

**Northern Territory
Midwives Collection**

Mothers and Babies

1995

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Epidemiology Branch
Territory Health Services

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Summary

Mothers

- In 1995, a total of 3,607 women gave birth in the Northern Territory. 3,056 (85%) of these women were born in Australia and 550 (15%) were born overseas.
- 1,244 (35.5%) of the 3,607 women were Aboriginal and 2,363 (64.5%) were non-Aboriginal. Although Aboriginal women made up 25% of NT women of child-bearing age, they contributed 36% of births in 1995.
- There were no maternal deaths reported in 1995.
- On average, Aboriginal women who gave birth were five years younger than other women. The average age of Aboriginal mothers was 23.6 years compared with 28.6 years for non-Aboriginal mothers.
- Aboriginal women had a higher fertility rate compared with non-Aboriginal women. The 1995 total fertility rate for Aboriginal women was 2.6 children per woman compared with 2.0 for non-Aboriginal women.
- Of the women who gave birth, 2.8 % of Aboriginal women and 0.3% of non-Aboriginal women reportedly did not receive any antenatal care during their pregnancy.
- 3,217 (89.2%) mothers had an ultrasound during pregnancy, and 75 (2.1%) mothers had an amniocentesis test.
- Anaemia and urinary tract infection continued to be common complications of pregnancy. Pre-eclampsia was the most common obstetric complication.
- Over 95% of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women delivered in a hospital.
- 16.4% of Aboriginal and 4.2% of non-Aboriginal mothers experienced at least one complication associated with the child-bearing episode (puerperal complication).
- Aboriginal mothers stayed longer in hospital, with a mean post-natal stay of 5.1 days compared with 4.2 days for non-Aboriginal mothers.

Babies

- The 3,607 mothers gave birth to a total of 3,655 infants. Of these births, 37 were stillborn and 3,618 were live births; and, 1,251 were Aboriginal and 2,404 were non-Aboriginal.
- Of the 3,655 infants, there were 3,561 singletons, 44 sets of twins and two sets of triplets.
- 1,230 of the Aboriginal births and 2,388 of the non-Aboriginal births were livebirths. The crude birth rate for the Aboriginal population was 24.3 and that of the non-Aboriginal population was 18.7 livebirths per thousand population.
- Over twice as many Aboriginal livebirths (12.9%) were in the low birth weight category (weighing less than 2,500 grams at birth) compared with 5.6% of non-Aboriginal livebirths.
- 78% of Aboriginal and 85% of non-Aboriginal livebirths had an Apgar score ranging between seven and ten.
- About 16% of babies had a neonatal complication. Non-Aboriginal babies were more likely to have neonatal jaundice.
- The mean length of hospital stay for Aboriginal babies was 6.7 days and non-Aboriginal babies 5.4 days.
- The NT stillbirth rate was 10.1 stillbirths per thousand total births (Aboriginal 16.8 and non-Aboriginal 6.7). The NT infant mortality rate was 11.0 deaths per thousand live births (Aboriginal 18.7 and non-Aboriginal 7.1). The NT neonatal mortality rate was 6.6 deaths per thousand live births (Aboriginal 9.8 and non-Aboriginal 5.0) and the NT postneonatal mortality rate was 7.1 deaths per thousand livebirths (Aboriginal 8.9 and non-Aboriginal 2.1).

Introduction

This report presents information for 1995 on the health of new mothers and their babies. The primary purpose of the report is to inform, and encourage community discussion regarding the health of the women who gave birth in 1995, as well as that of their babies. This should assist policy makers and health planners provide better services to the community. In addition, the report aims to provide feedback to midwives, Aboriginal health workers, community health nurses and medical practitioners involved with maternal and child health.

The information presented in this report was compiled from several sources including the NT Midwives' Collection, the termination of pregnancy notification system, the congenital abnormality notification system, the hospital morbidity database, the NT Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and the NT Coroner's Offices.

The NT Midwives' Collection is a population-based census of all births in public and private hospitals as well as home births that occur in the Northern Territory. All livebirths and stillbirths of at least 20 weeks gestation or with birthweight of at least 400 grams are included. A notification form containing demographic information as well as information on maternal health, the pregnancy, labour and delivery, and perinatal health is completed by the attending midwife when a birth occurs (see appendix). The completed forms are sent to the Epidemiology Branch of Territory Health Services for processing and analysis. A similar process is involved with the Termination of Pregnancy Notification forms. Information on infant deaths was obtained from the NT Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Congenital malformation data were collected on forms filled in by doctors.

Contents of report

The report is divided into six sections:

1. Mothers
2. Babies
3. Hospital
4. Mortality
5. Terminations of pregnancy
6. Appendix

Requests for data

Data from the NT Midwives' Collection can be made available for research and program evaluation. Requests for information must be made in writing and must state the institutional affiliation of the researcher and the purpose for which the data are requested. In all cases, the request must satisfy strict ethical and confidentiality requirements before data can be released. Requests for data should be sent to:

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And last, but not least, the authors wish to thank Peter Markey who led the production of the 1994 report. The standards that he set greatly facilitated the completion of the 1995 report.

Map

1. Mothers

Demography

- Indigenous status
- Country of birth
- Age of mother
- Parity

Antenatal

- Duration of pregnancy
- First antenatal visit
- Procedures during pregnancy
- Medical conditions
- Obstetric complications

Labour, delivery, puerperium

- Place of confinement
- Presentation
- Onset of labour
- Type of delivery
- Delivery complications and interventions
- Puerperal complications
- Duration of stay in hospital

Indigenous status

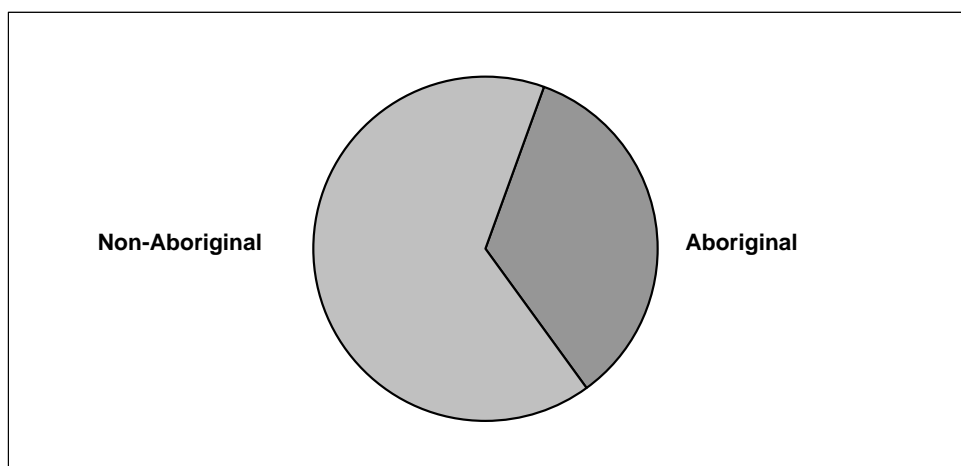


Table 1. District of usual residence of mothers by Indigenous status, NT, 1995

District of usual residence	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Darwin Urban	147	11.8	1586	67.1	1733	48.0
Darwin Rural	267	21.5	66	2.8	333	9.2
East Arnhem	153	12.3	75	3.2	228	6.3
Katherine	213	17.1	203	8.6	416	11.5
Barkly	83	6.7	26	1.1	109	3.0
Alice Springs Urban	116	9.3	366	15.5	482	13.4
Alice Springs Rural	191	15.4	21	0.9	212	5.9
Interstate	74	5.9	20	0.8	94	2.6
Total	1244	100.0	2363	100.0	3607	99.9

Note: Percentages shown are the proportions of the column totals

- 3,607 women gave birth in 1995, representing eight percent of the mid-1995 estimated female resident population of child-bearing age (15-44 years) living in the Territory.
- These 3,607 women gave birth to 3,655 infants. Of these infants, 3,618 were born alive and 37 were stillborn.
- In 1995, Aboriginal women of child-bearing age made up 25% of the NT female population of child-bearing age but accounted for 34% of women who gave birth to an infant in that year.
- 48.0% of all confinements were to women who were usual residents of the Darwin Urban district. The large majority of these confinements were to non-Aboriginal women.
- There were 94 women (2.6%) whose place of usual residence was outside the Northern Territory but who confined in the NT. As these women had an impact on health services planning and delivery in the Territory, they were included in the statistics presented in this report.

Country of birth

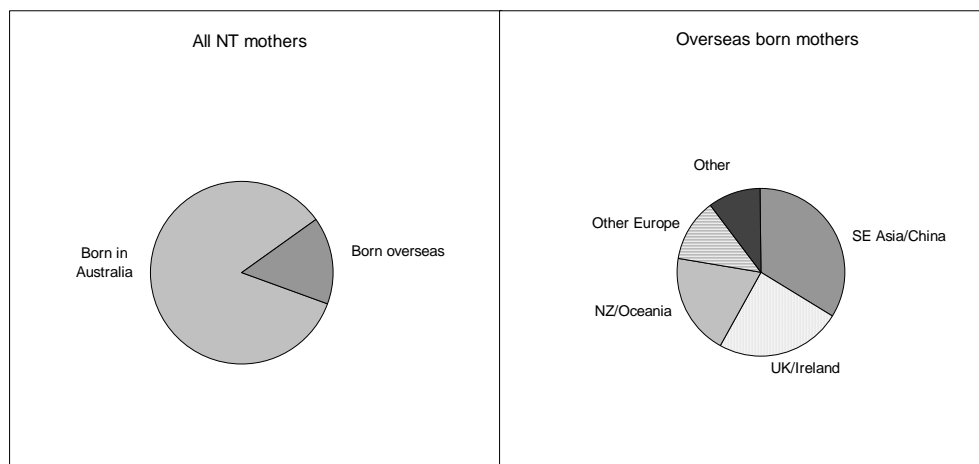


Table 2: Country of birth of mother, NT, 1995

Place of Birth	Number of mothers	Proportion of all mothers (%)	Proportion of mothers born overseas (%)
Australia	3056	84.7	
South East Asia and China	185	5.1	33.8
United Kingdom and Ireland	131	3.6	23.9
New Zealand and Oceania	108	3.0	19.8
Rest of Europe	57	1.6	10.4
Americas	30	0.8	5.5
Rest of Asia	21	0.6	3.8
Africa and Middle East	15	0.4	2.7
Unknown	4	0.1	
Total	3607	99.9	99.9

Note: Percentages shown are the proportions of the column total

- 3,056 (84.7%) of women who confined in the Northern Territory in 1995 were reportedly born in Australia. The country of birth was not known for three women.
- Of the 547 women who were born overseas, 296 (54.1%) per cent were born in Europe (including the United Kingdom and Ireland), New Zealand and the Oceania region. 206 (37.6%) were born in Asia.

Age of mother

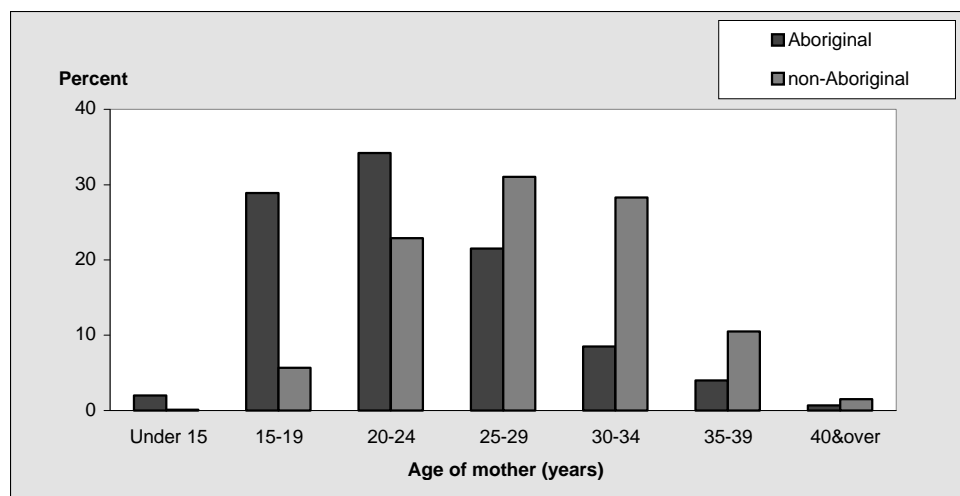


Table 3. Distribution and average of mothers' age at confinement by Indigenous status, NT, 1995

	Age of mother (years)								Mean age
	Under 20 years		20-34 years		35 years & over		Total		
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Aboriginal	364	29.3	835	67.1	45	3.6	1244	100.0	23.6
Non-Aboriginal	142	6.0	1926	81.5	295	12.5	2363	100.0	28.6
Total	506	14.0	2761	76.5	340	9.4	3607	100.0	26.9

Note: Percentages shown are the proportions of the total in each row

- There was an almost five-fold relative difference between the proportion of Aboriginal mothers (29.3%) who were teenagers (less than 20 years of age) compared with non-Aboriginal teenage mothers (6.0%).
- In contrast, a higher proportion of non-Aboriginal mothers (12.5%) were 35 years of age and over compared with Aboriginal mothers (3.6%).
- These proportions were reflected in the average ages of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women who confined in 1995. Aboriginal women were 23.6 years of age on average compared with non-Aboriginal women who were 28.6 years of age.

