

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 19).

Trends in confinements

Between 1999 and 2003, about 20 per cent of mothers were born in non-English speaking countries (Table 54). The percentage of mothers born in Southern European declined slightly from 1.6 to 1.2 per cent, and the percentage of mothers born in Middle Eastern and African countries rose slightly from 4.2 to 4.6 per cent over the five-year period. The percentage of mothers in other groups remained stable.

TABLE 54

CONFINEMENTS AND BIRTHS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 1999–2003

	1999		2000		Year 2001		2002		2003	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Confinements										
English speaking	68381	79.5	68105	78.8	67275	79.7	67268	79.5	67320	79.2
Central & South America	725	0.8	708	0.8	697	0.8	739	0.9	692	0.8
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1540	1.8	1606	1.9	1544	1.8	1534	1.8	1545	1.8
Southern Europe	1337	1.6	1217	1.4	1129	1.3	1001	1.2	1040	1.2
Western & Northern Europe	690	0.8	671	0.8	631	0.7	614	0.7	660	0.8
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	421	0.5	428	0.5	412	0.5	458	0.5	486	0.6
Middle East & Africa	3579	4.2	3685	4.3	3688	4.4	3653	4.3	3879	4.6
South East Asia	4659	5.4	5085	5.9	4478	5.3	4557	5.4	4673	5.5
North East Asia	3225	3.8	3449	4.0	2965	3.5	2962	3.5	2819	3.3
Southern Asia	1398	1.6	1476	1.7	1535	1.8	1716	2.0	1746	2.1
Other/Not stated	12	0.0	30	0.0	25	0.0	85	0.1	172	0.2
TOTAL	85967	100.0	86460	100.0	84379	100.0	84587	100.0	85032	100.0
Births										
English speaking	69460	79.6	69300	78.8	68524	79.8	68449	79.6	68457	79.2
Central & South America	730	0.8	716	0.8	707	0.8	755	0.9	699	0.8
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1555	1.8	1636	1.9	1567	1.8	1555	1.8	1564	1.8
Southern Europe	1361	1.6	1256	1.4	1153	1.3	1022	1.2	1064	1.2
Western & Northern Europe	710	0.8	688	0.8	643	0.7	627	0.7	668	0.8
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	423	0.5	439	0.5	418	0.5	468	0.5	494	0.6
Middle East & Africa	3644	4.2	3747	4.3	3758	4.4	3711	4.3	3947	4.6
South East Asia	4707	5.4	5127	5.8	4527	5.3	4595	5.3	4733	5.5
North East Asia	3266	3.7	3483	4.0	2982	3.5	3000	3.5	2846	3.3
Southern Asia	1420	1.6	1499	1.7	1554	1.8	1738	2.0	1766	2.0
Other/Not stated	13	0.0	31	0.0	25	0.0	85	0.1	176	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.

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 (39.1 per cent) and North East Asia (32.7 per cent).

