Mothers and Babies 2021

Northern Territory Midwives' Collection

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

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Acronyms	Full form
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AF	artificial feeding
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
CPAP	continuous positive airway pressure
CS	caesarean section
DPH	Darwin Private Hospital
ECM	external cardiac massage
ERP	estimated resident population
IPPV	intermittent positive pressure ventilation
mL	millilitres
NT	Northern Territory
n	number
np	not presented
PPH	post-partum haemorrhage
TFR	total fertility rate
WHO	World Health Organization

Mothers and Babies 2021

Northern Territory Midwives' Collection

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Contents

Summary

This report summarises 2021 perinatal data from the Northern Territory (NT) Midwives' Collection. It includes population characteristics of mothers, maternal health status, antenatal information, conditions and procedures used in labour and childbirth, as well as birth outcomes of all births that occurred in 2021. The trend tables (see Appendix B) demonstrate changes over time for key demographic and obstetric indicators and birth outcomes over the period 2007–2021. Unless otherwise stated, the following key findings are for NT resident mothers and their babies only.

Key findings

- In 2021, there were 3785 babies born to 3741 mothers who resided in the NT, 32% of whom were Aboriginal, and 29% were born overseas. In addition, there were 41 babies born in the NT to 41 mothers who were interstate or international residents. The total number of births in the NT for 2021 was 3826 babies born to 3782 mothers.
- Aboriginal women in the NT had a total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.9 in 2021, while non-Aboriginal women had a rate of 1.6. The TFR for all NT women was 1.8.
- The mean age of Aboriginal mothers (26 years) was five years younger than that of non-Aboriginal mothers (31 years). Fifteen percent of Aboriginal mothers were below 20 years of age. Non-Aboriginal mothers were more than twice as likely to be in the oldest age group (35 years and over) as Aboriginal mothers (26% and 10%, respectively).
- A greater proportion of Aboriginal mothers (20%) had three or more previous births compared with non-Aboriginal mothers (6%). A smaller proportion of Aboriginal mothers gave birth to their first baby in 2021 than non-Aboriginal mothers (38% and 48%, respectively).
- Eighty seven percent of all mothers in the NT received their antenatal visit during their first trimester of pregnancy (<14 weeks gestation), whilst 8% of all mothers at 32 weeks gestation or more, attended less than five antenatal visits. There has been an increase in the proportion of mothers attending five or more antenatal visits for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal mothers (77% to 87% and 91% to 97%, respectively) during the reporting period 1989 – 2020.[1]
- Aboriginal mothers were seven times more likely to report smoking during first 20 weeks of pregnancy compared with non-Aboriginal mothers (49% and 7%, respectively). Of those who reported smoking during first 20 weeks of pregnancy, non-Aboriginal mothers were more likely to have quit smoking post 20 weeks gestation than Aboriginal mothers (37% and 13%, respectively).
- Four percent of all NT mothers reported drinking alcohol during their pregnancy at their first antenatal visit. Aboriginal mothers were four times more likely to report drinking alcohol at this first visit compared with non-Aboriginal mothers (8% and 2%, respectively).
- Ninety-seven percent of all NT births occurred in a hospital, while the remaining 3% occurred in other locations including planned homebirths and births at health centres.
- Onset of labour was induced for approximately one third (36%, n=1334) of all NT mothers.
- Fifty-six percent of all NT mothers had a normal vaginal birth, while instrumental deliveries using forceps or ventouse (vacuum suction) accounted for 12% of births. Around one third (32%) of all NT mothers had a caesarean section (CS). Of mothers experiencing no labour, 41% had not had a previous CS.
- Among NT mothers who gave birth vaginally, 28% had a second degree perineal laceration, while 3% had a third degree, and less than 1% had a fourth degree laceration. Twenty-one percent had an episiotomy.

- The most common medical complication of pregnancy was gestational diabetes mellitus for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal mothers (21% and 28% respectively). The proportion of mothers with pre-existing diabetes mellitus was higher for Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal mothers (6% and 1%, respectively).
- The most common complication of labour and childbirth for all NT mothers was post-partum haemorrhage (37%). Post-partum haemorrhage was more common among mothers who had a CS birth (49%) than vaginal birth (30%). This difference is expected because intraoperative blood loss is included in the blood loss measurement.
- Nine percent of all NT live births were preterm (less than 37 weeks gestation). The proportion of preterm babies born to Aboriginal mothers was more than double that of preterm babies born to non-Aboriginal mothers (15% and 6%, respectively).
- Eight percent of all NT live births were low birthweight (less than 2500 grams). The proportion of low birthweight babies born to Aboriginal mothers was three times that of those born to non-Aboriginal mothers (15% and 5%, respectively).
- Seven percent of all NT singleton liveborn term (≥37 weeks) babies were low birthweight; 5% of those born to Aboriginal mothers and 2% to non-Aboriginal mothers.
- By five minutes after birth, 2% of term singleton liveborn babies had an Apgar score below seven. The proportion of term singleton liveborn babies with an Apgar score below seven in Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal babies was similar (2% and 1.5% respectively).
- Sixteen percent of all NT term liveborn babies received some form of resuscitation, excluding tactile stimulation. The requirement for resuscitation was higher among Aboriginal babies (21%) than non-Aboriginal babies (14%).
- There were 79 perinatal deaths comprising 62 fetal deaths (stillbirths) and 17 neonatal deaths. The stillbirth rate was 30 per 1,000 births for Aboriginal and 10 per 1,000 births for non-Aboriginal mothers. The overall perinatal death rate was 38 per 1,000 births for the Aboriginal population and 13 per 1,000 births for the non-Aboriginal population.

1. Introduction

The foundational months of pregnancy and birth are an extraordinary time for women, their partners, families and communities.[2] The relationship between mother and fetus plays a pivotal role in determining the long term health and wellbeing for baby.[3] Antenatal care in this period provides mothers and families support, and ensures pregnancy complications such as gestational diabetes, pre-term birth and pre-eclampsia are identified and monitored.[4] Health information collected in this antenatal period, captured in perinatal data records, provides an important insight into maternal risk factors, labour complications and birth outcomes at a population level. Importantly, this data also highlights the complex interplay between long term health outcomes as a result of exposure to maternal risks, eco-social influences and the environment.[5]

To monitor policy and quality improvement initiatives within maternity health care services across Australia there is a need for public health surveillance of maternal and baby outcomes. In Australia, each state and territory are accountable through legislated population health monitoring to collect and report on characteristics of perinatal and newborn health outcomes.[6] The Northern Territory (NT) specifically, contributes a unique compilation of perinatal information for national reporting complied by the Australian Institute Health Welfare. The NT also reports specific perinatal data through the publication of this report - the Mothers and Babies Annual Report, and the periodical trend reports for the NT.[7]

The distinctive demography of the NT makes our perinatal data story very different to other Australian states and territories. We account for only 1% of the Australian population,[8] and have a population that is geographically dispersed widely across regional and remote areas, with 27% of the population identifying as Aboriginal,.[9]

This annual report summarises data for NT mothers and babies for the year 2021. The annual monitoring of key perinatal indicators across three broad areas—including, the antenatal period, birth and labour, and birth outcomes — remains cornerstone in delivering and improving quality health care services. Analysis by Aboriginal status allows the NT to identify service and inequity gaps among key population groups. As such, the focus is on resident mothers only, who gave birth in the NT. Unless otherwise stated, mothers and babies residing interstate or overseas are omitted from the statistical tables. Perinatal reports compiled annually by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) publish estimated numbers of NT women who gave birth interstate. According to the AIHW's 2021 web report it was estimated that approximately 48 NT women gave birth interstate, in South Australia (29 births) and Queensland (19 births).[10]

This report presents a brief description of the results with key tables and figures used to highlight key findings from 2021. Narrative information is followed by a comprehensive presentation of data in a series of tables and trend figures. As specified elsewhere, most tables present statistics by Aboriginal status and/or by place of mother's usual residence for mothers with an NT resident address. Place of mother's usual residence is classified by NT regions, and urban and rural/remote areas. The urban area includes Darwin Urban and Alice Springs Urban and the towns of Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Nhulunbuy; whilst the rural/remote area covers the balance of the NT.[11]

1.1. Data sources

1.1.1. Northern Territory Midwives' Collection

The NT Midwives' Collection is a population-based census of all births that occurred in the NT, including births in public and private hospitals, planned home births, births in unintended locations such as community health centres, and other non-hospital births. All liveborn babies and fetal deaths (stillbirths) of at least 20 weeks gestation are included. These criteria align with national reporting practices.

The majority of information about births in the NT is captured directly in electronic format. In the public sector, midwives enter data shortly after the birth of a baby via the Birthing Suite Module of CareSys (or via Acacia where this is available) in the public hospital information system. At present, data capture covers births that occurred in public hospitals and births before arrival to public hospitals, whereas the births in Darwin Private Hospital (DPH) are entered via the NT Midwives' Collection website. Births that occurred in community health centres or planned home births, that did not involve being admitted to hospital, are submitted in paper form and then entered by the Perinatal Data Manager.

1.1.2. NT Neonatal and Infant Death Register

The Health Statistics and Informatics Branch of NT Health has maintained information on stillbirths, neonatal deaths and infant deaths (up to one year of age) since 1986. The primary source is the NT Midwives' Collection, and the secondary source is data from the NT Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry that contains information on all deaths, including those that occurred in the community.

1.2. Quality Summary

Several data items in the NT Midwives' Collection, notably antenatal information including number of antenatal visits, gestational age at first antenatal visit, smoking during pregnancy, alcohol consumption during pregnancy, maternal medical conditions, pregnancy complications and indications for caesarean section are incomplete or of low accuracy. This is usually due to the data input errors.

The data item 'Not stated' includes those missing due to the woman declining to provide information and can also be missing due to data entry error. This report uses the AIHW recommendation that 'Not stated' are shown in tables as numbers and excluded from the calculation of percentage distributions. This methodology assumes the 'Not stated' have the same distribution as the data presented.[12] This approach differs from reports compiled prior to the 2003 report. In these earlier reports, 'Not stated' data were included as a percentage of the total in each table.

The effect of this change is that the proportional distribution for certain data items, particularly alcohol consumption and smoking during pregnancy, is now markedly higher than previously reported. Comparative analyses involving reports published since the 2003 Mothers and Babies report and those published prior to 2003 Mothers and Babies report need to take this methodological change into account.

The data used in this report are limited to health information available at the time of data entry. In instances where an antenatal record is incomplete or missing, the midwife entering information into the Birthing Suite Module of CareSys or the NT Midwives' Collection website was limited to the details available. Key antenatal indicators such as visit dates and health behaviours are the most likely to be affected as this information is only recorded in the pregnancy health record (hand-held record).

In this report, unless stated otherwise, maternal Aboriginal status was used during the analysis of both mother and baby information. This is obtained through the available information at the time of data entry, however was not available for the reporting on interstate births to NT women. Validity of Aboriginal status was supported by the AIHW's quality national report on Indigenous identification in hospital admissions, whereby the NT was found to have a 98% (CI 96-99%) completeness in Indigenous identification status.[13] For information on labour and childbirth in the 'Mothers' section of this report, data of the first baby born was used for mothers with multiple births in one pregnancy.

For some medical conditions, procedures, and complications related to labour and childbirth, data in the NT Midwives' Collection are different to the information recorded in the NT hospital patient data system. This is due to the different data coding and entry methods, with midwives responsible for data in the NT Midwives' Collection and medical coders responsible for data entry in the NT hospital patient data system.

Commencing in 2012, data for post-partum blood loss volume for all public hospital admissions was made available for analysis. In 2014, information on blood loss volume for DPH births was also made available.

Prior to 2012 (and 2014 for DPH births), data on post-partum haemorrhages (PPH) were collected using the midwives PPH data item flag entered at the time of birth which may not accurately represent the proportion of PPH within hospitals. To improve the accuracy and standardisation of the data, a new definition of PPH was developed to include all episodes with a post-partum blood loss volume of 500 millilitres or more (including caesarean sections), regardless of whether the PPH data item flag was used. Comparative analyses involving reports published since 2014 and those published prior to 2014 will need to take this method change into account.

Information on a mother's post-partum complications and baby's health outcomes are not collected in the NT Midwives' Collection because they occur after the mothers and babies have left the birthing suite, where data entry occurs.

Gestational age and birthweight are key indicators of population health. In the *Mothers and Babies report 2012* and onwards, these indicators are reported for liveborn babies in the Appendix A (Hospitals profiles tables) and Appendix B (Trends of perinatal indicators tables). As a result, the birthweight and gestational age data may differ slightly from previous reports, where the gestational age and birthweight of both stillborn and liveborn babies were included.

The denominator used to calculate fertility rates is the 2021 NT Estimated Resident Population based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimated resident population (ERP) by age and sex at 30 June of 2021 (Appendix C).[14]

Because the NT population is small, when data is disaggregated by Aboriginal status, region, or place of birth, the denominator and numerator can be very small. Percentages and rates with a denominator less than 100 are not reliable and can fluctuate significantly even with minimal changes in the overall count. For this reason, we suggest that comparisons should be made based on counts when denominators are small. Where the denominator is small (<100), percentages have been included in the table for completeness only.

When there is a risk of attributes about an individual being disclosed due to a small number of cases, relevant cells or tables are suppressed. For example, in 2021, there were only five births at Tennant Creek Hospital, as a result, this hospital's profile have not been presented in Appendix A.

A further issue with data disaggregated by region is the difficulty that some individuals may identify with one or more usual place of residence.[15] This is particularly relevant and true for pregnant women who have to travel and stay in an urban area from 38 weeks gestation to be close to a hospital that provides birthing services. The location they are staying at prior to the birth could be recorded as their current place of residence and not their usual residence. An audit of NT hospital demographic data in 2011 found 91% congruence between hospital records of patients' recorded health district of residence and the health district people identified as their usual place of residence when asked in an interview.[13]

2. Mothers and babies of the Northern Territory

2.1. Mothers

In 2021, a total of 3,741 mothers gave birth to 3,785 babies in the NT, of which 3,723 were live births. Of the six regions in the NT, Greater Darwin had the highest number of mothers at 2,278 mothers (Figure 1). The proportion of Aboriginal mothers compared to non-Aboriginal mothers was higher in all NT regions, except in the more urban regions of Greater Darwin and Central Australia. Mothers born overseas were highest in Greater Darwin (38%) and Central Australia (27%). Central Australia had a relatively even split between the sub-populations: 43% of mothers identifying as Aboriginal; 30% of mothers identifying as non-Aboriginal; and, 27% of mothers born overseas. A number of main characteristics of mothers and their births are summarised in Table 1, this is followed by a detailed description of key maternal indicators and birth outcomes.

Figure 1. Proportion of mothers who gave birth by NT region, Aboriginal status, and birth country, 2021

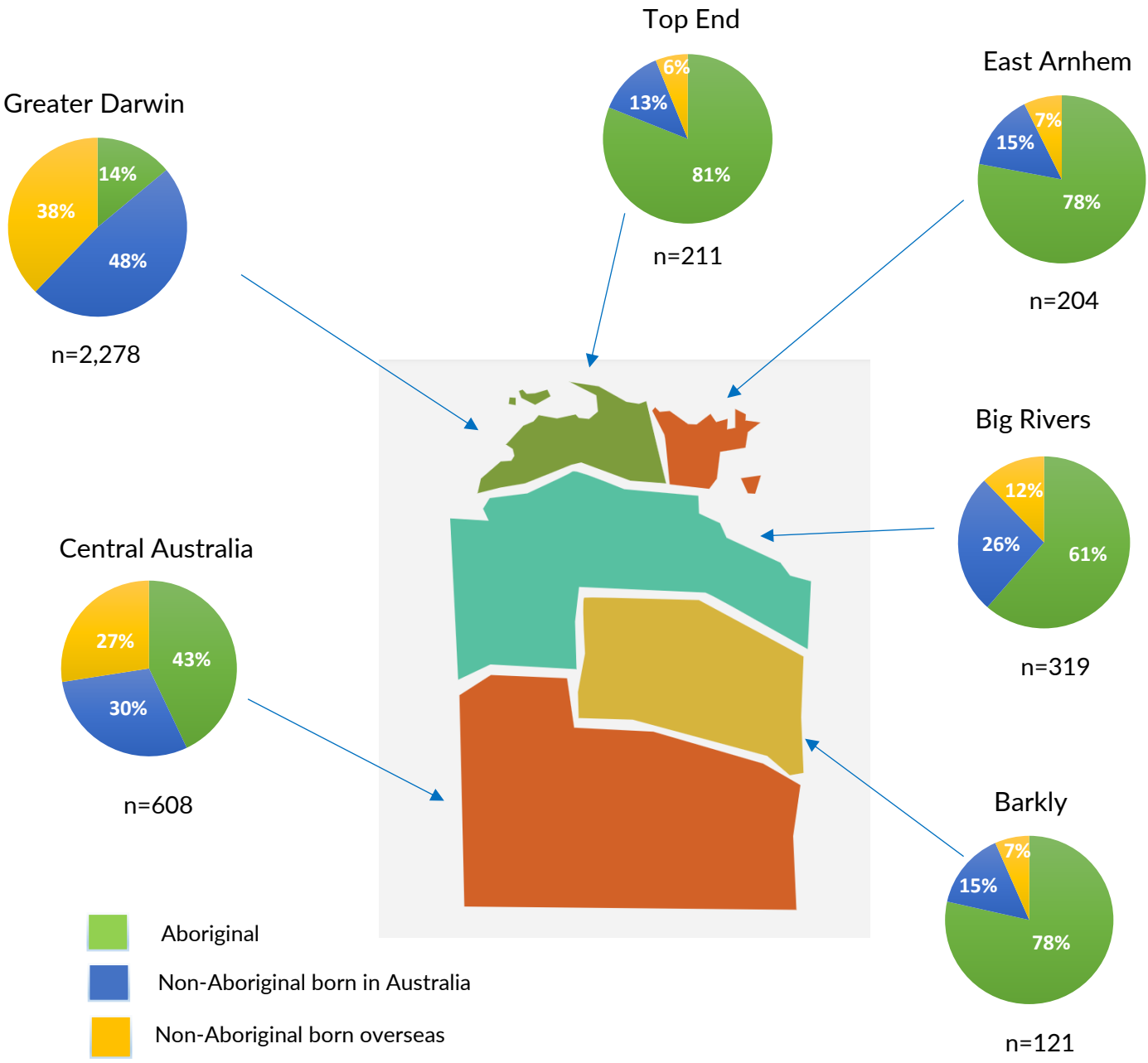


Table 1. Characteristics of NT mothers and their births by Aboriginal status, 2021

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
All MOTHERS						
Total	**1200**	**32.1**	**2541**	**67.9**	**3741**	**100**
Maternal age						
<20	178	14.8	22	0.9	200	5.3
20-34	899	74.9	1870	73.6	2769	74.1
35+	123	10.3	649	25.5	772	20.6
Place of birth						
Hospital	1171	97.6	2471	97.2	3642	97.4
Non-hospital[3]	29	2.4	70	2.8	99	2.6
Type of labour onset						
Spontaneous (Not augmented)	415	34.6	804	31.6	1219	32.6
Spontaneous (Augmented)	165	13.8	314	12.4	479	12.8
Induced	406	33.8	928	36.5	1334	35.7
No labour	214	17.8	494	19.4	708	18.9
Method of birth[1]						
Normal vaginal	723	60.3	1369	53.9	2092	55.9
Forceps	62	5.2	163	6.4	225	6.0
Ventouse	57	4.8	161	6.3	218	5.8
Caesarean section	353	29.4	845	33.3	1198	32.0
Gestation at birth						
<37	204	17.0	167	6.6	371	9.9
>=37	996	83.0	2374	93.4	3370	90.1
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS						
Total	**450**	**37.5**	**1211**	**47.7**	**1661**	**10.7**
Maternal age						
<20	158	35.1	20	1.7	178	10.7
20-34	288	64.0	982	81.1	1270	76.5
35+	4	0.9	209	17.3	213	12.8
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE[2]		**1.9**		**1.6**		**1.7**

Note: 1. Not stated in the category (method of birth) was not included in the table but included in the percentage calculations.
2. Total fertility rate is the average number of births per woman over her life time if she experienced the age-specific rates seen in 2021.
3. Non-hospital includes planned homebirths.

2.1.1. Place of residence

Among all babies born in the NT, 3785 (99%) were born to mothers who were residents in the NT at the time of the birth. There were 41 mothers from interstate or overseas who gave birth to 41 babies (1% of all babies born in the NT in 2021).

Most NT non-Aboriginal mothers were living in urban areas (96%), which includes Darwin Urban and Alice Springs Urban regions and the towns of Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Nhulunbuy. In contrast, Aboriginal mothers were more likely to reside in rural and remote areas (52%).

2.1.2. Country of birth

Seventy one percent of NT women who gave birth in 2021 were born in Australia and 29% of NT mothers who were born overseas (Figure 2). The largest proportion of overseas born mothers came from

the following country groups: Southern and Central Asia, South-East Asia, and North-West Europe (Figure 3). The key countries for overseas born mothers were: India (4%), Philippines (3%) and Nepal (3%). Other contributing locations were the United Kingdom (2%) and New Zealand (2%), followed by Pakistan (1%) and Indonesia (1%).

