

4. TRENDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Confinements and births by plurality

There were 86,414 births to 85,032 women reported in 2003 (Table 1). Over the last five years the number of births has ranged from about 86,000 to 88,000. Between 1999 and 2003, the number of twin pregnancies remained fairly stable while the number of triplet pregnancies has declined by about one quarter.

TABLE 1

BIRTHS AND CONFINEMENTS BY PLURALITY, NSW 1999–2003

| Plurality | 1999 | | 2000 | | Year 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Confinements | | | | | | | | | | |
| Singleton | 84676 | 98.5 | 85027 | 98.3 | 82926 | 98.3 | 83190 | 98.3 | 83677 | 98.4 |
| Twins | 1261 | 1.5 | 1404 | 1.6 | 1428 | 1.7 | 1375 | 1.6 | 1330 | 1.6 |
| Triplets | 30 | 0.0 | 29 | 0.0 | 24 | 0.0 | 22 | 0.0 | 23 | 0.0 |
| Quadruplets | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 0.0 |
| Total | 85967 | 100.0 | 86460 | 100.0 | 84379 | 100.0 | 84587 | 100.0 | 85032 | 100.0 |
| Births | | | | | | | | | | |
| Singleton | 84676 | 97.0 | 85027 | 96.7 | 82926 | 96.6 | 83190 | 96.7 | 83677 | 96.8 |
| Twins | 2523 | 2.9 | 2808 | 3.2 | 2856 | 3.3 | 2749 | 3.2 | 2660 | 3.1 |
| Triplets | 90 | 0.1 | 87 | 0.1 | 72 | 0.1 | 66 | 0.1 | 69 | 0.1 |
| Quadruplets | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 8 | 0.0 |
| Total | 87289 | 100.0 | 87922 | 100.0 | 85858 | 100.0 | 86005 | 100.0 | 86414 | 100.0 |

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

Health area of residence

In 2003, the largest number of births occurred in the Sydney South West Area, followed by Sydney West and South Eastern Sydney & Illawarra Areas (Table 2). Over the period 1999 to 2003, there has been a slight decrease in the numbers of births reported in the Hunter & New England, North Coast, and Greater Southern Areas. There has been little change in the number of births reported annually for other health areas.

TABLE 2

CONFINEMENTS BY HEALTH AREA OF RESIDENCE, NSW 1999–2003

| Health Area | 1999 | | 2000 | | Year 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Sydney South West | 18844 | 21.9 | 19316 | 22.3 | 18775 | 22.3 | 19105 | 22.6 | 19485 | 22.9 |
| Northern Sydney & Central Coast | 12907 | 15.0 | 13204 | 15.3 | 12856 | 15.2 | 12818 | 15.2 | 13142 | 15.5 |
| Sydney West | 15822 | 18.4 | 15967 | 18.5 | 15763 | 18.7 | 15883 | 18.8 | 15942 | 18.7 |
| Hunter & New England | 10168 | 11.8 | 10105 | 11.7 | 9753 | 11.6 | 10004 | 11.8 | 9694 | 11.4 |
| South Eastern Sydney & Illawarra | 13841 | 16.1 | 14104 | 16.3 | 13589 | 16.1 | 13699 | 16.2 | 13898 | 16.3 |
| North Coast | 4954 | 5.8 | 4709 | 5.4 | 4762 | 5.6 | 4656 | 5.5 | 4587 | 5.4 |
| Greater Western | 4167 | 4.8 | 4135 | 4.8 | 4110 | 4.9 | 3855 | 4.6 | 3898 | 4.6 |
| Greater Southern | 4448 | 5.2 | 4283 | 5.0 | 4209 | 5.0 | 3969 | 4.7 | 3834 | 4.5 |
| Other/Not stated | 816 | 0.9 | 637 | 0.7 | 562 | 0.7 | 598 | 0.7 | 552 | 0.6 |
| TOTAL | 85967 | 100.0 | 86460 | 100.0 | 84379 | 100.0 | 84587 | 100.0 | 85032 | 100.0 |

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

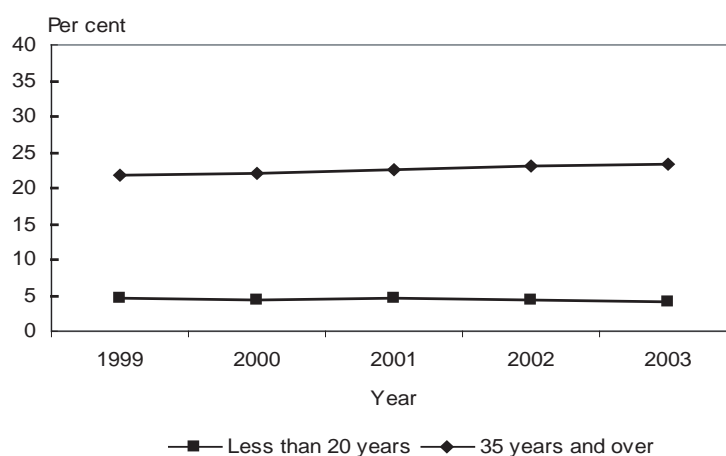
Maternal age

The number of teenage mothers decreased from 4,099 in 1999 to 3,386 in 2003, a fall from 4.8 to 4.0 per cent of all confinements; while the number of mothers 35 years of age or over increased from 14,668 in 1999 to 16,447 in 2003, an increase from 17.1 to 19.3 per cent of all confinements (Figure 1, Table 3). The mean maternal age rose from 29.6 to 30.2 years over the 5-year period.

The trend towards later childbirth is evident among both primiparous and multiparous mothers: the proportion of mothers giving birth for the first time who were aged 35 years or more increased from 10.4 to 12.3 per cent over the 5-year period, and the proportion of multiparous mothers who were aged 35 years or more increased from 21.7 to 24.5 per cent. The mean maternal age rose from 27.9 to 28.5 years for primiparous mothers and from 30.8 to 31.4 years for multiparous mothers.

