

## 5. Area Health Services

Information on the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers and mothers born in non-English speaking countries is shown in Chapters 7 and 8 respectively.

### Confinements

The largest numbers of mothers who gave birth in 2008 were resident in the Sydney South West Area ( $n = 21,347$ , 22.5%), followed by the Sydney West Area ( $n = 18,213$ , 19.2%) and the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area ( $n = 15,632$ , 16.5%) (Table 20).

### Maternal age

The proportion of women giving birth at less than 20 years of age varied from 1.6% in the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area to 8.7% in the Greater Western Area, while the proportion of mothers giving birth at 35 years of age or more ranged from 15.7% in the Greater Western Area to 33.8% in the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area (Table 20).

### Maternal country of birth

Seventy-six per cent of women who gave birth in NSW in 2008 were born in English speaking countries, 13.7% were born in Asian countries, and 4.9% were born in the Middle East or Africa (Table 21). The highest proportions of mothers born in non-English speaking countries were in the Sydney South West and Sydney West Areas. In the Sydney South West Area, the majority of mothers born in non-English speaking countries were born in South East Asia, and the Middle East and Africa. In the Sydney West Area, the most common non-English speaking maternal countries of birth were in Southern Asia and the Middle East and Africa.

### Maternal Aboriginality

In 2008, 3.1% of mothers were reported to be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (Table 22). The proportion of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander mothers varied from 1.0% in the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area to 14.2% in the Greater Western Area.

**Table 20. Maternal age by health area of residence, NSW 2008**

Health area	Maternal age (years)																	
	12–19		20–24		25–29		30–34		35–39		40–44		45 +		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sydney South West	595	2.8	2865	13.4	5866	27.5	6947	32.5	4187	19.6	855	4.0	30	0.1	2	0.0	21347	100.0
South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra	325	2.1	1485	9.5	3791	24.3	5682	36.3	3673	23.5	649	4.2	26	0.2	1	0.0	15632	100.0
Sydney West	564	3.1	2779	15.3	5576	30.6	5782	31.7	2923	16.0	561	3.1	28	0.2	0	0.0	18213	100.0
Northern Sydney and Central Coast	231	1.6	985	6.9	2846	19.8	5441	37.9	3992	27.8	825	5.7	31	0.2	2	0.0	14353	100.0
Hunter and New England	663	6.2	2048	19.1	3149	29.4	2947	27.5	1614	15.0	289	2.7	16	0.1	0	0.0	10726	100.0
North Coast	363	6.8	1102	20.7	1454	27.3	1425	26.7	818	15.3	155	2.9	12	0.2	3	0.1	5332	100.0
Greater Southern	229	5.7	814	20.2	1133	28.2	1075	26.7	656	16.3	112	2.8	5	0.1	0	0.0	4024	100.0
Greater Western	353	8.7	847	20.8	1228	30.1	1010	24.8	532	13.0	98	2.4	7	0.2	3	0.1	4078	100.0
Other – not stated	37	3.2	193	16.7	362	31.2	340	29.3	187	16.1	37	3.2	3	0.3	0	0.0	1159	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3360</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>13118</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>25405</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>30649</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>18582</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>3581</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>94864</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

