

Northern Territory Midwives' Collection

Mothers and Babies 2005





Northern
Territory
Government

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILIES

Northern Territory Midwives' Collection

Mothers and Babies 2005

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Table of contents

Summary	i
Key findings	i
Introduction	1
Data sources	1
Northern Territory Midwives' Collection	1
NT Perinatal Death Register	1
Data quality	2
Information presented in this report	3
Mothers and babies of the Northern Territory	4
Mothers	4
Place of residence	4
Fertility rate	4
Maternal age	4
Parity	5
Antenatal care	5
Smoking status and alcohol consumption during pregnancy	5
Birth facility	6
Onset of labour and induction of labour	6
Presentation and method of birth	6
Analgesia for labour and anaesthesia for childbirth	7
Labour complications and perineal status	7
Postnatal hospital stay	7
Babies	8
Birth status	8
Plurality	8
Preterm and low birthweight livebirths	8
Apgar scores	8
Resuscitation of livebirths	8
Neonatal and perinatal mortality	9
Statistical tables	10
Mothers	10
Babies	24
References	31
Glossary	32
Appendices	36
Appendix A. Hospital profiles	36
Appendix B. Trends of perinatal indicators, by Indigenous status, NT, 1991–2005	44
Appendix C. Northern Territory Estimated Resident Population	51
Selected Health Gains Planning publications	52
Mothers and babies reports	52
Information on children and young people	52
Other publications	52

List of tables

Table 1. Total births in the NT, by Indigenous status and district of usual residence, 2005.....	10
Table 2. Summary statistics, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005.....	10
Table 3. Area of usual residence, by Indigenous status and, NT mothers, 2005.....	11
Table 4. District and area of usual residence, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005.....	11
Table 5. Total fertility rate, by Indigenous status and district of usual residence, NT mothers, 2005.....	11
Table 6. Total fertility rate, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2005.....	11
Table 7. Age-specific fertility rate and total fertility rate, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005.....	12
Table 8. Maternal age, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005.....	12
Table 9. Maternal age, by Indigenous status and district of usual residence, NT mothers, 2005.....	12
Table 10. Maternal age, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2005.....	13
Table 11. Maternal parity, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005.....	13
Table 12. Maternal age, by Indigenous status, NT first-time mothers, 2005.....	13
Table 13. Antenatal visits, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005.....	14
Table 14. Antenatal visits, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers, 2005.....	14
Table 15. Antenatal visits, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2005.....	14
Table 16. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by Indigenous status, NT mothers with at least one visit, 2005.....	15
Table 17. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers with at least one visit, 2005.....	15
Table 18. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers with at least one visit, 2005.....	15
Table 19. Self-reported alcohol consumption, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005.....	16
Table 20. Self-reported smoking status, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005.....	16
Table 21. Self-reported smoking status, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2005.....	17
Table 22. Self-reported smoking status, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers, 2005.....	18
Table 23. Actual place of giving birth, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005.....	18
Table 24. Actual place of giving birth, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers, 2005.....	19
Table 25. Type of labour onset, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005.....	19
Table 26. Methods of induction, by Indigenous status, NT mothers having induced onset of labour, 2005.....	19
Table 27. Birth presentation, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005.....	19
Table 28. Method of birth, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005.....	20
Table 29. Method of birth, by type of labour onset, NT mothers, 2005.....	20
Table 30. Method of birth, by gestational age, NT mothers with breech presentation, 2005.....	20
Table 31. Method of birth, by hospital, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2005.....	20
Table 32. Indications for caesarean section, by Indigenous status, NT mothers giving birth via caesarean section, 2005.....	21

Table 33. Method of analgesia, by Indigenous status, NT mothers with spontaneous or induced onset of labour, 2005	21
Table 34. Method of anaesthesia, by Indigenous status, NT mothers having operative birth, 2005.....	22
Table 35. Labour and childbirth complications, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005	22
Table 36. State of the perineum, by Indigenous status, NT mothers having vaginal birth, 2005	22
Table 37. Length of postnatal hospital stay, by Indigenous status, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2005	23
Table 38. Average length of postnatal hospital stay, by Indigenous status and method of birth, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2005	23
Table 39. Summary statistics, by maternal Indigenous status, all babies born in the NT, 2005	24
Table 40. Area of mother's usual residence, by maternal Indigenous status, NT babies, 2005.....	25
Table 41. District and area of mother's usual residence, by maternal Indigenous status, NT babies, 2005.....	25
Table 42. Gestational age, by maternal Indigenous status and birth status, NT babies, 2005.....	26
Table 43. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and birth status, NT babies, 2005	26
Table 44. Gestational age, by maternal Indigenous status and district of mother's usual residence, NT livebirths, 2005.....	27
Table 45. Gestational age, by maternal Indigenous status and area of mother's usual residence, NT livebirths, 2005.....	27
Table 46. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and district of mother's usual residence, NT livebirths, 2005.....	28
Table 47. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and area of mother's usual residence, NT livebirths, 2005	28
Table 48. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and gestational age, NT singleton livebirths, 2005	29
Table 49. Apgar scores at 5 minutes, by maternal Indigenous status, NT livebirths, 2005	29
Table 50. Methods of resuscitation, by maternal Indigenous status, NT livebirths, 2005	29
Table 51. Numbers and rates of stillbirth, neonatal death and perinatal death, by Indigenous status, NT babies, 2005	30

Summary

This report summarises data from the 2005 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 2005. While the NT Midwives' Collection contains information on both NT resident and interstate residents who gave birth in the NT, the focus of this report is NT residents who gave birth in the NT.

The primary purpose of the report is to inform, and encourage professional discussion regarding the health of women and their babies. This report will assist policy makers and health planners to provide better services to the community. In addition, this report aims to provide feedback to midwives, Aboriginal Health Workers, community health nurses and medical practitioners involved with maternal and child health.

Key findings

- During 2005, there were 3596 babies born to 3549 NT mothers, 37% of whom were Indigenous. In addition, there were 103 babies born to 102 inter-state mothers in the NT. The sum total of births in the NT for this year was 3699 babies born to 3651 mothers.
- Women in the NT, particularly Indigenous women, had a higher total fertility rate than the national average.
- The mean age of Indigenous mothers who gave birth in 2005 was more than five years younger than that of non-Indigenous mothers. Twenty six per cent of Indigenous mothers were less than 20 years of age.
- Sixty per cent of Indigenous first time mothers were under 20 years of age compared to only 11% of non-Indigenous first-time mothers.
- Indigenous mothers were more likely to attend no antenatal visits or attend an inadequate number, and were also less likely to attend the first antenatal session within the first trimester of pregnancy.
- About half of Indigenous mothers reported smoking during pregnancy, which was over twice the proportion of non-Indigenous mothers.
- For a sizeable proportion (21%) of mothers, onset of labour was induced. The most commonly used induction method among Indigenous mothers was oxytocics (55%) and for non-Indigenous mothers it was artificial rupture of membranes (66%). Prostaglandins were a less frequently used induction method (42%).
- Sixty three per cent of mothers had a spontaneous vaginal birth. Assisted births using forceps or vacuum extraction were only used for 8% of mothers. Among the mothers who gave birth vaginally, 9% had an episiotomy and nearly half had an intact perineum.
- Caesarean sections were performed for 29% of mothers. Proportionally more Indigenous mothers had emergency caesareans than non-Indigenous mothers. Failure to progress was the main indication for emergency caesarean sections.

- Just over half of mothers (51%) who gave birth in hospital stayed in hospital for less than four days.
- Ten per cent of livebirths born to NT mothers were preterm and 9% were low in birthweight. Proportionally there were twice as many low birthweight babies born to Indigenous mothers than non-Indigenous mothers.
- Almost half of the babies born alive received some form of resuscitation.
- There were 65 perinatal deaths in 2005, including 41 stillbirths and 24 neonatal deaths. The perinatal death rate of Indigenous babies was over twice that of non-Indigenous babies.

Introduction

This report summarises data from the 2005 from the Northern Territory 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 2005. The trend tables show changes over time for key demographic and obstetric indicators and birth outcomes over the period 1991–2005.

The primary purpose of the report is to inform, and encourage professional discussion regarding the health of women and their babies. Annual reporting is primarily to the Perinatal Information Management Group (PIMG) who make data available for health service planning and delivery. This report will assist policy makers and health planners provide better services to the community. In addition, this report aims to provide feedback to midwives, Aboriginal Health Workers, community health nurses and medical practitioners involved with maternal and child health.

Data sources

Northern Territory Midwives' Collection

The Northern Territory Midwives' Collection is a population-based census of all births that occurred in the Northern Territory, including births in public and private hospitals, planned home births, births in community health centres, and other non-hospital births. All livebirths and stillbirths of at least 20 weeks gestation or with a birthweight of at least 400 grams are included.

The NT Midwives' Collection contains information about population characteristics of the mother, antenatal care received, maternal health, the pregnancy, labour and childbirth, and perinatal health.

In 2005 the majority of information about the births was captured directly in electronic format. In the public sector, midwives entered data shortly after the birth of a baby via the Birthing Suite Module of CareSys, the Hospital Information System. This normally covered births that occurred in public hospitals and births before arrival (BBAs). Births in Darwin Private Hospital (DPH) and planned home births were entered via the intranet site of the NT Midwives' Collection. The births that occurred in health centres, which did not involve being admitted to hospital, were submitted in paper form and then were entered by the perinatal data manager to the intranet site.

In producing this report, data from the Midwives' Collection were downloaded in unit record form from Business Objects and transferred into a statistical program. The data went through further validation and corrections were transferred back to the Midwives' Collection systems.

NT Perinatal Death Register

The Health Gains Planning Branch of the Department of Health and Families has maintained a collection of deaths that occurred in newborn babies up to one year of age since 1986. The primary sources for the register are the monthly death list from the NT Births, Deaths and Marriage Registry for early neonatal deaths and the NT Midwives' Collection for stillbirths. Other sources of data include searches in the hospital morbidity dataset and the Australian Bureau of Statistics' death dataset.

Data quality

Several data items in the Midwives' Collection, notably antenatal information including parity, previous caesareans, smoking and alcohol use during pregnancy, maternal medical conditions and pregnancy complications as well as indicators for caesarean section are incomplete or low in accuracy. This is primarily due to the indirect data collection method and the lack of a validating process.

The treatment of 'not stated' data requires careful consideration depending upon the cause of the missing data. For example data may be missing due to refusal of clients to answer a question or may simply be missing completely at random (MCAR). While there are no hard and fast rules as to how 'not stated' data are reported, as a default position the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) recommends that 'not stated' are shown in tables as numbers and excluded from the calculation of percentage distributions. This methodology assumes that the 'stated' and the 'not stated' share the same distribution (unpublished guidelines, AIHW, 2008).

In this report we have chosen to adhere to the AIHW default position because 'not stated' data in the NT Midwives Collection are more likely due to random and accidental data entry errors ie MCAR rather than deliberate omission on the part of the mothers. This approach differs from previous NT Mothers and Babies reports in which 'not stated' data were included in the proportional distribution for each table.

The effect of our change in approach is that the proportional distribution for certain data items, particularly smoking and/or alcohol consumption during pregnancy, is now markedly higher than previously reported, and comparative analyses involving this report and former reports will need to take methodological change into account.

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

Information such as mother's post-partum complications and baby's further health outcomes are not collected in the NT Midwives' Collection because those data are recorded only after they have left the birth suite.

The denominator population used to calculate fertility rates is the 2005 NT Estimated Resident Population based on the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Because of undercounts in the 2006 Census of Population and Housing that were revealed with Australia's first ever post-enumeration survey in remote parts of Australia,¹ estimates for earlier censuses are being developed based on the 2006 Census. Once these estimates are completed they will be used for time series' analysis, which may produce different results from those presented here.

Because the Northern Territory population is small, when data are disaggregated by Indigenous status or regions the numbers being reported can be very small. When small numbers are used, seemingly large differences can be seen when percentage rates are calculated, even if the difference is only one or two births. A further issue with data disaggregated by region for the Indigenous population is difficulties individuals have identifying one usual place of residence.² This is particularly true for pregnant women who have to travel to and stay in town from 36 weeks' gestation to be close to a

hospital when they give birth.³ The place they are staying in town could thus be recorded as their usual place of residence and not the community they have travelled from. A recent audit of Northern Territory hospital demographic data found 88 per cent congruence between hospital records of patients' usual place of residence and the place people identified as their usual place of residence when asked in an interview.⁴

Information presented in this report

The NT Midwives' Collection contains information on both NT resident and interstate residents who gave births in the NT. However, the focus of this report is NT residents who gave birth in the NT in 2005. Unless specified, mothers' usually resident interstate and births to them were omitted from the statistical tables.

Information on Territory women who gave birth interstate are not collected in the NT Midwives' Collection and are beyond the scope of this report. An estimated number of NT women who gave birth interstate was published in 2005. It shows that up to 56 NT women gave birth interstate, predominantly in South Australia (26 births) and Queensland (18 births). Less than five NT women gave birth in each of the states of New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia.⁵ Indigenous status was not available for interstate births to NT women.

For information on labour and childbirth in the Mothers' section, the data of the first birth were used for mothers with multiple births in one pregnancy.

A brief description of the results is presented in the following section followed by a comprehensive presentation of the data in a series of tables. Most tables are presented with information for all women as well as separately by Indigenous status and, in some, place of mother's usual residence (for NT mothers). Place of mother's usual residence is classified into health service districts, or into urban/rural-remote areas. The urban area includes Darwin Urban and Alice Springs Urban districts and the towns of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy; the rural-remote area covers the rest of the NT.⁶

Mothers and babies of the Northern Territory

Mothers

Place of residence

In 2005, 3651 mothers gave birth to 3699 babies in the Northern Territory. Among these babies, most were born to mothers who were usually resident in the NT. Only 102 mothers from interstate were recorded as giving birth in the NT. Indigenous mothers comprised 37% of all NT-resident mothers. This is higher than the 28% share of the NT female population of childbearing age made up of Indigenous women (Appendix C).