FIGURE 1

CONFINEMENTS AMONG MOTHERS AGED LESS THAN 20 YEARS AND 35 YEARS AND OVER, NSW 1999–2003



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

TABLE 3

CONFINEMENTS BY MATERNAL AGE, NSW 1999–2003

| Maternal age (years) | 1999 | | 2000 | | Year 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Under 15 | 27 | 0.0 | 31 | 0.0 | 19 | 0.0 | 28 | 0.0 | 23 | 0.0 |
| 15–19 | 4072 | 4.7 | 3822 | 4.4 | 3778 | 4.5 | 3624 | 4.3 | 3363 | 4.0 |
| 20–24 | 13790 | 16.0 | 13316 | 15.4 | 13036 | 15.4 | 12674 | 15.0 | 12529 | 14.7 |
| 25–29 | 27678 | 32.2 | 27293 | 31.6 | 25528 | 30.3 | 24523 | 29.0 | 24138 | 28.4 |
| 30–34 | 25703 | 29.9 | 26640 | 30.8 | 26707 | 31.7 | 27810 | 32.9 | 28522 | 33.5 |
| 35–39 | 12372 | 14.4 | 12894 | 14.9 | 12640 | 15.0 | 13107 | 15.5 | 13582 | 16.0 |
| 40–44 | 2199 | 2.6 | 2342 | 2.7 | 2488 | 2.9 | 2645 | 3.1 | 2752 | 3.2 |
| 45+ | 97 | 0.1 | 98 | 0.1 | 122 | 0.1 | 120 | 0.1 | 113 | 0.1 |
| Not stated | 29 | 0.0 | 24 | 0.0 | 61 | 0.1 | 56 | 0.1 | 10 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL | 85967 | 100.0 | 86460 | 100.0 | 84379 | 100.0 | 84587 | 100.0 | 85032 | 100.0 |

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

Maternal country of birth

In the period 1999–2003, about 73 per cent of confinements were to mothers who were born in Australia. In 2003, mothers born in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Vietnam, Lebanon and China together accounted for 11.3 per cent of all confinements (Table 4). Further information on maternal country of birth is shown in Chapter 7.

TABLE 4

CONFINEMENTS BY MATERNAL COUNTRY OF BIRTH, NSW 1999–2003#

| Country of birth | 1999 | | 2000 | | Year 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Australia | 62555 | 72.8 | 62368 | 72.1 | 61655 | 73.1 | 61631 | 72.9 | 61430 | 72.2 |
| United Kingdom | 2627 | 3.1 | 2557 | 3.0 | 2331 | 2.8 | 2344 | 2.8 | 2368 | 2.8 |
| New Zealand | 1966 | 2.3 | 1962 | 2.3 | 2009 | 2.4 | 1998 | 2.4 | 2121 | 2.5 |
| Vietnam | 1804 | 2.1 | 2053 | 2.4 | 1691 | 2.0 | 1773 | 2.1 | 1863 | 2.2 |
| Lebanon | 1788 | 2.1 | 1766 | 2.0 | 1667 | 2.0 | 1663 | 2.0 | 1696 | 2.0 |
| China | 2015 | 2.3 | 2163 | 2.5 | 1791 | 2.1 | 1830 | 2.2 | 1586 | 1.9 |
| Philippines | 1319 | 1.5 | 1315 | 1.5 | 1243 | 1.5 | 1156 | 1.4 | 1192 | 1.4 |
| India | 635 | 0.7 | 643 | 0.7 | 612 | 0.7 | 747 | 0.9 | 810 | 1.0 |
| Fiji | 604 | 0.7 | 688 | 0.8 | 652 | 0.8 | 655 | 0.8 | 691 | 0.8 |
| Iraq | 414 | 0.5 | 455 | 0.5 | 577 | 0.7 | 545 | 0.6 | 648 | 0.8 |
| Former Yugoslavia | 662 | 0.8 | 627 | 0.7 | 607 | 0.7 | 531 | 0.6 | 571 | 0.7 |
| Indonesia | 460 | 0.5 | 566 | 0.7 | 494 | 0.6 | 494 | 0.6 | 489 | 0.6 |
| South Africa | 386 | 0.4 | 387 | 0.4 | 450 | 0.5 | 486 | 0.6 | 486 | 0.6 |
| United States of America | 372 | 0.4 | 377 | 0.4 | 332 | 0.4 | 346 | 0.4 | 355 | 0.4 |
| Ireland | 287 | 0.3 | 273 | 0.3 | 291 | 0.3 | 267 | 0.3 | 333 | 0.4 |
| South Korea | 370 | 0.4 | 426 | 0.5 | 358 | 0.4 | 301 | 0.4 | 328 | 0.4 |
| Western Samoa | 318 | 0.4 | 320 | 0.4 | 319 | 0.4 | 310 | 0.4 | 303 | 0.4 |
| Hong Kong | 409 | 0.5 | 357 | 0.4 | 332 | 0.4 | 307 | 0.4 | 301 | 0.4 |
| Sri Lanka | 295 | 0.3 | 304 | 0.4 | 291 | 0.3 | 324 | 0.4 | 299 | 0.4 |
| Cambodia | 303 | 0.4 | 326 | 0.4 | 285 | 0.3 | 279 | 0.3 | 295 | 0.3 |
| Japan | 264 | 0.3 | 252 | 0.3 | 293 | 0.3 | 283 | 0.3 | 293 | 0.3 |
| Malaysia | 286 | 0.3 | 319 | 0.4 | 251 | 0.3 | 262 | 0.3 | 271 | 0.3 |
| Turkey | 314 | 0.4 | 335 | 0.4 | 317 | 0.4 | 266 | 0.3 | 265 | 0.3 |
| Pakistan | 192 | 0.2 | 224 | 0.3 | 276 | 0.3 | 266 | 0.3 | 260 | 0.3 |
| Thailand | 207 | 0.2 | 199 | 0.2 | 221 | 0.3 | 268 | 0.3 | 253 | 0.3 |
| Germany | 226 | 0.3 | 204 | 0.2 | 192 | 0.2 | 188 | 0.2 | 237 | 0.3 |
| Canada | 185 | 0.2 | 177 | 0.2 | 203 | 0.2 | 192 | 0.2 | 225 | 0.3 |
| Tonga | 308 | 0.4 | 296 | 0.3 | 278 | 0.3 | 271 | 0.3 | 219 | 0.3 |
| North Korea | 90 | 0.1 | 140 | 0.2 | 102 | 0.1 | 151 | 0.2 | 206 | 0.2 |
| Bangladesh | 134 | 0.2 | 179 | 0.2 | 183 | 0.2 | 212 | 0.3 | 198 | 0.2 |
| Iran | 140 | 0.2 | 153 | 0.2 | 169 | 0.2 | 137 | 0.2 | 192 | 0.2 |
| Chile | 224 | 0.3 | 202 | 0.2 | 206 | 0.2 | 250 | 0.3 | 187 | 0.2 |
| Egypt | 218 | 0.3 | 196 | 0.2 | 176 | 0.2 | 160 | 0.2 | 173 | 0.2 |
| Syria | 145 | 0.2 | 138 | 0.2 | 150 | 0.2 | 151 | 0.2 | 154 | 0.2 |
| Papua New Guinea | 136 | 0.2 | 132 | 0.2 | 133 | 0.2 | 135 | 0.2 | 148 | 0.2 |
| Afghanistan | 120 | 0.1 | 96 | 0.1 | 147 | 0.2 | 133 | 0.2 | 143 | 0.2 |
| Singapore | 101 | 0.1 | 104 | 0.1 | 119 | 0.1 | 117 | 0.1 | 129 | 0.2 |
| Sudan | 51 | 0.1 | 57 | 0.1 | 65 | 0.1 | 69 | 0.1 | 117 | 0.1 |
| Poland | 123 | 0.1 | 104 | 0.1 | 92 | 0.1 | 106 | 0.1 | 116 | 0.1 |
| Laos | 118 | 0.1 | 136 | 0.2 | 118 | 0.1 | 128 | 0.2 | 114 | 0.1 |
| Italy | 221 | 0.3 | 191 | 0.2 | 139 | 0.2 | 70 | 0.1 | 106 | 0.1 |
| Russian Federation | 33 | 0.0 | 56 | 0.1 | 63 | 0.1 | 105 | 0.1 | 106 | 0.1 |
| Argentina | 87 | 0.1 | 89 | 0.1 | 89 | 0.1 | 81 | 0.1 | 106 | 0.1 |
| Other/Not stated | 2455 | 2.9 | 2548 | 2.9 | 2410 | 2.9 | 2599 | 3.1 | 2649 | 3.1 |
| TOTAL | 85967 | 100.0 | 86460 | 100.0 | 84379 | 100.0 | 84587 | 100.0 | 85032 | 100.0 |