TABLE 55

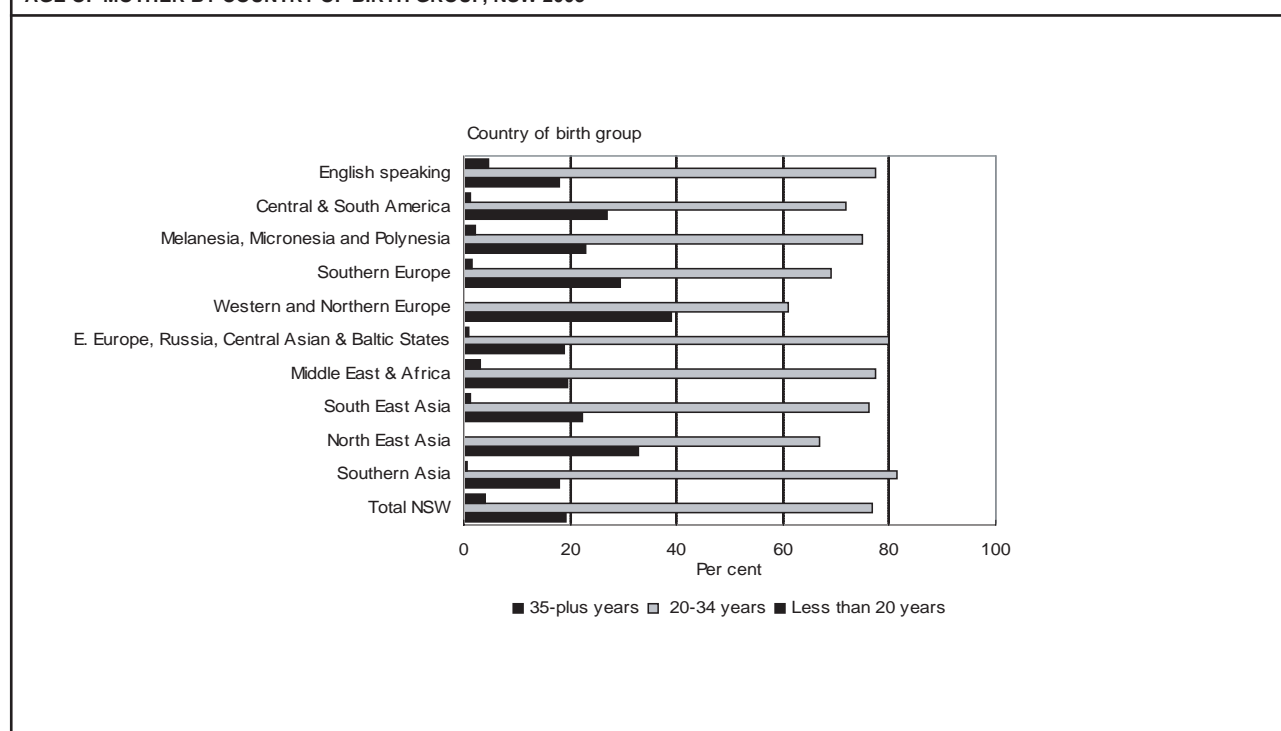
AGE OF MOTHER BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2003

Country of birth group	12–19		20–34		Maternal age (years) 35+		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	3109	4.6	52036	77.3	12168	18.1	7	0.0	67320	100.0
Central & South America	9	1.3	497	71.8	186	26.9	0	0.0	692	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	34	2.2	1155	74.8	356	23.0	0	0.0	1545	100.0
Southern Europe	17	1.6	718	69.0	305	29.3	0	0.0	1040	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	0	0.0	402	60.9	258	39.1	0	0.0	660	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	4	0.8	389	80.0	92	18.9	1	0.2	486	100.0
Middle East & Africa	121	3.1	3004	77.4	754	19.4	0	0.0	3879	100.0
South East Asia	62	1.3	3563	76.2	1047	22.4	1	0.0	4673	100.0
North East Asia	12	0.4	1884	66.8	923	32.7	0	0.0	2819	100.0
Southern Asia	12	0.7	1420	81.3	314	18.0	0	0.0	1746	100.0
Other/Not stated	6	3.5	121	70.3	44	25.6	1	0.6	172	100.0
TOTAL	3386	4.0	65189	76.7	16447	19.3	10	0.0	85032	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 2003



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

Health area of residence

In 2003, the proportion of mothers born in non-English speaking countries was highest in the Sydney South West Area (38.6 per cent), followed by the Sydney West Area (28.1 per cent).

Five per cent of mothers were born in South East Asian countries, 54.4 per cent of whom were resident in the

Sydney South West Area. Almost 5 per cent of mothers were born in Middle Eastern or African countries and 80.6 per cent of these mothers were resident in the Sydney South West or Sydney West Areas. A further 3.3 per cent of mothers were born in North East Asian countries and 2.1 per cent in Southern Asian countries, with the majority living in metropolitan areas (Table 56).