Nearly all NT non-Indigenous mothers (95%) were living in urban areas, which include Darwin Urban and Alice Springs Urban districts and the towns of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy. In contrast, Indigenous mothers were mostly from rural and remote areas (66%).

Fertility rate

The total fertility rate (TFR) for the NT was 2.2 livebirths per woman in 2005, which was above the sub-replacement fertility rate of 2.1 and higher than the 1.8 for the whole of Australia in the same period.⁷ Barkly was the district with the highest TFR whilst Alice Spring Rural had the lowest rate. Non-Indigenous women had a lower TFR than Indigenous women (2.0 and 2.6 births per woman respectively). Indigenous women had higher fertility than non-Indigenous women in all districts, both urban and rural-remote.

The age-specific fertility rates show differences in the age of childbearing between Indigenous and non-Indigenous women. The fertility rate for Indigenous women in the youngest age group (less than 20 years) was over four times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous women of the same age. Conversely, the fertility rate of the 35 years and older age group was higher for non-Indigenous women, despite a lower overall fertility rate.

Maternal age

The mean age of Indigenous mothers was 23.9 years, which was 5.4 years younger than the 29.3 years' mean age of non-Indigenous mothers. This difference was due to the age profile of mothers. The majority of Indigenous mothers were aged less than 25 years whereas most non-Indigenous mothers were aged 25 years or older. A high proportion of Indigenous mothers (26%) were less than 20 years of age at the time of giving birth, almost five times higher than the 5% of non-Indigenous mothers. A more marked difference was seen among mothers aged less than 18 years, with 13% of all Indigenous mothers being in this age group, compared to only 2% of non-Indigenous mothers. In contrast, non-Indigenous mothers were more than three times more likely to be in the oldest age group (35 years and older) than Indigenous mothers (20% and 6% respectively).

Indigenous mothers in Darwin Urban and Alice Springs Urban districts stand out as being less likely than Indigenous mothers in other districts to have their children below age 20 (19% and 18% compared to between 25% and 33% elsewhere). For both

Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers, young motherhood was more likely in rural-remote areas. Regardless of place of usual residence Indigenous mothers were more likely than non-Indigenous mothers to have children at these young ages.

Parity

Among those women with parity recorded, the majority had given birth at least once before. Nearly half (45%) had one or two previous births and 15% had three or more previous births. Forty per cent of women gave birth to their first child. First-time mothers were proportionally higher among non-Indigenous mothers (45%) than Indigenous mothers (31%). In contrast, more Indigenous women than non-Indigenous women had three or more previous births (27% and 8% respectively).

The difference in maternal age between Indigenous and non-Indigenous women was more pronounced among first-time mothers for whom there was an eight year difference in the mean age of birth (19.5 and 27.9 years respectively). The majority of non-Indigenous first-time mothers were aged 25 years or older (70%), whereas first-time Indigenous mothers were mostly less than 20 years of age (60%), and many were aged below 18 years of age (36%).

Antenatal care

A small proportion of mothers were missing information on antenatal visits. Specifically, only 1% of records showed an unknown frequency of visits and 3% of records showed an unknown time of the first visit.

The World Health Organisation classifies less than four antenatal visits during the whole pregnancy to be insufficient. Among mothers for whom information was collected, Indigenous mothers in the NT were much more likely to have no antenatal visit, or attend less than four compared with non-Indigenous mothers (16% and 3% respectively). Among non-Indigenous mothers, those living in urban areas (2%) were less likely to have inadequate antenatal visits than those from rural-remote areas (6%). However, for Indigenous women the proportions of mothers having inadequate antenatal visits were almost the same in urban and rural-remote areas (17% and 16% respectively).

It is also regarded as important for maternal and fetal health to have the first antenatal visit within the first trimester period of pregnancy (i.e. less than thirteen weeks from conception). Compared to non-Indigenous mothers, Indigenous mothers were more likely to attend their first antenatal visits later in the pregnancy. Among those mothers who attended at least one antenatal visit and had a record of the time of their first visit, over half (56%) of non-Indigenous mothers attended their first visit in the first trimester of pregnancy. This proportion was much less for Indigenous mothers (38%). There was almost no difference between the proportion of Indigenous women attending a first antenatal visit in the first trimester in rural-remote and urban areas. Among non-Indigenous women, those living in rural-remote areas were more likely than women in urban areas to attend an antenatal visit before 13 weeks of pregnancy (61% and 56% respectively). This result should be viewed with some caution because it differs from previous years and may be an artefact of the small number of rural-remote non-Indigenous women giving birth in 2005.

Smoking status and alcohol consumption during pregnancy

Self-reported smoking status and alcohol consumption during pregnancy were collected at the first antenatal visit and around 36 weeks' gestation. The quality of these data has improved in recent years. In 2005, there was 11% of data missing at the first visit and 18% at 36 weeks for alcohol consumption, and 7% and 14%

respectively for smoking status. The problem of missing data was more severe for Indigenous mothers than for non-Indigenous mothers. The prevalence of alcohol drinking and smoking reported below were calculated after removing missing data, therefore these prevalence rates are higher than the figures published in *Australia's Mothers and Babies 2005*,⁵ where missing data were included in the denominator. Both methods contain bias due to missing data and caution should be used when referring to them. Despite data quality issues, this information does provide an indication of levels of these harmful behaviours during pregnancy at broad population levels.

Alcohol drinking during pregnancy was much less prevalent than smoking. The prevalence of alcohol drinking was slightly higher in Indigenous mothers (13% at the first visit and 9% at 36 weeks' gestation) than non-Indigenous mothers (8% and 4%, respectively).

Indigenous mothers were more than twice as likely as non-Indigenous mothers to report smoking during pregnancy. At the first antenatal visit, the smoking rate was 54% for Indigenous mothers and 23% for non-Indigenous mothers. Around 36 weeks' gestation the smoking rates dropped slightly for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers (48% and 18% respectively). Among both Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers, there was little difference in smoking prevalence rates between urban and rural-remote areas, although rural-remote women had slightly higher prevalence levels reported. Among Indigenous mothers, Alice Spring Rural district presented notably lower smoking rates than other districts (although smoking levels were still high with one third of mothers smoking at their first antenatal visit).

Birth facility

Nearly all NT births occurred in hospitals (98%), mostly public hospitals (81%). Almost all mothers who gave birth in Darwin Private Hospital, the only private hospital in the NT, were non-Indigenous mothers (98%). A small proportion of mothers (less than 1%), who were all non-Indigenous, had a planned homebirth. Unplanned non-hospital births, including those that happened in health centres, in transit and other places, occurred for 5% of Indigenous mothers but for less than 1% of non-Indigenous mothers. Health centres were the most common place for out-of-hospital births, in particular for Indigenous mothers living in rural-remote areas.

Onset of labour and induction of labour

Spontaneous onset of labour occurred for 63% of all mothers. One in five mothers (21%) had induced labour and a further 16% had no labour. Non-Indigenous mothers were less likely to have spontaneous onset of labour compared to Indigenous mothers (57% and 72% respectively) and therefore were more likely to have needed induction to initiate the labour or have no labour.

Artificial rupture of membranes (ARM), oxytocics and prostaglandins were among the most commonly used induction methods. Artificial rupture of membranes was the most commonly used induction method among non-Indigenous mothers (66%), while for Indigenous mothers oxytocics were the most commonly used induction method (55%).

Presentation and method of birth

Of all NT mothers giving birth in 2005, 62% gave birth via spontaneous vaginal deliveries (SVD). Spontaneous vaginal deliveries were higher among Indigenous than non-Indigenous mothers (69% and 59% respectively). Caesarean sections were performed for over a quarter of all mothers, with 14% being elective and 15% emergency. Non-Indigenous mothers were more likely to have a caesarean than

Indigenous mothers (32% and 25% respectively), and more than twice as likely to have an elective caesarean (17% and 8% for non-Indigenous and Indigenous mothers respectively). The use of forceps or ventouse (vacuum suction) in childbirth was 6%, which was higher for non-Indigenous mothers (7%) than Indigenous mothers (4%). Vaginal breech accounted for less than 1% of all births.

Vertex presentation was seen in the overwhelming majority of mothers (95%) and breech presentation was seen among 5% of mothers. All other presentations accounted for less than 1% of mothers. Caesarean section was the most common birth method for breech presentations, except for very preterm births which were mostly delivered vaginally.

Among all hospitals in the NT, DPH had the highest caesarean rate (44%) and the lowest proportion of spontaneous vaginal births (43%).

The main reason for elective caesarean sections was previous caesarean (54%) and for emergency caesareans; failure to progress during labour (44%) and fetal distress (35%). Non-Indigenous mothers were more likely than Indigenous mothers to undergo an emergency caesarean due to failure to progress (47% and 39% respectively).

Analgesia for labour and anaesthesia for childbirth

The majority of mothers who had spontaneous or induced onset of labour used analgesia (76%), and analgesia use was slightly higher among non-Indigenous mothers than Indigenous mothers (79% and 71% respectively). Anaesthesia was applied in the vast majority of operative births. Non-Indigenous women were more than twice as likely as Indigenous women to use epidural or caudal as anaesthesia (32% and 15% respectively). Conversely, a higher use of spinal anaesthesia was seen among Indigenous women than non-Indigenous women (63% and 47% respectively).

Labour complications and perineal status

A complication of labour and birth occurred for 41% of all mothers. Complications were higher for Indigenous mothers than non-Indigenous mothers (48% and 37% respectively). Post-partum haemorrhage was the most common complication for Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers. Fetal distress and meconium stained liquor were also relatively common complications.

Just under half (45%) the women who gave birth vaginally had an intact perineum after childbirth. Forty five per cent of women had some degree of perineal laceration, with only 1% having a third or fourth degree tear. Episiotomy was performed on 9% of women. Indigenous mothers were more likely than non-Indigenous mothers to have an intact perineum (50% and 42% respectively).

Postnatal hospital stay

The majority of mothers who gave birth in hospital also stayed in hospital following the birth. Most stays were for less than one week and only 5% of women stayed for eight or more days. The average length of stay was 3.7 days. Not surprisingly, mothers who had a caesarean had longer stays than mothers who had vaginal births.

Indigenous mothers were more likely than non-Indigenous mothers to have a hospital stay and more likely to stay for eight or more days. The median length of stay for emergency caesarean was 1.5 days longer for Indigenous mothers compared to non-Indigenous mothers. The overall average length of stay for all birth methods was only slightly longer among Indigenous mothers compared to non-Indigenous mothers.

Babies

Birth status

In 2005, 3699 babies were born in the NT. Of these, 103 were born to mothers who were not NT residents. Of the 3596 babies born to NT mothers during 2005, 41 were stillbirths and 3555 were livebirths. Similar numbers of stillbirths were born to Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers, but the stillbirth rate was higher for Indigenous births. Most stillbirths had extremely low birthweight of less than 1000 grams (51%) and were very preterm, being born before 28 weeks' gestation (46%).

Plurality

There were 46 multiple births in 2005 (including sets of twins and triplets). Multiple births were less common among Indigenous mothers than non-Indigenous mothers (0.8% and 1.6% of all births respectively).

Preterm and low birthweight livebirths

Altogether there were 369 (10%) livebirths born preterm (gestational age less than 37 weeks). Proportionally there were almost twice as many preterm babies born to Indigenous mothers (15%) than to non-Indigenous mothers (8%). Twenty two of the 28 babies in the very preterm category (less than 28 weeks' gestation) were born to Indigenous mothers.

Of livebirths, the proportion of low birthweight babies less than 2500 grams was 9% for the NT. Babies of Indigenous mothers (14%) were twice as likely to have a low birthweight than babies of non-Indigenous mothers (7%). The difference was also seen in very low birthweight babies (less than 1500 grams). Almost 3% of babies born to Indigenous mothers were in this category compared to 1% of babies born to non-Indigenous mothers. Indigenous mothers who resided in Darwin Rural and East Arnhem had the highest percentage of low birthweight babies (18% and 17% respectively). In each district, Indigenous mothers were more likely to have low birthweight babies than non-Indigenous mothers (except for the Barkly district where the result must be viewed with caution due to the very small number of non-Indigenous births in the region).

Among singleton livebirths, the proportion of low birthweight among full term babies was 5% of those born to Indigenous mothers and 2% of those born to non-Indigenous mothers. For those born preterm (28-36 weeks' gestation) there were proportionally more babies of at least 2500 grams among non-Indigenous mothers compared to Indigenous mothers (45% and 38% respectively).

Apgar scores

An Apgar score is a clinical indicator of the condition of the baby at the time of birth. Five physical signs are assigned a score between 0 and 2, and the highest score is 10. A score of 7-10 indicates a healthy baby. By five minutes after birth there was only 3% of babies with an Apgar score below seven and there were only slight differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous babies (4% and 2% respectively).

Resuscitation of livebirths

Almost half of the babies born alive received some form of resuscitation (43%), excluding tactile stimulation. Resuscitation rates were similar for babies born to Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers (45% and 41% respectively). Methods such as intubation and intermittent positive pressure ventilation (IPPV) or cardiac massage

and ventilation (1%), were not commonly used or applied on their own. The most common methods of resuscitation were suction (17%) or facial oxygen (16%).

Neonatal and perinatal mortality

Neonatal mortality refers to a death of a life-born baby within the twenty-eight days of life. Perinatal mortality includes stillbirth and neonatal deaths.

In 2005 there were 65 perinatal deaths in the NT, including 41 stillbirths and 24 neonatal deaths. The stillbirth rate for Indigenous babies was higher than the rate for non-Indigenous babies (14 and 10 stillbirths per 1000 births respectively). The Indigenous neonatal death rate was over six times the non-Indigenous death rate. This led to an overall Indigenous perinatal death rate over twice that of the non-Indigenous rate (28 and 12 deaths per 1000 births respectively).

