

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 2000 and 2004, about 20 per cent of mothers were born in non-English speaking countries (Table 54). Over the 5 year period, there were slight declines in the percentage of mothers born in Southern Europe, South East Asia and North East Asia, and slight increases in the percentage of mothers born in Middle East and Africa, and Southern Asia.

TABLE 54

COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2000–2004

Country of birth	2000		2001		Year 2002		2003		2004	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Confinements										
English speaking	68105	78.8	67275	79.7	67268	79.5	67320	79.2	66621	79.0
Central & South America	708	0.8	697	0.8	739	0.9	692	0.8	675	0.8
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1606	1.9	1544	1.8	1534	1.8	1545	1.8	1584	1.9
Southern Europe	1217	1.4	1129	1.3	1001	1.2	1040	1.2	926	1.1
Western & Northern Europe	671	0.8	631	0.7	614	0.7	660	0.8	649	0.8
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	428	0.5	412	0.5	458	0.5	486	0.6	518	0.6
Middle East & Africa	3685	4.3	3688	4.4	3653	4.3	3879	4.6	3876	4.6
South East Asia	5085	5.9	4478	5.3	4557	5.4	4673	5.5	4445	5.3
North East Asia	3449	4.0	2965	3.5	2962	3.5	2819	3.3	2884	3.4
Southern Asia	1476	1.7	1535	1.8	1716	2.0	1746	2.1	1930	2.3
Other–Not stated	30	0.0	25	0.0	85	0.1	172	0.2	180	0.2
TOTAL	86460	100.0	84379	100.0	84587	100.0	85032	100.0	84288	100.0
Births										
English speaking	69300	78.8	68524	79.8	68449	79.6	68457	79.2	67735	79.1
Central & South America	716	0.8	707	0.8	755	0.9	699	0.8	683	0.8
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1636	1.9	1567	1.8	1555	1.8	1564	1.8	1600	1.9
Southern Europe	1256	1.4	1153	1.3	1022	1.2	1064	1.2	939	1.1
Western & Northern Europe	688	0.8	643	0.7	627	0.7	668	0.8	663	0.8
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	439	0.5	418	0.5	468	0.5	494	0.6	525	0.6
Middle East & Africa	3747	4.3	3758	4.4	3711	4.3	3947	4.6	3941	4.6
South East Asia	5127	5.8	4527	5.3	4595	5.3	4733	5.5	4488	5.2
North East Asia	3483	4.0	2982	3.5	3000	3.5	2846	3.3	2910	3.4
Southern Asia	1499	1.7	1554	1.8	1738	2.0	1766	2.0	1953	2.3
Other–Not stated	31	0.0	25	0.0	85	0.1	176	0.2	189	0.2
TOTAL	87922	100.0	85858	100.0	86005	100.0	86414	100.0	85626	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 among mothers born in Western and Northern Europe (36.7 per cent) and Southern Europe (31.3 per cent).

