

## 13. DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS 2002-2005

### Introduction

Between 2002 and 2004, the number of births in NSW remained stable at about 86,000 per annum. Between 2004 and 2005, the number of births in NSW increased by 5.8 per cent from 85,626 to 90,610. This chapter describes the demographic changes that accompanied this rapid increase in births.

### Year and month of birth

The increase in numbers of births first appears in February–March 2005, when there were about 400 more births in NSW compared to February–March 2004 (Table 144). From March 2005 onwards the number of births each month was consistently higher than the same month in previous years.

### Area of residence

While the increase in the numbers of births is apparent across the state, the increase in births was most apparent in the Sydney area (Table 145). In both the Sydney South West and Sydney West Areas the numbers of births increased by over 1,000 in 2005 compared to previous years. In the Sydney metropolitan area there were over 100 more births in 2005 compared to 2004 in the following Statistical Local Areas: Bankstown, Campbelltown, Liverpool, Blacktown, Holroyd, Parramatta, Penrith, Blue Mountains, Sydney (Central and South), Marrickville, Leichhardt, Randwick, North Sydney and Willoughby. Outside Sydney similar increases were reported in Lake Macquarie, Newcastle, Port Stephens, and Lismore.

**TABLE 144**

**BIRTHS BY MONTH AND YEAR, NSW 2002–2005**

Month	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
January	7198	8.4	7063	8.2	7395	8.6	7266	8.0
February	6806	7.9	6573	7.6	6742	7.9	6853	7.6
March	7393	8.6	7295	8.4	7535	8.8	7895	8.7
January-March	21397	24.9	20931	24.2	21672	25.3	22014	24.3
April	7006	8.1	7062	8.2	7140	8.3	7665	8.5
May	7357	8.6	7345	8.5	7049	8.2	7540	8.3
June	6882	8.0	7236	8.4	6528	7.6	7431	8.2
April-June	21245	24.7	21643	25.0	20717	24.2	22636	25.0
July	7256	8.4	7379	8.5	7561	8.8	7709	8.5
August	7280	8.5	7354	8.5	7136	8.3	7677	8.5
September	7357	8.6	7559	8.7	7404	8.6	8027	8.9
July-September	21893	25.5	22292	25.8	22101	25.8	23413	25.8
October	7608	8.8	7682	8.9	7248	8.5	7817	8.6
November	6886	8.0	6739	7.8	7006	8.2	7257	8.0
December	6976	8.1	7127	8.2	6882	8.0	7473	8.2
October-December	21470	25.0	21548	24.9	21136	24.7	22547	24.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86005</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>86414</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>85626</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>90610</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