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

Countries of birth for which there were 100 or more confinements in 2003.

Maternal Aboriginality

The reported number of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander mothers giving birth increased marginally from 2,059 in 1999 (2.4 per cent of all mothers) to 2,161 in

2003 (2.5 per cent of all mothers) (Table 5). Further information on maternal Aboriginality and reporting of Aboriginality is shown in Chapter 6.

TABLE 5

CONFINEMENTS BY MATERNAL ABORIGINALITY, NSW 1999–2003

| Aboriginality | 1999 | | 2000 | | Year 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander | 2059 | 2.4 | 2105 | 2.4 | 2110 | 2.5 | 2155 | 2.5 | 2161 | 2.5 |
| Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander | 83899 | 97.6 | 84306 | 97.5 | 82223 | 97.4 | 82383 | 97.4 | 82831 | 97.4 |
| Not stated | 9 | 0.0 | 49 | 0.1 | 46 | 0.1 | 49 | 0.1 | 40 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL | 85967 | 100.0 | 86460 | 100.0 | 84379 | 100.0 | 84587 | 100.0 | 85032 | 100.0 |

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

Number of previous pregnancies

In recent years there were no substantial changes in the reported number of previous pregnancies greater than 20 weeks gestation (Table 6). The proportion of mothers giving birth for the first time has been stable at 41 to 42

per cent, while the proportion of mothers giving birth to a second to fifth baby has been stable at about 57 per cent. Less than 2 per cent of mothers have previously given birth 5 times or more.

TABLE 6

CONFINEMENTS BY NUMBER OF PREVIOUS PREGNANCIES, NSW 1999–2003

| Number of previous pregnancies (>20 weeks gestation) | 1999 | | 2000 | | Year 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 0 | 35311 | 41.1 | 35953 | 41.6 | 35153 | 41.7 | 35035 | 41.4 | 35879 | 42.2 |
| 1–4 | 49432 | 57.5 | 49146 | 56.8 | 47850 | 56.7 | 48169 | 56.9 | 47847 | 56.3 |
| 5+ | 1206 | 1.4 | 1331 | 1.5 | 1329 | 1.6 | 1290 | 1.5 | 1258 | 1.5 |
| Not stated | 18 | 0.0 | 30 | 0.0 | 47 | 0.1 | 93 | 0.1 | 48 | 0.1 |
| TOTAL | 85967 | 100.0 | 86460 | 100.0 | 84379 | 100.0 | 84587 | 100.0 | 85032 | 100.0 |

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

Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit

Since 1999, the proportion of mothers starting antenatal care at 20-plus weeks gestation has been stable at 12–13 per cent (Table 7).