Figure 2. Country of birth for NT Mothers, 2021

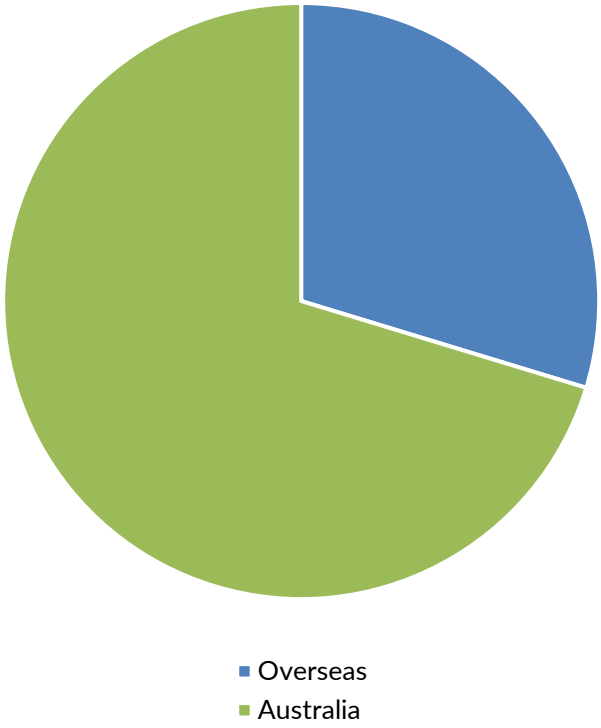
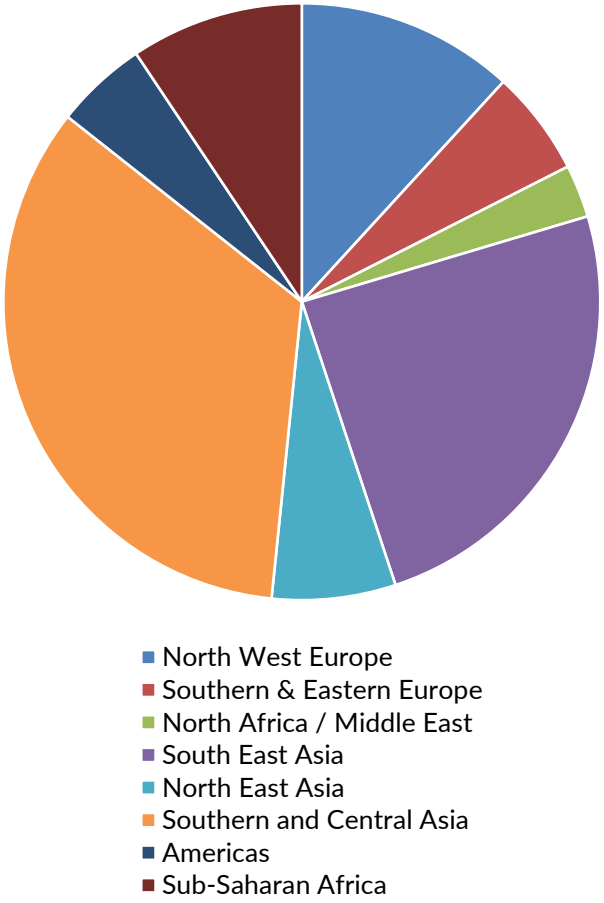


Figure 3. Main country group for NT Mother's born overseas, 2021



2.1.3. Fertility rate

The total fertility rate (TFR) for the NT was 1.8 live births per woman (of child-bearing age) in 2021, lower than the national replacement rate of 2.1 births per woman,[16] and slightly higher than the TFR of 1.7 births per woman for the whole of Australia in 2021.[17] In the NT, Aboriginal women had a TFR of 1.9 in 2021, while non-Aboriginal women had a slightly lower rate of 1.6 live births per woman.

Aboriginal women residing in urban areas had a higher TFR compared with those residing in rural/remote areas (2.5 and 1.5, respectively). In 2021, Barkly (2.2) had the highest TFR for all NT women followed by Greater Darwin, Central Australia and Big Rivers (all 1.8), East Arnhem (1.7) and Top End (1.6). Aboriginal women had a higher TFR compared with non-Aboriginal women in all NT regions.

The age-specific fertility rates show differences in the age of child-bearing between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations in the NT. The fertility rate of the youngest age group (less than 20 years of age) was more than seven times higher for Aboriginal women compared with non-Aboriginal women (51 and 6 births per 1,000, respectively). Conversely, the fertility rate of the 35 years and older age group was higher for non-Aboriginal than Aboriginal women (34 and 16 births per 1,000, respectively).

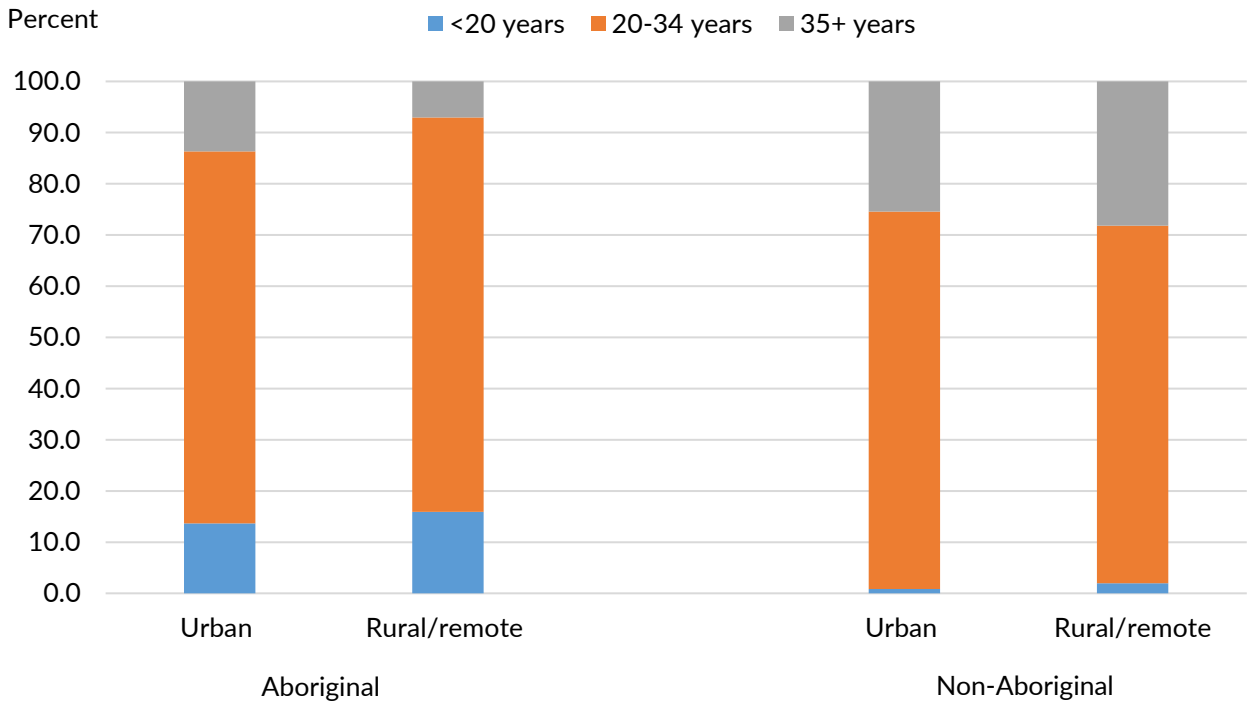
2.1.4. Maternal age

The mean age of Aboriginal mothers was 26 years, which was almost five years younger than the mean age of non-Aboriginal mothers (mean age 31 years). Forty six percent of Aboriginal mothers and 9% of non-Aboriginal mothers were less than 25 years old. Most non-Aboriginal mothers (65%) and 26% of Aboriginal mothers were aged 30 years or more. Fewer Aboriginal mothers (10%) were of an advanced maternal age (>35 years) compared with non-Aboriginal mothers (26%) (Figure 3).

As presented in the statistical tables (table 12 and 13) an earlier age of childbearing was more common among Aboriginal mothers, a pattern that was consistent in all NT Regions, and in urban and remote areas. The proportion of Aboriginal mothers giving birth and aged less than 20 years, ranged from 9% in Greater Darwin to 22% in Central Australia. The proportion of young Aboriginal mothers was slightly lower in urban (14%) compared to rural/remote areas (16%) (Figure 4), and the difference between the proportions for non-Aboriginal mothers living in urban compared to those rural/remote was minimal (1% versus 2%, respectively).

The difference in the mean maternal age at time of birth, between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women, was more pronounced among first-time mothers. There was a ten year difference (21 and 30 years of age, respectively). The majority of non-Aboriginal first-time mothers were aged 25 years or older (87%) compared with 20% for Aboriginal mothers. Aboriginal first-time mothers aged less than 20 years and less than 18 years constituted 35% and 14% respectively whereas, non-Aboriginal first-time mothers in the same age groups (age less than 20 years and 18 years) were 2% and 0.2%, respectively. However, the proportion of Aboriginal first-time mothers, aged less than 20 years, has decreased by 17% from 2011 to 2021 (52% to 35%, respectively). In the same time period, the proportion of first-time non-Aboriginal mothers, aged less than 20 years, fell by 4% (from 6% in 2011 to 2% in 2021).

Figure 4. Maternal age by area of remoteness and Aboriginal status, NT 2021



2.1.5. Parity

Fifty-six percent of NT mothers giving birth in 2021 had given birth previously; 45% had one or two previous births and 11% had three or more previous births. Aboriginal women were three times more likely as non-Aboriginal mothers to have had three or more previous births (20% and 6% respectively).The remaining 44% of women gave birth to their first child in 2021. First-time mothers were proportionally higher among non-Aboriginal mothers (48%) than Aboriginal mothers (38%).

2.1.6. Antenatal care

It is important for maternal and fetal outcomes for women to have their initial antenatal visit within the first trimester of pregnancy. This is defined as a gestational age less than 14 weeks calculated from first day of last menstrual period, which aligns with the METEOR 2020 definition.[18] The definition differs from the NT perinatal reports published prior to the 2008 report.[19] In this report, gestational age at the first antenatal visit was derived from three sources including the date of the first antenatal visit, the date of the first ultrasound, and/or the recorded gestational age at the time of the first ultrasound.

The majority of mothers had information on antenatal visits recorded. Not stated or missing information about the date of first visit or frequency of visits was slightly over 1%. Overall, 87% of mothers who attended antenatal care attended in the first trimester. This varied by NT health region. Eighty one percent of Aboriginal mothers in the Greater Darwin region had an antenatal visit in the first trimester. The proportion of Aboriginal mothers, having first antenatal visit in the first trimester, was the lowest in the Barkly region (48%). Aboriginal mothers were more likely to have their first antenatal visit later in the pregnancy, compared with non-Aboriginal mothers (69% and 96%, respectively). The proportion of Aboriginal mothers attending a first antenatal visit in the first trimester was slightly higher in urban than in rural/remote areas (78% and 62%, respectively).

Five or more antenatal visits were recorded for 83% of Aboriginal mothers and 97% of non-Aboriginal mothers. Seventeen percent of Aboriginal mothers had less than 5 antenatal visits with the highest proportion of Aboriginal mothers that received less than five antenatal visits were in the Barkly region (44%) whilst the lowest was in the Greater Darwin region (13%).

2.1.7. Alcohol consumption during pregnancy

Self-reported alcohol consumption during pregnancy is collected at the first antenatal visit and again at approximately 36 week's gestation. Although the collection of this indicator has improved in recent years, the number of mothers with missing data remains significant. In 2021, 5% of alcohol consumption data at the first antenatal visit were missing.

At their first antenatal visit, 4% of all NT mothers reported drinking alcohol during the pregnancy. The prevalence of self-reported alcohol consumption was higher for Aboriginal mothers (8%) than for non-Aboriginal mothers (2%) at this first visit. The prevalence of alcohol consumption reported did not include missing data (n=117 Aboriginal mothers, n=57 non-Aboriginal mothers).

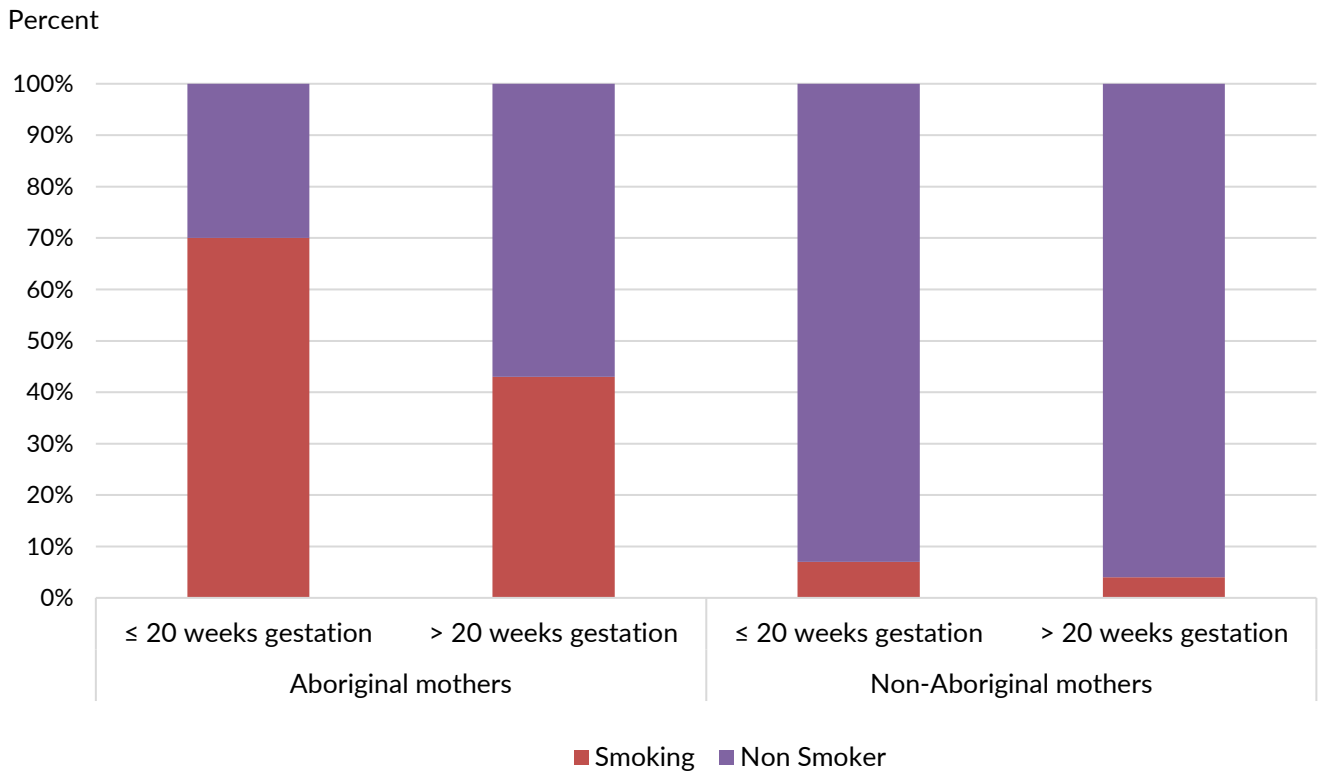
2.1.8. Smoking status during pregnancy

Self-reported smoking status during pregnancy is recorded as two items: (1) smoked during first 20 weeks gestation and (2) smoked after 20 weeks gestation. The estimated self-reported average daily quantity of cigarettes smoked is also collected after 20 weeks gestation. The prevalence of reported smoking during pregnancy in this report was calculated after removing records with missing data (n=53).

Twenty percent of all NT mothers reported smoking during first 20 weeks of pregnancy. As depicted in Figure 4, Aboriginal mothers were seven times more likely than non-Aboriginal mothers to report smoking during first 20 weeks of pregnancy (49% and 7%, respectively). Thirty-nine percent of Aboriginal mothers aged less than 20 years, 50% of Aboriginal mothers aged 20-34 years and 35 years or more, reported smoking during first 20 weeks gestation. Non-Aboriginal mothers aged less than 20 years were much more likely to smoke (27% reported smoking) than those aged 20-34 years and those over 35 years (6% for both age groups). Of the NT mothers who reported smoking during first 20 weeks of pregnancy, non-Aboriginal mothers were more likely to have reported quitting smoking by 20 weeks gestation than Aboriginal mothers (37% and 13%, respectively).

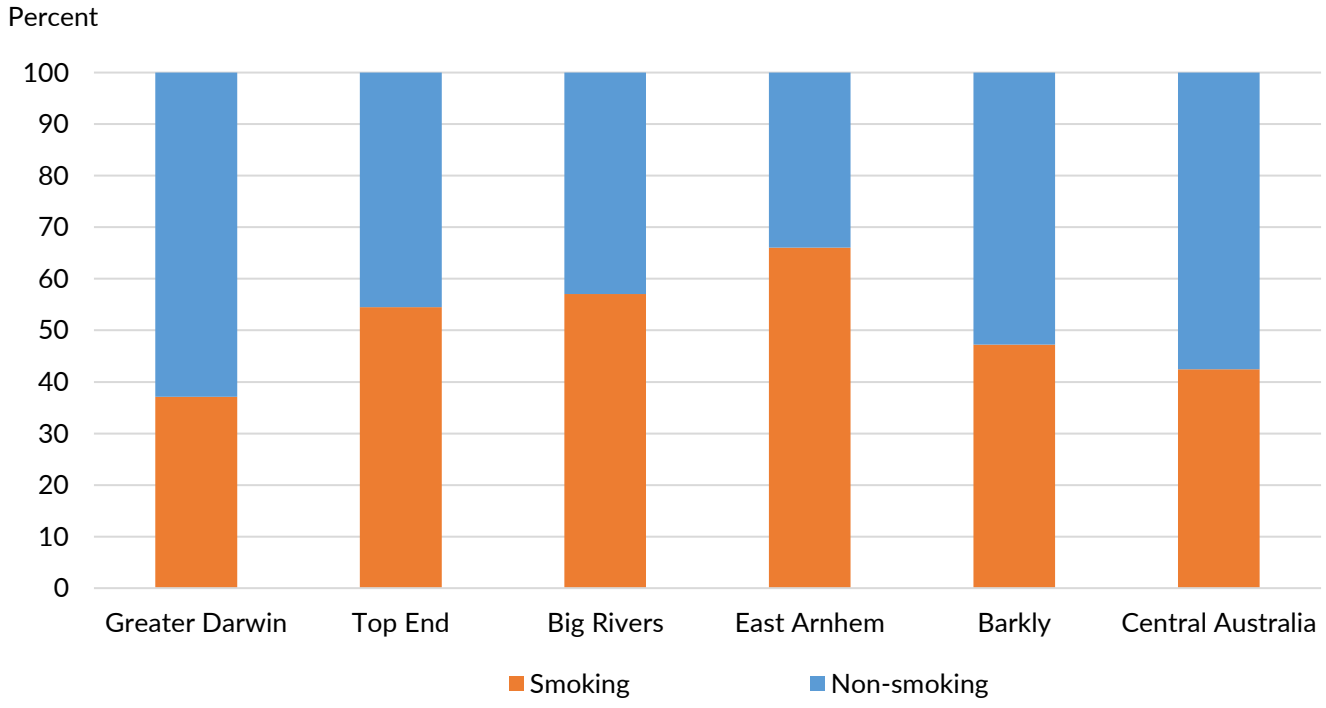
Among Aboriginal mothers, those living in the Greater Darwin region had the lowest smoking rates compared to other NT regions, with 37% of mothers reporting smoking during first 20 weeks gestation (Figure 5). The highest smoking prevalence was recorded among mothers in East Arnhem (66%) (Figure 6). The pattern of lower smoking rates in Central Australia (42%) was consistent with data from previous years. In this region, smoking prevalence may be lower as it may be supplemented with the local practice of chewing tobacco (pituri).[20]

Figure 5. Maternal smoking status[1] during and after 20 weeks gestation by Aboriginal status, NT 2021



Note: 1. Smoking status includes mothers with a recorded response.

Figure 6. Aboriginal maternal smoking status[1] during first 20 weeks gestation by NT Region, 2021



Note: 1. Smoking status includes mothers with a recorded response.

2.1.9. Birth facility

Almost all NT births occurred in a hospital (97%) in 2021. The majority of hospital births took place at one of the six public hospitals in the NT (87%) and the rest were at DPH, the only private hospital in the NT. Most mothers who gave birth at DPH were non-Aboriginal (97%).

There were 99 births that occurred out of hospital. Among these, 46 births were planned homebirths (with the public hospital midwifery home birth service), 15 births occurred in remote community health centres and 38 occurred in transit to a health service, at home or in temporary accommodation.

Remote community health centres were the most common place for non-hospital births for Aboriginal mothers (1% of all births for NT Aboriginal mothers). Central Australia had the largest proportion of non-hospital births for Aboriginal mothers (over 3%), with the proportion in the remainder of the NT Regions ranging from 1% to 3%.

2.1.10. Onset of labour and induction of labour

Spontaneous onset of labour occurred for 45% of mothers, 36% had labour induced, and the remainder had no labour (19%).

Of women giving birth at term gestation, the proportion with spontaneous onset of labour was higher for Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal mothers (47% and 44%, respectively), and also different for women with spontaneous onset of labour at preterm gestation (53% and 44%, respectively).

Of women giving birth at term gestation, the proportion induced was lower for Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal women (36% and 37%, respectively), and also for women induced at preterm gestation (22% and 26%, respectively).

Of women giving birth at term, the proportion with no labour was lower for Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal women (16% and 19%, respectively), and also for women with no labour at preterm gestation (25% and 29%, respectively).

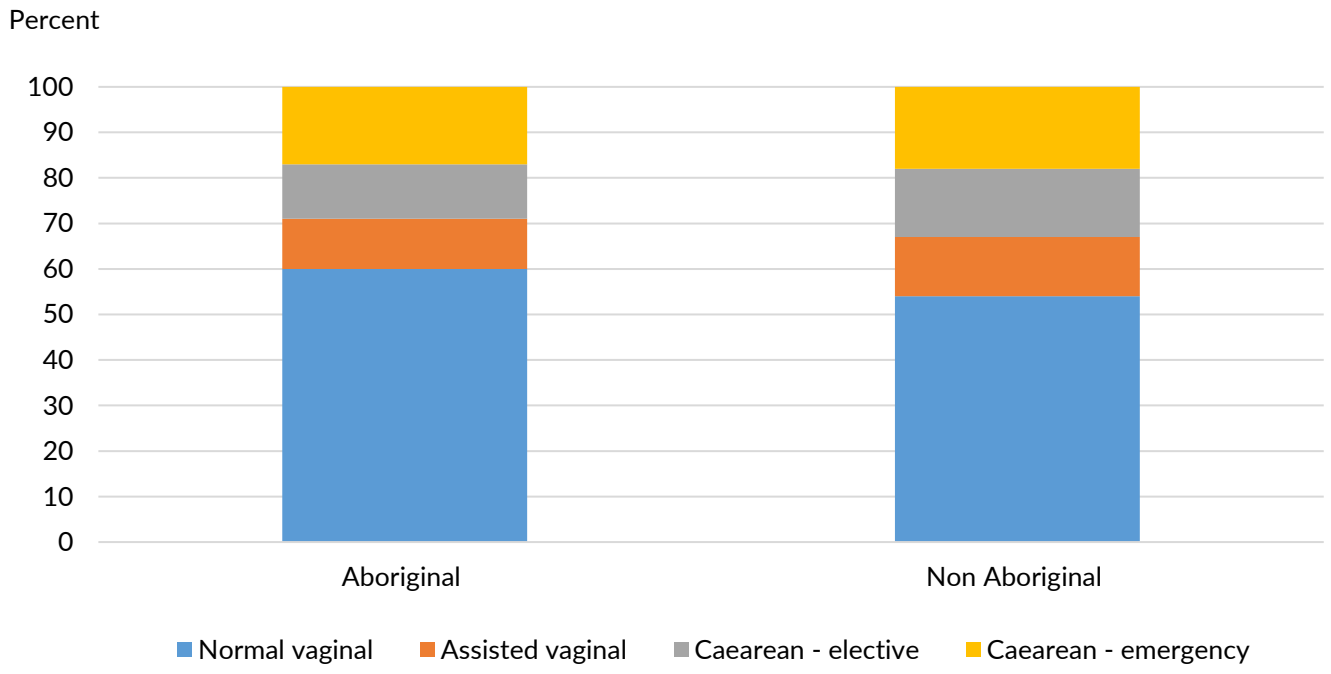
2.1.11. Fetal presentation and method of birth

The majority of fetal presentations in NT mothers were vertex (95%) while breech accounted for 5% and other presentations less than 1%.

