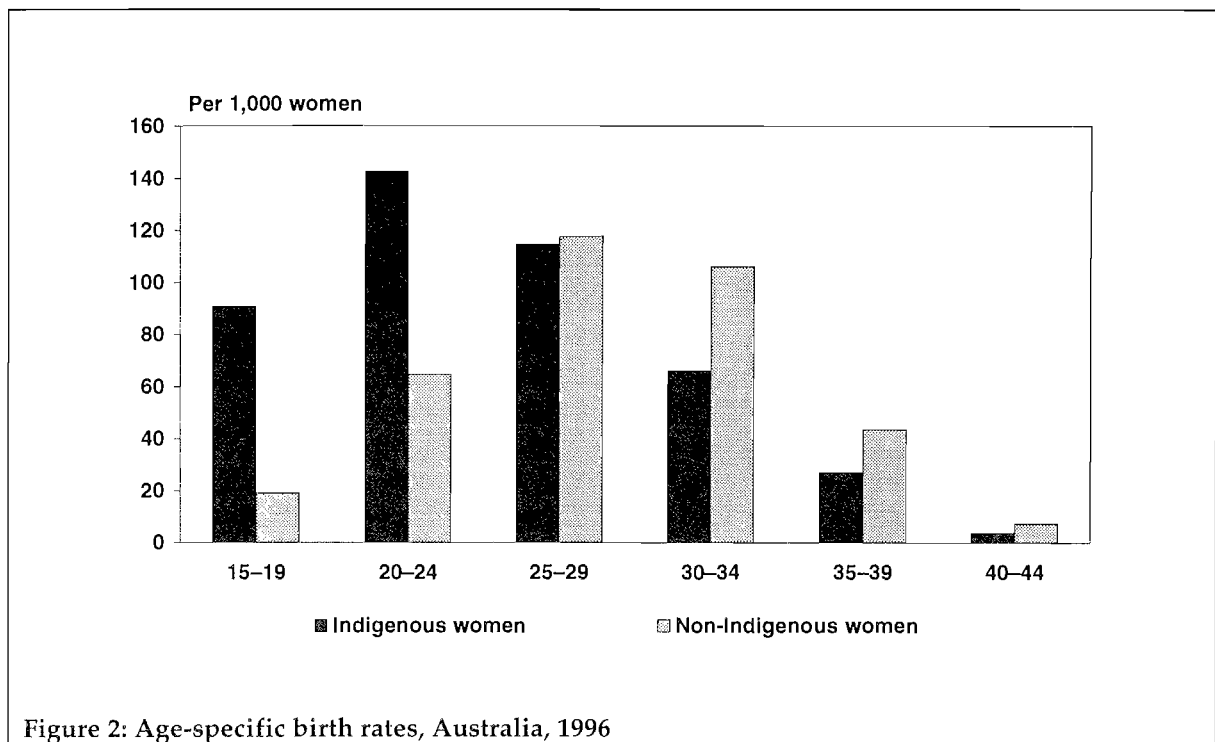
3 Mothers

3.1 Birth rates

Data used in this report are from the AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit perinatal database unless otherwise stated. The estimated crude birth rates and age-specific birth rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous women are derived from the annual number of live births to mothers in both of these population groups and from estimates derived from Census data. As the number of live births in this report differs from the numbers based on birth registrations or Census estimates, the birth rates reported here will also differ from those derived from other sources.

In 1996 the Indigenous population was estimated to be 386,049 and the non-Indigenous population estimated to be 17,924,651 (population estimates obtained from Australian Bureau of Statistics (1998c)). In 1996 there were 7,794 live births to Indigenous mothers recorded in the perinatal collections and 247,480 live births to non-Indigenous mothers. The estimated crude birth rates based on these data were 20.2 per 1,000 people for the Indigenous population and 13.8 per 1,000 for the non-Indigenous population. The Indigenous rate underestimates the actual figure because of incomplete reporting of births to Indigenous mothers and the lack of reporting of births to Indigenous fathers. In comparing age-specific birth rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous women, the number of live births to mothers in each age group is related to the number of women of the same age, rather than to the total population. The peak birth rates were in the 20–24 years age group (142.8 per 1,000 women) for Indigenous women and 25–29 years (117.7 per 1,000 women) for non-Indigenous women. Between 1991 and 1996 the teenage birth rate declined from 127.3 per 1,000 Indigenous women to 90.9 per 1,000 Indigenous women. For Indigenous women aged 20–24 years the birth rate also declined, from 176.1 per 1,000 women in 1991 to 142.8 per 1,000 women in 1996. Among teenagers, the Indigenous birth rate in 1996 was nearly five times higher than the non-Indigenous rate; among women aged 20–24 years, the Indigenous birth rate was more than twice as high (Table 1, Figure 2).

The total fertility rate provides an estimate of the number of children that 1,000 women would have throughout their reproductive lives if they experienced the prevailing birth rates in a particular year (Australian Bureau of Statistics 1997a). It is calculated by adding together the age-specific birth rates for each 5-year stratum of maternal age and multiplying by 5. In 1996, the total fertility rate for Indigenous women was 2,228 per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years, compared with 1,791 per 1,000 for non-Indigenous women.



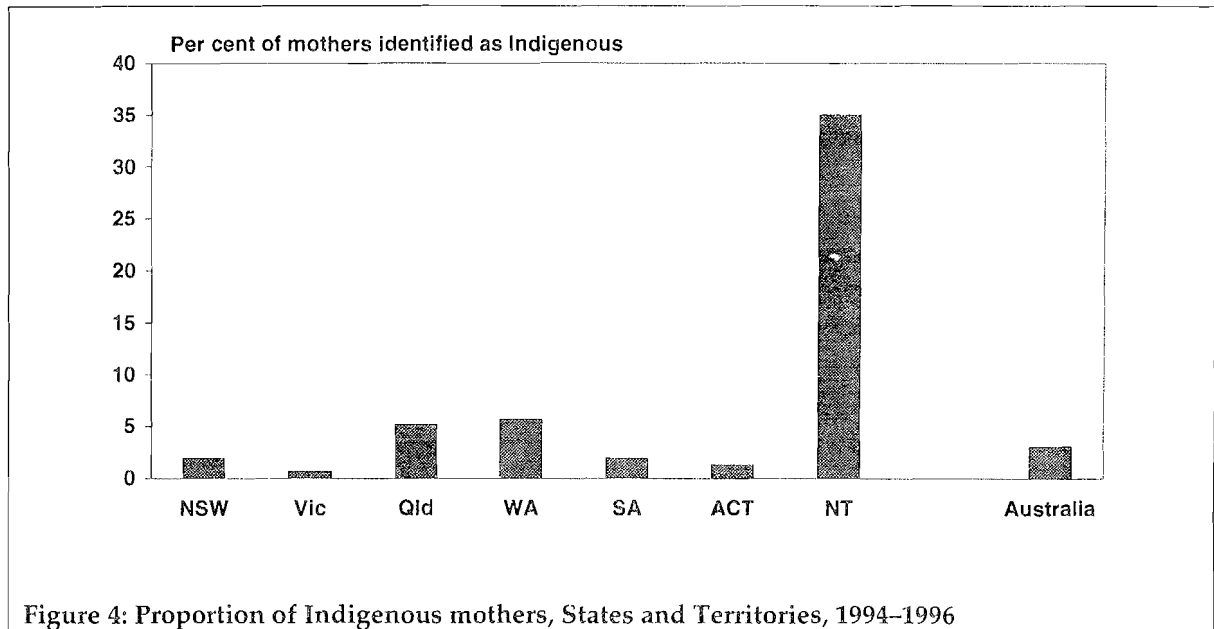
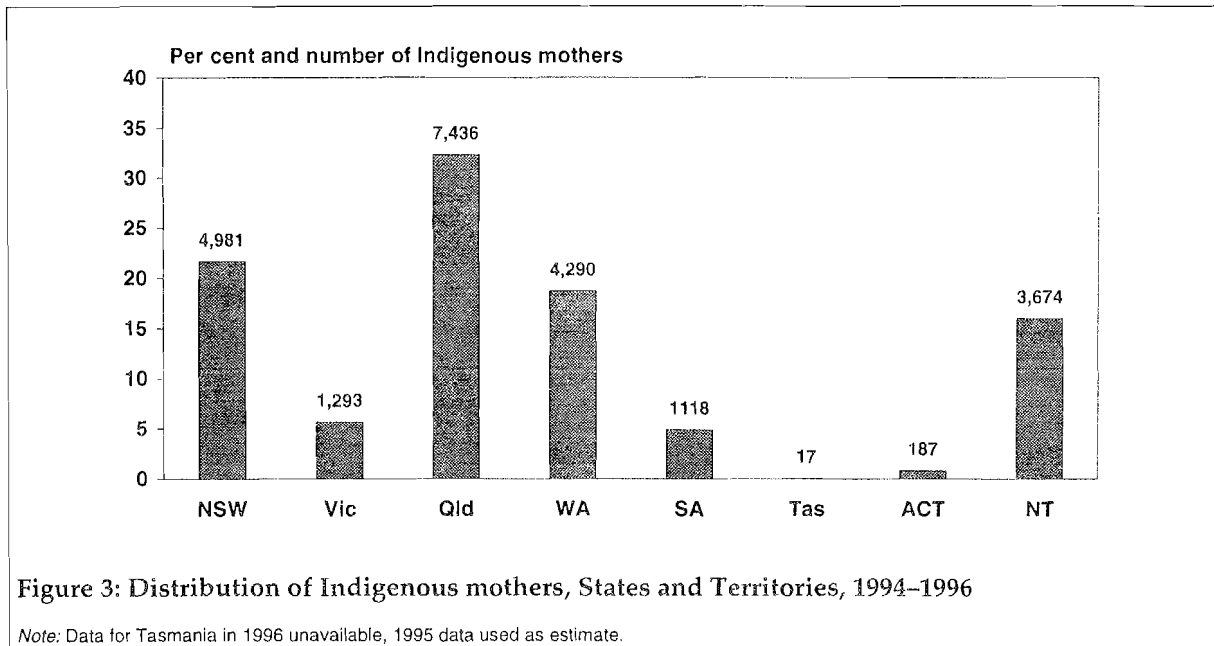
3.2 Confinements and births

In 1994–1996, there were 22,996 confinements recorded for Indigenous women, resulting in the birth of 23,214 babies, of whom 22,891 were live births and 323 were fetal deaths (Table 2). Births to Indigenous mothers accounted for 3.0% of all births in Australia during this 3-year period. Fetal deaths occurred in 1.4% of births to Indigenous mothers, double the rate of 0.7% among other births. There has been a trend over the 6-year period 1991–1996 of an increasing number of births recorded to Indigenous mothers with 7,899 births in 1996 compared to 7,086 births in 1991.

The geographical distribution of births to Indigenous mothers within Australia depends on the size of the local Indigenous population and also on variations in fertility rates in different areas, often related to whether the community is located in a rural, remote or urban location.

Of the 22,996 Indigenous mothers in Australia in 1994–1996, approximately one in three (7,436, 32.3%) gave birth in Queensland, followed by New South Wales (4,981, 21.5%), Western Australia (4,290, 18.7%), and the Northern Territory (3,674, 16.0%) with the remainder in the other States and Territories (Table 3, Figure 3).

The proportion of mothers who were Indigenous varied by State and Territory with 35.0% of mothers giving birth in the Northern Territory, 5.7% in Western Australia and 5.2% in Queensland identifying as Indigenous (Figure 4).

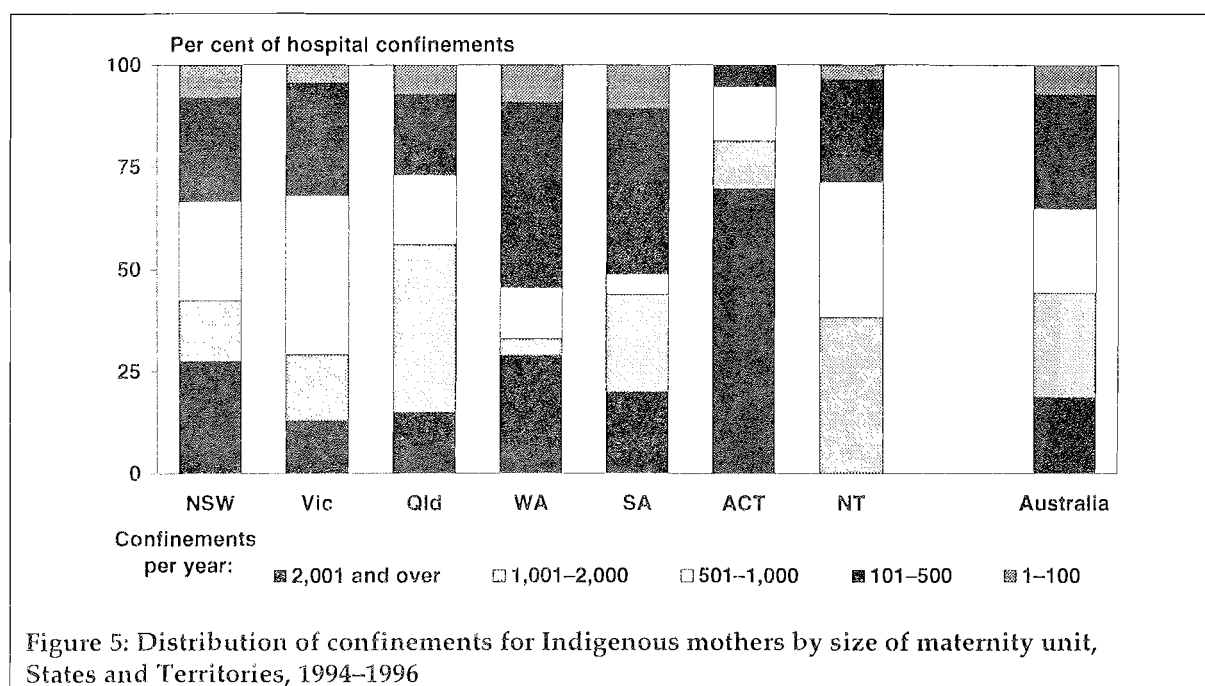


3.3 Place of birth

The majority of Indigenous mothers (22,514, 98.0%) gave birth in hospitals with only (88, 0.4%) mothers giving birth in designated birth centres (Table 4). A small number of births to Indigenous mothers (150, 0.7%) took place in bush clinics in the Northern Territory. Only five home births were reported during the 3-year period of the report.

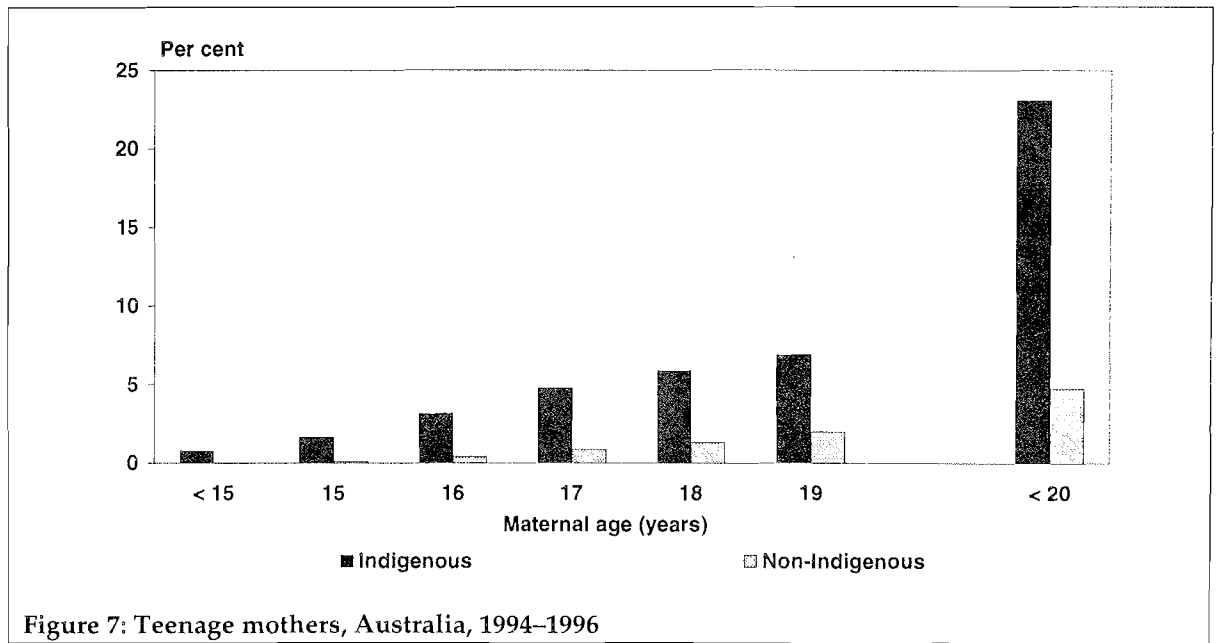
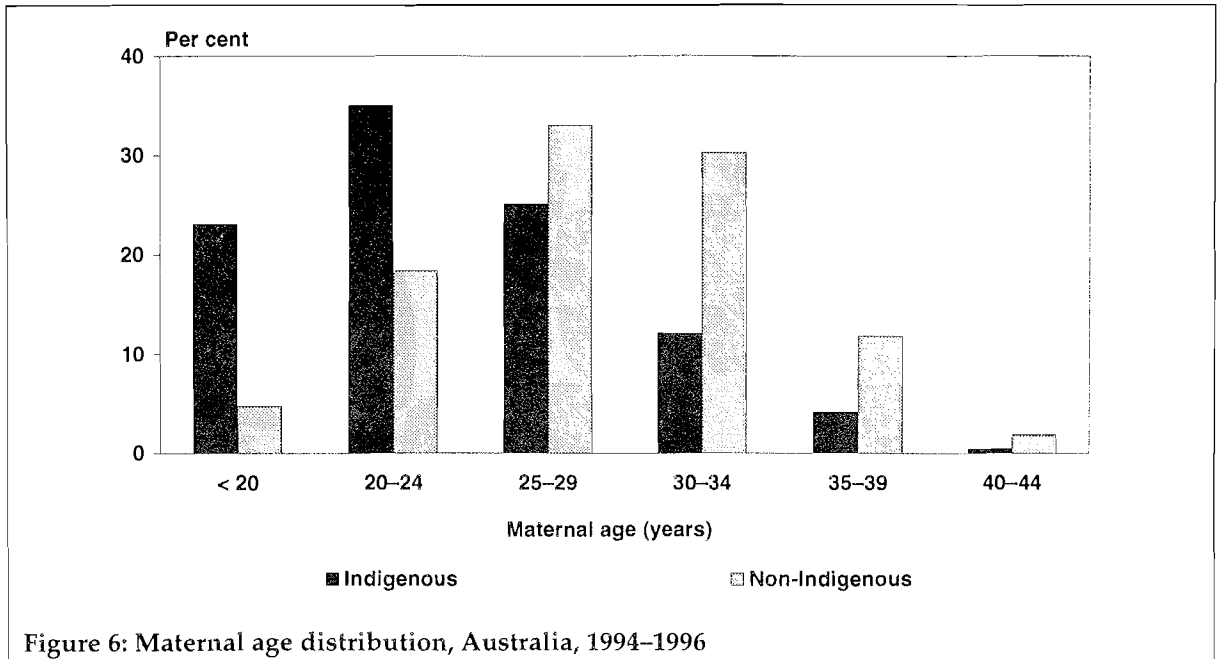
3.4 Size of maternity unit

Consistent with their greater likelihood of living in rural and remote areas, Indigenous mothers were twice as likely as non-Indigenous mothers to give birth in small hospitals with maternity units reporting 500 or less confinements annually (Table 5). Non-Indigenous mothers were more likely to have their babies in maternity units reporting at least 2,001 deliveries than Indigenous mothers (Table 5). Relatively more Indigenous mothers in Western Australia (54.5%) and South Australia (51.2%) gave birth in smaller hospitals of up to 500 confinements annually than in the other States and Territories (Table 6, Figure 5).

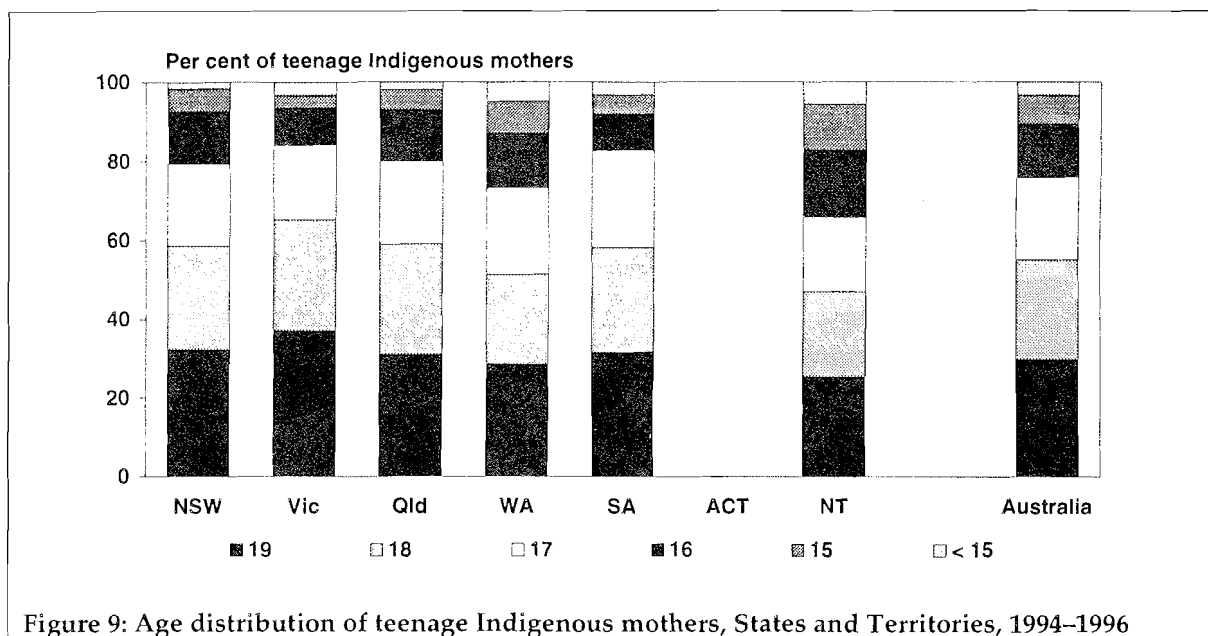
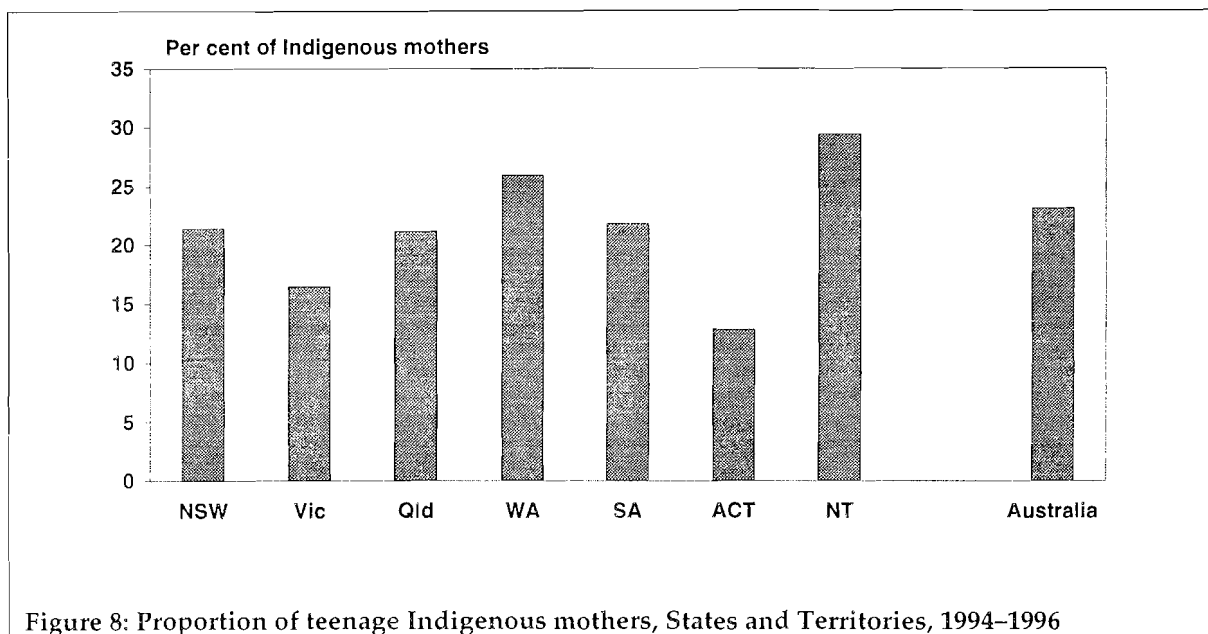


3.5 Maternal age

The age at which women give birth is a risk factor for the outcome of the pregnancy and for the baby's outcome. Indigenous mothers are more likely to give birth at younger ages than are other mothers. There was minimal change in the average age of Indigenous mothers over the 6-year period of the two reports (23.7 years in 1991-1993, versus 24.0 years in 1994-1996). For the 1994-1996 period Indigenous mothers were on average nearly 5 years younger when compared with the average age of 28.6 years for other mothers (Table 7). Nearly one in four (23.1%) Indigenous mothers was a teenager, almost five times higher than for non-Indigenous mothers (4.8%) (Figure 6). This age differential had not changed from the 1991-1993 report. The difference in maternal age distribution between Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers was most pronounced in those aged less than 20 years and those over 30 years (Figure 7). The proportion of Indigenous mothers who were aged less than 20 years continues to fall, declining from 27.0% in 1991 to 22.1% in 1996 (Table 7).



There were relatively more teenage Indigenous mothers in the Northern Territory (29.4%) and Western Australia (25.9%) than in the other States and the Australian Capital Territory (Table 8, Figure 8). Approximately two-thirds of the teenage mothers in the Northern Territory and three-quarters in Western Australia were aged at least 17 years (Figure 9).