TABLE 55

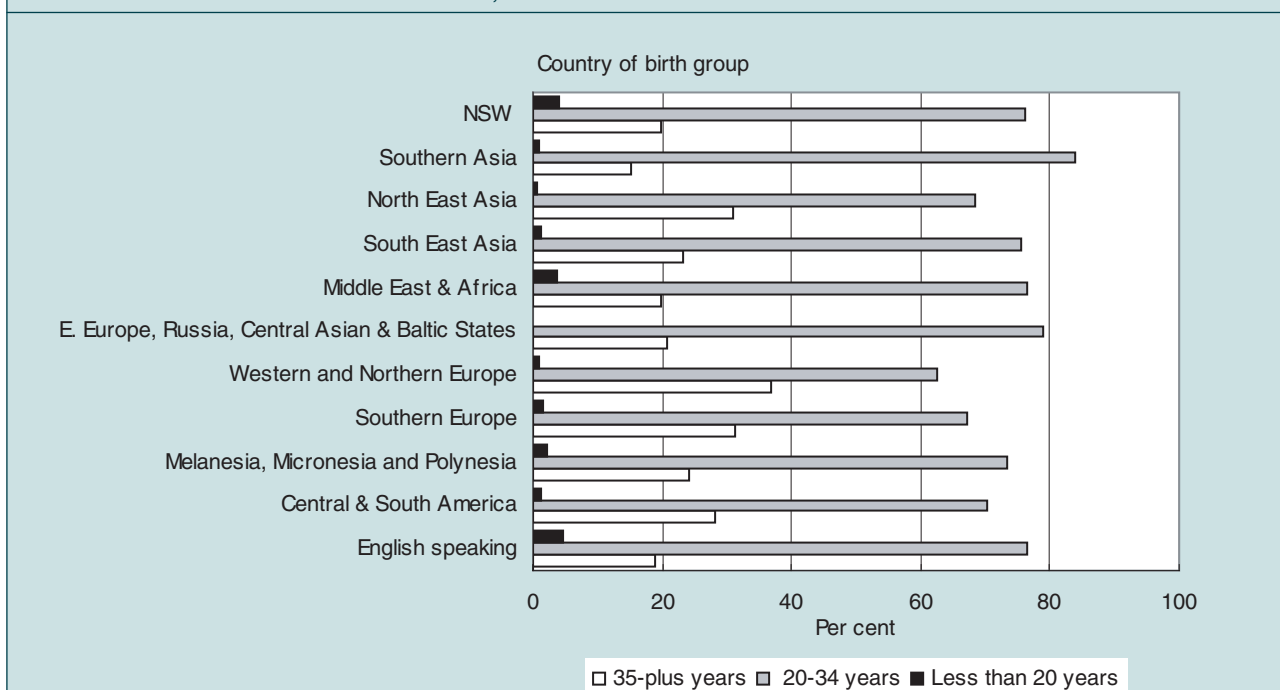
MATERNAL AGE BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2004

Country of birth group	12–19		20–34		Maternal age (years) 35+		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	3080	4.6	51005	76.6	12522	18.8	14	0.0	66621	100.0
Central & South America	9	1.3	474	70.2	191	28.3	1	0.1	675	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	36	2.3	1163	73.4	385	24.3	0	0.0	1584	100.0
Southern Europe	13	1.4	622	67.2	290	31.3	1	0.1	926	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	5	0.8	405	62.4	238	36.7	1	0.2	649	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	2	0.4	408	78.8	108	20.8	0	0.0	518	100.0
Middle East & Africa	143	3.7	2967	76.5	766	19.8	0	0.0	3876	100.0
South East Asia	58	1.3	3353	75.4	1034	23.3	0	0.0	4445	100.0
North East Asia	18	0.6	1971	68.3	895	31.0	0	0.0	2884	100.0
Southern Asia	18	0.9	1617	83.8	295	15.3	0	0.0	1930	100.0
Other–Not stated	5	2.8	129	71.7	45	25.0	1	0.6	180	100.0
TOTAL	3387	4.0	64114	76.1	16769	19.9	18	0.0	84288	100.0

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

FIGURE 4

MATERNAL AGE BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2004



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

Health area of residence

In 2004, 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 (29.1 per cent).

Five per cent of mothers were born in South East Asian countries, 53.9 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 80.3 per cent of these mothers were resident in the Sydney South West or Sydney West Areas. A further 3.4 per cent of mothers were born in North East Asian countries and 2.3 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 2004[#]