Age of mother

Table 4. Percentage distribution and mean of mothers' age by Indigenous status and by district of usual residence of mother, NT, 1995

District	Age of mother (years)							Mean	No of mothers
	Under 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 & over		
Aboriginal									
Darwin Urban	0.0	21.1	34.0	25.2	15.0	4.1	0.7	25.1	147
Darwin Rural	1.5	28.1	33.7	25.1	8.2	3.4	0.0	23.4	267
East Arnhem	2.0	34.0	37.9	14.4	7.8	3.9	0.0	22.6	153
Katherine	2.4	26.3	35.7	25.4	7.5	2.8	0.0	23.4	213
Barkly	2.4	26.5	33.7	25.3	7.2	3.6	1.2	23.9	83
Alice Springs Urban	0.9	21.6	36.2	23.3	16.4	1.7	0.0	24.5	116
Alice Springs Rural	1.6	31.4	34.0	23.6	5.8	3.7	0.0	23.1	191
Interstate	1.4	32.4	28.4	23.0	9.5	4.0	1.3	23.9	74
Total	1.5	27.8	34.6	23.3	9.2	3.4	0.2	23.6	1244
Non-Aboriginal									
Darwin Urban	0.1	6.2	21.8	31.8	27.7	10.2	2.3	28.6	1586
Darwin Rural	0.0	6.1	15.2	28.8	33.3	13.6	3.0	30.0	66
East Arnhem	0.0	4.0	17.3	33.3	34.7	6.7	4.0	29.2	75
Katherine	0.0	7.4	20.2	36.0	25.6	9.3	1.5	28.1	203
Barkly	0.0	11.5	23.1	26.9	19.2	11.6	7.7	28.3	26
Alice Springs Urban	0.0	4.4	21.9	35.0	26.8	11.2	0.8	28.6	366
Alice Springs Rural	0.0	0.0	19.1	52.4	19.1	9.5	0.0	28.8	21
Interstate	0.0	5.0	5.0	30.0	35.0	15.0	10.0	31.3	20
Total	0.0	6.0	21.2	32.7	27.6	10.3	2.2	28.6	2363

Note: Percentages shown are the proportions of the total in each row

- Of women who gave birth in 1995, Aboriginal women who resided in one of the two major urban areas of the Northern Territory (Darwin and Alice Springs) were on the average one and a half years older than Aboriginal women who lived in the other areas of the Territory. The average age for urban-based women was 24.8 years compared with 23.3 years for rural-based women.
- In contrast, there was no significant difference in average age for the non-Aboriginal women irrespective of whether they were from an urban (average age of 28.6 years) or from a rural based region (average age of 28.8 years).

Parity

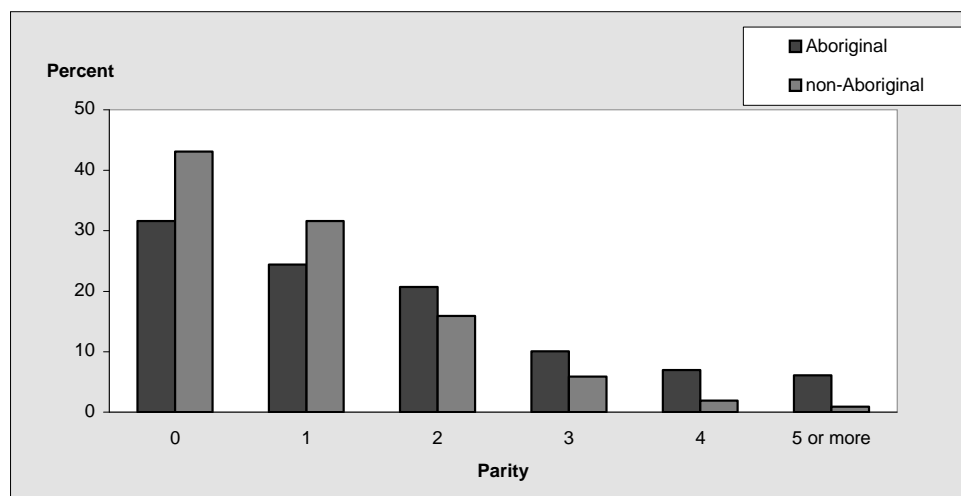


Table 5. Parity of mother by age and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

Age of mother (years)	Parity								
	Primipara		Multipara		Unknown		Total		
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Aboriginal									
Under 20	247	67.9	117	32.1	0	0.0	364	100.0	
20 – 34	144	17.3	690	82.6	1	0.1	835	100.0	
35 & over	2	4.4	43	95.6	0	0.0	45	100.0	
<i>Total</i>	393	31.6	850	68.3	1	0.1	1244	100.0	
Non-Aboriginal									
Under 20	119	83.8	23	16.2	0	0.0	142	100.0	
20 – 34	834	43.3	1073	55.7	19	1.0	1926	100.0	
35 & over	63	21.4	229	77.6	3	1.0	295	100.0	
<i>Total</i>	1016	43.0	1325	56.1	22	1.0	2363	100.0	
Total	1409	39.1	2175	60.3	23	0.6	3607	100.0	

Note: Percentages shown are the proportions of the total in each row

- Parity refers to the number of previous pregnancies of at least 20 weeks gestation. A primipara is a pregnant woman who has not had a previous pregnancy of at least 20 weeks gestation; a multipara has had one or more previous pregnancies of at least 20 weeks gestation.
- Nearly forty percent of mothers who delivered in 1995 were primiparas. The proportion of primiparas was higher for non-Aboriginal women (43.0%) than for Aboriginal women (31.6%).
- Nearly a third of Aboriginal teenage mothers (32.1%) had been previously pregnant compared with 16.2% among non-Aboriginal teenage mothers.
- About one in every five non-Aboriginal mothers were 35 years and over when they had their first pregnancy compared with about one in every 25 for Aboriginal mothers.

Duration of pregnancy

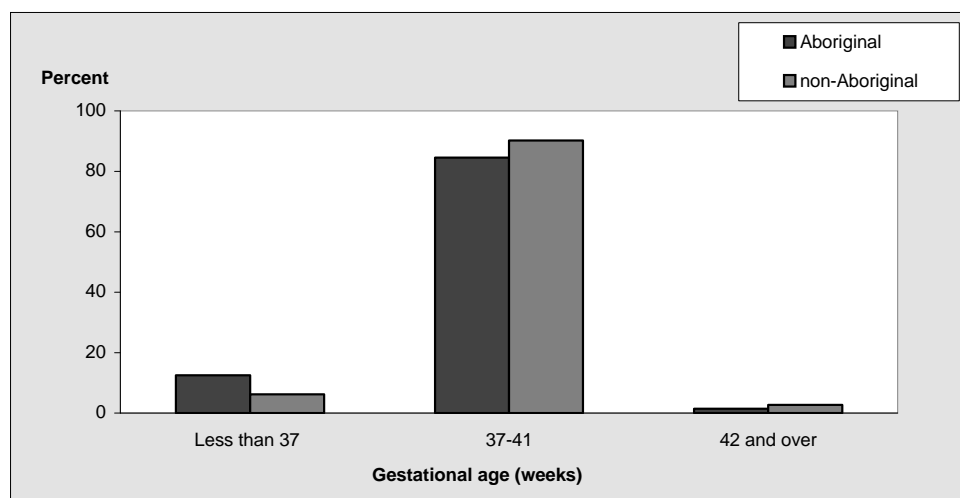


Table 6. Duration of pregnancy by Indigenous status, NT, 1995

Gestation	Weeks	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Premature	19 to 21	5	0.4	2	0.1	7	0.2
	22 to 27	13	1.0	14	0.6	27	0.8
	28 to 31	13	1.0	12	0.5	25	0.7
	32 to 36	124	10.0	118	5.0	242	6.7
Term	37 to 41	1052	84.6	2125	89.9	3177	88.1
Post-term	42 to 45	19	1.5	63	2.7	82	2.3
Unknown	Unknown	18	1.5	29	1.2	47	1.3
Total		1244	100.0	2363	100.0	3607	100.1

Note: Percentages shown are the proportions of the total in each column

- If the date of the woman's last menstrual period (LMP) is available, then duration of pregnancy (gestational age) is best defined as the difference between that date and the date of delivery of the infant. If the LMP date is not available, then gestation is estimated from clinical grounds (including ultrasound) and is based on foetal size and other parameters.
- Due to problems with recalling the date of LMP, the duration of Aboriginal pregnancies is often based on the clinical method. However, as Aboriginal foetuses are at greater risk of being 'small', their gestation age maybe underestimated.
- 88.1% of mothers had a term pregnancy in 1995. The proportion of term pregnancies was higher for non-Aboriginal mothers (89.9%) compared with Aboriginal mothers (84.6%).
- The proportion of Aboriginal mothers (12.4%) who reportedly delivered a premature infant was double that for non-Aboriginal mothers (6.2%).

First antenatal visit

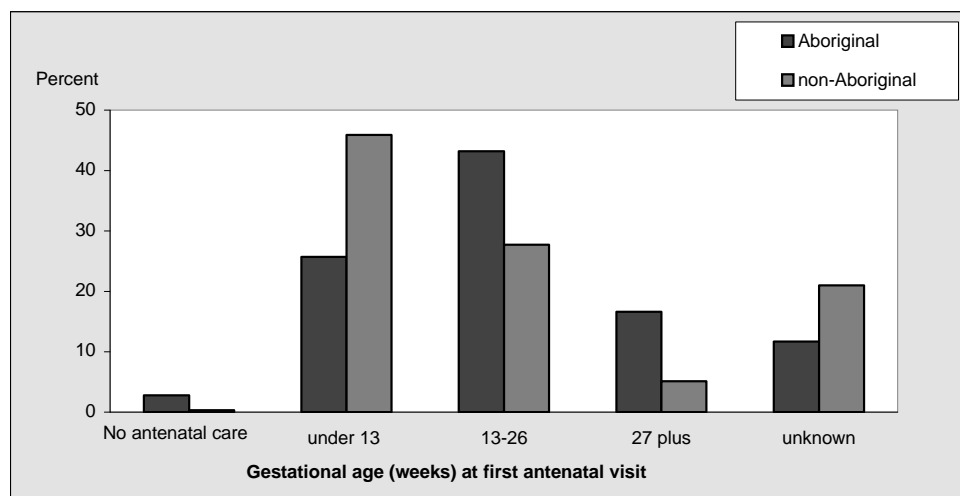


Table 7. Gestational age at first visit for antenatal care by mother's Indigenous status for rural and urban dwellers, NT, 1995

	Usual residence of mother	Gestational age at first antenatal visit					Total number
		Had no antenatal care (%)	Trimester 1 Under 13 weeks (%)	Trimester 2 13-26 weeks (%)	Trimester 3 27 weeks & over (%)	Gestation unknown (%)	
Aboriginal	NT Rural	3.1	22.6	48.0	15.7	10.6	801
	NT Urban	2.2	30.9	33.9	19.1	14.0	372
	Interstate	2.8	33.8	38.0	14.1	11.3	71
	Total	2.8	25.7	43.2	16.6	11.7	1244
Non-Aboriginal	NT Rural	0.0	43.4	32.6	2.3	21.7	129
	NT Urban	0.4	46.0	27.9	5.2	20.9	2215
	Interstate	0.0	42.1	21.1	5.3	31.6	19
	Total	0.3	45.9	27.7	5.1	21.0	2363

Note: Percentages shown are the proportions of the total in each row

- Gestational age at first visit is often used as an indicator of adequate and timely antenatal care. Pregnant women are encouraged to seek antenatal care early in their pregnancy (before 13 weeks).
- 2.8% of Aboriginal mothers and 0.3% of non-Aboriginal mothers had not reportedly received any antenatal care services.
- Gestational age at first antenatal care visit was not reported for a substantial number of women. As a result, the information presented here should be treated with caution.
- 25.7% of Aboriginal women had their first antenatal visit in the first trimester of their pregnancy compared with 45.9% for non-Aboriginal women.

First antenatal visit

Table 8. Gestational age at first visit for antenatal care by mother's Indigenous status and district of usual residence, NT, 1995

District of usual residence of mother	Had no antenatal care (%)	Gestation age at first antenatal visit				Total number
		Trimester 1 Under 13 weeks (%)	Trimester 2 13–26 weeks (%)	Trimester 3 27 weeks & over (%)	Gestation unknown (%)	
Aboriginal						
Darwin Urban	1.4	32.7	29.9	13.6	22.4	147
Darwin Rural	1.9	24.0	49.4	8.6	16.1	267
East Arnhem	3.3	18.3	54.2	15.7	8.5	153
Katherine	1.4	32.9	42.7	17.8	5.2	213
Barkly	8.4	14.5	43.3	18.1	15.7	83
Alice Springs Urban	1.7	32.8	32.8	24.1	8.6	116
Alice Springs Rural	4.7	18.3	44.5	25.1	7.3	191
Interstate	2.7	33.8	37.8	14.9	10.8	74
Total	2.8	25.7	43.2	16.6	11.7	1244
Non-Aboriginal						
Darwin Urban	0.5	37.1	29.4	6.0	27.0	1586
Darwin Rural	0.0	33.3	31.8	4.5	30.3	66
East Arnhem	0.0	44.0	40.0	5.3	10.7	75
Katherine	0.0	76.4	13.3	2.0	8.4	203
Barkly	0.0	57.7	19.2	11.5	11.5	26
Alice Springs Urban	0.0	68.9	24.9	2.7	3.6	366
Alice Springs Rural	0.0	47.6	47.6	0.0	4.8	21
Interstate	0.0	40.0	20.0	5.0	35.0	20
Total	0.3	45.9	27.7	5.1	21.0	2363

Note: Percentages shown are the proportions of the total in each row

- Gestational age at first antenatal visit was “unknown” in 21.0% of non-Aboriginal and 11.7% of Aboriginal cases. This problem was particularly evident in records from Darwin urban, Darwin rural and Barkly districts. Reporting on antenatal care in 1995 has improved since 1994 when the levels of missing information were 30.5% for non-Aboriginal women and 18.9% for Aboriginal.
- The proportion of Aboriginal women who reportedly had no antenatal care ranged from 1.4% among women from Darwin Urban and Katherine to 8.4% among women from Barkly. In contrast, almost all non-Aboriginal women received antenatal care. The contrast between the two groups of women most likely reflects better access to obstetric care for non-Aboriginal women.
- The proportions of Aboriginal women who presented for antenatal care in the first trimester of their pregnancy ranged from a low 14.5% in Barkly to 32.8% in the Darwin and the Alice Springs Urban, and Katherine districts.
- Among non-Aboriginal women, the proportions who presented for care in the first trimester of their pregnancy ranged from 33.3% in Darwin Rural to 76.4% in Katherine.