TABLE 7

CONFINEMENTS BY DURATION OF PREGNANCY AT FIRST ANTENATAL VISIT, NSW 1999–2003

| Duration of pregnancy (weeks) | 1999 | | 2000 | | Year 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 0–19 | 74077 | 86.2 | 74803 | 86.5 | 72704 | 86.2 | 73116 | 86.4 | 73615 | 86.6 |
| 20-plus | 10979 | 12.8 | 10748 | 12.4 | 10878 | 12.9 | 10614 | 12.5 | 10929 | 12.9 |
| Not stated | 911 | 1.1 | 909 | 1.1 | 797 | 0.9 | 857 | 1.0 | 488 | 0.6 |
| TOTAL | 85967 | 100.0 | 86460 | 100.0 | 84379 | 100.0 | 84587 | 100.0 | 85032 | 100.0 |

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

Smoking in pregnancy

The proportion of mothers reporting any smoking during pregnancy declined between 1999 and 2003: in 1999, 16,302 (19.0 per cent) mothers reported smoking in pregnancy, compared to 15,001 (17.4 per cent) in 2000, 14,424 (17.1 per cent) in 2001, 13,829 (16.3 per cent) in 2002 and 12,875 (15.1 per cent) in 2003.

Of mothers who smoked during pregnancy in 2003, 3.3 per cent stopped smoking before the second half of pregnancy. Over the five year period, among those who smoked in the second half of pregnancy, there was a trend towards smoking fewer cigarettes per day (Table 8).

TABLE 8

MOTHERS WHO SMOKED AT ALL DURING PREGNANCY BY NUMBER OF CIGARETTES SMOKED IN THE SECOND HALF OF PREGNANCY, NSW 1999–2003

| Cigarettes smoked in the second half of pregnancy | 1999 | | 2000 | | Year 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| None | 739 | 4.5 | 622 | 4.1 | 576 | 4.0 | 556 | 4.0 | 427 | 3.3 |
| 1–10 per day | 7303 | 44.8 | 7092 | 47.3 | 6834 | 47.4 | 6639 | 48.0 | 6451 | 50.1 |
| More than ten per day | 7966 | 48.9 | 7005 | 46.7 | 6725 | 46.6 | 6347 | 45.9 | 5680 | 44.1 |
| Smoked, amount not stated | 294 | 1.8 | 282 | 1.9 | 289 | 2.0 | 279 | 2.0 | 317 | 2.5 |
| Not stated | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 8 | 0.1 | 0 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL | 16302 | 100.0 | 15001 | 100.0 | 14424 | 100.0 | 13829 | 100.0 | 12875 | 100.0 |

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

Place of birth

In 2003, the majority of mothers planned to give birth in a hospital labour ward, and 3.7 per cent of mothers planned to give birth in a birth centre (Table 9). About two-thirds of mothers who planned to give birth in a birth centre actually did so. The number of reported planned homebirths declined from 182 in 1999 to 132 in 2003.

TABLE 9

CONFINEMENTS BY PLACE OF BIRTH, NSW 1999–2003

| Place of birth | 1999 | | 2000 | | Year 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Hospital | 82103 | 95.5 | 82782 | 95.7 | 80984 | 96.0 | 81230 | 96.0 | 81441 | 95.8 |
| Birth centre | 2249 | 2.6 | 2205 | 2.6 | 2038 | 2.4 | 2030 | 2.4 | 2075 | 2.4 |
| Planned birth centre/ hospital admission | 1070 | 1.2 | 959 | 1.1 | 822 | 1.0 | 881 | 1.0 | 1029 | 1.2 |
| Planned homebirth | 139 | 0.2 | 108 | 0.1 | 144 | 0.2 | 99 | 0.1 | 109 | 0.1 |
| Planned homebirth/ hospital admission | 43 | 0.1 | 38 | 0.0 | 38 | 0.0 | 31 | 0.0 | 23 | 0.0 |
| Born before arrival | 363 | 0.4 | 366 | 0.4 | 353 | 0.4 | 316 | 0.4 | 355 | 0.4 |
| Not stated | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL | 85967 | 100.0 | 86460 | 100.0 | 84379 | 100.0 | 84587 | 100.0 | 85032 | 100.0 |

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

Hypertension and diabetes

In 2003, pre-eclampsia was reported in 5.5 per cent of mothers, a slight fall from 7.2 per cent in 1999. Essential hypertension was reported in about 1 per cent of mothers, a rate that has not changed substantially over the last five years (Table 10).

In 2003, gestational diabetes was reported in 4.5 per cent of mothers, rising from 3.8 per cent reported in 1999, while rates of diabetes mellitus have remained stable at about 0.5 per cent over the five-year period.

TABLE 10

CONFINEMENTS BY PRESENCE OF HYPERTENSION OR DIABETES, NSW 1999–2003

| Condition | 1999 | | 2000 | | Year 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Diabetes mellitus | 363 | 0.4 | 392 | 0.5 | 404 | 0.5 | 462 | 0.5 | 505 | 0.6 |
| Gestational diabetes | 3254 | 3.8 | 3386 | 3.9 | 3213 | 3.8 | 3693 | 4.4 | 3792 | 4.5 |
| Essential hypertension | 816 | 0.9 | 858 | 1.0 | 823 | 1.0 | 940 | 1.1 | 879 | 1.0 |
| Pre-eclampsia | 6194 | 7.2 | 6082 | 7.0 | 5360 | 6.4 | 4839 | 5.7 | 4645 | 5.5 |
| TOTAL CONFINEMENTS | 85967 | 100.0 | 86460 | 100.0 | 84379 | 100.0 | 84587 | 100.0 | 85032 | 100.0 |

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

Labour

The rate of spontaneous onset of labour fell from 65.4 per cent in 1999 to 60.4 per cent in 2003 (Table 11). Nine per cent of labours were augmented with oxytocics or prostaglandins in 2003. The rate of induction of labour was 24.5 per cent in 2003, similar to previous years. The

most common reported reason for induction of labour in 2003 was prolonged pregnancy (41 or more weeks) (34.7 per cent), followed by hypertensive disease (11.1 per cent), prelabour rupture of membranes (10.7 per cent), suspected intrauterine growth retardation (4.0 per cent), diabetes (3.9 per cent) and fetal death (0.9 per cent).