Of all NT mothers giving birth in 2021, 56% had a normal vaginal birth. Instrumental vaginal births using forceps or ventouse (vacuum extraction) accounted for 12% of all births. Aboriginal mothers were more likely to have a normal vaginal birth than non-Aboriginal mothers (60% and 54%, respectively) and less likely to have an instrumental birth than non-Aboriginal mothers (10% and 13%, respectively) (Figure 7).

Nearly one third (32%) of births were by caesarean section (CS), with Aboriginal mothers less likely to have a CS birth than non-Aboriginal mothers (29% and 33% respectively). Among all NT hospitals, DPH had the highest proportion of CS births (51%), and the lowest proportion of normal vaginal births (41%). Nationally, the proportion of births that were via CS in the private hospital sector during 2021 was 51%.[21]

Figure 7. Method of birth[1,2] by Aboriginal status, NT 2021



Note: 1. The reporting of normal vaginal birth and assisted vaginal birth excludes vaginal births that were breech delivery.
2. The category assisted vaginal births includes both ventouse and forcep delivery.

2.1.12. Analgesia and anaesthesia for childbirth

The vast majority of mothers who laboured (spontaneous or induced) used some form of analgesia (86%). Analgesia uptake was slightly higher among Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal mothers (88% and 85%, respectively). Non-Aboriginal mothers were more likely to have an epidural as an analgesic than Aboriginal mothers (19% and 15%, respectively).

Anaesthesia was used in nearly all operative births (forceps, ventouse and/or CS) (98%), with the same rates among non-Aboriginal mothers and Aboriginal mothers. Non-Aboriginal mothers were more likely than Aboriginal mothers to have epidural/caudal anaesthesia (31% and 29%, respectively). There was slightly higher use of spinal anaesthesia for Aboriginal mothers than non-Aboriginal mothers (54% and 52%, respectively). Local and pudendal anaesthesia was administered in similar proportions to non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal women having operative births (8% and 7%, respectively).

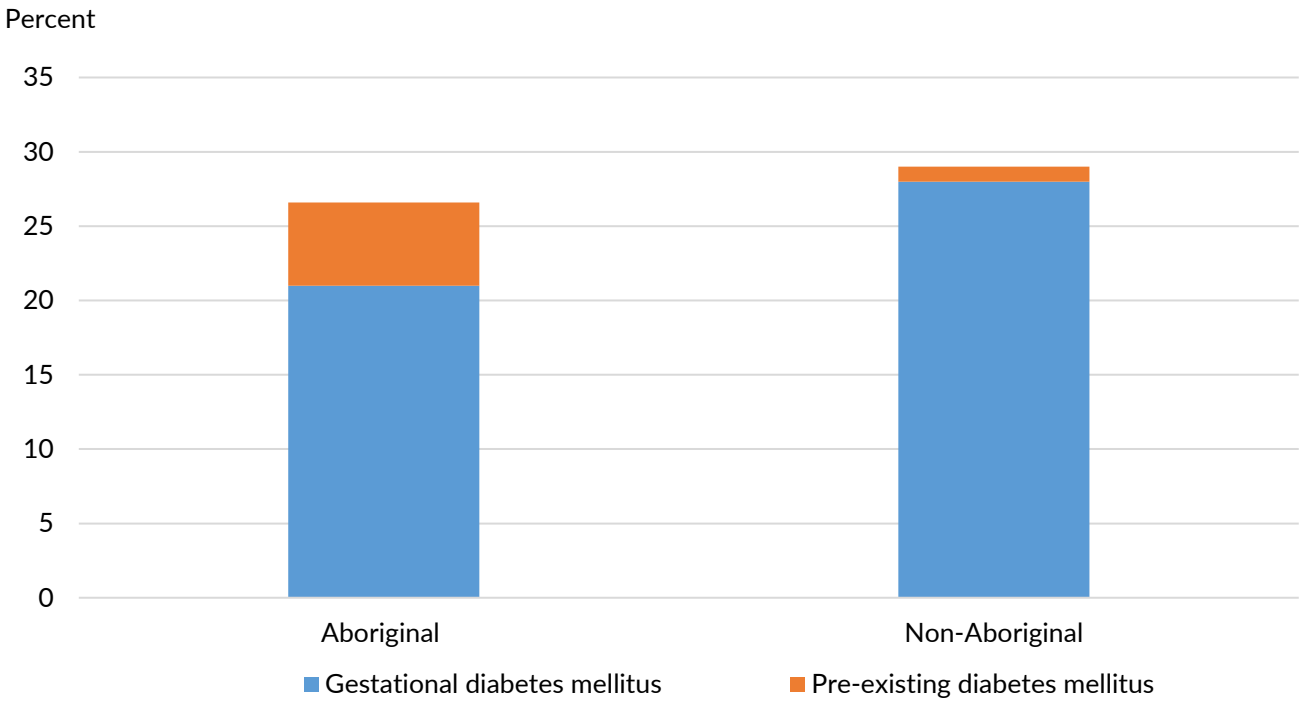
2.1.13. Pregnancy and childbirth complications

Complications in pregnancy and labour/childbirth provide areas for potential learnings and health service improvement and as such, a selection of the more common pregnancy and labour/childbirth complications are reported. Thirty-one percent of all NT mothers experienced at least one listed pregnancy complications in 2021, while 63% experienced at least one complication of labour/childbirth. Non-Aboriginal mothers had a similar proportion of pregnancy complications than Aboriginal mothers (31% compared with 30%), whilst Aboriginal mothers had a similar proportion of any labour/childbirth complications than non-Aboriginal mothers (65% and 63%, respectively).

In terms of specific pregnancy complications, the most common medical complication of pregnancy was gestational diabetes mellitus, affecting 26% of all NT mothers. The proportion of mothers with gestational diabetes mellitus was higher for non-Aboriginal than Aboriginal mothers (28% and 21%, respectively)

(Figure 8). The proportion of mothers with pre-existing diabetes mellitus was higher for Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal mothers (6% and 1%, respectively). Aboriginal mothers also had a higher proportion of gestational hypertension than non-Aboriginal mothers (6% and 3%, respectively).

Figure 8. NT Mothers with diabetes mellitus by type and Aboriginal status, 2021



Postpartum Haemorrhage (PPH) was assigned to cases that recorded having a blood loss volume of 500 millilitres (mL) or more. PPH is the most common childbirth complication for all NT mothers (36%), and was more prevalent in Aboriginal mothers (38%) than non-Aboriginal mothers (35%). A PPH was more common among mothers with CS birth than vaginal birth (49% and 30%, respectively). Among mothers with a CS birth, PPH was slightly higher for non-Aboriginal than Aboriginal mothers (50% and 47%, respectively). However, among mothers who had a vaginal birth, the PPH proportion was higher for Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal women (34% and 27%, respectively). Considering vaginal birth and blood loss volume of 1000 millilitres or more, the proportion affected was also higher for Aboriginal mothers than non-Aboriginal mothers (14% and 10%, respectively).

2.1.14. Perineal status

For mothers who gave birth vaginally, 25% had an intact perineum, 23% had a first degree perineal laceration or graze, 28% had a second degree perineal laceration, and a small proportion (4%) had a third degree laceration or a fourth degree laceration. The procedure episiotomy (incision in the perineum) was performed on 21% of mothers who gave birth vaginally. Aboriginal mothers were more likely than non-Aboriginal mothers to have an intact perineum (32% and 21%, respectively).

2.1.15. Postnatal hospital stay

The average length of stay for all NT mothers was 2.5 days, while for first time mothers it was 3 days. The majority of mothers who gave birth in hospital stayed in hospital for one day or more following the birth (93%). Only 2% of women stayed for eight or more days. Aboriginal mothers were more likely than non-Aboriginal mothers to have a hospital stay of one day or more (95% and 92%, respectively) and more likely to stay for eight or more days (3% and 1%, respectively). This difference may be associated with remote residence, as more Aboriginal mothers are from remote areas. Aboriginal mothers living in

rural/remote areas were more likely than those living in urban areas to have a hospital stay of four days or more (31% and 18%, respectively). This difference can also be attributed to Aboriginal mothers having a higher rates of preterm births. Mothers who had a CS had an average length of stay of 3 days while mothers who had a normal vaginal birth had an average length of stay of 2 days.

2.2. Babies

2.2.1. Birth status

In 2021, a total of 3826 babies were born in the NT. Of these, 41 were born to mothers who were not NT residents. Of the 3785 babies born to NT mothers, 62 (2%) were fetal deaths and 3723 (98%) were live births. The proportion of stillborn babies (fetal deaths) was slightly higher among babies born to Aboriginal mothers compared to babies born to non-Aboriginal mothers (3% and 1%, respectively). Seventy-seven percent of fetal deaths had an extremely low birthweight of less than 1000 grams and 34 (71%) fetal deaths were born at an extremely preterm gestation, between 20-28 weeks gestation. Table 2 provides a summary of some of the characteristics of babies born to NT mothers in 2021.

Table 2. Characteristics of NT births by maternal Aboriginal status, 2021

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Birth status						
Live birth	1178	97.0	2545	99.0	3723	98.4
Stillbirth	36	3.0	26	1.0	62	1.6
Baby's sex						
Male	634	52.2	1283	49.9	1917	50.6
Female	576	47.4	1287	50.1	1863	49.2
Indeterminate[1]	4	0.3	1	0.0	5	0.1
Plurality						
Singleton	1186	97.7	2511	97.7	3697	97.7
Multiple	28	2.3	60	2.3	88	2.3
Birthweight						
<1500	71	5.8	43	1.7	114	3.0
1500 - 2499	140	11.5	107	4.2	247	6.5
2500 - 3999	907	74.7	2199	85.6	3106	82.1
4000+	96	7.9	221	8.6	317	8.4
Not stated	0	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0
Gestational age						
<28 weeks	48	4.0	30	1.2	78	2.1
28-36 weeks	167	13.8	157	6.1	324	8.6
37+ weeks	999	82.3	2384	92.7	3383	89.4
Total	**1214**		**2571**		**3785**	

Note: 1. Indeterminate is where sex cannot be determined. Some percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

2.2.2. Plurality

There were 88 twin births to NT mothers in 2021 and no other multiple order births. The proportion of twin births was the same for non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal mothers (2%).

2.2.3. Gestational age and birthweight of liveborn babies

Altogether, there were 345 (9%) pre-term live births (gestational age less than 37 weeks). The proportion of pre-term liveborn babies born to Aboriginal mothers was more than twice that of non-Aboriginal mothers (15% and 6%, respectively).

Of all liveborn babies, 8% were low birthweight (less than 2500 grams). The proportion of low birthweight liveborn babies born to Aboriginal mothers was three times that of non-Aboriginal mothers (15% and 5%,

respectively). In the very low birthweight category (less than 1500 grams), the proportion of babies born to Aboriginal mothers was three times that of non-Aboriginal mothers (3% and 1%, respectively).

Aboriginal mothers were more likely to have low birthweight or pre-term live births than non-Aboriginal mothers, across all NT Regions. The NT Region with the highest proportion of low birthweight babies born to Aboriginal mothers was Top End (23%) whereas Barkly had the lowest (less than 12%). It should be noted that pregnant women in Central Australia, who are predicted to give birth before 30 weeks gestation, or who have a medical condition that requires specialist intensive care services, may be transferred interstate for continuing care and birth.

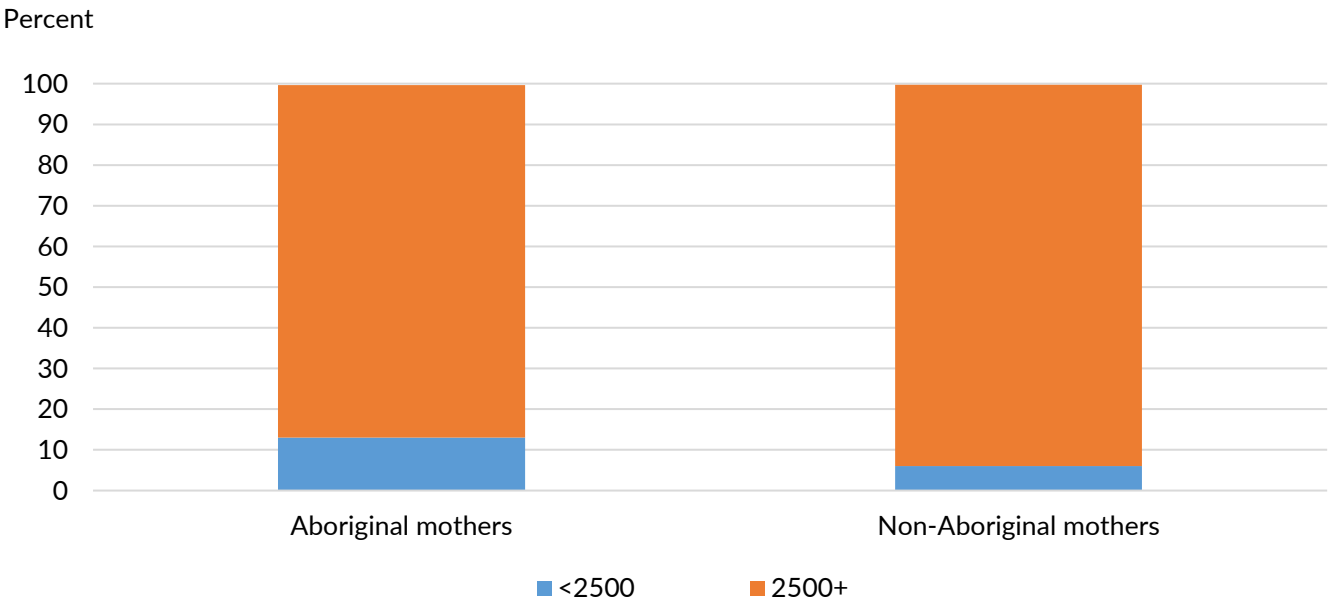
The proportion of low birthweight among term gestation (greater than 37) singleton liveborn babies born to Aboriginal mothers was almost three times that of those born to non-Aboriginal mothers (5% and 2%, respectively).

2.2.4. Birthweight adjusted for gestational age

Babies are defined as being small for gestational age if their birthweight is below the 10th percentile for their gestational age and sex, and babies are defined as large for gestational age if their birthweight is above the 90th percentile for their gestational age and sex, as determined by national percentiles. Data on birthweight adjusted for gestational age is limited to liveborn singleton babies.

Overall in the NT, 11% of liveborn singleton babies were small for gestational and 9% were large for gestational age. The proportion of liveborn singleton babies, small for gestational age, born to Aboriginal mothers was 16% compared to 9% for non-Aboriginal mothers (Figure 9). The proportion of large for gestational age of singleton babies born to Aboriginal mothers was the same as babies born to non-Aboriginal mothers (both 9%). For liveborn singleton babies born to Aboriginal mothers, the highest proportion of small for gestational age was in the Top End (22%), while the highest proportion of large for gestational age was in the Barkly (14%), followed by Central Australia (11%).

Figure 9. Birthweight of singleton live births by baby Aboriginal status, NT 2021



2.2.5. Apgar scores

The Apgar score is a clinical indicator of the condition of the baby at birth and is based on physical characteristics (pulse, breathing, skin colour, muscle tone and reflex irritability). Each characteristic is assigned a score of 0, 1, or 2, with the highest total Apgar score being 10. A score of 7-10 indicates a healthy baby.[22] By five minutes after birth, 97% of all NT liveborn babies had an Apgar score above seven.

For pre-term babies the proportion for Aboriginal babies with a five-minute Apgar score of 7 or more was slightly higher than that of non-Aboriginal babies (88% and 85%, respectively). For term babies the proportion with a five-minute Apgar score of 7 or more for Aboriginal babies was the same as non-Aboriginal babies (98%).

2.2.6. Resuscitation of liveborn babies

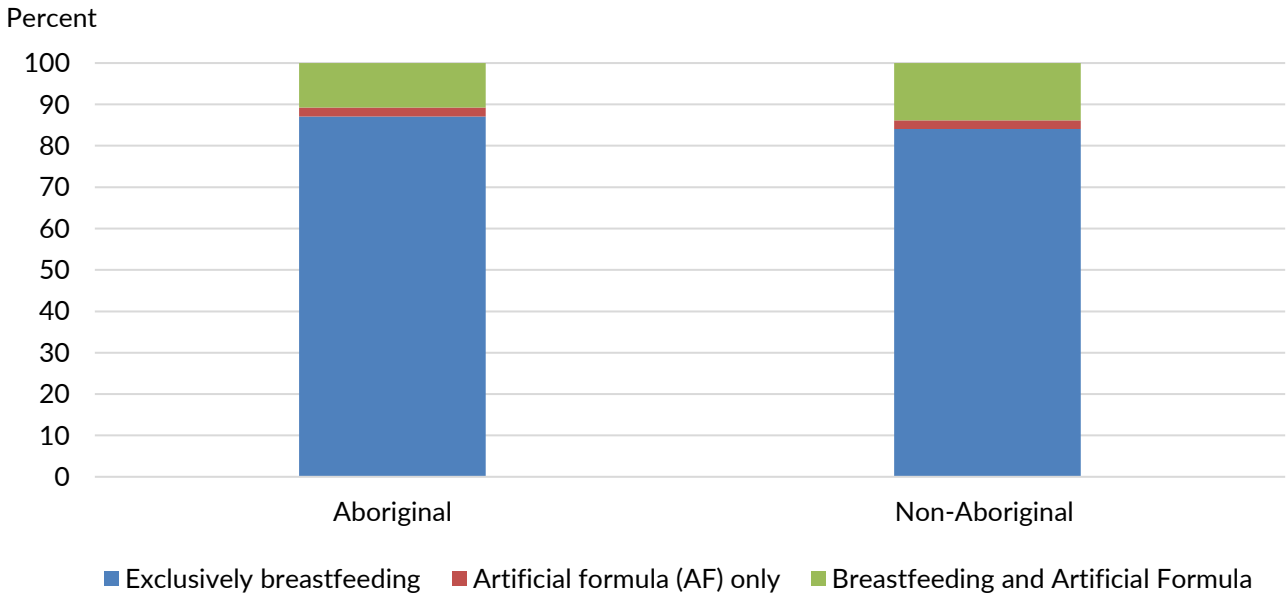
Sixteen percent of babies born alive received some form of resuscitation, excluding tactile stimulation. The proportion of babies requiring resuscitation was higher among Aboriginal compared with non-Aboriginal liveborn babies (21% and 14%, respectively). This is partially attributed to the higher proportion of preterm Aboriginal babies. Eight percent of liveborn babies received intermittent positive pressure ventilation. Methods such as intubation, external cardiac massage (ECM) and ventilation were uncommon.

2.2.7. Infant feeding

Information regarding infant feeding status is captured upon hospital discharge of the mother. The information in this report was calculated after removing records with missing data (less than 1% in 2021) or instances of perinatal death or babies remaining in special care nursery after a mother's discharge.

Among singleton term babies discharged with their mother (n=3053), 98% were ever breastfed. Of these, 85% had been exclusively breastfed, 12% of babies who were breastfeeding on discharge had received at least one formula feed during their admission, 1% of mothers had ceased breastfeeding prior to discharge, and 2% of babies were never breastfed. The percentage of singleton term babies of primiparous mothers (first baby) that had ever breastfed was 99%, compared with 97% of babies of multiparous mothers (previously had a baby). Exclusive breastfeeding rates of babies born to first time mothers were higher among babies born to Aboriginal mothers (86%) than those born to non-Aboriginal mothers (80%) (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Feeding status for full-term[1] liveborn babies[2] born in hospital by Aboriginal status, NT 2021



Note: 1. Full-term > 36 weeks gestation.
2. Singleton live births only.

2.2.8. Perinatal mortality

Content warning: The following content contains information some readers may find distressing as it relates to the loss of a newborn and stillbirth.

Perinatal mortality includes fetal deaths (stillbirth) and neonatal deaths (born alive and dies within 28 days of birth). In 2021, there were 79 perinatal deaths in the NT, comprising 62 fetal deaths and 17 neonatal deaths. Of the 17 neonatal deaths, 10 were Aboriginal and 7 non-Aboriginal. The Aboriginal perinatal death rate was higher than the non-Aboriginal rate (37.9 and 12.8 deaths per 1000 births, respectively). Rates of perinatal death vary across Australia, with the AIHW reporting the NT had the highest rate of perinatal death in 2021. This may reflect a higher proportion of women in the NT giving birth with at least one risk factor associated with perinatal death (including living in remote and very remote areas, smoking throughout pregnancy, and First Nations women[23]) and warrants further examination.

The perinatal death rates can vary due to changes in legislation (including termination legislation implemented in 2017 and 2021), and may mean that trends on the total perinatal death rate are not directly comparable across years. We present adjusted perinatal death rates for the last four years 2018 to 2021 to help with interpretation of perinatal death rates. After the removal of congenital anomaly and/or termination of pregnancy from total perinatal death, the perinatal death rate declined from 20.9 to 12.4 deaths per 1,000 births in 2021.

Table 3. Perinatal deaths by Perinatal Mortality Classifications sub-categories from 2018 to 2021, NT

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Perinatal deaths due to congenital anomaly and/or termination of pregnancy	17	19	31	32
Total perinatal deaths	**64**	**54**	**67**	**79**
Total perinatal death rate (per 1000 births)	**17.2**	**15.3**	**18.4**	**20.9**
Perinatal deaths minus deaths due to congenital anomaly and/or termination of pregnancy	47	35	36	47
Adjusted perinatal death rate (per 1,000 births)	**12.7**	**9.9**	**9.9**	**12.4**

Note: 1. Total perinatal deaths is the number of total perinatal deaths for each corresponding year.
2. Adjusted perinatal death rate is based on the total perinatal deaths minus perinatal deaths due to congenital anomaly and/or termination of pregnancy.

3. Statistical tables

Tables in 3.1 and 3.2 report on mothers that reside in NT only. Chapter 4 (Appendix A) reports all mothers regardless of their residential location.

3.1. Mothers

Table 4. Summary statistics for pre-term birth by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
ALL MOTHERS						
Total	**204**	**55.0**	**167**	**45.0**	**371**	
Maternal age						
20-34	150	73.5	122	73.1	272	73.3
Place of birth						
Hospital	184	90.2	166	99.4	350	94.3
Type of labour onset						
Spontaneous (Not augmented)	92	45.1	62	37.1	154	41.5
Spontaneous (Augmented)	16	7.8	11	6.6	27	7.3
Induced	45	22.1	44	26.3	89	24.0
No labour	51	25.0	49	29.3	100	27.0
Method of birth[1]						
Normal vaginal	126	61.8	85	50.9	211	56.9
Forceps	10	4.9	5	3.0	15	4.0
Ventouse	2	1.0	5	3.0	7	1.9
Caesarean section	61	29.9	71	42.5	132	35.6
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS						
Total	**77**	**37.7**	**75**	**44.9**	**152**	
Maternal age						
20-34	50	64.9	55	73.3	105	69.1

Note: 1. Not stated was not included in the table, but included in the percentage calculations.