Procedures during pregnancy

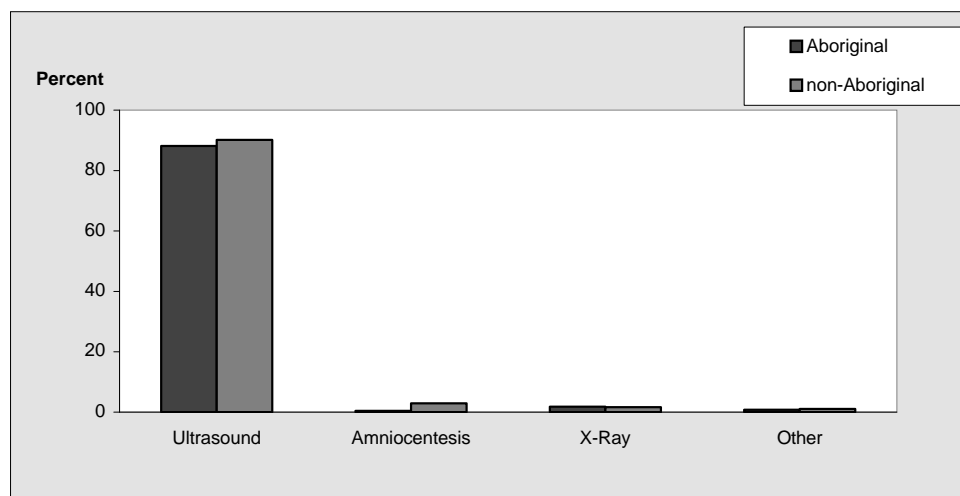


Table 9. Procedures received during pregnancy by Indigenous status, NT, 1995

	Type of procedure							
	Ultrasound		Amniocentesis		X-ray		Other procedures	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Aboriginal	1096	88.1	6	0.5	23	1.8	10	0.8
Non-Aboriginal	2121	89.8	69	2.9	37	1.6	26	1.1
Total	3217	89.2	75	2.1	60	1.7	36	1.0

Note: Percentages shown are the proportions of the total number of Aboriginal (1244), non-Aboriginal (2363) and total (3607) mothers

- These procedures are often carried out to assess and monitor the general health of the foetus. Ultrasound – to assess and monitor foetal growth, and to detect anatomical abnormalities; amniocentesis – to detect chromosomal abnormalities; and X-rays – to measure the woman's pelvis which may indicate the need for a caesarean section.
- Almost nine in every ten pregnant women received an ultrasound. There was little difference between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal mothers who received this service.
- In 1995, an amniocentesis was performed on 75 (2.1% of all) women who gave birth to an infant in the Northern Territory. Of these women, six were Aboriginal and 69 were non-Aboriginal.
- Of the 69 non-Aboriginal women who received an amniocentesis, 59 (85.5%) were over 30 years of age. In contrast, none of the six Aboriginal women were above that age.

NT Midwives Data Collection Data Reporting Guidelines

An experienced midwife has produced guidelines to assist in the better collection of the Midwives data.

If you need a copy of the guidelines for your unit or for training new staff in the data collection procedures, please contact the

Epidemiology Branch

Tel: (08) 8999 2933

Fax: (08) 8999 2618

Medical conditions

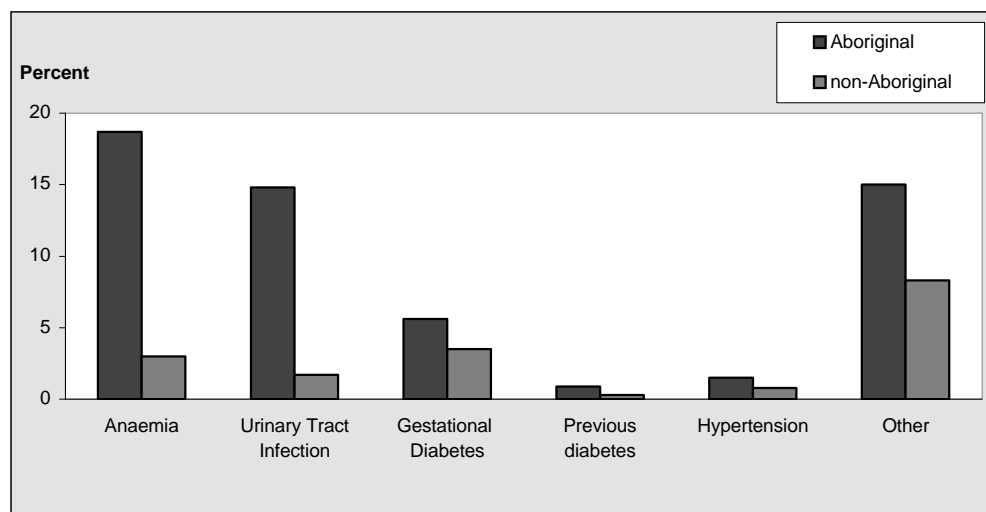


Table 10. Medical conditions during pregnancy by Indigenous status, NT, 1995

	Type of medical condition						All pregnancies	
	Anaemia	Urinary tract infection	Gestational diabetes	Diabetes prior to pregnancy	Essential hypertension	Other conditions	With at least one condition	Without conditions
Number of women								
Aboriginal	232	184	70	12	19	187	568	676
Non-Aboriginal	71	39	84	7	19	195	397	1958
Total	303	223	154	19	38	382	965	2634
Percent								
Aboriginal	18.7	14.8	5.6	1.0	1.5	15.0	45.7	54.3
Non-Aboriginal	3.0	1.7	3.6	0.3	0.8	8.3	16.8	83.2
Total	8.4	6.2	4.3	0.5	1.1	10.6	26.8	73.2

Notes:

1. Individual conditions may sum to more than the 'With at least one condition' category because some mothers had more than one condition

2. Percentages shown are the proportions of the total number of Aboriginal (1244), non-Aboriginal (2363) and total (3607) mothers

- Severe anaemia in a pregnant woman may affect her ability to transfer oxygen and adequately provide for the nutritional requirements of the foetus which may then be growth retarded. Untreated urinary tract infection can sometimes lead to premature labour.
- 73.2% of the women who gave birth in 1995 had no complications during their pregnancy. 45.7% of Aboriginal women had at least one complication compared with 16.8% for non-Aboriginal women.
- Anaemia (18.7%) and urinary tract infection (14.8%) were the two most common complications observed in Aboriginal women.
- Gestational diabetes and anaemia were the two most common conditions diagnosed in non-Aboriginal mothers.

Medical conditions

Table 11. Medical conditions by district of usual residence of mother and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

District of usual residence of mother	Type of medical condition (percent)						No. of pregnancies	
	Anaemia	Urinary tract infection	Gestational diabetes	Diabetes prior to pregnancy	Essential hypertension	Other conditions	With at least one condition	Without conditions
Aboriginal								
Darwin Urban	11.6	6.1	6.8	2.0	0.0	12.2	51	96
Darwin Rural	20.2	13.5	2.3	1.1	3.0	18.7	125	142
East Arnhem	38.6	26.8	6.5	0.0	0.7	20.9	100	53
Katherine	16.0	14.1	7.0	0.9	1.4	14.1	103	110
Barkly	13.3	8.4	8.4	1.2	0.0	9.6	29	54
Alice Springs Urban	12.1	10.3	6.9	0.0	0.9	11.2	40	76
Alice Springs Rural	16.8	17.3	2.6	1.1	2.6	12.6	82	109
Interstate	14.9	21.6	12.2	1.4	1.4	16.2	38	36
Total	18.7	14.8	5.6	0.9	1.5	15.0	568	676
Non-Aboriginal								
Darwin Urban	3.0	1.5	4.2	0.4	0.6	8.1	265	1321
Darwin Rural	1.5	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	9	57
East Arnhem	4.0	6.7	2.7	0.0	0.0	13.3	19	56
Katherine	2.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	2.5	5.9	28	175
Barkly	7.7	7.7	3.9	3.9	0.0	26.9	12	14
Alice Springs Urban	3.0	1.4	2.5	0.0	1.1	7.7	56	310
Alice Springs Rural	4.8	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.5	4	17
Interstate	5.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	4	16
Total	3.0	1.7	3.6	0.3	0.8	8.3	397	1966

Notes:

1. Individual conditions may sum to more than the 'At least one condition' category because some mothers had more than one condition

2. Percentages shown are the proportions of the total number of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal mothers from each district (sum of last two columns or see page 2).

- 153 Aboriginal women from East Arnhem gave birth in 1995. These women had the worst complication profile of Aboriginal women living in any district of the Territory. 38.6% of the 153 women suffered from anaemia and 26.8% from urinary tract infection.
- Although there was no notable change from the 1994 reported level of urinary tract infection in East Arnhem, the 1995 level of anaemia of 38.6% was higher than the level of 31.2% reported in 1994. This apparent worsening in the prevalence of anaemia may reflect continuing poor maternal health and nutrition or may reflect better detection during antenatal care or more complete reporting.
- Non-Aboriginal women from the Barkly and East Arnhem districts had the highest levels of gestational diabetes and anaemia.

Obstetric complications

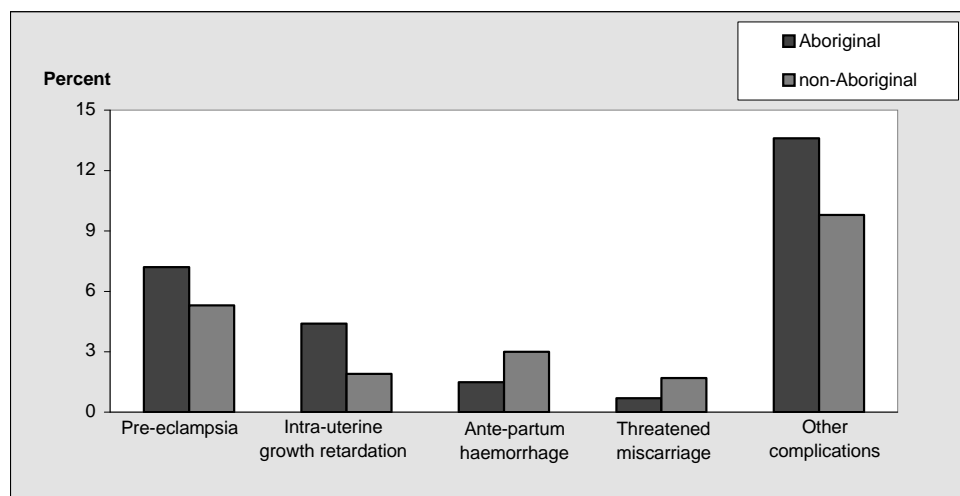


Table 12. Obstetric complications of pregnancy by Indigenous status, NT, 1995

	Type of obstetric complication					All pregnancies	
	Pre-eclampsia	Intra-uterine growth retardation	Ante-partum haemorrhage	Threatened miscarriage	Other complications	At least one complication	Without complications
Number of women							
Aboriginal	89	55	18	9	169	310	934
Non-Aboriginal	126	45	71	41	232	466	1889
Total	215	100	89	50	401	776	2823
Percent							
Aboriginal	7.2	4.4	1.5	0.7	13.6	24.9	75.1
Non-Aboriginal	5.3	1.9	3.0	1.7	9.8	19.7	80.3
Total	6.0	2.8	2.5	1.4	11.1	21.5	78.5

Notes:

1. Individual complications may sum to more than the 'At least one complication' category because some mothers had more than one complication
2. Percentages shown are the proportions of the total number of Aboriginal (1244), non-Aboriginal mothers (2363), and total (3607) mothers

- 776 or 21.5% of mothers had an obstetric complication during their pregnancy in 1995.
- Pre-eclampsia, which occurred in 6.0% of all pregnancies, was the most commonly reported complication for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women. Pre-eclampsia is specific to pregnancy and is usually characterised by excessive weight gain during the pregnancy, raised blood pressure, swelling of the face, hands, ankles or feet, and protein in urine.
- Aboriginal mothers were more likely to have infants with intra-uterine growth retardation (4.4%) compared with non-Aboriginal mothers (1.9%). However, since measurement of this factor depends on an accurate assessment of gestational age, it is likely that growth retardation is under-reported in Aboriginal communities.

Obstetric complications

Table 13. Obstetric complications by district of usual residence of mother and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

District of usual residence of mother	Type of obstetric complications (percent)					No. of pregnancies	
	Pre-eclampsia	Intra-uterine growth retardation	Ante-partum haemorrhage	Threatened miscarriage	Other complications	At least one complication	Without complications
Aboriginal							
Darwin Urban	5.4	4.8	0.7	0.7	9.5	27	120
Darwin Rural	6.0	4.9	1.9	0.8	9.0	53	214
East Arnhem	5.9	3.3	0.0	0.0	12.4	32	121
Katherine	8.9	4.7	2.4	0.9	12.2	54	159
Barkly	4.8	6.0	1.2	1.2	13.3	22	61
Alice Springs Urban	6.9	1.7	0.9	2.6	14.7	28	88
Alice Springs Rural	8.9	4.2	2.1	0.0	23.6	69	122
Interstate	10.8	6.8	1.4	0.0	17.6	25	49
Total	7.2	4.4	1.5	0.7	13.6	310	934
Non-Aboriginal							
Darwin Urban	6.1	2.1	2.7	1.5	10.7	328	1258
Darwin Rural	6.1	3.0	6.1	3.0	6.1	14	52
East Arnhem	2.7	4.0	4.0	2.7	9.3	16	59
Katherine	3.0	1.0	3.9	3.0	4.9	30	173
Barkly	7.7	7.7	0.0	0.0	7.7	5	21
Alice Springs Urban	4.4	0.8	3.0	1.9	9.3	66	300
Alice Springs Rural	0.0	0.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	2	19
Interstate	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	20.0	5	15
Total	5.3	1.9	3.0	1.7	9.8	466	1897

Notes:

1. Individual complications may sum to more than the 'At least one complication' category because some mothers had more than one complication
2. Percentages shown are the proportions of the total number of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal mothers from each district (sum of last two columns or see page 2).

- The proportion of NT Aboriginal mothers with pre-eclampsia ranged from 4.8% among women from the Barkly district to 8.9% among women from Katherine and the Alice Springs Rural districts.
- Aboriginal mothers in general had higher rates of intra-uterine growth retardation.