Statistical tables

Mothers

Table 1. Total births in the NT, by Indigenous status and district of usual residence, 2005

District	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	mothers	babies	mothers	babies	mothers	babies
Darwin Urban	217	222	1579	1607	1796	1829
Darwin Rural	259	262	59	59	318	321
Katherine	227	227	129	131	356	358
East Arnhem	213	213	84	85	297	298
Barkly	87	88	28	30	115	118
Alice Springs Urban	119	120	328	331	447	451
Alice Springs Rural	196	197	21	21	217	218
District not stated	2	2	1	1	3	3
NT total	1320	1331	2229	2265	3549	3596
Interstates	65	65	37	38	102	103
Total	1385	1396	2266	2303	3651	3699

Table 2. Summary statistics, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005

		Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
ALL	Total	1320	100.0	2229	100.0	3549	100.0
MOTHERS	Maternal age						
	<20	337	25.5	121	5.4	458	12.9
	20-34	902	68.3	1666	74.7	2568	72.4
	35+	76	5.8	434	19.5	510	14.4
	Place of birth						
	Hospital	1249	94.6	2213	99.3	3462	97.5
	Non-hospital	71	5.4	16	0.7	87	2.5
	Type of labour onset						
	Spontaneous	948	71.8	1273	57.1	2221	62.6
	Induced	212	16.1	535	24.0	747	21.0
	No labour	160	12.1	421	18.9	581	16.4
	Method of birth						
	Spontaneous vaginal	905	68.6	1306	58.6	2211	62.3
	Vaginal breech	12	0.9	12	0.5	24	0.7
	Forceps	19	1.4	55	2.5	74	2.1
	Ventouse	49	3.7	153	6.9	202	5.7
	Caesarean section	335	25.4	703	31.5	1038	29.2
FIRST-TIME	Total	406	100.0	1009	100.0	1415	100.0
MOTHERS	Maternal age						
	<20	245	60.3	106	10.5	351	24.8
	20-34	159	39.2	761	75.4	920	65.0
	35+	2	0.5	137	13.6	139	9.8
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE		2.6		2.0		2.2	

Table 3. Area of usual residence, by Indigenous status and, NT mothers, 2005

Area	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Urban area	449	34.1	2107	94.6	2556	72.1
Rural/remote area	869	65.9	121	5.4	990	27.9
Total stated	1318	100.0	2228	100.0	3546	100.0
Not stated	2		1		3	
Total	1320		2229		3549	

Note: Urban area covers the two urban districts Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy; rural-remote area covers the rest of the NT.

Table 4. District and area of usual residence, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005

District	Area	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Darwin Urban		217	16.5	1579	70.9	1796	50.6
Darwin Rural		259	19.7	59	2.6	318	9.0
Katherine	Urban	61	4.6	112	5.0	173	4.9
	Rural/remote	166	12.6	17	0.8	183	5.2
East Arnhem	Urban	8	0.6	61	2.7	69	1.9
	Rural/remote	205	15.6	23	1.0	228	6.4
Barkly	Urban	44	3.3	27	1.2	71	2.0
	Rural/remote	43	3.3	1	0.0	44	1.2
Alice Springs Urban		119	9.0	328	14.7	447	12.6
Alice Springs Rural		196	14.9	21	0.9	217	6.1
Total stated		1318	100.0	2228	100.0	3546	100.0
Not stated		2		1		3	
Total		1320		2229		3549	

Table 5. Total fertility rate, by Indigenous status and district of usual residence, NT mothers, 2005

District	Indigenous	non-Indigenous	All NT
Darwin Urban	2.5	2.0	2.1
Darwin Rural	2.7	2.3	2.6
Katherine	2.8	1.8	2.5
East Arnhem	2.5	2.4	2.6
Barkly	3.2	1.7	2.7
Alice Springs Urban	2.9	2.0	2.2
Alice Springs Rural	2.1	0.8	1.8
Total	2.6	2.0	2.2

Note: Total fertility rate is the average number of births per woman over her lifetime if she experiences the age-specific rates seen in 2005.

Table 6. Total fertility rate, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2005

Remoteness	Indigenous	non-Indigenous	All NT
Urban area	2.8	2.0	2.2
Rural/remote area	2.5	1.5	2.3
Total	2.6	2.0	2.2

Notes:

Total fertility rate is the average number of births per woman over her lifetime if she experiences the age-specific rates seen in 2005. Urban area covers the two urban districts Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy; rural-remote area covers the rest of the NT.

Table 7. Age-specific fertility rate and total fertility rate, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005

Indigenous status	Age specific fertility rate (births per 1000)			TFR
	<20 years	20-34 years	35+ years	
Indigenous	121.9	119.8	15.0	2.6
non-Indigenous	28.4	98.0	25.2	2.0
All NT	64.8	104.7	22.9	2.2

Note: Age-specific fertility rate is the number of 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.

Table 8. Maternal age, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005

Maternal age (years)	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<16	53	4.0	5	0.2	58	1.6
16-17	113	8.6	38	1.7	151	4.3
18-19	171	13.0	78	3.5	249	7.0
20-24	426	32.4	356	16.0	782	22.1
25-29	310	23.6	636	28.6	946	26.8
30-34	166	12.6	674	30.3	840	23.8
35-44	76	5.8	432	19.5	508	14.4
45+	0	0.0	2	0.1	2	0.1
Total stated	1315	100.0	2221	100.0	3536	100.0
Not stated	5		8		13	
Total	1320		2229		3549	
Mean age (years)	23.9		29.3		27.3	

Table 9. Maternal age, by Indigenous status and district of usual residence, NT mothers, 2005

District	Maternal age				All ages
	<20 years	20-34 years	35+ years	Not stated	
	%	%	%	%	Number
Indigenous					
Darwin Urban	18.9	72.8	8.3	0.0	217
Darwin Rural	26.6	64.5	6.9	1.9	259
Katherine	25.1	69.6	5.3	0.0	227
East Arnhem	27.7	68.1	4.2	0.0	213
Barkly	33.3	59.8	6.9	0.0	87
Alice Springs Urban	17.6	78.2	4.2	0.0	119
Alice Springs Rural	30.6	65.3	4.1	0.0	196
Not stated	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	2
Total	25.5	68.3	5.8	0.4	1320
Non-Indigenous					
Darwin Urban	5.4	74.9	19.4	0.4	1579
Darwin Rural	11.9	66.1	22.0	0.0	59
Katherine	7.0	77.5	15.5	0.0	129
East Arnhem	4.8	79.8	15.5	0.0	84
Barkly	3.6	89.3	7.1	0.0	28
Alice Springs Urban	4.3	72.0	23.2	0.6	328
Alice Springs Rural	4.8	76.2	19.0	0.0	21
Not stated	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	1
Total	5.4	74.7	19.5	0.4	2229
All NT	12.9	72.4	14.4	0.4	3549

Table 10. Maternal age, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2005

Area	Maternal age				All ages
	<20 years	20-34 years	35+ years	Not stated	Number
	%	%	%	%	
Indigenous					
Urban area	19.2	73.9	6.9	0.0	449
Rural/remote area	28.8	65.5	5.2	0.6	869
Not stated	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	2
Total	25.5	68.3	5.8	0.4	1320
Non-Indigenous					
Urban area	5.3	74.9	19.5	0.4	2107
Rural/remote area	8.3	71.9	19.8	0.0	121
Not stated	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	1
Total	5.4	74.7	19.5	0.4	2229

Note: Urban area covers the two urban districts Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy; rural-remote area covers the rest of the NT.

Table 11. Maternal parity, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005

Parity	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0	406	30.8	1009	45.3	1415	39.9
1-2	564	42.7	1035	46.4	1599	45.1
3+	350	26.5	185	8.3	535	15.1
Total	1320	100.0	2229	100.0	3549	100.0

Notes: Parity is the number of previous births a woman has had of at least 20 weeks duration

Table 12. Maternal age, by Indigenous status, NT first-time mothers, 2005

Maternal age (years)	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<16	51	12.6	5	0.5	56	4.0
16-17	95	23.4	37	3.7	132	9.4
18-19	99	24.4	64	6.4	163	11.6
20-24	117	28.8	192	19.1	309	21.9
25-29	28	6.9	288	28.7	316	22.4
30-34	14	3.4	281	28.0	295	20.9
35-44	2	0.5	136	13.5	138	9.8
45+	0	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.1
Total stated	406	100.0	1004	100.0	1410	100.0
Not stated	0		5		5	
All ages	406		1009		1415	
Mean age (years)	19.5		27.9		25.5	

Table 13. Antenatal visits, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005

Number of antenatal visits	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0	25	1.9	0	0.0	25	0.7
1 - 3	182	14.2	58	2.6	240	6.8
4 - 7	329	25.6	306	13.8	635	18.1
8 & more	750	58.3	1856	83.6	2606	74.3
Total stated	1286	100.0	2220	100.0	3506	100.0
Not stated	34		9		43	
Total	1320		2229		3549	

Table 14. Antenatal visits, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers, 2005

District	Number of antenatal visits				Total stated	Not stated	Total
	0	1 - 3	4 - 7	8+			
	%	%	%	%	Number	Number	Number
Darwin Urban	1.4	19.3	25.5	53.8	212	5	217
Darwin Rural	1.6	9.8	22.0	66.7	255	4	259
Katherine	0.9	5.5	20.1	73.5	219	8	227
East Arnhem	1.0	10.9	26.7	61.4	202	11	213
Barkly	3.5	15.1	39.5	41.9	86	1	87
Alice Springs Urban	0.9	10.3	25.0	63.8	116	3	119
Alice Springs Rural	5.2	29.4	29.4	36.1	194	2	196
Not stated	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	2	0	2
Total	1.9	14.2	25.6	58.3	1286	34	1320

Table 15. Antenatal visits, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2005

Area	Number of antenatal visits				Total stated	Not stated	Total
	0	1 - 3	4 - 7	8+			
	%	%	%	%	Number	Number	Number
Indigenous							
Urban area	1.6	15.5	25.2	57.7	440	9	449
Rural/remote area	2.1	13.5	25.7	58.6	844	25	869
Not stated	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	2	0	2
Total	1.9	14.2	25.6	58.3	1286	34	1320
Non-Indigenous							
Urban area	0.0	2.4	13.4	84.1	2098	9	2107
Rural/remote area	0.0	5.8	19.8	74.4	121	0	121
Not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	1	0	1
Total	0.0	2.6	13.8	83.6	2220	9	2229

Note: Urban area covers the two urban districts Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy; rural-remote area covers the rest of the NT.

Table 16. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by Indigenous status, NT mothers with at least one visit, 2005

Gestation at first antenatal visit	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
First trimester	459	37.9	1210	56.3	1669	49.6
Second trimester	549	45.3	809	37.6	1358	40.4
Third trimester	204	16.8	131	6.1	335	10.0
Total stated	1212	100.0	2150	100.0	3362	100.0
Not stated	49		70		119	
Total	1261		2220		3481	

Note: First trimester is less than 13 weeks gestation; second trimester is 13-26 weeks gestation; third trimester is 27 weeks or more gestation.

Table 17. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers with at least one visit, 2005

District	Gestation at first antenatal visit			Total stated	Not stated	Total
	First trimester	Second trimester	Third trimester			
	%	%	%	Number	Number	Number
Darwin Urban	30.2	48.2	21.6	199	10	209
Darwin Rural	46.1	44.0	10.0	241	10	251
Katherine	45.5	42.7	11.8	211	6	217
East Arnhem	31.3	52.8	15.9	195	5	200
Barkly	25.6	52.6	21.8	78	5	83
Alice Springs Urban	48.6	43.1	8.3	109	6	115
Alice Springs Rural	32.2	37.3	30.5	177	7	184
Not stated	50.0	0.0	50.0	2	0	2
Total	37.9	45.3	16.8	1212	49	1261

Note: First trimester is less than 13 weeks gestation; second trimester is 13-26 weeks gestation; third trimester is 27 weeks or more gestation.

Table 18. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers with at least one visit, 2005

Area	Gestation at first antenatal visit			Total stated	Not stated	Total
	First trimester	Second trimester	Third trimester			
	%	%	%	Number	Number	Number
Indigenous						
Urban area	38.2	45.3	16.5	411	22	433
Rural/remote area	37.7	45.4	16.9	799	27	826
Not stated	50.0	0.0	50.0	2	0	2
Total	37.9	45.3	16.8	1212	49	1261
Non-Indigenous						
Urban area	56.0	37.8	6.2	2031	67	2098
Rural/remote area	61.0	33.9	5.1	118	3	121
Not stated	0.0	100.0	0.0	1	0	1
Total	56.3	37.6	6.1	2150	70	2220

Notes:

First trimester is less than 13 weeks gestation; second trimester is 13-26 weeks gestation; third trimester is 27 weeks or more gestation. Urban area covers the two urban districts Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy; rural-remote area covers the rest of the NT.

