

7. MATERNAL COUNTRY OF BIRTH

In this section maternal countries of birth are combined into English-speaking and other regional groups. The country groups and individual countries are listed in Appendix 3. Recent trends in confinements for individual maternal countries of birth are shown in Table 4 (page 20).

Trends in confinements

Between 1998 and 2002, about 20 per cent of mothers were born in non-English speaking countries (Table 54). The proportion of mothers born in Southern European countries continued to slowly decline, while the proportion of mothers in other groups remained fairly stable.

TABLE 54

CONFINEMENTS AND BIRTHS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 1998–2002

	1998		1999		Year 2000		2001		2002	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Confinements										
English speaking	67971	79.9	68381	79.5	68105	78.8	67275	79.7	67268	79.5
Central & South America	683	0.8	725	0.8	708	0.8	697	0.8	739	0.9
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1590	1.9	1540	1.8	1606	1.9	1544	1.8	1534	1.8
Southern Europe	1380	1.6	1337	1.6	1217	1.4	1129	1.3	1001	1.2
Western & Northern Europe	646	0.8	690	0.8	671	0.8	631	0.7	614	0.7
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	362	0.4	421	0.5	428	0.5	412	0.5	458	0.5
Middle East & Africa	3670	4.3	3579	4.2	3685	4.3	3688	4.4	3653	4.3
South East Asia	4157	4.9	4659	5.4	5085	5.9	4478	5.3	4557	5.4
North East Asia	3097	3.6	3225	3.8	3449	4.0	2965	3.5	2962	3.5
Southern Asia	1349	1.6	1398	1.6	1476	1.7	1535	1.8	1716	2.0
Other/Not stated	167	0.2	12	0.0	30	0.0	25	0.0	85	0.1
TOTAL	85072	100.0	85967	100.0	86460	100.0	84379	100.0	84587	100.0
Births										
English speaking	69008	80.0	69460	79.6	69300	78.8	68524	79.8	68449	79.6
Central & South America	689	0.8	730	0.8	716	0.8	707	0.8	755	0.9
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1610	1.9	1555	1.8	1636	1.9	1567	1.8	1555	1.8
Southern Europe	1412	1.6	1361	1.6	1256	1.4	1153	1.3	1022	1.2
Western & Northern Europe	652	0.8	710	0.8	688	0.8	643	0.7	627	0.7
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	365	0.4	423	0.5	439	0.5	418	0.5	468	0.5
Middle East & Africa	3731	4.3	3644	4.2	3747	4.3	3758	4.4	3711	4.3
South East Asia	4181	4.8	4707	5.4	5127	5.8	4527	5.3	4595	5.3
North East Asia	3118	3.6	3266	3.7	3483	4.0	2982	3.5	3000	3.5
Southern Asia	1360	1.6	1420	1.6	1499	1.7	1554	1.8	1738	2.0
Other/Not stated	179	0.2	13	0.0	31	0.0	25	0.0	85	0.1
TOTAL	86305	100.0	87289	100.0	87922	100.0	85858	100.0	86005	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Maternal age

Births to teenage mothers were more common among mothers born in English-speaking countries than non-English speaking countries (Table 55, Figure 4), while the largest proportions of mothers aged 35 years and over were born in Western and Northern Europe (33.9 per cent), and North East Asia (33.5 per cent).