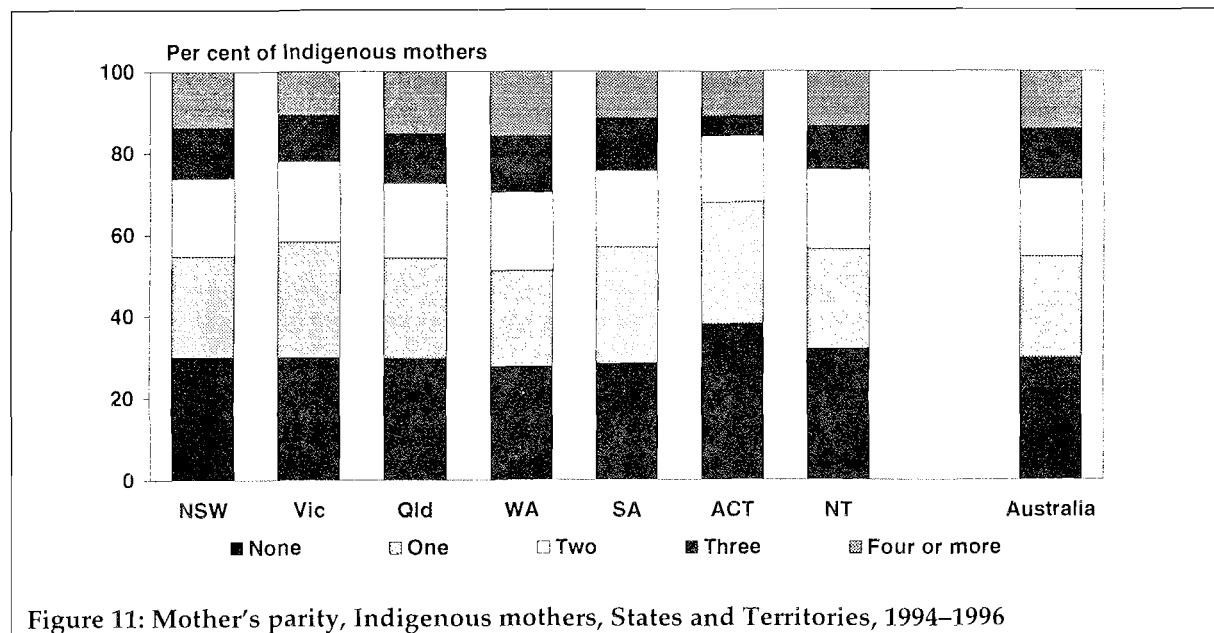
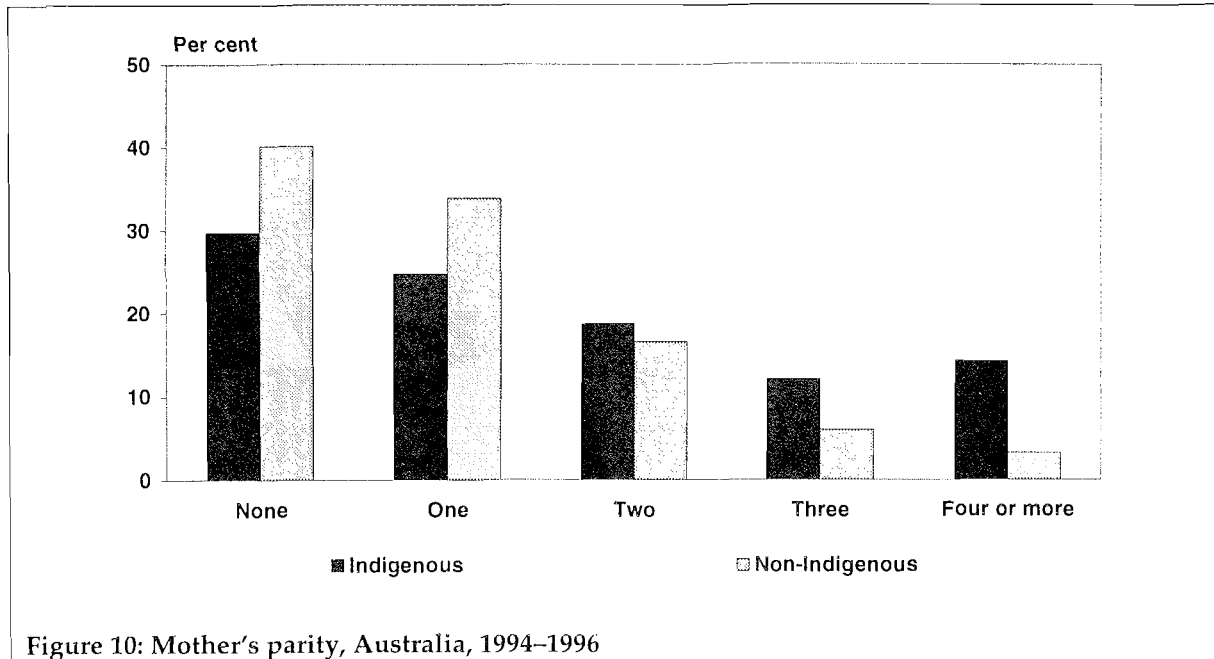


3.6 Maternal parity

In 1994-1996, three out of every ten confinements of Indigenous mothers were for first babies. One-quarter of Indigenous mothers had given birth once previously while the remainder (45.4%) had previously given birth two or more times (Table 9). Maternal age and parity are closely correlated. The proportion of Indigenous mothers with two or more previous births in the period 1994-1996 increased from 6.0% among those aged less than 20 years to 77.2% among mothers aged 40 years and over (Table 9). This remained unchanged from the 1991-1993 period. This compared with 1.8% and 52.9%, respectively, for the same age groups among non-Indigenous mothers (Table 10). Indigenous mothers had a

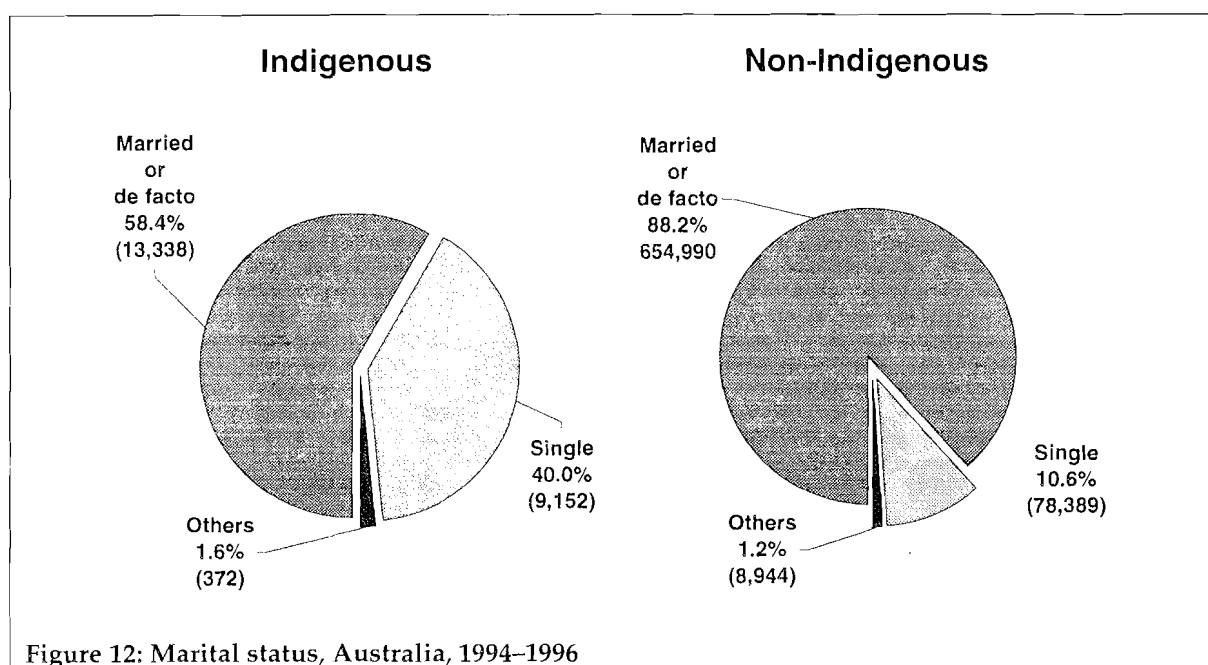
higher parity than other mothers; they were twice as likely to have had three previous births and four times more likely to have had four or more previous births (Figure 10).

Three out of ten Indigenous mothers in Western Australia (29.7%) had previously given birth three or more times, while in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory, approximately one in four mothers had done so (Table 11, Figure 11).



3.7 Marital status

Nearly six out of ten Indigenous mothers (13,338 or 58.3%) in 1994–1996 were reported either married or living in de facto relationships (Table 12) compared with nearly nine out of ten (654,990 or 88.2%) of all other mothers (Figure 12). There was little variation between States and Territories of the marital status of Indigenous mothers (Table 12). Among Indigenous mothers, 9,152 or 40.0% were single, compared with 78,389 or 10.6% of non-Indigenous mothers.



3.8 Accommodation status in hospital

People admitted to hospital may elect to have public or private accommodation. In the States reporting more than 1,000 confinements for Indigenous mothers, at least 95.0% of Indigenous mothers were in public accommodation (Table 13). The high level of public accommodation status was unchanged from the 1991–1993 report. Victoria and the Northern Territory did not collect this information in their perinatal collections in the period covered by this report.

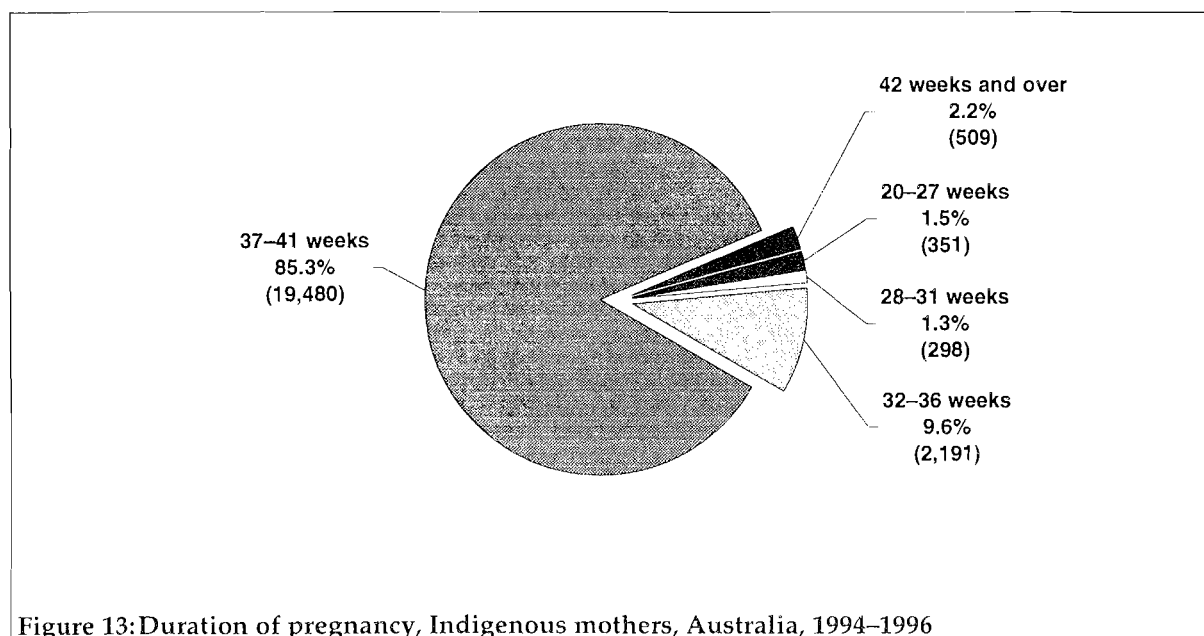
3.9 Duration of pregnancy

Accurate data on gestational age are difficult to obtain, particularly among Indigenous women who are often seen for the first time at a later stage of pregnancy than are other women. Estimations based on the calculated interval between the first day of the last menstrual period (LMP) and the baby’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.

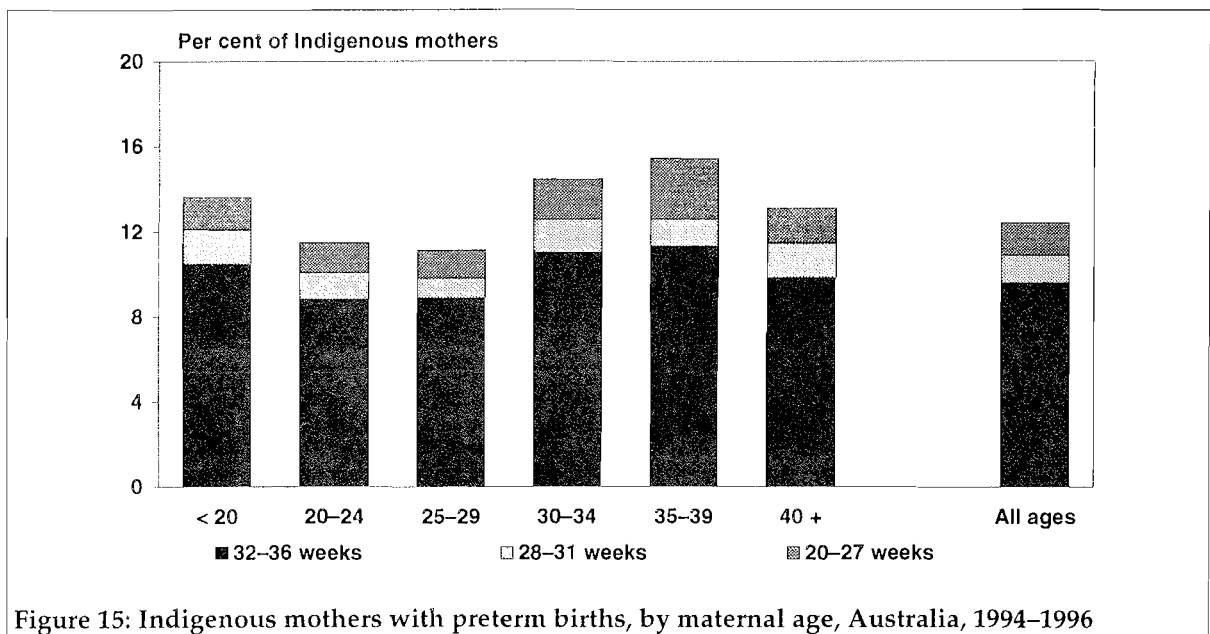
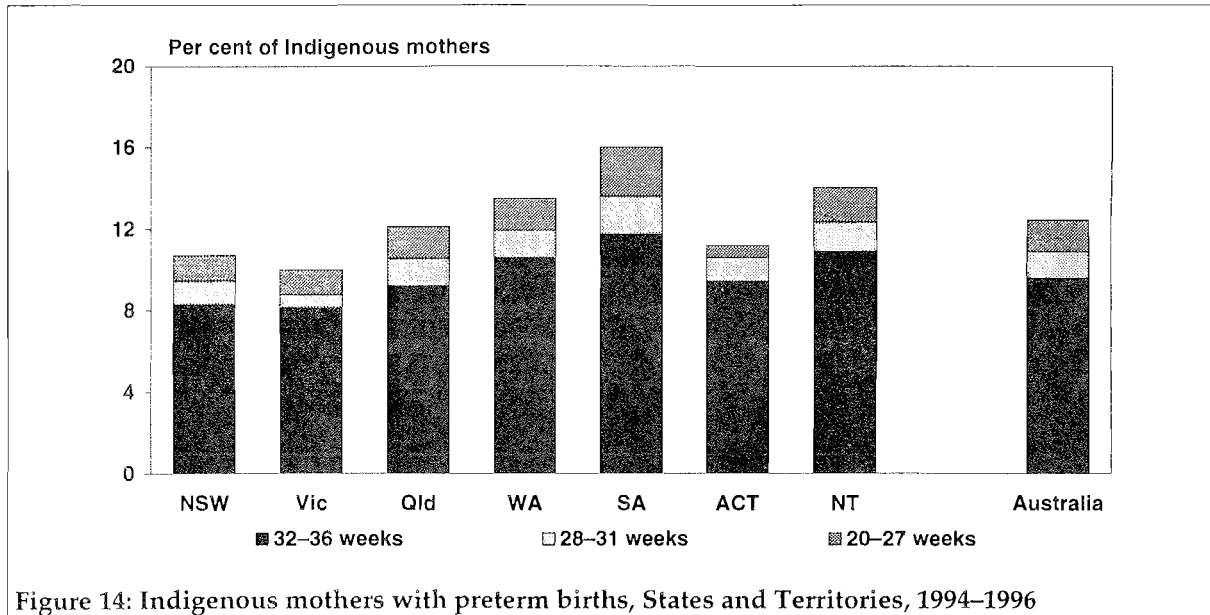
Not all States and Territories recorded the date of the last menstrual period in their perinatal collections in 1994–1996. If information derived from dates was not available, estimates of

gestational age based on antenatal or postnatal clinical assessment were used. The different practices for recording and estimating gestational age should be kept in mind when comparing State and Territory data on gestational age.

Preterm birth (20–36 completed weeks' gestation) occurred in 12.4% of all Indigenous confinements in the 1994–1996 period (Table 14, Figure 13) compared to 13.2% in the 1991–1993 period. Indigenous mothers have more than double the incidence of preterm birth when compared to other mothers (6.3%). The mean duration of pregnancy was 38.5 weeks for Indigenous mothers, shorter than that of 39.1 weeks for other mothers (Table 15). Indigenous mothers in South Australia (16.0%), Western Australia (13.6%) and the Northern Territory (14.0%) were more likely to have preterm confinements than those in the other States and Territories (Table 15; Figure 14). Almost one in four (22.6%) preterm Indigenous confinements occurred at gestational ages of less than 32 weeks.



Preterm confinements were more likely for younger (aged less than 20 years) and older (aged 30 years and older) mothers (Figure 15).



3.10 Multiple births

In the perinatal data collections recording of multiple births is based on the number of fetuses that remain in utero at 20 weeks gestation and are subsequently delivered as separate births. If gestational age is unknown, only fetuses weighing 400 g or more are counted.

In 1994-1996, 218 Indigenous mothers had multiple births, all of which were pairs of twins (Table 16), an increase of 16 from the 1991-1993 period. Multiple births were less likely among Indigenous mothers (0.9%) than among other mothers (1.4%). Because multiple births are more common with advancing maternal age, differences in age distribution

between Indigenous and other mothers partly account for the relatively lower incidence of multiple births among Indigenous mothers. Indigenous women are probably less likely to be treated with fertility drugs or access assisted reproductive technology, which have been important factors contributing to the higher rate of multiple births in Australia in recent years. The incidence of multiple births was similar for Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers aged 30 to 34 years, but was lower for Indigenous mothers in all other age groups (Figure 16).

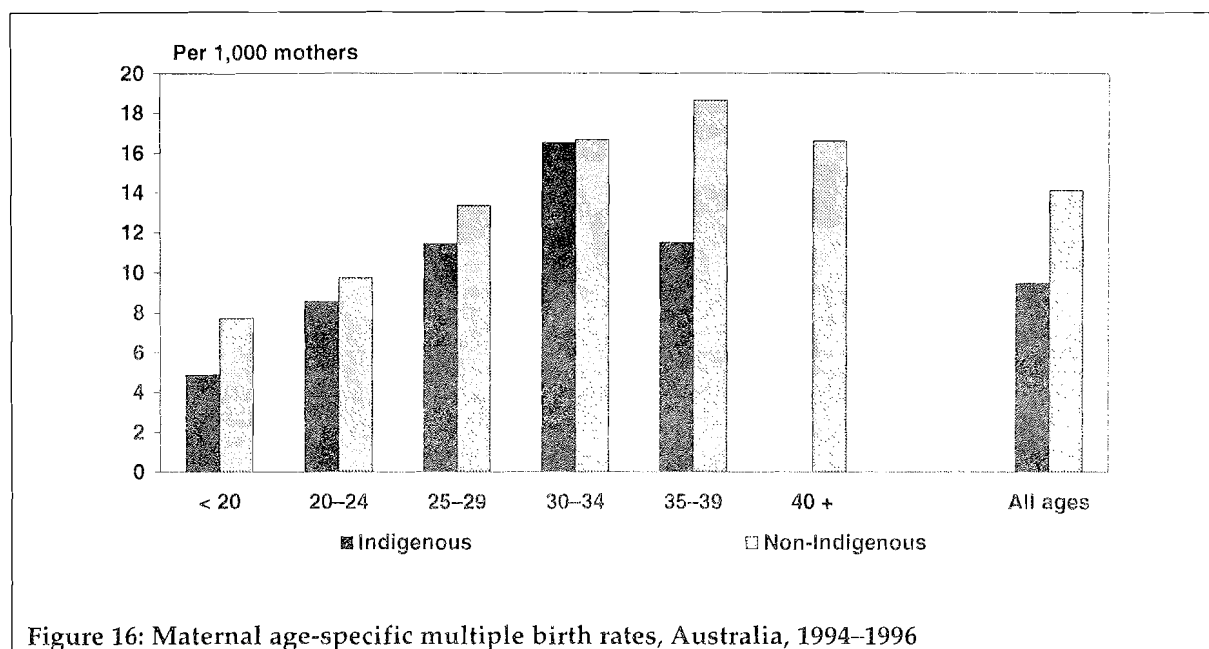


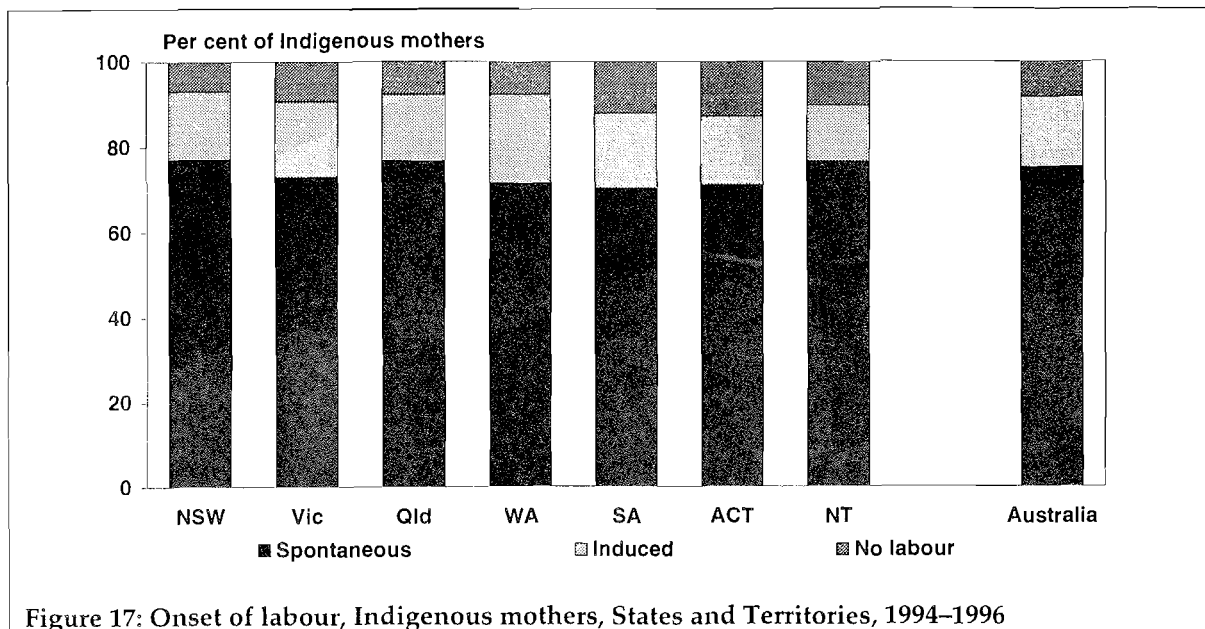
Figure 16: Maternal age-specific multiple birth rates, Australia, 1994-1996

3.11 Onset of labour

The onset of labour was spontaneous for 75.3% of Indigenous mothers (Table 17), compared with 67.2% for all other births. The incidence of spontaneous onset of labour among Indigenous mothers differed little among the States and Territories (Figure 17). Labour was less likely to be induced for Indigenous mothers (16.5%) than for all other mothers (22.0%). There has been an increase in the proportion of Indigenous mothers having labour induced with 16.5% in the 1994-1996 period compared to 13.9% in the 1991-1993 period.

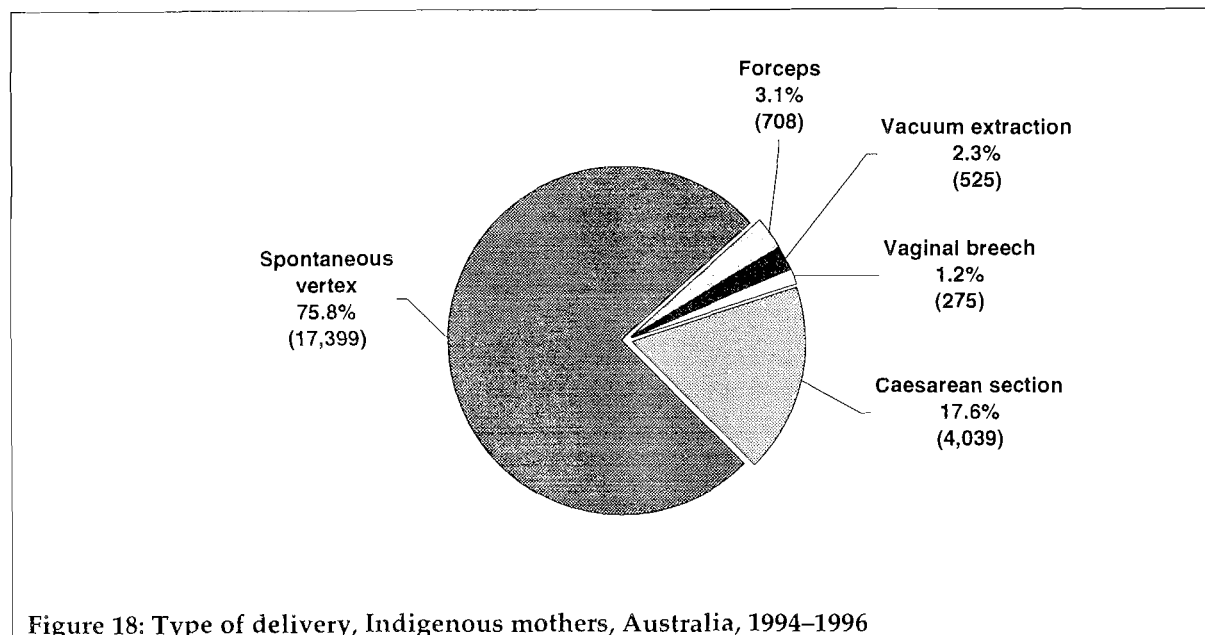
3.12 Presentation at delivery

For most births (95.4%), the head (vertex) is the presenting part during labour. Breech presentation occurred in 3.8% of births to Indigenous mothers (Table 18), a slightly lower incidence than the 4.2% among all other births.



3.13 Type of delivery

Indigenous mothers for the period 1994–1996 continued to experience less intervention in giving birth than did other mothers when compared to the 1991–1993 period. Three-quarters (75.8%) of births to Indigenous mothers were spontaneous vertex (Table 19, Figure 18), higher than the incidence of 68.0% for non-Indigenous births. Forceps delivery occurred in 3.1% of Indigenous births and in 8.0% of all other births, vacuum extraction in 2.3% and 3.7% respectively, and vaginal breech delivery in 1.2% and 0.9%, respectively (Figure 19).



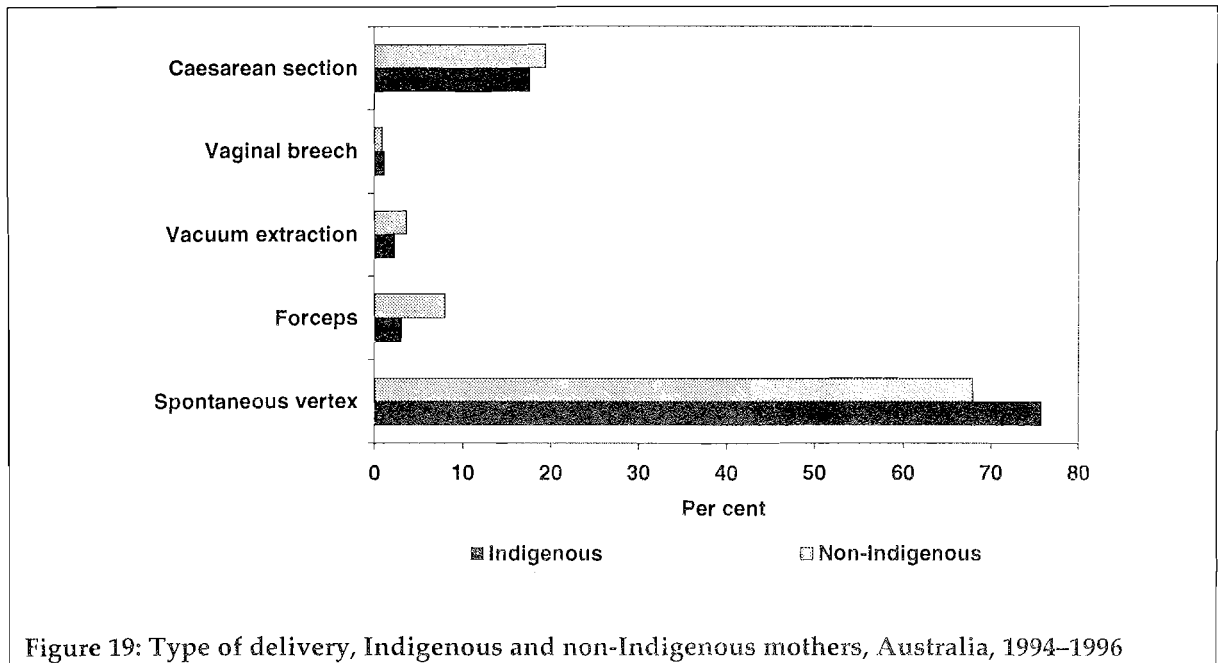


Figure 19: Type of delivery, Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers, Australia, 1994-1996

In 1994-1996, the overall (unadjusted for age) caesarean rate for Indigenous mothers of 17.6% was marginally lower than the rate of 19.4% reported for all other mothers (Table 19). The caesarean rate for Indigenous mothers slightly increased during the 1991 to 1996 period, from 16.6% in 1991 to a high of 18.1% in 1995. The rate for all other mothers increased from 18.0% in 1991 to 19.5% in 1996.