Place of confinement

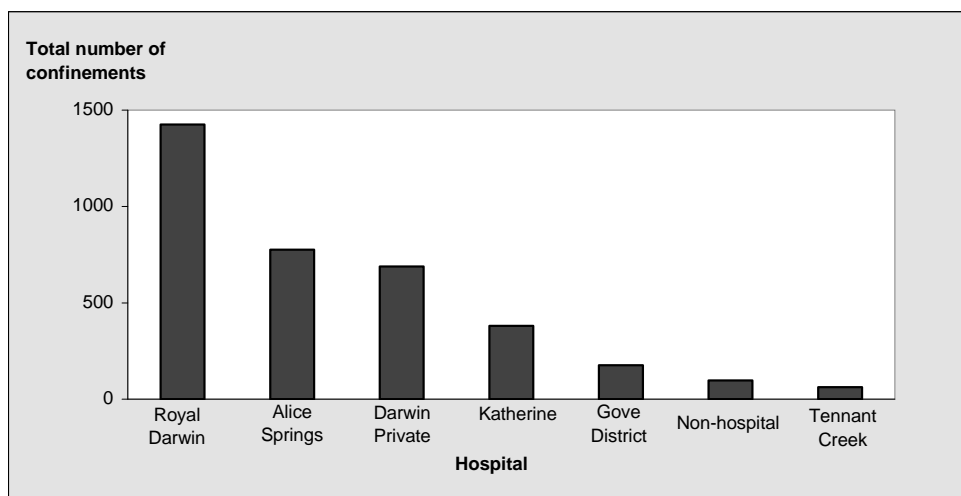


Table 14. Confinements by hospital and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

Hospital	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Royal Darwin Hospital	441	30.9	985	69.1	1426	100.0
Alice Springs Hospital	383	49.4	393	50.6	776	100.0
Darwin Private Hospital	11	1.6	677	98.4	688	100.0
Katherine Hospital	184	48.3	197	51.7	381	100.0
Gove District Hospital	119	67.6	57	32.4	176	100.0
Tennant Creek Hospital	49	77.8	14	22.2	63	100.0
Non-hospital	57	58.8	40	41.2	97	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>1244</i>	<i>34.5</i>	<i>2363</i>	<i>65.5</i>	<i>3607</i>	<i>100.0</i>

Note: Percentages shown are the proportions of the total in each row

- Of the 3,607 women who had a baby in 1995, the large majority (3,510 or 97.3%) gave birth in a hospital.
- 2,114 or 58.6% of all confinements took place in Darwin at the Royal Darwin and Darwin Private hospitals. The majority of women who gave birth were non-Aboriginal.
- Aboriginal women made up between 68% and 78% of all confinements in Gove and Tennant Creek hospitals.
- Ninety-seven mothers reportedly gave birth outside hospital. This number may be unreliable due to under-reporting. However, 58.8% of these women were Aboriginal.

Place of confinement

Table 15. Place of confinement by district of usual residence of mother and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

District of usual residence of mother	Place of confinement (percent)			Total number of mothers
	Hospital	Community Health Centre	Other	
Aboriginal				
Darwin Urban	97.3	1.4	1.4	147
Darwin Rural	94.0	4.5	1.5	267
East Arnhem	92.8	5.2	2.0	153
Katherine	96.7	2.4	0.9	213
Barkly	94.0	1.2	4.8	83
Alice Springs Urban	95.7	3.5	0.8	116
Alice Springs Rural	95.3	2.6	2.1	191
Interstate	100.0	0.0	0.0	74
<i>Total</i>	<i>95.5</i>	<i>2.9</i>	<i>1.6</i>	1244
Non-Aboriginal				
Darwin Urban	98.2	0.0	1.8	1586
Darwin Rural	95.5	0.0	4.6	66
East Arnhem	100.0	0.0	0.0	75
Katherine	100.0	0.0	0.0	203
Barkly	96.2	0.0	3.8	26
Alice Springs Urban	98.1	0.0	1.9	366
Alice Springs Rural	95.2	0.0	4.8	21
Interstate	100.0	0.0	0.0	20
<i>Total</i>	<i>98.3</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>1.7</i>	2363

Note: Percentages shown are the proportions of the total number in each row

- The geography, infrastructure and culture that characterise the Northern Territory often dictate that mothers deliver away from urban centres or outside hospital.
- 4.5% of Aboriginal mothers delivered outside hospital, with almost two thirds of these delivering in a community health centre.
- In East Arnhem, eleven (or 7.2%) out of 153 Aboriginal infants were born outside hospital.
- Six Aboriginal women delivered their babies at the Congress Alukura in Alice Springs.

Presentation

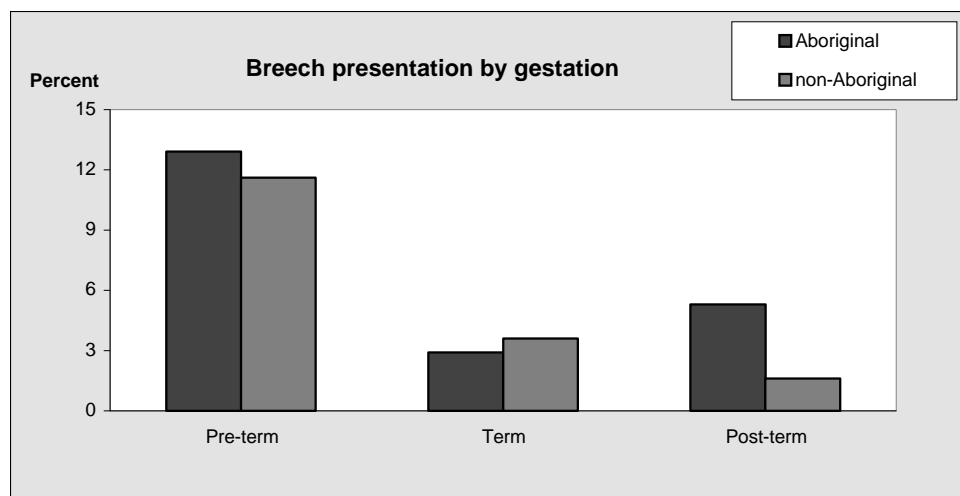


Table 16. Presentation at onset of labour by Indigenous status and pregnancy duration, NT, 1995

	Gestational age	Presentation of foetus at onset of labour				Number of confinements
		Cephalic	Breech	Other	Unknown	
			Percent			
Aboriginal	Pre-term	81.9	12.9	0.7	4.5	155
	Term	95.0	2.9	1.3	0.8	1052
	Post-term	94.7	5.3	0.0	0.0	19
	Unknown	83.3	5.6	0.0	11.1	18
	Total	93.2	4.3	0.7	1.8	1244
Non-Aboriginal	Pre-term	81.5	11.6	3.4	3.4	146
	Term	95.1	3.6	0.3	1.0	2125
	Post-term	96.8	1.6	0.0	1.6	63
	Unknown	96.6	0.0	3.4	0.0	29
	Total	94.3	4.0	0.5	1.1	2363

Notes:

1. Pre-term = less than 37 weeks gestation; term = 37 to 41 weeks gestation; and post-term = gestation of 41 weeks and over
2. Percentages shown are the proportions of the total in each row

- Presentation of the foetus determines the ease of delivery and duration of labour. Cephalic presentation, which is easier and safer for both mother and baby, is when the head of the foetus presents first at the pelvic brim of the mother. A breech presentation is when the bottom of the infant presents first at the pelvic brim.
- Similar proportions of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal mothers had a cephalic presentation.
- Four percent of mothers had breech presentation at onset of labour or Caesarean section.
- Infants who presented in the breech position were more likely to have been preterm (less than 37 weeks gestation).

Onset of labour

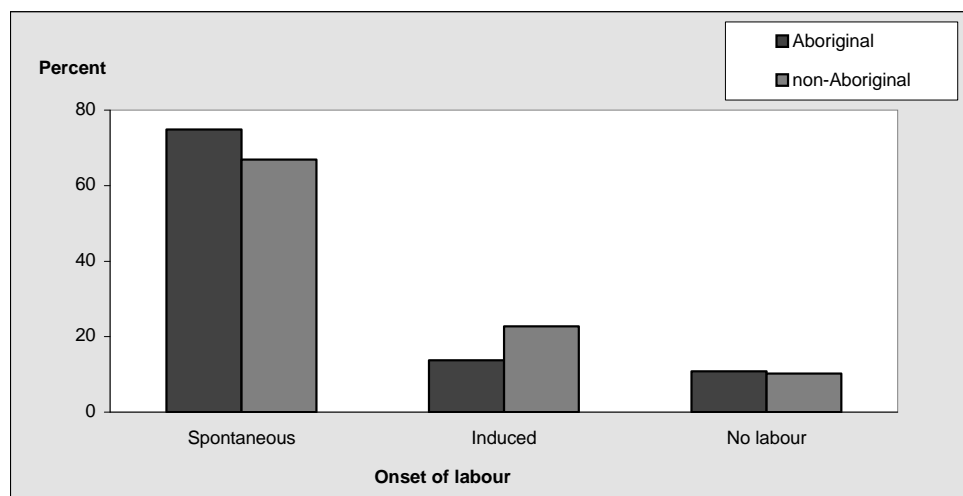


Table 17. Onset of labour by Indigenous status and duration of pregnancy, NT, 1995

	Gestational age	Onset of labour								Number of confinements
		Spontaneous		Induced		No labour		Unknown		
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Aboriginal	Pre-term	109	70.3	18	11.6	26	16.8	2	1.3	155
	Term	800	76.0	142	13.5	106	10.1	4	0.4	1052
	Post-term	7	36.8	10	52.6	2	10.5	0	0.0	19
	Unknown	16	88.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	11.1	18
	Total	932	74.9	170	13.7	134	10.8	8	0.6	1244
Non-Aboriginal	Pre-term	83	56.9	26	17.8	36	24.7	1	0.7	146
	Term	1439	67.7	481	22.6	201	9.5	4	0.2	2125
	Post-term	31	49.2	29	46.0	3	4.8	0	0.0	63
	Unknown	27	93.1	1	3.5	1	3.5	0	0.0	29
	Total	1580	66.9	537	22.7	241	10.2	5	0.2	2363

Notes:

1. Pre-term = less than 37 weeks gestation; term = 37 to 41 weeks gestation; and post-term = gestation of 41 weeks and over
2. Percentages shown are the proportions of the total in each row

- A slightly higher proportion of Aboriginal women had a spontaneous labour (74.9%) compared with non-Aboriginal women (66.9%).
- More non-Aboriginal women underwent induction of labour (22.7%) compared with Aboriginal women (13.7%).
- The induction rate of both groups of women increased with gestational age.
- 707 women (170 Aboriginal and 537 non-Aboriginal) were induced. Of the Aboriginal women, 10.6% were preterm compared with 4.8% of the non-Aboriginal women.

Type of delivery

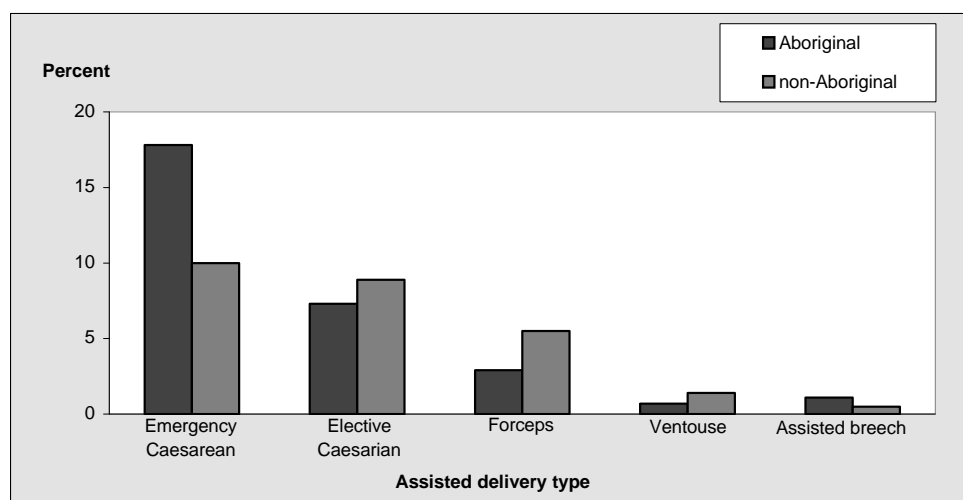


Table 18. Type of delivery by presentation at onset of labour and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

Presentation of foetus	Type of delivery							Number of confinements
	Normal vaginal	Emergency Caesarean section	Elective Caesarean section	Forceps	Ventouse	Assisted breech		
		Percent						
Aboriginal								
Cephalic	73.9	16.1	6.1	2.9	0.8	0.0	1159	
Breech	3.8	37.7	26.4	3.8	0.0	26.4	53	
Other	22.2	55.6	22.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	9	
Unknown	30.4	43.5	17.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	23	
Total	69.8	17.8	7.3	2.9	0.7	1.1	1244	
Non-Aboriginal								
Cephalic	77.4	8.6	6.7	5.7	1.5	0.0	2229	
Breech	1.1	34.7	50.5	1.1	0.0	12.6	95	
Other	16.7	33.3	41.7	8.3	0.0	0.0	12	
Unknown	37.0	29.6	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	27	
Total	73.6	10.0	8.9	5.5	1.4	0.5	2363	

Note: Percentages shown are the proportions of the total in each row

- 73.9% of Aboriginal women and 77.4% of non-Aboriginal women who presented in the cephalic position had a normal vaginal delivery.
- 761 (21.1%) of women who gave birth delivered by Caesarean section.
- 313 (25.1%) Aboriginal mothers and 448 (19.0%) non-Aboriginal mothers had a Caesarean section.
- Aboriginal mothers were 1.8 times more likely to have an emergency Caesarean section than their non-Aboriginal counterparts, but were less likely to have an instrumental delivery (forceps or ventouse).