TABLE 55

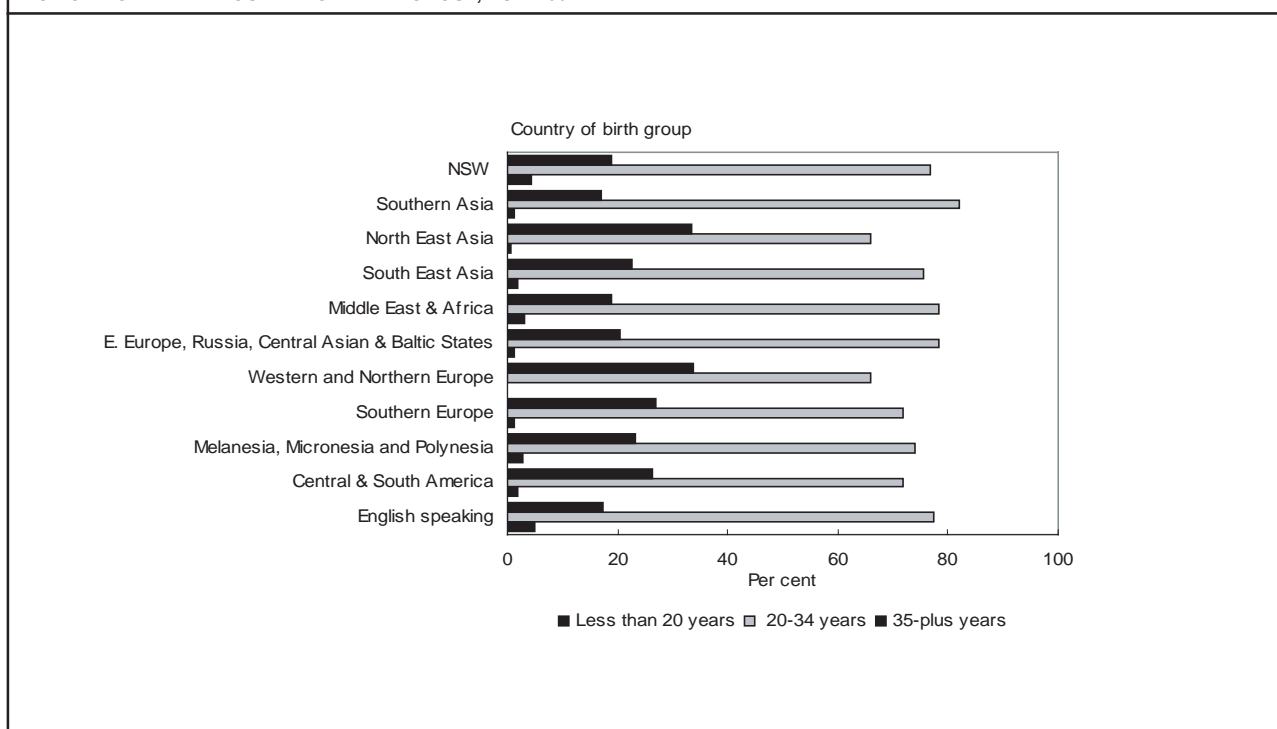
AGE OF MOTHER BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2002

Country of birth group	12–19		20–34		Maternal age (years) 35+		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	3340	5.0	52149	77.5	11731	17.4	48	0.1	67268	100.0
Central & South America	14	1.9	530	71.7	195	26.4	0	0.0	739	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	44	2.9	1133	73.9	356	23.2	1	0.1	1534	100.0
Southern Europe	13	1.3	718	71.7	270	27.0	0	0.0	1001	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	2	0.3	404	65.8	208	33.9	0	0.0	614	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	6	1.3	358	78.2	94	20.5	0	0.0	458	100.0
Middle East & Africa	108	3.0	2858	78.2	686	18.8	1	0.0	3653	100.0
South East Asia	84	1.8	3441	75.5	1029	22.6	3	0.1	4557	100.0
North East Asia	18	0.6	1950	65.8	993	33.5	1	0.0	2962	100.0
Southern Asia	19	1.1	1405	81.9	290	16.9	2	0.1	1716	100.0
Other/Not stated	4	4.7	61	71.8	20	23.5	0	0.0	85	100.0
TOTAL	3652	4.3	65007	76.9	15872	18.8	56	0.1	84587	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

FIGURE 4

AGE OF MOTHER BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2002



Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Health area of residence

In 2002, the proportion of mothers born in non-English speaking countries was highest in the South Western Sydney Area (39.5 per cent), followed by Central Sydney and Western Sydney Areas (38.8 and 36.0 per cent respectively). Five per cent of mothers were born in South East Asian countries, 41.0 per cent of whom were resident in the South Western Sydney Area. Four per

cent of mothers were born in Middle Eastern or African countries and 65.1 per cent of these mothers were resident in the South Western or Western Sydney Areas. A further 3.5 per cent of mothers were born in North East Asian countries, the majority living in the Central Sydney, South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney or Western Sydney Areas (Table 56).