The highest overall caesarean rates for States and Territories with greater than 1,000 total deliveries by Indigenous mothers were in South Australia (24.6%) and the Northern Territory (23.1%) while the lowest rates were in Queensland (15.7%) and Western Australia (15.6%). There were relatively higher emergency caesarean rates in South Australia and Northern Territory (Table 20, Figure 20).

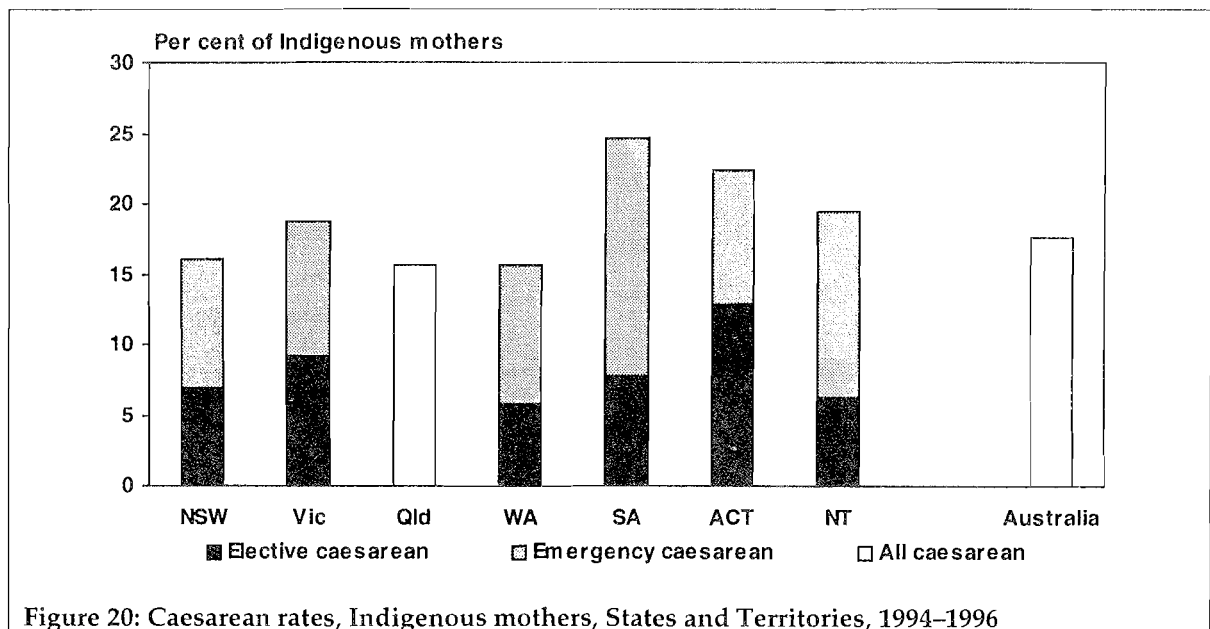


Figure 20: Caesarean rates, Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994-1996

Caesarean rates in Australia are generally higher for mothers in private accommodation in hospital than for those in public accommodation. Data on accommodation status was not available for confinements in Victoria and the Northern Territory. In the States and Territory where the accommodation status of the mother was available only 3.0% of Indigenous mothers reported private accommodation in hospital. When the 2,940 caesarean sections performed on Indigenous mothers during 1994–1996 are categorised by type of accommodation, 23.3% (123) of the 528 Indigenous mothers in private accommodation in hospital had a caesarean section compared to 16.2% (2817) of the 17,308 Indigenous mothers in public accommodation (Table 21). There has been little change in caesarean rates from those in the 1991–1993 report where the rates were 25.5% and 16.3% respectively. Although there were relatively small numbers in some maternal age groups, these differences in rates were apparent for most age groups and for each State and Territory.

Among Indigenous mothers in public accommodation, the caesarean rate increased with advancing maternal age, from 12.0% for those aged 15–19 years to 34.6% for those aged at least 40 years (Table 22). Mothers having their first baby generally had higher rates than those with previous children. More than one in three Indigenous mothers aged 30 years and over gave birth to their first baby by caesarean section. The caesarean rates for Indigenous mothers in public accommodation of 21.1% at 30–34 years and 25.8% at 35–39 years were higher than the rates of 19.2% and 22.6%, respectively, for non-Indigenous mothers in the same age groups (Table 22). The caesarean rate for Indigenous mothers in private accommodation also increased with age (Table 23).

Among all Indigenous mothers, caesarean rates were higher for those having their first baby (19.2%) than for those with previous births (16.9%) (Table 24). The usual pattern of higher caesarean rates for multiple births and breech presentation in singleton births was also evident for Indigenous mothers.

Babies of low birthweight from singleton pregnancies, especially those weighing between 1,000 g and 1,999 g, were more likely to be born by caesarean section than lighter or heavier babies (Table 24, Figure 21).

Indigenous mothers whose singleton babies weighed 2,500 g and over had a caesarean rate of 16.6%, slightly lower than that of non-Indigenous mothers (19.1%). For those mothers in public accommodation in hospital, the caesarean rates were 15.2% for Indigenous mothers similar to that of 15.6% for all other mothers. In low birthweight categories (less than 2,500 g), Indigenous mothers had lower caesarean rates than did non-Indigenous mothers.

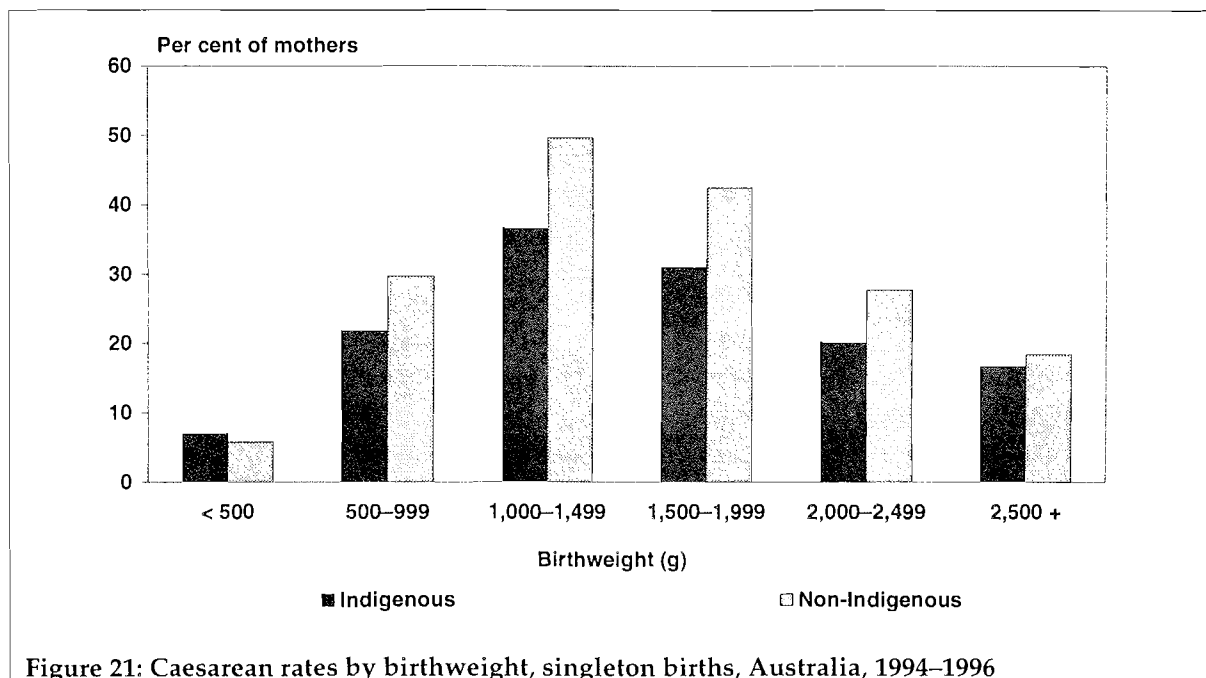


Figure 21: Caesarean rates by birthweight, singleton births, Australia, 1994-1996

3.14 Mother's length of stay in hospital

The majority of Indigenous mothers (84.5%) had an antenatal stay in hospital of 1 day or less (Table 25). Longer antenatal stays of 2 days and over were more than twice as likely for Indigenous mothers (15.5%) than for all other mothers (7.2%). In the States and Territories where there were more than one thousand total confinements of Indigenous mothers, Queensland, Western Australia and Northern Territory mothers were more likely to have antenatal stays of more than 1 day, continuing the trend seen in the 1991-1993 report (Table 25). These differences may reflect higher rates of transfer in late pregnancy to larger regional hospitals.

Indigenous mothers had an average postnatal stay in hospital of 4.2 days, slightly shorter than the average of 4.5 days for all other mothers. The postnatal length of stay was on average half a day shorter than the 4.7 days reported in the 1991-1993 period. The mean postnatal stay was longer for Indigenous mothers in the Northern Territory (5.6 days) than for those in the other States and Territories (Table 26). Almost one in seven Indigenous mothers (14.2%) remained in hospital for 7 days or more in the postnatal period. In the Northern Territory, this proportions was 27.3% for 7 days or more, again markedly higher than elsewhere. Varying policies of early discharge of mothers from hospital may determine differences between the States and Territories. The average length of postnatal stay for Indigenous mothers has gradually declined from 5.0 days in 1991 to 4.3 days in 1996.

For Indigenous mothers, factors associated with relatively long postnatal stays of 7 days or more were younger and older maternal ages, no previous births, private accommodation in hospital, birth by caesarean section, and giving birth in medium-sized hospitals of 501-1,000 births per year (Table 27). Among mothers aged less than 20 years, 16.0% were in hospital for 7 days or more, compared with 21.6% of those aged 35 years and over.

3.15 Mother's mode of separation from hospital

A higher proportion of Indigenous mothers (5.4%) than non-Indigenous mothers (3.4%) were transferred to another hospital from the hospital of birth. Relatively more Indigenous mothers in New South Wales (7.9%) and Queensland (6.1%) were transferred than in the other States and Territories (Table 28).

Among 20,289 confinements of Indigenous mothers in 1994–1996 where mode of separation was identified, two deaths were recorded (Table 28), compared with 34 deaths among 661,865 confinements of all other mothers. Information on all maternal deaths, including those occurring in early pregnancy or after discharge from hospital, is incomplete in the perinatal collections, so maternal death rates cannot be derived from these figures.

4 Babies

4.1 Introduction

In this section Indigenous births relate only to births to Indigenous mothers, data on births to non-Indigenous mothers whose partners are Indigenous are not collected in the State and Territory perinatal data collections. The perinatal data collections include live births and fetal deaths of babies of at least 20 weeks gestation or at least 400 g birthweight.

4.2 Births to Indigenous mothers

There were 23,214 births to Indigenous mothers in the period 1994–1996, an increase of 1,464 births on the period 1991–1993 when there were 21,750 births. Of the six States and Territories where over 1,000 births were recorded, Queensland reported the highest number of births (7,503) followed by New South Wales (5,026) and Western Australia (4,328) (Table 29).

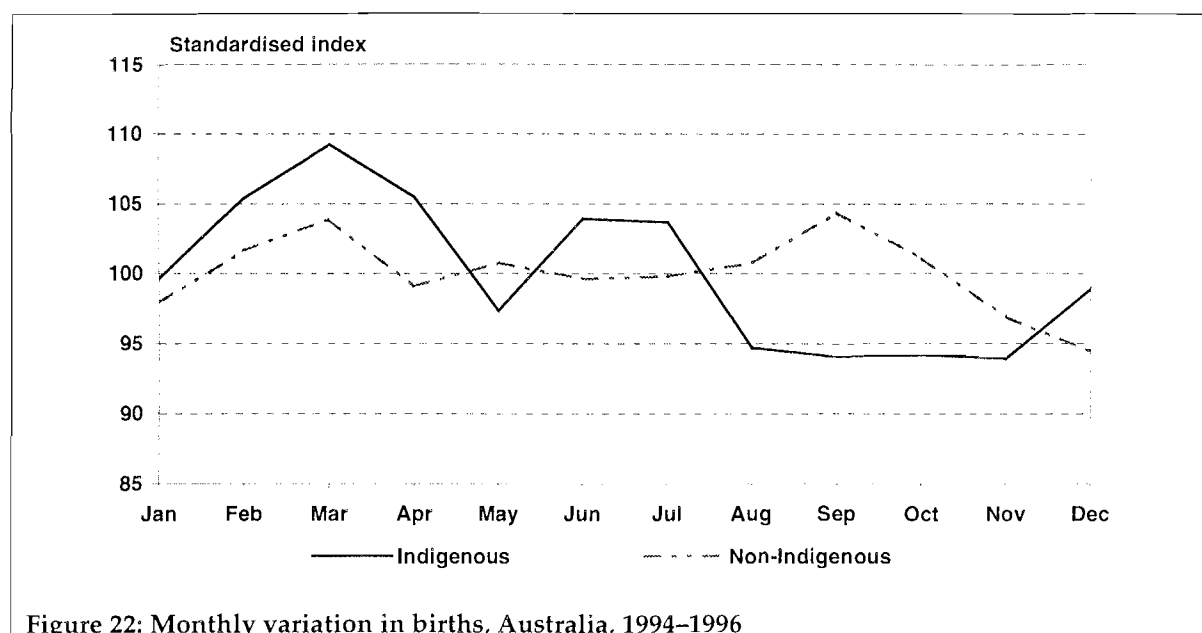


Figure 22: Monthly variation in births, Australia, 1994–1996

The monthly distribution of Indigenous births in 1994–1996 differed from the pattern of bimodal peaks in autumn and spring observed for all Australian births in recent years. When a standardised index is derived by adjusting for the number of days in the month, there were relatively more Indigenous births between December and July with a peak in March and relatively fewer between August and November (Figure 22). The variation from the baseline of the peak and trough months was greater for Indigenous than for all other births. The second peak in September observed for non-Indigenous births was not apparent for Indigenous births.

4.3 Sex of baby

Following the pattern of all births in Australia, there were more Indigenous male births than female births (Table 30). The sex ratio for all Indigenous births of 106.4:100 (male births per 100 female births) was similar to the sex ratio of 106.1:100 for non-Indigenous births. The sex ratio did not change over the 6-year period of the two reports.

4.4 Baby's birthweight

Many factors influence a baby's birthweight, including gestational age, maternal parity, nutrition, smoking, socioeconomic status, appropriate and accessible antenatal care and complications of pregnancy. Babies are defined as low birthweight if they weigh less than 2,500 g at birth. Those weighing less than 1,500 g are designated as very low birthweight and those less than 1,000 g as extremely low birthweight.

In 1994–1996, the mean birthweight of Indigenous babies was 3,149 g, 216 g less than the mean of 3,365 g for all other births (Table 31). Over the period 1991 to 1996 the mean birthweight of Indigenous babies has marginally increased from an average 3,130 g in 1991 to 3,140 g in 1996. Low birthweight occurred in 12.4% of Indigenous babies, 2.7% were very low birthweight and 1.6% were extremely low birthweight (Table 31). Low birthweight among Indigenous births (12.4%) was double that of non-Indigenous births (6.2%). Very low birthweight occurred in 2.7% of Indigenous births and 1.3% of all other births, and extremely low birthweight in 1.6% and 0.7%, respectively. There was a higher proportion of Indigenous than non-Indigenous babies in all birthweight categories below 3,000 g (Table 31, Figure 23).

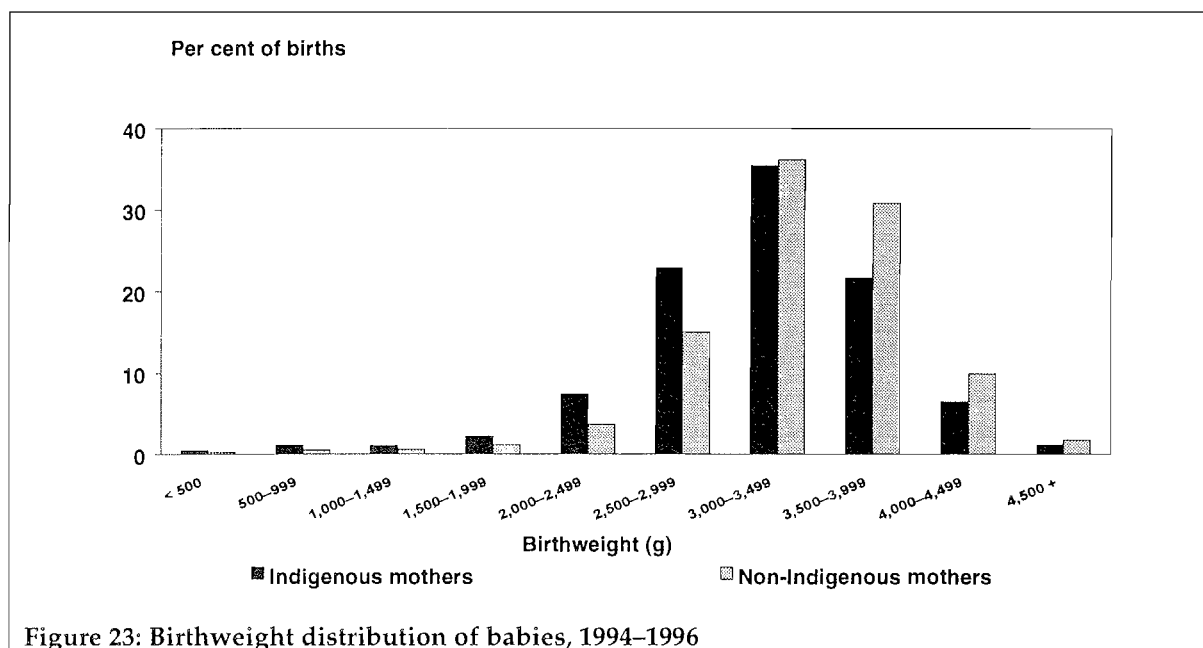
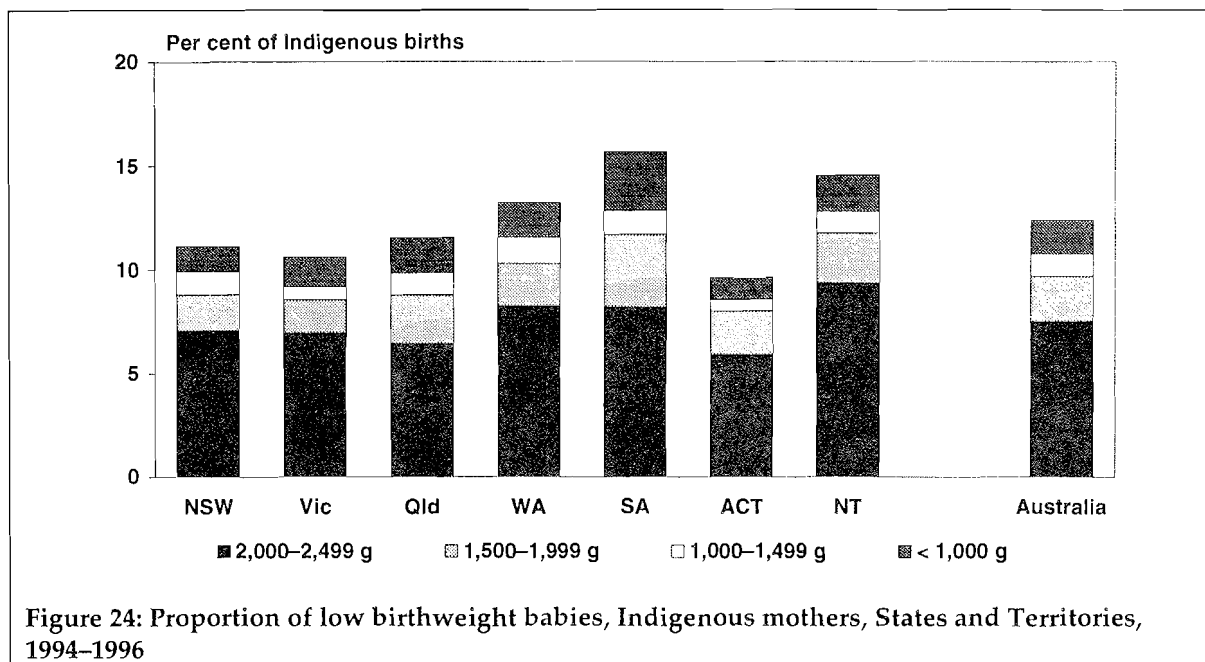


Figure 23: Birthweight distribution of babies, 1994–1996

There were marked regional differences in the mean birthweight of Indigenous babies, ranging from 3,079 g in the Northern Territory and 3,177 g in Queensland to 3,218 g in

Victoria. There were higher proportions of low birthweight babies in South Australia (15.7%), the Northern Territory (14.6%) and Western Australia (13.2%) than in the other States and Territories (Table 32, Figure 24). In Queensland, the data item on the mother's Indigenous status gives separate options for recording Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers. In 1996, the proportion of low birthweight babies was 12.0% among 2,068 births to Aboriginal mothers, similar to the proportion of 11.5% among 568 births to Torres Strait Islander mothers (Queensland Health 1998).



Of 323 Indigenous fetal deaths, 79.9% were low birthweight (Table 33), slightly higher than the proportion of 74.0% among non-Indigenous births.

The proportion of low birthweight was higher for twins (59.4%) than for singleton Indigenous births (11.5%). The average birthweight of singleton Indigenous births was 3,166 g compared to 2,252 g for twins (Table 34). Female babies (13.6%) were more likely to be low birthweight than were male babies (11.2%) (Table 35).

Other factors associated with a higher occurrence of low birthweight were younger and older maternal ages, first births, single marital status, public accommodation in hospital and births outside hospital (Table 36). Low birthweight occurred among 13.7% of babies whose mothers were aged 15-19 years and 14.1% of those whose mothers were aged less than 15 years. Babies of older mothers of 35 years and older had an incidence of low birthweight of 19.1%. One in three babies born before arrival at hospital were low birthweight (Table 36).

As many Indigenous mothers live in rural or remote areas, there may be inadequate access to larger hospitals that have adequate staffing and facilities for care of high-risk low birthweight babies. Just over a quarter (28.7%) of liveborn babies weighing 500-999 g were born in hospitals with fewer than 1,000 confinements per year. For babies weighing 1,000-1,499 g, 23.1% were born in hospitals with fewer than 1,000 confinements. For babies weighing 1,500-1,999 g it was 30.3% (Table 37). This was markedly higher than the proportion of non-Indigenous babies born in hospitals with fewer than 1,000 confinements 8.0% for those weighing 500-999 g, 7.9% for those weighing 1,000-1,499 g and 17.9% for those weighing 1,500-1,999 g.

4.5 Apgar scores

Apgar scores are clinical indicators of the baby'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, so the total score may vary between 0 and 10. The Apgar score is usually assessed at 1 and 5 minutes after a birth, and subsequently at 5-minute intervals if it is still low, indicating a poorer condition.

Lower weight babies are more likely to have low Apgar scores than heavier babies. More than half (55.2%) of liveborn Indigenous babies of less than 1,000 g had Apgar scores of less than 4 at 1 minute, this proportion decreased to 3.4% for babies weighing 2,500 g or more (Table 38). The proportion of babies with 5-minute Apgar scores of less than 4 in these birthweight groups were 40.7% and 0.3%, respectively.

4.6 Length of stay of babies in hospital

Factors influencing how long babies stay in hospital after birth include the gestational age and birthweight of the baby, whether or not there are significant clinical problems, the availability of an early discharge program at the hospital and institution-specific policies concerning transfer of babies to other hospitals, especially for those babies born in smaller hospitals.

After excluding babies who were transferred to another hospital or who died, 29.9% of Indigenous babies had hospital stays of less than 3 days, 35.9% were in hospital for 3 or 4 days, and another 18.5% had stays of 5 or 6 days (Table 39). The proportion of Indigenous babies having short stays of less than 3 days (29.9%) was almost double that of all other babies (17.6%) and a marked increase from the 1991–1993 report where the proportion was 20.1%. The shift to early discharge was also evident in non-Indigenous births over the same 6-year period. The proportion of Indigenous babies staying in hospital for 14 days or more (4.2%) was greater than for all other babies (2.4%) (Table 39).

The mean length of postnatal stay at the hospital of birth for babies of Indigenous mothers was 4.6 days in New South Wales and Queensland, 4.5 days in Victoria, 4.3 days in Western Australia and 6.9 days in the Northern Territory. South Australia recorded a mean length of postnatal stay of 8.1 days, higher than other States and Territories as South Australian data records stays over the entire duration of care (Table 40). Longer periods of hospitalisation of 4 weeks or more were more likely for multiple births, babies of less than 31 weeks gestation and babies weighing 1,000–1,499 g (Table 41, Figure 25). Because of the much greater risk of death for babies with very short gestational ages (20–27 weeks) or extremely low birthweight (less than 1,000 g), relatively fewer of these babies than those in the next highest categories survived more than 4 weeks.