**Table 21. Maternal country of birth by health area of residence, NSW 2008#**

Health area	Country of birth group																					
	English speaking		Central and South America		Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia		Southern Europe		Western and Northern Europe		Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian and Baltic States		Middle East and Africa		South East Asia		North East Asia		Southern Asia		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sydney South West	12972	60.9	299	1.4	587	2.8	356	1.7	141	0.7	137	0.6	2230	10.5	2471	11.6	1077	5.1	1021	4.8	21291	100.0
South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra	12042	77.2	192	1.2	130	0.8	232	1.5	220	1.4	203	1.3	508	3.3	774	5.0	902	5.8	393	2.5	15596	100.0
Sydney West	11889	65.4	127	0.7	507	2.8	131	0.7	91	0.5	112	0.6	1450	8.0	1110	6.1	929	5.1	1837	10.1	18183	100.0
Northern Sydney and Central Coast	11484	80.3	155	1.1	92	0.6	84	0.6	261	1.8	170	1.2	226	1.6	569	4.0	914	6.4	343	2.4	14298	100.0
Hunter and New England	10299	96.1	14	0.1	35	0.3	20	0.2	50	0.5	18	0.2	59	0.6	120	1.1	62	0.6	44	0.4	10721	100.0
North Coast	5069	95.2	9	0.2	20	0.4	5	0.1	42	0.8	9	0.2	39	0.7	71	1.3	34	0.6	27	0.5	5325	100.0
Greater Southern	3804	94.6	9	0.2	27	0.7	10	0.2	10	0.2	7	0.2	61	1.5	40	1.0	19	0.5	33	0.8	4020	100.0
Greater Western	3962	97.3	4	0.1	11	0.3	3	0.1	11	0.3	7	0.2	19	0.5	35	0.9	8	0.2	12	0.3	4072	100.0
Other—not stated	840	73.2	21	1.8	15	1.3	6	0.5	18	1.6	13	1.1	43	3.7	65	5.7	78	6.8	49	4.3	1148	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72361</b>	<b>76.4</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1424</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>4635</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>5255</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>4023</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>3759</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>94654</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.  
# Excludes 210 mothers for which country of birth was not stated. Maternal countries of birth and country of birth groups are shown in Appendix 3.

**Table 22. Maternal Aboriginality and health area of residence, NSW 2008**

Health area	Aboriginality						TOTAL	
	Aboriginal – Torres Strait Islander		Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander		Not Stated		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Sydney South West	275	1.3	21043	98.6	29	0.1	21347	100.0
South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra	251	1.6	15367	98.3	14	0.1	15632	100.0
Sydney West	346	1.9	17836	97.9	31	0.2	18213	100.0
Northern Sydney and Central Coast	143	1.0	14133	98.5	77	0.5	14353	100.0
Hunter and New England	732	6.8	9979	93.0	15	0.1	10726	100.0
North Coast	416	7.8	4908	92.0	8	0.2	5332	100.0
Greater Southern	206	5.1	3810	94.7	8	0.2	4024	100.0
Greater Western	581	14.2	3468	85.0	29	0.7	4078	100.0
Other – not stated	26	2.2	1131	97.6	2	0.2	1159	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2976</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>91675</b>	<b>96.6</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>94864</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

## Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit

In 2008, 93.3% of mothers commenced antenatal care prior to 20 weeks gestation and 81.9% commenced antenatal care prior to 14 weeks gestation. The percentage of mothers commencing

antenatal care prior to 20 weeks gestation varied from 89.7% in the Sydney South West Area to 96.8% in the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area (Table 23).

**Table 23. Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit by health area of residence, NSW 2008**

Health area	Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit (weeks)									
	0–13		14–19		20–plus		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sydney South West	15809	74.1	3346	15.7	1711	8.0	481	2.3	21347	100.0
South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra	12037	77.0	2577	16.5	954	6.1	64	0.4	15632	100.0
Sydney West	16283	89.4	1185	6.5	609	3.3	136	0.7	18213	100.0
Northern Sydney and Central Coast	12666	88.2	1232	8.6	401	2.8	54	0.4	14353	100.0
Hunter and New England	8938	83.3	996	9.3	710	6.6	82	0.8	10726	100.0
North Coast	4436	83.2	579	10.9	290	5.4	27	0.5	5332	100.0
Greater Southern	3272	81.3	422	10.5	281	7.0	49	1.2	4024	100.0
Greater Western	3296	80.8	404	9.9	303	7.4	75	1.8	4078	100.0
Other – not stated	910	78.5	112	9.7	115	9.9	22	1.9	1159	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77647</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>10853</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>5374</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>94864</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

## Smoking in pregnancy

In 2008, 11.5% of mothers reported smoking in the second half of pregnancy (Table 24). The lowest reported rate was among mothers resident in the Northern Sydney and

Central Coast Area (5.5%) and the highest rate among residents of the Greater Western Area (25.4%).