TABLE 56

HEALTH AREA OF RESIDENCE BY MATERNAL COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2003*

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.
Sydney South West	11921	61.2	295	1.5	693	3.6	451	2.3	118	0.6	121	0.6	1939	10.0	2540	13.0	858	4.4	497	2.6	52	0.3	19485	100.0
Northern Sydney & Central Coast	11097	84.4	97	0.7	120	0.9	98	0.7	204	1.6	75	0.6	220	1.7	386	2.9	625	4.8	211	1.6	9	0.1	13142	100.0
Sydney West	11430	71.7	114	0.7	489	3.1	178	1.1	79	0.5	104	0.7	1189	7.5	915	5.7	641	4.0	775	4.9	28	0.2	15942	100.0
Hunter & New England	9354	96.5	11	0.1	40	0.4	26	0.3	45	0.5	9	0.1	34	0.4	108	1.1	40	0.4	23	0.2	4	0.0	9694	100.0
South Eastern Sydney & Illawarra	11091	79.8	150	1.1	148	1.1	264	1.9	148	1.1	157	1.1	466	3.4	603	4.3	603	4.3	195	1.4	73	0.5	13898	100.0
North Coast	4415	96.3	11	0.2	12	0.3	9	0.2	30	0.7	-	-	15	0.3	58	1.3	15	0.3	15	0.3	-	-	4587	100.0
Greater Western	3811	97.8	5	0.1	5	0.1	7	0.2	12	0.3	11	0.3	-	-	19	0.5	16	0.4	7	0.2	-	-	3898	100.0
Greater Southern	3682	96.0	7	0.2	32	0.8	7	0.2	18	0.5	-	-	11	0.3	35	0.9	18	0.5	22	0.6	-	-	3834	100.0
Other/Not stated	519	94.0	2	0.4	6	1.1	0	0.0	6	1.1	-	-	-	-	9	1.6	3	0.5	1	0.2	-	-	552	100.0
TOTAL	67320	79.2	692	0.8	1545	1.8	1040	1.2	660	0.8	486	0.6	3879	4.6	4673	5.5	2819	3.3	1746	2.1	172	0.2	85032	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.

Booking status

In 2003, 97.4 per cent of all mothers were booked at the hospital of birth. The lowest rate (95.6 per cent) was in mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. This compared with 97.3 per cent of mothers born in English speaking countries and over 97 per cent of mothers in other country of birth groups.

Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit

In 2003, 86.6 per cent of all mothers commenced antenatal care before 20 weeks gestation. There was some variation between country of birth groups, with 88.8 per cent of mothers born in English speaking countries commencing antenatal care before 20 weeks gestation, compared with 59.7 per cent of mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, and 71.1 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 2003

Country of birth group	Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit (weeks)							
	0-19		20+		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	59761	88.8	7146	10.6	413	0.6	67320	100.0
Central & South America	577	83.4	114	16.5	1	0.1	692	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	923	59.7	600	38.8	22	1.4	1545	100.0
Southern Europe	887	85.3	151	14.5	2	0.2	1040	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	583	88.3	74	11.2	3	0.5	660	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	397	81.7	87	17.9	2	0.4	486	100.0
Middle East & Africa	2759	71.1	1113	28.7	7	0.2	3879	100.0
South East Asia	3824	81.8	839	18.0	10	0.2	4673	100.0
North East Asia	2359	83.7	454	16.1	6	0.2	2819	100.0
Southern Asia	1423	81.5	320	18.3	3	0.2	1746	100.0
Other/Not stated	122	70.9	31	18.0	19	11.0	172	100.0
TOTAL	73615	86.6	10929	12.9	488	0.6	85032	100.0

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

Smoking in pregnancy

In 2003, 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 one in ten or fewer 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. Three 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 2003