Delivery complications and interventions

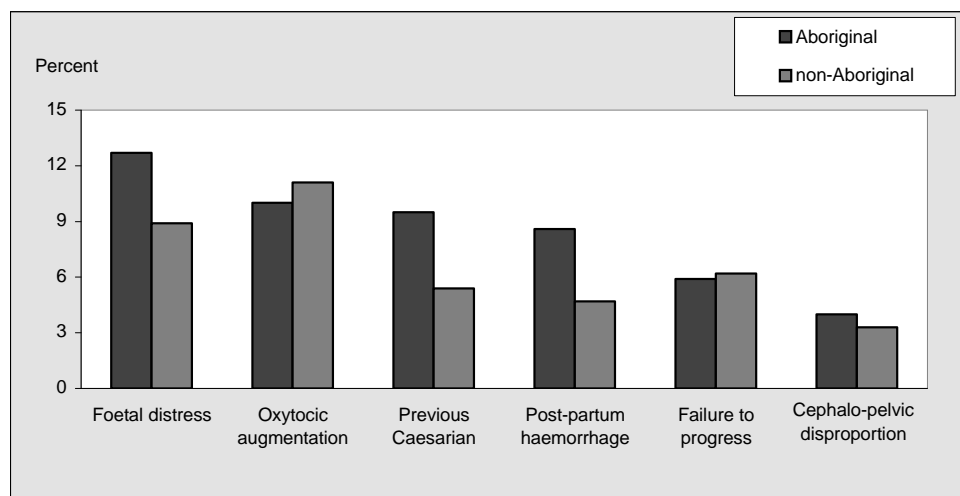


Table 19. Delivery complications by Indigenous status, NT, 1995

Type of complication	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Foetal distress	158	12.7	211	8.9	369	10.2
Oxytocic augmentation	125	10.0	263	11.1	388	10.8
Post-partum haemorrhage	107	8.6	111	4.7	218	6.0
Ante-partum haemorrhage	17	1.4	30	1.3	47	1.3
Previous Caesarean section	118	9.5	128	5.4	246	6.8
Failure to progress to next stage	74	5.9	147	6.2	221	6.1
Cephalo-pelvic disproportion	50	4.0	77	3.3	127	3.5
Retained placenta	20	1.6	47	2.0	67	1.9
Prolonged labour	20	1.6	39	1.7	59	1.6
Other complication	99	8.0	183	7.7	282	7.8
<i>At least one complication</i>	<i>557</i>	<i>44.8</i>	<i>933</i>	<i>39.5</i>	<i>1490</i>	<i>41.3</i>
<i>No complication</i>	<i>667</i>	<i>53.6</i>	<i>1390</i>	<i>58.8</i>	<i>2057</i>	<i>57.0</i>
<i>Unknown</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>1.7</i>
Total	1244	100.0	2363	100.0	3607	100.0

Notes:

1. Percentages are expressed per total number of Aboriginal (1244), non-Aboriginal (2363) and total (3607) mothers
2. Individual complications may sum to more than the 'At least one complication' category because some mothers had more than one complication

- Delivery complications occurred in 44.8% of Aboriginal mothers and 39.5% of non-Aboriginal mothers.
- Aboriginal mothers had higher rates of previous Caesarean section history, foetal distress, post-partum haemorrhage, and cephalo-pelvic disproportion.

Puerperal complications

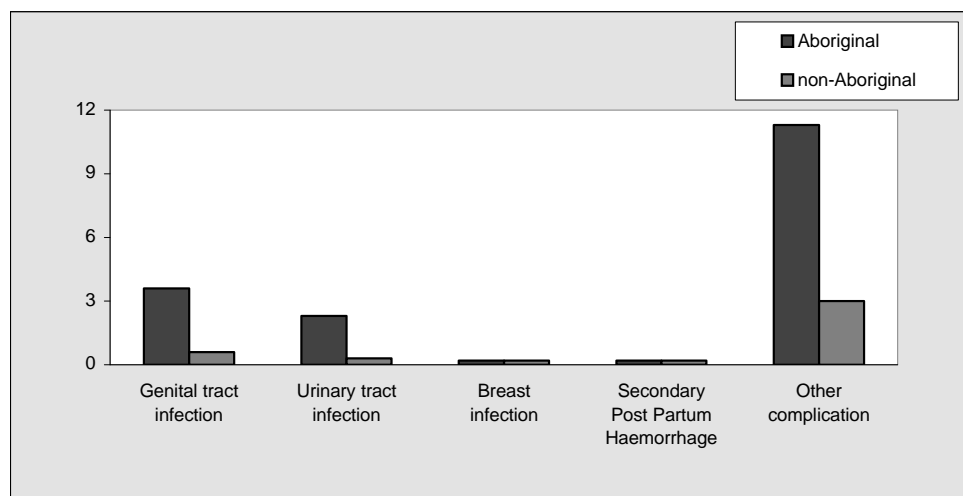


Table 20. Puerperal complications by Indigenous status, NT, 1995

Type of complication	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Genital tract infection	45	3.6	14	0.6	59	1.6
Urinary tract infection	28	2.3	7	0.3	35	1.0
Breast infection	3	0.2	4	0.2	7	0.2
Secondary post-partum haemorrhage	3	0.2	5	0.2	8	0.2
Other puerperal complication	140	11.3	70	3.0	210	5.8
<i>At least one complication</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>16.4</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>303</i>	<i>8.4</i>
<i>No complication</i>	<i>1040</i>	<i>83.6</i>	<i>2264</i>	<i>95.8</i>	<i>3304</i>	<i>91.6</i>
Total	1244	100.0	2363	100.0	3607	100.0

Notes:

1. Percentages are expressed per total number of Aboriginal (1244) and non-Aboriginal (2363) and total (3607) confinements.

2. Individual complications may sum to more than the 'At least one complication' category because some mothers had more than one complication

- The puerperal complications reported here include those which were recorded before hospital discharge. Late complications, such as post-partum psychological disorders, may be under-reported.
- 303 (8.4%) of the 3,607 women who gave birth to an infant in 1995 were reported to have had at least one puerperal complication.
- Aboriginal women (16.4%) were four times more likely to have had a complication compared with non-Aboriginal women (4.2%).
- Genital and urinary tract infections were the two most often reported complications. Aboriginal women were six times more likely to have suffered from these infections compared with non-Aboriginal women.
- Wound and episiotomy infections, together with pneumonia are included in the "Other complication" category.

Duration of stay in hospital

Table 21. Duration of mothers' ante-natal and post-natal stay in hospital, NT, 1995

Number of mothers					
Number of days	Post-natal hospital stay				Total
	0	1-3	4-7	8 & over	
Aboriginal					
Antenatal stay					
0	5	201	319	101	626
1-3	5	115	235	96	451
4-7	0	10	30	19	59
8 & over	0	10	25	16	51
Total	10	336	609	232	1187
Non-Aboriginal					
0	33	549	815	95	1492
1-3	18	229	462	57	766
4-7	0	8	11	5	24
8 & over	2	10	18	11	41
Total	53	796	1306	168	2323
Percent					
Number of days	Post-natal hospital stay				Total
	0	1-3	4-7	8 & over	
Aboriginal					
Antenatal stay					
0	0.4	16.9	26.9	8.5	52.7
1-3	0.4	9.7	19.8	8.1	38.0
4-7	0.0	0.8	2.5	1.6	5.0
8 & over	0.0	0.8	2.1	1.3	4.3
Total	0.8	28.3	51.3	19.5	100.0
Non-Aboriginal					
0	1.4	23.6	35.1	4.1	64.2
1-3	0.8	9.9	19.9	2.5	33.0
4-7	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.2	1.0
8 & over	0.1	0.4	0.8	0.5	1.8
Total	2.3	34.3	56.2	7.2	100.0

Note: Percentages refer to proportions of the 1187 Aboriginal and 2323 non-Aboriginal confinements that occurred in hospital

- 1,187 (95.4%) of the 1,244 Aboriginal women delivered in a hospital. 52.7% of these women were admitted to hospital on the day that they gave birth. 110 (9.3%) were admitted at least four days before delivery.
- 2,323 (98.3%) of the 2,363 non-Aboriginals delivered in a hospital. 1492 (64.2%) of these women were admitted on the day that they gave birth. Sixty-five (2.8%) were admitted at least four days before delivery.
- 841 (71%) of the 1,187 Aboriginal women were still in hospital four days after delivery. In contrast, 1,474 (63%) of non-Aboriginal women were still in hospital four days after delivery.
- Of the 110 Aboriginal women admitted at least four days before delivery, 90 (82%) were still in hospital at least four days after delivery, contrasting with 69% of non-Aboriginal women.

2. Babies

All births

- Survival status
- Birthweight
- Congenital malformations

Livebirths

- Fertility
- Birthweight
- Apgar scores at 5 minutes
- Neonatal complications
- Length of stay in hospital

Born outside hospital

- Complications

Vital statistics

Table 22. Sex and plurality of babies by survival status and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Stillbirths						
Sex:						
Male	7	33.3	6	37.5	13	35.1
Female	14	66.7	10	62.5	24	64.9
Both sexes	21	100.0	16	100.0	37	100.0
Plurality:						
Singleton	21	100.0	15	93.7	36	97.3
Multiple	0	0.0	1	6.3	1	2.7
Total	21	100.0	16	100.0	37	100.0
Livebirths						
Sex:						
Male	616	50.1	1264	52.9	1880	52.0
Female	614	49.9	1124	47.1	1738	48.0
Both sexes	1230	100.0	2388	100.0	3618	100.0
Plurality:						
Singleton	1216	98.9	2309	96.7	3525	97.4
Multiple	14	1.1	79	3.3	93	2.6
Total	1230	100.0	2388	100.0	3618	100.0
All births						
Sex:						
Male	623	49.8	1270	52.8	1893	51.8
Female	628	50.2	1134	47.2	1762	48.2
Both sexes	1251	100.0	2404	100.0	3655	100.0
Plurality:						
Singleton	1237	98.9	2324	96.7	3561	97.4
Multiple	14	1.1	80	3.3	94	2.6
Total	1251	100.0	2404	100.0	3655	100.0

- 3,655 births were notified through the NT Midwives' Collection in 1995. Of these, 37 were stillborn and 3,618 were born alive.
- Twenty-four of the stillbirths were female resulting in a sex ratio of 54 male stillbirths per 100 female stillbirths.
- The sex ratio for livebirths was 108 male births per 100 female births.
- There were 94 multiple births in 1995. They comprised 44 sets of twins and two sets of triplets. One infant from one of the sets of twins was stillborn.

Birthweight

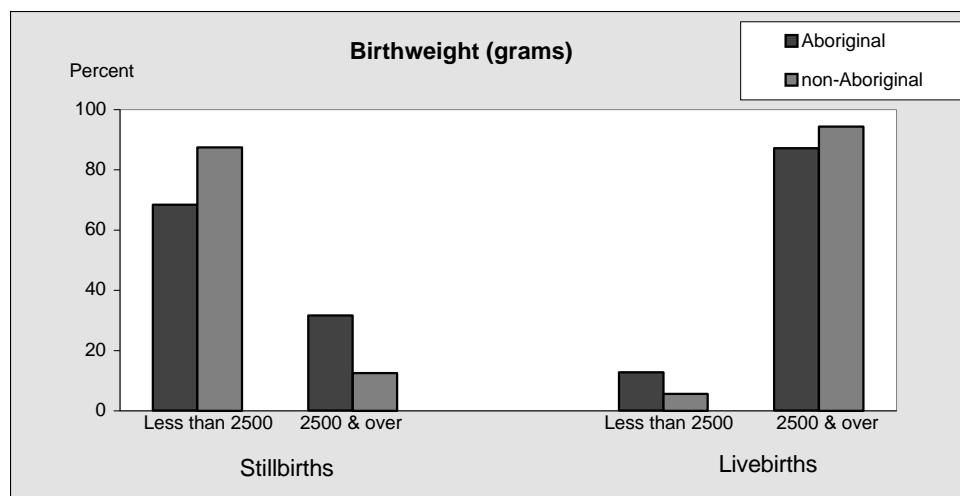


Table 23. Birthweight distribution by survival status of all births by Indigenous status, NT, 1995

	Birthweight (grams)								Mean weight	Number of births
	Less than 1000		1000-1499		1500-2499		2500 and over			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%		
Stillbirths										
Aboriginal	4	21.1	2	10.5	7	36.8	6	31.6	1926	19
Non-Aboriginal	9	56.2	2	12.5	3	18.8	2	12.5	1201	16
Livebirths										
Aboriginal	7	0.6	10	0.8	141	11.5	1072	87.2	3117	1230
Non-Aboriginal	13	0.5	8	0.3	115	4.8	2249	94.3	3348	2385
All births										
Aboriginal	11	0.9	12	1.0	148	11.8	1078	86.3	3099	1249
Non-Aboriginal	22	0.9	10	0.4	118	4.9	2251	93.8	3333	2401

Notes:

1. Percentages shown are proportion of the total each row.

2. The data exclude two Aboriginal stillbirths and three non-Aboriginal livebirths whose birthweight were unknown.

- 68.4% of Aboriginal and 87.5% of non-Aboriginal stillbirths were low birthweight (under 2500 grams).
- The mean birthweight of Aboriginal stillborns was 1,926 grams compared with 1,201 grams for non-Aboriginal stillborns.
- Aboriginal livebirths (12.9%) were twice as likely to be low birthweight relative to non-Aboriginal livebirths (5.6%).
- Aboriginal livebirths weighed 3,117 grams on average at birth compared with 3,348 grams for non-Aboriginal livebirths.

