

8. 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 21).

Trends in confinements

Between 2002 and 2006, about 20 per cent of mothers were born in non-English speaking countries (Table 85). Over the 5 year period, there was a slight decline in the percentage of mothers born in South East Asia, and a slight increase in the percentage of mothers born in South Asian countries.

TABLE 85

BIRTHS AND CONFINEMENTS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2002–2006

Country of birth group	Year									
	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Confinements										
English-speaking	67277	79.5	67322	79.2	66621	79.0	70354	78.9	71515	78.3
Central & South America	739	0.9	692	0.8	675	0.8	726	0.8	765	0.8
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1534	1.8	1545	1.8	1584	1.9	1485	1.7	1538	1.7
Southern Europe	1001	1.2	1040	1.2	926	1.1	927	1.0	901	1.0
Western & Northern Europe	614	0.7	660	0.8	649	0.8	688	0.8	725	0.8
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	458	0.5	486	0.6	518	0.6	578	0.6	564	0.6
Middle East & Africa	3653	4.3	3879	4.6	3876	4.6	4080	4.6	4216	4.6
South East Asia	4557	5.4	4673	5.5	4445	5.3	4571	5.1	4698	5.1
North East Asia	2962	3.5	2819	3.3	2884	3.4	3117	3.5	3143	3.4
Southern Asia	1716	2.0	1746	2.1	1930	2.3	2396	2.7	2759	3.0
Other-not stated	76	0.1	170	0.2	180	0.2	218	0.2	491	0.5
TOTAL	84587	100.0	85032	100.0	84288	100.0	89140	100.0	91315	100.0
Births										
English-speaking	68458	79.6	68459	79.2	67735	79.1	71558	79.0	72699	78.4
Central & South America	755	0.9	699	0.8	683	0.8	743	0.8	779	0.8
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1555	1.8	1564	1.8	1600	1.9	1508	1.7	1564	1.7
Southern Europe	1022	1.2	1064	1.2	939	1.1	945	1.0	920	1.0
Western & Northern Europe	627	0.7	668	0.8	663	0.8	700	0.8	737	0.8
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	468	0.5	494	0.6	525	0.6	593	0.7	573	0.6
Middle East & Africa	3711	4.3	3947	4.6	3941	4.6	4142	4.6	4287	4.6
South East Asia	4595	5.3	4733	5.5	4488	5.2	4626	5.1	4746	5.1
North East Asia	3000	3.5	2846	3.3	2910	3.4	3144	3.5	3172	3.4
Southern Asia	1738	2.0	1766	2.0	1953	2.3	2428	2.7	2801	3.0
Other-not stated	76	0.1	174	0.2	189	0.2	223	0.2	503	0.5
TOTAL	86005	100.0	86414	100.0	85626	100.0	90610	100.0	92781	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection, 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 86, Figure 4), while the largest

proportions of mothers aged 35 years and over were among mothers born in Western and Northern Europe (38.9 per cent) and North East Asia (31.7 per cent).