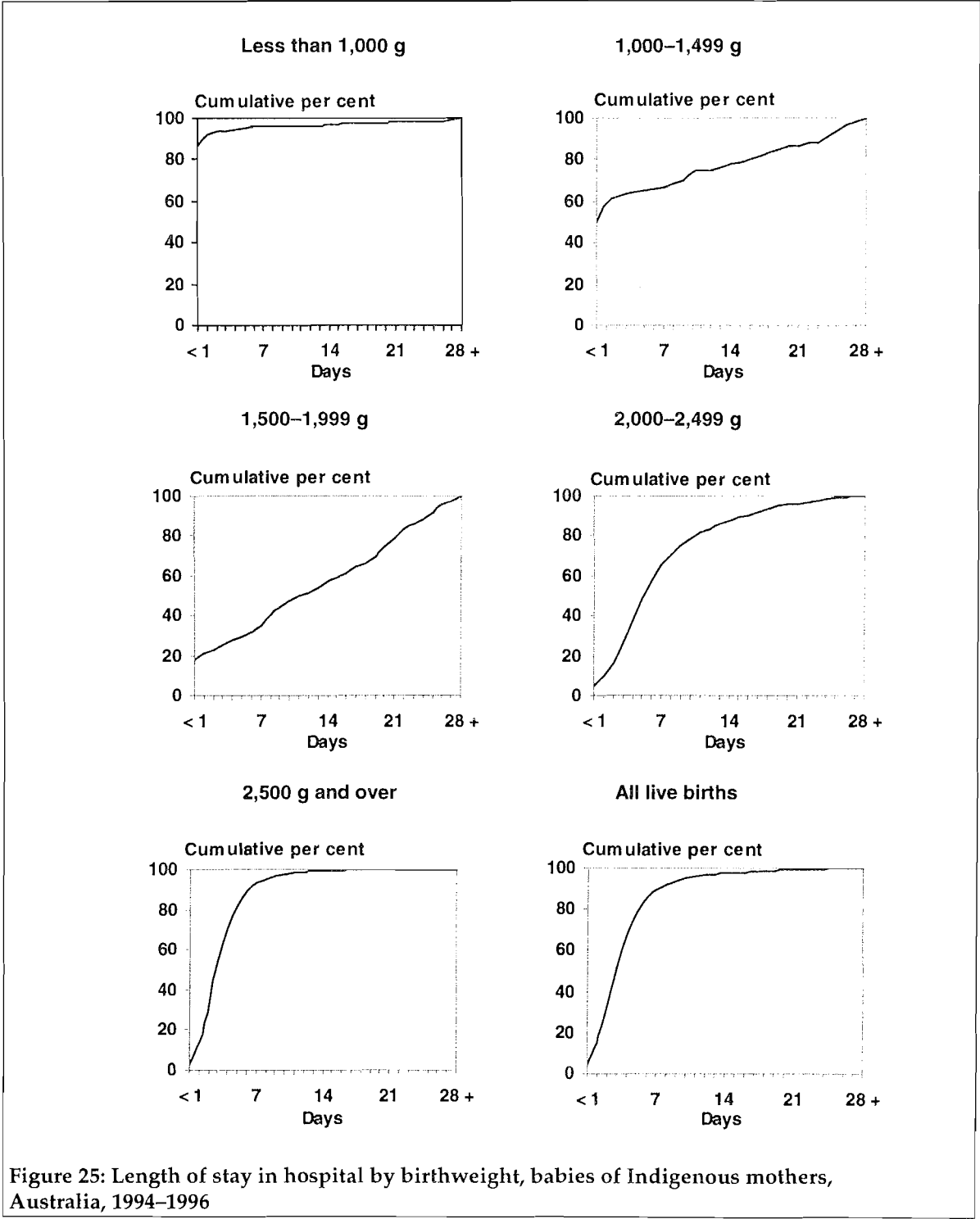


Figure 25: Length of stay in hospital by birthweight, babies of Indigenous mothers, Australia, 1994-1996

4.7 Mode of separation of baby from hospital

The proportion of Indigenous babies transferred to another hospital (7.5%) was higher than for all other babies (4.4%). In States and Territories with greater than a total 1,000 births for the period 1994–1996 hospital transfers of Indigenous babies were more likely in New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory (Table 42). If a baby dies at home or after being transferred to another hospital, this death may not be included in the perinatal collection unless a registered neonatal death has been linked to its perinatal form. The data on mode of separation of the baby is thus an incomplete source of information on neonatal deaths and cannot be used to determine neonatal death rates.

5 Perinatal mortality

5.1 Definitions

There are different legal and statistical definitions in Australia for registering and reporting fetal (stillbirth), neonatal and perinatal deaths (see Glossary). In the State and Territory perinatal collections, data on neonatal deaths are likely to be incomplete unless registered neonatal deaths are linked to birth notifications. Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates in this report are based on deaths of babies of at least 20 weeks' gestation or at least 400 g birthweight as is standard among the State and Territory perinatal collections. It should be noted that these criteria differ from those for data on perinatal deaths published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), which have lower limits of both 500 g and 400 g for birthweight. Also, data in this report are based on the year and State or Territory of birth, whereas ABS reports are based on the year of registration and State or Territory of residence.

5.2 Fetal deaths

For the period 1994–1996 the fetal death rate of 13.9 per 1,000 total births among births to Indigenous mothers was more than double the rate of 6.7 per 1,000 for non-Indigenous births (Table 43, Figure 26). The trend over the 6-year period of the two reports has been a fall in the fetal death rate, from 16.2 per 1,000 births in 1991 to 13.3 per 1,000 births in 1996. In States or Territories with over 1,000 total births to Indigenous mothers the Indigenous fetal death rates for the period were similar, Queensland reporting 15.5 per 1,000 births, Western Australia 15.0 per 1,000 births, South Australia 15.0 per 1,000 births and the Northern Territory 14.8 per 1,000 births (Table 44, Figure 27).

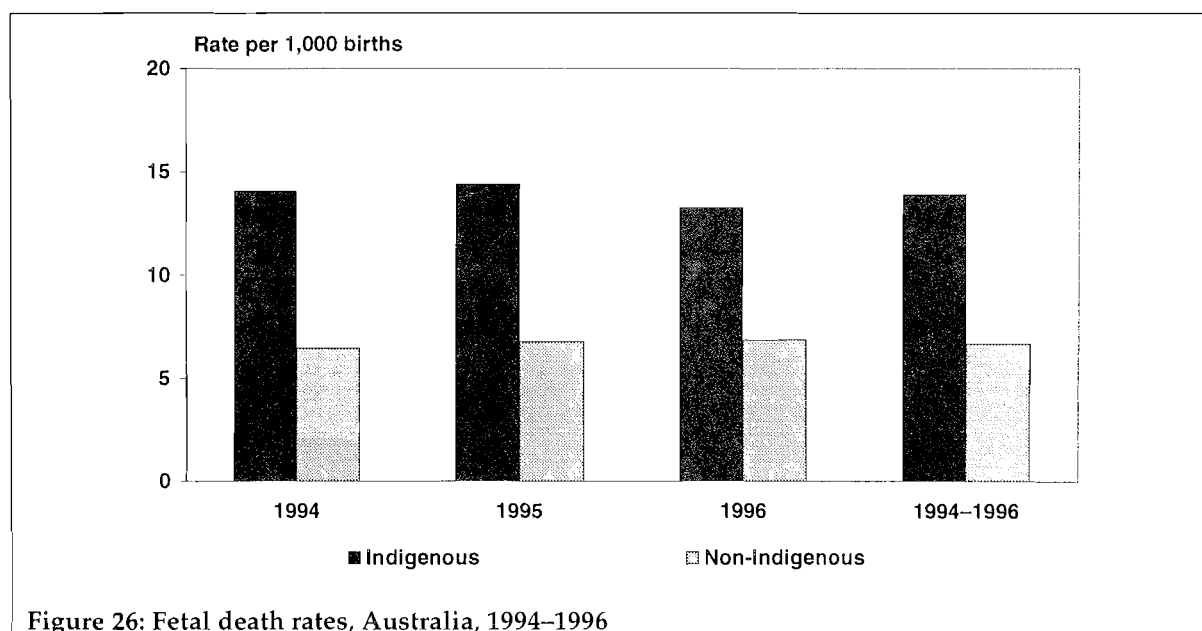


Figure 26: Fetal death rates, Australia, 1994–1996

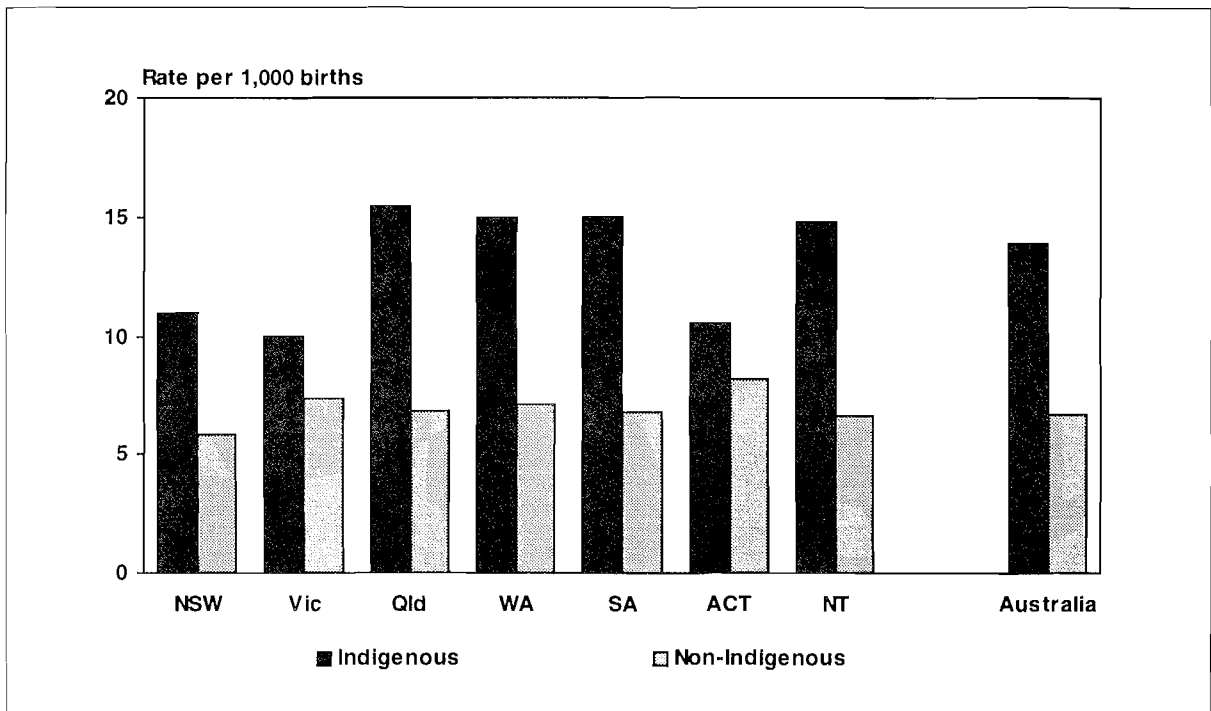


Figure 27: Fetal death rates, States and Territories, 1994-1996

Maternal age is an important risk factor for fetal deaths of babies of Indigenous mothers. Fetal death rates were higher for Indigenous mothers than for non-Indigenous mothers in all maternal age groups (Table 45, Figure 28). The relative differences in fetal death rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers were apparent in all maternal age groups.

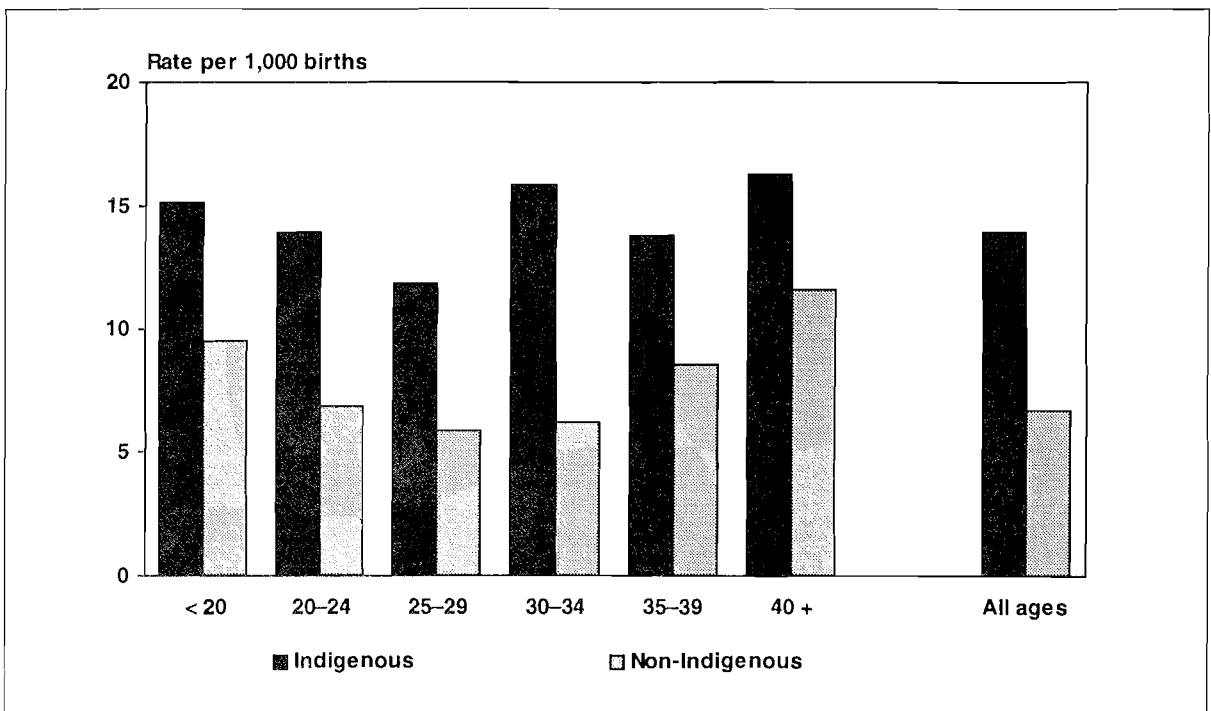


Figure 28: Fetal death rates by maternal age, Australia, 1994-1996

Fetal death rates of babies of Indigenous mothers did not vary markedly with parity, but they were highest for mothers having their first baby and for those who had four or more previous children (Table 46, Figure 29). This was similar to the pattern observed for non-Indigenous mothers.

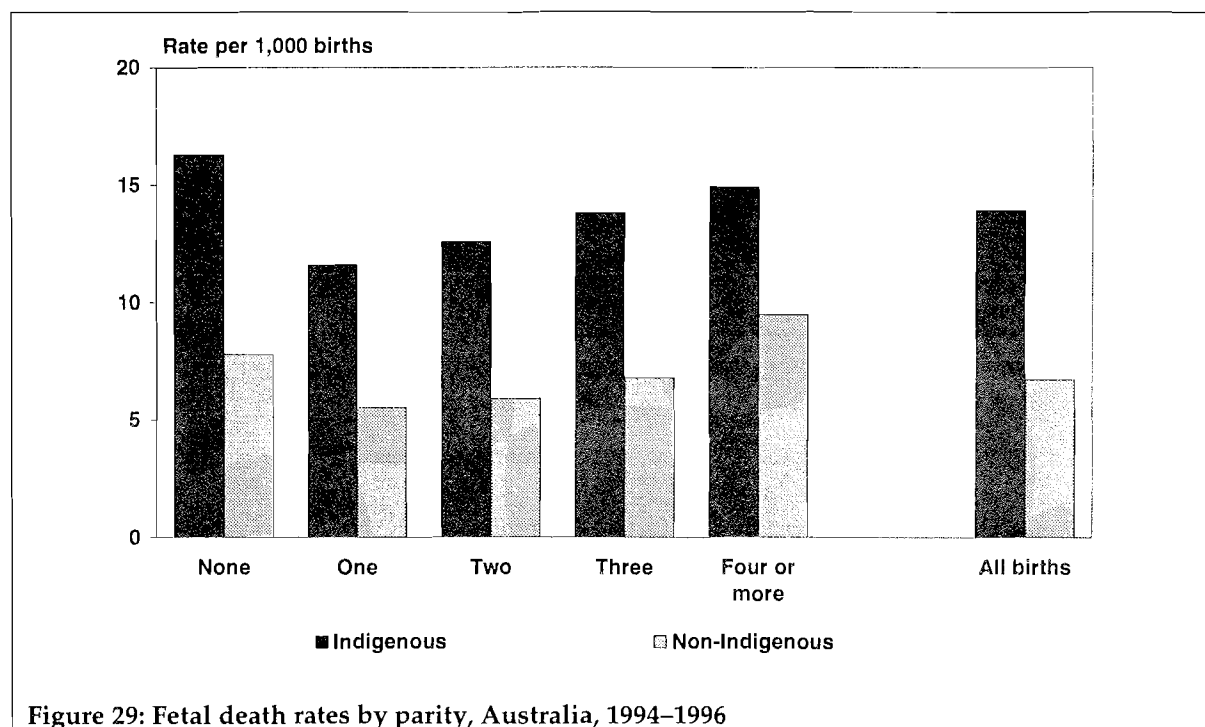


Figure 29: Fetal death rates by parity, Australia, 1994-1996

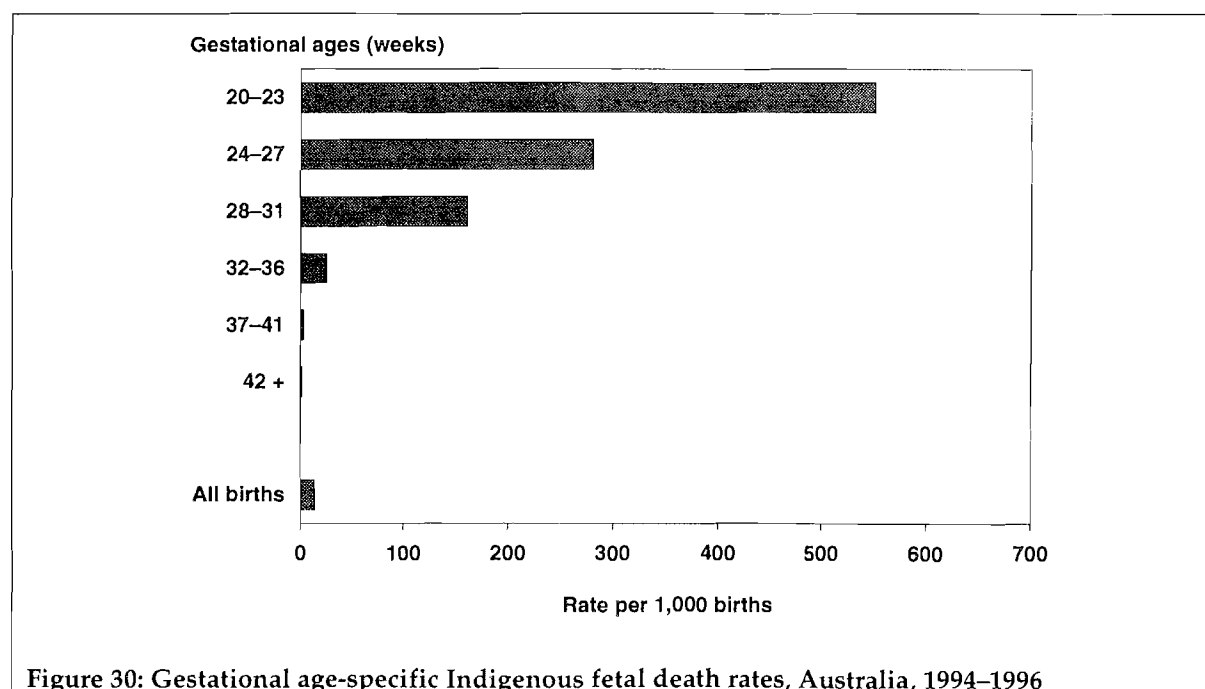


Figure 30: Gestational age-specific Indigenous fetal death rates, Australia, 1994-1996

Fetal death rates of babies born preterm (at very early gestational ages) are much higher than for those born at term. Indigenous fetal death rates varied from 550.9 per 1,000 births at

20–23 weeks to 3.1 per 1,000 at 37–41 weeks (Table 47, Figure 30). Indigenous fetal death rates tended to be higher than non-Indigenous rates with babies of Indigenous mothers born at term (37–41 weeks) having a fetal death rate of 3.1 per 1,000 compared to 1.8 per 1,000 for non-Indigenous babies (Table 47).

There were also marked variations in fetal death rates according to the baby’s birthweight, from a high of 642.9 per 1,000 births for babies of Indigenous mothers weighing less than 500 g to a low of 2.2 per 1,000 for babies of 3,500–3,999 g (Table 48, Figure 31). Indigenous babies weighing 4,000 g or more had higher fetal death rates than those in the optimal birthweight group of 3,500–3,999 g. The differences in fetal death rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous babies were most pronounced in the two heaviest birthweight groups (Table 48).

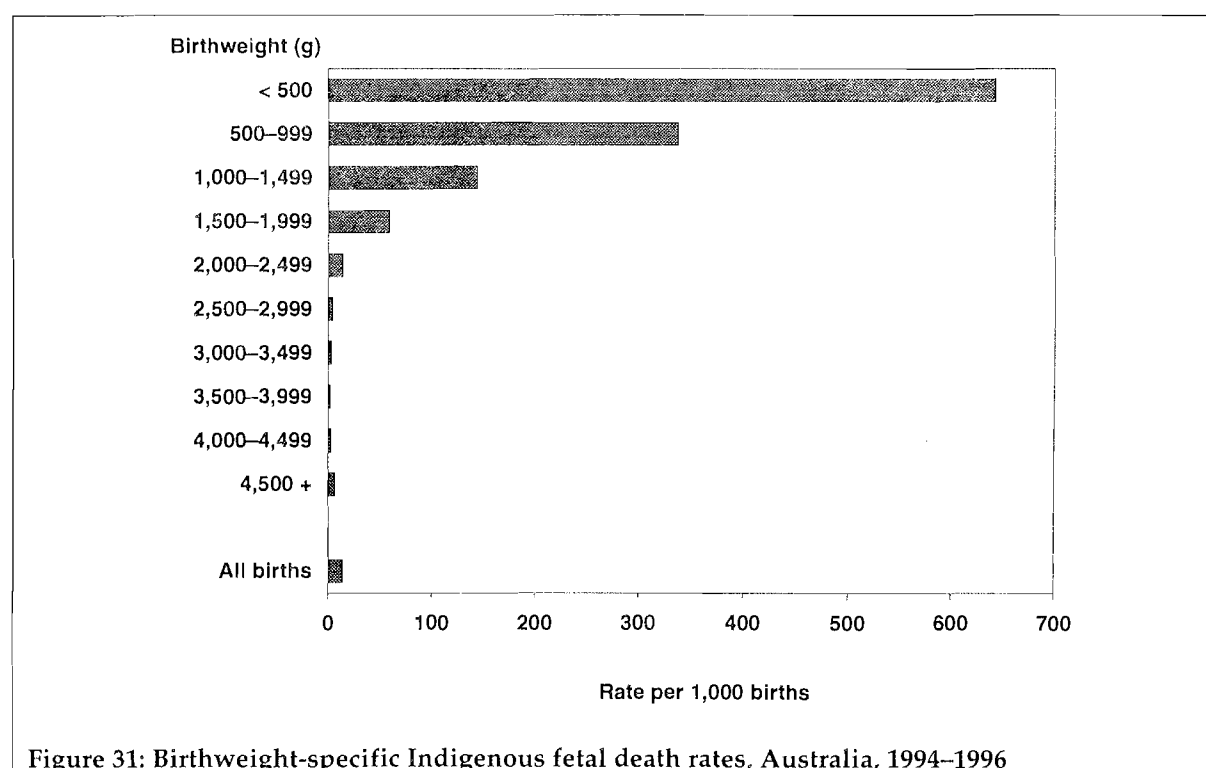


Figure 31: Birthweight-specific Indigenous fetal death rates, Australia, 1994–1996

5.3 Neonatal deaths

Neonatal death rates of babies born to Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers were compared in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory (Tables 49–60). Linked data were not available from the other States and the Australian Capital Territory. Indigenous neonatal death rates were consistently higher than non-Indigenous rates. The neonatal death rate of babies born to Indigenous mothers was more than twice that of non-Indigenous babies in Queensland (Tables 53, 54), Western Australia (Tables 55, 56) South Australia (Tables 57, 58) and the Northern Territory (Tables 59, 60).

5.4 Perinatal deaths

The perinatal death rate for Indigenous babies (21.8 per 1,000 births) was over twice that of non-Indigenous babies (9.7 per 1,000 births) (Tables 61, 62). This is apparent in four of the States and Territories with more than 1,000 births. For Queensland (24.3 per 1,000 births versus 10.6 per 1,000 births) (Tables 53, 54), Western Australia (20.3 per 1,000 births versus 9.4 per 1,000 births) (Tables 55, 56), South Australia 25.6 per 1,000 births versus 10.2 per 1,000 births) (Tables 57,58) and the Northern Territory (27.0 per 1,000 births versus 11.5 per 1,000 births) (Tables 59, 60). The perinatal death rate for Indigenous babies has improved since the previous 1991–1993 report for South Australia (40.3 to 25.6 per 1,000 births) and the Northern Territory (33.5 to 27.0 per 1,000 births) and to a lesser extent for Western Australia (22.9 to 20.3 per 1,000 births) but remained unchanged for Queensland.

6 ATSI regions

6.1 Introduction

Data from the AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit perinatal database for the 6-year period 1991–1996 are presented by ATSI region in this section of the report. There are 36 ATSI regions in Australia which vary markedly in their population size (Table 63). Only selected data by ATSI region are presented here. The 36 ATSI regions are presented in numerical order from 1 to 36 in all tables, and are grouped by State and Territory. New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory comprise ATSI region numbers 1–6, Victoria 7–8, Queensland 9–16, South Australia 17–19, Western Australia 20–28, Tasmania 29 and the Northern Territory 30–36.

6.2 Confinements and births

During the period 1991–1996, there were 44,535 confinements recorded for Indigenous mothers, resulting in the birth of 44,964 babies, of whom 44,296 were live births and 668 were fetal deaths (Table 64). Of the 36 ATSI regions, Perth recorded the highest number of Indigenous mothers (2,859, 6.4%), followed by Brisbane (2,662, 6.0%), Cairns (2,624, 5.9%), Townsville (2,303, 5.2%) and Sydney (2,250, 5.1%). The ATSI region recording the least number of Indigenous mothers for the 1991–1996 period was Hobart (27, 0.1%) (Table 64).

6.3 Maternal age

For the 1991–1996 period Indigenous mothers had an average age of 23.9 years with 59.7% aged less than 25 years (Table 65). In seven of the 36 ATSI regions at least 30% of confinements of Indigenous mothers were for women aged less than 20 years. These regions were Aputula (37.2%), Warburton (34.1%), Kununurra (33.8%), Jabiru (32.0%), Katherine (31.8%), Derby (30.6%) and Kalgoorlie (30.2%). The ATSI region recording the lowest proportion of Indigenous mothers aged less than 20 years was Wangaratta (14.6%) (Table 65).

6.4 Type of delivery

For the 1991–1996 period three-quarters (75.5%) of maternal Indigenous births were spontaneous vertex. Forceps delivery occurred in 3.5% of confinements, vacuum extraction in 2.1% and vaginal breech delivery in 1.4%. The caesarean rate for Indigenous mothers during the 6-year period, 1991–1996, was 17.4%, unadjusted for maternal age. (Table 66). The caesarean rate increased with increasing age and ranged from 14.7% for teenage mothers to 26.8% for mothers aged 35 years and older. The highest caesarean rates for Indigenous mothers by ATSI region over the 1991–1996 period were in Port Augusta (23.6%), Aputula (23.2%), Jabiru (23.1%) and Ballarat (23.0%); the lowest rates were in Mt Isa (13.2%), Sydney (14.0%) and Roma (14.2%) (Table 66).

6.5 Baby's birthweight

For the period 1991–1996, the mean birthweight of Indigenous babies was 3,147 g. Extremely low birthweight (less than 1,000 g) occurred in 1.7% of babies of Indigenous mothers, very low birthweight (less than 1,500 g) in 2.9% and low birthweight (less than 2,500 g) in 12.5%. The proportion of babies with low birthweight born to Indigenous mothers varied by ATSI region, ranging from 7.6% in Torres to 21.3% in Nhulunbuy (Table 67, Figure 32).