TABLE 11

CONFINEMENTS BY ONSET AND AUGMENTATION OF LABOUR, NSW 1999–2003

| Onset of labour | 1999 | | 2000 | | Year 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Spontaneous | 39706 | 46.2 | 40042 | 46.3 | 37492 | 44.4 | 37615 | 44.5 | 38110 | 44.8 |
| Spontaneous augmented with ARM | 7844 | 9.1 | 7014 | 8.1 | 6684 | 7.9 | 6422 | 7.6 | 5992 | 7.0 |
| Spontaneous augmented with oxytocics–prostaglandins | 8657 | 10.1 | 9050 | 10.5 | 8297 | 9.8 | 7644 | 9.0 | 7258 | 8.5 |
| No labour | 9147 | 10.6 | 9926 | 11.5 | 10986 | 13.0 | 11720 | 13.9 | 12820 | 15.1 |
| Induced–oxytocics–prostaglandins | 7626 | 8.9 | 7493 | 8.7 | 7422 | 8.8 | 7414 | 8.8 | 7265 | 8.5 |
| Induced–ARM only | 1305 | 1.5 | 1196 | 1.4 | 1181 | 1.4 | 1193 | 1.4 | 1331 | 1.6 |
| Induced–ARM+oxytocics–prostaglandins | 11527 | 13.4 | 11516 | 13.3 | 12033 | 14.3 | 12262 | 14.5 | 11965 | 14.1 |
| Induced–other# | 154 | 0.2 | 215 | 0.2 | 277 | 0.3 | 305 | 0.4 | 289 | 0.3 |
| Not stated | 1 | 0.0 | 8 | 0.0 | 7 | 0.0 | 12 | 0.0 | 2 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL | 85967 | 100.0 | 86460 | 100.0 | 84379 | 100.0 | 84587 | 100.0 | 85032 | 100.0 |

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

This category includes other forms of induction such as Foley's catheter.

Delivery

The rate of normal vaginal birth decreased from 68.6 per cent in 1999 to 62.8 per cent in 2003 (Table 12). The caesarean section rate increased from 19.7 to 26.5 per cent. The rate of instrumental delivery remained steady at 10 to 11 per cent, accompanied by a change in the pattern of instrumental delivery: the rate of vacuum extraction rose from 6.0 to 6.8 per cent and the rate of forceps delivery declined from 4.9 to 3.4 per cent.

Operative and instrumental deliveries are more common among privately than publicly insured mothers (Table 13). Among privately insured mothers the rate of normal vaginal birth fell from 58.7 to 52.4 per cent and the caesarean section rate increased from 24.9 to 32.2 per cent. Among publicly insured mothers the rate of normal vaginal birth fell from 73.8 to 70.4 per cent and the caesarean section rate rose from 16.8 to 20.9 per cent.

TABLE 12

CONFINEMENTS BY TYPE OF DELIVERY, NSW 1999–2003

| Type of delivery | 1999 | | 2000 | | Year 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Normal vaginal | 58951 | 68.6 | 58049 | 67.1 | 55206 | 65.4 | 54271 | 64.2 | 53424 | 62.8 |
| Forceps | 4190 | 4.9 | 3904 | 4.5 | 3398 | 4.0 | 3034 | 3.6 | 2875 | 3.4 |
| Vacuum extraction | 5152 | 6.0 | 5367 | 6.2 | 5499 | 6.5 | 5855 | 6.9 | 5788 | 6.8 |
| Vaginal breech | 762 | 0.9 | 669 | 0.8 | 383 | 0.5 | 353 | 0.4 | 371 | 0.4 |
| Elective caesarean section | 9147 | 10.6 | 9926 | 11.5 | 10986 | 13.0 | 11720 | 13.9 | 12820 | 15.1 |
| Emergency caesarean section# | 7765 | 9.0 | 8530 | 9.9 | 8894 | 10.5 | 9335 | 11.0 | 9744 | 11.5 |
| Not stated | 0 | 0.0 | 15 | 0.0 | 13 | 0.0 | 19 | 0.0 | 10 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL | 85967 | 100.0 | 86460 | 100.0 | 84379 | 100.0 | 84587 | 100.0 | 85032 | 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.