**Table 24. Number of cigarettes smoked in the second half of pregnancy by health area of residence, NSW 2008**

Health area	Cigarettes smoked 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.	%
Sydney South West	19278	90.3	1168	5.5	595	2.8	305	1.4	1	0.0	21347	100.0
South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra	14627	93.6	571	3.7	302	1.9	129	0.8	3	0.0	15632	100.0
Sydney West	16386	90.0	973	5.3	667	3.7	185	1.0	2	0.0	18213	100.0
Northern Sydney and Central Coast	13564	94.5	454	3.2	290	2.0	41	0.3	4	0.0	14353	100.0
Hunter and New England	8638	80.5	1191	11.1	809	7.5	85	0.8	3	0.0	10726	100.0
North Coast	4220	79.1	603	11.3	465	8.7	38	0.7	6	0.1	5332	100.0
Greater Southern	3183	79.1	432	10.7	392	9.7	12	0.3	5	0.1	4024	100.0
Greater Western	3031	74.3	457	11.2	557	13.7	20	0.5	13	0.3	4078	100.0
Other – not stated	1034	89.2	80	6.9	33	2.8	10	0.9	2	0.2	1159	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83961</b>	<b>88.5</b>	<b>5929</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>4110</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>94864</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

## Place of birth

Ninety-five per cent of mothers chose to give birth in a hospital birthing suite in 2008, compared to 4.2% who planned a birth centre birth and 0.3% who planned a home birth (Table 25). Planned birth centre births were most commonly reported in the North Coast and South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Areas.

## Labour

In 2008, the onset of labour was spontaneous in 57.7% of confinements (Table 26). Labour was induced in 25.3% of confinements and no labour (elective caesarean section) was reported in 17.0%. The rate of spontaneous onset of labour was highest among residents of the North Coast Area (64.8%). The highest rate of induction of labour was among residents of the Sydney West Area (28.7%).

**Table 25. Place of birth by health area of residence, NSW 2008**

Health area	Place of birth															
	Hospital		Birth Centre		Planned birth centre/hospital admission		Planned homebirth		Planned homebirth / hospital admission		Born before arrival		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sydney South West	20496	96.0	664	3.1	51	0.2	23	0.1	4	0.0	108	0.5	1	0.0	21347	100.0
South Eastern Sydney/Illawarra	14635	93.6	647	4.1	250	1.6	34	0.2	7	0.0	59	0.4	0	0.0	15632	100.0
Sydney West	17303	95.0	430	2.4	374	2.1	23	0.1	3	0.0	80	0.4	0	0.0	18213	100.0
Northern Sydney and Central Coast	14027	97.7	199	1.4	33	0.2	24	0.2	2	0.0	68	0.5	0	0.0	14353	100.0
Hunter and New England	9408	87.7	944	8.8	280	2.6	23	0.2	6	0.1	65	0.6	0	0.0	10726	100.0
North Coast	5171	97.0	8	0.2	34	0.6	61	1.1	13	0.2	45	0.8	0	0.0	5332	100.0
Greater Southern	3959	98.4	4	0.1	16	0.4	9	0.2	3	0.1	33	0.8	0	0.0	4024	100.0
Greater Western	4009	98.3	5	0.1	20	0.5	2	0.0	2	0.0	34	0.8	6	0.1	4078	100.0
Other – not stated	1135	97.9	10	0.9	5	0.4	1	0.1	3	0.3	5	0.4	0	0.0	1159	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90143</b>	<b>95.0</b>	<b>2911</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>1063</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>94864</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