Health Area	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		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sydney South West	11445	61.1	265	1.4	683	3.6	393	2.1	115	0.6	122	0.7	1873	10.0	2398	12.8	839	4.5	535	2.9	52	0.3	18720	100.0
Sydney South Eastern Sydney & Illawarra	11328	80.2	146	1.0	140	1.0	258	1.8	157	1.1	171	1.2	441	3.1	573	4.1	638	4.5	205	1.5	64	0.5	14121	100.0
Sydney West	11211	70.8	122	0.8	513	3.2	146	0.9	88	0.6	90	0.6	1239	7.8	875	5.5	665	4.2	863	5.5	22	0.1	15834	100.0
Northern Sydney & Central Coast	10882	83.5	90	0.7	113	0.9	89	0.7	191	1.5	102	0.8	221	1.7	420	3.2	658	5.0	254	1.9	12	0.1	13032	100.0
Hunter & New England	9355	96.7	17	0.2	55	0.6	17	0.2	32	0.3	16	0.2	60	0.6	67	0.7	34	0.4	14	0.1	5	0.1	9672	100.0
NorthCoast	4479	95.5	16	0.3	29	0.6	6	0.1	42	0.9	5	0.1	13	0.3	58	1.2	19	0.4	16	0.3	7	0.1	4690	100.0
Greater Southern	3681	95.9	5	0.1	34	0.9	11	0.3	13	0.3	-	-	17	0.4	22	0.6	12	0.3	32	0.8	-	-	3838	100.0
Greater Western	3701	97.8	-	-	13	0.3	-	-	7	0.2	5	0.1	9	0.2	22	0.6	9	0.2	7	0.2	-	-	3784	100.0
Other-Not stated	539	90.3	-	-	4	0.7	-	-	4	0.7	-	-	3	0.5	10	1.7	10	1.7	4	0.7	-	-	597	100.0
TOTAL	66621	79.0	675	0.8	1584	1.9	926	1.1	649	0.8	518	0.6	3876	4.6	4445	5.3	2884	3.4	1930	2.3	180	0.2	84288	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 5 in a group.

Booking status

In 2004, 97.3 per cent of all mothers were booked at the hospital of birth. The lowest rate (94.7 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 2004, 87.5 per cent of all mothers commenced antenatal care before 20 weeks gestation. There was some variation between country of birth groups, with 89.3 per cent of mothers born in English speaking countries commencing antenatal care before 20 weeks gestation, compared with 64.2 per cent of mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, and 75.3 per cent of mothers born in the Middle East and Africa (Table 57).

TABLE 57

DURATION OF PREGNANCY AT FIRST ANTENATAL VISIT BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2004

Country of birth group	0-19		Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit (weeks)				TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	Not stated		No.	%
English speaking	59494	89.3	6625	9.9	502	0.8	66621	100.0
Central & South America	597	88.4	78	11.6	0	0.0	675	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1017	64.2	539	34.0	28	1.8	1584	100.0
Southern Europe	826	89.2	99	10.7	1	0.1	926	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	572	88.1	77	11.9	0	0.0	649	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia,								
Central Asian & Baltic States	445	85.9	73	14.1	0	0.0	518	100.0
Middle East & Africa	2917	75.3	946	24.4	13	0.3	3876	100.0
South East Asia	3726	83.8	703	15.8	16	0.4	4445	100.0
North East Asia	2403	83.3	478	16.6	3	0.1	2884	100.0
Southern Asia	1641	85.0	285	14.8	4	0.2	1930	100.0
Other-Not stated	137	76.1	31	17.2	12	6.7	180	100.0
TOTAL	73775	87.5	9934	11.8	579	0.7	84288	100.0

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

Smoking in pregnancy

In 2004, smoking at any time during pregnancy was more common among mothers born in English speaking countries than mothers born in non-English speaking countries (Table 58). About one in 6 mothers born in English speaking countries smoked at some time during pregnancy, compared to one in 10 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. 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

SMOKING IN PREGNANCY BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2004

Country of birth group	No		Smoking in pregnancy				TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	Not stated		No.	%
English speaking	54842	82.3	11772	17.7	7	0.0	66621	100.0
Central & South America	648	96.0	27	4.0	0	0.0	675	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1435	90.6	149	9.4	0	0.0	1584	100.0
Southern Europe	824	89.0	102	11.0	0	0.0	926	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	609	93.8	40	6.2	0	0.0	649	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia,								
Central Asian & Baltic States	497	95.9	21	4.1	0	0.0	518	100.0
Middle East & Africa	3661	94.5	215	5.5	0	0.0	3876	100.0
South East Asia	4361	98.1	84	1.9	0	0.0	4445	100.0
North East Asia	2855	99.0	29	1.0	0	0.0	2884	100.0
Southern Asia	1920	99.5	10	0.5	0	0.0	1930	100.0
Other-Not stated	156	86.7	23	12.8	1	0.6	180	100.0
TOTAL	71808	85.2	12472	14.8	8	0.0	84288	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 2004