TABLE 86

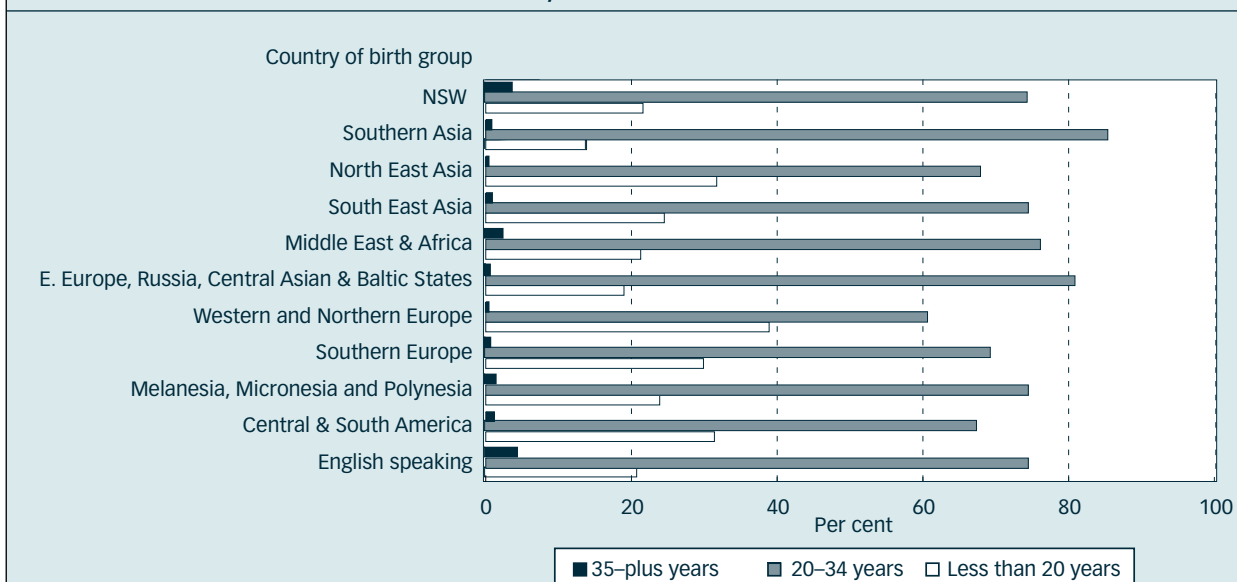
MATERNAL AGE BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2006

Country of birth group	Maternal age (years)									
	12-19		20-34		35+		Not stated		2006	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English-speaking	3231	4.5	53312	74.5	14924	20.9	48	0.1	71515	100.0
Central & South America	9	1.2	516	67.5	240	31.4	0	0.0	765	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	24	1.6	1146	74.5	368	23.9	0	0.0	1538	100.0
Southern Europe	7	0.8	625	69.4	269	29.9	0	0.0	901	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	3	0.4	439	60.6	282	38.9	1	0.1	725	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	1	0.2	456	80.9	107	19.0	0	0.0	564	100.0
Middle East & Africa	107	2.5	3210	76.1	898	21.3	1	0.0	4216	100.0
South East Asia	42	0.9	3502	74.5	1153	24.5	1	0.0	4698	100.0
North East Asia	13	0.4	2134	67.9	995	31.7	1	0.0	3143	100.0
Southern Asia	23	0.8	2355	85.4	381	13.8	0	0.0	2759	100.0
Other-not stated	11	2.2	329	67.0	145	29.5	6	1.2	491	100.0
TOTAL	3471	3.8	68024	74.5	19762	21.6	58	0.1	91315	100.0

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

FIGURE 4

MATERNAL AGE BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2002-2006



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

Health area of residence

In 2006, the proportion of mothers born in non-English speaking countries was highest in the Sydney South West Area (37.7 per cent), followed by the Sydney West Area (31.0 per cent). Five per cent of mothers were born in South East Asian countries, 50.3 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 80.9 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 3.0 per cent in Southern Asian countries, with the majority living in metropolitan areas (Table 87).

TABLE 87

HEALTH AREA OF RESIDENCE BY MATERNAL COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2006#

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	12614	61.8	292	1.4	673	3.3	418	2.0	141	0.7	140	0.7	2030	9.9	2363	11.6	897	4.4	748	3.7	110	0.5	20426	100.0
South Eastern Sydney & Illawarra	11964	79.7	175	1.2	126	0.8	219	1.5	180	1.2	149	1.0	456	3.0	645	4.3	650	4.3	266	1.8	190	1.3	15020	100.0
Sydney West	11833	68.8	115	0.7	533	3.1	138	0.8	74	0.4	114	0.7	1379	8.0	969	5.6	682	4.0	1323	7.7	50	0.3	17210	100.0
Northern Sydney & Central Coast	11639	82.3	137	1.0	94	0.7	92	0.7	210	1.5	126	0.9	226	1.6	470	3.3	774	5.5	321	2.3	50	0.4	14139	100.0
Hunter & New England	10150	95.9	17	0.2	48	0.5	20	0.2	44	0.4	16	0.2	49	0.5	115	1.1	61	0.6	40	0.4	19	0.2	10579	100.0
North Coast	4891	95.9	11	0.2	15	0.3	-	0.1	37	0.7	5	0.1	28	0.5	54	1.1	27	0.5	14	0.3	-	0.3	5100	100.0
Greater Southern	3884	95.7	6	0.1	31	0.8	-	0.1	19	0.5	-	0.1	23	0.6	31	0.8	17	0.4	27	0.7	14	0.3	4059	100.0
Greater Western	3911	96.5	5	0.1	9	0.2	-	0.1	11	0.3	7	0.2	16	0.4	29	0.7	11	0.3	12	0.3	-	0.9	4052	100.0
Other-not stated	629	86.2	7	1.0	9	1.2	3	0.4	9	1.2	4	0.5	9	1.2	22	3.0	24	3.3	8	1.1	6	0.8	730	100.0
TOTAL	71515	78.3	765	0.8	1538	1.7	901	1.0	725	0.8	564	0.6	4216	4.6	4698	5.1	3143	3.4	2759	3.0	491	0.5	91315	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection, Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, NSW Health Department.