TABLE 13

CONFINEMENTS BY HEALTH INSURANCE STATUS AND TYPE OF DELIVERY, NSW 1998–2002

| Insurance status– type of delivery | 1998 | | 1999 | | Year 2000 | | 2001 | | 2002 | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Public | | | | | | | | | | |
| Normal vaginal | 43988 | 73.8 | 44683 | 72.8 | 43462 | 71.8 | 39541 | 71.3 | 38228 | 70.4 |
| Forceps | 2358 | 4.0 | 2437 | 4.0 | 2191 | 3.6 | 1673 | 3.0 | 1430 | 2.6 |
| Vacuum extraction | 2644 | 4.4 | 3173 | 5.2 | 3100 | 5.1 | 2868 | 5.2 | 2995 | 5.5 |
| Vaginal breech | 615 | 1.0 | 601 | 1.0 | 505 | 0.8 | 286 | 0.5 | 253 | 0.5 |
| Elective caesarean section | 5030 | 8.4 | 5242 | 8.5 | 5594 | 9.2 | 5658 | 10.2 | 5854 | 10.8 |
| Emergency caesarean section# | 4987 | 8.4 | 5263 | 8.6 | 5627 | 9.3 | 5438 | 9.8 | 5512 | 10.2 |
| Not stated | 13 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 12 | 0.0 | 3 | 0.0 | 7 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL | 59635 | 100.0 | 61399 | 100.0 | 60491 | 100.0 | 55467 | 100.0 | 54279 | 100.0 |
| Private | | | | | | | | | | |
| Normal vaginal | 14304 | 58.7 | 13674 | 57.6 | 13652 | 55.5 | 14715 | 53.6 | 15261 | 52.4 |
| Forceps | 2077 | 8.5 | 1728 | 7.3 | 1669 | 6.8 | 1684 | 6.1 | 1578 | 5.4 |
| Vacuum extraction | 1767 | 7.2 | 1953 | 8.2 | 2199 | 8.9 | 2558 | 9.3 | 2801 | 9.6 |
| Vaginal breech | 158 | 0.6 | 134 | 0.6 | 135 | 0.5 | 76 | 0.3 | 82 | 0.3 |
| Elective caesarean section | 3695 | 15.2 | 3810 | 16.0 | 4159 | 16.9 | 5114 | 18.6 | 5689 | 19.5 |
| Emergency caesarean section# | 2365 | 9.7 | 2443 | 10.3 | 2762 | 11.2 | 3300 | 12.0 | 3683 | 12.7 |
| Not stated | 10 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 0.0 | 10 | 0.0 | 12 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL## | 24376 | 100.0 | 23742 | 100.0 | 24579 | 100.0 | 27457 | 100.0 | 29106 | 100.0 |
| TOTAL## | | | | | | | | | | |
| Normal vaginal | 59097 | 69.5 | 58951 | 68.6 | 58049 | 67.1 | 55206 | 65.4 | 54271 | 64.2 |
| Forceps | 4478 | 5.3 | 4190 | 4.9 | 3904 | 4.5 | 3398 | 4.0 | 3034 | 3.6 |
| Vacuum extraction | 4453 | 5.2 | 5152 | 6.0 | 5367 | 6.2 | 5499 | 6.5 | 5855 | 6.9 |
| Vaginal breech | 805 | 0.9 | 762 | 0.9 | 669 | 0.8 | 383 | 0.5 | 353 | 0.4 |
| Elective caesarean section | 8800 | 10.3 | 9147 | 10.6 | 9926 | 11.5 | 10986 | 13.0 | 11720 | 13.9 |
| Emergency caesarean section# | 7416 | 8.7 | 7765 | 9.0 | 8530 | 9.9 | 8894 | 10.5 | 9335 | 11.0 |
| Not stated | 23 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 15 | 0.0 | 13 | 0.0 | 19 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL | 85072 | 100.0 | 85967 | 100.0 | 86460 | 100.0 | 84379 | 100.0 | 84587 | 100.0 |

Source: Linked data of the NSW Midwives Data Collection and NSW Inpatient Statistics Collection. Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

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

Total includes confinements where type of health insurance was not stated.

Pain relief

There has been a trend towards increased use of spinal anaesthetics, from 4.9 per cent in 1999 to 12.6 per cent in 2003. The proportion of mothers having no pain relief during labour or delivery decreased from 13.3 per cent in 1999 to 10.5 per cent in 2003 (Table 14). In 2003, almost one half (46.5 per cent) of all mothers used nitrous oxide for pain relief, 27.7 per cent had an epidural anaesthetic, and 24.8 per cent received intra-muscular narcotics.

TABLE 14

CONFINEMENTS BY TYPE OF PAIN RELIEF, NSW 1999–2003

| Type of pain relief [#] | 1999 | | 2000 | | Year 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Epidural | 24289 | 28.3 | 25728 | 29.8 | 24572 | 29.1 | 23543 | 27.8 | 23569 | 27.7 |
| General anaesthetic | 4735 | 5.5 | 4753 | 5.5 | 4866 | 5.8 | 4811 | 5.7 | 4636 | 5.5 |
| IM Narcotics | 22800 | 26.5 | 22654 | 26.2 | 21451 | 25.4 | 21038 | 24.9 | 21083 | 24.8 |
| Nitrous Oxide | 42361 | 49.3 | 42303 | 48.9 | 40964 | 48.5 | 40729 | 48.2 | 39504 | 46.5 |
| Spinal | 4179 | 4.9 | 5248 | 6.1 | 6677 | 7.9 | 8672 | 10.3 | 10698 | 12.6 |
| Nil | 11468 | 13.3 | 10518 | 12.2 | 9674 | 11.5 | 9163 | 10.8 | 8896 | 10.5 |
| TOTAL CONFINEMENTS | 85967 | 100.0 | 86460 | 100.0 | 84379 | 100.0 | 84587 | 100.0 | 85032 | 100.0 |

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

More than one type of pain relief may be used.

Baby sex

There were no significant changes in the pattern of baby sex since 1999, with slightly more male babies born than females in each year. In 2003, 44,623 (51.6 per cent) of babies were male, 41,722 (48.3 per cent) were female, 19 were of indeterminate sex, and sex was not reported for 50 babies. This compares with babies born in 1999, when 44,805 (51.3 per cent) of 87,289 babies were male, 42,473 (48.7 per cent) were female, 10 were of indeterminate sex, and sex was not reported for 1 baby.

Gestational age

In 2003, 7.0 per cent of babies were born prematurely (less than 37 weeks gestation), similar to the rate of 7.1 per cent in 1999 (Table 15). Over the five-year period, about 90 per cent of babies were born at term (37-41 weeks gestation), and about 2 per cent were postmature (41-plus weeks gestation).