TABLE 145

## BIRTHS BY HEALTH AREA AND STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA OF RESIDENCE, NSW 2002–2005\*

Health Area–Statistical Local Area	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Sydney South West</b>								
Ashfield	507	2.6	500	2.5	496	2.6	523	2.6
Bankstown	2701	13.9	2802	14.2	2654	14.0	2838	14.2
Burwood	368	1.9	331	1.7	317	1.7	315	1.6
Camden	866	4.5	822	4.2	813	4.3	772	3.9
Campbelltown	2283	11.8	2342	11.8	2124	11.2	2272	11.4
Canterbury	2146	11.1	2135	10.8	2173	11.5	2257	11.3
Concord	357	1.8	364	1.8	396	2.1	437	2.2
Drummoyne	469	2.4	471	2.4	499	2.6	531	2.7
Fairfield	2721	14.0	2826	14.3	2643	13.9	2662	13.3
Leichhardt	1002	5.2	997	5.0	1004	5.3	1123	5.6
Liverpool	3013	15.5	3041	15.4	2860	15.1	2974	14.9
Marrickville	1029	5.3	1081	5.5	1072	5.6	1144	5.7
Strathfield	278	1.4	297	1.5	297	1.6	336	1.7
Sydney–Central and South	550	2.8	611	3.1	531	2.8	686	3.4
Wingecarribee	497	2.6	517	2.6	460	2.4	498	2.5
Wollondilly	617	3.2	638	3.2	639	3.4	647	3.2
Other–not stated	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
TOTAL	19404	100.0	19775	100.0	18978	100.0	20016	100.0
<b>South Eastern Sydney &amp; Illawarra</b>								
Botany	505	3.6	500	3.5	485	3.4	508	3.4
Hurstville	970	7.0	961	6.8	978	6.8	1060	7.1
Kiama	196	1.4	198	1.4	181	1.3	196	1.3
Kogarah	629	4.5	685	4.8	691	4.8	710	4.8
Randwick	1496	10.7	1548	10.9	1523	10.6	1737	11.7
Rockdale	1352	9.7	1371	9.7	1308	9.1	1392	9.4
Shellharbour	856	6.1	821	5.8	845	5.9	859	5.8
Shoalhaven–Pt A	448	3.2	372	2.6	403	2.8	400	2.7
Shoalhaven–Pt B	462	3.3	526	3.7	575	4.0	515	3.5
Sutherland Shire East	1259	9.0	1219	8.6	1273	8.9	1357	9.1
Sutherland Shire West	1458	10.5	1537	10.9	1471	10.2	1474	9.9
Sydney – Central and South	521	3.7	590	4.2	711	4.9	659	4.4
Waverley	799	5.7	785	5.6	895	6.2	909	6.1
Wollongong	2432	17.4	2395	16.9	2344	16.3	2429	16.3
Woolahra	563	4.0	633	4.5	689	4.8	672	4.5
Other–not stated	0	0.0	3	0.0	1	0.0	5	0.0
TOTAL	13946	100.0	14144	100.0	14373	100.0	14882	100.0
<b>Sydney West</b>								
Auburn	1059	6.6	1085	6.7	1119	7.0	1163	6.7
Baulkham Hills	1835	11.4	1925	11.9	1997	12.4	2062	11.9
Blacktown–North	1470	9.1	1555	9.6	1558	9.7	1613	9.3
Blacktown–South-East	1434	8.9	1464	9.0	1387	8.6	1555	9.0
Blacktown–South-West	1823	11.3	1704	10.5	1662	10.3	1872	10.8
Blue Mountains	917	5.7	938	5.8	877	5.5	997	5.8
Greater Lithgow	234	1.4	228	1.4	223	1.4	241	1.4
Hawkesbury	937	5.8	971	6.0	909	5.7	942	5.4
Holroyd	1423	8.8	1371	8.5	1450	9.0	1610	9.3
Parramatta	2196	13.6	2176	13.4	2227	13.8	2378	13.7
Penrith	2828	17.5	2781	17.2	2675	16.6	2862	16.5
Other–not stated	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0
TOTAL	16156	100.0	16198	100.0	16084	100.0	17299	100.0
<b>Northern Sydney &amp; Central Coast</b>								
Gosford	1905	14.6	1936	14.5	1927	14.5	1963	14.1
Hornsby	1829	14.0	1734	13.0	1787	13.5	1844	13.2
Hunters Hill	145	1.1	154	1.2	147	1.1	158	1.1
Ku-ring-gai	882	6.7	880	6.6	860	6.5	868	6.2
Lane Cove	382	2.9	429	3.2	389	2.9	439	3.1
Manly	533	4.1	570	4.3	552	4.2	643	4.6
Mosman	340	2.6	370	2.8	379	2.9	363	2.6
North Sydney	756	5.8	780	5.8	785	5.9	896	6.4
Pittwater	682	5.2	768	5.7	716	5.4	744	5.3
Ryde	1238	9.5	1250	9.3	1225	9.2	1248	8.9
Warringah	1851	14.2	1884	14.1	1839	13.8	1900	13.6
Willoughby	812	6.2	818	6.1	893	6.7	1006	7.2
Wyong	1713	13.1	1803	13.5	1779	13.4	1877	13.5
Other–not stated	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
TOTAL	13068	100.0	13376	100.0	13278	100.0	13950	100.0

TABLE 145 (continued)