Data not shown for a country of birth groups with less than 5 in a group.

Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit

In 2006, 87.5 per cent of all mothers commenced antenatal care before 20 weeks gestation. There was some variation between country of birth groups, with 89.6 per cent of mothers born in English speaking countries commencing

antenatal care before 20 weeks gestation, compared with 64.9 per cent of mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, and 72.8 per cent of mothers born in the Middle East and Africa (Table 88).

TABLE 88

DURATION OF PREGNANCY AT FIRST ANTENATAL VISIT BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2006

Country of birth group	Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit (weeks)							
	0-19		20-plus		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English-speaking	64042	89.6	6523	9.1	950	1.3	71515	100.0
Central & South America	673	88.0	86	11.2	6	0.8	765	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	998	64.9	517	33.6	23	1.5	1538	100.0
Southern Europe	801	88.9	89	9.9	11	1.2	901	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	649	89.5	62	8.6	14	1.9	725	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	502	89.0	57	10.1	5	0.9	564	100.0
Middle East & Africa	3068	72.8	1099	26.1	49	1.2	4216	100.0
South East Asia	3843	81.8	788	16.8	67	1.4	4698	100.0
North East Asia	2611	83.1	501	15.9	31	1.0	3143	100.0
Southern Asia	2288	82.9	453	16.4	18	0.7	2759	100.0
Other-not stated	399	81.3	43	8.8	49	10.0	491	100.0
TOTAL	79874	87.5	10218	11.2	1223	1.3	91315	100.0

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

Smoking in pregnancy

In 2006, 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 89). About one in 6 mothers born in English-speaking countries smoked at some time during pregnancy, compared to fewer than one in 9 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 90).

TABLE 89

SMOKING IN PREGNANCY BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2006

Country of birth group	Smoking in pregnancy							
	No		Yes		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English-speaking	58825	82.3	11618	16.2	1072	1.5	71515	100.0
Central & South America	714	93.3	29	3.8	22	2.9	765	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1365	88.8	135	8.8	38	2.5	1538	100.0
Southern Europe	799	88.7	72	8.0	30	3.3	901	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	671	92.6	36	5.0	18	2.5	725	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	532	94.3	15	2.7	17	3.0	564	100.0
Middle East & Africa	3933	93.3	207	4.9	76	1.8	4216	100.0
South East Asia	4470	95.1	101	2.1	127	2.7	4698	100.0
North East Asia	2993	95.2	40	1.3	110	3.5	3143	100.0
Southern Asia	2675	97.0	11	0.4	73	2.6	2759	100.0
Other-not stated	438	89.2	43	8.8	10	2.0	491	100.0
TOTAL	77415	84.8	12307	13.5	1593	1.7	91315	100.0

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

TABLE 90**MOTHERS WHO SMOKED AT ALL DURING PREGNANCY BY NUMBER OF CIGARETTES SMOKED IN THE SECOND HALF OF PREGNANCY AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2006**