TABLE 15

BIRTHS BY GESTATIONAL AGE, NSW 1999–2003

| Gestational age (weeks) | 1999 | | 2000 | | Year 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| <20 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 |
| 20–27 | 585 | 0.7 | 623 | 0.7 | 628 | 0.7 | 594 | 0.7 | 585 | 0.7 |
| 28–31 | 625 | 0.7 | 663 | 0.8 | 667 | 0.8 | 612 | 0.7 | 639 | 0.7 |
| 32–36 | 5026 | 5.8 | 5114 | 5.8 | 4890 | 5.7 | 4865 | 5.7 | 4810 | 5.6 |
| 37–41 | 79114 | 90.6 | 79368 | 90.3 | 77566 | 90.3 | 77865 | 90.5 | 78241 | 90.5 |
| 42+ | 1932 | 2.2 | 2148 | 2.4 | 2093 | 2.4 | 2047 | 2.4 | 2128 | 2.5 |
| Not stated | 7 | 0.0 | 6 | 0.0 | 14 | 0.0 | 21 | 0.0 | 10 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL | 87289 | 100.0 | 87922 | 100.0 | 85858 | 100.0 | 86005 | 100.0 | 86414 | 100.0 |

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

Birthweight

Since 1999, the rate of low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams) has been about six per cent (Table 16). The rate was 6.2 per cent in 2003.

TABLE 16

BIRTHS BY BIRTHWEIGHT, NSW 1999–2003

| Birthweight (grams) | 1999 | | 2000 | | Year 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Less than 500 | 212 | 0.2 | 228 | 0.3 | 243 | 0.3 | 212 | 0.2 | 223 | 0.3 |
| 500-999 | 391 | 0.4 | 425 | 0.5 | 416 | 0.5 | 399 | 0.5 | 393 | 0.5 |
| 1000-1499 | 509 | 0.6 | 546 | 0.6 | 526 | 0.6 | 469 | 0.5 | 497 | 0.6 |
| 1500-1999 | 1076 | 1.2 | 1079 | 1.2 | 1043 | 1.2 | 1083 | 1.3 | 1049 | 1.2 |
| 2000-2499 | 3353 | 3.8 | 3383 | 3.8 | 3283 | 3.8 | 3344 | 3.9 | 3221 | 3.7 |
| 2500-2999 | 12942 | 14.8 | 12819 | 14.6 | 12783 | 14.9 | 12838 | 14.9 | 12877 | 14.9 |
| 3000-3499 | 30978 | 35.5 | 30647 | 34.9 | 30312 | 35.3 | 30504 | 35.5 | 30803 | 35.6 |
| 3500-3999 | 27173 | 31.1 | 27483 | 31.3 | 26542 | 30.9 | 26676 | 31.0 | 26982 | 31.2 |
| 4000-4499 | 9002 | 10.3 | 9454 | 10.8 | 9060 | 10.6 | 8921 | 10.4 | 8810 | 10.2 |
| 4500+ | 1629 | 1.9 | 1811 | 2.1 | 1607 | 1.9 | 1509 | 1.8 | 1507 | 1.7 |
| Not stated | 24 | 0.0 | 47 | 0.1 | 43 | 0.1 | 50 | 0.1 | 52 | 0.1 |
| TOTAL | 87289 | 100.0 | 87922 | 100.0 | 85858 | 100.0 | 86005 | 100.0 | 86414 | 100.0 |

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

Apgar score

In 2003, 2.0 per cent of babies were born with an Apgar score of less than seven at five minutes and 1.0 per cent were born with a score less than four (Table 17). These rates are similar to those of previous years.

TABLE 17

BIRTHS BY APGAR SCORE AT FIVE MINUTES, NSW 1999–2003[#]

| Apgar score | 1999 | | 2000 | | Year 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 0-4 | 996 | 1.1 | 1043 | 1.2 | 922 | 1.1 | 902 | 1.0 | 899 | 1.0 |
| 5-6 | 1098 | 1.3 | 956 | 1.1 | 938 | 1.1 | 893 | 1.0 | 865 | 1.0 |
| 7+ | 85028 | 97.4 | 85756 | 97.5 | 83797 | 97.6 | 84033 | 97.7 | 84473 | 97.8 |
| Not stated | 167 | 0.2 | 167 | 0.2 | 201 | 0.2 | 177 | 0.2 | 177 | 0.2 |
| TOTAL | 87289 | 100.0 | 87922 | 100.0 | 85858 | 100.0 | 86005 | 100.0 | 86414 | 100.0 |

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

[#] Includes stillbirths and live births.

Special care and neonatal intensive care

In 2003, 15.0 per cent of babies were admitted to special care units and 2.6 per cent were admitted to neonatal intensive care units (Table 18). These rates are similar to previous years.

TABLE 18

BIRTHS BY ADMISSION TO SPECIAL CARE OR NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNITS, NSW 1999–2003

| Unit of admission | Year | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1999 | | 2000 | | 2001 | | 2002 | | 2003 | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Special care unit | 14430 | 16.5 | 13842 | 15.7 | 12900 | 15.0 | 12740 | 14.8 | 12926 | 15.0 |
| Neonatal intensive care unit | 2306 | 2.6 | 2147 | 2.4 | 2190 | 2.6 | 2196 | 2.6 | 2277 | 2.6 |
| TOTAL | 87289 | 100.0 | 87922 | 100.0 | 85858 | 100.0 | 86005 | 100.0 | 86414 | 100.0 |

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

Perinatal outcome

In the period 1999–2003 the perinatal mortality rate varied from 8.6 to 9.6 per 1,000 (Table 19). In 2003, 70.3 per cent of all reported perinatal deaths were stillbirths and 29.7 per cent were neonatal deaths.

In 2003, of the 744 perinatal deaths in NSW, 718 (96.5 per cent) were reported among planned hospital births, 13 (1.7 per cent) among planned birth centre births, 2 occurred among planned home births, and 11 were among babies born before arrival at hospital.