**Table 26. Onset and augmentation of labour by health area of residence, NSW 2008**

Health area	Onset of labour																			
	Spontaneous		Spontaneous augmented with ARM		Spontaneous augmented with oxytocics/prostaglandins*		No labour		Induced oxytocics/prostaglandins		Induced –ARM only		Induced – ARM + oxytocics/prostaglandins		Induced – other**		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sydney South West	9280	43.5	1612	7.6	2406	11.3	3276	15.3	1807	8.5	264	1.2	2657	12.4	44	0.2	1	0.0	21347	100.0
South Eastern Sydney/Illawarra	5583	35.7	1242	7.9	1625	10.4	2931	18.8	1473	9.4	288	1.8	2462	15.7	24	0.2	4	0.0	15632	100.0
Sydney West	7233	39.7	1339	7.4	1436	7.9	2974	16.3	1701	9.3	288	1.6	3222	17.7	17	0.1	3	0.0	18213	100.0
Northern Sydney and Central Coast	5388	37.5	894	6.2	1267	8.8	3158	22.0	1244	8.7	266	1.9	2127	14.8	9	0.1	0	0.0	14353	100.0
Hunter and New England	5032	46.9	481	4.5	742	6.9	1531	14.3	1020	9.5	221	2.1	1660	15.5	39	0.4	0	0.0	10726	100.0
North Coast	2477	46.5	542	10.2	436	8.2	807	15.1	487	9.1	107	2.0	465	8.7	11	0.2	0	0.0	5332	100.0
Greater Southern	1833	45.6	380	9.4	242	6.0	657	16.3	440	10.9	97	2.4	367	9.1	8	0.2	0	0.0	4024	100.0
Greater Western	1750	42.9	474	11.6	288	7.1	633	15.5	301	7.4	132	3.2	488	12.0	9	0.2	3	0.1	4078	100.0
Other – not stated	500	43.1	105	9.1	149	12.9	153	13.2	103	8.9	17	1.5	129	11.1	3	0.3	0	0.0	1159	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39076</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>7069</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>8591</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>16120</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>8576</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>1680</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>13577</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>94864</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

\* ARM: artificial rupture of membranes.

# May include artificial rupture of membranes.

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

## Birth

Fifty-nine per cent of births were normal vaginal births, 10.9% were instrumental and 29.5% were by caesarean section (Table 27). The highest rate of normal vaginal birth was among residents of the North Coast Area (66.6%), while the highest rates of instrumental birth were among residents of South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area (13.9%). The caesarean section rate varied from 25.8% among mothers resident in the Hunter and New England Area to 37.2% in the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area.

## Birth weight

In 2008, 6.2% of births were low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams). These comprised 0.7% of birth weight less than 1,000 grams, 0.5% in the 1,000 to 1,499 gram range and 5.0% in the 1,500 to 2,499 gram range (Table 28). Rates of low birth weight ranged from 5.1% in Greater Southern Area to 7.1% in the Greater Western Area.

**Table 27. Type of birth by health area of residence, NSW 2008**

Health area	Place of birth															
	Normal vaginal		Forceps		Vacuum extraction		Vaginal breech		Elective caesarean section		Emergency caesarean section <sup>#</sup>		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sydney South West	13401	62.8	606	2.8	1482	6.9	89	0.4	3276	15.3	2491	11.7	2	0.0	21347	100.0
South Eastern Sydney / Illawarra	8528	54.6	673	4.3	1498	9.6	56	0.4	2931	18.8	1946	12.4	0	0.0	15632	100.0
Sydney West	10888	59.8	828	4.5	1176	6.5	71	0.4	2974	16.3	2276	12.5	0	0.0	18213	100.0
Northern Sydney and Central Coast	7135	49.7	581	4.0	1258	8.8	35	0.2	3158	22.0	2186	15.2	0	0.0	14353	100.0
Hunter and New England	6803	63.4	406	3.8	675	6.3	79	0.7	1531	14.3	1232	11.5	0	0.0	10726	100.0
North Coast	3549	66.6	125	2.3	236	4.4	22	0.4	807	15.1	589	11.0	4	0.1	5332	100.0
Greater Southern	2491	61.9	131	3.3	250	6.2	10	0.2	657	16.3	484	12.0	1	0.0	4024	100.0
Greater Western	2618	64.2	104	2.6	182	4.5	20	0.5	633	15.5	515	12.6	6	0.1	4078	100.0
Other – not stated	760	65.6	32	2.8	73	6.3	5	0.4	153	13.2	135	11.6	1	0.1	1159	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56173</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>3486</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>6830</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>16120</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>11854</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>94864</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.  
<sup>#</sup> Emergency caesarean section includes caesarean section where the onset of labour was not stated.