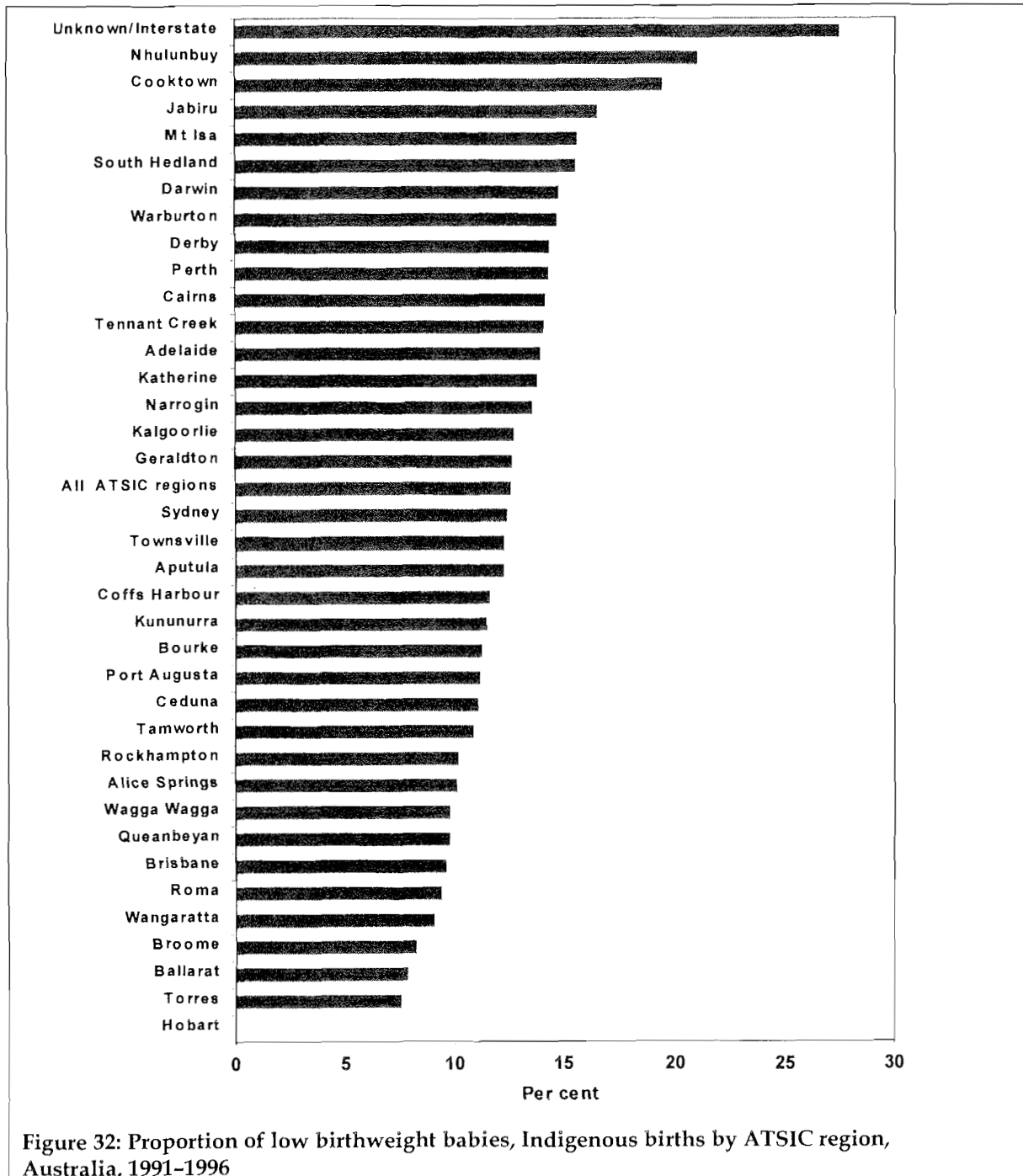


Figure 32: Proportion of low birthweight babies, Indigenous births by ATSI region, Australia, 1991-1996

6.6 Fetal and neonatal deaths

For the period 1991–1996 there were 668 reported fetal deaths to Indigenous mothers. The fetal death rate was 14.9 per 1,000 total births among births to Indigenous mothers. The fetal death rate to Indigenous mothers varied by ATSI region. The rates ranged from 7.0 per 1,000 and 9.7 per 1,000 births respectively, in the Queanbeyan and Brisbane ATSI regions, to 16.4 per 1,000 births in Broome, 17.1 per 1,000 in Mount Isa, 29.9 per 1,000 in Tennant Creek, and 30.0 per 1,000 in Nhulunbuy (Table 68, Figure 33). There were 362 neonatal deaths reported in the period. The neonatal death rate was 8.2 per 1,000 live births among births to Indigenous mothers while the perinatal death rate was 22.9 per 1,000 births.

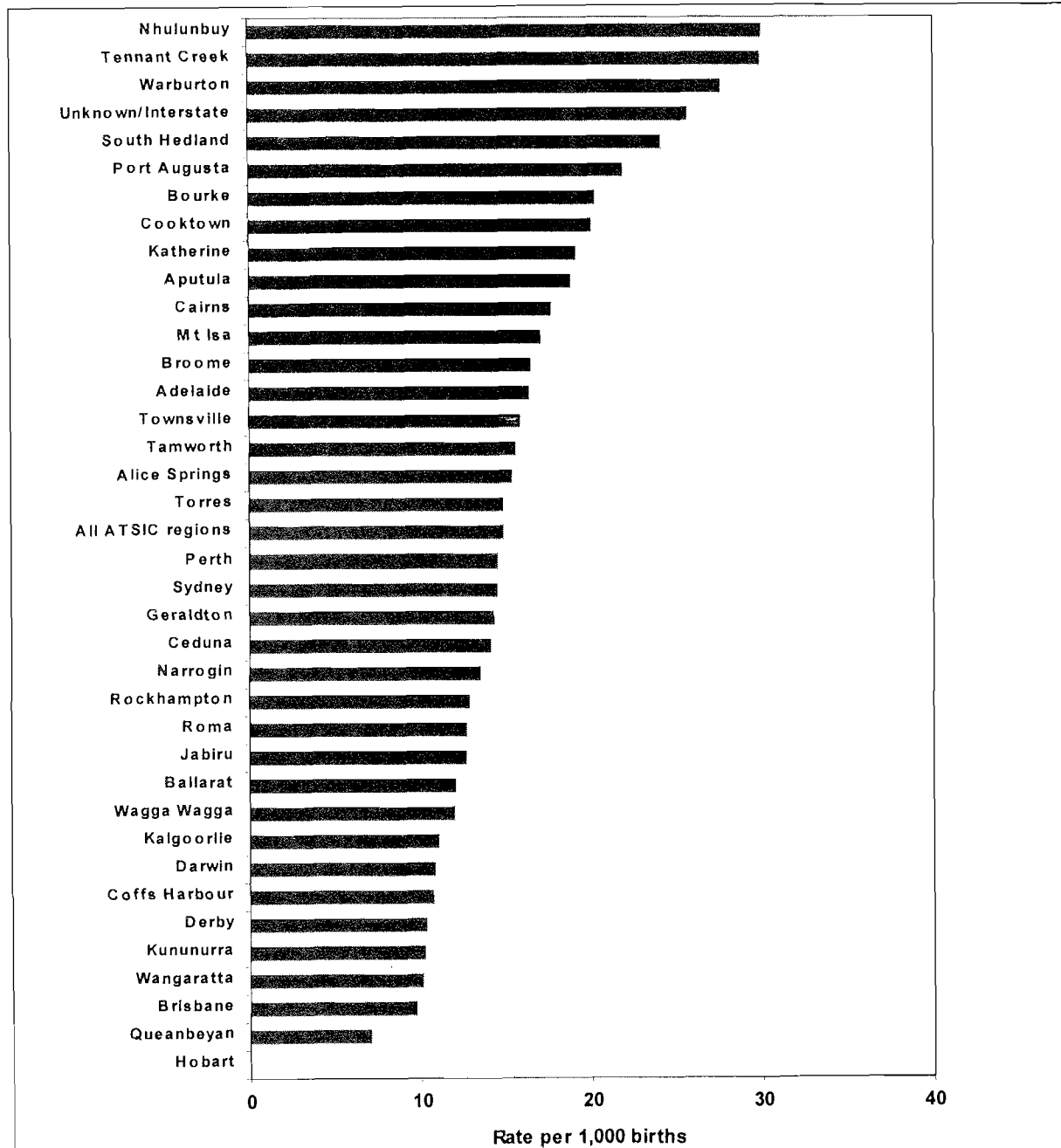


Figure 33: Indigenous fetal death rates by ATSI region, Australia, 1991–1996

Appendix: tables

Table 1: Age-specific birth rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous women, Australia, 1991 and 1996

Census year 1996	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous		
	Live births	Women ^(a)	Birth rate ^(b)	Live births	Women ^(a)	Birth rate ^(b)
Maternal age (years)						
15–19 ^(c)	1,716	18,873	90.9	11,611	604,901	19.2
20–24	2,654	18,588	142.8	43,290	670,151	64.6
25–29	2,024	17,635	114.8	81,259	690,669	117.7
30–34	1,005	15,210	66.1	75,109	709,226	105.9
35–39	350	12,881	27.2	31,127	716,992	43.4
40–44 ^(d)	40	10,218	3.9	5,017	669,157	7.5
All ages (incl unknown)	7,794	93,405		247,480	4,061,096	
Total fertility rate^(b)			2,228			1,791

(a) Populations are 1996 estimated resident populations based upon Census estimates.

(b) Per 1,000 women in same age group. Total fertility rate expressed per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years.

(c) Includes live births to mothers aged less than 15 years: Indigenous - 56; Non-Indigenous - 54

(d) Includes live births to mothers aged more than 44 years: Indigenous - 2; Non-Indigenous - 148

Census year 1991	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous		
	Live births	Women ^(a)	Birth rate ^(b)	Live births	Women ^(a)	Birth rate ^(b)
Maternal age (years)						
15–19 ^(c)	1,871	14,696	127.3	13,000	650,043	20.0
20–24	2,551	14,489	176.1	48,742	674,690	72.2
25–29	1,539	12,407	124.0	89,050	684,156	130.2
30–34	739	10,251	72.1	69,904	701,326	99.7
35–39	236	8,335	28.6	23,338	655,544	35.6
40–44 ^(d)	33	6,473	5.1	3,623	632,441	5.7
All ages	6,969	66,651		247,657	3,998,200	
Total fertility rate^(b)			2,666			1,817

(a) Populations are 1991 estimated resident populations based upon Census estimates.

(b) Per 1,000 women in same age group. Total fertility rate expressed per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years.

(c) Includes live births to mothers aged less than 15 years: Indigenous - 64; Non-Indigenous - 62

(d) Includes live births to mothers aged more than 44 years: Indigenous - 1; Non-Indigenous - 122

Note: Data for Indigenous women and live births exclude Tasmania.

Table 2: Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers and births, Australia, 1994–1996

	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous			
	1994	1995	1996	1994–96	1994	1995	1996	1994–96
	Number							
Mothers	7,397	7,779	7,820	22,996	250,260	248,599	245,593	744,452
Fetal deaths	105	113	105	323	1,640	1,710	1,713	5,063
Live births	7,364	7,733	7,794	22,891	251,974	250,488	247,450	749,912
All births	7,469	7,846	7,899	23,214	253,866	252,198	249,193	755,257
	Per cent							
Fetal deaths	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Live births	98.6	98.6	98.7	98.6	99.3	99.3	99.3	99.3
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 3: Indigenous mothers and births, States and Territories, 1994–1996

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Mothers	4,981	1,293	7,436	4,290	1,118	17	187	3,674	22,996
Fetal deaths	55	13	116	65	17	-	2	55	323
Live births	4,971*	1,294	7,387	4,263	1,118	17	188	3,653	22,891
All births	5,026	1,307	7,503	4,328	1,135	17	190	3,708	23,214
	Per cent								
Fetal deaths	1.1	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	1.1	1.5	1.4
Live births	98.9	99.0	98.5	98.5	98.5	100.0	98.9	98.5	98.6
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Includes 4 births in NSW with 'not stated' birth status

Note: Data for Tasmania in 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 4: Place of birth, Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Place of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT ^(a)	Australia
Number									
Hospital	4,881	1,281	7,365	4,206	1,100	-	179	3,502	22,514
Birth centre	38	-	4	18	11	-	8	9	88
Home	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	5
Born before arrival	61	12	64	64	7	-	-	-	208
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	150
Not stated	1	-	-	-	-	17	-	13	31
All places of birth	4,981	1,293	7,436	4,290	1,118	17	187	3,674	22,996
Per cent									
Hospital	98.0	99.1	99.0	98.0	98.4	-	95.7	95.7	98.0
Birth centre	0.8	-	0.1	0.4	1.0	-	4.3	0.2	0.4
Home	-	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.0
Born before arrival	1.2	0.9	0.9	1.5	0.6	-	-	-	0.9
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.1	0.7
All places of birth	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) 'Other' in the Northern Territory are mostly confinements at bush clinics.

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 5: Distribution of Indigenous and non-Indigenous confinements by size of maternity unit, Australia, 1994–1996

Number of confinements	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous			
	1994	1995	1996	1994–96	1994	1995	1996	1994–96
Number								
1–100	615	536	529	1,680	8,123	7,609	6,923	22,655
101– 500	1,979	2,211	2,154	6,344	34,653	32,335	33,979	100,967
501–1,000	1,525	1,542	1,665	4,732	52,583	53,222	50,451	156,256
1,001–2,000	1,969	2,022	1,825	5,816	58,803	54,949	46,987	160,739
2,001 and over	1,239	1,403	1,587	4,229	95,259	99,567	106,334	301,160
Not stated	11	5	5	21	34	-	-	34
All hospitals	7,338	7,719	7,765	22,822	249,455	247,682	244,674	741,811
Per cent								
1–100	8.4	6.9	6.8	7.4	3.3	3.1	2.8	3.1
101– 500	27.0	28.7	27.8	27.8	13.9	13.1	13.9	13.6
501–1,000	20.8	20.0	21.5	20.8	21.1	21.5	20.6	21.1
1,001–2,000	26.9	26.2	23.5	25.5	23.6	22.2	19.2	21.7
2,001 and over	16.9	18.2	20.5	18.5	38.2	40.2	43.5	40.6
All hospitals	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 6: Distribution of Indigenous confinements by size of maternity unit, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Number of confinements	NSW	Vic	Qld ^(a)	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
1–100	413	60	551	405	123	-	-	128	1,680
101–500	1,250	355	1,465	1,934	449	-	10	881	6,344
501–1,000	1,204	501	1,251	537	56	-	25	1,158	4,732
1,001–2,000	744	211	3,059	176	267	-	22	1,337	5,816
2,001 and over	1,369	166	1,105	1,236	223	-	130	-	4,229
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	7	21
All hospitals	4,980	1,293	7,431	4,288	1,118	14	187	3,511	22,822
	Per cent								
1–100	8.3	4.6	7.4	9.4	11.0	-	-	3.7	7.4
101–500	25.1	27.5	19.7	45.1	40.2	-	5.3	25.1	27.8
501–1,000	24.2	38.7	16.8	12.5	5.0	-	13.4	33.0	20.8
1,001–2,000	14.9	16.3	41.2	4.1	23.9	-	11.8	38.2	25.5
2,001 and over	27.5	12.8	14.9	28.8	19.9	-	69.5	-	18.5
All hospitals	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 7: Maternal age, Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers, Australia, 1994–1996

Maternal age (years)	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous			
	1994	1995	1996	1994–96	1994	1995	1996	1994–96
Mean age (years)	23.8	24.0	24.2	24.0	28.5	28.6	28.7	28.6
	Number							
Less than 15	63	56	58	177	90	65	55	210
15	137	128	118	383	337	300	290	927
16	244	248	230	722	982	999	974	2,955
17	354	369	378	1,101	2,084	2,223	2,127	6,434
18	475	429	440	1,344	3,311	3,302	3,370	9,983
19	543	535	506	1,584	5,112	4,908	4,827	14,847
Less than 20	1,816	1,765	1,730	5,311	11,916	11,797	11,643	35,356
20–24	2,641	2,735	2,672	8,048	47,574	45,700	43,190	136,464
25–29	1,719	2,014	2,021	5,754	83,435	81,806	80,621	245,862
30–34	876	902	1,003	2,781	74,993	75,589	74,299	224,881
35 and over	330	358	389	1,077	32,217	33,662	35,771	101,650
Not stated	15	5	5	25	125	45	69	239
All ages	7,397	7,779	7,820	22,996	250,260	248,599	245,593	744,452
	Per cent							
Less than 15	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
16	3.3	3.2	2.9	3.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
17	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9
18	6.4	5.5	5.6	5.9	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3
19	7.4	6.9	6.5	6.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Less than 20	24.6	22.7	22.1	23.1	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.8
20–24	35.8	35.2	34.2	35.0	19.0	18.4	17.6	18.3
25–29	23.3	25.9	25.9	25.0	33.4	32.9	32.8	33.0
30–34	11.9	11.6	12.8	12.1	30.0	30.4	30.3	30.2
35 and over	4.5	4.6	5.0	4.7	12.9	13.5	14.6	13.7
Not stated								
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 8: Maternal age, Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean age (years)	24.1	25.5	24.3	23.5	24.1	27.1	26.9	23.2	24.0
	Number								
Less than 15	18	7	29	54	8	-	-	61	177
15	63	7	82	92	12	-	-	126	382
16	139	20	203	152	22	-	-	182	718
17	220	40	329	242	60	-	-	203	1,094
18	282	60	442	255	65	-	-	235	1,339
19	343	79	488	317	77	-	-	273	1,577
Less than 20	1,065	213	1,573	1,112	244	-	24*	1,080	5,311*
20–24	1,820	390	2,639	1,503	405	-	41	1,250	8,048
25–29	1,262	384	1,902	1,034	282	-	65	825	5,754
30–34	604	206	957	473	138	-	41	362	2,781
35 and over	222	100	365	168	49	-	16	157	1,077
Not stated	8	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	25
All ages	4,981	1,293	7,436	4,290	1,118	17	187	3,674	22,996
	Per cent								
Less than 15	0.4	0.5	0.4	1.3	0.7	-	-	1.7	0.8
15	1.3	0.5	1.1	2.1	1.1	-	-	3.4	1.7
16	2.8	1.5	2.7	3.5	2.0	-	-	5.0	3.1
17	4.4	3.1	4.4	5.6	5.4	-	-	5.5	4.8
18	5.7	4.6	5.9	5.9	5.8	-	-	6.4	5.8
19	6.9	6.1	6.6	7.4	6.9	-	-	7.4	6.9
Less than 20	21.4	16.5	21.2	25.9	21.8	-	12.8	29.4	23.1
20–24	36.6	30.2	35.5	35.0	36.2	-	21.9	34.0	35.0
25–29	25.4	29.7	25.6	24.1	25.2	-	34.8	22.5	25.0
30–34	12.1	15.9	12.9	11.0	12.3	-	21.9	9.9	12.1
35 and over	4.5	7.7	4.9	3.9	4.4	-	8.6	4.3	4.7
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Includes 24 mothers in ACT where ages are combined.

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 9: Distribution of Indigenous mothers by maternal age and parity, Australia, 1994–1996

Parity	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40 and over	Not stated	
Number								
None	3,676	2,094	729	256	69	8	8	6,840
One	1,317	2,658	1,155	446	110	20	3	5,709
Two	290	1,952	1,368	530	162	13	9	4,324
Three	18	967	1,142	485	152	25	5	2,794
Four or more	9	368	1,355	1,062	459	57	-	3,310
Not stated	1	9	5	2	2	-	-	19
All parities	5,311	8,048	5,754	2,781	954	123	25	22,996
Per cent								
None	69.2	26.0	12.7	9.2	7.2	6.5	32.0	29.8
One	24.8	33.1	20.1	16.0	11.6	16.3	12.0	24.8
Two	5.5	24.3	23.8	19.1	17.0	10.6	36.0	18.8
Three	0.3	12.0	19.9	17.5	16.0	20.3	20.0	12.2
Four or more	0.2	4.6	23.6	38.2	48.2	46.3	-	14.4
All parities	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated'.

Table 10: Distribution of non-Indigenous mothers by maternal age and parity, Australia, 1994–1996

Parity	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40 and over	Not stated	
Number								
None	29,513	76,059	105,678	65,409	18,673	2,752	72	298,156
One	5,189	43,411	87,132	83,594	28,889	3,935	82	252,232
Two	534	13,154	36,882	48,738	21,359	3,041	30	123,738
Three	62	2,922	11,377	18,057	10,576	1,993	12	44,999
Four or more	30	800	4,559	8,882	7,829	2,493	9	24,602
Not stated	28	118	234	201	93	17	34	725
All parities	35,356	136,464	245,862	224,881	87,419	14,231	239	744,452
Per cent								
None	83.5	55.8	43.0	29.1	21.4	19.4	35.1	40.1
One	14.7	31.8	35.5	37.2	33.1	27.7	40.0	33.9
Two	1.5	9.6	15.0	21.7	24.5	21.4	14.6	16.6
Three	0.2	2.1	4.6	8.0	12.1	14.0	5.9	6.1
Four or more	0.1	0.6	1.9	4.0	9.0	17.5	4.4	3.3
All parities	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 11: Mother's parity, Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Parity	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
None	1,488	387	2,210	1,189	319	-	71	1,171	6,835
One	1,228	366	1,826	1,009	318	-	56	904	5,707
Two	948	254	1,351	819	208	-	30	709	4,319
Three	610	145	908	586	144	-	9	387	2,789
Four or more	693	141	1,136	687	129	-	21	503	3,310
Not stated	14	-	5	-	-	17	-	-	36
All parities	4,981	1,293	7,436	4,290	1,118	17	187	3,674	22,996
Per cent									
None	30.0	29.9	29.7	27.7	28.5	-	38.0	31.9	29.8
One	24.7	28.3	24.6	23.5	28.4	-	29.9	24.6	24.9
Two	19.1	19.6	18.2	19.1	18.6	-	16.0	19.3	18.8
Three	12.3	11.2	12.2	13.7	12.9	-	4.8	10.5	12.1
Four or more	14.0	10.9	15.3	16.0	11.5	-	11.2	13.7	14.4
All parities	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 12: Marital status, Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Marital status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Married/de facto	2,612	791	4,271	2,664	655	-	138	2,207	13,338
Single	2,221	472	3,079	1,567	432	-	40	1,341	9,152
Widowed, divorced, or separated	123	25	84	59	30	-	6	45	372
Not stated/other	25	5	2	-	1	17	3	81	134
All marital status	4,981	1,293	7,436	4,290	1,118	17	187	3,674	22,996
Per cent									
Married/de facto	52.7	61.4	57.5	62.1	58.6	-	75.0	61.4	58.3
Single	44.8	36.6	41.4	36.5	38.7	-	21.7	37.3	40.0
Widowed, divorced, or separated	2.5	1.9	1.1	1.4	2.7	-	3.3	1.3	1.6
All marital status	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 13: Maternal accommodation status in hospital, Indigenous mothers, selected States and Territories, 1994–1996

Accommodation status	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	ACT	Total
Number						
Public	4,850	7,147	4,130	1,065	146	17,338
Private	131	281	23	53	40	528
Not stated/other	-	8	137	-	1	146
All classifications	4,981	7,436	4,290	1,118	187	18,012
Per cent						
Public	97.4	96.2	99.4	95.3	78.5	97.0
Private	2.6	3.8	0.6	4.7	21.5	3.0
All classifications	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

Table 14: Duration of pregnancy by maternal age, Indigenous mothers, Australia, 1994–1996

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								
20–27	81	113	76	52	27	2	-	351
28–31	86	101	54	43	12	2	-	298
32–36	553	707	506	305	107	12	3	2,193
37–41	4,447	6,892	4,939	2,306	788	101	20	19,493
42 and over	114	186	132	60	12	5	2	511
Not stated	30	49	47	15	8	1	-	150
All confinements	5,311	8,048	5,754	2,781	954	123	25	22,996
Per cent								
20–27	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.9	2.9	1.6	-	1.5
28–31	1.6	1.3	0.9	1.6	1.3	1.6	-	1.3
32–36	10.5	8.8	8.9	11.0	11.3	9.8	12.0	9.6
37–41	84.2	86.2	86.5	83.4	83.3	82.8	80.0	85.3
42 and over	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.2	1.3	4.1	8.0	2.2
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated'.

Table 15: Duration of pregnancy, Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Duration of pregnancy (weeks)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean (weeks)	38.7	38.7	38.5	38.4	38.2	39.4	38.8	38.4	38.5
	Number								
20–27	62	16	118	67	27	-	1	60	351
28–31	58	8	100	58	21	-	2	51	298
32–36	413	105	684	454	131	-	16	388	2,191
37–41	4,318	1,125	6,338	3,628	930	-	145	2,996	19,480
42 and over	125	35	192	83	8	-	6	60	509
Not stated	5	4	4	-	1	17	17	119	167
All confinements	4,981	1,293	7,436	4,290	1,118	17	187	3,674	22,996
	Per cent								
20–27	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.6	2.4	-	0.6	1.7	1.5
28–31	1.2	0.6	1.3	1.4	1.9	-	1.2	1.4	1.3
32–36	8.3	8.1	9.2	10.6	11.7	-	9.4	10.9	9.6
37–41	86.8	87.3	85.3	84.6	83.3	-	85.3	84.3	85.3
42 and over	2.5	2.7	2.6	1.9	0.7	-	3.5	1.7	2.2
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 16: Indigenous mothers and multiple deliveries by maternal age, Australia, 1994–1996

Plurality	Maternal age (years)							All ages
	Less than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40 and over	Not stated	
	Number							
Singleton	5,285	7,979	5,688	2,735	943	123	25	22,778
Twin	26	69	66	46	11	-	-	218
Triplet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All confinements	5,311	8,048	5,754	2,781	954	123	25	22,996
	Per cent							
Singleton	99.5	99.1	98.9	98.3	98.8	100.0	100.0	99.1
Twin	0.5	0.9	1.1	1.7	1.2	-	-	0.9
Triplet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated'.