Country of birth group	Smoking in pregnancy							
	No		Yes		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	55186	82.0	12124	18.0	10	0.0	67320	100.0
Central & South America	667	96.4	25	3.6	0	0.0	692	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1414	91.5	131	8.5	0	0.0	1545	100.0
Southern Europe	936	90.0	104	10.0	0	0.0	1040	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	607	92.0	53	8.0	0	0.0	660	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	451	92.8	35	7.2	0	0.0	486	100.0
Middle East & Africa	3636	93.7	243	6.3	0	0.0	3879	100.0
South East Asia	4566	97.7	107	2.3	0	0.0	4673	100.0
North East Asia	2793	99.1	25	0.9	1	0.0	2819	100.0
Southern Asia	1739	99.6	7	0.4	0	0.0	1746	100.0
Other/Not stated	145	84.3	21	12.2	6	3.5	172	100.0
TOTAL	72140	84.8	12875	15.1	17	0.0	85032	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 2003

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	400	3.3	5442	44.9	5986	49.4	296	2.4	12124	100.0
Central & South America	1	4.0	9	36.0	15	60.0	0	0.0	25	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	7	5.3	31	23.7	92	70.2	1	0.8	131	100.0
Southern Europe	2	1.9	29	27.9	71	68.3	2	1.9	104	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	2	3.8	21	39.6	27	50.9	3	5.7	53	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	2	5.7	9	25.7	23	65.7	1	2.9	35	100.0
Middle East & Africa	7	2.9	90	37.0	142	58.4	4	1.6	243	100.0
South East Asia	4	3.7	34	31.8	65	60.7	4	3.7	107	100.0
North East Asia	1	4.0	5	20.0	18	72.0	1	4.0	25	100.0
Southern Asia	0	0.0	3	42.9	4	57.1	0	0.0	7	100.0
Other/Not stated	1	4.8	7	33.3	8	38.1	5	23.8	21	100.0
TOTAL	427	3.3	5680	44.1	6451	50.1	317	2.5	12875	100.0

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

Medical conditions and obstetric complications

In 2003, 1.8 per cent of mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia were reported to have diabetes mellitus, 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 at least twice the rate for all mothers in NSW.

Overall, 1.0 per cent of mothers were reported to have essential hypertension, and 5.5 per cent were reported to have pre-eclampsia. Rates of reported pre-eclampsia were lower among mothers born in North East Asian countries than other country of birth groups.

TABLE 60
CONFINEMENTS BY MATERNAL MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND OBSTETRIC COMPLICATIONS AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2003

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 Asia		North East Asia		Southern Asia		Other/Not stated			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Diabetes mellitus	346	0.5	6	0.9	28	1.8	7	0.7	3	0.5	3	0.6	30	0.8	39	0.8	15	0.5	27	1.5	1	0.6	505	0.6
Gestational diabetes	2186	3.2	52	7.5	138	8.9	63	6.1	24	3.6	21	4.3	261	6.7	509	10.9	310	11.0	217	12.4	11	6.4	3792	4.5
Essential hypertension	735	1.1	9	1.3	17	1.1	11	1.1	7	1.1	2	0.4	35	0.9	33	0.7	18	0.6	11	0.6	1	0.6	879	1.0
Pre-eclampsia	3914	5.8	37	5.3	103	6.7	40	3.8	31	4.7	22	4.5	138	3.6	187	4.0	75	2.7	88	5.0	10	5.8	4645	5.5
TOTAL#	67320	100.0	692	100.0	1545	100.0	1040	100.0	660	100.0	486	100.0	3879	100.0	4673	100.0	2819	100.0	1746	100.0	172	100.0	85032	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 were 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 Southern Asia (30.8 per cent) and Central and South America (30.1 per cent).

TABLE 61

LABOUR ONSET BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2003

Country of birth group	Spontaneous		No labour [#]		Onset of labour Induced		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	39391	58.5	10432	15.5	17496	26.0	1	0.0	67320	100.0
Central & South America	413	59.7	104	15.0	175	25.3	0	0.0	692	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1059	68.5	179	11.6	307	19.9	0	0.0	1545	100.0
Southern Europe	645	62.0	136	13.1	259	24.9	0	0.0	1040	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	417	63.2	97	14.7	146	22.1	0	0.0	660	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	309	63.6	76	15.6	101	20.8	0	0.0	486	100.0
Middle East & Africa	2625	67.7	491	12.7	763	19.7	0	0.0	3879	100.0
South East Asia	3403	72.8	546	11.7	724	15.5	0	0.0	4673	100.0
North East Asia	1907	67.6	437	15.5	475	16.8	0	0.0	2819	100.0
Southern Asia	1103	63.2	273	15.6	370	21.2	0	0.0	1746	100.0
Other/Not stated	88	51.2	49	28.5	34	19.8	1	0.6	172	100.0
TOTAL	51360	60.4	12820	15.1	20850	24.5	2	0.0	85032	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 2003