Table 19. Self-reported alcohol consumption, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005

	Alcohol consumption	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
At first visit	Alcohol	140	13.0	167	8.1	307	9.7
	Non-alcohol	940	87.0	1904	91.9	2844	90.3
	Total stated	1080	100.0	2071	100.0	3151	100.0
	Not stated	240		158		398	
	Total	1320		2229		3549	
At 36 Weeks	Alcohol	86	8.7	70	3.6	156	5.4
	Non-alcohol	903	91.3	1855	96.4	2758	94.6
	Total stated	989	100.0	1925	100.0	2914	100.0
	Not stated	331		304		635	
	Total	1320		2229		3549	

Table 20. Self-reported smoking status, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005

	Smoking status	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
At first visit	Smoking	615	53.9	488	22.7	1103	33.5
	Non-smoking	525	46.1	1665	77.3	2190	66.5
	Total stated	1140	100.0	2153	100.0	3293	100.0
	Not stated	180		76		256	
	Total	1320		2229		3549	
At 36 Weeks	Smoking	507	48.3	353	17.7	860	28.2
	Non-smoking	542	51.7	1643	82.3	2185	71.8
	Total stated	1049	100.0	1996	100.0	3045	100.0
	Not stated	271		233		504	
	Total	1320		2229		3549	

Table 21. Self-reported smoking status, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2005

Area	Smoker	Non-smoker	Total stated	Not stated	Total
	%	%	Number	Number	Number
Smoking status at first visit					
Indigenous					
Urban area	55.5	44.5	411	38	449
Rural/remote area	53.1	46.9	727	142	869
Not stated	50.0	50.0	2	0	2
Total	53.9	46.1	1140	180	1320
Non-Indigenous					
Urban area	22.6	77.4	2036	71	2107
Rural/remote area	23.3	76.7	116	5	121
Not stated	0.0	100.0	1	0	1
Total	22.7	77.3	2153	76	2229
Smoking status at 36 weeks					
Indigenous					
Urban area	46.9	53.1	371	78	449
Rural/remote area	49.1	50.9	676	193	869
Not stated	50.0	50.0	2	0	2
Total	48.3	51.7	1049	271	1320
Non-Indigenous					
Urban area	17.5	82.5	1885	222	2107
Rural/remote area	21.8	78.2	110	11	121
Not stated	0.0	100.0	1	0	1
Total	17.7	82.3	1996	233	2229

Note: Urban area covers the two urban districts Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy; rural-remote area covers the rest of the NT.

Table 22. Self-reported smoking status, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers, 2005

District	Smoker	Non-smoker	Total stated	Not stated	Total
	%	%	Number	Number	Number
Smoking status at first visit					
Darwin Urban	59.1	40.9	198	19	217
Darwin Rural	57.3	42.7	225	34	259
Katherine	58.8	41.2	211	16	227
East Arnhem	60.2	39.8	166	47	213
Barkly	57.1	42.9	77	10	87
Alice Springs Urban	44.4	55.6	108	11	119
Alice Springs Rural	34.0	66.0	153	43	196
Not stated	50.0	50.0	2	0	2
Total	53.9	46.1	1140	180	1320
Smoking status at 36 weeks					
Darwin Urban	49.4	50.6	168	49	217
Darwin Rural	54.2	45.8	201	58	259
Katherine	55.2	44.8	201	26	227
East Arnhem	55.1	44.9	158	55	213
Barkly	47.8	52.2	69	18	87
Alice Springs Urban	37.9	62.1	103	16	119
Alice Springs Rural	29.9	70.1	147	49	196
Not stated	50.0	50.0	2	0	2
Total	48.3	51.7	1049	271	1320

Table 23. Actual place of giving birth, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005

Actual place of giving birth	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
RDH	550	41.7	1019	45.7	1569	44.2
DPH	11	0.8	645	28.9	656	18.5
GDH	131	9.9	66	3.0	197	5.6
KH	164	12.4	116	5.2	280	7.9
TCH	12	0.9	5	0.2	17	0.5
ASH	381	28.9	362	16.2	743	20.9
Health centres	48	3.6	1	0.0	49	1.4
Planned homes	0	0.0	9	0.4	9	0.3
In transit	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	23	1.7	6	0.3	29	0.8
Total	1320	100.0	2229	100.0	3549	100.0

Note: Hospital names are as follows: Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH), Darwin Private Hospital (DPH), Gove District Hospital (GDH), Katherine Hospital (KH), Tennant Creek Hospital (TCH), Alice Springs Hospital (ASH).

Table 24. Actual place of giving birth, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers, 2005

District	Actual place of giving birth			Total
	Hospital	Health centres	Others*	Number
	%	%	%	
Darwin Urban	97.2	0.9	1.8	217
Darwin Rural	92.7	6.2	1.2	259
Katherine	95.6	3.5	0.9	227
East Arnhem	89.7	5.6	4.7	213
Barkly	96.6	0.0	3.4	87
Alice Springs Urban	100.0	0.0	0.0	119
Alice Springs Rural	94.9	4.6	0.5	196
Not stated	50.0	50.0	0.0	2
Total	94.6	3.6	1.7	1320

Note: *Others include other and in transit. No Indigenous woman had a planned homebirth.

Table 25. Type of labour onset, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005

Type of labour onset	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Spontaneous	948	71.8	1273	57.1	2221	62.6
Induced	212	16.1	535	24.0	747	21.0
No labour	160	12.1	421	18.9	581	16.4
Total	1320	100.0	2229	100.0	3549	100.0

Table 26. Methods of induction, by Indigenous status, NT mothers having induced onset of labour, 2005

Method of induction	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
ARM	115	54.2	345	66.3	460	62.8
Oxytocics	117	55.2	311	59.8	428	58.5
Prostaglandins	91	42.9	219	42.1	310	42.3
Other methods	6	2.8	9	1.7	15	2.0
Total stated	212		520		732	
Not stated	0		15		15	
Total	212		535		747	

Note: Multiple methods may be applied to one mother. ARM stands for artificial rupture of membranes.

Table 27. Birth presentation, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005

Presentation at birth	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Vertex	1265	95.8	2090	93.8	3355	94.5
Breech	49	3.7	122	5.5	171	4.8
Face	1	0.1	3	0.1	4	0.1
Brow	0	0.0	5	0.2	5	0.1
Other	5	0.4	9	0.4	14	0.4
Total	1320	100.0	2229	100.0	3549	100.0

Table 28. Method of birth, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005

Method of birth	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Spontaneous vaginal	905	68.6	1306	58.6	2211	62.3
Vaginal breech	12	0.9	12	0.5	24	0.7
Forceps	19	1.4	55	2.5	74	2.1
Ventouse	49	3.7	153	6.9	202	5.7
Elective caesarean	111	8.4	382	17.1	493	13.9
Emergency caesarean	224	17.0	321	14.4	545	15.4
Total	1320	100.0	2229	100.0	3549	100.0

Table 29. Method of birth, by type of labour onset, NT mothers, 2005

Type of labour onset	Method of birth				Total
	Spontaneous vaginal	Assisted vaginal	CS-elective	CS-emergency	
	%	%	%	%	Number
Spontaneous	76.1	9.1	0.9	13.9	2221
Induced	69.6	13.1	0.0	17.3	747
No labour	0.0	0.0	81.6	18.4	581
Total	62.3	8.5	13.9	15.4	3549

Note: Assisted vaginal births include vaginal breech, forceps and ventouse.

Table 30. Method of birth, by gestational age, NT mothers with breech presentation, 2005

Method of birth	Gestational age (weeks)						Total	
	< 28		28 - 36		37 +		Number	%
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%		
Vaginal breech	12	80.0	10	23.3	2	1.8	24	14.0
Elective caesarean	1	6.7	4	9.3	81	71.7	86	50.3
Emergency caesarean	2	13.3	29	67.4	30	26.5	61	35.7
Total	15	100.0	43	100.0	113	100.0	171	100.0

Table 31. Method of birth, by hospital, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2005

Hospital	Method of birth						Total
	Spontaneous vaginal		Forceps	Ventouse	Elective caesarean	Emergency caesarean	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	Number
RDH	62.5	0.6	0.7	7.5	11.4	17.4	1569
DPH	42.7	0.2	5.2	8.1	32.6	11.3	656
GDH	75.1	0.0	0.0	2.5	8.1	14.2	197
KH	68.6	0.7	0.4	4.6	9.6	16.1	280
TCH	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17
ASH	69.2	0.7	3.8	1.9	7.7	16.8	743
All hospitals	61.6	0.5	2.1	5.8	14.2	15.7	3462

Notes:

Hospital names are as follows: Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH), Darwin Private Hospital (DPH), Gove District Hospital (GDH), Katherine Hospital (KH), Tennant Creek Hospital (TCH), Alice Springs Hospital (ASH).

Table 32. Indications for caesarean section, by Indigenous status, NT mothers giving birth via caesarean section, 2005

Type of indication	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<i>Elective caesarean</i>						
Previous caesarean [†]	76	68.5	187	49.7	263	54.0
Malpresentation [†]	14	12.6	69	18.4	83	17.0
Other	21	18.9	120	31.9	141	29.0
Total stated	111		376		487	
Not stated	0		6		6	
Total	111		382		493	
<i>Emergency caesarean</i>						
Failure to progress [†]	74	38.9	142	46.7	216	43.7
Fetal distress [†]	76	40.0	95	31.3	171	34.6
Malpresentation [†]	19	10.0	45	14.8	64	13.0
Ante-partum haemorrhage [†]	19	10.0	13	4.3	32	6.5
Cord prolapse [†]	0	0.0	2	0.7	2	0.4
Other ^{**}	25	13.2	38	12.5	63	12.8
Total stated	190		304		494	
Not stated	34		17		51	
Total	224		321		545	

Notes:

† Mothers may have more than one indication for caesarean section.

* Other indications for elective caesarean sections exclude previous caesarean and malpresentation.

** Other indications for emergency caesarean sections exclude failure to progress, fetal distress, malpresentation, ante-partum haemorrhage and cord prolapse.

Table 33. Method of analgesia, by Indigenous status, NT mothers with spontaneous or induced onset of labour, 2005

Analgesia: highest rank of method used	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
None	330	28.7	368	20.5	698	23.7
Nitrous oxide	329	28.7	478	26.6	807	27.4
Narcotics	307	26.7	452	25.1	759	25.8
Epidural/Caudal	88	7.7	340	18.9	428	14.5
Spinal	4	0.3	4	0.2	8	0.3
Other	90	7.8	156	8.7	246	8.4
Total stated	1148	100.0	1798	100.0	2946	100.0
Not stated	12		10		22	
Total	1160		1808		2968	

Table 34. Method of anaesthesia, by Indigenous status, NT mothers having operative birth, 2005

Anaesthesia: highest rank of method used	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
None	19	4.7	57	6.3	76	5.8
Local	29	7.2	28	3.1	57	4.3
Pudendal	1	0.2	16	1.8	17	1.3
Epidural/Caudal	62	15.4	289	31.7	351	26.7
Spinal	253	62.8	430	47.2	683	52.0
General	38	9.4	75	8.2	113	8.6
Other	1	0.2	16	1.8	17	1.3
Total	403	100.0	911	100.0	1314	100.0

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

Table 35. Complications due to pregnancy and/or childbirth, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2005

Type of complication	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Pregnancy						
Pre-eclampsia*	71	5.4	94	4.2	165	4.6
Childbirth						
Cord prolapse [†]	2	0.2	2	0.1	4	0.1
Fetal distress	150	11.4	232	10.4	382	10.8
Manual removal of placenta [†]	43	3.3	33	1.5	76	2.1
Meconium stained liquor	166	12.6	177	7.9	343	9.7
Obstructed labour	71	5.4	128	5.7	199	5.6
Post-partum haemorrhage [†]	248	18.8	232	10.4	480	13.5
Other**	138	10.5	181	8.1	319	9.0
Any complication	635	48.1	828	37.1	1463	41.2
Total births	1320	100.0	2229	100.0	3549	100.0

Notes:

(1) Mothers may have more than one complication.

[†] Validated data items.

* Pre-eclampsia includes hypertension in pregnancy.

** Other complications include ante-partum haemorrhage as well as other unclassified complications.

Table 36. State of the perineum, by Indigenous status, NT mothers having vaginal birth, 2005

State of the perineum	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Intact	492	49.9	637	41.7	1129	45.0
1st degree tear	255	25.9	408	26.7	663	26.4
2nd degree tear	157	15.9	282	18.5	439	17.5
3rd-4th degree tear	13	1.3	20	1.3	33	1.3
Episiotomy	55	5.6	161	10.6	216	8.6
Combined episiotomy & tear	13	1.3	18	1.2	31	1.2
Total	985	100.0	1526	100.0	2511	100.0

Note: Vaginal birth methods include spontaneous vaginal, vaginal breech, forceps and ventouse.

Table 37. Length of postnatal hospital stay, by Indigenous status, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2005

Length of postnatal stay (days)	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0	28	2.2	127	5.7	155	4.5
1 - 3	602	48.2	998	45.1	1600	46.2
4 - 7	496	39.7	1023	46.2	1519	43.9
8 & more	123	9.8	65	2.9	188	5.4
Total	1249	100.0	2213	100.0	3462	100.0

Table 38. Average length of postnatal hospital stay, by Indigenous status and method of birth, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2005

Method of birth	Indigenous	non-Indigenous	All NT
	Average length (days) of postnatal stay		
Spontaneous vaginal	3.2	2.7	2.9
Assisted	4.1	3.6	3.8
CS-elective	5.5	4.9	5.0
CS-emergency	6.5	5.0	5.6
Total	4.1	3.5	3.7

Note: Assisted vaginal birth methods include vaginal breech, forceps and ventouse.