**Table 28. Birth weight by health area of residence, NSW 2008**

Health area	Birth weight (grams)																				TOTAL			
	Less than 500		500–999		1000–1499		1500–1999		2000–2499		2500–2999		3000–3499		3500–3999		4000–4499		4500+		Not stated		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sydney South West	69	0.3	96	0.4	132	0.6	254	1.2	794	3.7	3392	15.7	8085	37.3	6469	29.9	2025	9.4	322	1.5	18	0.1	21656	100.0
South Eastern Sydney/ Illawarra	35	0.2	70	0.4	78	0.5	180	1.1	586	3.7	2348	14.8	5849	36.8	4983	31.4	1500	9.4	249	1.6	15	0.1	15893	100.0
Sydney West	55	0.3	88	0.5	108	0.6	260	1.4	697	3.8	2839	15.3	6777	36.6	5576	30.1	1731	9.4	356	1.9	20	0.1	18507	100.0
Northern Sydney & Central Coast	41	0.3	59	0.4	74	0.5	187	1.3	473	3.2	1931	13.2	5244	35.8	4760	32.5	1596	10.9	250	1.7	15	0.1	14630	100.0
Hunter & New England	35	0.3	57	0.5	64	0.6	167	1.5	437	4.0	1545	14.2	3674	33.8	3393	31.2	1253	11.5	241	2.2	7	0.1	10873	100.0
North Coast	20	0.4	20	0.4	27	0.5	69	1.3	185	3.4	781	14.5	1753	32.5	1725	32.0	683	12.7	120	2.2	4	0.1	5387	100.0
Greater Southern	2	0.0	12	0.3	9	0.2	30	0.7	156	3.8	557	13.6	1393	34.1	1328	32.5	510	12.5	89	2.2	2	0.0	4088	100.0
Greater Western	6	0.1	16	0.4	27	0.7	68	1.6	176	4.3	603	14.6	1430	34.6	1260	30.5	473	11.4	75	1.8	3	0.1	4137	100.0
Other – not stated	3	0.3	4	0.3	6	0.5	15	1.3	47	4.0	161	13.7	407	34.7	397	33.9	118	10.1	14	1.2	0	0.0	1172	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1230</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>3551</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>14157</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>34612</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>29891</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>9889</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>1716</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>96343</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

## Gestational age

The majority of births (91.7%) were at term, and 0.8% were post-term (42-plus weeks). The 7.5% of preterm births comprised 0.8% born at less than 28 weeks, 0.7% at 28–31 weeks, and 6.0% at 32–36 weeks.

The highest rate of preterm birth was in the Hunter and New England Area (8.2%), while the lowest was 5.8% in the Greater Southern Area (Table 29).