## BIRTHS BY HEALTH AREA AND STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA OF RESIDENCE, NSW 2002–2005\*

Health Area–Statistical Local Area	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Hunter &amp; New England</b>								
Armidale–City	237	2.3	236	2.4	225	2.3	220	2.1
Armidale–Balance	97	1.0	79	0.8	72	0.7	73	0.7
Barraba	15	0.1	20	0.2	21	0.2	18	0.2
Bingara	12	0.1	17	0.2	19	0.2	23	0.2
Cessnock	614	6.0	613	6.2	624	6.4	671	6.3
Dungog	105	1.0	92	0.9	83	0.8	103	1.0
Glen Innes	99	1.0	71	0.7	80	0.8	86	0.8
Gloucester	38	0.4	51	0.5	38	0.4	49	0.5
Greater Taree	509	5.0	464	4.7	499	5.1	501	4.7
Great Lakes	290	2.9	331	3.4	337	3.4	343	3.2
Gunnedah	158	1.6	170	1.7	125	1.3	162	1.5
Guyra	47	0.5	60	0.6	59	0.6	59	0.6
Inverell–Pt A	71	0.7	67	0.7	62	0.6	59	0.6
Inverell–Pt B	129	1.3	119	1.2	136	1.4	131	1.2
Lake Macquarie	2180	21.4	2088	21.2	2101	21.4	2231	21.1
Maitland	812	8.0	811	8.2	849	8.6	908	8.6
Manilla	46	0.5	37	0.4	39	0.4	38	0.4
Merrriwa	24	0.2	17	0.2	28	0.3	25	0.2
Moree Plains	254	2.5	196	2.0	205	2.1	243	2.3
Murrurundi	26	0.3	26	0.3	34	0.3	29	0.3
Muswellbrook	236	2.3	255	2.6	244	2.5	266	2.5
Narrabri	196	1.9	181	1.8	162	1.7	168	1.6
Newcastle–Inner	48	0.5	49	0.5	33	0.3	71	0.7
Newcastle–Remainder	1782	17.5	1782	18.1	1700	17.3	1892	17.9
Nundle	8	0.1	8	0.1	15	0.2	15	0.1
Parry–Pt A	57	0.6	52	0.5	51	0.5	46	0.4
Parry–Pt B	138	1.4	125	1.3	129	1.3	147	1.4
Port Stephens	719	7.1	714	7.2	629	6.4	756	7.2
Quirindi	79	0.8	59	0.6	68	0.7	63	0.6
Scone	141	1.4	134	1.4	143	1.5	149	1.4
Severn	32	0.3	30	0.3	36	0.4	20	0.2
Singleton	345	3.4	307	3.1	321	3.3	319	3.0
Tamworth	423	4.2	463	4.7	494	5.0	520	4.9
Tenterfield	53	0.5	25	0.3	27	0.3	42	0.4
Uralla	66	0.6	52	0.5	61	0.6	61	0.6
Walcha	46	0.5	29	0.3	39	0.4	34	0.3
Yallaroi	35	0.3	33	0.3	28	0.3	28	0.3
Other–not stated	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10167</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9863</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9816</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10571</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>North Coast</b>								
Ballina	383	8.1	340	7.3	385	8.1	334	6.6
Bellingen	125	2.6	107	2.3	109	2.3	120	2.4
Byron	303	6.4	304	6.5	285	6.0	332	6.6
Coffs Harbour–Pt A	549	11.6	505	10.9	507	10.7	539	10.7
Coffs Harbour–Pt B	164	3.5	121	2.6	138	2.9	144	2.9
Copmanhurst	49	1.0	42	0.9	39	0.8	53	1.1
Grafton	201	4.3	194	4.2	197	4.1	204	4.1
Hastings–Pt A	345	7.3	418	9.0	413	8.7	452	9.0
Hastings–Pt B	247	5.2	265	5.7	299	6.3	299	5.9
Kempsey	355	7.5	330	7.1	384	8.1	375	7.4
Kyogle	82	1.7	89	1.9	71	1.5	76	1.5
Lismore–Pt A	373	7.9	388	8.3	363	7.6	419	8.3
Lismore–Pt B	150	3.2	153	3.3	156	3.3	153	3.0
Macleay	149	3.2	154	3.3	153	3.2	158	3.1
Nambucca	178	3.8	170	3.7	179	3.8	172	3.4
Pristine Waters Nymboida	92	1.9	60	1.3	72	1.5	109	2.2
Pristine Waters Ulmarra	72	1.5	62	1.3	66	1.4	82	1.6
Richmond Valley Casino	143	3.0	140	3.0	126	2.6	156	3.1
Richmond Valley Bal	123	2.6	117	2.5	116	2.4	126	2.5
Tweed–Pt A	347	7.3	406	8.7	407	8.6	404	8.0
Tweed–Pt B	292	6.2	284	6.1	292	6.1	330	6.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4722</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4649</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4757</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5037</b>	<b>100.0</b>

TABLE 145 (continued)