Babies

Table 39. Summary statistics, by maternal Indigenous status, all babies born in the NT, 2005

	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
BIRTHS TO NT RESIDENTS						
Birth status						
Livebirths	1313	98.6	2242	99.0	3555	98.9
Stillbirths	18	1.4	23	1.0	41	1.1
Baby's sex						
Males	681	51.2	1159	51.2	1840	51.2
Females	649	48.8	1106	48.8	1755	48.8
Indeterminate	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.0
Plurality						
Singletons	1310	98.4	2193	96.8	3503	97.4
Multiples	21	1.6	72	3.2	93	2.6
Total	1331		2265		3596	
BIRTHS TO NON-NT RESIDENTS						
Birth status						
Livebirths	64	98.5	38	100.0	102	99.0
Stillbirths	1	1.5	0	0.0	1	1.0
Baby's sex						
Males	37	56.9	20	52.6	57	55.3
Females	28	43.1	18	47.4	46	44.7
Indeterminate	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Plurality						
Singletons	65	100.0	36	94.7	101	98.1
Multiples	0	0.0	2	5.3	2	1.9
Total	65		38		103	
ALL BIRTHS						
Birth status						
Livebirths	1377	98.6	2280	99.0	3657	98.9
Stillbirths	19	1.4	23	1.0	42	1.1
Baby's sex						
Males	718	51.4	1179	51.2	1897	51.3
Females	677	48.5	1124	48.8	1801	48.7
Indeterminate	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.0
Plurality						
Singletons	1375	98.5	2229	96.8	3604	97.4
Multiples	21	1.5	74	3.2	95	2.6
Total	1396		2303		3699	

Table 40. Area of mother's usual residence, by maternal Indigenous status, NT babies, 2005

Area	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Urban area	456	34.3	2143	94.7	2599	72.3
Rural/remote area	873	65.7	121	5.3	994	27.7
Total stated	1329	100.0	2264	100.0	3593	100.0
Not stated	2		1		3	
Total	1331		2265		3596	

Note: Urban area covers the two urban districts Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy; rural-remote area covers the rest of the NT.

Table 41. District and area of mother's usual residence, by maternal Indigenous status, NT babies, 2005

District	Area	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Darwin Urban		222	16.7	1607	71.0	1829	50.9
Darwin Rural		262	19.7	59	2.6	321	8.9
Katherine	Urban	61	4.6	114	5.0	175	4.9
	Rural/remote	166	12.5	17	0.8	183	5.1
East Arnhem	Urban	8	0.6	62	2.7	70	1.9
	Rural/remote	205	15.4	23	1.0	228	6.3
Barkly	Urban	45	3.4	29	1.3	74	2.1
	Rural/remote	43	3.2	1	0.0	44	1.2
Alice Springs Urban		120	9.0	331	14.6	451	12.6
Alice Springs Rural		197	14.8	21	0.9	218	6.1
Total stated		1329	100.0	2264	100.0	3593	100.0
Not stated		2		1		3	
Total		1331		2265		3596	

Note: Urban area covers the two urban districts Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy; rural-remote area covers the rest of the NT.

Table 42. Gestational age, by maternal Indigenous status and birth status, NT babies, 2005

Gestational age (weeks)	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Stillbirths						
<28	9	50.0	10	43.5	19	46.3
28 - 36	5	27.8	10	43.5	15	36.6
37 - 41	4	22.2	3	13.0	7	17.1
42+	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	18	100.0	23	100.0	41	100.0
Livebirths						
<28	22	1.7	6	0.3	28	0.8
28 - 36	171	13.0	170	7.6	341	9.6
37 - 41	1108	84.4	2059	91.8	3167	89.1
42+	12	0.9	7	0.3	19	0.5
Total	1313	100.0	2242	100.0	3555	100.0
All births						
<28	31	2.3	16	0.7	47	1.3
28 - 36	176	13.2	180	7.9	356	9.9
37 - 41	1112	83.5	2062	91.0	3174	88.3
42+	12	0.9	7	0.3	19	0.5
Total	1331	100.0	2265	100.0	3596	100.0

Table 43. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and birth status, NT babies, 2005

Birthweight (g)	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Stillbirths						
<1000	11	61.1	10	43.5	21	51.2
1000 - 1499	1	5.6	4	17.4	5	12.2
1500 - 2499	1	5.6	5	21.7	6	14.6
2500+	5	27.8	4	17.4	9	22.0
Total	18	100.0	23	100.0	41	100.0
Mean birthweight (g)	1303		1329		1318	
Livebirths						
<1000	21	1.6	7	0.3	28	0.8
1000 - 1499	16	1.2	18	0.8	34	1.0
1500 - 2499	149	11.3	126	5.6	275	7.7
2500+	1127	85.8	2089	93.3	3216	90.5
Total stated	1313	100.0	2240	100.0	3553	100.0
Not stated	0		2		2	
Total	1313		2242		3555	
Mean birthweight (g)	3096		3336		3248	
All births						
<1000	32	2.4	17	0.8	49	1.4
1000 - 1499	17	1.3	22	1.0	39	1.1
1500 - 2499	150	11.3	131	5.8	281	7.8
2500+	1132	85.0	2093	92.5	3225	89.7
Total stated	1331	100.0	2263	100.0	3594	100.0
Not stated	0		2		2	
Total	1331		2265		3596	
Mean birthweight (g)	3072		3316		3226	

Table 44. Gestational age, by maternal Indigenous status and district of mother's usual residence, NT livebirths, 2005

District	Gestational age (weeks)			Total
	<37	37-41	42+	Number
	%	%	%	
Indigenous				
Darwin Urban	14.2	84.0	1.8	219
Darwin Rural	17.5	82.1	0.4	257
Katherine	12.9	85.7	1.3	224
East Arnhem	19.8	79.7	0.5	212
Barkly	15.3	83.5	1.2	85
Alice Springs Urban	10.9	89.1	0.0	119
Alice Springs Rural	10.3	88.7	1.0	195
District not stated	0.0	100.0	0.0	2
Total	14.7	84.4	0.9	1313
non-Indigenous				
Darwin Urban	8.1	91.6	0.3	1591
Darwin Rural	5.3	94.7	0.0	57
Katherine	10.8	88.5	0.8	130
East Arnhem	5.9	92.9	1.2	85
Barkly	17.2	82.8	0.0	29
Alice Springs Urban	6.1	93.6	0.3	328
Alice Springs Rural	0.0	100.0	0.0	21
District not stated	0.0	100.0	0.0	1
Total	7.9	91.8	0.3	2242

Table 45. Gestational age, by maternal Indigenous status and area of mother's usual residence, NT livebirths, 2005

Area	Gestational age (weeks)			Total
	<37	37-41	42+	Number
	%	%	%	
Indigenous				
Urban area	13.4	85.7	0.9	447
Rural-remote area	15.4	83.7	0.9	864
Not stated	0.0	100.0	0.0	2
Total	14.7	84.4	0.9	1313
non-Indigenous				
Urban area	8.0	91.7	0.3	2122
Rural-remote area	5.0	95.0	0.0	119
Not stated	0.0	100.0	0.0	1
Total	7.9	91.8	0.3	2242

Note: Urban area covers the two urban districts Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy; rural-remote area covers the rest of the NT.

Table 46. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and district of mother's usual residence, NT livebirths, 2005

District	Birthweight (g)				Total stated Number	Not stated Number	Total Number	Mean birthweight (g)
	<1500 %	1500-2499 %	2500-3999 %	4000+ %				
Indigenous								
Darwin Urban	3.7	10.5	75.8	10.0	219	0	219	3135
Darwin Rural	3.9	14.0	77.4	4.7	257	0	257	3024
Katherine	3.1	10.7	76.8	9.4	224	0	224	3097
East Arnhem	4.2	12.7	77.8	5.2	212	0	212	2981
Barkly	0.0	12.9	76.5	10.6	85	0	85	3171
Alice Springs Urban	1.7	10.1	79.0	9.2	119	0	119	3204
Alice Springs Rural	0.5	8.2	85.1	6.2	195	0	195	3172
Not stated	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	2	0	2	3188
Total	2.8	11.3	78.4	7.5	1313	0	1313	3096
non-Indigenous								
Darwin Urban	1.3	5.9	82.7	10.1	1589	2	1591	3325
Darwin Rural	0.0	3.5	91.2	5.3	57	0	57	3289
Katherine	3.1	6.2	82.3	8.5	130	0	130	3239
East Arnhem	0.0	4.7	76.5	18.8	85	0	85	3465
Barkly	0.0	13.8	79.3	6.9	29	0	29	3151
Alice Springs Urban	0.3	4.3	80.5	14.9	328	0	328	3405
Alice Springs Rural	0.0	0.0	76.2	23.8	21	0	21	3550
Not stated	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	1	0	1	3770
Total	1.1	5.6	82.2	11.0	2240	2	2242	3336

Table 47. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and area of mother's usual residence, NT livebirths, 2005

Area	Birthweight (g)				Total stated Number	Not stated Number	Total Number	Mean birthweight (g)
	<1500 %	1500-2499 %	2500-3999 %	4000+ %				
Indigenous								
Urban area	2.9	11.0	75.6	10.5	447	0	447	3146
Rural/remote area	2.8	11.6	79.7	5.9	864	0	864	3070
Not stated	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	2	0	2	3188
Total	2.8	11.3	78.4	7.5	1313	0	1313	3096
non-Indigenous								
Urban area	1.2	5.7	82.1	10.9	2120	2	2122	3334
Rural/remote area	0.0	4.2	83.2	12.6	119	0	119	3369
Not stated	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	1	0	1	3770
Total	1.1	5.6	82.2	11.0	2240	2	2242	3336

Note: Urban area covers the two urban districts Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy; rural-remote area covers the rest of the NT.

Table 48. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and gestational age, NT singleton livebirths, 2005

Gestational age (weeks)	Birthweight (g)				Total stated Number	Not stated Number	Total Number	Mean birthweight (g)
	<1500 %	1500-2499 %	2500-3999 %	4000+ %				
Indigenous								
<28	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20	0	20	783
28 - 36	7.6	54.4	37.3	0.6	158	0	158	2336
37 - 41	0.0	4.9	86.6	8.5	1102	0	1102	3260
42+	0.0	0.0	75.0	25.0	12	0	12	3568
Total	2.5	11.0	80.3	7.7	1292	0	1292	3111
non-Indigenous								
<28	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4	0	4	806
28 - 36	10.5	44.8	43.4	1.4	143	0	143	2367
37 - 41	0.0	1.7	86.2	12.0	2019	2	2021	3439
42+	0.0	0.0	85.7	14.3	7	0	7	3617
Total	0.9	4.5	83.4	11.3	2173	2	2175	3364

Table 49. Apgar scores at 5 minutes, by maternal Indigenous status, NT livebirths, 2005

Apgar score at 5 minutes	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0 - 3	16	1.2	3	0.1	19	0.5
4 - 6	30	2.3	42	1.9	72	2.0
7 - 10	1263	96.5	2197	98.0	3460	97.4
Total stated	1309	100.0	2242	100.0	3551	100.0
Not stated	4		0		4	
Total	1313		2242		3555	

Table 50. Methods of resuscitation, by maternal Indigenous status, NT livebirths, 2005

Resuscitation: highest rank of method used	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
None	720	54.8	1313	58.6	2033	57.2
Suction	204	15.5	387	17.3	591	16.6
Oxygen therapy	229	17.4	326	14.6	555	15.6
IPPR through bag & mask	130	9.9	196	8.8	326	9.2
Endotracheal intubation & IPPV	22	1.7	12	0.5	34	1.0
ECM & ventilation	5	0.4	2	0.1	7	0.2
Other	3	0.2	4	0.2	7	0.2
Total stated	1313	100.0	2240	100.0	3553	100.0
Not stated	0		2		2	
Total of livebirths	1313		2242		3555	

Note: Resuscitation methods exclude tactile stimulation. IPPR stands for intermittent positive pressure resuscitation; IPPV stands for intermittent positive pressure ventilation; ECM stands for external cardiac massage.

Table 51. Numbers and rates of stillbirth, neonatal death and perinatal death, by Indigenous status, NT babies, 2005

	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Stillbirths	18	13.5	23	10.2	41	11.4
Neonatal deaths	19	14.5	5	2.2	24	6.8
Perinatal deaths	37	27.8	28	12.4	65	18.1

Notes:

Rate of stillbirth or perinatal death is the number of deaths per 1000 total births; rate of neonatal death is the number of deaths per 1000 livebirths.

Stillbirths are by maternal Indigenous status and neonatal deaths are by Indigenous status of the babies. Perinatal deaths are therefore a mix of maternal and baby's Indigenous status.

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Glossary

Note: for more comprehensive glossary please see Australian's Mothers and Babies 2005.⁵

Age-specific fertility rate: The number of births per individual within a specific age interval during a specified time.

Apgar score: numerical score used to indicate the baby's condition at one minute and five minutes after birth. Between 0 and 2 points are 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 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. Low weight births can be classified at the following levels:

- **Low birthweight:** less than 2500 grams
- **Very low birthweight:** less than 1500 grams
- **Extremely low birthweight:** less than 1000 grams.

Born before arrival: a term used for deliveries which occur before reaching the hospital.

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 (planned or unplanned) performed before the onset of labour, usually due to health risks to the mother or baby.
- **Emergency caesarean section:** A caesarean section performed after the onset of labour, whether or not the onset of labour was spontaneous.

Epidural: injection of anaesthetic agent into the epidural space of the spinal cord.

Episiotomy: an incision of the perineum and vagina to enlarge the vulval orifice. An incision of the perineum and vagina that enlarge the introitus and lessens the curve of the birth canal.

Forceps: assisted 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 weeks, calculated from the date of the first day of women's last menstrual period to her baby's date of birth. Each birth can be categorized, according to fetal gestational age, into:

- **Preterm baby:** A baby born before 37 completed weeks of gestation;
- **Term baby:** A baby born from 37 completed weeks to less than 42 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.

Livebirth: the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a baby, irrespective of duration of pregnancy, which after separation shows signs of life.

Maternal age: mother's age in completed years at the birth of her baby.

Mother's length of hospital stay: number of days between admission date (during the admission resulting in a birth) and separation date (from the hospital where birth occurred). The interval is calculated by subtracting the date of admission 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 livebirths in that same year.

Parity: number of previous pregnancies resulting in livebirths or stillbirths, excluding the current pregnancy.

Perinatal death: a fetal or neonatal death of at least 20 weeks gestation or at least 400 grams birthweight.

Perinatal death rate: the sum of fetal deaths (stillbirths) and neonatal deaths in a year per 1000 total births in that same year.

Perineal status: status of the perineum after the birth. May involve surgical suturing of perineal laceration (tear) or episiotomy incision.