Table 5. Summary statistics for term birth, by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
ALL MOTHERS						
Total	**996**	**29.6**	**2374**	**70.4**	**3370**	
Maternal age						
<20	149	15.0	21	0.9	170	5.0
20-34	749	75.2	1748	73.6	2497	74.1
35+	98	9.8	605	25.5	703	20.9
Place of birth						
Hospital	987	99.1	2305	97.1	3292	97.7
Non-hospital	9	0.9	69	2.9	78	2.3
Type of labour onset						
Spontaneous (Not augmented)	323	32.4	742	31.3	1065	31.6
Spontaneous (Augmented)	149	15.0	303	12.8	452	13.4
Induced	361	36.2	884	37.2	1245	36.9
No labour	163	16.4	445	18.7	608	18.0
Method of birth						
Normal vaginal	597	59.9	1284	54.1	1881	55.8
Forceps	52	5.2	158	6.7	210	6.2
Ventouse	55	5.5	156	6.6	211	6.3
Caesarean section	292	29.3	774	32.6	1066	31.6
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS						
Total	**373**	**37.4**	**1136**	**47.9**	**1509**	
Maternal age						
<20	134	35.9	20	1.8	154	10.2
20-34	238	63.8	927	81.6	1165	77.2

Table 6. Mother's country group and main countries, NT 2021

Country-group[1] / *Major countries*		Number		%	
Oceania & Antarctica		**2730**			**72.5**
	Australia	*2635*		*71.0*	
	New Zealand	*57*		*1.5*	
North-West Europe		**116**			**3.5**
	United Kingdom	*60*		*1.6*	
Southern & Eastern Europe		56			1.5
North Africa & The Middle East		28			0.8
South-East Asia		241			6.5
	Philippines	*126*		*3.4*	
	Indonesia	*33*		*0.9*	
North-East Asia		66			1.8
Southern & Central Asia		334			9.0
	India	*151*		*4.1*	
	Nepal	*100*		*2.7*	
	Pakistan	*39*		*1.1*	
Americas		*49*			*1.3*
Sub-Saharan Africa		92			2.5
Total stated		***3712***			***100.0***
Not stated		29			0.8
Total		**3741**			

Note: 1. The defining of country groups is based on classification by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2016). 1269.0 - Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC).

Table 7. NT Region of usual residence by Aboriginal status and maternal birth place, 2021

NT Region	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal				All NT
			Born in Australia		Born overseas		
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Greater Darwin	318	14.0	1099	48.2	861	37.8	2278
Top End	171	81.0	27	12.8	13	6.2	211
Big Rivers	196	61.4	84	26.3	39	12.2	319
East Arnhem	159	77.9	30	14.7	15	7.4	204
Barkly	95	78.5	18	14.9	8	6.6	121
Central Australia	261	42.9	180	29.6	167	27.5	608
Total	**1200**	**32.1**	**1438**	**38.4**	**1103**	**29.5**	**3741**

Table 8. Area of remoteness, by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Area	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Urban area[1]	577	48.1	2438	95.9	3015	80.6
Rural/remote area[2]	623	51.9	103	4.1	726	19.4
Total	**1200**	**100.0**	**2541**	**100.0**	**3741**	**100.0**

Note: 1. Urban area covers the two urban regions of Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Nhulunbuy.
2. Rural/remote area covers the rest of the NT.

Table 9. NT region of usual residence and area of remoteness by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Health Region	Area	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Darwin Urban		317	26.4	1942	76.4	2259	60.4
Darwin Rural		173	14.4	60	2.4	233	6.2
Katherine	Urban	71	5.9	112	4.4	183	4.9
	Rural/remote	115	9.6	9	0.4	124	3.3
East Arnhem	Urban	14	1.2	27	1.1	41	1.1
	Rural/remote	155	12.9	18	0.7	173	4.6
Barkly	Urban	56	4.7	24	0.9	80	2.1
	Rural/remote	23	1.9	0	0.0	23	0.6
Alice Springs	Urban	119	9.9	333	13.1	452	12.1
	Rural/remote	157	13.1	16	0.6	173	4.6
Non-NT/interstate[1]		*79*	*6.6*	*24*	*0.9*	*103*	*2.8*
Total		**1200**	**100.0**	**2541**	**100.0**	**3741**	**100.0**

Note: 1. Non-NT relates to non-resident mothers that birthed in the NT. This group is not included in the calculation of percentages and totals.

Table 10. Total fertility rate[1] by Aboriginal status and NT region of usual residence, 2021

NT Region	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	All NT
Greater Darwin	2.5	1.7	1.8
Top End	1.7	1.2	1.6
Big Rivers	2.1	1.5	1.8
East Arnhem	2.0	1.0	1.7
Barkly	2.5	1.6	2.2
Central Australia	2.1	1.5	1.8
Total	**1.9**	**1.6**	**1.7**

Note: 1. Total fertility rate is the average number of live births per woman over her life time.

Table 11. Total fertility rate[1] by Aboriginal status and area of remoteness, NT 2021

Remoteness	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	All NT
Urban area[2]	2.5	1.6	1.8
Rural/remote area[2]	1.5	1.7	1.6

Note: 1. Total fertility rate is the average number of live births per woman over her life time.
2. Urban area covers the two urban regions of Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Nhulunbuy. Rural/remote area covers the rest of the NT.

Table 12. Age-specific fertility rates and total fertility rate by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Aboriginal status	Age specific fertility rate (births per 1000)[1]			Total fertility rate[2]
	<20 years	20-34 years	35+ years	
Aboriginal	50.8	94.2	15.6	1.9
Non-Aboriginal	5.9	84.2	33.5	1.6
All NT	**26.7**	**87.2**	**28.4**	**1.8**

Note: 1. Age-specific fertility rate is the number of live births per 1000 women in each age group. The rate for the <20 age group is calculated using the female population aged 15-19 years, the rate for the 35+ group is calculated using the female population aged 35-49 years.
2. Total fertility rate is the average number of births per woman over her life time.

Table 13. Maternal parity[1] by Aboriginal status and area of remoteness, NT 2021

Parity[1]	Aboriginal						Non-Aboriginal					
	Urban area		Rural/remote area		Total		Urban area		Rural/remote area		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0	197	34.1	253	40.6	450	37.5	1164	47.8	47	45.6	1211	47.7
1-2	246	42.6	266	42.7	512	42.7	1127	46.2	48	46.6	1175	46.3
3+	134	23.2	104	16.7	238	19.8	146	6.0	8	7.8	154	6.1
Total	**577**	**100.0**	**623**	**100.0**	**1200**	**100.0**	**2437**	**100.0**	**103**	**100.0**	**2541**	**100.0**

Note: 1. Parity is the number of previous births a woman has had of at least 20 weeks gestation.

Table 14. Maternal age of all mothers by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Maternal age (years)	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Mean age (years)	***25.8***		***31.3***		***29.5***	
<20 years	178	14.9	22	0.9	200	5.3
20-24 years	371	30.9	210	8.3	581	15.6
25-29 years	335	27.9	649	25.5	984	26.3
30+ years	316	26.3	1660	65.3	1976	52.8
Total	**1200**	**100.0**	**2541**	**100.0**	**3741**	**100.0**

Table 15. Maternal age of first-time mothers by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Maternal age	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
(years)	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Mean age (years)	***21.4***		***30.1***		***27.7***	
<20 years	158	35.1	20	1.7	178	10.7
20-24 years	202	44.9	139	11.5	341	20.5
25-29 years	69	15.3	386	31.9	455	27.4
30+ years	21	4.7	666	55.0	687	41.4
Total	**450**	**100.0**	**1211**	**100.0**	**1661**	**100.0**

Table 16. Maternal age by Aboriginal status and area of remoteness, NT 2021

Area[1]	Maternal age (years)			Total
	<20	20-34	35+	
	%	%	%	Number
Aboriginal				
Urban area	13.7	72.6	13.7	**577**
Rural/remote area	15.9	77.0	7.1	**623**
Total	**14.8**	**74.9**	**10.3**	**1200**
Non-Aboriginal				
Urban area	0.8	73.7	25.4	**2438**
Rural/remote area	1.9	69.9	28.2	**103**
Total	**0.9**	**73.6**	**25.5**	**2541**

Note: 1. Urban area includes the two urban districts of Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Nhulunbuy. Rural/remote area includes the rest of the NT.

Table 17. Antenatal visits by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Number of	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
antenatal visits	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0	25	2.1	0	0.0	25	0.7
1-4	176	14.9	82	3.2	258	7.0
5-6	180	15.3	146	5.8	326	8.8
7-9	313	26.5	745	29.4	1058	28.5
10+	486	41.2	1557	61.5	2043	55.1
Total stated	1180	***100.0***	***2530***	***100.0***	***3710***	***100.0***
Not stated[1]	20		11		31	
Total	**1200**		**2541**		**3741**	

Note: 1. Not stated includes women that had antenatal care but unknown number of visits.

Table 18. Number of antenatal visits for Aboriginal mothers and NT region of usual residence, 2021

Health Region	Number of antenatal visits				*Total stated*	Not stated	Total
	1 - 4	5 - 6	7-9	10+			
	%	%	%		*Number*	Number	Number
Greater Darwin	10.9	13.2	28.9	45.3	***311***	318	**629**
Top End	16.4	12.9	22.2	45.0	***171***	171	**342**
Big Rivers	12.5	15.1	21.9	47.9	***192***	196	**388**
East Arnhem	9.6	14.6	24.8	49.7	***157***	159	**316**
Barkly	22.2	23.3	36.7	16.7	***90***	95	**185**
Central Australia	21.7	17.3	28.0	32.7	***254***	261	**515**
Total	**14.9**	**15.3**	**26.5**	**41.2**	***1180***	20	**1200**

Table 19. Antenatal visits by Aboriginal status and area of remoteness, NT 2021

Area[1]	Number of antenatal visits					*Total stated*	Not stated	Total
	0	1 - 4	5 - 6	7-9	10+			
	%	%	%	%	%	*Number*	Number	Number
Aboriginal								
Urban area	2.6	13.3	14.9	27.0	42.1	***570***	7	**577**
Rural/remote area	1.6	16.4	15.6	26.1	40.3	***610***	13	**623**
Total	2.1	14.9	15.3	26.5	41.2	***1180***	20	**1200**
Non-Aboriginal								
Urban area	0.0	3.1	5.6	29.7	61.5	***2430***	8	**2438**
Rural/remote area	0.0	6.0	9.0	23.0	62.0	***100***	3	**103**
Total	0.0	3.2	5.8	29.4	61.5	***2530***	11	**2541**

Note: 1. Urban area includes the two urban districts of Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Nhulunbuy. Rural/remote area covers the rest of the NT.

Table 20. Gestation at first antenatal visit by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Gestation at first antenatal visit[1]	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
First trimester	808	69.3	2420	95.7	3228	87.4
Second trimester	286	24.5	99	3.9	385	10.4
Third trimester	72	6.2	10	0.4	82	2.2
Total stated	***1168***	***100.0***	***2529***	***100.0***	***3695***	***100.0***
Not stated[2]	34		12		46	
Total	**1200**		**2541**		**3741**	

Note: 1. First trimester is less than 14 weeks gestation; second trimester is 14-26 weeks gestation; third trimester is ≥27 weeks' gestation.
2. Not stated includes mothers with zero antenatal visits recorded and/or mothers with no date of first antenatal visit recorded.

Table 21. Gestation at first antenatal visit by NT region of usual residence for Aboriginal mothers only, 2021

Health Region	Gestation at first antenatal visit[1]			*Total stated*	Not Stated[2]	Total
	First Trimester	Second trimester	Third trimester			
	%	%	%	*Number*	Number	Number
Greater Darwin	80.6	4.2	2.6	***310***	8	**318**
Top End	65.3	7.1	0.6	***170***	1	**171**
Big Rivers	72.2	4.3	4.8	***187***	9	**196**
East Arnhem	58.6	7.0	1.3	***157***	2	**159**
Barkly	47.7	13.6	8.0	***88***	7	**95**
Central Australia	70.1	6.3	2.8	***254***	7	**261**
Total	***69.3***	**24.5**	**6.2**	***1166***	34	**1200**

Note: 1. First trimester is less than 14 weeks gestation; second trimester is 14-26 weeks gestation; third trimester is ≥27 weeks' gestation.

Table 22. Gestation at first antenatal visit by Aboriginal status and area of remoteness, NT 2021

Area[2]	Gestation at first antenatal visit[1]			*Total stated*	Not stated	Total
	First trimester	Second trimester	Third trimester			
	%	%	%	*Number*	Number	Number
Aboriginal						
Urban area	77.5	17.7	4.8	***560***	17	**577**
Rural/remote area	61.7	30.9	7.4	***606***	17	**623**
Total	69.3	24.5	6.2	***1166***	34	**1200**
Non-Aboriginal						
Urban area	95.7	3.9	0.4	***2426***	12	**2438**
Rural/remote area	96.1	3.9	0.0	***103***	0	**103**
Total	95.7	3.9	0.4	***2529***	12	**2541**

Note: 1. First trimester is less than 14 weeks gestation; second trimester is 14-26 weeks gestation; third trimester is ≥27 weeks' gestation.
2. Urban area covers the two urban regions of Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Nhulunbuy; rural/remote area covers the rest of the NT.

Table 23. Self-reported alcohol consumption at first antenatal visit by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Alcohol consumption	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Alcohol	83	7.7	44	1.8	127	3.6
No alcohol	1000	92.3	2440	98.2	3440	96.4
Total stated	***1083***	***100.0***	***2484***	***100.0***	***3567***	***100.0***
Not stated	117		57		174	
Total	**1200**		**2541**		**3741**	

Table 24. Self-reported smoking status during first 20 weeks gestation by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Smoking status	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Smoking	571	48.6	163	6.5	734	19.9
Non-smoking	603	51.4	2351	93.5	2954	80.1
Total stated	***1174***	***100.0***	***2514***	***100.0***	***3688***	***100.0***
Not stated	26		27		53	
Total	**1200**		**2541**		**3741**	

Table 25. Self-reported smoking status during first 20 weeks gestation by maternal age and Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Age	Smoking status		*Total stated*	Not stated	Total
	Smoking	Non-smoking			
	%	%	*Number*	Number	Number
Aboriginal					
<20	39.3	60.7	***173***	5	**178**
20-34	50.2	49.8	***884***	15	**899**
35+	50.4	49.6	***117***	6	**123**
Total	**48.6**	**51.4**	***1174***	26	**1200**
Non-Aboriginal					
<20	27.3	72.7	***22***	0	**22**
20-34	6.3	93.7	***1847***	23	**1870**
35+	6.2	93.8	***645***	4	**649**
Total	**6.5**	**93.5**	***2514***	27	**2541**

Table 26. Self-reported smoking status after 20 weeks gestation in women who reported smoking during first 20 weeks by number of cigarettes smoked per day and Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Number of cigarettes per day	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0 cigarettes (ceased smoking)	67	12.7	54	36.5	121	17.9
<10[1] cigarettes	345	65.5	62	41.9	407	60.3
10+ cigarettes	115	21.8	32	21.6	147	21.8
Total stated	***527***	***100.0***	***148***	***100.0***	***675***	***100.0***
Not stated	44		15		59	
Total	**571**		**163**		**734**	

Note: 1. The '<10' category includes mothers who reported smoking less than one daily cigarette after 20 weeks.

Table 27. Self-reported smoking status of Aboriginal mothers during first 20 weeks gestation by NT Region of usual residence, 2021

NT Health Region	Smoking %	Non-smoking %	*Total stated Number*	Not stated Number	Total Number
Greater Darwin	37.1	62.9	***310***	8	**318**
Top End	54.5	45.5	***167***	4	**171**
Big Rivers	57.1	42.9	***191***	5	**196**
East Arnhem	66.0	34.0	***156***	3	**159**
Barkly	47.3	52.7	***91***	4	**95**
Central Australia	42.5	57.5	***259***	2	**261**
Total	**48.6**	**51.4**	***1174***	26	**1200**

Table 28. Maternal diabetes by NT region of usual residence and Aboriginal status, 2021

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
NT Region[2]	**% (With diabetes[1])**	**Total**	**% (With diabetes[1])**	**Total**
Greater Darwin	28.0	318	29.9	1,960
Top End	25.1	171	20.0	40
Big Rivers	29.6	196	24.4	123
East Arnhem	31.4	159	17.8	45
Barkly	25.3	95	15.4	26
Central Australia	21.1	261	18.4	347
Total	**26.6**	**1200**	**27.5**	**2541**

Note: 1. Diabetes includes all forms of diabetes: type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes and gestational diabetes.
2. NT Region based on maternal residence.

Table 29. Actual place of birth by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Actual place of birth[1]	Aboriginal Number	Aboriginal %	Non-Aboriginal Number	Non-Aboriginal %	All NT Number	All NT %
RDH	597	49.8	1590	62.6	2,187	58.5
RDH Birth Centre	7	0.6	31	1.2	38	1.0
DPH	13	1.1	358	14.1	371	9.9
GDH	100	8.3	28	1.1	128	3.4
KH	114	9.5	110	4.3	224	6.0
TCH	<5	<5	<5	<5	5	0.1
ASH	336	28.0	353	13.9	689	18.4
Other[2]	29	2.4	70	2.8	99	2.6
Total	**1200**	**100.0**	**2541**	**100.0**	**3741**	**100.0**

Note: 1. Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH), Darwin Private Hospital (DPH), Gove District Hospital (GDH), Katherine Hospital (KH), Tennant Creek Hospital (TCH), Alice Springs Hospital (ASH).
2. Other includes location unintended (births that occurred in transit to hospitals and unplanned and planned homebirth and in remote health centres).

Table 30. Method of induction by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Method of induction[1]	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
ARM[2]	309	76.1	686	73.9	995	74.6
Oxytocics	333	82.0	721	77.7	1054	79.0
Prostaglandins	132	32.5	297	32.0	429	32.2
Other methods[3]	79	19.5	227	24.5	306	22.9
Total	**406**	**100.0**	**928**	**100.0**	**1334**	**100.0**

Note: 1. Multiple methods may be applied to one mother.
2. ARM = Artificial rupture of membranes.
3. 'Other' methods' Includes balloon catheter.

Table 31. Main reasons for induction[1] for term live birth by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Main reason for induction	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Diabetes	91	25.2	225	20.3	316	21.5
Fetal compromise	47	13.0	124	11.2	171	11.6
Prolonged pregnancy	44	12.2	93	8.4	137	9.3
Prelabour rupture of membranes	47	13.0	146	13.2	193	13.1
Other[2]	132	36.6	294.0	33.3	426.0	34.3
Total	**361**	**100**	**882**	**100**	**1243**	**100**

Note: 1. Induction includes failed inductions recorded as no labour. That is induction methods ceased before onset of labour became established.
2. Other includes hypertensive disorders, multiple pregnancy, maternal age, maternal obstetric or medication indication, fetal macrosomia, maternal choice.

Table 32. Fetal presentation at birth by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Presentation at birth	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Vertex	1126	94.2	2417	95.2	3543	94.9
Breech	62	5.2	112	4.4	174	4.7
Other[1]	2	0.2	4	0.2	6	0.2
Total stated	**1195**	**100.0**	**2538**	**100.0**	**3733**	**100.0**
Not stated	5		3		8	
Total	**1200**		**2541**		**3741**	

Note: 1. Other includes face and brow presentation at birth.

Table 33. Method of birth, by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Method of birth	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Normal vaginal	723	60.3	1369	53.9	2092	55.9
Assisted vaginal						
Forceps	62	5.2	163	6.4	225	6.0
Ventouse	57	4.8	161	6.3	218	5.8
Caesarean - elective	148	12.3	391	15.4	539	14.4
Caesarean - emergency	205	17.1	454	17.9	659	17.6
Other	5	0.4	3	0.1	8	0.2
Total	**1200**	**100.0**	**2541**	**100.0**	**3741**	**100.0**

Table 34. Method of birth, by type of labour onset, NT 2021

Type of labour onset	Method of birth						
	Vaginal			Caesarean			
	Normal vaginal	Instrumental Vaginal[1]	Total	Caesarean-elective	Caesarean-emergency	Total	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	Number
Spontaneous (Not augmented)	81.9	8.5	90.4	1.6	7.9	9.4	**1219**
Spontaneous (Augmented)	55.7	26.5	82.3	0.2	17.5	17.7	**479**
Induced	60.9	16.9	77.8	0.0	22.1	22.1	**1334**
No labour	0.0	0.1	0.1	73.3	25.8	99.2	**708**
Total	**55.5**	**12.2**	**67.8**	**14.4**	**17.6**	**32.0**	**3741**

Note: 1. Instrumental vaginal births include forceps and ventouse births.

Table 35. Method of birth, by gestational age and Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Gestational age (weeks)	Method of birth				Total
	Normal vaginal	Instrumental vaginal[1]	Caesarean-elective	Caesarean-emergency	
	%	%	%	%	Number
Aboriginal					
<37	61.8	5.9	4.4	25.5	**204**
37+	59.9	10.7	14.0	15.4	**996**
Total	**60.3**	**9.9**	**12.3**	**17.1**	**1200**
Non-Aboriginal					
<37	50.9	6.0	9.6	32.9	**167**
37+	54.1	13.2	15.8	16.8	**2374**
Total	**53.9**	**12.8**	**15.4**	**17.9**	**2541**

Note: 1. Instrumental vaginal births include forceps and ventouse births.

Table 36. Main indication for caesarean section for selected mothers[1] by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Main reason for caesarean section	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Previous caesarean	95	50.5	126	30.5	221	36.8
Lack of progress	41	21.8	124	30.0	165	27.5
Fetal compromise	27	14.4	74	17.9	101	16.8
Suspected fetal macrosomia	4	2.1	9	2.2	13	2.2
Other[2]	21	11.2	80	19.4	101	16.8
Total	**188**	**100.0**	**413**	**100.0**	601	**100.0**

Note: 1. Selected mothers include women aged between 20-34 years, with a singleton baby in vertex presentation at gestational age between 37 and 40 weeks.
2. Other includes malpresentation, placenta praevia, placental abruption, antepartum/intrapartum haemorrhage, unsuccessful attempt at assisted delivery, cord prolapse, previous adverse perinatal intrapartum outcome, previous severe perineal trauma, previous shoulder dystocia, other obstetric, medical, surgical, psychological indications, and maternal choice.

Table 37. Analgesia during labour by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Analgesia[1]	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
Total number of method used	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Nitrous oxide	687	42.2	1260	35.6	1947	37.7
Narcotics	235	14.4	415	11.7	650	12.6
Epidural	249	15.3	681	19.3	930	18.0
Other[2]	258	15.9	663	18.7	921	17.8
None	198	12.2	518	14.6	716	13.9
Total stated	***1627***	***100.0***	***3537***	***100.0***	***5164***	***100.0***

Note: 1. Multiple types of analgesia may be recorded for one mother.
2. Other may include non-pharmaceutical pain relief methods.