**Table 29. Gestational age by health area of residence, NSW 2008**

Health area	Gestational age (weeks)												TOTAL	
	< 28		28–31		32–36		37–41		42+		Not stated			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sydney South West	174	0.8	154	0.7	1285	5.9	19911	91.9	131	0.6	1	0.0	21656	100.0
South Eastern Sydney / Illawarra	118	0.7	94	0.6	1021	6.4	14508	91.3	150	0.9	2	0.0	15893	100.0
Sydney West	156	0.8	151	0.8	1119	6.0	16983	91.8	90	0.5	8	0.0	18507	100.0
Northern Sydney and Central Coast	99	0.7	100	0.7	869	5.9	13444	91.9	115	0.8	3	0.0	14630	100.0
Hunter and New England	103	0.9	86	0.8	705	6.5	9851	90.6	128	1.2	0	0.0	10873	100.0
North Coast	38	0.7	42	0.8	275	5.1	4980	92.4	51	0.9	1	0.0	5387	100.0
Greater Southern	14	0.3	14	0.3	208	5.1	3797	92.9	54	1.3	1	0.0	4088	100.0
Greater Western	23	0.6	36	0.9	254	6.1	3787	91.5	36	0.9	1	0.0	4137	100.0
Other – not stated	7	0.6	6	0.5	58	4.9	1092	93.2	9	0.8	0	0.0	1172	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>5794</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>88353</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>96343</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

## Infant feeding

In 2008, infant feeding on discharge from hospital was reported for 95,693 liveborn babies (Table 30). The majority of babies (79.8%) were reported to be fully breastfed, 12.4% were receiving infant formula only, and a further 6.3%

were being partially breastfed. Rates of full breastfeeding varied from 74.3% in the Sydney South West Area to 86.9% in the North Coast Area.

**Table 30. Live births by infant feeding on discharge and health area of residence, NSW 2008**

Health area	Infant feeding									
	Full breast-feeding		Any breast-feeding		Infant formula only		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sydney South West	15974	74.3	2244	10.4	2888	13.4	389	1.8	21495	100.0
South Eastern Sydney/ Illawarra	12929	81.8	1036	6.6	1656	10.5	176	1.1	15797	100.0
Sydney West	14112	76.8	1267	6.9	2618	14.2	380	2.1	18377	100.0
Northern Sydney and Central Coast	12523	86.1	792	5.4	1112	7.6	122	0.8	14549	100.0
Hunter and New England	8697	80.6	283	2.6	1698	15.7	110	1.0	10788	100.0
North Coast	4638	86.9	164	3.1	468	8.8	67	1.3	5337	100.0
Greater Southern	3246	79.7	138	3.4	644	15.8	45	1.1	4073	100.0
Greater Western	3262	79.3	92	2.2	667	16.2	92	2.2	4113	100.0
Other – not stated	1016	87.1	52	4.5	82	7.0	17	1.5	1167	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76397</b>	<b>79.8</b>	<b>6068</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>11833</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>1398</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>95696</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

## Perinatal outcomes

The perinatal mortality rate in 2008 was 8.7 per 1,000 births. This rate includes all live births, and stillbirths of at least 400 grams birth weight or at least 20 weeks gestation

(Table 31). The perinatal mortality rate varied from 4.4 per 1,000 in the Greater Southern Area to 11.1 per 1,000 in the North Coast Area.

**Table 31. Perinatal outcomes by health area of residence, NSW 2008#**

Health area	Perinatal outcome												Perinatal mortality/ 1000 births
	Liveborn surviving		Stillborn		Neonatal death		Not stated		Death – age not stated		Total births		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Sydney South West	21433	99.0	153	0.7	62	0.3	5	0.0	3	0.0	21656	100.0	9.9
South Eastern Sydney	15753	99.1	86	0.5	44	0.3	9	0.1	1	0.0	15893	100.0	8.2
Sydney West	18318	99.0	102	0.6	59	0.3	27	0.1	1	0.0	18507	100.0	8.7
Northern Sydney and Central Coast	14516	99.2	74	0.5	33	0.2	6	0.0	1	0.0	14630	100.0	7.3
Hunter and New England	10763	99.0	82	0.8	25	0.2	3	0.0	0	0.0	10873	100.0	9.8
North Coast	5324	98.8	47	0.9	13	0.2	3	0.1	0	0.0	5387	100.0	11.1
Greater Southern	4070	99.6	15	0.4	3	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	4088	100.0	4.4
Greater Western	4105	99.2	21	0.5	8	0.2	2	0.0	1	0.0	4137	100.0	7.0
Other – not stated	1158	98.8	5	0.4	9	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	1172	100.0	11.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95440</b>	<b>99.1</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>96343</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8.7</b>

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.