Plurality: the number of babies resulting from a pregnancy. According to plurality a pregnancy can be defined as either

- **Singleton birth:** with one baby; or
- **Multiple birth:** with more than one baby.

Presentation at birth: presenting part of the fetus at birth.

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 vaginal: birth without intervention in which the baby's head is the presenting part.

Stillbirth (Fetal death): death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception of 20 or more completed weeks of gestation or of 400 grams or more birthweight. The death is indicated by the fact that after such separation the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles.

Stillbirth rate: the number of fetal deaths (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 livebirths a woman would have if, throughout her reproductive years, she had children at the age-specific rates that were observed in any one year.

Ventouse (Vacuum extraction): assisted birth using a suction cap applied to the baby's head.

Vaginal breech: vaginal birth in which the baby's buttocks or lower limbs are the presenting parts.



Appendices

Appendix A. Hospital profiles

The profile table of each hospital includes all births occurred in that hospital in 2005, of mothers who were either NT resident or from interstate.

Royal Darwin Hospital

	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
MOTHERS	552		1032		1584	
Maternal age						
<20 years	123	22.3	81	7.8	204	12.9
20-34 years	390	70.7	796	77.1	1186	74.9
35+ years	39	7.1	155	15.0	194	12.2
Onset of labour						
Spontaneous onset	403	73.0	664	64.3	1067	67.4
Induced labour	68	12.3	213	20.6	281	17.7
No labour	81	14.7	155	15.0	236	14.9
Method of birth						
Spontaneous vaginal birth	348	63.0	643	62.3	991	62.6
Vaginal breech birth	2	0.4	7	0.7	9	0.6
Forceps birth	3	0.5	8	0.8	11	0.7
Ventouse birth	32	5.8	86	8.3	118	7.4
Elective caesarean	54	9.8	125	12.1	179	11.3
Emergency caesarean	113	20.5	163	15.8	276	17.4
Labour and childbirth complications						
Cord prolapse	1	0.2	1	0.1	2	0.1
Fetal distress	65	11.8	131	12.7	196	12.4
Manual removal of placenta	17	3.1	24	2.3	41	2.6
Meconium stained liquor	80	14.5	122	11.8	202	12.8
Obstructed labour	31	5.6	57	5.5	88	5.6
Post-partum haemorrhage	106	19.2	161	15.6	267	16.9
Pre-eclampsia	39	7.1	56	5.4	95	6.0
Others	56	10.1	89	8.6	145	9.2
Any complication	277	50.2	461	44.7	738	46.6
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH	385		744		1129	
Perineum status						
Intact	197	51.2	317	42.6	514	45.5
1st degree tear	86	22.3	186	25.0	272	24.1
2nd degree tear	63	16.4	150	20.2	213	18.9
3rd-4th degree tear	2	0.5	7	0.9	9	0.8
Episiotomy	28	7.3	75	10.1	103	9.1
Combined episiotomy & tear	9	2.3	9	1.2	18	1.6
BABIES	560		1046		1606	
Gestational age						
<28 weeks	22	3.9	12	1.1	34	2.1
28-36 weeks	90	16.1	94	9.0	184	11.5
37+ weeks	448	80.0	940	89.9	1388	86.4
Birthweight						
<1500g	32	5.7	23	2.2	55	3.4
1500-2499g	76	13.6	71	6.8	147	9.2
2500+g	452	80.7	952	91.0	1404	87.4
Birth status						
Livebirths	553	98.8	1033	98.8	1586	98.8
Stillbirths	7	1.3	13	1.2	20	1.2

Notes:

This table includes all births that occurred in RDH in 2005. An additional 35 births occurred before arrival at hospital.

Not stated category is not presented and so the total may differ from the sum of the variable components.

Darwin Private Hospital

	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
MOTHERS	11		662		673	
Maternal age						
<20 years	0	0.0	12	1.8	12	1.8
20-34 years	9	81.8	479	72.4	488	72.5
35+ years	2	18.2	171	25.8	173	25.7
Onset of labour						
Spontaneous onset	4	36.4	242	36.6	246	36.6
Induced labour	4	36.4	205	31.0	209	31.1
No labour	3	27.3	215	32.5	218	32.4
Method of birth						
Spontaneous vaginal birth	5	45.5	280	42.3	285	42.3
Vaginal breech birth	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.1
Forceps birth	0	0.0	35	5.3	35	5.2
Ventouse birth	2	18.2	54	8.2	56	8.3
Elective caesarean	3	27.3	215	32.5	218	32.4
Emergency caesarean	1	9.1	77	11.6	78	11.6
Labour and childbirth complications						
Cord prolapse	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.1
Fetal distress	1	9.1	50	7.6	51	7.6
Manual removal of placenta	0	0.0	4	0.6	4	0.6
Meconium stained liquor	0	0.0	12	1.8	12	1.8
Obstructed labour	1	9.1	29	4.4	30	4.5
Post-partum haemorrhage	0	0.0	22	3.3	22	3.3
Pre-eclampsia	1	9.1	20	3.0	21	3.1
Others	2	18.2	45	6.8	47	7.0
Any complication	4	36.4	164	24.8	168	25.0
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH	7		370		377	
Perineum status						
Intact	5	71.4	138	37.3	143	37.9
1st degree tear	1	14.3	118	31.9	119	31.6
2nd degree tear	0	0.0	40	10.8	40	10.6
3rd-4th degree tear	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Episiotomy	1	14.3	70	18.9	71	18.8
Combined episiotomy & tear	0	0.0	4	1.1	4	1.1
BABIES	11		679		690	
Gestational age						
<28 weeks	0	0.0	2	0.3	2	0.3
28-36 weeks	1	9.1	54	8.0	55	8.0
37+ weeks	10	90.9	623	91.8	633	91.7
Birthweight						
<1500g	0	0.0	14	2.1	14	2.0
1500-2499g	1	9.1	39	5.7	40	5.8
2500+g	10	90.9	626	92.2	636	92.2
Birth status						
Livebirths	11	100.0	674	99.3	685	99.3
Stillbirths	0	0.0	5	0.7	5	0.7

Notes:

This table includes all births occurred in DPH in 2005.

Not stated category is not presented and so the total may differ from the sum of the variable components.

Gove District Hospital

	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
MOTHERS	131		66		197	
Maternal age						
<20 years	42	32.1	4	6.1	46	23.4
20-34 years	84	64.1	52	78.8	136	69.0
35+ years	5	3.8	10	15.2	15	7.6
Onset of labour						
Spontaneous onset	104	79.4	46	69.7	150	76.1
Induced labour	15	11.5	13	19.7	28	14.2
No labour	12	9.2	7	10.6	19	9.6
Method of birth						
Spontaneous vaginal birth	96	73.3	52	78.8	148	75.1
Vaginal breech birth	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Forceps birth	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ventouse birth	5	3.8	0	0.0	5	2.5
Elective caesarean	9	6.9	7	10.6	16	8.1
Emergency caesarean	21	16.0	7	10.6	28	14.2
Labour and childbirth complications						
Cord prolapse	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fetal distress	13	9.9	2	3.0	15	7.6
Manual removal of placenta	2	1.5	1	1.5	3	1.5
Meconium stained liquor	17	13.0	7	10.6	24	12.2
Obstructed labour	10	7.6	2	3.0	12	6.1
Post-partum haemorrhage	15	11.5	5	7.6	20	10.2
Pre-eclampsia	3	2.3	4	6.1	7	3.6
Others	13	9.9	4	6.1	17	8.6
Any complication	54	41.2	21	31.8	75	38.1
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH	101		52		153	
Perineum status						
Intact	44	43.6	24	46.2	68	44.4
1st degree tear	24	23.8	15	28.8	39	25.5
2nd degree tear	22	21.8	9	17.3	31	20.3
3rd-4th degree tear	6	5.9	2	3.8	8	5.2
Episiotomy	4	4.0	2	3.8	6	3.9
Combined episiotomy & tear	1	1.0	0	0.0	1	0.7
BABIES	131		66		197	
Gestational age						
<28 weeks	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
28-36 weeks	12	9.2	1	1.5	13	6.6
37+ weeks	119	90.8	65	98.5	184	93.4
Birthweight						
<1500g	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
1500-2499g	7	5.3	0	0.0	7	3.6
2500+g	124	94.7	66	100.0	190	96.4
Birth status						
Livebirths	131	100.0	66	100.0	197	100.0
Stillbirths	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Notes:

This table includes all births occurred in GDH in 2005. An additional 17 births occurred before arrival at hospital.

Not stated category is not presented and so the total may differ from the sum of the variable components.

Katherine Hospital

	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
MOTHERS	164		118		282	
Maternal age						
<20 years	46	28.0	8	6.8	54	19.1
20-34 years	108	65.9	91	77.1	199	70.6
35+ years	10	6.1	19	16.1	29	10.3
Onset of labour						
Spontaneous onset	116	70.7	74	62.7	190	67.4
Induced labour	26	15.9	30	25.4	56	19.9
No labour	22	13.4	14	11.9	36	12.8
Method of birth						
Spontaneous vaginal birth	115	70.1	78	66.1	193	68.4
Vaginal breech birth	2	1.2	0	0.0	2	0.7
Forceps birth	1	0.6	0	0.0	1	0.4
Ventouse birth	3	1.8	10	8.5	13	4.6
Elective caesarean	15	9.1	13	11.0	28	9.9
Emergency caesarean	28	17.1	17	14.4	45	16.0
Labour and childbirth complications						
Cord prolapse	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fetal distress	26	15.9	17	14.4	43	15.2
Manual removal of placenta	3	1.8	0	0.0	3	1.1
Meconium stained liquor	21	12.8	12	10.2	33	11.7
Obstructed labour	9	5.5	11	9.3	20	7.1
Post-partum haemorrhage	38	23.2	15	12.7	53	18.8
Pre-eclampsia	7	4.3	2	1.7	9	3.2
Others	13	7.9	14	11.9	27	9.6
Any complication	82	50.0	51	43.2	133	47.2
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH	121		88		209	
Perineum status						
Intact	63	52.1	39	44.3	102	48.8
1st degree tear	30	24.8	11	12.5	41	19.6
2nd degree tear	21	17.4	30	34.1	51	24.4
3rd-4th degree tear	1	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.5
Episiotomy	5	4.1	7	8.0	12	5.7
Combined episiotomy & tear	1	0.8	1	1.1	2	1.0
BABIES	164		119		283	
Gestational age						
<28 weeks	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
28-36 weeks	10	6.1	5	4.2	15	5.3
37+ weeks	154	93.9	114	95.8	268	94.7
Birthweight						
<1500g	2	1.2	0	0.0	2	0.7
1500-2499g	15	9.1	4	3.4	19	6.7
2500+g	147	89.6	115	96.6	262	92.6
Birth status						
Livebirths	162	98.8	117	98.3	279	98.6
Stillbirths	2	1.2	2	1.7	4	1.4

Notes:

This table includes all births occurred in KH in 2005. An additional 5 births occurred before arrival at hospital. Not stated category is not presented and so the total may differ from the sum of the variable components.

Tenant Creek Hospital

	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
MOTHERS	12		5		17	
Maternal age						
<20 years	4	33.3	0	0.0	4	23.5
20-34 years	8	66.7	4	80.0	12	70.6
35+ years	0	0.0	1	20.0	1	5.9
Onset of labour						
Spontaneous onset	12	100.0	5	100.0	17	100.0
Induced labour	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
No labour	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Method of birth						
Spontaneous vaginal birth	12	100.0	5	100.0	17	100.0
Vaginal breech birth	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Forceps birth	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ventouse birth	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Elective caesarean	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Emergency caesarean	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Labour and childbirth complications						
Cord prolapse	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fetal distress	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Manual removal of placenta	1	8.3	0	0.0	1	5.9
Meconium stained liquor	2	16.7	1	20.0	3	17.6
Obstructed labour	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Post-partum haemorrhage	1	8.3	0	0.0	1	5.9
Pre-eclampsia	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Others	3	25.0	1	20.0	4	23.5
Any complication	5	41.7	2	40.0	7	41.2
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH	12		5		17	
Perineum status						
Intact	9	75.0	3	60.0	12	70.6
1st degree tear	3	25.0	1	20.0	4	23.5
2nd degree tear	0	0.0	1	20.0	1	5.9
3rd-4th degree tear	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Episiotomy	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Combined episiotomy & tear	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
BABIES	12		5		17	
Gestational age						
<28 weeks	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
28-36 weeks	4	33.3	0	0.0	4	23.5
37+ weeks	8	66.7	5	100.0	13	76.5
Birthweight						
<1500g	1	8.3	0	0.0	1	5.9
1500-2499g	1	8.3	0	0.0	1	5.9
2500+g	10	83.3	5	100.0	15	88.2
Birth status						
Livebirths	10	83.3	5	100.0	15	88.2
Stillbirths	2	16.7	0	0.0	2	11.8

Notes:

This table includes all births occurred in TCH in 2005. An additional 2 births occurred before arrival at hospital.

Not stated category is not presented and so the total may differ from the sum of the variable components.