Table 38. Anaesthesia for operative births[1] by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Anaesthesia:	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
highest rank of method used	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
General	28	5.9	43	3.7	71	4.3
Spinal	253	53.6	613	52.4	866	52.8
Epidural/Caudal	137	29.0	359	30.7	496	30.2
Spinal and Epidural	12	2.5	40	3.4	52	3.2
Pudendal	5	1.1	32	2.7	37	2.3
Local	26	5.5	58	5.0	84	5.1
Other	0	0.0	5	0.4	5	0.3
None	11	2.3	19	1.6	30	1.8
Total stated	***472***	***100.0***	***1169***	***100.0***	***1641***	***100.0***
Not stated	0		2		2	
Total	**472**		**1171**		**1643**	

Note: 1. Operative birth methods include forceps, ventouse and caesarean section.

Table 39. Complications of pregnancy and birth by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Type of complication[1]	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Pregnancy						
Gestational diabetes mellitus	251	21.0	677	28.3	928	25.8
Pre-existing diabetes mellitus	67	5.6	22	0.9	89	2.5
Gestational hypertension	71	5.9	79	3.3	150	4.2
Any pregnancy complication[4]	***361***	***30.1***	***746***	***31.1***	***1107***	***30.8***
Labour/childbirth						
Fetal distress/compromise	245	20.5	558	23.3	803	22.3
Retained placenta	46	3.8	44	1.8	90	2.5
Meconium stained liquor	138	11.5	311	13.0	449	12.5
Lack of progress[2]	114	9.5	307	12.8	421	11.7
Post-partum haemorrhage[3]	454	37.9	880	36.7	1334	37.1
Other[4]	183	15.3	322	13.4	505	14.1
Any labour/childbirth complication	***773***	***64.5***	***1505***	***62.8***	***2278***	***63.4***
Total	**1198**		**2395**		**3593**	

Note: 1. Mothers may have more than one complication.
2. Includes obstructed labour.
3. Post-partum haemorrhage is defined as cases with a recorded blood loss volume of 500mL or more.
4. Other complications include ante-partum haemorrhage, cord prolapse as well as other unclassified complications.

Table 40. Estimated blood loss volume at birth by method[1] of birth and Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Birth method	Blood loss	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Vaginal births	0-499 mL	554	65.9	1223	72.7	1777	70.4
	500-999 mL	171	20.3	291	17.3	462	18.3
	1000 mL +	116	13.8	169	10.0	285	11.3
	Total stated	841	100.0	1683	100.0	2524	100.0
	Not stated	1		10		11	
	Total	**842**		**1693**		**2535**	
Caesarean births	0-499 mL	187	53.0	422	50.1	609	51.0
	500-999 mL	129	36.5	299	35.5	428	35.8
	1000 mL +	37	10.5	121	14.4	158	13.2
	Total stated	353	100.0	842	100.0	1195	100.0
	Not stated	0		3		3	
	Total	**353**		**845**		**1198**	

Note: 1. Birth methods in this table include only the categories of vaginal and caesarean births n=3733. We do not include births that were missing birth method (n=8).

Table 41. Blood transfusions for postpartum haemorrhage[1] by amount of blood loss, NT 2021

	Blood loss					
	500-999mL		1000mL +		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Transfused	19	2.1	97	21.9	116	8.7
Not transfused	871	97.9	346	78.1	1217	91.3
Total	890	100.0	443	100.0	1333	100.0

Note: 1. Postpartum haemorrhage is defined as a postpartum blood loss of at least 500mls.

Table 42. State of the perineum after vaginal birth by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

State of the perineum	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Intact	264	31.6	353	20.9	617	24.5
1st degree laceration/graze[1]	249	29.8	328	19.5	577	22.9
2nd degree laceration	160	19.1	537	31.9	697	27.6
Episiotomy[2]	*135*	16.1	392	23.3	527	20.9
3rd/4th degree laceration	22	2.6	67	4.0	89	3.5
Other[3]	6	0.7	9	0.5	15	0.6
Total stated	***836***	***100.0***	***1686***	***100.0***	***2522***	***100.0***
Not stated	6		7		13	
Total	***842***		***1693***		***2535***	

Note: 1. First degree laceration may include a perineal graze only.
2. Episiotomy can include episiotomy alone or episiotomy with a 3rd or 4th degree laceration.
3. Other may include posterior wall laceration or haematoma.

Table 43. Mother's length of hospital stay after birth by Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Length of	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
postnatal stay (days)[1]	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0	53	4.5	208	8.4	261	7.2
1-3	808	69.0	1742	70.5	2550	70.0
4-7	274	23.4	499	20.2	773	21.2
8 & more	36	3.1	22	0.9	58	1.6
Total	**1171**	**100.0**	**2471**	**100.0**	**3642**	**100.0**

Note: 1. Length of stay is calculated from the formula (length of stay = date of discharge – date of admission). This table includes only mothers with a hospital birth (n=3642).

Table 44. Mother's average length of hospital stay after birth by Aboriginal status and method of birth, NT 2021

Method of birth	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	All NT
	Average length (days) of postnatal stay		
Normal vaginal	2.3	1.8	1.9
Instrumental vaginal[1]	3.1	2.4	2.6
Caesarean - elective	3.1	3.3	3.3
Caesarean - emergency	3.8	3.4	3.6
Total	**2.8**	**2.4**	**2.5**

Note: 1. Instrumental vaginal births include forceps and ventouse assisted births.

Table 45. Average length of hospital stay after birth for primipara mothers by Aboriginal status and method of birth, NT 2021

Method of birth	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	All NT
	Average length (days) of postnatal stay		
Normal vaginal	2.7	2.2	2.3
Instrumental vaginal[1]	3.2	2.5	2.7
Caesarean[2]	4.6	3.7	3.9
Total	**3.3**	**2.8**	**2.9**

Note: 1. Instrumental vaginal births include forceps and ventouse assisted births.
2. Caesarean includes elective and emergency.

Table 46. Average length of hospital stay after birth for multipara mothers by Aboriginal status and method of birth, NT 2021

Method of birth	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	All NT
	Average length (days) of postnatal stay		
Normal vaginal	2.1	1.5	1.7
Instrumental vaginal[1]	2.6	1.8	2.1
Caesarean[2]	3.4	3.1	3.2
Total	**2.5**	**2.1**	**2.2**

Note: 1. Instrumental vaginal births include forceps and ventouse assisted births.
2. Caesarean includes elective and emergency.

3.2. Babies

Table 47. Gestational age by maternal Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Gestational age (weeks)	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Stillbirth						
<28	27	75.0	17	65.4	44	71.0
28+	9	25.0	9	34.6	18	29.0
Total	**36**	**100.0**	**26**	**100.0**	**62**	**100.0**
Live birth						
<28	21	1.8	13	0.5	34	0.9
28 - 36	160	13.6	151	5.9	311	8.4
37+	997	84.6	2381	93.6	3378	90.7
Total	**1178**	**100.0**	**2545**	**100.0**	**3723**	**100.0**
All birth						
<28	48	4.0	30	1.2	78	2.1
28 - 36	167	13.8	157	6.1	324	8.6
37+	999	82.3	2384	92.7	3383	89.4
Total	**1214**	**100.0**	**2571**	**100.0**	**3785**	**100.0**

Table 48. Birthweight by maternal Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Birthweight (g)	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Stillbirth						
<1000	30	83.3	18	69.2	48	77.4
>=1000	6	17	8	31	14	22.6
Total	**36**	**100.0**	**26**	**100.0**	**62**	**100.0**
Mean birthweight (g)	***732***		***898***		***802***	
Live birth						
<1000	19	1.6	13	0.5	32	0.9
1000 - 1499	20	1.7	8	0.3	28	0.8
1500 - 2499	137	11.6	106	4.2	243	6.5
2500+	1002	85.1	2417	95.0	3419	91.8
Total	**1178**	**100.0**	**2545**	**100.0**	**3723**	**100.0**
Mean birthweight (g) term babies	***3124***		***3346***		***3276***	

Table 49. Gestational age at birth by maternal Aboriginal status and NT region of usual residence, NT 2021

NT Health Region	Gestational age (weeks)		Total
	<37	37+	
	%	%	Number
Aboriginal			
Greater Darwin	13.2	86.8	**317**
Top End	21.7	78.3	**175**
Big Rivers	16.1	83.9	**192**
East Arnhem	17.6	82.4	**153**
Barkly	11.8	88.2	**93**
Central Australia	12.9	87.1	**248**
Total	**15.4**	**84.6**	1178
Non-Aboriginal			
Greater Darwin	6.7	93.3	**1971**
Top End	10.3	89.7	**39**
Big Rivers	n<5	np	**np**
East Arnhem[1]	0.0	100.0	**44**
Barkly[1]	0.0	100.0	**26**
Central Australia	6.7	93.3	**343**
Total	**6.4**	**93.6**	**2545**

Note: 1. Results are suppressed due to small numbers and recorded as n<5 or np "not presented".

Table 50. Gestational age at birth by maternal Aboriginal status and remoteness, NT 2021

Area[1]	Gestational age (weeks)			Total
	<28	28-36	37+	
	%	%	%	Number
Aboriginal				
Urban area	1.6	12.2	86.2	**567**
Rural/remote area	2.0	14.9	83.1	**611**
Total	**1.8**	**13.6**	**84.6**	**1178**
Non-Aboriginal				
Urban area	0.5	5.9	93.6	**2444**
Rural/remote area	n<5	np	np	**101**
Total	**0.5**	**5.9**	**93.6**	**2545**

Note: 1. Urban area covers the two urban regions of Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Nhulunbuy. Rural/remote area covers the rest of the NT

Table 51. Liveborn babies birthweight by maternal Aboriginal status and NT region of usual residence, 2021

NT Region	Birthweight (g) <2500 %	2500-3999 %	4000+ %	Total Number	*Mean Birthweight-term babies (g)*
Aboriginal					
Greater Darwin	12.0	79.5	8.5	**317**	*3349*
Top End	22.9	73.7	3.4	**175**	*3174*
Big Rivers	17.7	75.5	6.8	**192**	*3267*
East Arnhem	15.0	79.1	5.9	**153**	*3284*
Barkly	11.8	76.3	11.8	**93**	*3327*
Central Australia	12.1	75.8	12.1	**248**	*3332*
Total	**14.9**	**76.9**	**8.1**	**1178**	***3298***
Non-Aboriginal					
Greater Darwin	5.3	86.8	7.9	**1970**	*3398*
Top End	7.7	76.9	15.4	**39**	*3539*
Big Rivers	2.5	86.1	11.5	**122**	*3531*
East Arnhem	2.3	88.6	9.1	**44**	*3506*
Barkly	0.0	76.9	23.1	**26**	*3438*
Central Australia	4.4	85.1	10.5	**343**	*3447*
Total	**5.0**	**86.3**	**8.7**	**2545**	***3416***

Table 52. Liveborn babies birthweight[1] by maternal Aboriginal status and remoteness, NT 2021

Area[2]	Birthweight (g) <1500 %	1500-2499 %	2500-3999 %	4000+ %	Total Number	*Mean birthweight (g)*
Aboriginal						
Urban area	3.2	10.4	77.1	9.3	**567**	*3186*
Rural/remote area	3.4	12.8	76.8	7.0	**611**	*3067*
Total	**3.3**	**11.6**	**76.9**	**8.1**	**1178**	*3124*
Non-Aboriginal						
Urban area	0.8	4.1	86.5	8.5	**2444**	*3344*
Rural/remote area	1.0	5.0	80.2	13.9	**101**	*3414*
Total	**0.8**	**4.2**	**86.3**	**8.7**	**2545**	*3346*

Note: 1. Excludes stillbirths.
2. Urban area covers the two urban regions of Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Nhulunbuy. Rural/remote area covers the rest of the NT.

Table 53. Liveborn babies[1] birthweight by gestational age and maternal Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Gestational age (weeks)	Birthweight (g) <1500 %	1500-2499 %	2500+ %	Total Number	*Mean birthweight (g)*
Aboriginal					
<28	100.0	0.0	0.0	**19**	*730*
28 - 36	12.1	45.7	42.1	**140**	*2366*
37+	0.1	5.3	94.6	**991**	*3303*
Total	**3.2**	**10.2**	86.6	**1150**	*3146*
Non-Aboriginal					
<28	100.0	0.0	0.0	**9**	*689*
28 - 36	5.1	41.0	53.8	**117**	*2546*
37+	0.0	1.6	98.4	**2362**	*3420*
Total	**0.6**	**3.4**	95.9	**2488**	*3369*

Note: 1. Reports on singleton live births only.

Table 54. Birthweight of NT Aboriginal singleton live births[1], NT 2021

Birthweight (g)	Aboriginal babies		Non-Aboriginal babies		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<2500	154	13.4	13	6.3	167	12.3
2500+	996	86.6	193	93.7	1189	87.7
Total	**1150**	**100.0**	**206**	**100.0**	**1356**	**100.0**

Note: 1. Reports by using Aboriginal status of baby.

Table 55. Size for gestational age[1] among liveborn singleton births by maternal Aboriginal status and NT region of usual residence, 2021

	NT Health Region	Size for gestational age		Total
		Small (<10th percentile)[2]	Large (>90th percentile)[3]	
		%	%	Number
Aboriginal				
	Greater Darwin	12.3	10.4	**309**
	Top End	22.1	6.7	**163**
	Big Rivers	21.4	9.4	**192**
	East Arnhem	13.2	4.6	**151**
	Barkly	19.8	14.3	**91**
	Central Australia	13.9	10.7	**244**
	Total	**16.3**	**9.3**	**1150**
Non-Aboriginal				
	Greater Darwin	8.6	15.4	**1825**
	Top End	2.6	12.5	**112**
	Big Rivers	8.2	n<5	**53**
	East Arnhem	6.8	n<5	**20**
	Barkly	15.4	36.7	**333**
	Central Australia	10.3		
	Total	**8.7**	**8.8**	**2488**

Note: 1. Reports on singleton live births only.
2. Babies are defined as small for gestational age if their birthweight is below the 10th.
3. Babies are defined as large for gestational age if their birthweight is above the 90th percentile.

Table 56. Apgar score at 5 minutes for singleton term liveborn babies[1] by maternal Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Apgar score	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
at 5 minutes	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<7	20	2.0	35	1.49	55	1.6
7 - 10	970	98.0	2319	98.5	3289	98.4
Total stated	***990***	***100.0***	***2354***	***100.0***	3344	***100.0***
Not stated	1		8		**9**	
Total	**991**		**2362**		**3353**	

Note: 1. Reports on singleton term live births only.

Table 57. Resuscitation method[1] by maternal Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Resuscitation methods	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
IPPV[2]	116	9.9	163	6.4	279	7.5
Other[3]	88	7.5	119	4.7	207	5.6
Oxygen therapy	11	0.9	9	0.4	20	0.5
Suction	29	2.5	53	2.1	82	2.2
None	923	78.5	2188	86.1	3111	83.7
Total stated	***1176***	***100***	***2542***	***100***	***3718***	***100***
Not stated	2		3		5	
Total	**1178**		**2545**		**3723**	

Note: 1. Resuscitation methods exclude tactile stimulation. The data reports on singleton term live births only.
2. IPPV = intermittent positive pressure ventilation.
3. 'Other' includes continuous positive airway pressure, external cardiac massage and endotracheal intubation.

Table 58. Infant feeding status for liveborn babies[1] on discharge by maternal Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Infant feeding status	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Exclusive breastfeeding	781	87.2	1820	84.4	2601	85.2
Breastfeeding at discharge but >=1 AF[2] feed	94	10.5	273	12.7	367	12.0
Breastfeeding initiated but AF[2] at discharge	2	0.2	19	0.9	21	0.7
Never breastfed	19	2.1	45	2.1	64	2.1
Total stated	***896***	***100.0***	***2157***	***100.0***	***3053***	***100.0***
Not stated	1		0		1	
Total	**897**		**2157**		**3054**	

Note: 1. Reports on singleton term live births that are born in hospital and discharged with mother only. It excludes babies admitted to Special Care Nursery.
2. AF = artificial feeding of infant formula.

Table 59. Infant[1] feeding status on discharge with primiparous mother by maternal Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Infant feeding status	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Exclusive breastfeeding	280	85.6	826	80.3	1106	81.6
Breastfeeding at discharge but >=1 AF[2] feed	42	12.8	183	17.8	225	16.6
Breastfeeding initiated but AF[2] at discharge	1	0.3	9	0.9	10	0.7
Never breastfed	4	1.2	11	1.1	15	1.1
Total stated	***327***	100.0	***1029***	100.0	***1356***	100.0
Not stated	0		0		0	
Total	**327**		**1029**		**1356**	

Note: 1. Singleton infants only.
2: AF = artificial feeding of infant formula.

Table 60. Infant[1] feeding status on discharge with multiparous mother by maternal Aboriginal status, NT 2021

Infant feeding status	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Exclusive breastfeeding	501	88.0	994	88.1	1495	88.1
Breastfeeding at discharge but >=1 AF[2] feed	52	9.1	90	8.0	142	8.4
Breastfeeding initiated but AF[2] at discharge	1	0.2	10	0.9	11	0.6
Never breastfed	15	2.6	34	3.0	49	2.9
Total stated	***569***	100.0	***1128***	100.0	***1697***	100.0
Not stated	1		0		1	
Total	**570**		**1128**		**1698**	

Note: 1. Singleton infants only.
2. AF = artificial feeding of infant formula.

Table 61. Stillbirth, neonatal deaths and perinatal deaths by maternal Aboriginal status, NT 2021

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Stillbirths[1]	36	29.7	26	10.1	62	16.4
Neonatal deaths[2]	10	8.5	7	2.8	17	4.6
Perinatal deaths[1]	**46**	**37.9**	**33**	**12.8**	**79**	**20.9**

Note: 1. Rate of stillbirths and perinatal deaths is the number of deaths per 1000 total births.
2. Rate of neonatal deaths is the number of deaths per 1000 live births. Neonatal deaths includes deaths in the community.

Appendix A. Hospital profiles

The profile table of each hospital includes all births that occurred in that hospital in 2021, including births by mothers who were non-NT residents. Tennant Creek hospital data is not provided due to the low number of births in 2021 at this hospital (n=5).

Table 62. Summary statistics[4], Royal Darwin Hospital, 2021

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
MOTHERS	**607**		**1625**		**2232**	
Onset of labour						
Spontaneous (Not augmented)	199	32.8	484	29.8	683	30.6
Spontaneous (Augmented)	68	11.2	209	12.9	277	12.4
Induced labour	214	35.3	639	39.3	853	38.2
No labour	126	20.8	293	18.0	419	18.8
Method of birth						
Normal vaginal[1]	339	56.2	844	52.0	1183	53.1
Forceps	44	7.3	132	8.1	176	7.9
Ventouse	22	3.6	114	7.0	136	6.1
Caesarean section	198	32.8	534	32.9	732	32.9
Pregnancy and/or labour/childbirth complications[5]						
Fetal compromise	155	25.5	453	27.9	608	27.2
Diabetes in pregnancy[2]	188	31.0	542	33.4	730	32.7
Manual removal of placenta	17	2.8	27	1.7	44	2.0
Meconium stained liquor	59	9.7	206	12.7	265	11.9
Lack of progress	57	9.4	222	13.7	279	12.5
Post-partum haemorrhage	213	35.1	658	40.5	871	39.0
Pre-eclampsia	42	6.9	54	3.3	96	4.3
Other	87	14.3	231	14.2	318	14.2
Any complication	***441***	***72.7***	***1243***	***76.5***	***1684***	***75.4***
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH	**70**		**286**		**356**	
Perineum status						
2nd degree laceration	84	20.8	368	33.9	452	30.4
3rd/4th degree laceration	5	1.2	29	2.7	34	2.3
Episiotomy[3]	70	17.4	286	26.4	356	23.9
LIVEBORN BABIES	**603**		**1630**		**2233**	
Gestational age						
<28 weeks	14	2.3	11	0.7	25	1.1
28-36 weeks	107	17.7	106	6.5	213	9.5
37+ weeks	482	79.9	1513	92.8	1995	89.3
Birthweight						
<1500 g	28	4.6	21	1.3	49	2.2
1500-2499 g	86	14.3	74	4.5	160	7.2
2500 g+	489	81.1	1,535	94.2	2024	90.6

Note: 1. Vaginal breech are combined with normal vaginal births.
2. Diabetes in pregnancy includes gestational diabetes mellitus and pre-existing diabetes mellitus.
3. Episiotomy is included in 2nd degree laceration.
4. This table presents all births that occurred in RDH, including births by mothers who were non-NT residents.
5. Multiple pregnancy and/or childbirth complications may apply to one mother.

Table 63. Summary statistics[4], Alice Springs Hospital, 2021

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
MOTHERS	**366**		**353**		**719**	
Onset of labour						
Spontaneous (Not augmented)	106	29.0	114	32.3	220	30.6
Spontaneous (Augmented)	53	14.5	48	13.6	101	14.0
Induced labour	134	36.6	144	40.8	278	38.7
No labour	73	19.9	47	13.3	120	16.7
Method of birth						
Normal vaginal[1]	223	60.9	227	64.3	450	62.6
Forceps	10	2.7	15	4.2	25	3.5
Ventouse	19	5.2	19	5.4	38	5.3
Caesarean section	114	31.1	92	26.1	206	28.7
Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications[5]						
Fetal compromise	63	17.2	48	13.6	111	15.4
Diabetes in pregnancy[2]	87	23.8	67	19.0	154	21.4
Manual removal of placenta	14	3.8	11	3.1	25	3.5
Meconium stained liquor	58	15.8	65	18.4	123	17.1
Lack of progress	28	7.7	37	10.5	65	9.0
Post-partum haemorrhage	164	44.8	127	36.0	291	40.5
Pre-eclampsia	24	6.6	17	4.8	41	5.7
Other	50	13.7	49	13.9	99	13.8
Any complication	***282***	***77.0***	***247***	***70.0***	***529***	***73.6***
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH	**252**		**261**		**513**	
Perineum status						
2nd degree laceration	40	16.3	77	29.7	117	23.2
Episiotomy[3]	39	15.9	55	21.2	94	18.6
LIVEBORN BABIES	**357**		**349**		**706**	
Gestational age at birth						
<37 weeks	43	12.0	23	6.6	66	9.3
37+ weeks	314	88.0	326	93.4	640	90.7
Birthweight						
<2500 g	41	11.5	15	4.3	56	7.9
2500 g+	316	88.5	334	95.7	650	92.1

Note: 1. Vaginal breech are combined with normal vaginal births.
2. Diabetes in pregnancy includes gestational diabetes mellitus and pre-existing diabetes mellitus.
3. Episiotomy is included in 2nd degree laceration.
4. This table presents all births that occurred in ASH, including births by mothers who were non-NT residents.
5. Multiple pregnancy and/or childbirth complications may apply to one mother.