Country of birth group	Cigarettes smoked in the second half of pregnancy										TOTAL	
	None		1-10 per day		More than 10 per day		Smoked, amount not stated		Not stated		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
English speaking	439	3.7	5900	50.1	5150	43.7	275	2.3	8	0.1	11772	100.0
Central & South America	3	11.1	17	63.0	5	18.5	1	3.7	1	3.7	27	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	11	7.4	91	61.1	44	29.5	3	2.0	0	0.0	149	100.0
Southern Europe	3	2.9	57	55.9	41	40.2	1	1.0	0	0.0	102	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	4	10.0	20	50.0	15	37.5	1	2.5	0	0.0	40	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	1	4.8	12	57.1	6	28.6	2	9.5	0	0.0	21	100.0
Middle East & Africa	10	4.7	117	54.4	77	35.8	11	5.1	0	0.0	215	100.0
South East Asia	6	7.1	51	60.7	25	29.8	2	2.4	0	0.0	84	100.0
North East Asia	5	17.2	20	69.0	4	13.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	29	100.0
Southern Asia	2	20.0	5	50.0	2	20.0	1	10.0	0	0.0	10	100.0
Other-Not stated	1	4.3	13	56.5	9	39.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	23	100.0
TOTAL	485	3.9	6303	50.5	5378	43.1	297	2.4	9	0.1	12472	100.0

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

Medical conditions and obstetric complications

In 2004, 1.5 per cent of mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia were reported to have diabetes mellitus, over twice 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, 1.1 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

MATERNAL MEDICAL CONDITIONS BY OBSTETRIC COMPLICATIONS AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2004

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.	%	No.	%		
Diabetes mellitus	326	0.5	0	0.0	24	1.5	9	1.0	4	0.6	3	0.6	19	0.5	41	0.9	21	0.7	15	0.8	2	1.1	464	0.6
Gestational diabetes	1991	3.0	34	5.0	163	10.3	66	7.1	19	2.9	16	3.1	292	7.5	461	10.4	315	10.9	230	11.9	5	2.8	3592	4.3
Essential hypertension	797	1.2	4	0.6	16	1.0	11	1.2	4	0.6	7	1.4	39	1.0	34	0.8	13	0.5	13	0.7	2	1.1	940	1.1
Pre-eclampsia	3876	5.8	43	6.4	91	5.7	54	5.8	32	4.9	34	6.6	134	3.5	161	3.6	84	2.9	82	4.2	15	8.3	4606	5.5
TOTAL#	6662	1100.0	675	100.0	1584	100.0	926	100.0	649	100.0	518	100.0	3876	100.0	4445	100.0	2884	100.0	1930	100.0	180	100.0	8428	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 (30.7 per cent) and Central and South America (31.3 per cent).

TABLE 61

LABOUR ONSET BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2004

Country of birth group	Spontaneous		No labour [#]		Onset of labour Induced		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	38900	58.4	10452	15.7	17268	25.9	1	0.0	66621	100.0
Central & South America	420	62.2	125	18.5	130	19.3	0	0.0	675	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1064	67.2	191	12.1	329	20.8	0	0.0	1584	100.0
Southern Europe	589	63.6	142	15.3	195	21.1	0	0.0	926	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	420	64.7	106	16.3	123	19.0	0	0.0	649	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	349	67.4	70	13.5	99	19.1	0	0.0	518	100.0
Middle East & Africa	2590	66.8	486	12.5	800	20.6	0	0.0	3876	100.0
South East Asia	3173	71.4	586	13.2	686	15.4	0	0.0	4445	100.0
North East Asia	1962	68.0	430	14.9	492	17.1	0	0.0	2884	100.0
Southern Asia	1235	64.0	290	15.0	405	21.0	0	0.0	1930	100.0
Other–Not stated	105	58.3	52	28.9	23	12.8	0	0.0	180	100.0
TOTAL	50807	60.3	12930	15.3	20550	24.4	1	0.0	84288	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 2004