Birth defects (Congenital malformations)

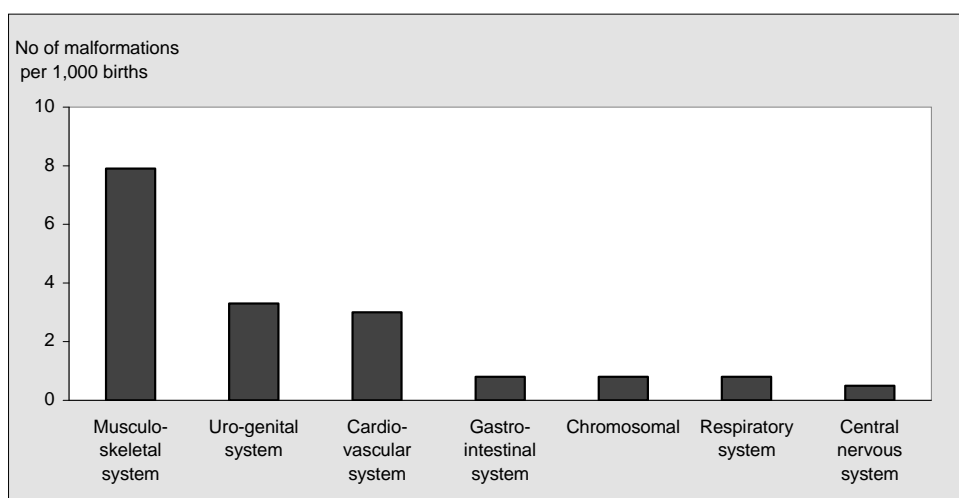


Table 24. Number and type of birth defect and rate per thousand total births by Indigenous status, NT, 1995

Congenital malformation	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Musculo-skeletal system	7	5.6	22	9.2	29	7.9
Uro-genital system	7	5.6	5	2.1	12	3.3
Cardio-vascular system	2	1.6	9	3.7	11	3.0
Central nervous system	2	1.6	0	0.0	2	0.5
Gastro-intestinal system	1	0.8	2	0.8	3	0.8
Chromosomal	0	0.0	3	1.2	3	0.8
Respiratory system	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<i>At least one malformation</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>15.2</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>17.9</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>17.0</i>
<i>No malformation</i>	<i>1232</i>	<i>984.8</i>	<i>2361</i>	<i>982.1</i>	<i>3593</i>	<i>983.0</i>
Total	1251		2404		3655	

Notes:

1. The rates measure the number of infants with a malformation per thousand births among Aboriginal (1251), non-Aboriginal (2404) and total (3655) births.
2. Individual malformations may sum to more than the 'At least one malformation' category because some infants had more than one malformation

- In 1995, there were 62 babies born with congenital malformations; of these five were stillborn.
- Non-Aboriginal babies were slightly more likely than Aboriginal babies to have a congenital malformation.
- Musculo-skeletal malformations were the most common malformation among non-Aboriginal births.

Born outside hospital

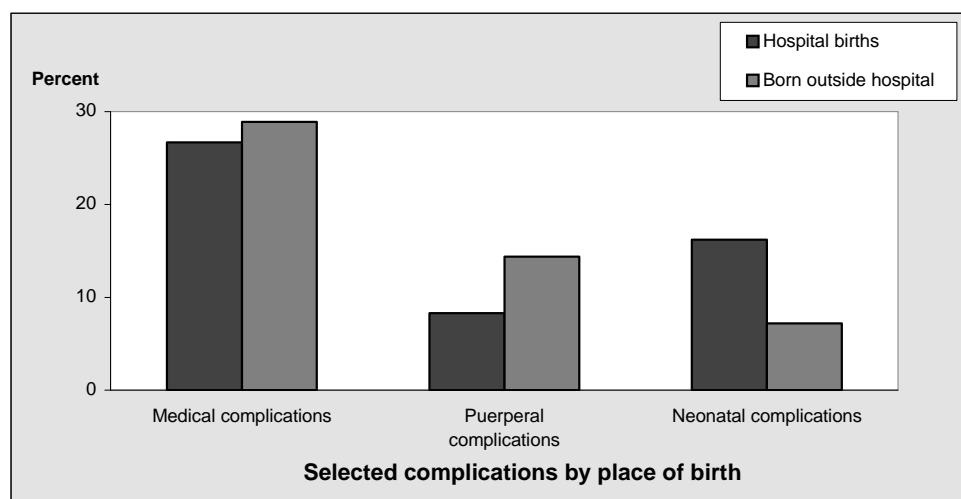


Table 25. Total births by place of birth, selected complications and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

Complication type	Aboriginal infants born				Non-Aboriginal infants born				Total infants born			
	In hospital		Outside hospital		In hospital		Outside hospital		In hospital		Outside hospital	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Medical	549	46.0	23	40.4	399	16.9	6	15.0	949	26.7	28	28.9
Puerperal	194	16.2	13	22.8	102	4.3	1	2.5	296	8.3	14	14.4
Neonatal	203	17.0	5	8.8	373	15.8	2	5.0	576	16.2	7	7.2
Total births	1194		57		2364		40		3558		97	

Note: Percentages are proportions of the total number in each column

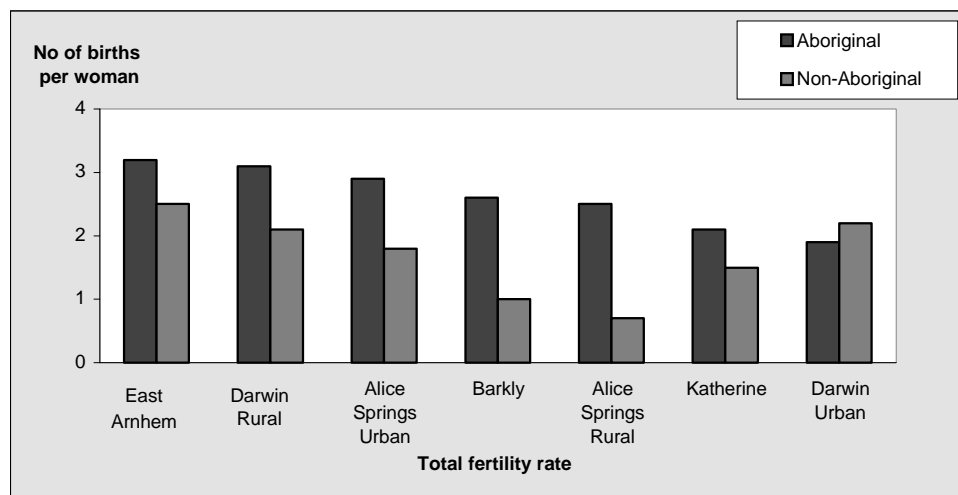
Table 26. Total births and deaths among infants born outside hospital by birthweight and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

Birthweight (grams)	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
Less than 1000	0	0	0	0	0	0
1000-1499	0	0	0	0	0	0
1500-2499	15	1	1	0	16	1
2500 and over	40	0	36	0	76	0
Unknown	2	2	3	0	5	2
Total	57	3	40	0	97	3

Note: All three deaths were stillbirths.

- Puerperal and neonatal complications were less common among infants born outside hospital compared with those born in hospital. However, medical complications were higher among the mothers who confined outside hospital.
- A higher proportion of Aboriginal infants born outside hospital were low birthweight.

District of usual residence of mother



Note: Explanation and data for total fertility rates in above graph are presented on page 31

Table 27. Crude birth rates by district of usual residence of mother, NT, 1995

District of usual residence	Aboriginal			Non-Aboriginal		
	Number of livebirths	Mid-1995 Population	Crude birth rate	Number of livebirths	Mid-1995 Population	Crude birth rate
Darwin Urban	148	8232	18.0	1610	82319	19.6
Darwin Rural	266	9186	29.0	65	3277	19.8
East Arnhem	151	7112	21.2	205	8678	23.6
Katherine	209	7271	28.7	75	5839	12.8
Barkly	80	3290	24.3	26	3239	8.0
Alice Springs Urban	114	4367	26.1	366	20948	17.5
Alice Springs Rural	190	8223	23.1	21	2091	10.0
Total	1158	47681	24.3	2368	126391	18.7

Notes:

1. Data presented excludes 92 infants born to mothers who usual place of residence was 'Interstate'.

2. Crude birth rate is expressed as the number of live births per thousand mid-1995 total estimated population for each district

- Of the 3,618 infants born alive in the Territory, 3,526 were born to mothers whose usual place of residence was the Northern Territory at the time that they gave birth. The remaining 92 infants were born to mothers who did not usually reside in the Territory.
- The number of births and the crude birth rates provide an indication of the level of services required for each of the seven districts of the Territory.
- The majority of non-Aboriginal babies were born to mothers who resided in Darwin and Alice Springs urban regions.
- Most of the infants born to Aboriginal mothers were to women who resided in rural areas, but who travelled to the major urban areas of Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine to give birth.

Fertility

Table 28. Age-specific birth rates (number of births per thousand women) and total fertility rates (number of births per woman) by district, NT, 1995

District	Age of mother (years)							TFR per woman
	Under 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 & over	
Aboriginal								
Darwin Urban	0.0	79.8	124.4	92.1	57.0	20.1	4.2	1.9
Darwin Rural	7.8	167.6	197.8	150.3	67.6	32.4	0.0	3.1
East Arnhem	13.4	182.2	202.2	161.6	61.4	27.5	0.0	3.2
Katherine	6.6	154.7	136.3	61.0	39.7	21.6	0.0	2.1
Barkly	11.3	127.3	176.1	119.3	51.2	25.8	9.3	2.6
Alice Springs Urban	3.5	126.4	224.0	119.8	91.2	14.0	0.0	2.9
Alice Springs Rural	6.3	144.4	166.2	117.3	35.7	29.8	0.0	2.5
Total	6.5	141.6	170.7	117.1	56.3	24.8	1.6	2.6
Non-Aboriginal								
Darwin Urban	0.3	38.4	103.9	130.0	106.8	41.5	9.9	2.2
Darwin Rural	0.0	75.1	74.5	82.7	104.4	65.5	20.5	2.1
East Arnhem	0.0	68.9	114.8	148.9	113.3	47.8	10.4	2.5
Katherine	0.0	23.3	91.8	91.1	67.9	14.5	12.4	1.5
Barkly	0.0	50.2	41.5	43.2	33.7	19.8	15.7	1.0
Alice Springs Urban	0.0	28.3	89.8	110.7	88.1	40.9	3.5	1.8
Alice Springs Rural	0.0	0.0	26.8	63.4	32.9	24.5	0.0	0.7
Total	0.2	38.5	97.2	120.5	98.8	40.0	9.2	2.0

Notes:

1. Data presented excludes 92 infants born to mothers whose usual place of residence was 'Interstate'.

2. Age-specific birth rates are expressed as the number of live births per thousand mid-1995 total estimated female population at each specific age group and for each district

- Aboriginal women aged less than 25 years had substantially higher age-specific birth rates (expressed as the number of live-births per thousand women) compared with non-Aboriginal women.
- In contrast, non-Aboriginal women aged 25 years and over had higher age-specific birth rates.
- The total fertility rate (TFR) is a useful summary measure of fertility. It is 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. This rate is obtained by summing the age-specific fertility rates for one particular year. In 1995, the total fertility rate for all NT Aboriginal women was 2.6 children per woman compared with 2.0 per non-Aboriginal woman.
- Women from East Arnhem had the highest total fertility rate of all seven districts for both Aboriginal (3.2 per woman) and non-Aboriginal people (2.5 per woman).
- Aboriginal total fertility rates were higher than non-Aboriginal rates in all districts except in the Darwin Urban district.

District of usual residence of mother

Table 29. Birthweight distribution of livebirths by district of usual residence of mother and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

District of usual residence of mother	Birthweight (grams)								Mean weight	Number of livebirths
	Less than 1000		1000-1499		1500-2499		2500 and over			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%		
Aboriginal										
Darwin Urban	0	0.0	0	0.0	17	11.5	131	88.5	3302	148
Darwin Rural	3	1.1	4	1.5	33	12.4	226	85.0	3017	266
East Arnhem	1	0.7	0	0.0	20	13.2	130	86.1	2988	151
Katherine	2	1.0	2	1.0	23	11.0	182	87.1	3124	209
Barkly	0	0.0	2	2.5	11	13.7	67	83.8	3060	80
Alice Springs Urban	0	0.0	1	0.9	8	7.0	105	92.1	3272	114
Alice Springs Rural	0	0.0	0	0.0	20	10.5	170	89.5	3167	190
Interstate	1	1.4	1	1.4	9	12.5	61	84.7	3035	72
Total	7	0.6	10	0.8	141	11.5	1072	87.1	3117	1230
Non-Aboriginal										
Darwin Urban	13	0.8	6	0.4	89	5.5	1499	93.3	3317	1607
Darwin Rural	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	6.2	61	93.8	3339	65
East Arnhem	0	0.0	1	1.3	2	2.7	72	96.0	3348	75
Katherine	0	0.0	1	0.5	11	5.4	193	94.2	3382	205
Barkly	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	11.5	23	88.5	3111	26
Alice Springs Urban	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	1.1	362	98.9	3482	366
Alice Springs Rural	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	21	100.0	3403	21
Interstate	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	10.0	18	90.0	3209	20
Total	13	0.5	8	0.3	115	4.8	2249	94.3	3348	2385

Note: Percentages shown are the proportion of the total in each row

- The average birthweight of Aboriginal infants ranged from 2,988 grams for those born to mothers whose district of residence was East Arnhem to 3,302 grams for those born to mothers from Darwin Urban.
- The proportion of Aboriginal infants who had low birthweight (less than 2500 grams) was highest for those born to mothers from the Barkly district (16.2%) and lowest for those born to mothers from the Alice Springs Urban (7.9%).
- The average birthweight of non-Aboriginal infants ranged from 3,111 grams for those born to mothers whose district of residence was the Barkly district to 3,482 grams for those born to mothers from the Alice Springs Urban.
- The proportion of non-Aboriginal infants of low birthweight was highest among those born to mothers from the Barkly district (11.5%).