Table 17: Onset of labour, Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Onset of labour	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Spontaneous	3,840	944	5,700	3,074	787	-	132	2,810	17,287
—no augmentation	2,689	804	3,885	2,087	565	-	117	2,641	12,788
—augmentation	1,151	140	1,815	987	222	-	15	169	4,499
Induced	793	229	1,160	890	196	-	30	481	3,779
—medical	275	93	376	na	97	-	12	70	923*
—surgical	515	136	574	na	99	-	8	71	1,403*
—combined	3	-	210	na	-	-	10	340	1,453*
No labour	344	120	573	326	135	-	24	373	1,895
Not stated	4	-	3	-	-	17	1	10	35
All confinements	4,981	1,293	7,436	4,290	1,118	17	187	3,674	22,996
Per cent									
Spontaneous	77.2	73.0	76.7	71.7	70.4	-	71.0	76.7	75.3
—no augmentation	54.0	62.2	52.3	48.6	50.5	-	62.9	72.1	55.7
—augmentation	23.1	10.8	24.4	23.0	19.9	-	8.1	4.6	19.6
Induced	15.9	17.7	15.6	20.7	17.5	-	16.1	13.1	16.5
—medical	5.5	7.2	5.1	na	8.7	-	6.5	1.9	4.0*
—surgical	10.3	10.5	7.7	na	8.9	-	4.3	1.9	6.1*
—combined	0.1	-	2.8	na	-	-	5.4	9.3	6.3*
No labour	6.9	9.3	7.7	7.6	12.1	-	12.9	10.2	8.3
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Data exclude WA

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 18: Presentation at delivery, Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Presentation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Vertex	4,723	1,223	7,111	4,113	1,048	-	174	3,418	21,810
Breech	188	48	279	148	51	-	11	146	871
Other	48	9	42	18	14	-	-	40	171
Not stated	22	13	4	11	5	17	2	70	144
All confinements	4,981	1,293	7,436	4,290	1,118	17	187	3,674	22,996
Per cent									
Vertex	95.2	95.5	95.7	96.1	94.2	-	94.1	94.8	95.4
Breech	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.5	4.6	-	5.9	4.1	3.8
Other	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.4	1.3	-	-	1.1	0.7
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 19: Type of delivery, Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers, Australia, 1994–1996

Type of delivery	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous			
	1994	1995	1996	1994–96	1994	1995	1996	1994–96
	Number							
Spontaneous vertex	5,574	5,877	5,948	17,399	169,442	169,427	166,954	505,823
Forceps	262	222	224	708	21,300	19,769	18,532	59,601
Vacuum extraction	169	176	180	525	8,284	9,053	9,908	27,245
Vaginal breech	94	85	96	275	2,413	2,127	2,090	6,630
Caesarean section	1,285	1,403	1,351	4,039	48,564	48,104	47,967	144,635
— <i>elective</i>	340	366	344	1,050	20,165	20,745	20,442	61,352
— <i>emergency</i>	590	631	468	1,689	18,222	17,447	17,512	53,181
— <i>not specified</i>	355	406	539	1,300	10,177	9,912	10,013	30,102
Other	1	4	2	7	10	18	59	87
Not stated	12	12	19	43	247	101	83	431
All types of delivery	7,397	7,779	7,820	22,996	250,260	248,599	245,593	744,452
	Per cent							
Spontaneous vertex	75.5	75.7	76.2	75.8	67.8	68.2	68.0	68.0
Forceps	3.5	2.9	2.9	3.1	8.5	8.0	7.5	8.0
Vacuum extraction	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	3.3	3.6	4.0	3.7
Vaginal breech	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
Caesarean section	17.4	18.1	17.3	17.6	19.4	19.4	19.5	19.4
— <i>elective</i>	4.6	4.7	4.4	4.6	8.1	8.3	8.3	8.2
— <i>emergency</i>	8.0	8.1	6.0	7.4	7.3	7.0	7.1	7.1
— <i>not specified</i>	4.8	5.2	6.9	5.7	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.0
Other	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	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

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 20: Type of delivery, Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Type of delivery	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Spontaneous vertex	3,854	933	5,812	3,293	764	-	121	2,622	17,399
Forceps	159	74	195	101	52	-	16	111	708
Vacuum extraction	86	26	156	203	13	-	6	35	525
Vaginal breech	76	17	99	25	14	-	2	42	275
Caesarean section	798	243	1,166	668	275	-	42	847	4,039
—elective	344	119	-	250	87	-	24	226	1,050*
—emergency	454	124	-	418	188	-	18	487	1,689*
—not specified	-	-	1,166	-	-	-	-	134	1,300*
Other	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	2	7
Not stated	8	-	3	-	-	17	-	15	43
All types of delivery	4,981	1,293	7,436	4,290	1,118	17	187	3,674	22,996
Per cent									
Spontaneous vertex	77.5	72.2	78.2	76.8	68.3	-	64.7	71.7	75.8
Forceps	3.2	5.7	2.6	2.4	4.7	-	8.6	3.0	3.1
Vacuum extraction	1.7	2.0	2.1	4.7	1.2	-	3.2	1.0	2.3
Vaginal breech	1.5	1.3	1.3	0.6	1.3	-	1.1	1.1	1.2
Caesarean section	16.0	18.8	15.7	15.6	24.6	-	22.5	23.1	17.6
—elective	6.9	9.2	na	5.8	7.8	-	12.8	6.2	6.8*
—emergency	9.1	9.6	na	9.7	16.8	-	9.6	13.3	10.9*
—not specified	-	-	15.7	-	-	-	-	3.7	8.4*
Other	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.0
All types of delivery	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 21: Caesarean rates by maternal age and accommodation status, Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Accommodation status/ Maternal age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Public^(a)	Number								
Less than 20	128	na	182	122	47	-	3	na	482
20–24	286	na	356	217	90	-	7	na	956
25–29	191	na	292	174	71	-	11	na	739
30–34	118	na	168	101	37	-	10	na	434
35 and over	44	na	97	36	19	-	1	na	197
Not stated	5	na	-	-	-	4	-	na	9
All ages	772	na	1,095	650	264	4	32	na	2,817
Private^(a)									
All ages	26	na	71	5	11	-	10	na	123
Public^(a)	Caesarean rate (per cent)								
Less than 20	12.2	na	11.7	11.3	19.6	-	12.5	na	12.2
20–24	16.0	na	13.8	14.9	22.6	-	18.9	na	15.2
25–29	15.8	na	16.2	17.6	27.3	-	24.4	na	17.2
30–34	20.2	na	19.4	22.7	30.1	-	31.3	na	21.2
35 and over	22.2	na	29.1	22.8	44.2	-	12.5	na	26.6
All ages	15.9	na	15.3	15.7	24.8	26.7	21.9	na	16.2
Private^(a)									
All ages	20.0	na	25.3	21.7	20.8	-	25.0	na	23.3
All confinements									
Less than 20	12.1	17.4	11.6	11.2	19.7	-	12.5	21.7	14.3
20–24	16.1	15.1	13.9	14.7	22.5	-	17.1	23.3	16.5
25–29	15.8	20.3	16.2	17.3	26.6	-	26.2	23.4	18.3
30–34	20.4	18.9	20.4	22.0	29.7	-	31.7	24.0	21.6
35 and over	21.6	30.0	30.4	23.2	40.8	-	12.5	26.8	27.1
All ages	16.0	18.8	15.7	15.6	24.6	23.5	22.5	23.1	17.6

(a) Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 22: Caesarean rates by maternal age, parity and public accommodation in hospital, Indigenous mothers, Australia, 1994–1996

Maternal age (years)	Parity				Parity			
	None	One	Two +	Total ^(a)	None	One	Two +	Total ^(a)
	Number				Rate (per cent)			
<i>Less than 15</i>	19	-	-	19	18.6	-	-	18.3
15	32	1	1	34	14.2	6.3	-	13.9
16	52	7	-	59	11.6	12.1	-	11.5
17	73	18	2	93	11.4	9.5	16.7	11.0
18	99	30	7	136	14.7	10.2	10.4	13.1
19	85	42	14	141	13.4	9.7	9.3	11.6
<i>15–19</i>	<i>341</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>463</i>	<i>13.0</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>10.0</i>	<i>12.0</i>
20	93	48	33	174	17.7	10.4	11.9	13.8
21	69	62	51	182	18.7	12.3	11.4	13.8
22	45	59	77	181	16.0	13.8	13.5	14.1
23	63	59	89	211	24.0	16.6	13.5	16.5
24	49	57	102	208	25.0	20.1	15.4	18.2
<i>20–24</i>	<i>319</i>	<i>285</i>	<i>352</i>	<i>956</i>	<i>19.5</i>	<i>14.0</i>	<i>13.5</i>	<i>15.2</i>
25	32	42	77	151	21.6	16.5	11.6	14.2
26	24	38	90	152	22.6	21.5	13.3	15.8
27	26	35	101	162	28.9	20.8	16.3	18.5
28	27	26	80	133	36.0	19.3	14.9	17.8
29	13	27	105	145	20.6	26.5	20.9	21.7
<i>25–29</i>	<i>122</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>453</i>	<i>743</i>	<i>25.3</i>	<i>20.1</i>	<i>15.1</i>	<i>17.2</i>
30	10	19	71	100	23.8	21.8	16.6	18.0
31	12	21	75	108	41.4	30.0	19.1	22.0
32	17	21	66	104	48.6	33.3	21.8	25.9
33	9	10	57	76	37.5	27.0	20.5	22.4
34	6	9	31	46	35.3	25.0	14.6	17.3
<i>30–34</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>434</i>	<i>36.7</i>	<i>27.3</i>	<i>18.6</i>	<i>21.1</i>
35	6	10	33	49	40.0	47.6	19.9	24.3
36	4	6	35	45	40.0	37.5	23.2	25.4
37	4	3	24	31	36.4	23.1	24.5	25.4
38	1	6	23	30	25.0	60.0	26.4	29.7
39	-	2	13	15	-	66.7	25.0	26.3
<i>35–39</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>35.7</i>	<i>42.9</i>	<i>23.1</i>	<i>25.8</i>
<i>40 and over</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>66.7</i>	<i>50.0</i>	<i>30.8</i>	<i>34.6</i>
Not stated	3	-	2	5	100.0	-	40.0	62.5
Total	875	663	1,279	2,817	17.4	15.7	15.8	16.2

(a) Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory.

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated'.

Table 23: Caesarean rates by maternal age, parity and private accommodation in hospital, Indigenous mothers, Australia, 1994–1996

Maternal age (years)	Parity				Parity			
	None	One	Two +	Total ^(a)	None	One	Two +	Total ^(a)
	Number				Rate (per cent)			
Less than 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15–19	3	-	-	3	14.3	-	-	12.0
20–24	10	7	4	21	19.6	28.0	36.4	24.1
25–29	19	12	7	38	23.8	17.6	14.0	19.2
30–34	15	15	10	40	32.6	28.8	21.7	27.8
35 and over	7	5	9	21	50.0	25.0	23.1	28.8
40 and over	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	25.0
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	54	39	30	123	25.2	23.2	20.3	23.2

(a) Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory.

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated'.

Table 24: Caesarean rates by parity, plurality, breech presentation, and birthweight, Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Parity	Number								
Primipara	261	74	369	202	81	-	18	305	1,310
Multipara	536	169	796	466	194	-	24	542	2,727
Not stated	1	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	6
All parity	798	243	1,166	668	275	4	42	847	4,043
Plurality	Number								
Singleton	773	238	1,138	654	269	-	39	829	3,940
Twin	25	5	28	14	6	-	3	18	99
Other multiple	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All confinements	798	243	1,166	668	275	4	42	847	4,043
Breech presentation in singleton births	104	29	168	88	36	-	7	89	521
Birthweight	Number (singleton births)								
Less than 500 g	1	1	1	-	2	-	-	2	7
500–999 g	5	1	12	6	7	-	-	16	47
1,000–1,499 g	18	2	22	15	5	-	1	14	77
1,500–1,999 g	20	7	48	16	17	-	3	16	127
2,000–2,499 g	47	19	85	70	22	-	3	56	302
2,500 g and over ^(a)	682	208	970	547	216	-	31	725	3,379
Accommodation status	Number (singleton births)								
—public	660	-	908	532	206	-	23	-	2,329
—private	22	-	62	3	10	-	8	-	105
—other	-	208	-	12	-	-	-	725	945
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	5
All singleton births	773	238	1,138	654	269	4	39	829	3,944
Parity	Caesarean rate (per cent)								
Primipara	17.5	19.1	16.7	17.0	25.4	-	25.4	26.0	19.2
Multipara	15.4	18.7	15.2	15.0	24.3	-	20.7	21.7	16.9
All parity	16.0	18.8	15.7	15.6	24.6	23.5	22.5	23.1	17.6
Plurality	Caesarean rate (per cent)								
Singleton	15.7	18.6	15.4	15.4	24.4	-	21.2	22.8	17.3
Twin	55.6	35.7	41.8	36.8	35.3	-	100.0	52.9	45.4
Other multiple	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All confinements	16.0	18.8	15.7	15.6	24.6	23.5	22.5	23.1	17.6
Breech presentation in singleton births	57.8	63.0	63.4	63.3	78.3	-	77.8	64.5	63.3
Birthweight	Caesarean rate (per cent) (singleton births)								
Less than 500 g	6.3	12.5	3.1	-	25.0	-	-	16.7	7.0
500–999 g	13.5	11.1	19.0	13.6	35.0	-	-	40.0	21.9
1,000–1,499 g	39.1	40.0	36.7	30.6	38.5	-	-	38.9	36.7
1,500–1,999 g	27.4	38.9	33.8	22.2	54.8	-	75.0	22.9	31.0
2,000–2,499 g	15.8	22.4	21.3	20.9	27.5	-	42.9	19.0	20.2
2,500 g and over ^(a)	15.3	18.0	14.5	14.7	22.8	-	18.6	22.8	16.6
Accommodation status	Caesarean rate (per cent)								
—public	15.2	-	14.2	14.8	22.9	-	17.8	-	15.1
—private	18.8	-	24.5	15.0	19.6	-	21.6	-	22.0
All singleton births	15.7	18.6	15.4	15.4	24.4	40.0	21.2	22.8	17.3

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

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable. 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 25: Length of antenatal stay in hospital, Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Length of stay	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean length of stay (days)	1.0	0.8	1.8	1.7	1.2	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.5
	Number								
Less than 1 day	993	786	4,128	2,111	615	-	115	1,864	10,612
1 day	499	378	2,021	1,295	358	-	55	1,032	5,638
2–6 days	140	94	701	453	101	-	11	453	1,953
7–13 days	19	15	234	120	18	-	3	99	508
14–20 days	6	6	139	77	9	-	2	33	272
21–27 days	2	1	81	27	4	-	1	15	131
28 or more days	1	1	55	32	6	-	-	12	107
Not stated	3,259	-	8	109	-	14	-	3	3,393
Indigenous confinements	4,919	1,281	7,367	4,224	1,111	14	187	3,511	22,614
	Per cent								
Less than 1 day	59.8	61.4	56.1	51.3	55.4	-	61.5	53.1	55.2
1 day	30.1	29.5	27.5	31.5	32.2	-	29.4	29.4	29.3
2–6 days	8.4	7.3	9.5	11.0	9.1	-	5.9	12.9	10.2
7–13 days	1.1	1.2	3.2	2.9	1.6	-	1.6	2.8	2.6
14–20 days	0.4	0.5	1.9	1.9	0.8	-	1.1	0.9	1.4
21–27 days	0.1	0.1	1.1	0.7	0.4	-	0.5	0.4	0.7
28 or more days	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.8	0.5	-	-	0.3	0.6
Indigenous confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Data for New South Wales 'Not stated' in 1994 and 1995

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 26: Length of postnatal stay in hospital, Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Length of stay ^(a)	NSW ^(b)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA ^(c)	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean length of stay (days)	3.4	4.0	3.9	3.8	4.1	5.0	3.6	5.6	4.2
	Number								
Less than 1 day	36	18	92	97	21	-	4	22	290
1 day	208	101	726	414	118	-	24	136	1,727
2 days	370	202	1,429	787	235	-	23	304	3,350
3 days	326	249	1,459	828	225	-	26	506	3,619
4 days	222	231	1,139	619	183	-	27	606	3,027
5 days	158	173	797	496	139	-	18	506	2,287
6 days	83	90	489	277	86	-	11	367	1,403
7–13 days	112	154	682	416	135	-	17	775	2,291
14–20 days	2	2	63	28	15	-	-	108	218
21–27 days	-	1	15	5	4	-	-	28	53
28 or more days	1	-	17	3	4	-	-	10	35
Not stated	2,979	-	17	175	-	12	-	-	3,183
All hospital confinements	4,497	1,221	6,925	4,145	1,165	12	150	3,368	21,483
	Per cent								
Less than 1 day	2.4	1.5	1.3	2.4	1.8	-	2.7	0.7	1.6
1 day	13.7	8.3	10.5	10.4	10.1	-	16.0	4.0	9.4
2 days	24.4	16.5	20.7	19.8	20.2	-	15.3	9.0	18.3
3 days	21.5	20.4	21.1	20.9	19.3	-	17.3	15.0	19.8
4 days	14.6	18.9	16.5	15.6	15.7	-	18.0	18.0	16.5
5 days	10.4	14.2	11.5	12.5	11.9	-	12.0	15.0	12.5
6 days	5.5	7.4	7.1	7.0	7.4	-	7.3	10.9	7.7
7–13 days	7.4	12.6	9.9	10.5	11.6	-	11.3	23.0	12.5
14–20 days	0.1	0.2	0.9	0.7	1.3	-	-	3.2	1.2
21–27 days	-	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	-	-	0.8	0.3
28 or more days	0.1	-	0.2	0.1	0.3	-	-	0.3	0.2
All hospital confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

(b) Data for New South Wales 'Not stated' in 1994 and 1995

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

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 27: Length of postnatal stay in hospital by mother's age, parity, accommodation status, type of delivery, and size of hospital, Indigenous mothers, Australia, 1994–1996

Characteristic	Confinements ^(a) (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^(b)	18,442	31.1	36.4	19.2	7.2	2.8	1.7	1.6
Maternal age								
Less than 20	4,275	25.8	37.2	21.1	7.7	3.8	2.4	2.1
20–24	6,419	34.4	36.8	17.6	6.1	2.1	1.4	1.5
25–29	4,606	33.3	36.5	18.0	7.3	2.5	1.5	1.0
30–34	2,251	29.6	35.7	21.5	7.5	2.6	1.6	1.5
35 and over	891	24.5	30.9	23.1	11.8	4.5	2.5	2.8
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parity								
None	5,483	17.2	38.9	24.7	9.8	4.2	2.6	2.6
One	4,609	34.2	36.9	17.8	6.3	2.5	1.3	1.1
Two or three	5,669	38.9	34.1	16.8	5.9	1.8	1.3	1.2
Four or more	2,673	37.7	35.2	15.9	6.3	2.4	1.4	1.1
Not stated	8	12.5	75.0	12.5	-	-	-	-
Hospital accommodation status^(c)								
Public	13,402	36.0	37.0	16.9	5.8	2.1	1.2	1.1
Private	414	10.9	30.9	38.2	14.0	3.1	2.2	0.7
Other	4,626	18.7	35.3	24.3	10.6	4.8	3.2	3.1
Type of delivery								
Spontaneous vertex	13,943	38.4	39.5	14.7	4.1	1.6	0.9	0.7
Caesarean section	3,276	2.7	22.1	37.6	19.3	8.1	5.1	5.2
Other	1,223	23.7	39.2	21.6	10.0	2.6	1.6	1.4
Size of hospital								
1–100	1,214	40.1	40.4	13.1	4.4	1.1	0.6	0.4
101–500	5,126	24.1	38.2	22.8	8.6	3.4	2.0	1.1
501–1,000	3,784	26.9	34.6	21.1	9.1	3.5	2.2	2.7
1,001–2,000	5,024	35.2	33.8	17.6	6.8	2.8	1.9	2.0
2,001 and over	3,287	37.1	38.4	16.3	4.7	1.8	0.9	0.8
Not stated	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

(b) Data for New South Wales 'not stated' in 1994 and 1995.

(c) Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory.

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated'.

Table 28: Mode of separation of Indigenous mothers, hospital confinements, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Mode of separation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^(a)	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia ^(a)
Number								
Discharge home	4,579	1,242	6,974	2,669	-	173	3,450	19,087
Transfer to another hospital	392	51	454	125	-	5	60	1,087
Died	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Not stated	7	-	1	82	14	9	-	113
All confinements	4,978	1,293	7,430	2,877	14	187	3,510	20,289
Per cent								
Discharge home	92.1	96.1	93.9	95.5	-	97.2	98.3	94.6
Transfer to another hospital	7.9	3.9	6.1	4.5	-	2.8	1.7	5.4
Died	-	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	0.0
All confinements	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Data exclude Western Australia in 1996 and South Australia in 1994 to 1996.

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 29: Month of birth, babies of Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Month of birth	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
January	419	112	685	371	85	-	7	282	1,961
February	402	105	618	330	83	-	14	344	1,896
March	462	110	688	414	101	-	13	362	2,150
April	431	98	656	405	84	-	16	319	2,009
May	421	93	625	354	91	-	22	310	1,916
June	416	101	588	386	110	-	19	359	1,979
July	457	116	621	397	95	-	23	331	2,040
August	417	99	613	370	83	-	15	267	1,864
September	405	107	618	295	106	-	8	253	1,792
October	399	136	581	325	86	-	22	305	1,854
November	366	116	586	314	103	-	24	280	1,789
December	431	114	624	367	108	-	7	296	1,947
All births	5,026	1,307	7,503	4,328	1,135	17	190	3,708	23,214
	Per cent								
January	8.3	8.6	9.1	8.6	7.5	-	3.7	7.6	8.5
February	8.0	8.0	8.2	7.6	7.3	-	7.4	9.3	8.2
March	9.2	8.4	9.2	9.6	8.9	-	6.8	9.8	9.3
April	8.6	7.5	8.7	9.4	7.4	-	8.4	8.6	8.7
May	8.4	7.1	8.3	8.2	8.0	-	11.6	8.4	8.3
June	8.3	7.7	7.8	8.9	9.7	-	10.0	9.7	8.5
July	9.1	8.9	8.3	9.2	8.4	-	12.1	8.9	8.8
August	8.3	7.6	8.2	8.5	7.3	-	7.9	7.2	8.0
September	8.1	8.2	8.2	6.8	9.3	-	4.2	6.8	7.7
October	7.9	10.4	7.7	7.5	7.6	-	11.6	8.2	8.0
November	7.3	8.9	7.8	7.3	9.1	-	12.6	7.6	7.7
December	8.6	8.7	8.3	8.5	9.5	-	3.7	8.0	8.4
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 30: Sex by plurality, births of Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Infant's sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
All births									
Male	2,575	655	3,873	2,253	579	-	100	1,915	11,950
Female	2,444	651	3,626	2,071	555	-	90	1,792	11,229
Indeterminate	2	1	3	4	1	-	-	-	11
Not stated	5	-	1	-	-	17	-	1	24
All births	5,026	1,307	7,503	4,328	1,135	17	190	3,708	23,214
Sex ratio	105.4	100.6	106.8	108.8	104.3	-	111.1	106.9	106.4
Singletons									
Male	2,531	638	3,801	2,218	559	-	99	1,882	11,728
Female	2,399	640	3,564	2,030	541	-	85	1,757	11,016
Indeterminate	1	1	3	4	1	-	-	-	10
Not stated	5	-	1	-	-	17	-	1	24
Sex ratio	105.5	99.7	106.6	109.3	103.3	-	116.5	107.1	106.5
Twins									
Male	44	17	72	35	20	-	1	33	222
Female	45	11	62	41	14	-	5	35	213
Indeterminate	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sex ratio	97.8	154.5	116.1	85.4	142.9	-	-	94.3	104.2
	Per cent								
All births									
Male	51.3	50.1	51.6	52.1	51.0	-	52.6	51.7	51.5
Female	48.7	49.8	48.3	47.9	48.9	-	47.4	48.3	48.4
Indeterminate	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	0.0
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0
Singletons									
Male	51.3	49.9	51.6	52.2	50.8	-	53.8	51.7	51.5
Female	48.7	50.0	48.4	47.7	49.1	-	46.2	48.3	48.4
Twins									
Male	48.9	60.7	53.7	46.1	58.8	-	16.7	48.5	50.9
Female	50.0	39.3	46.3	53.9	41.2	-	83.3	51.5	48.9

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 31: Birthweight of babies of Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers, Australia, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous			
	1994	1995	1996	1994–96	1994	1995	1996	1994–96
Mean birthweight (g)	3,148	3,159	3,140	3,149	3,365	3,365	3,367	3,365
	Number							
Less than 500	27	33	52	112	543	592	683	1,818
500–999	88	87	94	269	1,259	1,227	1,235	3,721
1,000–1,499	91	78	80	249	1,529	1,497	1,417	4,443
1,500–1,999	171	158	180	509	2,859	3,028	2,912	8,799
2,000–2,499	579	570	588	1,737	9,241	9,301	9,284	27,826
2,500–2,999	1,736	1,773	1,785	5,294	38,314	37,967	37,065	113,346
3,000–3,499	2,544	2,835	2,834	8,213	92,414	91,232	89,702	273,348
3,500–3,999	1,634	1,684	1,702	5,020	78,051	77,557	77,357	232,965
4,000–4,499	482	522	492	1,496	25,047	25,200	25,081	75,328
4,500 and over	104	94	82	280	4,413	4,422	4,351	13,186
Not stated	13	12	10	35	196	175	106	477
All births	7,469	7,846	7,899	23,214	253,866	252,198	249,193	755,257
Less than 1,000	115	120	146	381	1,802	1,819	1,918	5,539
Less than 1,500	206	198	226	630	3,331	3,316	3,335	9,982
Less than 2,500	956	926	994	2,876	15,431	15,645	15,531	46,607
	Per cent							
Less than 500	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
500–999	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1,000–1,499	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
1,500–1,999	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
2,000–2,499	7.8	7.3	7.5	7.5	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7
2,500–2,999	23.3	22.6	22.6	22.8	15.1	15.1	14.9	15.0
3,000–3,499	34.1	36.2	35.9	35.4	36.4	36.2	36.0	36.2
3,500–3,999	21.9	21.5	21.6	21.7	30.8	30.8	31.1	30.9
4,000–4,499	6.5	6.7	6.2	6.5	9.9	10.0	10.1	10.0
4,500 and over	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 1,000	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7
Less than 1,500	2.8	2.5	2.9	2.7	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Less than 2,500	12.8	11.8	12.6	12.4	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.2

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 32: Birthweight of babies of Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean birthweight (g)	3,179	3,218	3,177	3,111	3,098	3,287	3,309	3,079	3,149
	Number								
Less than 500	19	8	35	24	10	-	-	16	112
500–999	42	11	95	48	22	-	2	49	269
1,000–1,499	56	8	79	54	13	-	1	38	249
1,500–1,999	88	21	178	89	40	-	4	89	509
2,000–2,499	355	91	482	358	93	-	11	347	1,737
2,500–2,999	1,147	273	1,605	1,051	269	-	30	919	5,294
3,000–3,499	1,782	466	2,691	1,546	355	-	64	1,309	8,213
3,500–3,999	1,114	302	1,707	881	232	-	52	732	5,020
4,000–4,499	351	110	507	249	87	-	21	171	1,496
4,500 and over	66	17	121	28	14	-	2	32	280
Not stated	6	-	3	-	-	17	3	6	35
All births	5,026	1,307	7,503	4,328	1,135	17	190	3,708	23,214
Less than 1,000	61	19	130	72	32	-	2	65	381
Less than 1,500	117	27	209	126	45	-	3	103	630
Less than 2,500	560	139	869	573	178	-	18	539	2,876
	Per cent								
Less than 500	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.9	-	-	0.4	0.5
500–999	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.1	1.9	-	1.1	1.3	1.2
1,000–1,499	1.1	0.6	1.1	1.2	1.1	-	0.5	1.0	1.1
1,500–1,999	1.8	1.6	2.4	2.1	3.5	-	2.1	2.4	2.2
2,000–2,499	7.1	7.0	6.4	8.3	8.2	-	5.9	9.4	7.5
2,500–2,999	22.8	20.9	21.4	24.3	23.7	-	16.0	24.8	22.8
3,000–3,499	35.5	35.7	35.9	35.7	31.3	-	34.2	35.4	35.4
3,500–3,999	22.2	23.1	22.8	20.4	20.4	-	27.8	19.8	21.7
4,000–4,499	7.0	8.4	6.8	5.8	7.7	-	11.2	4.6	6.5
4,500 and over	1.3	1.3	1.6	0.6	1.2	-	1.1	0.9	1.2
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 1,000	1.2	1.5	1.7	1.7	2.8	-	1.1	1.8	1.6
Less than 1,500	2.3	2.1	2.8	2.9	4.0	-	1.6	2.8	2.7
Less than 2,500	11.2	10.6	11.6	13.2	15.7	-	9.6	14.6	12.4

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 33: Birthweight of babies of Indigenous mothers, live births and fetal deaths, Australia, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Live births		Fetal deaths		All births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	40	0.2	72	22.6	112	0.5
500–999	178	0.8	91	28.6	269	1.2
1,000–1,499	213	0.9	36	11.3	249	1.1
1,500–1,999	479	2.1	30	9.4	509	2.2
2,000–2,499	1,712	7.5	25	7.9	1,737	7.5
2,500–2,999	5,271	23.1	23	7.2	5,294	22.8
3,000–3,499	8,189	35.8	24	7.5	8,213	35.4
3,500–3,999	5,009	21.9	11	3.5	5,020	21.7
4,000–4,499	1,492	6.5	4	1.3	1,496	6.5
4,500 and over	278	1.2	2	0.6	280	1.2
Not stated	30		5		35	0.2
All births	22,891	100.0	323	100.0	23,214	100.0
Less than 1,000	218	1.0	163	51.3	381	1.6
Less than 1,500	431	1.9	199	62.6	630	2.7
Less than 2,500	2,622	11.5	254	79.9	2,876	12.4
			Mean birthweight (g)			
All birthweights	3,173		1,414		3,149	

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated'.