Alice Springs Hospital

	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
MOTHERS	437		367		804	
Maternal age						
<20 years	119	27.2	16	4.4	135	16.8
20-34 years	297	68.0	270	73.6	567	70.5
35+ years	21	4.8	81	22.1	102	12.7
Onset of labour						
Spontaneous onset	276	63.2	245	66.8	521	64.8
Induced labour	111	25.4	87	23.7	198	24.6
No labour	50	11.4	35	9.5	85	10.6
Method of birth						
Spontaneous vaginal birth	300	68.6	253	68.9	553	68.8
Vaginal breech birth	3	0.7	3	0.8	6	0.7
Forceps birth	19	4.3	14	3.8	33	4.1
Ventouse birth	10	2.3	7	1.9	17	2.1
Elective caesarean	37	8.5	27	7.4	64	8.0
Emergency caesarean	68	15.6	63	17.2	131	16.3
Labour and childbirth complications						
Cord prolapse	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1
Fetal distress	52	11.9	36	9.8	88	10.9
Manual removal of placenta	10	2.3	3	0.8	13	1.6
Meconium stained liquor	49	11.2	25	6.8	74	9.2
Obstructed labour	22	5.0	31	8.4	53	6.6
Post-partum haemorrhage	82	18.8	29	7.9	111	13.8
Pre-eclampsia	19	4.3	13	3.5	32	4.0
Others	53	12.1	29	7.9	82	10.2
Any complication	218	49.9	138	37.6	356	44.3
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH	332		277		609	
Perineum status						
Intact	152	45.8	117	42.2	269	44.2
1st degree tear	101	30.4	79	28.5	180	29.6
2nd degree tear	47	14.2	54	19.5	101	16.6
3rd-4th degree tear	7	2.1	11	4.0	18	3.0
Episiotomy	22	6.6	12	4.3	34	5.6
Combined episiotomy & tear	3	0.9	4	1.4	7	1.1
BABIES	440		372		812	
Gestational age						
<28 weeks	4	0.9	2	0.5	6	0.7
28-36 weeks	41	9.3	26	7.0	67	8.3
37+ weeks	395	89.8	344	92.5	739	91.0
Birthweight						
<1500g	6	1.4	3	0.8	9	1.1
1500-2499g	40	9.1	18	4.8	58	7.1
2500+g	394	89.5	351	94.4	745	91.7
Birth status						
Livebirths	435	98.9	369	99.2	804	99.0
Stillbirths	5	1.1	3	0.8	8	1.0

Notes:

This table includes all births occurred in ASH in 2005. An additional 21 births occurred before arrival at hospital.
 Not stated category is not presented and so the total may differ from the sum of the variable components.

Non-Hospital

	Indigenous		non-Indigenous		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
MOTHERS	78		16		94	
Maternal age						
<20 years	26	35.6	0	0.0	26	32.1
20-34 years	43	58.9	6	75.0	49	60.5
35+ years	4	5.5	2	25.0	6	7.4
Onset of labour						
Spontaneous onset	78	100.0	16	100.0	94	100.0
Induced labour	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
No labour	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Method of birth						
Spontaneous vaginal birth	72	92.3	15	93.8	87	92.6
Vaginal breech birth	6	7.7	1	6.3	7	7.4
Actual place of giving birth			0		0	
Health centres	54	69.2	0	0.0	54	64.3
Planned homes	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
In transit	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	24	30.8	6	100.0	30	35.7
Labour and childbirth complications						
Cord prolapse	1	1.3	0	0.0	1	1.1
Fetal distress	1	1.3	0	0.0	1	1.1
Manual removal of placenta	5	6.4	0	0.0	5	5.3
Meconium stained liquor	6	7.7	0	0.0	6	6.4
Obstructed labour	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Post-partum haemorrhage	21	26.9	2	12.5	23	24.5
Pre-eclampsia	5	6.4	0	0.0	5	5.3
Others	7	9.0	3	18.8	10	10.6
Any complication	29	37.2	5	31.3	34	36.2
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH	78		16		94	
Perineum status						
Intact	44	56.4	9	56.3	53	56.4
1st degree tear	22	28.2	5	31.3	27	28.7
2nd degree tear	11	14.1	1	6.3	12	12.8
3rd-4th degree tear	1	1.3	1	6.3	2	2.1
Episiotomy	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Combined episiotomy & tear	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
BABIES	78		16		94	
Gestational age						
<28 weeks	7	9.0	0	0.0	7	7.4
28-36 weeks	24	30.8	1	6.3	25	26.6
37+ weeks	47	60.3	15	93.8	62	66.0
Birthweight						
<1500g	11	14.1	0	0.0	11	12.0
1500-2499g	19	24.4	0	0.0	19	20.7
2500+g	48	61.5	14	100.0	62	67.4
Birth status						
Livebirths	75	96.2	16	100.0	91	96.8
Stillbirths	3	3.8	0	0.0	3	3.2

Notes:

This table includes all births that occurred out of hospital in 2005.

Not stated category is not presented and so the total may differ from the sum of the variable components.

Appendix B. Trends of perinatal indicators, by Indigenous status, NT, 1991–2005

Table A. Trend table, NT Indigenous

		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total fertility rate		2.5	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6
		Number														
ALL MOTHERS	Total	1161	1194	1176	1161	1184	1147	1152	1206	1261	1236	1430	1332	1334	1270	1320
	Maternal age															
	<20	369	381	339	358	345	318	355	362	374	408	428	395	382	357	337
	20-34	749	759	782	748	796	778	745	780	819	772	926	857	873	821	902
	35+	43	54	55	55	43	51	50	62	68	56	71	80	79	87	76
	Place of birth															
	Hospital	1078	1123	1101	1101	1127	1100	1071	1131	1188	1195	1365	1279	1264	1209	1249
	Non-hospital	83	71	75	60	57	47	81	75	73	41	65	53	70	61	71
	Type of labour onset															
	Spontaneous	966	939	900	899	901	899	863	883	919	930	1041	976	940	926	948
	Induced	122	171	158	152	153	137	149	166	193	202	240	208	243	194	212
	No labour	73	83	112	109	122	109	113	128	127	104	149	148	151	150	160
	Method of birth															
	Spontaneous vaginal	872	847	836	830	832	850	816	839	933	901	1028	951	918	868	905
	Vaginal breech	16	19	13	13	14	14	13	12	8	9	7	5	16	17	12
	Forceps	60	63	45	36	30	39	30	30	22	17	25	22	23	12	19
	Ventouse	19	23	22	18	9	5	17	19	25	40	53	28	42	53	49
	Caesarean section	191	242	255	264	297	237	252	280	252	269	317	326	335	320	335
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS	Total	385	399	367	390	373	338	401	392	425	438	470	412	416	373	406
	Maternal age															
	<20	248	271	230	237	234	226	247	250	267	317	297	258	260	244	245
	20-34	136	126	137	149	137	108	148	135	152	120	163	146	152	129	159
	35+	1	2	0	4	2	4	4	6	6	1	7	8	4	0	2
BABIES	Total	1164	1205	1189	1172	1191	1160	1160	1215	1278	1245	1442	1348	1342	1277	1331
	Plurality															
	Singleton	1158	1184	1163	1150	1177	1134	1144	1197	1244	1227	1418	1316	1326	1263	1310
	Multiples	6	21	26	22	14	26	16	18	34	18	24	32	16	14	21
	Birthweight (g)															
	<1500	34	47	43	35	20	35	38	35	41	32	32	33	42	41	49
	1500-2499	135	147	113	128	139	138	149	120	138	140	154	152	162	141	150
	2500+	992	1010	1028	1007	1030	985	944	1031	1076	1073	1256	1163	1137	1095	1132
	Gestational age (weeks)															
	<28	17	19	19	22	17	19	24	24	27	21	18	20	29	25	31
	28-36	137	170	128	133	132	156	152	144	163	156	174	199	190	180	176
	37+	1007	1014	1011	927	1024	977	947	1013	1067	1068	1249	1128	1123	1072	1124
	Birthstatus															
	Livebirths	1143	1182	1162	1151	1172	1146	1141	1198	1253	1231	1428	1333	1323	1264	1313
	Stillbirths	21	23	27	21	19	14	19	17	25	14	14	15	19	13	18

Table A. (continued)

		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
		Percent														
ALL MOTHERS	Maternal age															
	<20	31.8	31.9	28.8	30.8	29.1	27.7	30.9	30.1	29.7	33.0	30.0	29.7	28.6	28.2	25.6
	20-34	64.5	63.6	66.5	64.4	67.2	67.8	64.8	64.8	64.9	62.5	65.0	64.3	65.4	64.9	68.6
	35+	3.7	4.5	4.7	4.7	3.6	4.4	4.3	5.1	5.4	4.5	5.0	6.0	5.9	6.9	5.8
	Place of birth															
	Hospital	92.9	94.1	93.6	94.8	95.2	95.9	93.0	93.8	94.2	96.7	95.5	96.0	94.8	95.2	94.6
	Non-hospital	7.1	5.9	6.4	5.2	4.8	4.1	7.0	6.2	5.8	3.3	4.5	4.0	5.2	4.8	5.4
	Type of labour onset															
	Spontaneous	83.2	78.7	76.9	77.5	76.6	78.5	76.7	75.0	74.2	75.2	72.8	73.3	70.5	72.9	71.8
	Induced	10.5	14.3	13.5	13.1	13.0	12.0	13.2	14.1	15.6	16.3	16.8	15.6	18.2	15.3	16.1
	No labour	6.3	7.0	9.6	9.4	10.4	9.5	10.0	10.9	10.3	8.4	10.4	11.1	11.3	11.8	12.1
	Method of birth															
	Spontaneous vaginal	75.3	70.9	71.4	71.5	70.4	74.2	72.3	71.1	75.2	72.9	71.9	71.4	68.8	68.3	68.6
	Vaginal breech	1.4	1.6	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.4	1.2	1.3	0.9
	Forceps	5.2	5.3	3.8	3.1	2.5	3.4	2.7	2.5	1.8	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.9	1.4
Ventouse	1.6	1.9	1.9	1.6	0.8	0.4	1.5	1.6	2.0	3.2	3.7	2.1	3.1	4.2	3.7	
Caesarean section	16.5	20.3	21.8	22.7	25.1	20.7	22.3	23.7	20.3	21.8	22.2	24.5	25.1	25.2	25.4	
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS	Maternal age															
	<20	64.4	67.9	62.7	60.8	62.7	66.9	61.9	63.9	62.8	72.4	63.6	62.6	62.5	65.4	60.3
	20-34	35.3	31.6	37.3	38.2	36.7	32.0	37.1	34.5	35.8	27.4	34.9	35.4	36.5	34.6	39.2
35+	0.3	0.5	0.0	1.0	0.5	1.2	1.0	1.5	1.4	0.2	1.5	1.9	1.0	0.0	0.5	
BABIES	Plurality															
	Singleton	99.5	98.3	97.8	98.1	98.8	97.8	98.6	98.5	97.3	98.6	98.3	97.6	98.8	98.9	98.4
	Multiples	0.5	1.7	2.2	1.9	1.2	2.2	1.4	1.5	2.7	1.4	1.7	2.4	1.2	1.1	1.6
	Birthweight (g)															
	<1500	2.9	3.9	3.6	3.0	1.7	3.0	3.4	3.0	3.3	2.6	2.2	2.4	3.1	3.2	3.7
	1500-2499	11.6	12.2	9.5	10.9	11.7	11.9	13.2	10.1	11.0	11.2	10.7	11.3	12.1	11.0	11.3
	2500+	85.4	83.9	86.8	86.1	86.6	85.1	83.5	86.9	85.7	86.2	87.1	86.3	84.8	85.7	85.0
	Gestational age (weeks)															
	<28	1.5	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.4	1.6	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.7	1.2	1.5	2.2	2.0	2.3
	28-36	11.8	14.1	11.1	12.3	11.3	13.5	13.5	12.2	13.0	12.5	12.1	14.8	14.2	14.1	13.2
	37+	86.7	84.3	87.3	85.7	87.3	84.8	84.3	85.8	84.9	85.8	86.7	83.7	83.7	83.9	84.4
	Birthstatus															
Livebirths	98.2	98.1	97.7	98.2	98.4	98.8	98.4	98.6	98.0	98.9	99.0	98.9	98.6	99.0	98.6	
Stillbirths	1.8	1.9	2.3	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.6	1.4	2.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.0	1.4	

Note: Not stated category is not shown in each breakdown, therefore the sum of listed categories of each breakdown may not add to the total number.

Table B. Trend table, NT non-Indigenous

		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total fertility rate		1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.0
		Number														
ALL MOTHERS	Total	2265	2326	2251	2249	2340	2200	2306	2230	2219	2197	2212	2233	2195	2065	2229
	Maternal age															
	<20	117	142	136	130	141	132	146	109	128	118	121	121	125	96	121
	20-34	1894	1906	1868	1846	1909	1769	1817	1783	1751	1726	1750	1721	1680	1573	1666
	35+	254	278	247	273	290	299	336	338	340	350	334	391	390	386	434
	Place of birth															
	Hospital	2243	2314	2239	2241	2303	2173	2258	2195	2186	2187	2180	2206	2165	2038	2213
	Non-hospital	22	12	12	8	37	27	48	35	33	10	32	27	30	27	16
	Type of labour onset															
	Spontaneous	1590	1569	1495	1536	1563	1506	1556	1441	1483	1445	1383	1379	1302	1224	1273
	Induced	508	550	523	470	537	452	483	531	464	496	528	525	544	487	535
	No labour	166	207	231	239	234	236	251	253	259	256	301	329	349	354	421
	Method of birth															
	Spontaneous vaginal	1722	1693	1629	1655	1723	1618	1703	1568	1566	1548	1476	1496	1335	1224	1306
	Vaginal breech	19	15	16	12	14	16	11	15	10	6	15	3	10	9	12
	Forceps	172	175	113	93	127	137	109	133	114	98	98	83	48	48	55
	Ventouse	24	45	36	42	34	24	30	24	39	78	85	73	158	153	153
	Caesarean section	326	397	456	446	442	402	450	486	478	465	538	578	644	631	703
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS	Total	962	1039	949	965	1031	928	948	968	1041	924	999	943	943	858	1009
	Maternal age															
	<20	98	114	119	111	119	102	116	98	104	97	100	106	104	80	106
	20-34	807	857	768	793	846	755	747	781	829	730	796	733	725	656	761
	35+	57	68	62	61	66	71	78	89	108	94	102	104	114	122	137
BABIES	Total	2298	2356	2274	2283	2381	2225	2333	2261	2249	2228	2241	2261	2231	2094	2265
	Plurality															
	Singleton	2232	2296	2228	2215	2301	2175	2279	2199	2189	2166	2183	2205	2159	2036	2193
	Multiples	66	60	46	68	80	50	54	62	60	62	58	56	72	58	72
	Birthweight (g)															
	<1500	40	34	25	37	32	26	22	29	41	26	32	28	28	30	39
	1500-2499	132	157	121	112	116	131	135	150	130	127	113	99	140	110	131
	2500+	2125	2163	2127	2134	2230	2062	2154	2076	2066	2072	2096	2134	2063	1954	2093
	Gestational age (weeks)															
	<28	25	20	11	22	18	14	12	15	23	14	17	17	16	13	16
	28-36	142	149	123	139	141	152	170	187	174	169	165	151	168	144	180
	37+	2129	2180	2124	2045	2195	2058	2136	2053	2041	2045	2059	2092	2047	1937	2069
	Birthstatus															
	Livebirths	2277	2334	2259	2263	2365	2213	2320	2251	2227	2212	2229	2247	2211	2085	2242
	Stillbirths	21	22	15	20	16	12	13	10	22	16	12	14	20	9	23