Table 64. Summary statistics[4], Katherine Hospital, 2021

		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
MOTHERS		**115**		**113**		**228**	
Onset of labour							
	Spontaneous (Not augmented)	42	36.5	38	33.6	80	35.1
	Spontaneous (Augmented)	23	20.0	20	17.7	43	18.9
	Induced labour	38	33.0	31	27.4	69	30.3
	No labour	12	10.4	24	21.2	36	15.8
Method of birth							
	Normal vaginal[1]	75	65.2	62	54.9	137	60.1
	Caesarean section	24	20.9	36	31.9	60	26.3
Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications[5]							
	Fetal compromise	21	18.3	22	19.5	43	18.9
	Diabetes in pregnancy[2]	27	23.5	27	23.9	54	23.7
	Lack of progress	11	9.6	21	18.6	32	14.0
	Post-partum haemorrhage	12	10.4	17	15.0	29	12.7
	Other	24	20.9	23	20.4	47	20.6
	Any complication	***82***	***71.3***	***86***	***76.1***	***168***	***73.7***
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH		**91**		**77**		**168**	
Perineum status							
	2nd degree laceration	21	23.1	30	39.0	51	30.4
	Episiotomy[3]	21	23.1	12	15.6	33	19.6
LIVEBORN BABIES		**115**		**113**		**228**	
Gestational age at birth							
	<37 weeks	5	4.3	2	1.8	7	3.1
	37+ weeks	110	95.7	111	98.2	221	96.9
Birthweight							
	<2500 g	13	11.3	2	1.8	15	6.6
	2500 g+	102	88.7	111	98.2	213	93.4

Note: 1. Vaginal breech are combined with normal vaginal births.
2. Diabetes in pregnancy includes gestational diabetes mellitus and pre-existing diabetes mellitus.
3. Episiotomy is included in 2nd degree laceration.
4. This table presents all births that occurred in KDH, including births by mothers who were non-NT residents.
5. Multiple pregnancy and/or childbirth complications may apply to one mother.

Table 65. Summary statistics,[4,6,7] Gove District Hospital, 2021

		All	
		Number	%
MOTHERS		**128**	
Aboriginal status			
	Aboriginal	100	78.1
	Non-Aboriginal	28	21.9
Onset of labour			
	Spontaneous (Not augmented)	47	36.7
	Spontaneous (Augmented)	27	21.1
	Induced labour	38	29.7
	No labour	16	12.5
Method of birth			
	Vaginal birth[1]	83	64.8
	Caesarean section	35	27.3
Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications[5]			
	Fetal compromise	16	12.5
	Diabetes in pregnancy[2]	25	19.5
	Manual removal of placenta	6	4.7
	Meconium stained liquor	16	12.5
	Lack of progress	17	13.3
	Post-partum haemorrhage	53	41.4
	Other	12	9.4
	Any complication	***88***	***68.8***
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH		**93**	
Perineum status			
	2nd degree laceration	21	22.6
	Episiotomy[3]	15	16.2
LIVEBORN BABIES		**127**	
Gestational age			
	<37 weeks	4	3.1
	37+ weeks	123	96.9
Birthweight			
	<2500 g	4	3.1
	2500 g+	123	96.9

Note: 1 Vaginal breech are combined with normal vaginal births.
2. Diabetes in pregnancy includes gestational diabetes mellitus and pre-existing diabetes mellitus.
3. Episiotomy is included in 2nd degree laceration.
4. This table presents all births that occurred in GDH, including births by mothers who were non-NT residents.
5. Not stated category is not presented, and therefore the total may differ from the sum of the components.
6. Multiple pregnancy and/or childbirth complications may apply to one mother.
7. Due to small cell count data is not presented by Indigenous status.

Table 66. Summary statistics,[4,6] Darwin Private Hospital, 2021

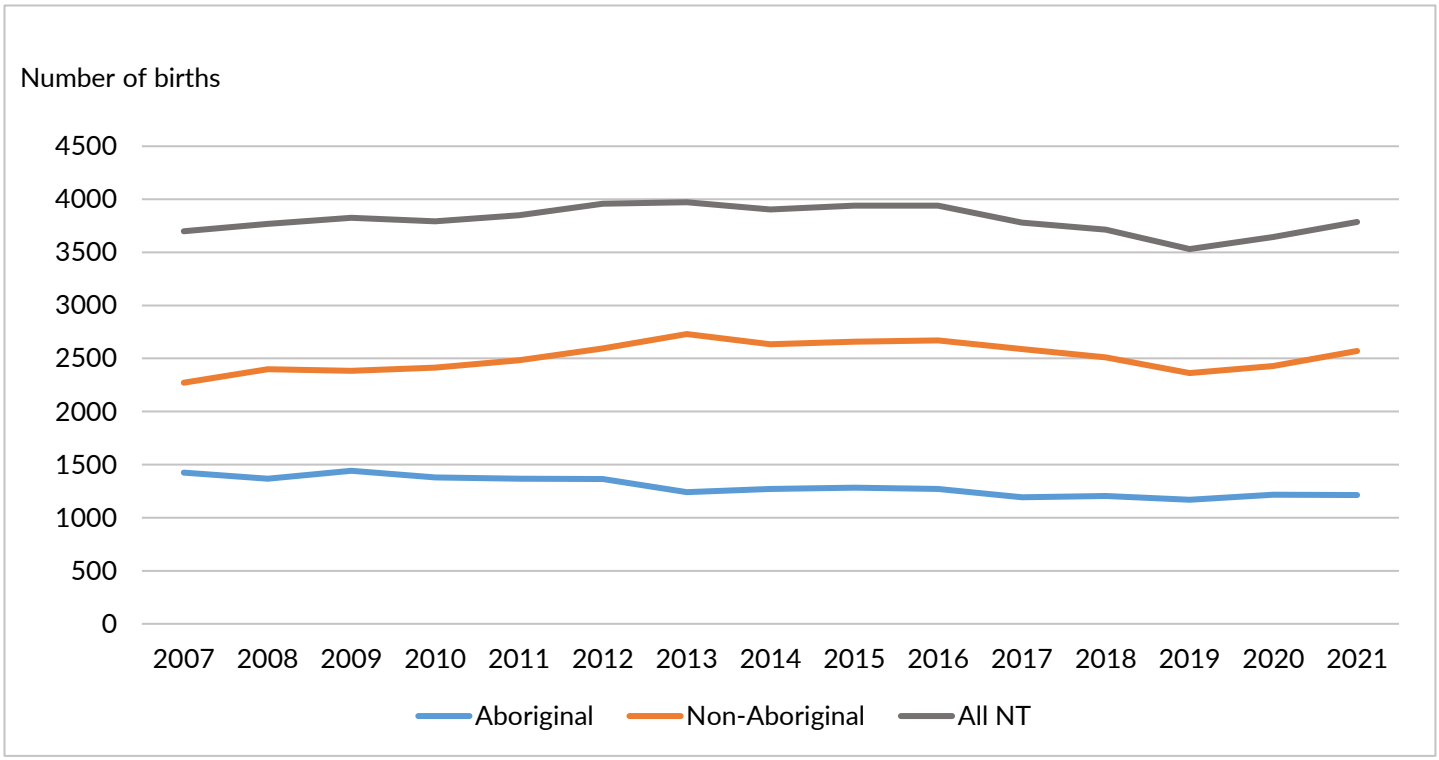
		All	
		Number	**%**
MOTHERS		**371**	
Aboriginal status			
	Aboriginal	13	3.5
	Non-Aboriginal	358	96.5
Onset of labour			
	Spontaneous (Not augmented)	96	25.9
	Spontaneous (Augmented)	33	8.9
	Induced labour	111	30.0
	No labour	130	35.1
Method of birth			
	Vaginal[1] birth	152	41.3
	Caesarean section	186	50.5
Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications			
	Fetal compromise	32	8.6
	Diabetes in pregnancy[2]	58	15.6
	Meconium stained liquor	12	3.2
	Lack of progress	32	8.6
	Post-partum haemorrhage	33	8.9
	Other	16	4.3
	Any complication	***145***	***39.1***
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH		**42**	
Perineum status			
	2nd degree laceration	30	17.1
	Episiotomy	43	24.6
LIVEBORN BABIES		**373**	
Gestational age			
	<37 weeks	24	6.4
	37+ weeks	349	93.6
Birthweight			
	<2500 g	16	4.3
	2500 g+	356	95.7

Note: 1 Vaginal breech are combined with normal vaginal births.
2. Diabetes in pregnancy includes gestational diabetes mellitus and pre-existing diabetes mellitus.
3. Episiotomy is included in 2nd degree laceration.
4. This table presents all births that occurred in DPH, including births by mothers who were non-NT residents.
5. Multiple pregnancy and/or childbirth complications may apply to one mother.
6. Due to small cell count data is not presented by Indigenous status.

Appendix B. Trends of perinatal indicators, by Aboriginal status, NT, 2007–2021

The following trends figures and tables summarise key indicators over time by Aboriginal status. Numbers are provided in tables 65, 66 and 67. Proportions are provided in tables 68, 69 and 70.

Figure 11. Births[1] by maternal Aboriginal status, NT 2007–2021



Note: 1. Includes all births inclusive of singleton and multiple births.