Table 34: Birthweight by plurality, babies of Indigenous mothers, Australia, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Singletons		Twins		Other multiple births		All births	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	99	0.4	13	3.0	-	-	112	0.5
500–999	246	1.1	23	5.3	-	-	269	1.2
1,000–1,499	228	1.0	21	4.8	-	-	249	1.1
1,500–1,999	433	1.9	76	17.4	-	-	509	2.2
2,000–2,499	1,611	7.1	126	28.9	-	-	1,737	7.5
2,500–2,999	5,174	22.7	120	27.5	-	-	5,294	22.8
3,000–3,499	8,163	35.9	50	11.5	-	-	8,213	35.4
3,500–3,999	5,013	22.0	7	1.6	-	-	5,020	21.7
4,000–4,499	1,496	6.6	-	-	-	-	1,496	6.5
4,500 and over	280	1.2	-	-	-	-	280	1.2
Not stated	35		-		-		35	
All births	22,778	100.0	436	100.0	-	-	23,214	100.0
Less than 1,000	345	1.5	36	8.3	-	-	381	1.6
Less than 1,500	573	2.5	57	13.1	-	-	630	2.7
Less than 2,500	2,617	11.5	259	59.4	-	-	2,876	12.4
Mean birthweight (g)								
All birthweights	3,166		2,252		-		3,149	

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated'.

Table 35: Birthweight by sex, babies of Indigenous mothers, Australia, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Male		Female		Indeterminate / Not stated	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than 500	45	0.4	60	0.5	7	41.2
500–999	141	1.2	127	1.1	1	5.9
1,000–1,499	124	1.0	125	1.1	-	-
1,500–1,999	229	1.9	280	2.5	-	-
2,000–2,499	802	6.7	933	8.3	2	11.8
2,500–2,999	2,440	20.4	2,852	25.4	2	11.8
3,000–3,499	4,146	34.7	4,064	36.2	3	17.6
3,500–3,999	2,889	24.2	2,131	19.0	-	-
4,000–4,499	943	7.9	551	4.9	2	11.8
4,500 and over	181	1.5	99	0.9	-	-
Not stated	21		13		1	
All births	11,961	100.0	11,235	100.0	18	100.0
Less than 1,000	186	1.6	187	1.7	8	47.1
Less than 1,500	310	2.6	312	2.8	8	47.1
Less than 2,500	1,341	11.2	1,525	13.6	10	58.8
Mean birthweight (g)						
All birthweights	3,209		3,087		1,806	

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated'.

Table 36: Distribution of birthweight by maternal age, parity, marital status, accommodation status, and place of birth for babies of Indigenous mothers, Australia, 1994–1996

Characteristic	Less than 1,000 g		Less than 1,500 g		Less than 2,500 g		2,500 g and over	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Maternal age								
Less than 15	6	3.4	8	4.5	25	14.1	152	85.9
15–19	84	1.6	149	2.9	704	13.7	4,453	86.3
20–24	113	1.4	204	2.5	949	11.7	7,159	88.3
25–29	87	1.5	131	2.3	620	10.7	5,197	89.3
30–34	61	2.2	89	3.2	409	14.5	2,415	85.5
35 and over	30	2.8	49	5.1	169	19.1	919	84.5
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-
Parity								
None	123	1.8	197	2.9	914	13.3	5,952	86.7
One	64	1.1	131	2.3	638	11.1	5,129	88.9
Two	74	1.7	122	2.8	513	11.8	3,851	88.2
Three	60	2.1	84	3.0	362	12.9	2,455	87.1
Four or more	59	1.8	94	2.8	443	13.2	2,905	86.8
Not stated	1	-	2	-	6	-	11	-
Marital status								
Married/de facto	216	1.6	338	2.5	1,552	11.5	11,920	88.5
Single	132	1.6	231	2.8	1,086	13.3	7,078	86.7
Other	33	2.1	61	4.0	238	15.4	1,305	84.6
Hospital status^(a)								
Public	289	1.7	490	2.8	2,131	12.2	15,356	87.8
Private	4	0.7	4	0.7	40	7.4	498	92.6
Place of birth								
Hospital	367	1.6	603	2.7	2,763	12.2	19,953	87.8
Birth centre	-	-	-	-	2	2.3	86	97.7
Home	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	100.0
Born before arrival	9	4.3	20	9.6	68	32.5	141	67.5
Other	5	3.4	7	4.8	41	27.9	106	72.1
Not stated	-	-	-	-	2	-	12	-

(a) Data exclude Victoria and Northern Territory.

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated'.

Table 37: Proportion of low birthweight, liveborn babies of Indigenous mothers born in hospitals of different sizes, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Low birthweight category/Hospital size	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Birthweight: 500–999 g									
Number of births	29	7	56	33	17	-	-	36	178
	Per cent								
1–100 confinements	3.4	-	10.7	9.1	5.9	-	-	-	6.2
101–500 confinements	13.8	-	14.3	9.1	11.8	-	-	2.8	10.1
501–1,000 confinements	6.9	28.6	7.1	9.1	-	-	-	30.6	12.4
1,001–2,000 confinements	3.4	14.3	44.6	-	11.8	-	-	63.9	29.2
2,001 and over confinements	72.4	57.1	23.2	72.7	70.6	-	-	-	41.6
Other births	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.8	0.6
All births: 500–999 g	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	-	100.0	100.0
Birthweight: 1,000–1,499 g									
Number of births	48	7	67	46	12	-	1	32	213
	Per cent								
1–100 confinements	-	-	7.5	13.0	8.3	-	-	6.3	6.6
101–500 confinements	12.5	14.3	7.5	10.9	-	-	-	-	8.0
501–1,000 confinements	10.4	42.9	6.0	-	-	-	-	18.8	8.5
1,001–2,000 confinements	4.2	-	58.2	-	25.0	-	-	71.9	31.5
2,001 and over confinements	72.9	42.9	20.9	76.1	66.7	-	100.0	-	45.1
Other births	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.1	0.5
All births: 1,000–1,499 g	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0
Birthweight: 1,500–1,999 g									
Number of births	78	20	130	71	31	-	4	63	397
	Per cent								
1–100 confinements	5.1	5.0	5.4	12.7	-	-	-	-	5.3
101–500 confinements	9.0	30.0	3.8	19.7	6.5	-	-	6.3	9.6
501–1,000 confinements	16.7	25.0	15.4	9.9	3.2	-	-	23.8	15.4
1,001–2,000 confinements	15.4	5.0	58.5	1.4	19.4	-	-	63.5	34.3
2,001 and over confinements	53.8	35.0	16.9	56.3	71.0	-	100.0	-	34.5
Other births	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.3	1.0
All births: 1,500–1,999 g	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 38: Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes by birthweight, liveborn babies of Indigenous mothers, Australia, 1994–1996

Apgar score ^(a)	Less than 1,000 g	1,000–1,499 g	1,500–1,999 g	2,000–2,499 g	2,500 g and over	Not stated
All live births						
Apgar score: 1 minute^(b)						
Live births (n)	203	201	449	1,592	18,984	25
	Per cent					
0	2.0	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1	4.0
1–3	53.2	22.4	8.0	6.7	3.3	4.0
4–6	27.6	32.3	23.6	15.3	12.3	40.0
7–10	17.2	44.8	67.9	77.8	84.4	52.0
Apgar score: 5 minutes						
Live births (n)	211	209	471	1,679	20,142	26
	Per cent					
0	8.5	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.0	7.7
1–3	32.2	4.3	0.8	0.8	0.3	-
4–6	14.2	14.8	4.2	4.4	1.9	11.5
7–10	45.0	80.4	94.5	94.6	97.8	80.8

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

(b) Data exclude Victoria.

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated'.

Table 39: Length of stay in hospital, liveborn babies of Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers, Australia, 1994–1996

Length of stay	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous			
	1994	1995	1996	1994–96	1994	1995	1996	1994–96
Number								
Less than 1 day	114	144	143	401	3,387	3,647	3,732	10,766
1 day	537	667	720	1,924	11,500	13,019	14,123	38,642
2 days	1,167	1,306	1,463	3,936	23,324	25,575	27,785	76,684
3 days	1,346	1,406	1,432	4,184	37,738	40,093	42,787	120,618
4 days	1,100	1,163	1,071	3,334	44,870	44,642	43,302	132,814
5 days	812	792	737	2,341	43,496	41,948	40,226	125,670
6 days	568	530	433	1,531	30,856	28,774	27,018	86,648
7–13 days	857	852	727	2,436	39,322	35,890	31,595	106,807
14–20 days	135	133	112	380	2,180	2,190	2,236	6,606
21–27 days	55	64	57	176	1,143	1,127	1,203	3,473
28 or more days	102	102	125	329	2,536	2,357	2,291	7,184
All births	6,806	7,165	7,101	21,072	240,849	239,389	236,455	716,693
Per cent								
Less than 1 day	1.7	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.5
1 day	7.9	9.3	10.3	9.2	4.8	5.4	6.0	5.4
2 days	17.2	18.2	20.8	18.8	9.7	10.7	11.8	10.7
3 days	19.8	19.6	20.4	20.0	15.7	16.8	18.1	16.8
4 days	16.2	16.2	15.3	15.9	18.7	18.7	18.3	18.6
5 days	12.0	11.1	10.5	11.2	18.1	17.5	17.0	17.6
6 days	8.4	7.4	6.2	7.3	12.8	12.0	11.4	12.1
7–13 days	12.6	11.9	10.4	11.6	16.4	15.0	13.4	14.9
14–20 days	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
21–27 days	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
28 or more days	1.5	1.4	1.8	1.6	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 40: Length of stay in hospital, liveborn babies of Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Length of stay ^(a)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA ^(b)	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Mean length of stay (days)	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.4	8.1	5.3	3.9	6.9	5.1
	Number								
Less than 1 day	120	22	114	67	21	-	6	51	401
1 day	455	91	718	394	98	-	28	140	1,924
2 days	932	207	1,443	802	219	-	25	308	3,936
3 days	933	258	1,433	858	195	-	31	476	4,184
4 days	711	231	1,069	597	161	-	33	532	3,334
5 days	469	158	701	428	112	-	22	451	2,341
6 days	309	84	439	271	90	-	13	325	1,531
7–13 days	421	134	667	400	104	-	16	694	2,436
14–20 days	44	16	100	48	39	-	2	131	380
21–27 days	22	8	63	13	25	-	-	45	176
28 or more days	54	8	96	35	54	-	1	81	329
Not stated	14	-	2	-	-	12	-	72	100
All births	4,484	1,217	6,845	3,913	1,118	12	177	3,306	21,072
	Per cent								
Less than 1 day	2.7	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.9	-	3.4	1.6	1.9
1 day	10.2	7.5	10.5	10.1	8.8	-	15.8	4.3	9.2
2 days	20.9	17.0	21.1	20.5	19.6	-	14.1	9.5	18.8
3 days	20.9	21.2	20.9	21.9	17.4	-	17.5	14.7	20.0
4 days	15.9	19.0	15.6	15.3	14.4	-	18.6	16.5	15.9
5 days	10.5	13.0	10.2	10.9	10.0	-	12.4	13.9	11.2
6 days	6.9	6.9	6.4	6.9	8.1	-	7.3	10.0	7.3
7–13 days	9.4	11.0	9.7	10.2	9.3	-	9.0	21.5	11.6
14–20 days	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.2	3.5	-	1.1	4.1	1.8
21–27 days	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.3	2.2	-	-	1.4	0.8
28 or more days	1.2	0.7	1.4	0.9	4.8	-	0.6	2.5	1.6
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

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

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 41: Length of stay in hospital, liveborn babies of Indigenous mothers by plurality, gestational age, and birthweight, Australia, 1994–1996

Characteristic	Babies ^(a) (n)	0–2 days	3–4 days	5–6 days	7–8 days	9–10 days	11–13 days	28 or more days
Plurality		Per cent						
Singleton	19,260	32.8	34.1	17.6	11.2	1.8	0.8	1.6
Twin	368	12.2	11.4	14.4	26.4	10.3	12.2	13.0
Other multiple birth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gestational age								
20–27 weeks	310	72.3	1.0	0.3	0.6	1.3	0.6	23.9
28–31 weeks	256	31.6	2.0	2.7	5.5	2.7	9.0	46.5
32–36 weeks	1,959	17.7	18.8	15.2	24.3	10.9	6.7	6.4
37–41 weeks	16,578	33.5	36.6	18.3	10.2	0.9	0.2	0.2
42 or more weeks	409	30.8	36.9	20.5	10.3	1.5	-	-
Not stated	116	31.9	21.6	19.0	17.2	4.3	4.3	1.7
Birthweight								
Less than 1,000 g	326	71.8	0.6	0.9	0.3	1.2	0.9	24.2
1,000–1,499 g	203	34.0	1.5	0.5	3.9	3.9	6.9	49.3
1,500–1,999 g	446	17.3	3.6	3.1	17.3	16.1	19.1	23.5
2,000–2,499 g	1,456	15.0	22.4	17.6	28.1	10.2	4.4	2.3
2,500 g and over	17,187	33.4	36.5	18.5	10.2	0.9	0.2	0.2
Not stated	10	60.0	30.0	-	-	-	-	10.0

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

Note: Table excludes New South Wales in 1994 and 1995; Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated'.

Table 42: Mode of separation from hospitals or birth centres, babies of Indigenous mothers, States and Territories, 1994–1996

Mode of separation	NSW	Vic ^(a)	Qld	WA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total ^(b)
Number								
Discharge home	4,458	1,206	6,783	3,876	-	167	3,326	19,816
Transfer to another hospital	482	76	537	325	-	11	205	1,636
Fetal death/Died	82	22	178	88	-	2	93	465
Others	-	3	-	37	-	-	-	40
Not stated	4	-	4	-	14	10	84	116
All births	5,026	1,307	7,502	4,326	14	190	3,708	22,073
Per cent								
Discharge home	88.8	92.3	90.5	89.6	-	92.8	91.8	90.2
Transfer to another	9.6	5.8	7.2	7.5	-	6.1	5.7	7.5
Fetal death/Died	1.6	1.7	2.4	2.0	-	1.1	2.6	2.1
Others	-	0.2	-	0.9	-	-	-	0.2
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) 'Other' includes 3 babies whose discharge status was recorded as infant death.

(b) Data exclude South Australia

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 43: Fetal death rates, Australia, 1994–1996

Year	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births
1994	105	14.1	1,640	6.5
1995	113	14.4	1,710	6.8
1996	105	13.3	1,713	6.9
1994–1996	323	13.9	5,063	6.7

Table 44: Indigenous and non-Indigenous fetal deaths, State and Territory of birth, Australia, 1994–1996

State/Territory	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous		
	Fetal deaths	Total births	Fetal death rate	Fetal deaths	Total births	Fetal death rate
	Number	Per 1,000 births	Number	Per 1,000 births	Number	Per 1,000 births
New South Wales	55	5,026	10.9	1,507	256,778	5.9
Victoria	13	1,307	9.9	1,408	190,291	7.4
Queensland	116	7,503	15.5	939	137,065	6.9
Western Australia	65	4,328	15.0	515	72,129	7.1
South Australia	17	1,135	15.0	391	57,397	6.8
Tasmania	-	17	-	140	20,381	6.9
Australian Capital Territory	2	190	10.5	117	14,281	8.2
Northern Territory	55	3,708	14.8	46	6,935	6.6
Australia	323	23,214	13.9	5,063	755,257	6.7

Note: Data for Tasmania in 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 45: Indigenous and non-Indigenous fetal deaths by maternal age, Australia, 1994–1996

Maternal age (years)	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous		
	Fetal deaths	Total births	Fetal death rate	Fetal deaths	Total births	Fetal death rate
	Number	Per 1,000 births	Number	Per 1,000 births	Number	Per 1,000 births
Less than 20	81	5,333	15.2	338	35,629	9.5
20–24	113	8,113	13.9	940	137,824	6.8
25–29	69	5,826	11.8	1,461	249,238	5.9
30–34	45	2,828	15.9	1,428	228,753	6.2
35 and over	15	1,089	13.8	887	103,573	8.6
Not stated	-	25	-	9	240	37.5
All ages	323	23,214	13.9	5,063	755,257	6.7

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated'.

Table 46: Indigenous and non-Indigenous fetal deaths, by parity, Australia, 1994–1996

Parity	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous		
	Fetal deaths	Total births	Fetal death rate	Fetal deaths	Total births	Fetal death rate
	Number		Per 1,000 births	Number		Per 1,000 births
None	112	6,872	16.3	2,356	302,553	7.8
One	67	5,772	11.6	1,408	255,890	5.5
Two	55	4,365	12.6	740	125,504	5.9
Three	39	2,820	13.8	309	45,602	6.8
Four or more	50	3,349	14.9	237	24,980	9.5
Not stated	-	36	-	13	728	17.9
All parities	323	23,214	13.9	5,063	755,257	6.7

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated'.

Table 47: Indigenous and non-Indigenous fetal deaths by gestational age, Australia, 1994–1996

Gestational age (weeks)	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous		
	Fetal deaths	Total births	Fetal death rate	Fetal deaths	Total births	Fetal death rate
	Number		Per 1,000 births	Number		Per 1,000 births
20–23	92	167	550.9	1,495	2,266	659.8
24–27	57	203	280.8	812	2,966	273.8
28–31	49	305	160.7	550	5,567	98.8
32–36	57	2,293	24.9	887	41,528	21.4
37–41	60	19,568	3.1	1,246	680,046	1.8
42 and over	1	510	2.0	48	20,582	2.3
Not stated	7	168	41.7	25	2,302	10.9
All births	323	23,214	13.9	5,063	755,257	6.7

Note: Distribution for Tasmania included in 'Not stated'.

Table 48: Indigenous and non-Indigenous fetal deaths by birthweight, Australia, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous		
	Fetal deaths	Total births	Fetal death rate	Fetal deaths	Total births	Fetal death rate
	Number		Per 1,000 births	Number		Per 1,000 births
Less than 500	72	112	642.9	1,343	1,818	738.7
500–999	91	269	338.3	1,121	3,722	301.2
1,000–1,499	36	249	144.6	406	4,443	91.4
1,500–1,999	30	509	58.9	381	8,799	43.3
2,000–2,499	25	1,737	14.4	413	27,826	14.8
2,500–2,999	23	5,299	4.3	484	113,346	4.3
3,000–3,499	24	8,208	2.9	433	273,348	1.6
3,500–3,999	11	5,020	2.2	248	232,964	1.1
4,000–4,499	4	1,498	2.7	84	75,328	1.1
4,500 and over	2	278	7.2	36	13,186	2.7
Not stated	5	35	142.9	114	477	239.0
All births	323	23,214	13.9	5,063	755,257	6.7

Note: Breakdown for Tasmania included in 'Not stated'.

Table 49: Indigenous fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, New South Wales, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	12	631.6	7	1000.0	19	1000.0	7
500–999	13	309.5	12	413.8	25	595.2	29
1,000–1,499	8	142.9	1	20.8	9	160.7	48
1,500–1,999	4	45.5	2	23.8	6	68.2	84
2,000–2,499	5	14.1	3	8.6	8	22.5	350
2,500–2,999	3	2.6	1	0.9	4	3.5	1,144
3,000–3,499	7	3.9	-	-	7	3.9	1,775
3,500–3,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,114
4,000–4,499	1	2.8	-	-	1	2.8	350
4,500 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	66
Not stated	2	333.3	1	250.0	3	500.0	4
Total births	55	10.9	27	5.4	82	16.3	4,971

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

Table 50: Non-Indigenous fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, New South Wales, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	277	689.1	91	728.0	368	915.4	125
500–999	340	305.8	268	347.2	608	546.8	772
1,000–1,499	130	97.2	54	44.7	184	137.5	1,208
1,500–1,999	114	42.6	49	19.1	163	61.0	2,560
2,000–2,499	150	16.4	30	3.3	180	19.7	9,005
2,500–2,999	169	4.4	40	1.0	209	5.4	38,536
3,000–3,499	151	1.6	65	0.7	216	2.3	93,337
3,500–3,999	91	1.1	35	0.4	126	1.6	79,594
4,000–4,499	32	1.3	8	0.3	40	1.6	25,491
4,500 and over	16	3.5	-	-	16	3.5	4,503
Not stated	37	209.0	5	35.7	42	237.3	140
Total births	1,507	5.9	645	2.5	2,152	8.4	255,271

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

Table 51: Indigenous fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, Victoria, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	6	750.0	1	500.0	7	875.0	2
500–999	4	363.6	2	285.7	6	545.5	7
1,000–1,499	1	125.0	1	142.9	2	250.0	7
1,500–1,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
2,000–2,499	1	11.0	1	11.1	2	22.0	90
2,500–2,999	1	3.7	2	7.4	3	11.0	272
3,000–3,499	-	-	2	4.3	2	4.3	466
3,500–3,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	302
4,000–4,499	-	-	-	-	-	-	110
4,500 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total births	13	9.9	9	7.0	22	16.8	1,294

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

Table 52: Non-Indigenous fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, Victoria, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	458	776.3	124	939.4	582	986.4	132
500–999	275	293.8	199	301.1	474	506.4	661
1,000–1,499	108	96.8	55	54.6	163	146.1	1,008
1,500–1,999	101	44.4	54	24.9	155	68.2	2,173
2,000–2,499	96	13.4	60	8.5	156	21.7	7,094
2,500–2,999	125	4.3	51	1.8	176	6.1	28,818
3,000–3,499	119	1.7	53	0.8	172	2.5	68,658
3,500–3,999	62	1.1	33	0.6	95	1.6	58,248
4,000–4,499	27	1.4	10	0.5	37	2.0	18,636
4,500 and over	8	2.3	3	0.9	11	3.2	3,417
Total births	1,408	7.4	647	3.4	2,055	10.8	188,883

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

Table 53: Indigenous fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, Queensland, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	23	657.1	11	916.7	34	971.4	12
500–999	39	410.5	29	517.9	68	715.8	56
1,000–1,499	12	151.9	9	134.3	21	265.8	67
1,500–1,999	10	56.2	4	23.8	14	78.7	168
2,000–2,499	7	14.5	5	10.5	12	24.9	475
2,500–2,999	10	6.2	1	0.6	11	6.9	1,595
3,000–3,499	11	4.1	4	1.5	15	5.6	2,680
3,500–3,999	3	1.8	1	0.6	4	2.3	1,704
4,000–4,499	1	2.0	1	2.0	2	3.9	506
4,500 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	121
Total births	116	15.5	66	8.9	182	24.3	7,387

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

Table 54: Non-Indigenous fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, Queensland, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	260	742.9	84	933.3	344	982.9	90
500–999	227	310.5	168	333.3	395	540.4	504
1,000–1,499	82	87.8	36	42.3	118	126.3	852
1,500–1,999	73	40.0	31	17.7	104	57.0	1,751
2,000–2,499	66	13.1	34	6.8	100	19.8	4,978
2,500–2,999	91	4.6	49	2.5	140	7.1	19,660
3,000–3,499	67	1.4	57	1.2	124	2.5	49,091
3,500–3,999	41	1.0	31	0.7	72	1.7	42,662
4,000–4,499	15	1.1	10	0.7	25	1.8	14,120
4,500 and over	6	2.5	4	1.7	10	4.2	2,397
Not stated	11	34.4	4	19.0	15	46.9	21
Total births	939	6.9	508	3.7	1,447	10.6	136,126

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

Table 55: Indigenous fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, Western Australia, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	19	791.7	5	1000.0	24	1000.0	5
500–999	15	312.5	11	333.3	26	541.7	33
1,000–1,499	8	148.1	1	21.7	9	166.7	46
1,500–1,999	8	89.9	1	12.3	9	101.1	81
2,000–2,499	4	11.2	1	2.8	5	14.0	354
2,500–2,999	4	3.8	1	1.0	5	4.8	1,047
3,000–3,499	3	1.9	3	1.9	6	3.9	1,543
3,500–3,999	1	1.1	-	-	1	1.1	880
4,000–4,499	1	4.0	-	-	1	4.0	248
4,500 and over	2	71.4	-	-	2	71.4	26
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total births	65	15.0	23	5.4	88	20.3	4,263

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

Table 56: Non-Indigenous fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, Western Australia, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	166	744.4	54	-	220	986.5	57
500–999	101	291.9	59	240.8	160	462.4	245
1,000–1,499	37	82.0	9	21.7	46	102.0	414
1,500–1,999	42	51.2	10	12.8	52	63.3	779
2,000–2,499	49	18.5	7	2.7	56	21.2	2,597
2,500–2,999	34	3.0	7	0.6	41	3.7	11,198
3,000–3,499	44	1.7	11	0.4	55	2.1	26,574
3,500–3,999	32	1.5	3	0.1	35	1.6	21,885
4,000–4,499	6	0.9	2	0.3	8	1.2	6,805
4,500 and over	4	3.8	-	-	4	3.8	1,060
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total births	515	7.1	162	2.3	677	9.4	71,614

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

Table 57: Indigenous fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, South Australia, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	5	500.0	3	600.0	8	800.0	5
500–999	5	227.3	4	235.3	9	409.1	17
1,000–1,499	1	76.9	-	-	1	76.9	12
1,500–1,999	3	75.0	1	27.0	4	100.0	37
2,000–2,499	1	10.8	-	-	1	10.8	92
2,500–2,999	1	3.7	-	-	1	3.7	268
3,000–3,499	-	-	2	5.6	2	5.6	355
3,500–3,999	-	-	1	4.3	1	4.3	232
4,000–4,499	1	11.5	1	11.6	2	23.0	86
4,500 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total births	17	15.0	12	10.7	29	25.6	1,118

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

Table 58: Non-Indigenous fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, South Australia, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	111	720.8	41	953.5	152	987.0	43
500–999	113	318.3	71	293.4	184	518.3	242
1,000–1,499	26	69.7	14	40.3	40	107.2	347
1,500–1,999	28	37.5	9	12.5	37	49.6	718
2,000–2,499	30	13.3	14	6.3	44	19.5	2,227
2,500–2,999	36	4.2	18	2.1	54	6.2	8,637
3,000–3,499	30	1.4	14	0.7	44	2.1	20,799
3,500–3,999	13	0.8	8	0.5	21	1.2	17,247
4,000–4,499	3	0.5	4	0.7	7	1.2	5,756
4,500 and over	1	1.0	2	2.0	3	3.0	990
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total births	391	6.8	195	3.4	586	10.2	57,006

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

Table 59: Indigenous fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, Northern Territory, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	7	437.5	9	1000.0	16	1000.0	9
500–999	13	265.3	16	444.4	29	591.8	36
1,000–1,499	6	157.9	2	62.5	8	210.5	32
1,500–1,999	5	56.2	3	35.7	8	89.9	84
2,000–2,499	7	20.2	2	5.9	9	25.9	340
2,500–2,999	4	4.4	2	2.2	6	6.5	915
3,000–3,499	3	2.3	6	4.6	9	6.9	1,306
3,500–3,999	7	9.6	3	4.1	10	13.7	725
4,000–4,499	-	-	1	5.8	1	5.8	171
4,500 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
Not stated	3	500.0	1	333.3	4	66.7	3
Total births	55	14.8	45	12.3	100	27.0	3,653

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

Table 60: Non-Indigenous fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, Northern Territory, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	14	608.7	8	-	22	956.5	9
500–999	12	324.3	11	440.0	23	621.6	25
1,000–1,499	5	135.1	4	125.0	9	243.2	32
1,500–1,999	3	34.9	-	-	3	34.9	83
2,000–2,499	5	17.9	2	7.3	7	25.0	275
2,500–2,999	5	4.3	3	2.6	8	6.8	1,163
3,000–3,499	1	0.4	2	0.8	3	1.2	2,557
3,500–3,999	-	-	3	1.5	3	1.5	2,051
4,000–4,499	-	-	-	-	-	-	592
4,500 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	95
Not stated	1	125.0	1	142.9	2	250.0	7
Total births	46	6.6	34	4.9	80	11.5	6,889