## BIRTHS BY HEALTH AREA AND STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA OF RESIDENCE, NSW 2002–2005\*

Health Area–Statistical Local Area	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Greater Southern</b>								
Albury	6	0.1	11	0.3	13	0.3	8	0.2
Bega Valley	279	6.9	275	7.1	261	6.7	294	7.3
Berrigan	25	0.6	25	0.6	26	0.7	27	0.7
Bland	81	2.0	80	2.1	86	2.2	73	1.8
Bombala	17	0.4	12	0.3	31	0.8	26	0.6
Boorowa	14	0.3	7	0.2	18	0.5	26	0.6
Carrathool	77	1.9	56	1.4	67	1.7	50	1.2
Conargo	8	0.2	10	0.3	5	0.1	10	0.2
Coolamon	52	1.3	32	0.8	33	0.8	52	1.3
Cooma–Monaro	81	2.0	84	2.2	106	2.7	92	2.3
Cootamundra	80	2.0	81	2.1	98	2.5	90	2.2
Crookwell	23	0.6	31	0.8	25	0.6	38	0.9
Culcairn	32	0.8	24	0.6	22	0.6	22	0.5
Deniliquin	77	1.9	86	2.2	87	2.2	88	2.2
Eurobodalla	261	6.5	319	8.2	318	8.2	335	8.3
Goulburn	239	6.0	250	6.4	210	5.4	233	5.8
Griffith	408	10.2	366	9.4	383	9.9	391	9.7
Gundagai	67	1.7	60	1.5	50	1.3	48	1.2
Gunning	9	0.2	14	0.4	10	0.3	11	0.3
Harden	34	0.8	25	0.6	43	1.1	45	1.1
Hay	59	1.5	58	1.5	42	1.1	54	1.3
Jerilderie	5	0.1	9	0.2	13	0.3	13	0.3
Junee	67	1.7	73	1.9	64	1.6	70	1.7
Leeton	153	3.8	168	4.3	187	4.8	174	4.3
Lockhart	36	0.9	40	1.0	30	0.8	39	1.0
Mulwaree	66	1.6	57	1.5	79	2.0	63	1.6
Murray	6	0.1	11	0.3	7	0.2	12	0.3
Murrumbidgee	37	0.9	35	0.9	27	0.7	40	1.0
Narrandera	102	2.5	93	2.4	78	2.0	80	2.0
Queanbeyan	203	5.1	170	4.4	179	4.6	172	4.3
Snowy River	59	1.5	48	1.2	76	2.0	70	1.7
Tallaganda	11	0.3	11	0.3	6	0.2	10	0.2
Temora	79	2.0	70	1.8	66	1.7	88	2.2
Tumbarumba	20	0.5	28	0.7	26	0.7	31	0.8
Tumut	136	3.4	140	3.6	138	3.6	143	3.5
Wagga Wagga–Pt A	744	18.5	733	18.9	681	17.5	708	17.5
Wagga Wagga–Pt B	90	2.2	90	2.3	89	2.3	88	2.2
Windouran	12	0.3	17	0.4	10	0.3	6	0.1
Yarrowlumla–Pt A	22	0.5	35	0.9	36	0.9	67	1.7
Yass	29	0.7	14	0.4	5	0.1	10	0.2
Young	149	3.7	112	2.9	128	3.3	113	2.8
Other–not stated	61	1.51	28	0.7	24	0.6	32	0.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4016</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3888</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3883</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4042</b>	<b>100.0</b>

TABLE 145 (continued)

BIRTHS BY HEALTH AREA AND STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA OF RESIDENCE, NSW 2002–2005<sup>#</sup>