## Live births by statistical local areas

Table 32. Live births by health area and statistical local area of residence, NSW 2008

Health area – statistical local area	No.	%	Health area – statistical local area	No.	%
<b>Sydney South West</b>			Hawkesbury	870	4.7
Ashfield	622	2.9	Holroyd	1829	10.0
Bankstown – North-East	1246	5.8	Lithgow	246	1.3
Bankstown – North-West	1008	4.7	Parramatta – Inner	971	5.3
Bankstown – South	714	3.3	Parramatta – North-East	597	3.2
Burwood	399	1.9	Parramatta – North-West	583	3.2
Camden	840	3.9	Parramatta – South	768	4.2
Campbelltown – North	1292	6.0	Penrith – East	1555	8.5
Campbelltown – South	1192	5.5	Penrith – West	1357	7.4
Canada Bay – Concord	538	2.5	TOTAL	18378	100.0
Canada Bay – Drummoyne	641	3.0	<b>Northern Sydney and Central Coast</b>		
Canterbury	2285	10.6	Gosford – East	701	4.8
Fairfield – East	1908	8.9	Gosford – West	1263	8.7
Fairfield – West	820	3.8	Hornsby – North	694	4.8
Leichhardt	1072	5.0	Hornsby – South	1105	7.6
Liverpool – East	1878	8.7	Hunters Hill	145	1.0
Liverpool – West	1100	5.1	Ku-ring-gai	876	6.0
Marrickville	1371	6.4	Lane Cove	444	3.1
Strathfield	401	1.9	Manly	683	4.7
Sydney – Inner	11	0.1	Mosman	361	2.5
Sydney – South	580	2.7	North Sydney	914	6.3
Sydney – West	465	2.2	Pittwater	727	5.0
Wingecarribee	485	2.3	Ryde	1404	9.6
Wollondilly	630	2.9	Warringah	2165	14.9
TOTAL	21498	100.0	Willoughby	1042	7.2
<b>South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra</b>			Wyong – North-East	1054	7.2
Botany	615	3.9	Wyong – South and West	972	6.7
Hurstville	1026	6.5	TOTAL	14550	100.0
Kiama	156	1.0	<b>Hunter and New England</b>		
Kogarah	750	4.7	Armidale Dumaresq – City	275	2.5
Randwick	1853	11.7	Armidale Dumaresq – Balance	18	0.2
Rockdale	1560	9.9	Cessnock	739	6.9
Shellharbour	852	5.4	Dungog	85	0.8
Shoalhaven – Pt A	435	2.8	Glen Innes Severn	110	1.0
Shoalhaven – Pt B	525	3.3	Gloucester	43	0.4
Sutherland Shire – East	1343	8.5	Greater Taree	533	4.9
Sutherland Shire – West	1592	10.1	Great Lakes	311	2.9
Sydney – Inner	170	1.1	Gunnedah	187	1.7
Sydney (SESAHS)	402	2.5	Guyra	61	0.6
Sydney – South	145	0.9	Gwydir	45	0.4
Waverley	1084	6.9	Inverell – Pt A	43	0.4
Wollongong – Inner	1262	8.0	Inverell – Pt B	176	1.6
Wollongong – Balance	1295	8.2	Lake Macquarie – East	687	6.4
Woollahra	733	4.6	Lake Macquarie – North	970	9.0
TOTAL	15798	100.0	Lake Macquarie – West	549	5.1
<b>Sydney West</b>			Liverpool Plains	76	0.7
Auburn	1404	7.6	Maitland	1050	9.7
Baulkham Hills – Central	907	4.9	Moree Plains	216	2.0
Baulkham Hills – North	763	4.2	Muswellbrook	248	2.3
Baulkham Hills – South	390	2.1	Narrabri	206	1.9
Blacktown – North	1739	9.5	Newcastle – Inner City	614	5.7
Blacktown – South-East	1691	9.2	Newcastle – Outer West	594	5.5
Blacktown – South-West	1815	9.9	Newcastle – Throsby	711	6.6
Blue Mountains	893	4.9	Port Stephens	801	7.4