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

Table 61: Indigenous fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, Australia, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	72	642.9	36	900.0	108	964.3	40
500–999	91	338.3	74	415.7	165	613.4	178
1,000–1,499	36	144.6	14	65.7	50	200.8	213
1,500–1,999	30	58.9	11	23.0	41	80.6	479
2,000–2,499	25	14.4	12	7.0	37	21.3	1,712
2,500–2,999	23	4.3	7	1.3	30	5.7	5,279
3,000–3,499	24	2.9	17	2.1	41	5.0	8,191
3,500–3,999	11	2.2	5	1.0	16	3.2	5,010
4,000–4,499	4	2.7	3	2.0	7	4.7	1,498
4,500 and over	2	7.1	-	-	2	7.1	278
Not stated	5	277.8	3	230.8	8	444.4	13
Total births	323	13.9	182	8.0	505	21.8	22,891

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

Table 62: Non-Indigenous fetal, neonatal and perinatal deaths, Australia, 1994–1996

Birthweight (g)	Fetal deaths		Neonatal deaths		Perinatal deaths		Live births
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
Less than 500	1,343	738.7	417	-	1,760	968.1	475
500–999	1,121	301.3	823	316.5	1,944	522.4	2,600
1,000–1,499	406	91.4	180	44.6	586	131.9	4,037
1,500–1,999	381	43.3	160	19.0	541	61.5	8,418
2,000–2,499	413	14.8	149	5.4	562	20.2	27,413
2,500–2,999	484	4.3	177	1.6	661	5.8	112,862
3,000–3,499	433	1.6	208	0.8	641	2.3	272,915
3,500–3,999	248	1.1	118	0.5	366	1.6	232,717
4,000–4,499	84	1.1	35	0.5	119	1.6	75,244
4,500 and over	36	2.7	9	0.7	45	3.4	13,150
Not stated	114	239.0	18	49.6	132	276.7	363
Total births	5,063	6.7	2,294	3.1	7,357	9.7	750,194

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

Table 63: Estimated resident Indigenous population by ATSI region, 30 June 1996

ATSI region	Male		Female		Total population	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
1 Queanbeyan	4,996	2.6	4,859	2.6	9,855	2.6
2 Bourke	3,933	2.1	4,018	2.1	7,951	2.1
3 Coffs Harbour	13,378	7.0	13,749	7.2	27,127	7.0
4 Sydney	17,933	9.4	19,184	10.1	37,117	9.6
5 Tamworth	5,734	3.0	5,861	3.1	11,595	3.0
6 Wagga Wagga	9,760	5.1	9,775	5.1	19,535	5.1
7 Wangaratta	5,442	2.9	5,496	2.9	10,938	2.8
8 Ballarat	5,707	3.0	5,953	3.1	11,660	3.0
9 Brisbane	14,841	7.8	15,484	8.1	30,325	7.9
10 Cairns	7,851	4.1	8,293	4.4	16,144	4.2
11 Mt Isa	3,600	1.9	3,706	1.9	7,306	1.9
12 Cooktown	3,142	1.6	3,042	1.6	6,184	1.6
13 Rockhampton	6,150	3.2	6,286	3.3	12,436	3.2
14 Roma	4,698	2.5	4,963	2.6	9,661	2.5
15 Torres	3,306	1.7	3,348	1.8	6,654	1.7
16 Townsville	7,937	4.2	8,170	4.3	16,107	4.2
17 Adelaide	6,675	3.5	7,011	3.7	13,686	3.5
18 Ceduna	992	0.5	1,022	0.5	2,014	0.5
19 Port Augusta	3,143	1.7	3,208	1.7	6,351	1.6
20 Perth	9,569	5.0	10,196	5.4	19,765	5.1
21 Broome	1,911	1.0	1,849	1.0	3,760	1.0
22 Kununurra	2,460	1.3	2,427	1.3	4,887	1.3
23 Warburton	1,485	0.8	1,467	0.8	2,952	0.8
24 Narrogin	3,401	1.8	3,413	1.8	6,814	1.8
25 South Hedland	2,473	1.3	2,248	1.2	4,721	1.2
26 Derby	2,145	1.1	2,202	1.2	4,347	1.1
27 Kalgoorlie	1,748	0.9	1,714	0.9	3,462	0.9
28 Geraldton	2,602	1.4	2,895	1.5	5,497	1.4
29 Hobart	7,620	4.0	7,702	4.0	15,322	4.0
30 Alice Springs	2,409	1.3	2,577	1.4	4,986	1.3
31 Jabiru	4,405	2.3	4,280	2.2	8,685	2.2
32 Katherine	4,073	2.1	3,913	2.1	7,986	2.1
33 Aputula	4,161	2.2	4,266	2.2	8,427	2.2
34 Nhulunbuy	3,917	2.1	3,931	2.1	7,848	2.0
35 Tennant Creek	1,931	1.0	1,935	1.0	3,866	1.0
36 Darwin	4,940	2.6	5,138	2.7	10,078	2.6
All ATSI regions	190,468	100.0	195,581	102.7	386,049	100.0

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Table 64: Indigenous mothers and births by ATSI region, Australia, 1991–1996

ATSI region	Mothers		Fetal deaths	Live births	All births	
	Number	Per cent		Number		Per cent
1 Queanbeyan	846	1.9	6	847	853	1.9
2 Bourke	1,073	2.4	22	1,065	1,087	2.4
3 Coffs Harbour	2,115	4.7	23	2,110	2,133	4.7
4 Sydney	2,250	5.1	33	2,245	2,278	5.1
5 Tamworth	1,271	2.9	20	1,263	1,283	2.9
6 Wagga Wagga	1,904	4.3	23	1,895	1,918	4.3
7 Wangaratta	1,181	2.7	12	1,176	1,188	2.6
8 Ballarat	1,150	2.6	14	1,147	1,161	2.6
9 Brisbane	2,662	6.0	26	2,657	2,683	6.0
10 Cairns	2,624	5.9	47	2,612	2,659	5.9
11 Mt Isa	1,627	3.7	28	1,611	1,639	3.6
12 Cooktown	592	1.3	12	585	597	1.3
13 Rockhampton	1,607	3.6	21	1,605	1,626	3.6
14 Roma	1,333	3.0	17	1,324	1,341	3.0
15 Torres	1,332	3.0	20	1,324	1,344	3.0
16 Townsville	2,303	5.2	37	2,292	2,329	5.2
17 Adelaide	1,268	2.8	21	1,259	1,280	2.8
18 Ceduna	349	0.8	5	348	353	0.8
19 Port Augusta	636	1.4	14	625	639	1.4
20 Perth	2,859	6.4	42	2,851	2,893	6.4
21 Broome	605	1.4	10	598	608	1.4
22 Kununurra	871	2.0	9	867	876	1.9
23 Warburton	252	0.6	7	246	253	0.6
24 Narrogin	955	2.1	13	952	965	2.1
25 South Hedland	777	1.7	19	768	787	1.8
26 Derby	676	1.5	7	673	680	1.5
27 Kalgoorlie	625	1.4	7	624	631	1.4
28 Geraldton	968	2.2	14	963	977	2.2
29 Hobart	27	0.1	-	27	27	0.1
30 Alice Springs	775	1.7	12	772	784	1.7
31 Jabiru	2,045	4.6	26	2,028	2,054	4.6
32 Katherine	1,250	2.8	24	1,230	1,254	2.8
33 Aputula	1,209	2.7	23	1,199	1,222	2.7
34 Nhulunbuy	296	0.7	9	291	300	0.7
35 Tennant Creek	466	1.0	14	455	469	1.0
36 Darwin	994	2.2	11	1,003	1,014	2.3
Unknown/Interstate	762	1.7	20	759	779	1.7
All ATSI regions	44,535	100.0	668	44,296	44,964	100.0

Note: Data for Hobart (Tasmania) in 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 65: Maternal age, Indigenous mothers by ATSI region, Australia, 1991–1996

ATSI region	Maternal age (years)						Not stated	All ages
	Less than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35 and over			
	Number							
1 Queanbeyan	161	272	231	129	52	1	846	
2 Bourke	293	414	238	96	28	4	1,073	
3 Coffs Harbour	440	778	548	254	91	4	2,115	
4 Sydney	468	775	569	325	113	-	2,250	
5 Tamworth	316	483	310	121	41	-	1,271	
6 Wagga Wagga	432	728	469	201	65	9	1,904	
7 Wangaratta	172	372	343	213	81	-	1,181	
8 Ballarat	176	346	350	200	78	-	1,150	
9 Brisbane	504	884	696	430	148	-	2,662	
10 Cairns	559	954	661	309	141	-	2,624	
11 Mt Isa	437	580	370	174	66	-	1,627	
12 Cooktown	155	210	134	76	17	-	592	
13 Rockhampton	341	554	446	191	75	-	1,607	
14 Roma	336	515	306	133	43	-	1,333	
15 Torres	268	491	299	182	92	-	1,332	
16 Townsville	461	875	575	280	112	-	2,303	
17 Adelaide	292	455	301	154	66	-	1,268	
18 Ceduna	80	126	90	44	9	-	349	
19 Port Augusta	162	229	149	73	22	1	636	
20 Perth	739	1,071	649	293	107	-	2,859	
21 Broome	111	210	152	96	36	-	605	
22 Kununurra	294	293	151	94	39	-	871	
23 Warburton	86	101	40	21	4	-	252	
24 Narrogin	251	367	228	78	31	-	955	
25 South Hedland	201	273	183	93	27	-	777	
26 Derby	207	212	150	79	28	-	676	
27 Kalgoorlie	189	210	144	56	26	-	625	
28 Geraldton	269	369	234	78	18	-	968	
29 Hobart	-	-	-	-	-	27	27	
30 Alice Springs	211	252	170	110	32	-	775	
31 Jabiru	654	681	417	195	98	-	2,045	
32 Katherine	397	457	276	90	30	-	1,250	
33 Aputula	450	396	230	82	51	-	1,209	
34 Nhulunbuy	88	97	56	33	22	-	296	
35 Tennant Creek	142	168	103	29	24	-	466	
36 Darwin	184	360	260	144	45	1	994	
Unknown/Interstate	206	259	174	89	34	-	762	
All ATSI regions	10,732	15,817	10,702	5,245	1,992	47	44,535	

Note: Distribution for Hobart (Tasmania) included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 65 (continued): Maternal age, Indigenous mothers by ATSI region, Australia, 1991–1996

ATSI region	Maternal age (years)					All ages
	Less than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35 and over	
	Per cent					
1 Queanbeyan	19.1	32.2	27.3	15.3	6.2	100.0
2 Bourke	27.4	38.7	22.3	9.0	2.6	100.0
3 Coffs Harbour	20.8	36.9	26.0	12.0	4.3	100.0
4 Sydney	20.8	34.4	25.3	14.4	5.0	100.0
5 Tamworth	24.9	38.0	24.4	9.5	3.2	100.0
6 Wagga Wagga	22.8	38.4	24.7	10.6	3.4	100.0
7 Wangaratta	14.6	31.5	29.0	18.0	6.9	100.0
8 Ballarat	15.3	30.1	30.4	17.4	6.8	100.0
9 Brisbane	18.9	33.2	26.1	16.2	5.6	100.0
10 Cairns	21.3	36.4	25.2	11.8	5.4	100.0
11 Mt Isa	26.9	35.6	22.7	10.7	4.1	100.0
12 Cooktown	26.2	35.5	22.6	12.8	2.9	100.0
13 Rockhampton	21.2	34.5	27.8	11.9	4.7	100.0
14 Roma	25.2	38.6	23.0	10.0	3.2	100.0
15 Torres	20.1	36.9	22.4	13.7	6.9	100.0
16 Townsville	20.0	38.0	25.0	12.2	4.9	100.0
17 Adelaide	23.0	35.9	23.7	12.1	5.2	100.0
18 Ceduna	22.9	36.1	25.8	12.6	2.6	100.0
19 Port Augusta	25.5	36.1	23.5	11.5	3.5	100.0
20 Perth	25.8	37.5	22.7	10.2	3.7	100.0
21 Broome	18.3	34.7	25.1	15.9	6.0	100.0
22 Kununurra	33.8	33.6	17.3	10.8	4.5	100.0
23 Warburton	34.1	40.1	15.9	8.3	1.6	100.0
24 Narrogin	26.3	38.4	23.9	8.2	3.2	100.0
25 South Hedland	25.9	35.1	23.6	12.0	3.5	100.0
26 Derby	30.6	31.4	22.2	11.7	4.1	100.0
27 Kalgoorlie	30.2	33.6	23.0	9.0	4.2	100.0
28 Geraldton	27.8	38.1	24.2	8.1	1.9	100.0
29 Hobart	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
30 Alice Springs	27.2	32.5	21.9	14.2	4.1	100.0
31 Jabiru	32.0	33.3	20.4	9.5	4.8	100.0
32 Katherine	31.8	36.6	22.1	7.2	2.4	100.0
33 Aputula	37.2	32.8	19.0	6.8	4.2	100.0
34 Nhulunbuy	29.7	32.8	18.9	11.1	7.4	100.0
35 Tennant Creek	30.5	36.1	22.1	6.2	5.2	100.0
36 Darwin	18.5	36.3	26.2	14.5	4.5	100.0
Unknown/Interstate	27.0	34.0	22.8	11.7	4.5	100.0
All ATSI regions	24.1	35.6	24.1	11.8	4.5	100.0

Table 66: Caesarean numbers and rates, Indigenous mothers by maternal age and ATSI region, Australia, 1991–1996

ATSI region	Maternal age (years)					Not stated	All ages
	Less than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35 and over		
	Number						
1 Queanbeyan	19	41	44	22	10	1	137
2 Bourke	36	60	32	17	7	2	154
3 Coffs Harbour	59	101	90	49	25	1	325
4 Sydney	42	110	77	61	24	-	314
5 Tamworth	38	93	49	25	10	-	215
6 Wagga Wagga	62	114	70	40	11	2	299
7 Wangaratta	25	60	65	43	25	-	218
8 Ballarat	34	73	83	46	29	-	265
9 Brisbane	61	124	128	91	39	-	443
10 Cairns	86	146	118	70	40	-	460
11 Mt Isa	54	74	40	31	16	-	215
12 Cooktown	24	43	30	20	7	-	124
13 Rockhampton	37	68	65	41	22	-	233
14 Roma	34	60	58	28	9	-	189
15 Torres	33	72	66	30	31	-	232
16 Townsville	60	136	93	63	30	-	382
17 Adelaide	36	91	66	45	23	-	261
18 Ceduna	25	23	16	12	1	-	77
19 Port Augusta	35	47	37	19	12	-	150
20 Perth	77	160	101	53	35	-	426
21 Broome	15	31	26	22	9	-	103
22 Kununurra	32	45	21	20	9	-	127
23 Warburton	16	16	5	4	1	-	42
24 Narrogin	25	53	43	18	5	-	144
25 South Hedland	20	48	47	23	8	-	146
26 Derby	30	30	26	17	6	-	109
27 Kalgoorlie	19	29	28	14	3	-	93
28 Geraldton	44	66	35	15	2	-	162
29 Hobart	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
30 Alice Springs	37	48	41	25	10	-	161
31 Jabiru	164	157	84	42	25	-	472
32 Katherine	84	76	52	12	6	-	230
33 Aputula	89	99	58	25	10	-	281
34 Nhulunbuy	12	17	10	9	7	-	55
35 Tennant Creek	32	30	16	3	4	-	85
36 Darwin	30	75	60	33	10	-	208
Unknown/Interstate	55	69	42	21	13	-	200
All ATSI regions	1,581	2,585	1,922	1,109	534	12	7,743

Note: Distribution for Hobart (Tasmania) included in 'Not stated', data for 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 66 (continued): Caesarean numbers and rates, Indigenous mothers by maternal age and ATSI region, Australia, 1991–1996

ATSI region	Maternal age (years)					All ages
	Less than 20	20–24	25–29	30–34	35 and over	
	Rate (per cent)					
1 Queanbeyan	11.8	15.1	19.0	17.1	19.2	16.2
2 Bourke	12.3	14.5	13.4	17.7	25.0	14.4
3 Coffs Harbour	13.4	13.0	16.4	19.3	27.5	15.4
4 Sydney	9.0	14.2	13.5	18.8	21.2	14.0
5 Tamworth	12.0	19.3	15.8	20.7	24.4	16.9
6 Wagga Wagga	14.4	15.7	14.9	19.9	16.9	15.7
7 Wangaratta	14.5	16.1	19.0	20.2	30.9	18.5
8 Ballarat	19.3	21.1	23.7	23.0	37.2	23.0
9 Brisbane	12.1	14.0	18.4	21.2	26.4	16.6
10 Cairns	15.4	15.3	17.9	22.7	28.4	17.5
11 Mt Isa	12.4	12.8	10.8	17.8	24.2	13.2
12 Cooktown	15.5	20.5	22.4	26.3	41.2	20.9
13 Rockhampton	10.9	12.3	14.6	21.5	29.3	14.5
14 Roma	10.1	11.7	19.0	21.1	20.9	14.2
15 Torres	12.3	14.7	22.1	16.5	33.7	17.4
16 Townsville	13.0	15.5	16.2	22.5	26.8	16.6
17 Adelaide	12.3	20.0	21.9	29.2	34.8	20.6
18 Ceduna	31.3	18.3	17.8	27.3	11.1	22.1
19 Port Augusta	21.6	20.5	24.8	26.0	54.5	23.6
20 Perth	10.4	14.9	15.6	18.1	32.7	14.9
21 Broome	13.5	14.8	17.1	22.9	25.0	17.0
22 Kununurra	10.9	15.4	13.9	21.3	23.1	14.6
23 Warburton	18.6	15.8	12.5	19.0	25.0	16.7
24 Narrogin	10.0	14.4	18.9	23.1	16.1	15.1
25 South Hedland	10.0	17.6	25.7	24.7	29.6	18.8
26 Derby	14.5	14.2	17.3	21.5	21.4	16.1
27 Kalgoorlie	10.1	13.8	19.4	25.0	11.5	14.9
28 Geraldton	16.4	17.9	15.0	19.2	11.1	16.7
29 Hobart	-	-	-	-	-	22.2
30 Alice Springs	17.5	19.0	24.1	22.7	31.3	20.8
31 Jabiru	25.1	23.1	20.1	21.5	25.5	23.1
32 Katherine	21.2	16.6	18.8	13.3	20.0	18.4
33 Aputula	19.8	25.0	25.2	30.5	19.6	23.2
34 Nhulunbuy	13.6	17.5	17.9	27.3	31.8	18.6
35 Tennant Creek	22.5	17.9	15.5	10.3	16.7	18.2
36 Darwin	16.3	20.8	23.1	22.9	22.2	20.9
Unknown/Interstate	26.7	26.6	24.1	23.6	38.2	26.2
All ATSI regions	14.7	16.3	17.9	21.1	26.8	17.4

Table 67: Low birthweight babies of Indigenous mothers by ATSI region, Australia, 1991–1996

ATSI region	Less than 2,500 grams	
	Number	Per cent
1 Queanbeyan	83	9.8
2 Bourke	122	11.4
3 Coffs Harbour	247	11.7
4 Sydney	281	12.5
5 Tamworth	139	10.9
6 Wagga Wagga	187	9.8
7 Wangaratta	108	9.1
8 Ballarat	91	7.9
9 Brisbane	257	9.7
10 Cairns	375	14.3
11 Mt Isa	255	15.7
12 Cooktown	116	19.6
13 Rockhampton	165	10.3
14 Roma	126	9.5
15 Torres	101	7.6
16 Townsville	284	12.3
17 Adelaide	178	14.0
18 Ceduna	39	11.2
19 Port Augusta	71	11.2
20 Perth	412	14.4
21 Broome	50	8.3
22 Kununurra	100	11.5
23 Warburton	37	14.7
24 Narrogin	130	13.6
25 South Hedland	122	15.7
26 Derby	97	14.3
27 Kalgoorlie	80	12.8
28 Geraldton	123	12.7
29 Hobart	-	-
30 Alice Springs	79	10.2
31 Jabiru	339	16.6
32 Katherine	172	13.8
33 Aputula	149	12.3
34 Nhulunbuy	63	21.3
35 Tennant Creek	66	14.2
36 Darwin	149	15.0
Unknown/Interstate	214	28.1
All ATSI regions	5,607	12.6

Note: Data for Hobart (Tasmania) in 1996 unavailable. 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 68: Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death numbers and rates by ATSI region, Indigenous births, Australia 1991–1996

ATSI region	Fetal deaths	Neonatal deaths	Perinatal deaths	Live births	Total births
	Number				
1 Queanbeyan	6	7	13	847	853
2 Bourke	22	7	29	1,065	1,087
3 Coffs Harbour	23	12	35	2,110	2,133
4 Sydney	33	13	46	2,245	2,278
5 Tamworth	20	-	20	1,263	1,283
6 Wagga Wagga	23	9	32	1,895	1,918
7 Wangaratta	12	4	16	1,176	1,188
8 Ballarat	14	6	20	1,147	1,161
9 Brisbane	26	20	46	2,657	2,683
10 Cairns	47	25	72	2,612	2,659
11 Mt Isa	28	14	42	1,611	1,639
12 Cooktown	12	8	20	585	597
13 Rockhampton	21	12	33	1,605	1,626
14 Roma	17	17	34	1,324	1,341
15 Torres	20	14	34	1,324	1,344
16 Townsville	37	23	60	2,292	2,329
17 Adelaide	21	12	33	1,259	1,280
18 Ceduna	5	5	10	348	353
19 Port Augusta	14	10	24	625	639
20 Perth	42	9	51	2,851	2,893
21 Broome	10	-	10	598	608
22 Kununurra	9	3	12	867	876
23 Warburton	7	1	8	246	253
24 Narrogin	13	2	15	952	965
25 South Hedland	19	5	24	768	787
26 Derby	7	4	11	673	680
27 Kalgoorlie	7	4	11	624	631
28 Geraldton	14	4	18	963	977
29 Hobart	-	-	-	27	27
30 Alice Springs	12	8	20	772	784
31 Jabiru	26	26	52	2,028	2,054
32 Katherine	24	19	43	1,230	1,254
33 Aputula	23	13	36	1,199	1,222
34 Nhulunbuy	9	8	17	291	300
35 Tennant Creek	14	4	18	455	469
36 Darwin	11	13	24	1,003	1,014
Unknown/Interstate	20	21	41	759	779
All ATSI regions	668	362	1,030	44,296	44,964

Note: Data for Hobart (Tasmania) in 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Table 68 (continued): Fetal, neonatal and perinatal death numbers and rates by ATSI region, Indigenous births, Australia 1991–1996

ATSI region	Fetal deaths	Neonatal deaths	Perinatal deaths
Rate per 1,000 births			
1 Queanbeyan	7.0	8.3	15.2
2 Bourke	20.2	6.6	26.7
3 Coffs Harbour	10.8	5.7	16.4
4 Sydney	14.5	5.8	20.2
5 Tamworth	15.6	-	15.6
6 Wagga Wagga	12.0	4.7	16.7
7 Wangaratta	10.1	3.4	13.5
8 Ballarat	12.1	5.2	17.2
9 Brisbane	9.7	7.5	17.1
10 Cairns	17.7	9.6	27.1
11 Mt Isa	17.1	8.7	25.6
12 Cooktown	20.1	13.7	33.5
13 Rockhampton	12.9	7.5	20.3
14 Roma	12.7	12.8	25.4
15 Torres	14.9	10.6	25.3
16 Townsville	15.9	10.0	25.8
17 Adelaide	16.4	9.5	25.8
18 Ceduna	14.2	14.4	28.3
19 Port Augusta	21.9	16.0	37.6
20 Perth	14.5	3.2	17.6
21 Broome	16.4	-	16.4
22 Kununurra	10.3	3.5	13.7
23 Warburton	27.7	4.1	31.6
24 Narrogin	13.5	2.1	15.5
25 South Hedland	24.1	6.5	30.5
26 Derby	10.3	5.9	16.2
27 Kalgoorlie	11.1	6.4	17.4
28 Geraldton	14.3	4.2	18.4
29 Hobart	-	-	-
30 Alice Springs	15.3	10.4	25.5
31 Jabiru	12.7	12.8	25.3
32 Katherine	19.1	15.4	34.3
33 Aputula	18.8	10.8	29.5
34 Nhulunbuy	30.0	27.5	56.7
35 Tennant Creek	29.9	8.8	38.4
36 Darwin	10.8	13.0	23.7
Unknown/Interstate	25.7	27.7	52.6
All ATSI regions	14.9	8.2	22.9

Note: Data for Hobart (Tasmania) in 1996 unavailable, 1995 data used as estimate.

Explanatory notes

- The term 'Indigenous' is used to refer to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander mothers and their babies. In referring to previous reports or other publications, the term 'Aboriginal' is retained when it was used in those reports.
- Tabulated State and Territory data in this report are based on births that occurred in each State and Territory in 1991–1996. Because of differences in data items, and varying practices for coding the mother's place of residence if she lived in a State or Territory other than that in which the birth occurred, it is presently not possible to include interstate births in analyses by region of residence.
- Tabulated ATSI region data for the 6-year period 1991–1996 are based on the mothers' usual place of residence codes (postcode or Statistical Local Area) within the State or Territory where the birth occurred. Births that occurred outside the mothers' usual State or Territory of residence or births with unknown mothers' usual place of residence are excluded from ATSI regions.
- Births to Indigenous mothers in Tasmania were markedly under-reported in the perinatal collection in the period covered by this report. Tasmanian data for 1996 were not available, data for 1995 being used as an estimate for that year. The total Tasmanian data have been included in all tables but assigned to the 'Not stated' category. Tasmanian data have been excluded from graphs comparing results in the States and Territories.
- Maternal age in this report is calculated as an integer function of the difference in days between the baby's and mother's dates of birth divided by 365.25. Slight differences in maternal age may exist compared to those in State and Territory reports.
- All mean values are arithmetically derived excluding unknowns and may differ from those derived by the States and Territories in their reports.
- 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.
- Data for New South Wales on mother's date of admission, discharge and length of antenatal and postnatal stay were obtained from linked Midwives Data Collection—NSW Inpatient Statistics Collection data.
- Length of stay in this report is calculated as a function of the difference in days between the baby's date of birth and the mother's or baby's date of separation, and accounts for stays only at the hospital or birth centre of initial confinement. Those babies born before arrival in hospital are also included. Mothers or babies who are transferred, and home births, are excluded from length of stay statistics. Three States (Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania) collect information for the entire period under care, that is for the period up until final separation, including transfers to facilities after the hospital of birth.
- Fetal deaths (stillbirths) from the State and Territory perinatal collections have a gestational age of at least 20 weeks or a birthweight of at least 400 g.

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

Glossary

Aboriginality (Indigenous status): 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).

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

Age-specific birth rate: Number of live births to women in a specified age group in 1 year per 1,000 women in the same age group.

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

Apgar score: Numerical score to evaluate the baby's condition at 1 minute and 5 minutes after birth.

Birth status: Status of the baby immediately after birth.

Birthweight: The first weight of the baby (stillborn or liveborn) obtained after birth (usually measured to the nearest 5 grams and obtained within 1 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 baby 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.

Crude birth rate: Number of live births occurring in 1 year per 1,000 total population.

Discharge date: Date on which a woman completes an episode of care as an admitted patient after giving birth.

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

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

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

Extremely low birthweight: Birthweight of less than 1,000 g.

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

Forceps delivery: 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 baby's date of birth, or derived from clinical assessment during pregnancy or from examination of the baby after birth.

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

Indigenous: Refer to Aboriginality.

Baby's discharge date: Date on which a newborn baby completes an episode of care after birth.

Baby'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 baby after 7 completed days and before 28 completed days of life.

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

Low birthweight: Birthweight of less than 2,500 g.

Marital status: Current marital status of a woman as recorded 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 and baby: 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 baby within 28 days of birth.

Neonatal morbidity: Any condition or disease of the baby 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 baby: Active measures taken shortly after birth to assist baby'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.

Total fertility rate: Number of children that women would have during their reproductive years if they experienced the prevailing birth rates of a particular year.

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

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

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

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