Health Area / Statistical Local Area	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Greater Western</b>								
Bathurst	366	9.3	404	10.2	377	9.8	431	10.7
Blayney–Pt A	69	1.8	58	1.5	75	1.9	72	1.8
Blayney–Pt B	16	0.4	23	0.6	16	0.4	24	0.6
Bogan	56	1.4	55	1.4	56	1.5	69	1.7
Bourke	86	2.2	44	1.1	53	1.4	58	1.4
Brewarrina	42	1.1	35	0.9	34	0.9	38	0.9
Broken Hill	218	5.6	238	6.0	224	5.8	222	5.5
Cabonne–Pt A	12	0.3	15	0.4	16	0.4	14	0.3
Cabonne–Pts B&C	112	2.9	91	2.3	110	2.9	82	2.0
Central Darling	31	0.8	24	0.6	23	0.6	27	0.7
Cobar	81	2.1	84	2.1	83	2.2	78	1.9
Coolah	46	1.2	46	1.2	44	1.1	51	1.3
Coonabarabran	64	1.6	68	1.7	78	2.0	73	1.8
Coonamble	85	2.2	83	2.1	66	1.7	58	1.4
Cowra	154	3.9	147	3.7	151	3.9	163	4.0
Dubbo–Pt A	556	14.2	581	14.7	548	14.2	574	14.2
Dubbo–Pt B	49	1.3	68	1.7	77	2.0	61	1.5
Evans–Pt A	13	0.3	7	0.2	13	0.3	7	0.2
Evans–Pt B	30	0.8	26	0.7	32	0.8	42	1.0
Forbes	120	3.1	121	3.1	104	2.7	113	2.8
Gilgandra	56	1.4	60	1.5	51	1.3	61	1.5
Lachlan	95	2.4	96	2.4	99	2.6	102	2.5
Mudgee	220	5.6	219	5.5	199	5.2	263	6.5
Narromine	126	3.2	125	3.2	114	3.0	89	2.2
Oberon	111	2.8	100	2.5	107	2.8	127	3.1
Orange	533	13.6	596	15.1	562	14.6	572	14.1
Parkes	195	5.0	213	5.4	197	5.1	207	5.1
Rylstone	49	1.3	37	0.9	32	0.8	34	0.8
Walgett	116	3.0	92	2.3	114	3.0	103	2.5
Warren	54	1.4	49	1.2	39	1.0	53	1.3
Weddin	35	0.9	29	0.7	33	0.9	35	0.9
Wellington	113	2.9	112	2.8	105	2.7	109	2.7
Unincorporated Far West	9	0.2	9	0.2	8	0.2	20	0.5
Other–not stated	1	0.0	5	0.1	7	0.2	11	0.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3919</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3960</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3847</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4043</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Other–Not stated</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>TOTAL NSW</b>	<b>86005</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>86414</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>85626</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>90610</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

<sup>#</sup> Numbers not shown where less than 20 births were reported in a Statistical Local Area over the 5-year period. ABS Statistical Local Area boundaries for 2001 were used. Figures refer to all births (stillbirths and live births).

## Maternal age

There was an increase in births among mothers of all ages (Table 146). Between 2004 and 2005, the largest increase was reported among mothers aged 35–39 years (n=1,596), followed by mothers aged 35–39 years (n=1,467) and mothers aged 35–39 years (n=893). While the number of births to teenage mothers was slightly higher in 2005 compared to 2004, the rate of increase was less than other age groups, and the overall proportion of births that occurred to teenage mothers followed the trend of previous years, falling slightly from 4.0 per cent in 2004 to 3.9 per cent in 2005.

## Maternal country of birth

The increase in births observed in 2005 occurred among mothers born in wide range of countries (Table 4, page 20). Overall, the pattern of births by mother's country of birth remained similar to 2004.

**TABLE 146**

**CONFINEMENTS BY MATERNAL AGE, NSW 2002–2005**

Age (years)	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
12–17	1056	1.2	954	1.1	995	1.2	967	1.1
18	1003	1.2	945	1.1	976	1.2	982	1.1
19	1593	1.9	1487	1.7	1416	1.7	1491	1.7
12–19	3652	4.3	3386	4.0	3387	4.0	3440	3.9
20	1908	2.3	1795	2.1	1723	2.0	1821	2.0
21	2245	2.7	2136	2.5	2134	2.5	2132	2.4
22	2417	2.9	2568	3.0	2353	2.8	2465	2.8
23	2890	3.4	2764	3.3	2830	3.4	2993	3.4
24	3214	3.8	3266	3.8	3055	3.6	3328	3.7
20–24	12674	15.0	12529	14.7	12095	14.3	12739	14.3
25	3607	4.3	3793	4.5	3563	4.2	3781	4.2
26	4286	5.1	4222	5.0	4098	4.9	4231	4.7
27	5022	5.9	4800	5.6	4567	5.4	4802	5.4
28	5549	6.6	5431	6.4	5240	6.2	5274	5.9
29	6059	7.2	5892	6.9	5645	6.7	5918	6.6
25–29	24523	29.0	24138	28.4	23113	27.4	24006	26.9
30	6394	7.6	6103	7.2	5905	7.0	6114	6.9
31	6334	7.5	6461	7.6	6225	7.4	6401	7.2
32	5583	6.6	5991	7.0	6092	7.2	6365	7.1
33	5079	6.0	5316	6.3	5700	6.8	6025	6.8
34	4420	5.2	4651	5.5	4984	5.9	5597	6.3
30–34	27810	32.9	28522	33.5	28906	34.3	30502	34.2
35	3758	4.4	4006	4.7	4165	4.9	4533	5.1
36	3147	3.7	3245	3.8	3427	4.1	3825	4.3
37	2543	3.0	2625	3.1	2613	3.1	2938	3.3
38	2080	2.5	2100	2.5	2017	2.4	2340	2.6
39	1579	1.9	1606	1.9	1586	1.9	1639	1.8
35–39	13107	15.5	13582	16.0	13808	16.4	15275	17.1
40	1131	1.3	1158	1.4	1148	1.4	1200	1.3
41	687	0.8	789	0.9	788	0.9	880	1.0
42	449	0.5	450	0.5	481	0.6	497	0.6
43	238	0.3	234	0.3	265	0.3	283	0.3
44	140	0.2	121	0.1	137	0.2	157	0.2
40–44	2645	3.1	2752	3.2	2819	3.3	3017	3.4
45–plus	120	0.1	113	0.1	143	0.2	149	0.2
Not stated	56	0.1	10	0.0	17	0.0	12	0.0
TOTAL NSW	84587	100.0	85032	100.0	84288	100.0	89140	100.0