Table 32. (Continued)

Health area – statistical local area	No.	%	Health area – statistical local area	No.	%
Singleton	344	3.2	Lockhart	34	0.8
Tamworth Regional – Pt A	632	5.9	Murray	5	0.1
Tamworth Regional – Pt B	117	1.1	Murrumbidgee	28	0.7
Tenterfield	26	0.2	Narrandera	85	2.1
Upper Hunter Shire	188	1.7	Palerang - Pt A	23	0.6
Uralla	90	0.8	Other/Not stated	16	0.4
Walcha	43	0.4	Queanbeyan	212	5.2
TOTAL	10788	100.0	Snowy River	71	1.7
<b>North Coast</b>			Temora	77	1.9
Ballina	421	7.9	Tumbarumba	30	0.7
Bellingen	138	2.6	Tumut	128	3.1
Byron	294	5.5	Upper Lachlan	34	0.8
Clarence Valley – Coast	166	3.1	Urana	8	0.2
Clarence Valley – Grafton	303	5.7	Wagga Wagga – Pt A	869	21.3
Clarence Valley – Balance	71	1.3	Wagga Wagga – Pt B	44	1.1
Coffs Harbour – Pt A	627	11.7	Yass Valley	18	0.4
Coffs Harbour – Pt B	198	3.7	Young	151	3.7
Hastings – Pt A	497	9.3	Other	8	0.2
Hastings – Pt B	315	5.9	TOTAL	4073	100.0
Kempsey	349	6.5	<b>Greater Western</b>		
Kyogle	116	2.2	Bathurst Regional – Pt A	513	12.5
Lismore – Pt A	420	7.9	Bathurst Regional – Pt B	51	1.2
Lismore – Pt B	121	2.3	Blayney	87	2.1
Nambucca	220	4.1	Bogan	43	1.0
Richmond Valley – Casino	180	3.4	Bourke	70	1.7
Richmond Valley – Balance	122	2.3	Brewarrina	29	0.7
Tweed – Tweed Heads	432	8.1	Broken Hill	234	5.7
Tweed – Tweed Coast	116	2.2	Cabonne	137	3.3
Tweed – Pt B	231	4.3	Central Darling	34	0.8
TOTAL	5337	100.0	Cobar	82	2.0
<b>Greater Southern</b>			Coonamble	46	1.1
Bega Valley	298	7.3	Cowra	158	3.8
Berrigan	17	0.4	Dubbo - Pt A	609	14.8
Bland	99	2.4	Dubbo - Pt B	44	1.1
Bombala	34	0.8	Forbes	123	3.0
Boorowa	12	0.3	Gilgandra	56	1.4
Carrathool	35	0.9	Lachlan	112	2.7
Conargo	6	0.1	Mid-Western Regional – Pt A	246	6.0
Coolamon	51	1.3	Mid-Western Regional – Pt B	30	0.7
Cooma-Monaro	106	2.6	Narromine	106	2.6
Cootamundra	82	2.0	Oberon	71	1.7
Deniliquin	96	2.4	Orange	598	14.5
Eurobodalla	354	8.7	Parkes	216	5.3
Greater Argyle – Goulburn	254	6.2	Walgett	87	2.1
Greater Argyle – Balance	45	1.1	Warren	34	0.8
Greater Hume Shire	27	0.7	Warrumbungle Shire	123	3.0
Griffith	379	9.3	Weddin	50	1.2
Gundagai	45	1.1	Wellington	118	2.9
Harden	20	0.5	Other	7	0.2
Hay	33	0.8	TOTAL	4114	100.0
Jerilderie	16	0.4	<b>Other – Not stated</b>	1167	100.0
Junee	81	2.0	<b>TOTAL NSW</b>	95703	100.0
Leeton	142	3.5			

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