Country of birth group	Normal vaginal		Forceps		Vacuum extraction		Vaginal breech		Type of delivery		Emergency caesarean section [#]		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	42124	62.6	2251	3.3	4548	6.8	278	0.4	10432	15.5	7678	11.4	9	0.0	67320	100.0
Central & South America	414	59.8	24	3.5	42	6.1	4	0.6	104	15.0	104	15.0	0	0.0	692	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1060	68.6	29	1.9	75	4.9	9	0.6	179	11.6	193	12.5	0	0.0	1545	100.0
Southern Europe	657	63.2	45	4.3	66	6.3	6	0.6	136	13.1	130	12.5	0	0.0	1040	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	417	63.2	25	3.8	44	6.7	2	0.3	97	14.7	75	11.4	0	0.0	660	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	293	60.3	23	4.7	35	7.2	3	0.6	76	15.6	56	11.5	0	0.0	486	100.0
Middle East & Africa	2734	70.5	100	2.6	190	4.9	21	0.5	491	12.7	343	8.8	0	0.0	3879	100.0
South East Asia	3010	64.4	153	3.3	406	8.7	24	0.5	546	11.7	533	11.4	1	0.0	4673	100.0
North East Asia	1651	58.6	120	4.3	260	9.2	6	0.2	437	15.5	345	12.2	0	0.0	2819	100.0
Southern Asia	973	55.7	103	5.9	117	6.7	15	0.9	273	15.6	265	15.2	0	0.0	1746	100.0
Other/Not stated	91	52.9	2	1.2	5	2.9	3	1.7	49	28.5	22	12.8	0	0.0	172	100.0
TOTAL	53424	62.8	2875	3.4	5788	6.8	371	0.4	12820	15.1	9744	11.5	10	0.0	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.

Birthweight

The rate of low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams) in 2003 was 6.2 per cent in NSW. The highest rates of low birthweight were in babies of mothers born in Southern Asian countries (8.9 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 2003

Country of birth group	Birthweight (grams)								TOTAL	
	Less than 2,500		2,500+		Not stated		No.	%		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%				
English speaking	4220	6.2	64197	93.8	40	0.1	68457	100.0		
Central & South America	47	6.7	652	93.3	0	0.0	699	100.0		
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	118	7.5	1446	92.5	0	0.0	1564	100.0		
Southern Europe	68	6.4	995	93.5	1	0.1	1064	100.0		
Western & Northern Europe	29	4.3	638	95.5	1	0.1	668	100.0		
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	38	7.7	456	92.3	0	0.0	494	100.0		
Middle East & Africa	216	5.5	3728	94.5	3	0.1	3947	100.0		
South East Asia	311	6.6	4419	93.4	3	0.1	4733	100.0		
North East Asia	145	5.1	2701	94.9	0	0.0	2846	100.0		
Southern Asia	157	8.9	1609	91.1	0	0.0	1766	100.0		
Other/Not stated	34	19.3	138	78.4	4	2.3	176	100.0		
TOTAL	5383	6.2	80979	93.7	52	0.1	86414	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 2003 was 7.0 per cent in NSW. The highest rates of prematurity were in babies of mothers born in Southern Europe (8.3 per cent). Babies of mothers born in North East Asia were least likely to be premature (Table 64).