TABLE 56

HEALTH AREA OF RESIDENCE BY MATERNAL COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2002[#]

Health Area	Country of birth group																				TOTAL			
	English speaking		Central & South America		Melanesia & Micronesia & Polynesia		Southern Europe		Western & Northern Europe		Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States		Middle East & Africa		South East Asia		North East Asia		Southern Asia		Other- Not stated		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Central Sydney	4014	61.0	84	1.3	200	3.0	146	2.2	57	0.9	56	0.9	496	7.5	602	9.2	659	10.0	258	3.9	7	0.1	6579	100.0
Northern Sydney	7352	79.4	80	0.9	106	1.1	78	0.8	173	1.9	76	0.8	223	2.4	367	4.0	608	6.6	190	2.1	5	0.1	9258	100.0
Western Sydney	7083	64.1	112	1.0	421	3.8	152	1.4	56	0.5	59	0.5	1054	9.5	803	7.3	625	5.7	680	6.2	6	0.1	11051	100.0
Wentworth South	4213	91.5	18	0.4	44	1.0	39	0.8	33	0.7	13	0.3	57	1.2	95	2.1	27	0.6	64	1.4	3	0.1	4606	100.0
Western Sydney	7568	60.4	254	2.0	504	4.0	303	2.4	57	0.5	79	0.6	1323	10.6	1869	14.9	312	2.5	243	1.9	14	0.1	12526	100.0
Central Coast	3390	95.2	13	0.4	13	0.4	6	0.2	25	0.7	6	0.2	15	0.4	58	1.6	22	0.6	11	0.3	1	0.0	3560	100.0
Hunter	6703	96.9	12	0.2	28	0.4	17	0.2	20	0.3	6	0.1	17	0.2	68	1.0	26	0.4	18	0.3	3	0.0	6918	100.0
Illawarra South	3975	91.8	33	0.8	24	0.6	90	2.1	22	0.5	10	0.2	46	1.1	80	1.8	33	0.8	16	0.4	0	0.0	4329	100.0
Eastern Sydney	7106	75.8	113	1.2	121	1.3	147	1.6	113	1.2	132	1.4	360	3.8	483	5.2	586	6.3	180	1.9	29	0.3	9370	100.0
Northern Rivers	2625	96.3	-	-	9	0.3	-	-	17	0.6	-	-	9	0.3	35	1.3	13	0.5	5	0.2	1	0.0	2725	100.0
Mid North Coast	2660	96.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	0.5	-	-	5	0.2	28	1.0	16	0.6	14	0.5	3	0.1	2752	100.0
New England	2222	98.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	16	0.7	6	0.3	-	-	1	0.0	0.0	2265	100.0
Macquarie	1458	98.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	0.5	-	-	-	-	7	0.5	1	0.1	1486	100.0
Mid Western	2048	97.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	5	0.2	7	0.3	7	0.3	6	0.3	5	0.2	1	0.0	2098	100.0
Far West	485	97.6	0	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.2	497	100.0
Greater Murray	2367	95.3	-	-	32	1.3	-	-	9	0.4	-	-	16	0.6	18	0.7	8	0.3	20	0.8	6	0.2	2484	100.0
Southern Other/	1440	97.0	-	-	8	0.5	7	0.5	6	0.4	-	-	7	0.5	5	0.3	5	0.3	-	-	2	0.1	1485	100.0
Not stated	559	93.5	3	0.5	5	0.8	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2	7	1.2	15	2.5	4	0.7	1	0.2	1	0.2	598	100.0
TOTAL	67268	79.5	739	0.9	1534	1.8	1001	1.2	614	0.7	458	0.5	3653	4.3	4557	5.4	2962	3.5	1716	2.0	85	0.1	84587	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Data not shown for country of birth groups with less than five in a group where country of birth was reported.

Booking status

In 2002, 97.4 per cent of all mothers were booked at the hospital of birth. The lowest rate (94.0 per cent) was in mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. This compared with 97.2 per cent of mothers born in English speaking countries and over 98 per cent of mothers in other country of birth groups.

Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit

In 2002, 86.4 per cent of all mothers commenced antenatal care before 20 weeks gestation. There was some variation between country of birth groups, with 88.5 per cent of mothers born in English speaking countries commencing antenatal care before 20 weeks gestation, compared with 58.1 per cent of mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, and 70.0 per cent of mothers born in the Middle East and Africa (Table 57).

TABLE 57

CONFINEMENTS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH AND DURATION OF PREGNANCY AT FIRST ANTENATAL VISIT, NSW 2002

Country of birth group	0-19		Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit (weeks)				TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	59499	88.5	7050	10.5	719	1.1	67268	100.0
Central & South America	625	84.6	112	15.2	2	0.3	739	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	892	58.1	602	39.2	40	2.6	1534	100.0
Southern Europe	890	88.9	106	10.6	5	0.5	1001	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	545	88.8	67	10.9	2	0.3	614	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia,								
Central Asian & Baltic States	381	83.2	74	16.2	3	0.7	458	100.0
Middle East & Africa	2557	70.0	1078	29.5	18	0.5	3653	100.0
South East Asia	3774	82.8	745	16.3	38	0.8	4557	100.0
North East Asia	2443	82.5	507	17.1	12	0.4	2962	100.0
Southern Asia	1444	84.1	261	15.2	11	0.6	1716	100.0
Other/Not stated	66	77.6	12	14.1	7	8.2	85	100.0
TOTAL	73116	86.4	10614	12.5	857	1.0	84587	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Smoking in pregnancy

In 2002, smoking at any time during pregnancy was far more common among mothers born in English speaking countries than mothers born in non-English speaking countries (Table 58). About one in five mothers born in English speaking countries smoked at some time during pregnancy, compared to less than one in 8 mothers born in other country of birth groups.

Smoking in the second half of pregnancy poses the greatest risk to the health of both mother and baby. Four per cent of mothers who smoked during pregnancy quit before the second half of pregnancy. Of mothers who did smoke in the second half of pregnancy, mothers born in English speaking countries were more likely to smoke more than 10 cigarettes per day compared to mothers born in other country of birth groups (Table 59).

TABLE 58

CONFINEMENTS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP AND SMOKING IN PREGNANCY, NSW 2002

Country of birth group	No		Smoking in pregnancy				TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	54199	80.6	13059	19.4	10	0.0	67268	100.0
Central & South America	713	96.5	26	3.5	0	0.0	739	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1390	90.6	143	9.3	1	0.1	1534	100.0
Southern Europe	886	88.5	115	11.5	0	0.0	1001	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	571	93.0	43	7.0	0	0.0	614	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia,								
Central Asian & Baltic States	423	92.4	35	7.6	0	0.0	458	100.0
Middle East & Africa	3409	93.3	243	6.7	1	0.0	3653	100.0
South East Asia	4444	97.5	112	2.5	1	0.0	4557	100.0
North East Asia	2936	99.1	26	0.9	0	0.0	2962	100.0
Southern Asia	1702	99.2	14	0.8	0	0.0	1716	100.0
Other/Not stated	72	84.7	13	15.3	0	0.0	85	100.0
TOTAL	70745	83.6	13829	16.3	13	0.0	84587	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

TABLE 59
MOTHERS WHO SMOKED AT ALL DURING PREGNANCY BY NUMBER OF CIGARETTES SMOKED IN THE SECOND HALF OF PREGNANCY AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2002

Country of birth group	Cigarettes smoked in the second half of pregnancy								TOTAL	
	None		More than ten per day		1–10 per day		Amount not stated			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	521	4.0	6111	46.8	6155	47.1	272	2.1	13059	100.0
Central & South America	1	3.8	9	34.6	16	61.5	0	0.0	26	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	4	2.8	41	28.7	97	67.8	1	0.7	143	100.0
Southern Europe	4	3.5	40	34.8	68	59.1	3	2.6	115	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	2	4.7	17	39.5	22	51.2	2	4.7	43	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	3	8.6	9	25.7	22	62.9	1	2.9	35	100.0
Middle East & Africa	3	1.2	88	36.2	148	60.9	4	1.6	243	100.0
South East Asia	9	8.0	24	21.4	76	67.9	3	2.7	112	100.0
North East Asia	4	15.4	3	11.5	19	73.1	0	0.0	26	100.0
Southern Asia	4	28.6	1	7.1	8	57.1	1	7.1	14	100.0
Other/Not stated	1	7.7	4	30.8	8	61.5	0	0.0	13	100.0
TOTAL	556	4.0	6347	45.9	6639	48.0	287	2.1	13829	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Medical conditions and obstetric complications