Figure 12. Fertility rate by Aboriginal status, NT 2007–2021

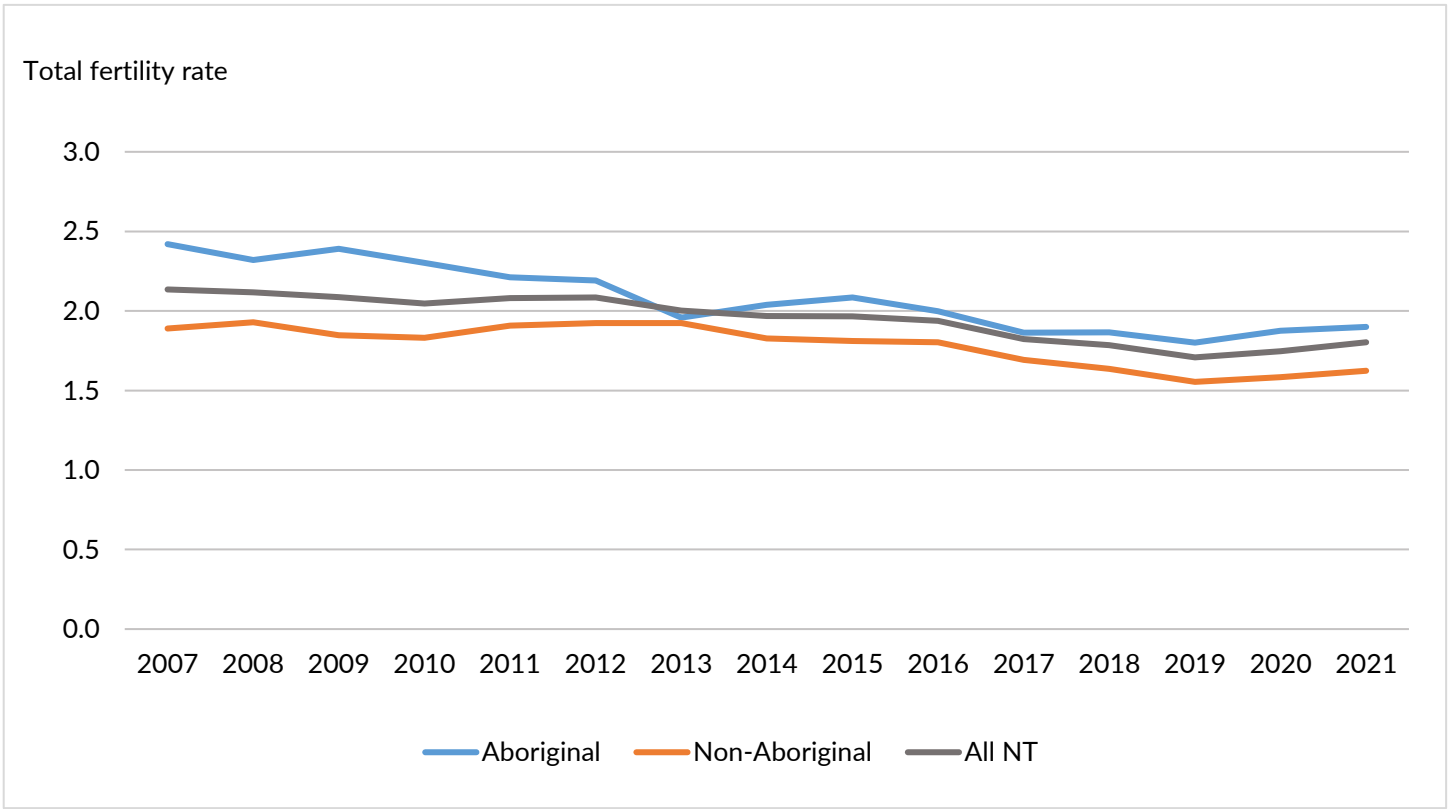


Figure 13. Maternal age by Aboriginal status, NT 2007–2021

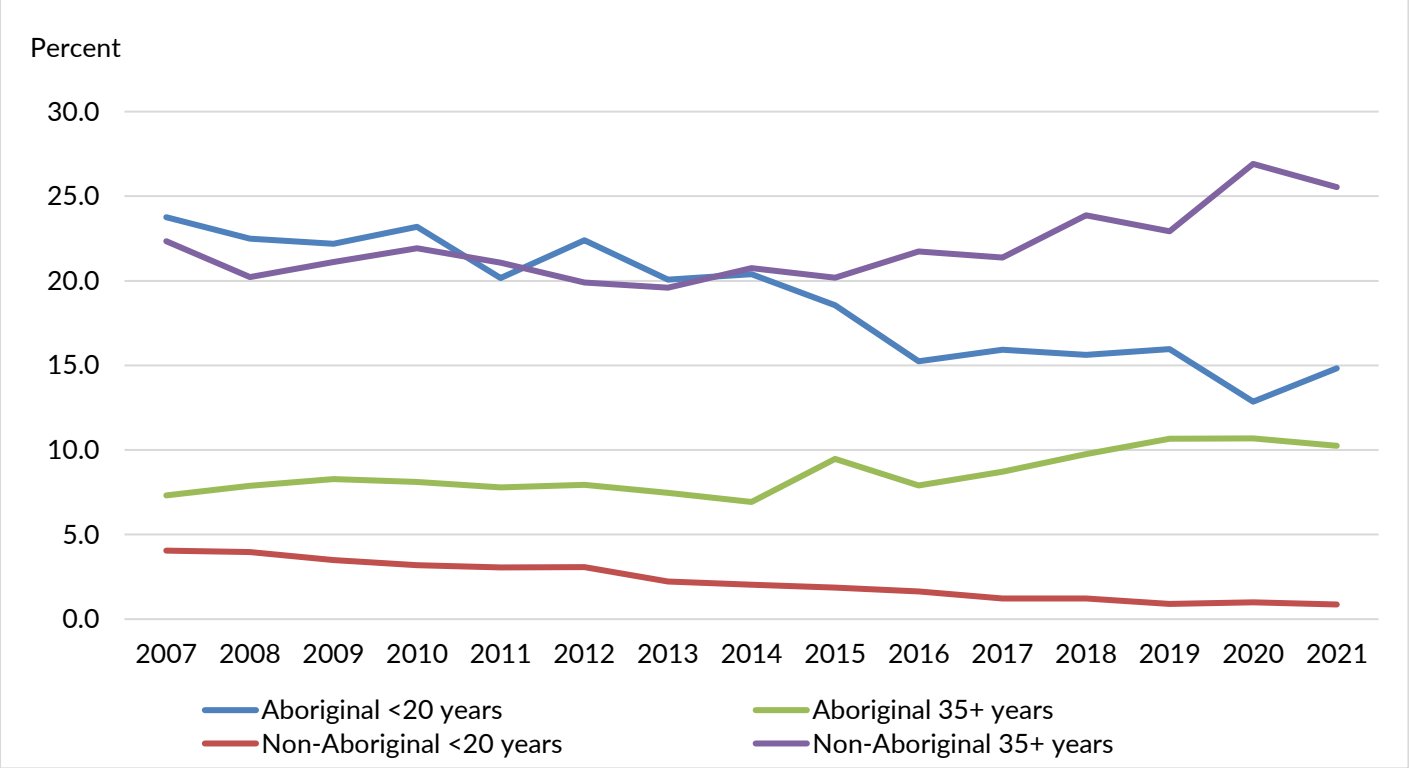


Figure 14. Onset of labour by Aboriginal status, NT 2007–2021

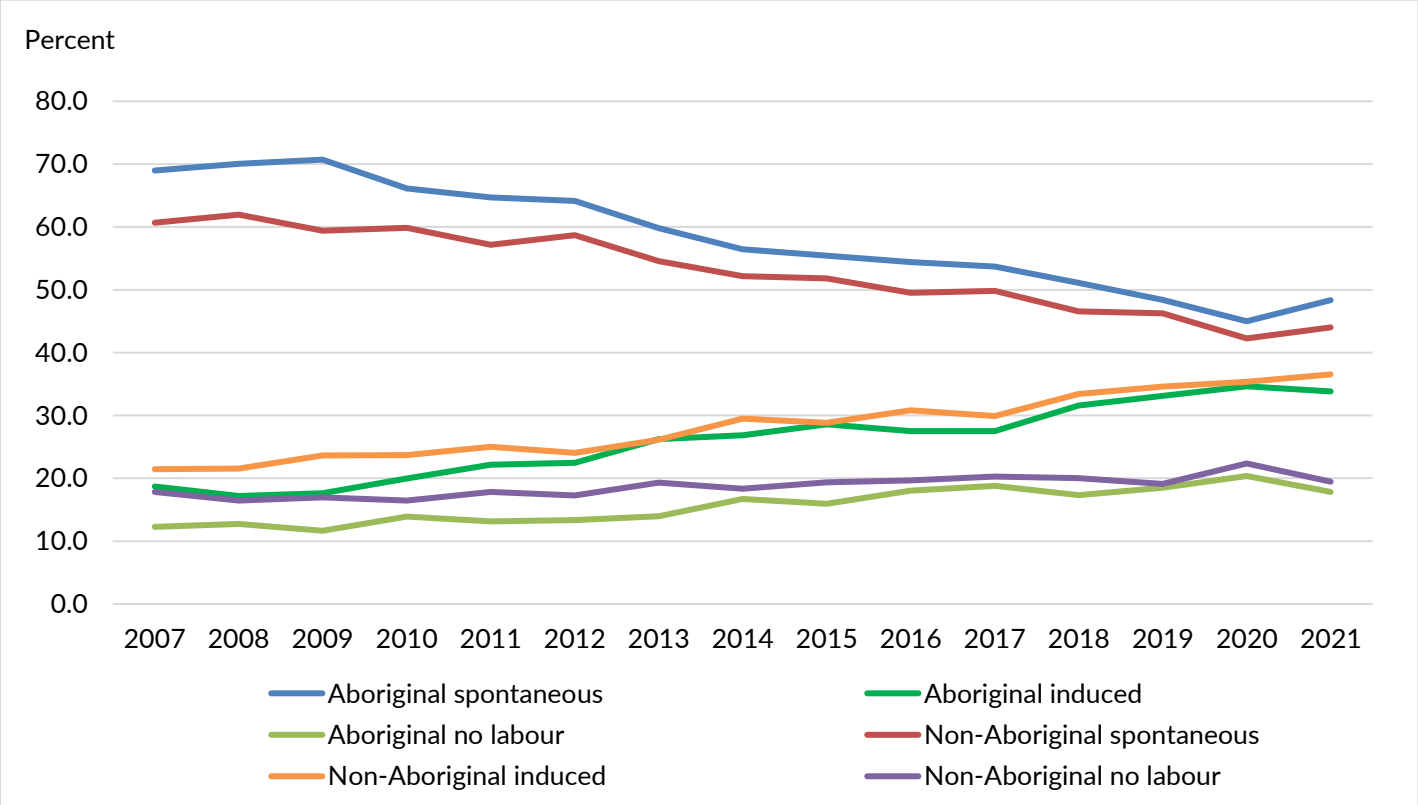


Figure 15. Birth method by Aboriginal status, NT 2007–2021

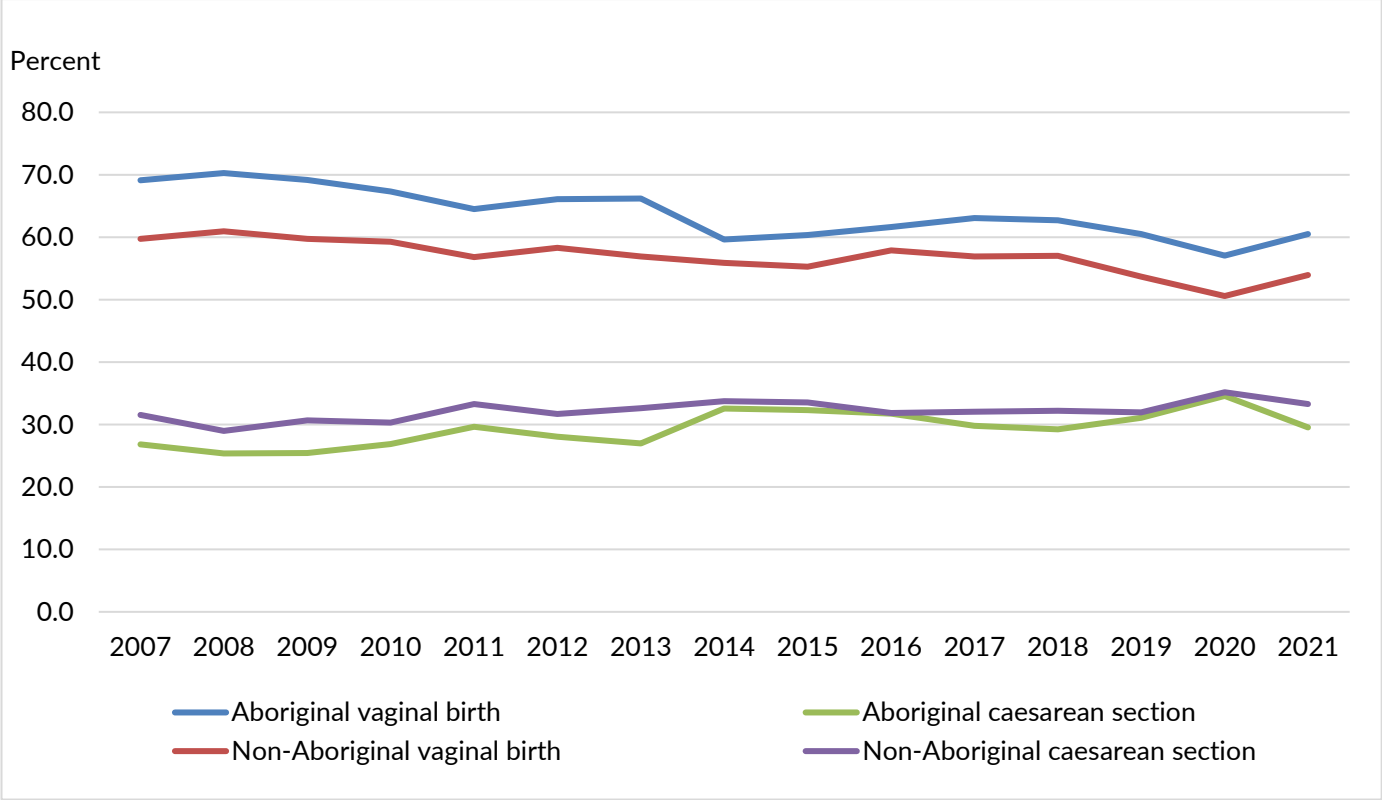


Figure 16. Age category of first-time mother by Aboriginal status, NT 2007–2021

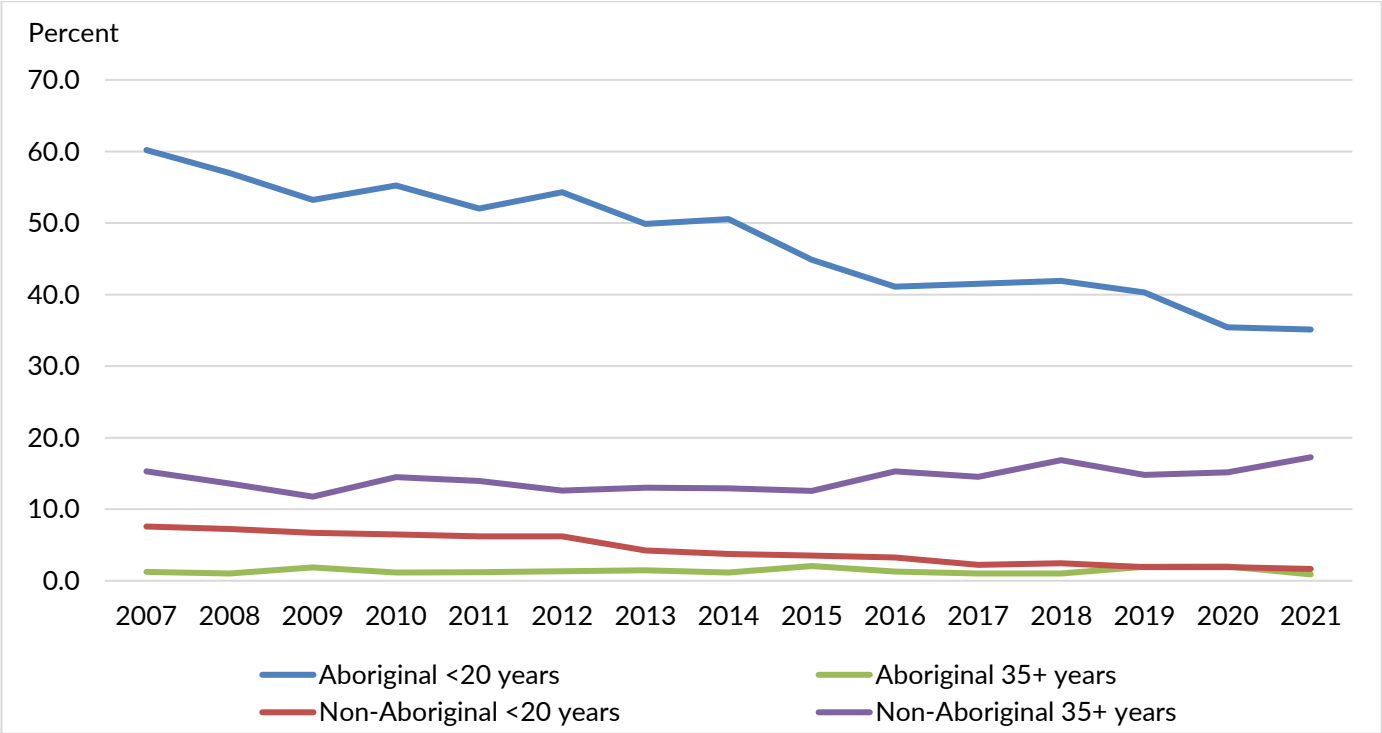
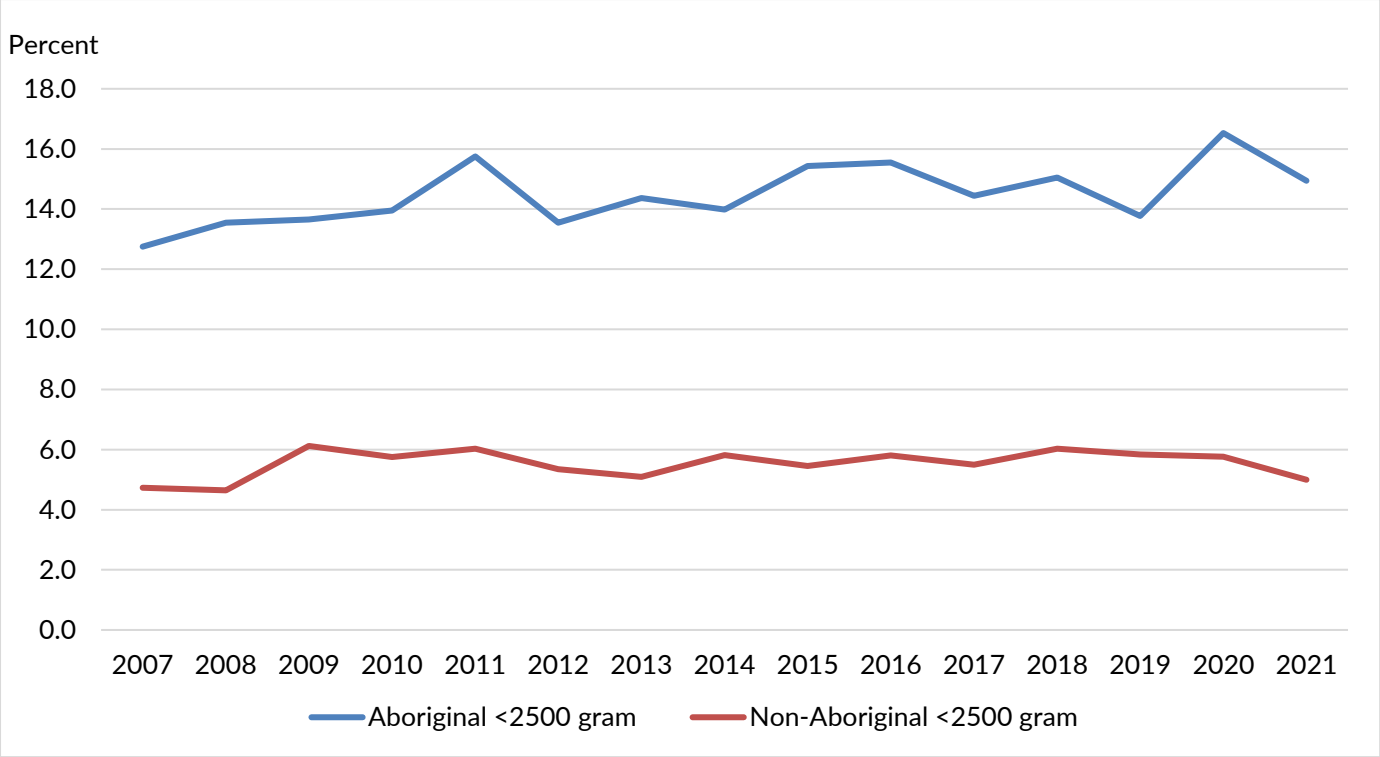
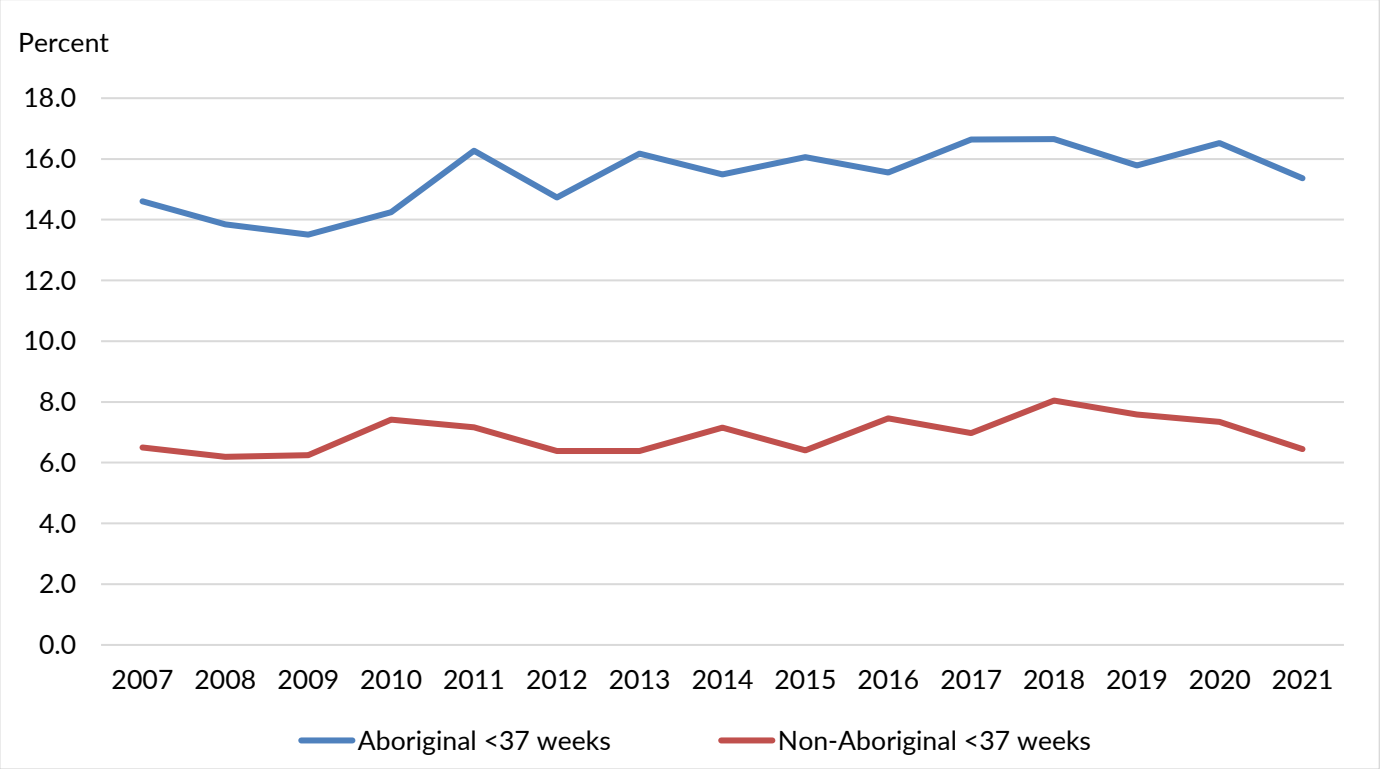


Figure 17. Low birthweight liveborn babies[1] by maternal Aboriginal status, NT 2007–2021



Note: 1. Includes all live births.

Figure 18. Pre-term liveborn babies[1] by maternal Aboriginal status, NT 2007–2021



Note: 1. Includes preterm births for all reasons, including medical indications.

Table 67. Trends in numbers for selected measures, NT Aboriginal mothers and babies, 2007–2021

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Total fertility rate	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.1
								Number								
ALL MOTHERS	**Total**	**1410**	**1356**	**1424**	**1358**	**1349**	**1348**	**1231**	**1256**	**1266**	**1253**	**1181**	**1190**	**1153**	**1198**	**1200**
	Maternal age															
	<20	335	305	316	315	272	302	247	256	235	191	188	186	184	154	178
	20-34	972	944	990	933	972	939	892	913	911	963	890	888	846	916	899
	35+	103	107	118	110	105	107	92	87	120	99	103	116	123	128	123
	Place of birth															
	Hospital	1349	1299	1370	1286	1297	1292	1177	1213	1230	1219	1141	1157	1123	1162	1171
	Non-hospital	61	57	54	72	52	56	54	43	36	34	40	33	30	36	29
	Type of labour onset															
	Spontaneous	973	950	1007	898	873	865	736	709	702	682	634	608	558	539	580
	Induced	264	233	251	271	299	303	323	337	362	345	325	376	382	415	406
	No labour	173	173	166	189	177	180	172	210	202	226	222	206	213	244	214
	Method of birth															
	Normal vaginal	975	953	985	914	870	891	815	749	764	772	745	746	697	683	723
	Forceps	16	20	28	11	22	18	31	32	28	30	40	37	37	33	62
	Ventouse	41	39	49	68	57	61	53	66	65	53	44	59	60	67	57
	Caesarean	378	344	362	365	400	378	332	409	409	398	352	348	358	414	353
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS	**Total**	**407**	**402**	**432**	**440**	**419**	**455**	**413**	**441**	**437**	**387**	**388**	**389**	**407**	**398**	**450**
	Maternal age															
	<20	245	229	230	243	218	247	206	223	196	159	161	163	164	141	158
	20+	162	173	202	197	201	208	207	218	241	228	227	226	243	257	292
BABIES	**Total**	**1426**	**1367**	**1442**	**1379**	**1368**	**1363**	**1242**	**1270**	**1283**	**1271**	**1191**	**1203**	**1169**	**1216**	**1214**
	Stillborn	22	16	28	17	16	12	24	11	19	17	13	20	22	18	36
LIVE-BORN BABIES	**Total**	**1404**	**1351**	**1414**	**1362**	**1352**	**1351**	**1218**	**1259**	**1264**	**1254**	**1178**	**1183**	**1147**	**1198**	**1178**
	Plurality															
	Singleton	1375	1329	1381	1321	1314	1321	1196	1232	1231	1219	1158	1157	1119	1162	1150
	Multiple	29	22	33	41	38	30	22	27	33	35	20	26	28	36	28
	Birthweight (g)															
	<1500	39	26	36	38	36	32	41	37	34	45	29	27	29	42	39
	1500-2499	140	157	157	152	177	151	134	139	161	150	141	151	129	156	137
	2500+	1225	1168	1221	1172	1139	1168	1043	1083	1069	1059	1007	1005	989	1000	1002
	Gestational age (weeks)															
	<28	14	14	12	15	20	15	20	17	15	27	14	10	15	20	21
	28-36	191	173	179	179	200	184	177	178	188	168	182	187	166	178	160
	37+	1199	1164	1223	1168	1132	1152	1021	1064	1061	1059	982	986	966	1000	997

Note: 1. Counts shown in trends table may differ slightly to those in previous reports due to the ongoing data validation process.

Table 68. Trends in proportions for selected measures, NT Aboriginal mothers and babies, 2007–2021

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
									Percent							
ALL MOTHERS	**Maternal age**															
	<20	23.8	22.5	22.2	23.2	20.2	22.4	20.1	20.4	18.6	15.2	15.9	15.6	16.0	12.9	14.8
	20-34	68.9	69.6	69.5	68.7	72.1	69.7	72.5	72.7	72.0	76.9	75.4	74.6	73.4	76.5	74.9
	35+	7.3	7.9	8.3	8.1	7.8	7.9	7.5	6.9	9.5	7.9	8.7	9.7	10.7	10.7	10.3
	Place of birth															
	Hospital	95.7	95.8	96.2	94.7	96.1	95.8	95.6	96.6	97.2	97.3	96.6	97.2	97.4	97.0	97.6
	Non-hospital	4.3	4.2	3.8	5.3	3.9	4.2	4.4	3.4	2.8	2.7	3.4	2.8	2.6	3.0	2.4
	Type of labour onset															
	Spontaneous	69.0	70.1	70.7	66.1	64.7	64.2	59.8	56.4	55.5	54.4	53.7	51.1	48.4	45.0	48.3
	Induced	18.7	17.2	17.6	20.0	22.2	22.5	26.2	26.8	28.6	27.5	27.5	31.6	33.1	34.6	33.8
	No labour	12.3	12.8	11.7	13.9	13.1	13.4	14.0	16.7	16.0	18.0	18.8	17.3	18.5	20.4	17.8
	Method of birth															
	Normal vaginal	69.1	70.3	69.2	67.3	64.5	66.1	66.2	59.6	60.3	61.6	63.1	62.7	60.5	57.1	60.5
	Forceps	1.1	1.5	2.0	0.8	1.6	1.3	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.4	3.4	3.1	3.2	2.8	5.2
	Ventouse	2.9	2.9	3.4	5.0	4.2	4.5	4.3	5.3	5.1	4.2	3.7	5.0	5.2	5.6	4.8
	Caesarean	26.8	25.4	25.4	26.9	29.7	28.0	27.0	32.6	32.3	31.8	29.8	29.2	31.1	34.6	29.5
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS	**Maternal age**															
	<20	60.2	57.0	53.2	55.2	52.0	54.3	49.9	50.6	44.9	41.1	41.5	41.9	40.3	35.4	35.1
	20+	39.8	43.0	46.8	44.8	48.0	45.7	50.1	49.4	55.1	58.9	58.5	58.1	59.7	64.6	64.9
BABIES																
	Stillbirths	1.5	1.2	1.9	1.2	1.2	0.9	1.9	0.9	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.7	1.9	1.5	3.0
LIVE-BORN BABIES	**Plurality**															
	Singleton	97.9	98.4	97.7	97.0	97.2	97.8	98.2	97.9	97.4	97.2	98.3	97.8	97.6	97.0	97.6
	Multiple	2.1	1.6	2.3	3.0	2.8	2.2	1.8	2.1	2.6	2.8	1.7	2.2	2.4	3.0	2.4
	Birthweight (g)															
	<1500	2.8	1.9	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.4	3.4	2.9	2.7	3.6	2.5	2.3	2.5	3.5	3.3
	1500-2499	10.0	11.6	11.1	11.2	13.1	11.2	11.0	11.0	12.7	12.0	12.0	12.8	11.2	13.0	11.6
	2500+	87.3	86.5	86.4	86.0	84.2	86.5	85.6	86.0	84.6	84.4	85.6	85.0	86.2	83.5	85.1
	Gestational age (weeks)															
	<28	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.2	2.2	1.2	0.8	1.3	1.7	1.8
	28-36	13.6	12.8	12.7	13.1	14.8	13.6	14.5	14.1	14.9	13.4	15.4	15.8	14.5	14.9	13.6
	37+	85.4	86.2	86.5	85.8	83.7	85.3	83.8	84.5	83.9	84.4	83.4	83.3	84.2	83.5	84.6

Note: 1. Counts shown in trends table may differ slightly to those in previous reports due to the ongoing data validation process.

Table 69. Trends in numbers for selected measures, NT non-Aboriginal mothers and babies, 2007–2021

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Total fertility rate	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
								Number								
ALL MOTHERS	**Total**	**2247**	**2374**	**2349**	**2382**	**2448**	**2563**	**2700**	**2598**	**2625**	**2637**	**2550**	**2476**	**2329**	**2397**	**2541**
	Maternal age															
	<20	91	94	82	76	75	79	60	53	49	43	31	30	21	24	22
	20-34	1654	1800	1771	1784	1857	1974	2111	2006	2046	2021	1974	1855	1774	1728	1870
	35+	502	480	496	522	516	510	529	539	530	573	545	591	534	645	649
	Place of birth															
	Hospital	2199	2333	2297	2337	2393	2520	2645	2563	2581	2600	2504	2421	2268	2330	2471
	Non-hospital	48	41	52	45	55	43	55	35	44	37	46	55	61	67	70
	Type of labour onset															
	Spontaneous	1364	1471	1396	1426	1399	1504	1473	1355	1360	1306	1270	1153	1078	1013	1118
	Induced	482	512	555	564	613	616	706	766	757	813	763	827	806	848	928
	No labour	401	391	398	392	436	443	521	477	508	518	517	496	445	536	494
	Method of birth															
	Normal vaginal	1342	1447	1403	1412	1391	1495	1537	1452	1451	1527	1452	1412	1250	1211	1369
	Forceps	55	82	81	87	96	96	136	108	134	106	137	119	163	170	163
	Ventouse	141	157	145	161	146	160	147	161	160	164	143	147	171	171	161
	Caesarean	709	688	720	722	815	812	880	877	880	840	818	798	744	842	845
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS	**Total**	**989**	**1076**	**1012**	**1051**	**1096**	**1127**	**1247**	**1200**	**1161**	**1238**	**1171**	**1105**	**1094**	**1102**	**1211**
	Maternal age															
	<20	75	78	68	68	68	70	53	45	41	40	26	27	21	21	20
	20-34	763	852	825	831	875	915	1032	1000	974	1009	975	892	911	914	982
	35+	151	146	119	152	153	142	162	155	146	189	170	186	162	167	209
BABIES	**Total**	**2272**	**2400**	**2383**	**2414**	**2482**	**2595**	**2730**	**2634**	**2658**	**2669**	**2589**	**2511**	**2362**	**2430**	**2571**
	Stillborn	9	10	14	14	11	12	20	21	19	16	23	25	16	20	26
LIVE-BORN BABIES	**Total**	**2263**	**2390**	**2369**	**2400**	**2471**	**2583**	**2710**	**2613**	**2639**	**2653**	**2566**	**2486**	**2346**	**2410**	**2545**
	Plurality															
	Singleton	2215	2342	2304	2337	2403	2519	2654	2546	2573	2589	2490	2421	2280	2344	2488
	Multiple	48	48	65	63	68	64	56	67	66	64	76	65	66	66	57
	Birthweight (g)															
	<1500	19	20	13	26	28	17	19	16	20	11	23	22	20	24	21
	1500-2499	88	91	132	112	121	121	119	136	124	143	118	128	117	115	106
	2500+	2156	2279	2224	2262	2322	2445	2571	2461	2494	2499	2425	2336	2209	2271	2417
	Gestational age (weeks)															
	<28	6	7	5	10	10	6	11	6	5	6	15	7	8	11	13
	28-36	141	141	143	168	167	159	162	181	164	192	164	193	170	166	151
	37+	2116	2242	2221	2222	2294	2418	2537	2426	2470	2455	2387	2286	2168	2233	2381

Note: 1. Counts shown in trends table may differ slightly to those in previous reports due to the ongoing data validation process.