Country of birth group	Cigarettes per day in the second half of pregnancy											
	None		1–10 per day		More than 10 per day		Smoked amount not stated		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English-speaking	480	4.1	5819	50.1	4826	41.5	419	3.6	74	0.6	11618	100.0
Central & South America	3	10.3	19	65.5	5	17.2	2	6.9	0	0.0	29	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1	0.7	95	70.4	36	26.7	3	2.2	0	0.0	135	100.0
Southern Europe	3	4.2	45	62.5	20	27.8	4	5.6	0	0.0	72	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	1	2.8	22	61.1	10	27.8	3	8.3	0	0.0	36	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	0	0.0	10	66.7	5	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	15	100.0
Middle East & Africa	7	3.4	114	55.1	77	37.2	9	4.3	0	0.0	207	100.0
South East Asia	10	9.9	64	63.4	20	19.8	5	5.0	2	2.0	101	100.0
North East Asia	5	12.5	28	70.0	1	2.5	5	12.5	1	2.5	40	100.0
Southern Asia	2	18.2	6	54.5	2	18.2	1	9.1	0	0.0	11	100.0
Other-not stated	2	4.7	21	48.8	14	32.6	4	9.3	2	4.7	43	100.0
TOTAL	514	4.2	6243	50.7	5016	40.8	455	3.7	79	0.6	12307	100.0

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

Medical conditions and obstetric complications

In 2006, 1.2 per cent of mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia were reported to have diabetes mellitus—twice the rate for all mothers in NSW, though the number of mothers is small (Table 91). The rates of gestational diabetes in mothers born in Asian countries were over twice the rate for all mothers in NSW.

Overall, 0.9 per cent of mothers were reported to have essential hypertension, and 3.5 per cent were reported to have pre-eclampsia.

TABLE 91**MATERNAL MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND OBSTETRIC COMPLICATIONS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2006**

Country of birth group	Condition									
	Diabetes mellitus		Gestational diabetes		Essential hypertension		Pregnancy-induced hypertension		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English-speaking	428	0.6	2527	3.5	692	1.0	3716	5.2	71515	100.0
Central & South America	4	0.5	46	6.0	7	0.9	39	5.1	765	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	18	1.2	175	11.4	6	0.4	82	5.3	1538	100.0
Southern Europe	4	0.4	53	5.9	5	0.6	29	3.2	901	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	3	0.4	29	4.0	5	0.7	29	4.0	725	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	1	0.2	19	3.4	1	0.2	25	4.4	564	100.0
Middle East & Africa	25	0.6	320	7.6	29	0.7	133	3.2	4216	100.0
South East Asia	24	0.5	518	11.0	26	0.6	158	3.4	4698	100.0
North East Asia	11	0.3	312	9.9	19	0.6	93	3.0	3143	100.0
Southern Asia	21	0.8	355	12.9	11	0.4	111	4.0	2759	100.0
Other-not stated	2	0.4	21	4.3	3	0.6	21	4.3	491	100.0
TOTAL#	541	0.6	4375	4.8	804	0.9	4436	4.9	91315	100.0

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

Total refers to total mothers giving birth in NSW.

Labour and birth

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 92).

Mothers born in the Middle East and Africa and Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia were more likely to have a normal vaginal birth than mothers in other country of birth groups (Table 93). The highest caesarean section rates were among mothers born in Southern Asia (33.4 per cent) and Central and South America (33.3 per cent).

TABLE 92

LABOUR ONSET BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2006

Country of birth group	Onset of labour									
	Spontaneous		No labour		Induced		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English-speaking	40467	56.6	12359	17.3	18634	26.1	55	0.1	71515	100.0
Central & South America	460	60.1	133	17.4	172	22.5	0	0.0	765	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1017	66.1	207	13.5	314	20.4	0	0.0	1538	100.0
Southern Europe	547	60.7	144	16.0	210	23.3	0	0.0	901	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	464	64.0	116	16.0	145	20.0	0	0.0	725	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	355	62.9	89	15.8	120	21.3	0	0.0	564	100.0
Middle East & Africa	2715	64.4	590	14.0	910	21.6	1	0.0	4216	100.0
South East Asia	3252	69.2	741	15.8	701	14.9	4	0.1	4698	100.0
North East Asia	2033	64.7	517	16.4	591	18.8	2	0.1	3143	100.0
Southern Asia	1608	58.3	479	17.4	670	24.3	2	0.1	2759	100.0
Other-not stated	252	51.3	141	28.7	92	18.7	6	1.2	491	100.0
TOTAL#	53170	58.2	15516	17.0	22559	24.7	70	0.1	91315	100.0

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

No labour indicates elective caesarean section.