In 2002, 1.5 per cent of mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia were reported to have diabetes mellitus, about three times the rate for all mothers in NSW, though the number of mothers is small (Table 60). The rates of gestational diabetes in mothers born in Asian countries and Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia were over nine per cent, and were more than twice the rate for all mothers in NSW.

Overall, 1.1 per cent of mothers were reported to have essential hypertension, and 5.7 per cent were reported to have pre-eclampsia. Rates of reported pre-eclampsia were lower among mothers born in Asian countries than other country of birth groups.

TABLE 60
CONFINEMENTS BY MATERNAL MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND OBSTETRIC COMPLICATIONS AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2002

Condition	Country of birth group																								TOTAL
	English speaking		Central & South America		Melanesia & Micronesia & Polynesia		Southern Europe		Western & Northern Europe		Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States		Middle East & Africa		South East		North East Asia		Southern Asia		Other/Not stated				
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Diabetes mellitus	336	0.5	1	0.1	23	1.5	5	0.5	5	0.8	0	0.0	25	0.7	29	0.6	17	0.6	21	1.2	0	0.0	462	0.5	
Gestational diabetes	2088	3.1	47	6.4	149	9.7	74	7.4	12	2.0	22	4.8	279	7.6	447	9.8	372	12.6	202	11.8	1	1.2	3693	4.4	
Essential hypertension	804	1.2	4	0.5	25	1.6	8	0.8	5	0.8	5	1.1	27	0.7	25	0.5	21	0.7	14	0.8	2	2.4	940	1.1	
Pre-eclampsia	4087	6.1	47	6.4	101	6.6	50	5.0	32	5.2	30	6.6	149	4.1	172	3.8	97	3.3	68	4.0	6	7.1	4839	5.7	
TOTAL#	67268	100.0	739	100.0	1534	100.0	1001	100.0	614	100.0	458	100.0	3653	100.0	4557	100.0	2962	100.0	1716	100.0	85	100.0	84587	100.0	

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Total refers to total confinements in NSW.

Labour and delivery

Mothers born in non-English speaking countries were more likely to have a spontaneous onset of labour than mothers born in English speaking countries and less likely to be induced (Table 61).

Mothers born in the Middle East and Africa and Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia were more likely to have a normal vaginal delivery than mothers in other country of birth groups (Table 62). The highest caesarean section rates were among mothers born in Central and South America (31.4 per cent) and Southern Asia (27.9 per cent).

TABLE 61

LABOUR ONSET BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2002

Country of birth group	Spontaneous		No labour [#]		Onset of labour Induced		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	39761	59.1	9575	14.2	7921	26.6	11	0.0	67268	100.0
Central & South America	463	62.7	127	17.2	149	20.2	0	0.0	739	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1040	67.8	190	12.4	304	19.8	0	0.0	1534	100.0
Southern Europe	640	63.9	137	13.7	224	22.4	0	0.0	1001	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	408	66.4	72	11.7	134	21.8	0	0.0	614	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	305	66.6	45	9.8	108	23.6	0	0.0	458	100.0
Middle East & Africa	2503	68.5	390	10.7	760	20.8	0	0.0	3653	100.0
South East Asia	3389	74.4	480	10.5	687	15.1	1	0.0	4557	100.0
North East Asia	1991	67.2	439	14.8	532	18.0	0	0.0	2962	100.0
Southern Asia	1127	65.7	250	14.6	339	19.8	0	0.0	1716	100.0
Other/Not stated	54	63.5	15	17.6	16	18.8	0	0.0	85	100.0
TOTAL	51681	61.1	11720	13.9	21174	25.0	12	0.0	84587	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

No labour indicates elective caesarean section.