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	41317	62.0	2162	3.2	4521	6.8	277	0.4	10452	15.7	7886	11.8	6	0.0	66621	100.0
Central & South America	390	57.8	16	2.4	54	8.0	4	0.6	125	18.5	86	12.7	0	0.0	675	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1091	68.9	38	2.4	77	4.9	8	0.5	191	12.1	179	11.3	0	0.0	1584	100.0
Southern Europe	584	63.1	26	2.8	73	7.9	3	0.3	142	15.3	98	10.6	0	0.0	926	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	374	57.6	28	4.3	65	10.0	2	0.3	106	16.3	74	11.4	0	0.0	649	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	322	62.2	22	4.2	41	7.9	1	0.2	70	13.5	62	12.0	0	0.0	518	100.0
Middle East & Africa	2694	69.5	91	2.3	210	5.4	19	0.5	486	12.5	376	9.7	0	0.0	3876	100.0
South East Asia	2784	62.6	130	2.9	390	8.8	16	0.4	586	13.2	538	12.1	1	0.0	4445	100.0
North East Asia	1651	57.2	142	4.9	291	10.1	7	0.2	430	14.9	363	12.6	0	0.0	2884	100.0
Southern Asia	1056	54.7	104	5.4	169	8.8	8	0.4	290	15.0	303	15.7	0	0.0	1930	100.0
Other–Not stated	103	57.2	3	1.7	11	6.1	2	1.1	52	28.9	9	5.0	0	0.0	180	100.0
TOTAL	52366	62.1	2762	3.3	5902	7.0	347	0.4	12930	15.3	9974	11.8	7	0.0	84288	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.

Birth weight

The rate of low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams) in 2004 was 6.4 per cent in NSW. The highest rates of low birth weight were in babies of mothers born in Southern Asian countries (8.0 per cent) (Table 63). Babies of mothers born in North East Asian countries were least likely to be low birth weight.

TABLE 63

BIRTH WEIGHT BY MATERNAL COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2004

Country of birth group	Birth weight (grams)							
	Less than 2,500		2,500+		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	4287	6.3	63411	93.6	37	0.1	67735	100.0
Central & South America	37	5.4	646	94.6	0	0.0	683	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	109	6.8	1489	93.1	2	0.1	1600	100.0
Southern Europe	62	6.6	877	93.4	0	0.0	939	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	36	5.4	627	94.6	0	0.0	663	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	31	5.9	494	94.1	0	0.0	525	100.0
Middle East & Africa	248	6.3	3690	93.6	3	0.1	3941	100.0
South East Asia	307	6.8	4177	93.1	4	0.1	4488	100.0
North East Asia	146	5.0	2764	95.0	0	0.0	2910	100.0
Southern Asia	157	8.0	1795	91.9	1	0.1	1953	100.0
Other-Not stated	37	19.6	150	79.4	2	1.1	189	100.0
TOTAL	5457	6.4	80120	93.6	49	0.1	85626	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 2004 was 7.3 per cent in NSW. The highest rates of prematurity were in babies of mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia (8.0 per cent). Babies of mothers born in Western and Northern Europe were least likely to be premature (Table 64).