Table 70. Trends in proportions for selected measures, NT non-Aboriginal mothers and babies, 2007–2021

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
								Percent								
ALL MOTHERS	**Maternal age**															
	<20	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.1	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.2	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.9
	20-34	73.6	75.8	75.4	74.9	75.9	77.0	78.2	77.2	77.9	76.6	77.4	74.9	76.2	72.1	73.6
	35+	22.3	20.2	21.1	21.9	21.1	19.9	19.6	20.7	20.2	21.7	21.4	23.9	22.9	26.9	25.5
	Place of birth															
	Hospital	97.9	98.3	97.8	98.1	97.8	98.3	98.0	98.7	98.3	98.6	98.2	97.8	97.4	97.2	97.2
	Non-hospital	2.1	1.7	2.2	1.9	2.2	1.7	2.0	1.3	1.7	1.4	1.8	2.2	2.6	2.8	2.8
	Type of labour onset															
	Spontaneous	60.7	62.0	59.4	59.9	57.1	58.7	54.6	52.2	51.8	49.5	49.8	46.6	46.3	42.3	44.0
	Induced	21.5	21.6	23.6	23.7	25.0	24.0	26.1	29.5	28.8	30.8	29.9	33.4	34.6	35.4	36.5
	No labour	17.8	16.5	16.9	16.5	17.8	17.3	19.3	18.4	19.4	19.6	20.3	20.0	19.1	22.4	19.4
	Method of birth															
	Normal vaginal	59.7	61.0	59.7	59.3	56.8	58.3	56.9	55.9	55.3	57.9	56.9	57.0	53.7	50.6	53.9
	Forceps	2.4	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.9	3.7	5.0	4.2	5.1	4.0	5.4	4.8	7.0	7.1	6.4
	Ventouse	6.3	6.6	6.2	6.8	6.0	6.2	5.4	6.2	6.1	6.2	5.6	5.9	7.3	7.1	6.3
	Caesarean	31.6	29.0	30.7	30.3	33.3	31.7	32.6	33.8	33.5	31.9	32.1	32.2	32.0	35.2	33.3
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS	**Maternal age**															
	<20	7.6	7.2	6.7	6.5	6.2	6.2	4.3	3.8	3.5	3.2	2.2	2.4	1.9	1.9	1.7
	20-34	77.1	79.2	81.5	79.1	79.8	81.2	82.8	83.3	83.9	81.5	83.3	80.7	83.3	82.9	81.1
	35+	15.3	13.6	11.8	14.5	14.0	12.6	13.0	12.9	12.6	15.3	14.5	16.8	14.8	15.2	17.3
BABIES																
	Stillbirths	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.8	1.0
LIVE-BORN BABIES	**Plurality**															
	Singleton	97.9	98.0	97.3	97.4	97.2	97.5	97.9	97.4	97.5	97.6	97.0	97.4	97.2	97.3	97.8
	Multiple	2.1	2.0	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.1	2.6	2.5	2.4	3.0	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.2
	Birthweight (g)															
	<1500	0.8	0.8	0.5	1.1	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.8
	1500-2499	3.9	3.8	5.6	4.7	4.9	4.7	4.4	5.2	4.7	5.4	4.6	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.2
	2500+	95.3	95.4	93.9	94.3	94.0	94.7	94.9	94.2	94.5	94.2	94.5	94.0	94.2	94.2	95.0
	Gestational age (weeks)															
	<28	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5
	28-36	6.2	5.9	6.0	7.0	6.8	6.2	6.0	6.9	6.2	7.2	6.4	7.8	7.2	6.9	5.9
	37+	93.5	93.8	93.8	92.6	92.8	93.6	93.6	92.8	93.6	92.5	93.0	92.0	92.4	92.7	93.6

Note: 1. Counts shown in trends table may differ slightly to those in previous reports due to the ongoing data validation process.

Table 71. Trends in numbers for selected measures, all NT mothers and babies, 2007–2021

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Total fertility rate	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.90	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8
								Number								
ALL MOTHERS	**Total**	**3657**	**3730**	**3773**	**3740**	**3797**	**3911**	**3931**	**3854**	**3891**	**3890**	**3731**	**3666**	**3482**	**3595**	**3741**
	Maternal age															
	<20	426	399	398	391	347	381	307	309	284	234	219	216	205	178	200
	20-34	2626	2744	2761	2717	2829	2913	3003	2919	2957	2984	2864	2743	2620	2644	2769
	35+	605	587	614	632	621	617	621	626	650	672	648	707	657	773	772
	Place of birth															
	Hospital	3548	3632	3667	3623	3690	3812	3822	3776	3811	3819	3645	3578	3391	3492	3642
	Non-hospital	109	98	106	117	107	99	109	78	80	71	86	88	91	103	99
	Type of labour onset															
	Spontaneous	2337	2421	2403	2324	2272	2369	2209	2064	2062	1988	1904	1761	1636	1552	1698
	Induced	746	745	806	835	912	919	1029	1103	1119	1158	1088	1203	1188	1263	1334
	No labour	574	564	564	581	613	623	693	687	710	744	739	702	658	780	708
	Method of birth															
	Normal vaginal	2317	2400	2388	2326	2261	2386	2352	2201	2215	2299	2197	2158	1947	1894	2092
	Forceps	71	102	109	98	118	114	167	140	162	136	177	156	200	203	225
	Ventouse	182	196	194	229	203	221	200	227	225	217	187	206	231	238	218
	Caesarean	1087	1032	1082	1087	1215	1190	1212	1286	1289	1238	1170	1146	1102	1256	1198
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS	**Total**	**1396**	**1478**	**1444**	**1491**	**1515**	**1582**	**1660**	**1641**	**1598**	**1625**	**1559**	**1494**	**1501**	**1500**	**1661**
	Maternal age															
	<20	320	307	298	311	286	317	259	268	237	199	187	190	185	162	178
	20-34	920	1021	1019	1023	1071	1117	1233	1213	1206	1232	1198	1114	1146	1163	1270
	35+	156	150	127	157	158	148	168	160	155	194	174	190	170	175	213
BABIES	**Total**	**3698**	**3767**	**3825**	**3793**	**3850**	**3958**	**3972**	**3904**	**3941**	**3940**	**3780**	**3714**	**3531**	**3646**	**3785**
	Stillbirths	31	26	42	31	27	24	44	32	38	33	36	45	38	38	62
	Neonatal deaths	18	19	18	17	26	10	14	18	15	17	21	20	14	25	17
	Perinatal deaths	49	45	60	48	53	34	58	50	53	50	57	65	52	63	79
LIVE-BORN BABIES	**Total**	**3667**	**3741**	**3783**	**3762**	**3823**	**3934**	**3928**	**3872**	**3903**	**3907**	**3744**	**3669**	**3493**	**3608**	**3723**
	Plurality															
	Singleton	3590	3671	3685	3658	3717	3840	3850	3778	3804	3808	3648	3578	3399	3506	3638
	Multiple	77	70	98	104	106	94	78	94	99	99	96	91	94	102	85
	Birthweight (g)															
	<1500	58	46	49	64	64	49	60	53	54	56	52	49	49	66	60
	1500-2499	228	248	289	264	298	272	253	275	285	293	259	279	246	271	243
	2500+	3381	3447	3445	3434	3461	3613	3614	3544	3563	3558	3432	3341	3198	3271	3419
	Gestational age (weeks)															
	<28	20	21	17	25	30	21	31	23	20	33	29	17	23	31	34
	28-36	332	314	322	347	367	343	339	359	352	360	346	380	336	344	311
	37+	3315	3406	3444	3390	3426	3570	3558	3490	3531	3514	3369	3272	3134	3233	3378

Note: 1. Counts shown in trends table may differ slightly to those in previous reports due to the ongoing data validation process.

Table 72. Trends in proportions for selected measures, all NT mothers and babies, 2007–2021

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
								Percent								
ALL MOTHERS	**Maternal age**															
	<20	11.6	10.7	10.5	10.5	9.1	9.7	7.8	8.0	7.3	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.0	5.3
	20-34	71.8	73.6	73.2	72.6	74.5	74.5	76.4	75.7	76.0	76.7	76.8	74.8	75.2	73.5	74.0
	35+	16.5	15.7	16.3	16.9	16.4	15.8	15.8	16.2	16.7	17.3	17.4	19.3	18.9	21.5	20.6
	Place of birth															
	Hospital	97.0	97.4	97.2	96.9	97.2	97.5	97.2	98.0	97.9	98.2	97.7	97.6	97.4	97.1	97.4
	Non-hospital	3.0	2.6	2.8	3.1	2.8	2.5	2.8	2.0	2.1	1.8	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.9	2.6
	Type of labour onset															
	Spontaneous	63.9	64.9	63.7	62.1	59.8	60.6	56.2	53.6	53.0	51.1	51.0	48.0	47.0	43.2	45.4
	Induced	20.4	20.0	21.4	22.3	24.0	23.5	26.2	28.6	28.8	29.8	29.2	32.8	34.1	35.1	35.7
	No labour	15.7	15.1	14.9	15.5	16.1	15.9	17.6	17.8	18.2	19.1	19.8	19.1	18.9	21.7	18.9
	Method of birth															
	Normal vaginal	63.4	64.3	63.3	62.2	59.5	61.0	59.8	57.1	56.9	59.1	58.9	58.9	55.9	52.7	56.0
	Forceps	1.9	2.7	2.9	2.6	3.1	2.9	4.2	3.6	4.2	3.5	4.7	4.3	5.7	5.7	6.0
	Ventouse	5.0	5.3	5.1	6.1	5.3	5.7	5.1	5.9	5.8	5.6	5.0	5.6	6.6	6.6	5.8
	Caesarean	29.7	27.7	28.7	29.1	32.0	30.4	30.8	33.4	33.1	31.8	31.4	31.3	31.7	35.0	32.1
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS	**Maternal age**															
	<20	22.9	20.8	20.6	20.9	18.9	20.0	15.6	16.3	14.8	12.2	12.0	12.7	12.3	10.8	10.7
	20-34	65.9	69.1	70.6	68.6	70.7	70.6	74.3	73.9	75.5	75.8	76.8	74.6	76.3	77.5	76.5
	35+	11.2	10.1	8.8	10.5	10.4	9.4	10.1	9.8	9.7	11.9	11.2	12.7	11.3	11.7	12.8
BABIES																
	Stillbirths	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.1	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.6
	Neonatal deaths	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.7
	Perinatal deaths	1.3	1.2	1.6	1.3	1.4	0.9	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.7	2.1
LIVE-BORN BABIES	**Plurality**															
	Singleton	97.9	98.1	97.4	97.2	97.2	97.6	98.0	97.6	97.5	97.5	97.4	97.5	97.3	97.2	97.7
	Multiple	2.1	1.9	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.0	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.3
	Birthweight (g)															
	<1500	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.8	1.6
	1500-2499	6.2	6.6	7.6	7.0	7.8	6.9	6.4	7.1	7.3	7.5	6.9	7.6	7.0	7.5	6.5
	2500+	92.2	92.1	91.1	91.3	90.5	91.8	92.0	91.5	91.3	91.1	91.7	91.1	91.6	90.7	91.9
	Gestational age (weeks)															
	<28	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.9
	28-36	9.1	8.4	8.5	9.2	9.6	8.7	8.6	9.3	9.0	9.2	9.2	10.4	9.6	9.5	8.4
	37+	90.4	91.0	91.0	90.1	89.6	90.7	90.6	90.1	90.5	89.9	90.0	89.2	89.7	89.6	90.7

Note: 1. Counts shown in trends table may differ slightly to those in previous reports due to the ongoing data validation process.

Appendix C. Northern Territory Estimated Resident Population

Table 73. Northern Territory Estimated Resident Population, by Aboriginal status, age group, and sex, 2021

Age (years)	Male			Female			Person
	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total	Total
0 - 4	3495	5679	9174	3256	5174	8430	17604
5 - 9	3982	5235	9217	3944	4904	8848	18065
10 - 14	4162	4685	8847	3908	4285	8193	17040
15 - 19	3094	4759	7853	3002	4290	7292	15145
20 - 24	2766	6341	9107	2334	5704	8038	17145
25 - 29	3010	8186	11196	3030	8438	11468	22664
30 - 34	3006	8653	11659	3235	8720	11955	23614
35 - 39	2811	7466	10277	2911	7511	10422	20699
40 - 44	2283	6325	8608	2549	6191	8740	17348
45 - 49	3284	4873	8157	3094	4751	7845	16002
50 - 54	1928	5993	7921	2247	5552	7799	15720
55 - 59	1485	5622	7107	1703	5035	6738	13845
60 - 64	1070	4853	5923	1405	4372	5777	11700
65 - 69	722	3820	4542	910	3293	4203	8745
70 - 74	360	2959	3319	579	2396	2975	6294
75 -79	187	1620	1807	247	1347	1594	3401
80-84	78	857	935	164	826	990	1925
85+	62	455	517	106	572	678	1195
Total	**37785**	**88381**	**126166**	**38624**	**83361**	**121985**	**248151**

Morris, L. (2022). Health District Population 1971_2021. http://internal.health.nt.gov.au/services/healthstatistics/statistics-analysis/Pages/default.aspx#demography.

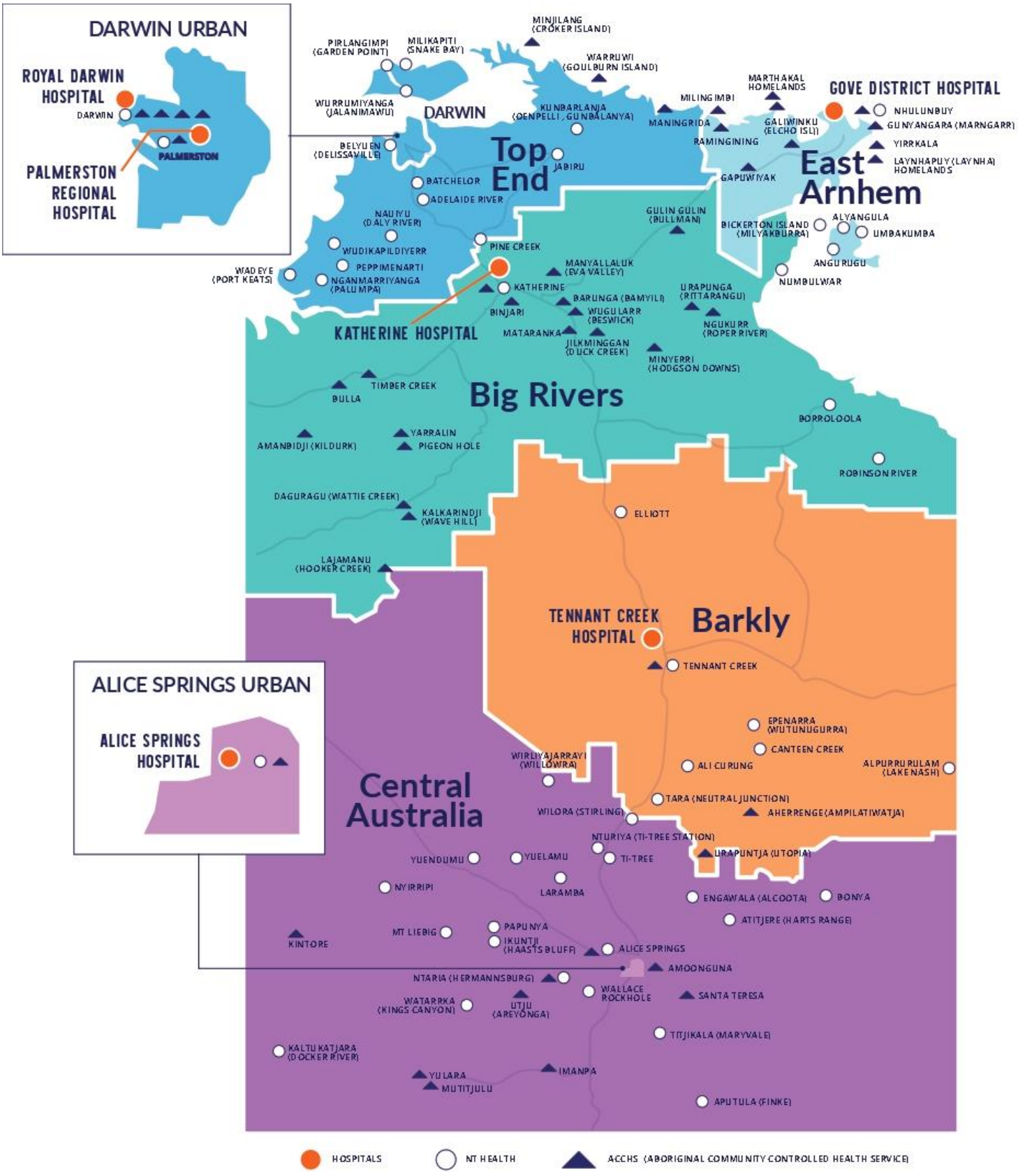
Table 74. Northern Territory Estimated Female Resident Population aged between 15-49 years, by Aboriginal status and age group, 2021

Age (years)	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total
15 - 19	3002	4290	7292
20 - 24	2334	5704	8038
25 - 29	3030	8438	11468
30 - 34	3235	8720	11955
35 - 39	2911	7511	10422
40 - 44	2549	6191	8740
45 - 49	3094	4751	7845
Total	**20155**	**45605**	**65760**

Morris, L. (2022). Health District Population 1971_2021. http://internal.health.nt.gov.au/services/healthstatistics/statistics-analysis/Pages/default.aspx#demography.

Appendix D. Map of Northern Territory Regions

Source: NT Health 2021



4. Glossary

This section provides definitions for a selection of key perinatal terms.

Term	Definition
Age-specific fertility rate	The number of births per individual within a specific age interval during a specified time.
Antenatal	The period covering conception up to the time of birth.
Apgar score	Numerical score used to indicate the baby's condition at one minute and five minutes after birth. A score of 0, 1 or 2 is given for each of five characteristics: heart rate, breathing, colour, muscle tone and reflex irritability, and the total score is between 0 and 10.
Augmentation of labour	Intervention after the onset of spontaneous labour to assist the progress of labour.
Birth status	Status of the baby immediately after birth.
Birthweight	The first weight of a baby (stillborn or live-born) obtained after birth, measured to the nearest 5 grams and usually obtained within one hour of birth. Birthweight can be classified at the following levels Normal birthweight: between 2,500 and 4,499 grams. Low birthweight: less than 2,500 grams. High birthweight: 4,500 grams or more. Low weight births can be classified at the following levels: Very low birthweight: less than 1500 grams Extremely low birthweight: less than 1000 grams.
Born before arrival	The term used to describe deliveries which occurred before arrival to the health service or before the arrival of the midwife for planned homebirths.
Breech presentation	A fetal presentation in which the buttocks are at the opening of the womb.
Caesarean section	Operative birth by surgical incision through the abdominal wall and uterus. It is often divided into two sub-categories: Elective caesarean section: a caesarean section carried out as a planned procedure before the onset of labour or following the onset of spontaneous labour, when the decision was made before labour. It does not include caesarean section after failed trial of scar. Emergency caesarean section: a caesarean section required because of an emergency situation (e.g. obstructed labour, fetal distress/compromise). It is best described as 'when the caesarean section is performed having not been considered necessary previously'.
Epidural/Caudal	Analgesia or anaesthesia produced by injection of a local anaesthetic into the epidural space of the spinal cord or caudal canal.
Episiotomy:	An incision of the perineum and vagina to enlarge the vulval orifice.
Fetal death (stillbirth)	A child of at least 20 weeks gestation or with a birthweight of at least 400 grams at birth that exhibits no sign of respiration or heartbeat, or other sign of life, at birth.
Fetal death rate	The number of fetal deaths in a year per 1000 total births in that same year.
Forceps birth	Assisted vaginal birth using a metallic obstetric instrument.
First-time mother	Also called primiparous mother, refers to a woman who is giving birth for the first time.
Gestational age	The duration of a pregnancy in completed week, calculated from the date of the first day of a woman's last menstrual period to her baby's date of birth. Each birth can be categorised, according to fetal gestational age, into: Pre-term baby: A baby born before 37 completed weeks of gestation;

	Term baby: A baby born from 37 completed weeks up to 41 completed weeks of gestation; or Post-term baby: A baby born after 41 completed weeks of gestation.
Induction of labour	Intervention to stimulate the onset of labour.
Instrumental birth	Includes vaginal birth by forceps or ventouse (vacuum extraction).
Labour	The process by which the products of conception are expelled from the uterus via the birth canal.
Live birth	The complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a baby, irrespective of duration of pregnancy, which after separation shows signs of life.
Malpresentation	When baby is not facing head-first down the birth canal as birth approaches.
Maternal age	Mother's age in completed years at the birth of her baby.
Mother's length of postnatal hospital stay	The number of days between the baby's date of birth and the separation date of the mother (from the hospital where the birth occurred). The interval is calculated by subtracting the date of the baby's birth from the date of separation.
Neonatal death	Death of a live-born baby within 28 days of birth.
Neonatal death rate	The neonatal deaths in a year per 1000 live births in that same year.
Normal vaginal birth	Birth without intervention in which the baby's head is the presenting part.
Parity	Number of previous pregnancies resulting in live births or stillbirths, excluding the current pregnancy.
Perinatal death	A fetal or neonatal death.
Perinatal death rate	The sum of fetal deaths (stillbirths) and neonatal deaths in a year per 1000 total births in that same year.
Perineal laceration (laceration)	A graze, laceration, rupture, or laceration of the perineal skin during delivery. Perineal lacerations can be classified as either 1st degree: considered to be slight or that involves fourchette, labia, vagina; 2nd degree: also involving pelvic floor, perineal muscles, or vaginal muscles; 3rd degree: also involving anal floor, rectovaginal septum, or sphincter; or 4th degree: also involving anal mucosa or rectal mucosa.
Perineal status	Status of the perineum after the birth. It may involve surgical suturing of perineal laceration (laceration) or episiotomy incision.
Plurality	The number of babies resulting from a pregnancy. According to plurality a pregnancy can be defined as either Singleton birth: only one baby born Multiple birth: more than one baby is born.
Presentation at birth	Presenting body part of the foetus/baby at birth.
Pudendal	Local anaesthetic to block the pudendal nerves.
Resuscitation of baby	Active measures taken shortly after birth to assist the baby's ventilation and heartbeat, or to treat depressed respiratory effort and to correct metabolic disturbances.
Spontaneous onset of labour	Onset of labour without intervention.
Stillbirth	A child of at least 20 weeks gestation or with a birthweight of at least 400 grams at birth that exhibits no sign of respiration or heartbeat, or other sign of life, at birth (fetal death)
Stillbirth rate	The number of stillbirths in a year per 1000 total births in that same year.
Teenage mother	Mother aged less than 20 years at the birth of her baby.
Total fertility rate	A hypothetical measure of the number of live births a woman would have if, throughout her reproductive years, she had children at the age-specific rates that were observed in any one year. The TFR is calculated by adding up all the age-specific fertility rates (ASFR), multiplying this sum by five (the width

	of the age-group interval), and then dividing by 1000. $TFR = 5 \times \sum(ASFR) = 5 \times \left(\frac{number\ of\ births\ to\ women\ aged\ 15-19}{number\ of\ women\ aged\ 15-19} + \cdots + \frac{number\ of\ births\ to\ women\ aged\ 45-49}{number\ of\ women\ aged\ 45-49}\right)$
Ventouse (Vacuum extraction) birth	Assisted birth using a suction cap applied to the baby's head.

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