TABLE 93

TYPE OF BIRTH BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2006

Health Area	Type of birth														TOTAL	
	Normal vaginal		Forceps		Vacuum extraction		Vaginal breech		Elective caesarean section		Emergency caesarean section#		Not stated		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English-speaking	43195	60.4	2235	3.1	4889	6.8	285	0.4	12352	17.3	8383	11.7	176	0.2	71515	100.0
Central & South America	423	55.3	31	4.1	50	6.5	4	0.5	133	17.4	122	15.9	2	0.3	765	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1070	69.6	28	1.8	62	4.0	9	0.6	207	13.5	162	10.5	0	0.0	1538	100.0
Southern Europe	565	62.7	30	3.3	64	7.1	5	0.6	144	16.0	91	10.1	2	0.2	901	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	434	59.9	26	3.6	64	8.8	3	0.4	116	16.0	77	10.6	5	0.7	725	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	332	58.9	23	4.1	44	7.8	2	0.4	89	15.8	72	12.8	2	0.4	564	100.0
Middle East & Africa	2909	69.0	84	2.0	197	4.7	13	0.3	590	14.0	420	10.0	3	0.1	4216	100.0
South East Asia	2748	58.5	157	3.3	409	8.7	27	0.6	741	15.8	607	12.9	9	0.2	4698	100.0
North East Asia	1785	56.8	123	3.9	322	10.2	6	0.2	517	16.4	387	12.3	3	0.1	3143	100.0
Southern Asia	1487	53.9	132	4.8	210	7.6	7	0.3	477	17.3	445	16.1	1	0.0	2759	100.0
Other-not stated	239	48.7	16	3.3	21	4.3	5	1.0	141	28.7	61	12.4	8	1.6	491	100.0
TOTAL	55187	60.4	2885	3.2	6332	6.9	366	0.4	15507	17.0	10827	11.9	211	0.2	91315	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST), Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, NSW Health Department.

Data for emergency caesarean section include four cases where caesarean section was reported but onset of labour was not reported.

Birth weight

The rate of low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams) in 2006 was 6.4 per cent in NSW. The highest rates of low birth weight were in babies of mothers born in Southern Asia

(9.8 per cent) and Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia (8.1 per cent) (Table 94). Babies of mothers born in North East Asia were least likely to be low birth weight.

TABLE 94

BIRTH WEIGHT BY MATERNAL COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2006

Country of birth group	Birth weight (grams)							
	Less than 2500		2500+		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English-speaking	4598	6.3	68006	93.5	95	0.1	72699	100.0
Central & South America	40	5.1	738	94.7	1	0.1	779	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	126	8.1	1435	91.8	3	0.2	1564	100.0
Southern Europe	51	5.5	865	94.0	4	0.4	920	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	37	5.0	700	95.0	0	0.0	737	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	34	5.9	539	94.1	0	0.0	573	100.0
Middle East & Africa	263	6.1	4016	93.7	8	0.2	4287	100.0
South East Asia	314	6.6	4425	93.2	7	0.1	4746	100.0
North East Asia	142	4.5	3027	95.4	3	0.1	3172	100.0
Southern Asia	274	9.8	2525	90.1	2	0.1	2801	100.0
Other-not stated	54	10.7	447	88.9	2	0.4	503	100.0
TOTAL	5933	6.4	86723	93.5	125	0.1	92781	100.0

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

Gestational age

The rate of prematurity (less than 37 weeks gestation) in 2006 was 7.4 per cent in NSW. The highest rates of prematurity were in babies of mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia and

Polynesia (8.7 per cent) and Central and South America (8.0 per cent). Babies of mothers born in North East Asia were least likely to be premature (Table 95).