TABLE 62

TYPE OF DELIVERY BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2002

Country of birth group	Normal vaginal		Forceps		Vacuum extraction		Type of delivery Vaginal breech		Elective caesarean section		Emergency caesarean section [#]		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	42879	63.7	2391	3.6	4626	6.9	265	0.4	9575	14.2	7515	11.2	17	0.0	67268	100.0
Central & South America	432	58.5	13	1.8	60	8.1	2	0.3	127	17.2	105	14.2	0	0.0	739	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1106	72.1	26	1.7	66	4.3	5	0.3	190	12.4	141	9.2	0	0.0	1534	100.0
Southern Europe	668	66.7	29	2.9	72	7.2	4	0.4	137	13.7	90	9.0	1	0.1	1001	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	379	61.7	24	3.9	65	10.6	3	0.5	72	11.7	71	11.6	0	0.0	614	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	303	66.2	26	5.7	33	7.2	4	0.9	45	9.8	47	10.3	0	0.0	458	100.0
Middle East & Africa	2691	73.7	99	2.7	176	4.8	18	0.5	390	10.7	279	7.6	0	0.0	3653	100.0
South East Asia	3009	66.0	166	3.6	375	8.2	26	0.6	480	10.5	500	11.0	1	0.0	4557	100.0
North East Asia	1756	59.3	150	5.1	254	8.6	15	0.5	439	14.8	348	11.7	0	0.0	2962	100.0
Southern Asia	998	58.2	107	6.2	122	7.1	11	0.6	250	14.6	228	13.3	0	0.0	1716	100.0
Other/Not stated	50	58.8	3	3.5	6	7.1	0	0.0	15	17.6	11	12.9	0	0.0	85	100.0
TOTAL	54271	64.2	3034	3.6	5855	6.9	353	0.4	11720	13.9	9335	11.0	19	0.0	84587	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Emergency caesarean section includes caesarean sections where the onset of labour was not stated.

Birthweight

The rate of low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams) in 2002 was 6.4 per cent in NSW. The highest rates of low birthweight were in babies of mothers born in Southern Asian countries (7.3 per cent) (Table 63). Babies of mothers born in Western and Northern Europe were least likely to be low birthweight.

TABLE 63

BIRTHWEIGHT BY MATERNAL COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2002

Country of birth group	Birthweight (grams)							
	Less than 2,500		2,500+		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	4436	6.5	63969	93.5	44	0.1	68449	100.0
Central & South America	48	6.4	706	93.5	1	0.1	755	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	125	8.0	1428	91.8	2	0.1	1555	100.0
Southern Europe	62	6.1	960	93.9	0	0.0	1022	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	30	4.8	597	95.2	0	0.0	627	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	26	5.6	441	94.2	1	0.2	468	100.0
Middle East & Africa	206	5.6	3504	94.4	1	0.0	3711	100.0
South East Asia	286	6.2	4308	93.8	1	0.0	4595	100.0
North East Asia	154	5.1	2846	94.9	0	0.0	3000	100.0
Southern Asia	127	7.3	1611	92.7	0	0.0	1738	100.0
Other/Not stated	7	8.2	78	91.8	0	0.0	85	100.0
TOTAL	5507	6.4	80448	93.5	50	0.1	86005	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Gestational age

The rate of prematurity (less than 37 weeks gestation) in 2002 was 7.1 per cent in NSW. The highest rates of prematurity were in babies of mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia (8.4 per cent). Babies of mothers born in North East and Southern Asia were least likely to be premature (Table 64).