Table B. (continued)

		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
		Percent														
ALL MOTHERS	Maternal age															
	<20	5.2	6.1	6.0	5.8	6.0	6.0	6.4	4.9	5.8	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.7	4.7	5.4
	20-34	83.6	81.9	83.0	82.1	81.6	80.4	79.0	80.0	78.9	78.7	79.4	77.1	76.5	76.5	75.0
	35+	11.2	12.0	11.0	12.1	12.4	13.6	14.6	15.2	15.3	16.0	15.1	17.5	17.8	18.8	19.5
	Place of birth															
	Hospital	99.0	99.5	99.5	99.6	98.4	98.8	97.9	98.4	98.5	99.5	98.6	98.8	98.6	98.7	99.3
	Non-hospital	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.4	1.6	1.2	2.1	1.6	1.5	0.5	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.3	0.7
	Type of labour onset															
	Spontaneous	70.2	67.5	66.5	68.4	67.0	68.6	67.9	64.8	67.2	65.8	62.5	61.8	59.3	59.3	57.1
	Induced	22.4	23.6	23.3	20.9	23.0	20.6	21.1	23.9	21.0	22.6	23.9	23.5	24.8	23.6	24.0
	No labour	7.3	8.9	10.3	10.6	10.0	10.8	11.0	11.4	11.7	11.7	13.6	14.7	15.9	17.1	18.9
	Method of birth															
	Spontaneous vaginal	76.1	72.8	72.4	73.6	73.6	73.6	73.9	70.4	71.0	70.5	66.7	67.0	60.8	59.3	58.6
Vaginal breech	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.5	
Forceps	7.6	7.5	5.0	4.1	5.4	6.2	4.7	6.0	5.2	4.5	4.4	3.7	2.2	2.3	2.5	
Ventouse	1.1	1.9	1.6	1.9	1.5	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.8	3.6	3.8	3.3	7.2	7.4	6.9	
Caesarean section	14.4	17.1	20.3	19.8	18.9	18.3	19.5	21.8	21.7	21.2	24.3	25.9	29.3	30.6	31.5	
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS	Maternal age															
	<20	10.2	11.0	12.5	11.5	11.5	11.0	12.3	10.1	10.0	10.5	10.0	11.2	11.0	9.3	10.6
	20-34	83.9	82.5	80.9	82.2	82.1	81.4	79.4	80.7	79.6	79.3	79.8	77.7	76.9	76.5	75.8
35+	5.9	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.4	7.7	8.3	9.2	10.4	10.2	10.2	11.0	12.1	14.2	13.6	
BABIES	Plurality															
	Singleton	97.1	97.5	98.0	97.0	96.6	97.8	97.7	97.3	97.3	97.2	97.4	97.5	96.8	97.2	96.8
	Multiples	2.9	2.5	2.0	3.0	3.4	2.2	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.5	3.2	2.8	3.2
	Birthweight (g)															
	<1500	1.7	1.4	1.1	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.8	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.7
	1500-2499	5.7	6.7	5.3	4.9	4.9	5.9	5.8	6.7	5.8	5.7	5.0	4.4	6.3	5.3	5.8
	2500+	92.5	91.9	93.6	93.5	93.8	92.9	93.2	92.1	92.4	93.1	93.5	94.4	92.5	93.3	92.5
	Gestational age (weeks)															
	<28	1.1	0.9	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7
	28-36	6.2	6.3	5.4	6.3	6.0	6.8	7.3	8.3	7.8	7.6	7.4	6.7	7.5	6.9	7.9
	37+	92.7	92.8	94.1	92.7	93.2	92.5	92.1	91.0	91.2	91.8	91.9	92.6	91.8	92.5	91.3
	Birthstatus															
	Livebirths	99.1	99.1	99.3	99.1	99.3	99.5	99.4	99.6	99.0	99.3	99.5	99.4	99.1	99.6	99.0
Stillbirths	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.4	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.4	1.0	

Note: Not stated category is not shown in each breakdown, therefore the sum of listed categories of each breakdown may not add to the total number.

Table C. Trend table, NT all

		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total fertility rate		2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.2
		Number														
ALL	Total	3426	3520	3429	3410	3524	3347	3458	3436	3480	3433	3642	3565	3529	3335	3549
MOTHERS	Maternal age															
	<20	486	523	475	488	486	450	501	471	502	526	549	516	507	453	458
	20-34	2643	2665	2652	2594	2705	2547	2562	2563	2570	2498	2676	2578	2553	2394	2568
	35+	297	332	302	328	333	350	386	400	408	406	405	471	469	473	510
	Place of birth															
	Hospital	3321	3437	3342	3342	3430	3273	3329	3326	3374	3382	3545	3485	3429	3247	3462
	Non-hospital	105	83	87	68	94	74	129	110	106	51	97	80	100	88	87
	Type of labour onset															
	Spontaneous	2556	2508	2397	2435	2464	2405	2419	2324	2402	2375	2424	2355	2242	2150	2221
	Induced	630	721	681	622	690	589	632	697	657	698	768	733	787	681	747
	No labour	239	290	343	348	356	345	364	381	386	360	450	477	500	504	581
	Method of birth															
	Spontaneous vaginal	2594	2540	2467	2485	2555	2468	2519	2407	2499	2449	2504	2447	2253	2092	2211
	Vaginal breech	35	34	29	25	28	30	24	27	18	15	22	8	26	26	24
	Forceps	232	238	158	129	157	176	139	163	136	115	123	105	71	60	74
	Ventouse	43	68	58	60	43	29	47	43	64	118	138	101	200	206	202
	Caesarean section	517	639	711	710	739	639	702	766	730	734	855	904	979	951	1038
FIRST-TIME	Total	1347	1438	1318	1355	1404	1266	1349	1360	1466	1362	1469	1355	1359	1231	1415
MOTHERS	Maternal age															
	<20	346	385	349	348	353	328	363	348	371	414	397	364	364	324	351
	20-34	943	983	907	942	983	863	895	916	981	850	959	879	877	785	920
	35+	58	70	62	65	68	75	82	95	114	95	109	112	118	122	139
BABIES	Total	3462	3561	3465	3455	3572	3385	3493	3476	3527	3473	3683	3609	3573	3371	3596
	Plurality															
	Singleton	3390	3480	3393	3365	3478	3309	3423	3396	3433	3393	3601	3521	3485	3299	3503
	Multiples	72	81	72	90	94	76	70	80	94	80	82	88	88	72	93
	Birthweight (g)															
	<1500	74	81	68	72	52	61	60	64	82	58	64	61	70	71	88
	1500-2499	267	304	234	240	255	269	284	270	268	267	267	251	302	251	281
	2500+	3117	3173	3157	3141	3260	3047	3098	3107	3142	3145	3352	3297	3200	3049	3225
	Gestational age (weeks)															
	<28	42	39	30	44	35	33	36	39	50	35	35	37	45	38	47
	28-36	279	319	251	272	273	308	322	331	337	325	339	350	358	324	356
	37+	3136	3194	3137	2972	3219	3035	3083	3066	3108	3113	3308	3220	3170	3009	3193
	Birthstatus															
	Livebirths	3420	3516	3423	3414	3537	3359	3461	3449	3480	3443	3657	3580	3534	3349	3555
	Stillbirths	42	45	42	41	35	26	32	27	47	30	26	29	39	22	41

Table C. (continued)

		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
		Percent														
ALL MOTHERS	Maternal age															
	<20	14.2	14.9	13.9	14.3	13.8	13.4	14.5	13.7	14.4	15.3	15.1	14.5	14.4	13.6	13.0
	20-34	77.1	75.7	77.3	76.1	76.8	76.1	74.3	74.6	73.9	72.8	73.7	72.3	72.3	72.1	72.6
	35+	8.7	9.4	8.8	9.6	9.4	10.5	11.2	11.6	11.7	11.8	11.2	13.2	13.3	14.2	14.4
	Place of birth															
	Hospital	96.9	97.6	97.5	98.0	97.3	97.8	96.3	96.8	97.0	98.5	97.3	97.8	97.2	97.4	97.5
	Non-hospital	3.1	2.4	2.5	2.0	2.7	2.2	3.7	3.2	3.0	1.5	2.7	2.2	2.8	2.6	2.5
	Type of labour onset															
	Spontaneous	74.6	71.3	70.1	71.5	70.2	72.0	70.8	68.3	69.7	69.2	66.6	66.1	63.5	64.5	62.6
	Induced	18.4	20.5	19.9	18.3	19.7	17.6	18.5	20.5	19.1	20.3	21.1	20.6	22.3	20.4	21.0
	No labour	7.0	8.2	10.0	10.2	10.1	10.3	10.7	11.2	11.2	10.5	12.4	13.4	14.2	15.1	16.4
	Method of birth															
	Spontaneous vaginal	75.8	72.2	72.1	72.9	72.5	73.8	73.4	70.7	72.5	71.4	68.8	68.6	63.8	62.7	62.3
	Vaginal breech	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.7
Forceps	6.8	6.8	4.6	3.8	4.5	5.3	4.1	4.8	3.9	3.4	3.4	2.9	2.0	1.8	2.1	
Ventouse	1.3	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.2	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.9	3.4	3.8	2.8	5.7	6.2	5.7	
Caesarean section	15.1	18.2	20.8	20.8	21.0	19.1	20.5	22.5	21.2	21.4	23.5	25.4	27.7	28.5	29.2	
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS	Maternal age															
	<20	25.7	26.8	26.5	25.7	25.1	25.9	27.1	25.6	25.3	30.5	27.1	26.9	26.8	26.3	24.9
	20-34	70.0	68.4	68.8	69.5	70.0	68.2	66.8	67.4	66.9	62.5	65.5	64.9	64.5	63.8	65.2
	35+	4.3	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.8	5.9	6.1	7.0	7.8	7.0	7.4	8.3	8.7	9.9	9.9
BABIES	Plurality															
	Singleton	97.9	97.7	97.9	97.4	97.4	97.8	98.0	97.7	97.3	97.7	97.8	97.6	97.5	97.9	97.4
	Multiples	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.7	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.1	2.6
	Birthweight (g)															
	<1500	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.1	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.9	2.3	1.7	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.4
	1500-2499	7.7	8.5	6.8	7.0	7.1	8.0	8.3	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.2	7.0	8.5	7.4	7.8
	2500+	90.1	89.2	91.3	91.0	91.4	90.2	90.0	90.3	90.0	90.6	91.0	91.4	89.6	90.4	89.7
	Gestational age (weeks)															
	<28	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.3
	28-36	8.1	9.0	7.3	8.3	7.7	9.1	9.4	9.6	9.6	9.4	9.2	9.7	10.0	9.6	9.9
	37+	90.7	89.9	91.8	90.4	91.3	89.9	89.6	89.2	88.9	89.6	89.8	89.3	88.7	89.3	88.8
Birthstatus																
Livebirths	98.8	98.7	98.8	98.8	99.0	99.2	99.1	99.2	98.7	99.1	99.3	99.2	98.9	99.3	98.9	
Stillbirths	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.3	0.9	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.7	1.1	

Note: Not stated category is not shown in each breakdown, therefore the sum of listed categories of each breakdown may not add to the total number.

Appendix C. Northern Territory Estimated Resident Population

Table. Northern Territory Estimated Resident Population, by Indigenous status and sex, 2005

	Male			Female			Person
	Indigenous	non-Indigenous	Total	Indigenous	non-Indigenous	Total	Total
0 - 4	3513	5442	8955	3338	5220	8558	17513
5 - 9	3337	5197	8534	3070	4937	8007	16541
10 - 14	3449	5107	8556	3132	4809	7941	16497
15 - 19	2866	4921	7787	2724	4266	6990	14777
20 - 24	2998	5984	8982	2646	4772	7418	16400
25 - 29	2491	6306	8797	2436	5748	8184	16981
30 - 34	2340	7085	9425	2442	6544	8986	18411
35 - 39	1898	6960	8858	1985	6088	8073	16931
40 - 44	1659	7105	8764	1674	5871	7545	16309
45 - 49	1216	6158	7374	1330	5496	6826	14200
50 - 54	931	5852	6783	1075	4909	5984	12767
55 - 59	719	4839	5558	803	3721	4524	10082
60 - 64	575	3139	3714	710	2125	2835	6549
65 - 69	398	1938	2336	448	1206	1654	3990
70 - 74	203	1021	1224	307	756	1063	2287
75 +	309	1249	1558	438	1173	1611	3169
Total	28902	78303	107205	28558	67641	96199	203404

Source: Northern Territory Resident Population Estimates by sex, age and Indigenous status (1971-2006) (unpublished data) prepared by Health Gains Planning Branch, Department of Health and Families, February 2007 using published Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated Resident Population data and Indigenous Population Estimates.

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