TABLE 95

GESTATIONAL AGE BY MATERNAL COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2006

Country of birth group	Gestational age (weeks)							
	Less than 37		37+		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English-speaking	5445	7.5	67240	92.5	14	0.0	72699	100.0
Central & South America	62	8.0	717	92.0	0	0.0	779	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	136	8.7	1427	91.2	1	0.1	1564	100.0
Southern Europe	58	6.3	862	93.7	0	0.0	920	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	45	6.1	692	93.9	0	0.0	737	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	35	6.1	538	93.9	0	0.0	573	100.0
Middle East & Africa	290	6.8	3996	93.2	1	0.0	4287	100.0
South East Asia	356	7.5	4390	92.5	0	0.0	4746	100.0
North East Asia	159	5.0	3013	95.0	0	0.0	3172	100.0
Southern Asia	204	7.3	2597	92.7	0	0.0	2801	100.0
Other-not stated	49	9.7	451	89.7	3	0.6	503	100.0
TOTAL	6839	7.4	85923	92.6	19	0.0	92781	100.0

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

Apgar score

In 2006, 2.0 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 96). The rate of

Apgar scores of less than 7 was highest among babies of mothers born in the Middle East and Africa (2.5 per cent) and Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia (2.4 per cent).

TABLE 96

BIRTHS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP AND APGAR SCORE AT FIVE MINUTES, NSW 2006

Country of birth group	Apgar Score									
	0–4		5–6		7+		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English-speaking	770	1.1	714	1.0	71017	97.7	198	0.3	72699	100.0
Central & South America	8	1.0	5	0.6	765	98.2	1	0.1	779	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	19	1.2	19	1.2	1520	97.2	6	0.4	1564	100.0
Southern Europe	9	1.0	5	0.5	903	98.2	3	0.3	920	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	7	0.9	4	0.5	724	98.2	2	0.3	737	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	7	1.2	4	0.7	562	98.1	0	0.0	573	100.0
Middle East & Africa	70	1.6	36	0.8	4167	97.2	14	0.3	4287	100.0
South East Asia	62	1.3	47	1.0	4629	97.5	8	0.2	4746	100.0
North East Asia	23	0.7	14	0.4	3132	98.7	3	0.1	3172	100.0
Southern Asia	24	0.9	35	1.2	2740	97.8	2	0.1	2801	100.0
Other-not stated	8	1.6	7	1.4	486	96.6	2	0.4	503	100.0
TOTAL#	1007	1.1	890	1.0	90645	97.7	239	0.3	92781	100.0

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

Births include stillbirths.

Perinatal outcomes

In 2006, 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 97). The majority of perinatal deaths occurred among babies of mothers born in English-speaking countries ($n=622$, 75.8 per cent). There were a further 58

deaths among babies of mothers born in the Middle East and Africa and 50 deaths among babies of mothers born in South East Asian countries—comprising 7.1 and 6.1 per cent respectively of all perinatal deaths reported to the MDC.

TABLE 97

PERINATAL OUTCOMES BY HEALTH AREA OF RESIDENCE, NSW 2006

Country of birth	Perinatal outcome												Perinatal mortality / 1000 births		
	Liveborn surviving		Stillbirth		Neonatal death				Death – age not stated		Not stated			Total births	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		No.	
English-speaking	71987	99.0	445	0.6	177	0.2	6	0.0	84	0.1	72699	100.0	8.6		
Central & South America	772	99.1	5	0.6	2	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	779	100.0	9.0		
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1544	98.7	13	0.8	4	0.3	0	0.0	3	0.2	1564	100.0	10.9		
Southern Europe	911	99.0	4	0.4	4	0.4	0	0.0	1	0.1	920	100.0	8.7		
Western & Northern Europe	731	99.2	5	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1	737	100.0	6.8		
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	566	98.8	6	1.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	573	100.0	12.2		
Middle East & Africa	4224	98.5	40	0.9	18	0.4	0	0.0	5	0.1	4287	100.0	13.5		
South East Asia	4686	98.7	39	0.8	11	0.2	0	0.0	10	0.2	4746	100.0	10.5		
North East Asia	3152	99.4	12	0.4	6	0.2	0	0.0	2	0.1	3172	100.0	5.7		
Southern Asia	2774	99.0	18	0.6	4	0.1	0	0.0	5	0.2	2801	100.0	7.9		
Other – not stated	731	98.4	5	1.0	2	0.4	0	0.0	3	0.6	503	100.0	–		
TOTAL	91840	99.0	592	0.6	229	0.2	6	0.0	114	0.1	92781	100.0	8.8		

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.