TABLE 64

GESTATIONAL AGE BY MATERNAL COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2003

Country of birth group	Gestational age (weeks)								TOTAL	
	Less than 37		37+		Not stated		No.	%		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%				
English speaking	4902	7.2	63547	92.8	8	0.0	68457	100.0		
Central & South America	51	7.3	648	92.7	0	0.0	699	100.0		
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	119	7.6	1444	92.3	1	0.1	1564	100.0		
Southern Europe	88	8.3	976	91.7	0	0.0	1064	100.0		
Western & Northern Europe	33	4.9	635	95.1	0	0.0	668	100.0		
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	32	6.5	462	93.5	0	0.0	494	100.0		
Middle East & Africa	211	5.3	3736	94.7	0	0.0	3947	100.0		
South East Asia	320	6.8	4413	93.2	0	0.0	4733	100.0		
North East Asia	136	4.8	2709	95.2	1	0.0	2846	100.0		
Southern Asia	108	6.1	1658	93.9	0	0.0	1766	100.0		
Other/Not stated	35	19.9	141	80.1	0	0.0	176	100.0		
TOTAL	6035	7.0	80369	93.0	10	0.0	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 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 (2.7 per cent).

TABLE 65

BIRTHS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP AND APGAR SCORE AT FIVE MINUTES, NSW 2003[#]

Country of birth group	0-4		Apgar score				Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	689	1.0	691	1.0	66934	97.8	143	0.2	68457	100.0
Central & South America	9	1.3	5	0.7	684	97.9	1	0.1	699	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	21	1.3	22	1.4	1518	97.1	3	0.2	1564	100.0
Southern Europe	13	1.2	7	0.7	1040	97.7	4	0.4	1064	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	5	0.7	9	1.3	653	97.8	1	0.1	668	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	7	1.4	5	1.0	482	97.6	0	0.0	494	100.0
Middle East & Africa	56	1.4	34	0.9	3847	97.5	10	0.3	3947	100.0
South East Asia	46	1.0	57	1.2	4622	97.7	8	0.2	4733	100.0
North East Asia	19	0.7	18	0.6	2808	98.7	1	0.0	2846	100.0
Southern Asia	26	1.5	16	0.9	1720	97.4	4	0.2	1766	100.0
Other/Not stated	8	4.5	1	0.6	165	93.8	2	1.1	176	100.0
TOTAL	899	1.0	865	1.0	84473	97.8	177	0.2	86414	100.0

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

Births include stillbirths.

Perinatal outcomes

In 2003, 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 ($n=564$, 75.8 per cent). There

were a further 49 deaths among babies of mothers born in the Middle East and Africa, and 36 deaths among babies of mothers born in South East Asia—comprising 6.6 and 4.8 per cent respectively of all perinatal deaths reported to the MDC.

TABLE 66

PERINATAL OUTCOMES BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2003[#]

Country of birth group surviving	Liveborn		Stillborn		Perinatal outcome Neonatal death		Not stated		Total births		Perinatal mortality rate/1,000 births
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
English speaking	67892	99.2	402	0.6	162	0.2	1	0.0	68457	100.0	8.2
Central & South America	691	98.9	6	0.9	2	0.3	0	0.0	699	100.0	11.4
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1549	99.0	10	0.6	5	0.3	0	0.0	1564	100.0	9.6
Southern Europe	1054	99.1	7	0.7	3	0.3	0	0.0	1064	100.0	9.4
Western & Northern Europe	662	99.1	3	0.4	3	0.4	0	0.0	668	100.0	9.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	487	98.6	7	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	494	100.0	14.2
Middle East & Africa	3898	98.8	32	0.8	17	0.4	0	0.0	3947	100.0	12.4
South East Asia	4697	99.2	23	0.5	13	0.3	0	0.0	4733	100.0	7.6
North East Asia	2831	99.5	11	0.4	4	0.1	0	0.0	2846	100.0	5.3
Southern Asia	1740	98.5	15	0.8	11	0.6	0	0.0	1766	100.0	14.7
Other/Not stated	168	95.5	7	4.0	1	0.6	0	0.0	176	100.0	—
TOTAL	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, 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.