TABLE 64

GESTATIONAL AGE BY MATERNAL COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2004

Country of birth group	Gestational age (weeks)							
	Less than 37		37+		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	5054	7.5	62678	92.5	3	0.0	67735	100.0
Central & South America	40	5.9	643	94.1	0	0.0	683	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	128	8.0	1472	92.0	0	0.0	1600	100.0
Southern Europe	63	6.7	875	93.2	1	0.1	939	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	36	5.4	627	94.6	0	0.0	663	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	37	7.0	488	93.0	0	0.0	525	100.0
Middle East & Africa	262	6.6	3679	93.4	0	0.0	3941	100.0
South East Asia	303	6.8	4185	93.2	0	0.0	4488	100.0
North East Asia	160	5.5	2750	94.5	0	0.0	2910	100.0
Southern Asia	124	6.3	1829	93.7	0	0.0	1953	100.0
Other/Not stated	40	21.2	149	78.8	0	0.0	189	100.0
TOTAL	6247	7.3	79375	92.7	4	0.0	85626	100.0

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

Apgar score

In 2004, 2.1 per cent of all babies (including stillborn babies) had an Apgar score of 7 or less at 5 minutes and 1.1 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 (3.0 per cent).

TABLE 65

BIRTHS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP AND APGAR SCORE AT 5 MINUTES, NSW 2004*

Country of birth group	0-4		5-6		Apgar score 7+		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	703	1.0	649	1.0	66209	97.7	174	0.3	67735	100.0
Central & South America	12	1.8	4	0.6	666	97.5	1	0.1	683	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	30	1.9	18	1.1	1547	96.7	5	0.3	1600	100.0
Southern Europe	7	0.7	15	1.6	917	97.7	0	0.0	939	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	3	0.5	6	0.9	654	98.6	0	0.0	663	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	4	0.8	7	1.3	513	97.7	1	0.2	525	100.0
Middle East & Africa	55	1.4	34	0.9	3845	97.6	7	0.2	3941	100.0
South East Asia	52	1.2	57	1.3	4370	97.4	9	0.2	4488	100.0
North East Asia	23	0.8	24	0.8	2861	98.3	2	0.1	2910	100.0
Southern Asia	25	1.3	26	1.3	1896	97.1	6	0.3	1953	100.0
Other-Not stated	7	3.7	4	2.1	175	92.6	3	1.6	189	100.0
TOTAL	921	1.1	844	1.0	83653	97.7	208	0.2	85626	100.0

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

Births include stillbirths.

Perinatal outcomes

In 2004, 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=594, 76.8 per cent). There

were a further 44 deaths among babies of mothers born in South East Asian countries, and 42 deaths among babies of mothers born in the Middle East and Africa—comprising 5.7 and 5.4 per cent respectively of all perinatal deaths reported to the MDC.

TABLE 66

PERINATAL OUTCOMES BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2004*

Country of birth group	Liveborn surviving		Stillborn		Perinatal outcome Neonatal		Not stated death		Total births		Perinatal mortality rate/1,000 births
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
English speaking	67138	99.1	437	0.6	157	0.2	3	0.0	67735	100.0	8.8
Central & South America	671	98.2	7	1.0	5	0.7	0	0.0	683	100.0	17.6
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1579	98.7	16	1.0	5	0.3	0	0.0	1600	100.0	13.1
Southern Europe	930	99.0	7	0.7	2	0.2	0	0.0	939	100.0	9.6
Western & Northern Europe	663	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	663	100.0	–
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	521	99.2	3	0.6	1	0.2	0	0.0	525	100.0	7.6
Middle East & Africa	3899	98.9	32	0.8	10	0.3	0	0.0	3941	100.0	10.7
South East Asia	4444	99.0	27	0.6	17	0.4	0	0.0	4488	100.0	9.8
North East Asia	2892	99.4	12	0.4	6	0.2	0	0.0	2910	100.0	6.2
Southern Asia	1931	98.9	17	0.9	5	0.3	0	0.0	1953	100.0	11.3
Other-Not stated	181	95.8	3	1.6	4	2.1	1	0.5	189	100.0	–
TOTAL	84849	99.1	561	0.7	212	0.2	4	0.0	85626	100.0	9.0

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.