TABLE 64

GESTATIONAL AGE BY MATERNAL COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2002

Country of birth group	Gestational age (weeks)							
	Less than 37		37+		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	4992	7.3	63435	92.7	22	0.0	68449	100.0
Central & South America	44	5.8	711	94.2	0	0.0	755	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	130	8.4	1425	91.6	0	0.0	1555	100.0
Southern Europe	68	6.7	954	93.3	0	0.0	1022	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	41	6.5	586	93.5	0	0.0	627	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	33	7.1	435	92.9	0	0.0	468	100.0
Middle East & Africa	209	5.6	3502	94.4	0	0.0	3711	100.0
South East Asia	298	6.5	4297	93.5	0	0.0	4595	100.0
North East Asia	149	5.0	2851	95.0	0	0.0	3000	100.0
Southern Asia	97	5.6	1641	94.4	0	0.0	1738	100.0
Other/Not stated	10	11.8	75	88.2	0	0.0	85	100.0
TOTAL	6071	7.1	79912	92.9	22	0.0	86005	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Apgar score

In 2002, 2.1 per cent of all babies (including stillborn babies) had an Apgar score of 7 or less at five minutes and 1.0 per cent had a score of less than 4 (Table 65). The rate of Apgar scores of less than 7 was highest among babies of mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia (2.8 per cent).

TABLE 65

BIRTHS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP AND APGAR SCORE AT FIVE MINUTES, NSW 2002[#]

Country of birth group	0-4		Apgar score				Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	711	1.0	724	1.1	66870	97.7	144	0.2	68449	100.0
Central & South America	7	0.9	5	0.7	742	98.3	1	0.1	755	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	23	1.5	20	1.3	1503	96.7	9	0.6	1555	100.0
Southern Europe	11	1.1	10	1.0	999	97.7	2	0.2	1022	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	1	0.2	2	0.3	622	99.2	2	0.3	627	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	8	1.7	4	0.9	456	97.4	0	0.0	468	100.0
Middle East & Africa	53	1.4	29	0.8	3622	97.6	7	0.2	3711	100.0
South East Asia	49	1.1	56	1.2	4483	97.6	7	0.2	4595	100.0
North East Asia	26	0.9	27	0.9	2944	98.1	3	0.1	3000	100.0
Southern Asia	12	0.7	13	0.7	1712	98.5	1	0.1	1738	100.0
Other/Not stated	1	1.2	3	3.5	80	94.1	1	1.2	85	100.0
TOTAL	902	1.0	893	1.0	84033	97.7	177	0.2	86005	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Perinatal outcomes

In 2002, 99 per cent of babies born in NSW and reported to the MDC were born alive and survived until discharge from the hospital of birth (Table 66). The majority of perinatal deaths occurred among babies of mothers born in English speaking countries ($n=597$, 79.8 per cent).

There were a further 45 deaths among babies of mothers born in the Middle East and Africa, and 35 deaths among babies of mothers born in South East Asia—comprising 6.0 and 4.7 per cent respectively of all perinatal deaths reported to the MDC.

TABLE 66

PERINATAL OUTCOMES BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2002[#]

Country of birth group	Liveborn surviving		Stillborn		Perinatal outcome Neonatal death		Not stated		Total births		Perinatal mortality rate/1,000 births
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
English speaking	67820	99.1	410	0.6	187	0.3	32	0.0	68449	100.0	8.7
Central & South America	747	98.9	5	0.7	3	0.4	0	0.0	755	100.0	10.6
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1540	99.0	13	0.8	2	0.1	0	0.0	1555	100.0	9.6
Southern Europe	1012	99.0	6	0.6	4	0.4	0	0.0	1022	100.0	9.8
Western & Northern Europe ^{##}	625	99.7	1	0.2	1	0.2	0	0.0	627	100.0	—
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	461	98.5	3	0.6	4	0.9	0	0.0	468	100.0	15.0
Middle East & Africa	3665	98.8	29	0.8	16	0.4	1	0.0	3711	100.0	12.1
South East Asia	4559	99.2	24	0.5	11	0.2	1	0.0	4595	100.0	7.6
North East Asia	2979	99.3	15	0.5	5	0.2	1	0.0	3000	100.0	6.7
Southern Asia	1729	99.5	9	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1738	100.0	5.2
Other/Not stated	85	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	85	100.0	—
TOTAL	85222	99.1	515	0.6	233	0.3	35	0.0	86005	100.0	8.7

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, Department of Health.

[#] Perinatal deaths include deaths reported to the MDC only. As the MDC form is completed at discharge or transfer of the baby, deaths occurring after this time may not be reported to the MDC.

^{##} Perinatal mortality rate not calculated for country of birth groups with less than five perinatal deaths.