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

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers

In 2005, the number of Aboriginal mothers reported giving birth also increased (Table 147), although some of this increase could be due to improved reporting of maternal Aboriginality between 2004 and 2005 (see Chapter 6). Most of the increase in births occurred among mothers aged 20–29 years. Births to teenage mothers followed the same pattern as for non-Aboriginal mothers, with the number of births to teenage mothers increasing slightly, but the overall proportion of births to teenage mothers following the downward trend of previous years.

## Number of previous pregnancies

The increase in births in 2005 occurred fairly evenly among mothers who were giving birth for the first time and mothers who had given birth previously (Table 148). There was no substantial change in the pattern of numbers of previous pregnancies among mothers who gave birth in 2005 compared to previous years.

**TABLE 147**

### CONFINEMENTS BY INDIGENOUS STATUS AND MATERNAL AGE, NSW 2002–2005<sup>#</sup>

Aboriginality–age (years)	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander</b>								
12–19	481	22.3	455	21.1	493	21.4	504	20.4
20–24	671	31.1	678	31.4	701	30.4	775	31.3
25–29	513	23.8	512	23.7	504	21.8	555	22.4
30–34	340	15.8	363	16.8	389	16.9	409	16.5
35–39	128	5.9	124	5.7	185	8.0	197	8.0
40 +	18	0.8	27	1.2	35	1.5	29	1.2
Not stated	4	0.2	2	0.1	1	0.0	5	0.2
Total	2155	100.0	2161	100.0	2308	100.0	2474	100.0
<b>Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander</b>								
12–19	3169	3.8	2930	3.5	2893	3.5	2936	3.4
20–24	11999	14.6	11849	14.3	11393	13.9	11963	13.8
25–29	24001	29.1	23624	28.5	22602	27.6	23444	27.1
30–34	27451	33.3	28141	34.0	28506	34.8	30053	34.7
35–39	12969	15.7	13444	16.2	13613	16.6	15042	17.4
40 +	2624	3.2	2723	3.3	2784	3.4	2980	3.4
Not stated	170	0.2	120	0.1	157	0.2	152	0.2
Total	82383	100.0	82831	100.0	81948	100.0	86570	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>								
12–19	3652	4.3	3386	4.0	3387	4.0	3440	3.9
20–24	12674	15.0	12529	14.7	12095	14.3	12739	14.3
25–29	24523	29.0	24138	28.4	23113	27.4	24006	26.9
30–34	27810	32.9	28522	33.5	28906	34.3	30502	34.2
35–39	13107	15.5	13582	16.0	13808	16.4	15275	17.1
40 +	2645	3.1	2752	3.2	2819	3.3	3017	3.4
Not stated	176	0.2	123	0.1	160	0.2	161	0.2
TOTAL NSW	84587	100.0	85032	100.0	84288	100.0	89140	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection. Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health  
<sup>#</sup> Total NSW includes mothers where Aboriginality was not stated.

**TABLE 148**

### CONFINEMENTS BY NUMBER OF PREVIOUS PREGNANCIES, NSW 2002–2005

No. previous pregnancies (>20 weeks gestation)	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0	35035	41.4	35879	42.2	35796	42.5	37073	41.6
1	28723	34.0	28764	33.8	28324	33.6	29882	33.5
2	12940	15.3	12811	15.1	12628	15.0	13798	15.5
3	4747	5.6	4589	5.4	4548	5.4	5090	5.7
4	1759	2.1	1683	2.0	1636	1.9	1796	2.0
5–plus	1290	1.5	1258	1.5	1312	1.6	1441	1.6
Not stated	93	0.1	48	0.1	44	0.1	60	0.1
TOTAL	84587	100.0	85032	100.0	84288	100.0	89140	100.0

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