Apgar scores

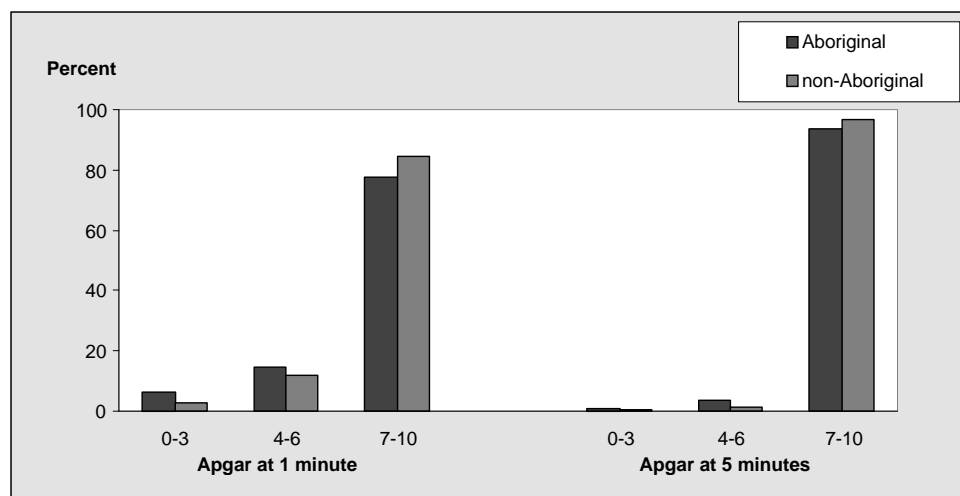


Table 30. Apgar scores at one and five minutes by Indigenous status, live births, NT, 1995

	Apgar score at 1 minute				Mean score	Number of livebirths
	0 – 3	4 – 6	7 – 10	Unknown		
	Percent					
Aboriginal	6.3	14.4	77.7	1.5	7.6	1230
Non-Aboriginal	2.6	11.7	84.5	1.3	8.0	2388
Total	3.9	12.6	82.2	1.3	7.9	3618
	Apgar score at 5 minutes					
	Percent					
Aboriginal	1.1	3.8	93.4	1.6	8.8	1230
Non-Aboriginal	0.4	1.5	96.8	1.3	9.0	2388
Total	0.7	2.3	95.6	1.4	8.9	3618

Notes:

1. Percentages shown are the proportions of the total in each row
2. Data used for the calculation of the mean scores exclude the unknown category.

- Apgar scores, measured at one and five minutes after birth, are clinical indicators of the condition of babies. The scores are based on five physical signs: heart rate, respiration, muscle tone, reflex and colour. Each component is assigned a score ranging between zero and two. This means that the total score can range between zero and ten. Scores of 7–10 indicate a healthy baby.
- 77.7% of Aboriginal livebirths had a score of 7–10 at one minute compared with 84.5% for non-Aboriginal babies.
- The disparity between the two groups was less at the five-minute mark with 93.4% of Aboriginal livebirths with a score of 7–10 compared with 96.8% for non-Aboriginal livebirths.

Neonatal complications

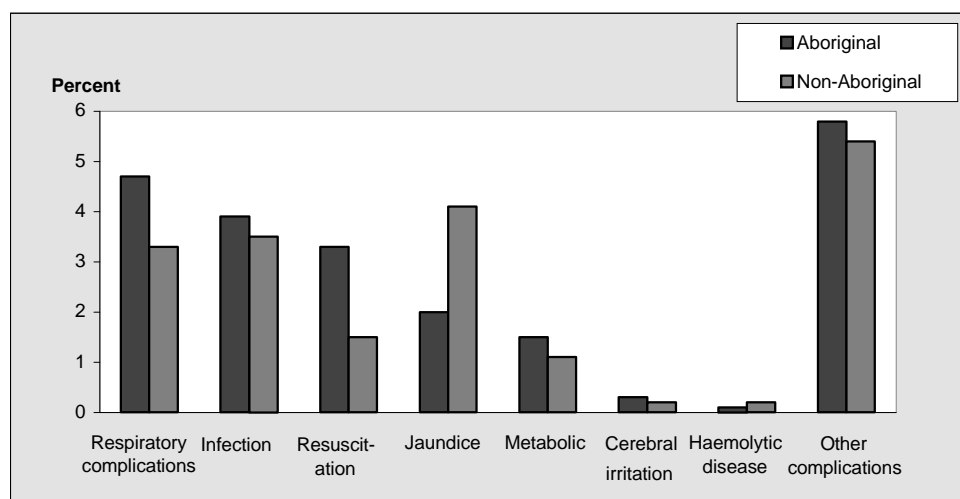


Table 31. Incidence of neonatal complications for livebirths by Indigenous status, NT, 1995

Type of complication	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Respiratory complications	58	4.7	78	3.3	136	3.8
Infection	48	3.9	84	3.5	132	3.6
Resuscitation	41	3.3	35	1.5	76	2.1
Jaundice	25	2.0	98	4.1	123	3.4
Metabolic	18	1.5	26	1.1	44	1.2
Cerebral irritation	4	0.3	5	0.2	9	0.2
Haemolytic disease of the newborn	1	0.1	5	0.2	6	0.2
Other complications	71	5.8	130	5.4	201	5.6
<i>At least one complication</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>16.8</i>	<i>375</i>	<i>15.7</i>	<i>582</i>	<i>16.1</i>
<i>No complication</i>	<i>1023</i>	<i>83.2</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>84.3</i>	<i>3036</i>	<i>83.9</i>
Total number of livebirths	1230		2388		3618	

Notes:

1. Percentages are proportions of the total in each column

2. Individual complications may sum to more than the 'At least one complication' category because some babies had more than one complication

- 16.1% of livebirths had at least one complication in the neonatal period.
- The most common complications among Territory newborns were respiratory complications, infection, jaundice and resuscitation.
- The three most common complications among Aboriginal livebirths were respiratory complications, infections and the need for resuscitation.
- Jaundice, respiratory complications and infections were the three most common complications among non-Aboriginal newborns.

Duration of stay in hospital

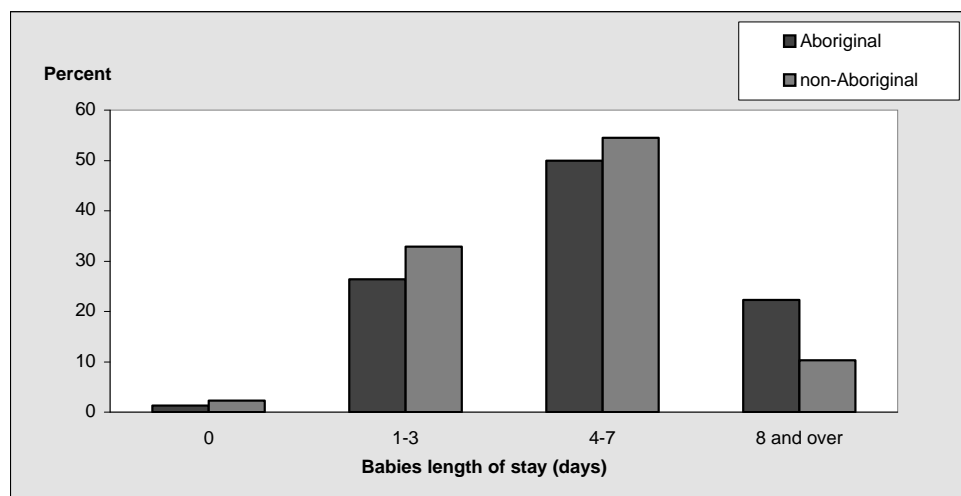


Table 32. Duration of hospital stay by Indigenous status, live births, NT, 1995

Duration of stay (days)	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0 (less than 24 hours)	15	1.3	54	2.3	69	2.0
1 to 3	311	26.4	773	32.9	1084	30.8
4 to 7	588	50.0	1279	54.5	1867	53.0
8 and over	262	22.3	242	10.3	504	14.3
Total hospital confinements	1176	100.0	2348	100.0	3524	100.1
Non-hospital confinements	54		40		94	
All confinements	1230		2388		3618	
Mean length of hospital stay	5.5		4.5		4.8	

Note: Mean length of stay is calculated using the geometric mean.

- 86% of babies who were delivered in hospital were discharged within 7 days of delivery.
- Aboriginal babies were 2.2 times more likely than non-Aboriginal babies to be in hospital for longer than 7 days.
- The mean length of stay for Aboriginal babies of 6.7 days was 20% greater than that of non-Aboriginal babies at 5.4 days.

3. Hospital

Mothers

- District of usual residence
- Onset of labour
- Method of delivery
- Complications of delivery
- Puerperal complications
- Mean length of hospital stay

Babies (Still and livebirths combined)

- Sex
- Plurality
- Birthweight
- Mortality (Stillbirths)

Babies (Livebirths only)

- Apgar score at 5–minutes
- Neonatal complications
- Length of stay in hospital
- Mortality (Neonatal deaths)

Table 33. Royal Darwin Hospital: Selected maternal and infant data, 1995

		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Mothers							
Total number		441	100.0	985	100.0	1427	100.0
District of usual residence	Darwin Urban	137	31.1	920	93.4	1057	74.1
	Darwin Rural	241	54.6	37	3.8	279	19.6
	East Arnhem	27	6.1	9	0.9	36	2.5
	Katherine	22	5.0	6	0.6	28	2.0
	Elsewhere	14	3.2	13	1.3	27	1.9
Onset of labour	Spontaneous	328	74.4	709	72.0	1038	72.7
	Induced	55	12.5	181	18.4	236	16.5
	No labour	53	12.0	93	9.4	146	10.2
	Unknown	5	1.1	2	0.2	7	0.5
Method of delivery	Normal vaginal	289	65.5	736	74.7	1026	71.9
	Assisted breech	6	1.4	4	0.4	10	0.7
	Forceps or ventouse	11	2.5	49	5.0	60	4.2
	Elective Caesarean section	34	7.7	74	7.5	108	7.6
	Emergency Caesarean	99	22.4	122	12.4	221	15.5
	Other	2	0.5	0	0.0	2	0.1
Complications of delivery	Foetal distress	54	12.2	109	11.1	163	11.4
	Oxytocic augmentation	46	10.4	89	9.0	135	9.5
	Previous Caesarean section	46	10.4	55	5.6	101	7.1
	Post-partum haemorrhage	46	10.4	65	6.6	111	7.8
	Cephalo-pelvic disproportion	22	5.0	30	3.0	52	3.6
	Ante-partum haemorrhage	10	2.3	19	1.9	29	2.0
	Failure to progress labour	23	5.2	50	5.1	73	5.1
	Prolonged labour	3	0.7	10	1.0	13	0.9
	Retained placenta	5	1.1	22	2.2	27	1.9
	Other	40	9.0	65	6.6	105	7.4
	At least one complication	209	47.3	386	39.2	595	41.7
Puerperal complications	Genital tract infection	15	3.4	12	1.2	27	1.9
	Urinary tract infection	10	2.3	2	0.2	12	0.8
	Breast infection	2	0.5	2	0.2	4	0.3
	Other	52	11.8	29	2.9	81	5.7
	At least one complication	74	16.7	43	4.4	117	8.2
Hospital stay	Mean number of days	5.5		4.1		4.5	
Babies							
Total number		446	100.0	1007	100.0	1453	100.0
Sex	Male	231	51.8	522	51.8	753	51.8
	Female	215	48.2	485	48.2	700	48.2
Plurality	Singleton	438	98.2	965	95.8	1403	96.6
	Twins	8	1.8	36	3.6	44	3.0
	Triplets	0	0.0	6	0.6	6	0.4
Birthweight	Less than 1000 grams	8	1.8	15	1.5	23	1.6
	1000 – 1499 grams	7	1.6	6	0.6	13	0.9
	1500 – 2499 grams	60	13.5	63	6.3	123	8.5
	2500 grams and over	371	83.2	923	91.7	1294	89.1
Apgar score at 5 minutes	0 – 3	6	1.4	5	0.5	11	0.8
	4 – 6	18	4.1	18	1.8	36	2.5
(Livebirths only)	7 – 10	416	94.3	974	96.7	1390	96.7
	Missing data	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1
Neonatal complications	Resuscitation	14	3.2	17	1.7	31	2.1
(Livebirths only)	Respiratory complications	15	3.4	26	2.6	41	2.8
	Jaundice	12	2.7	34	3.4	46	3.2
	Infection	12	2.7	26	2.6	38	2.6
	Metabolic	1	0.2	4	0.4	5	0.3
	Haemolytic disease	1	0.2	3	0.3	4	0.3
	Cerebral irritation	0	0.0	3	0.3	3	0.2
	Other	26	5.9	40	4.0	66	4.5
	At least one complication	68	15.4	118	11.8	186	12.8
Length of stay in hospital (days)	0	5	1.1	24	2.4	29	2.0
(Livebirths only)	1 – 3	132	29.9	456	45.7	588	40.9
	4 – 7	203	46.0	437	43.8	640	44.5
	8 and over	101	22.9	80	8.0	181	12.6
	Mean	5.5		4.0		4.4	
Mortality	No. of stillbirths	5	1.1	10	1.0	15	1.0

No. of neonatal deaths	3	0.7	6	0.6	9	0.6
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Table 34. Darwin Private Hospital: Selected maternal and infant data, 1995