TABLE 19

BIRTHS BY PERINATAL OUTCOME, NSW 1999–2003[#]

| Year | Liveborn surviving | | Stillborn | | Perinatal Outcome Neonatal death | | Not stated | | Total births | | Perinatal mortality rate/1,000 births |
|------|--------------------|-------|-----------|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|------------|-----|--------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | |
| | 1999 | 86473 | 99.1 | 533 | 0.6 | 266 | 0.3 | 17 | 0.0 | 87289 | |
| 2000 | 87076 | 99.0 | 595 | 0.7 | 247 | 0.3 | 4 | 0.0 | 87922 | 100.0 | 9.6 |
| 2001 | 85063 | 99.1 | 538 | 0.6 | 251 | 0.3 | 6 | 0.0 | 85858 | 100.0 | 9.2 |
| 2002 | 85222 | 99.1 | 515 | 0.6 | 233 | 0.3 | 35 | 0.0 | 86005 | 100.0 | 8.7 |
| 2003 | 85669 | 99.1 | 523 | 0.6 | 221 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.0 | 86414 | 100.0 | 8.6 |

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

Maternal deaths

In the period 1990–2001, 137 deaths were reported among pregnant women or women who gave birth less than six weeks previously. Of these, 44 (32.1 per cent) died of incidental causes not related to the pregnancy or its management; 63 (46.0 per cent) deaths were found to be directly due to pregnancy or its management; 29 (21.2

per cent) deaths were found to result from pre-existing disease or disease which developed during pregnancy (not due to direct obstetric causes), but which may have been aggravated by the physiologic effects of pregnancy; and there was one death for which the cause was not determined (Table 20). Table 21 shows maternal deaths by cause in NSW for 2001.

TABLE 20

MATERNAL DEATHS BY YEAR, NSW 1990–2002[#]

| Year | Direct | | Indirect | | Classification Total Direct & Indirect | | Incidental | | TOTAL | |
|---------------------|--------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|---|-------------------|------------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|
| | No. | Ratio/ 100,000 | No. | Ratio/ 100,000 | No. | Ratio/ 100,000 | No. | Ratio/ 100,000 | No. | Ratio/ 100,000 |
| 1990 | 4 | 4.6 | 6 | 6.9 | 10 | 11.6 | 2 | 2.3 | 12 | 13.9 |
| 1991 | 4 | 4.7 | 1 | 1.2 | 5 | 5.8 | 1 | 1.2 | 6 | 7.0 |
| 1992 | 5 | 5.7 | 1 | 1.1 | 6 | 6.8 | 5 | 5.7 | 11 | 12.5 |
| 1993 | 6 | 6.9 | 1 | 1.2 | 7 | 8.1 | 6 | 6.9 | 13 | 15.0 |
| 1994 | 8 | 9.2 | 1 | 1.2 | 9 | 10.4 | 3 | 3.5 | 12 | 13.8 |
| 1995 | 7 | 8.1 | 2 | 2.3 | 9 | 10.4 | 6 | 7.0 | 15 | 17.4 |
| 1996 | 6 | 7.0 | 1 | 1.2 | 7 | 8.2 | 5 | 5.9 | 12 | 14.1 |
| 1997 | 7 | 8.1 | 2 | 2.3 | 9 | 10.5 | 5 | 5.8 | 14 | 16.1 |
| 1998 | 4 | 4.7 | 4 | 4.7 | 8 | 9.4 | 3 | 3.5 | 11 | 12.9 |
| 1999 ^{##} | 4 | 4.7 | 1 | 1.2 | 5 | 5.8 | 6 | 7.0 | 12 | 14.0 |
| 2000 | 4 | 4.7 | 5 | 5.9 | 9 | 10.7 | 1 | 1.2 | 10 | 11.9 |
| 2001 | 4 | 4.7 | 4 | 4.7 | 8 | 9.5 | 1 | 1.2 | 9 | 10.7 |
| 2002 ^{###} | | | | | | | | | 6 | 7.1 |

Source: NSW Maternal and Perinatal Committee.

Includes all deaths of women who were pregnant at the time of death, or who died within 42 days of childbirth. Direct deaths include those resulting from obstetric complications of the pregnant state, including its management. Indirect deaths include those resulting from preexisting disease or disease which developed during pregnancy and was not due to direct obstetric causes but which may have been aggravated by the physiological effects of pregnancy. Incidental deaths are those where the pregnancy is unlikely to have contributed significantly to the death.¹

Total for 1999 includes one death of undetermined cause

Classification incomplete for 2002.

TABLE 21

MATERNAL DEATHS BY CAUSE, NSW 2001[#]

| Classification | Cause | No. |
|----------------|--|-----|
| Direct | Pulmonary embolus following deep vein thrombosis | 1 |
| Direct | Suppurative basal meningitis | 1 |
| Direct | <i>Strep. Pyogenes</i> septicemia | 1 |
| Direct | Amniotic fluid embolism | 1 |
| Indirect | Intracerebral haemorrhage | 1 |
| Indirect | Myocarditis | 1 |
| Indirect | Aortic dissection | 1 |
| Indirect | Intra-cerebral haemorrhage due to rupture of vascular malformation | 1 |
| Incidental | Multiple injuries following motor vehicle accident | 1 |
| TOTAL | | 9 |

Source: NSW Maternal and Perinatal Committee.

Includes all deaths of women who were pregnant at the time of death, or who died within 42 days of childbirth. Direct deaths include those resulting from obstetric complications of the pregnant state, including its management. Indirect deaths include those resulting from preexisting disease or disease which developed during pregnancy and was not due to direct obstetric causes but which may have been aggravated by the physiological effects of pregnancy.¹ Incidental deaths are those where the pregnancy is unlikely to have contributed significantly to the death.

Reference

1. Slaytor EK, Sullivan EA, King JF. *Maternal deaths in Australia 1997-1999*. AIHW Catalogue no. PER 24. Sydney: AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit, 2004.