		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Mothers							
Total number		11	100.0	677	100.0	688	100.0
District of usual residence	Darwin Urban	6	54.5	637	94.1	643	93.5
	Darwin Rural	5	45.5	25	3.7	30	4.4
	East Arnhem	0	0.0	8	1.2	8	1.2
	Katherine	0	0.0	2	0.3	2	0.3
	Elsewhere	0	0.0	5	0.7	5	0.7
Onset of labour	Spontaneous	4	36.4	331	48.9	335	48.7
	Induced	4	36.4	237	35.0	241	35.0
	No labour	3	27.3	107	15.8	110	16.0
	Unknown	0	0.0	2	0.3	2	0.3
Method of delivery	Normal vaginal	6	54.5	467	69.0	473	68.8
	Assisted breech	0	0.0	3	0.4	3	0.4
	Forceps or ventouse	1	9.1	56	8.3	57	8.3
	Elective Caesarean section	2	18.2	99	14.6	101	14.7
	Emergency Caesarean	2	18.2	52	7.7	54	7.8
Complications of delivery	Foetal distress	2	18.2	50	7.4	52	7.6
	Oxytocic augmentation	2	18.2	119	17.6	123	17.9
	Previous Caesarean section	5	45.5	49	7.2	54	7.8
	Post-partum haemorrhage	0	0.0	24	3.5	24	3.5
	Cephalo-pelvic disproportion	0	0.0	29	4.3	29	4.2
	Ante-partum haemorrhage	0	0.0	1	0.1	37	5.4
	Failure to progress labour	0	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.1
	Prolonged labour	0	0.0	7	1.0	7	1.0
	Retained placenta	1	9.1	13	1.9	14	2.0
	Other	1	9.1	62	9.2	63	9.2
	At least one complication	9	81.8	308	45.5	317	46.1
Puerperal complications	Genital tract infection	0	0.0	2	0.3	2	0.3
	Urinary tract infection	0	0.0	3	0.4	3	0.4
	Breast infection	0	0.0	2	0.3	2	0.3
	Post-partum haemorrhage	0	0.0	3	0.4	3	0.4
	Other	0	0.0	22	3.2	22	3.2
	At least one complication	0	0.0	35	5.2	35	5.1
Hospital stay	Mean number of days	5.8		6.4		6.4	
Babies							
Total number		11	100.0	691	100.0	702	100.0
Sex	Male	7	63.6	375	54.3	382	54.4
	Female	4	36.4	316	45.7	320	45.6
Plurality	Singleton	11	100.0	664	96.1	675	96.2
	Twins	0	0.0	27	3.9	27	3.8
	Triplets	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
Birthweight	Less than 1000 grams	0	0.0	4	0.6	4	0.6
	1000 – 1499 grams	0	0.0	4	0.6	4	0.6
	1500 – 2499 grams	0	0.0	39	5.6	39	5.6
	2500 grams and over	11	100.0	644	93.2	655	93.3
Apgar score at 5 minutes	0 – 3	0	0.0	2	0.3	2	0.3
	4 – 6	1	9.1	8	1.2	9	1.3
(Livebirths only)	7 – 10	10	90.9	674	97.8	684	97.7
	Missing data	0	0.0	5	0.7	5	0.7
Neonatal complications	Resuscitation	0	0.0	7	1.0	7	1.0
(Livebirths only)	Respiratory complications	0	0.0	26	3.8	26	3.7
	Jaundice	1	9.1	49	7.1	50	7.1
	Infection	0	0.0	48	7.0	48	6.9
	Metabolic	0	0.0	10	1.5	10	1.4
	Haemolytic disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Cerebral irritation	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Other	1	9.1	63	9.1	64	9.1
	At least one complication	2	18.2	173	25.1	175	25.0
Length of stay in hospital (days)	0	0	0.0	10	1.5	10	1.4
	1 – 3	0	0.0	44	6.4	44	6.3
(Livebirths only)	4 – 7	10	90.9	529	76.8	539	77.0
	8 and over	1	9.1	106	15.4	107	15.3
	Mean	5.5		6.0		6.0	
Mortality	No. of stillbirths	0	0.0	2	0.3	2	0.3

No. of neonatal deaths 0 0.0 5 0.7 5 0.7

Table 35. Gove District Hospital: Selected maternal and infant data, 1995

		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
		Mothers					
Total number		119	100.0	57	100.0	176	100.0
District of usual residence	East Arnhem	114	95.8	57	100.0	171	97.2
	Darwin Rural	3	2.5	0	0.0	3	1.7
	Katherine	2	1.7	0	0.0	2	1.1
Onset of labour	Spontaneous	107	89.9	51	89.5	158	89.8
	Induced	1	0.8	5	8.8	6	3.4
	No labour	11	9.2	1	1.8	12	6.8
Method of delivery	Normal vaginal	95	79.8	51	89.5	146	83.0
	Assisted breech	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Forceps or ventouse	2	1.7	2	3.5	4	2.3
	Elective Caesarean section	11	9.2	1	1.8	12	6.8
	Emergency Caesarean	11	9.2	3	5.3	14	8.0
Complications of delivery	Foetal distress	6	5.0	4	7.0	10	5.7
	Oxytocic augmentation	8	6.7	1	1.8	9	5.1
	Previous Caesarean section	11	9.2	0	0.0	11	6.2
	Post-partum haemorrhage	16	13.4	1	1.8	17	9.6
	Cephalo-pelvic disproportion	3	2.5	1	1.8	4	2.3
	Ante-partum haemorrhage	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Failure to progress labour	6	5.0	2	3.5	8	4.5
	Prolonged labour	3	2.5	2	3.5	5	2.8
	Retained placenta	2	1.7	0	0.0	2	1.1
	Other	5	4.2	3	5.3	8	4.5
	At least one complication	42	35.3	11	19.3	53	30.1
Puerperal complications	Genital tract infection	11	9.2	0	0.0	11	6.2
	Urinary tract infection	1	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.6
	Breast infection	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.6
	Post-partum haemorrhage	1	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.6
	Other	18	15.1	3	5.3	21	11.9
	At least one complication	29	24.4	3	5.3	32	18.2
Hospital stay	Mean number of days	5.8		4.1		5.2	
		Babies					
Total number		119	100.0	57	100.0	176	100.0
Sex	Male	62	52.1	33	57.9	95	54.0
	Female	57	47.9	24	42.1	81	46.0
Plurality	Singleton	119	100.0	57	100.0	176	100.0
	Twins	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Birthweight	Less than 1000 grams	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	1000 – 1499 grams	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	1500 – 2499 grams	17	14.3	0	0.0	17	9.7
	2500 grams and over	102	85.7	57	100.0	159	90.3
Apgar score at 5 minutes	0 – 3	1	0.8	1	1.8	2	1.1
	4 – 6	4	3.4	0	0.0	4	2.3
(Livebirths only)	7 – 10	112	94.9	56	98.2	168	96.0
	Missing data	1	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.6
Neonatal complications (Livebirths only)	Resuscitation	3	2.5	0	0.0	3	1.7
	Respiratory complications	5	4.2	4	7.0	9	5.1
	Jaundice	4	3.4	0	0.0	4	2.3
	Infection	3	2.5	3	5.3	6	3.4
	Metabolic	1	0.8	1	1.8	2	1.1
	Haemolytic disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Cerebral irritation	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Other	5	4.2	4	7.0	9	5.1
	At least one complication	17	14.4	11	19.3	28	16.0
Length of stay in hospital (days)	0	2	1.7	3	5.3	5	2.9
	1 – 3	17	14.4	26	45.6	43	24.6
(Livebirths only)	4 – 7	80	67.8	24	42.1	104	59.4
	8 and over	19	16.1	4	7.0	23	13.1
	Mean	5.5		3.5		4.7	
Mortality	No. of stillbirths	1	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.6
	No. of neonatal deaths	1	0.8	1	1.8	2	1.1

Table 36. Katherine Hospital: Selected maternal and infant data, 1995

		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Mothers							
Total number		184	100.0	197	100.0	381	100.0
District of usual residence	Katherine	181	98.4	194	98.5	375	98.4
	Darwin Urban	0	0.0	1	0.5	1	0.3
	Darwin Rural	2	1.1	1	0.5	3	0.8
	East Arnhem	1	0.5	1	0.5	2	0.5
Onset of labour	Spontaneous	138	75.0	141	71.5	279	73.2
	Induced	27	14.7	41	20.8	68	17.8
	No labour	19	10.3	15	7.6	34	8.9
Method of delivery	Normal vaginal	129	70.1	136	69.0	265	69.6
	Assisted breech	4	2.2	4	2.0	8	2.1
	Forceps or ventouse	7	3.8	16	8.1	23	6.0
	Elective Caesarean section	15	8.2	18	9.1	33	8.7
	Emergency Caesarean	29	15.8	23	11.7	52	13.6
Complications of delivery	Foetal distress	18	9.8	10	5.1	28	7.3
	Oxytocic augmentation	19	10.3	18	9.1	37	9.7
	Previous Caesarean section	15	8.2	8	4.1	23	6.0
	Post-partum haemorrhage	13	7.1	7	3.6	20	5.2
	Cephalo-pelvic disproportion	7	3.8	6	3.0	13	3.4
	Ante-partum haemorrhage	2	1.1	4	2.0	6	1.6
	Failure to progress labour	18	9.8	18	9.1	36	9.4
	Prolonged labour	2	1.1	4	2.0	6	1.6
	Retained placenta	3	1.6	6	3.0	9	2.4
	Other	14	7.6	17	8.6	31	8.1
	At least one complication	81	44.0	73	37.1	154	40.4
Puerperal complications	Genital tract infection	9	4.9	0	0.0	9	2.4
	Urinary tract infection	3	1.6	1	0.5	4	1.0
	Breast infection	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Post-partum haemorrhage	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.3
	Other	17	9.2	5	2.5	22	5.8
	At least one complication	28	15.2	6	3.0	34	8.9
Hospital stay	Mean number of days	7.5		4.8		5.9	
Babies							
Total number		184	100.0	201	100.0	385	100.0
Sex	Male	93	50.5	119	59.2	212	55.1
	Female	91	49.5	82	40.8	173	44.9
Plurality	Singleton	184	100.0	193	96.0	377	97.9
	Twins	0	0.0	8	4.0	8	2.1
Birthweight	Less than 1000 grams	1	0.5	3	1.5	4	1.0
	1000 – 1499 grams	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	1500 – 2499 grams	15	8.2	7	3.5	22	5.7
	2500 grams and over	168	91.3	191	95.0	359	93.2
Apgar score at 5 minutes	0 – 3	1	0.6	2	1.0	3	0.8
	4 – 6	6	3.3	1	0.5	7	1.8
(Livebirths only)	7 – 10	174	96.1	195	98.5	369	97.4
	Missing data	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Neonatal complications	Resuscitation	1	0.6	1	0.5	2	0.5
(Livebirths only)	Respiratory complications	2	1.1	2	1.0	4	1.0
	Jaundice	3	1.7	4	2.0	7	1.8
	Infection	5	2.8	0	0.0	5	1.3
	Metabolic	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Haemolytic disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Cerebral irritation	1	0.6	0	0.0	1	0.3
	Other	3	1.7	4	2.0	7	1.8
	At least one complication	15	8.3	10	5.1	25	6.6
Length of stay in hospital (days)	0	3	1.7	5	2.5	8	2.1
	1 – 3	39	21.5	62	31.3	101	26.6
(Livebirths only)	4 – 7	106	58.6	115	58.1	221	58.3
	8 and over	33	18.2	16	8.1	49	12.9
	Mean	5.5		4.4		4.9	
Mortality	No. of stillbirths	3	1.6	3	1.5	6	1.6
	No. of neonatal deaths	3	1.7	0	0.0	3	0.8

Table 37. Tennant Creek Hospital: Selected maternal and infant data, 1995

		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Mothers							
Total number		49	100.0	14	100.0	63	100.0
District of usual residence	Barkly	46	93.9	13	92.9	59	93.7
	Alice Springs Urban	1	2.0	1	7.1	2	3.2
	Alice Springs Rural	1	2.0	0	0.0	1	1.6
	Interstate	1	2.0	0	0.0	1	1.6
Onset of labour	Spontaneous	48	98.0	14	100.0	62	98.4
	Induced	1	2.0	0	0.0	1	1.6
	No labour	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Method of delivery	Normal vaginal	45	91.8	13	92.9	58	92.1
	Assisted breech	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Forceps or ventouse	4	8.2	1	7.1	5	7.9
	Elective Caesarean section	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Emergency Caesarean	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Complications of delivery	Foetal distress	4	8.2	0	0.0	4	6.3
	Oxytocic augmentation	3	6.1	1	7.1	4	6.3
	Previous Caesarean section	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Post-partum haemorrhage	9	18.4	0	0.0	9	14.3
	Cephalo-pelvic disproportion	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Ante-partum haemorrhage	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Failure to progress labour	1	2.0	1	7.1	2	3.2
	Prolonged labour	4	8.2	2	14.3	6	9.5
	Retained placenta	2	4.1	0	0.0	2	3.2
	Other	3	6.1	0	0.0	3	4.8
	At least one complication	18	36.7	3	21.4	21	33.3
Puerperal complications	Genital tract infection	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Urinary tract infection	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Breast infection	1	2.0	0	0.0	1	1.6
	Post-partum haemorrhage	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Other	2	4.1	0	0.0	2	3.2
	At least one complication	3	6.1	0	0.0	3	4.8
Hospital stay	Mean number of days	3.6		3.1		3.5	
Babies							
Total number		49	100.0	14	100.0	63	100.0
Sex	Male	24	49.0	7	50.0	31	49.2
	Female	25	51.0	7	50.0	32	50.8
Plurality	Singleton	49	100.0	14	100.0	63	100.0
	Twins	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Birthweight	Less than 1000 grams	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	1000 – 1499 grams	2	4.1	0	0.0	2	3.2
	1500 – 2499 grams	4	8.2	1	7.1	5	7.9
	2500 grams and over	43	87.8	13	92.9	56	88.9
Apgar score at 5 minutes	0 – 3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	4 – 6	1	2.1	0	0.0	1	1.6
(Livebirths only)	7 – 10	45	95.7	14	100.0	59	96.7
	Missing data	1	2.1	0	0.0	1	1.6
Neonatal complications	Resuscitation	2	4.3	0	0.0	2	3.3
(Livebirths only)	Respiratory complications	1	2.1	0	0.0	1	1.6
	Jaundice	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Infection	1	2.1	0	0.0	1	1.6
	Metabolic	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Haemolytic disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Cerebral irritation	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Other	5	10.6	0	0.0	5	8.2
	At least one complication	8	17.0	0	0.0	8	13.1
Length of stay in hospital (days)	0	2	4.2	0	0.0	2	3.3
(Livebirths only)	1 – 3	31	66.0	10	71.4	41	67.2
	4 – 7	12	25.5	4	28.6	16	26.2
	8 and over	2	4.3	0	0.0	2	3.3
	Mean	3.3		2.9		3.2	
Mortality	No. of stillbirths	2	4.1	0	0.0	2	3.2
	No. of neonatal deaths	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Table 38. Alice Springs Hospital: Selected maternal and infant data, 1995

		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
		Mothers					
Total number		383	100.0	393	100.0	776	100.0
District of usual residence	Alice Springs Urban	110	28.7	356	90.6	466	60.1
	Alice Springs Rural	181	47.3	20	5.1	201	25.9
	Barkly	32	8.4	11	2.3	43	5.5
	Katherine	1	0.3	1	0.3	2	0.3
	Interstate	59	15.4	5	1.3	64	8.2
Onset of labour	Spontaneous	253	66.1	295	75.1	548	70.6
	Induced	82	21.4	72	18.3	154	19.8
	No labour	48	12.5	25	6.4	73	9.4
	Unknown	0	0.0	1	0.3	1	0.1
Method of delivery	Normal vaginal	251	65.5	296	75.3	547	70.5
	Assisted breech	3	0.8	1	0.3	4	0.5
	Forceps or ventouse	19	5.0	40	10.2	59	7.6
	Elective Caesarean section	29	7.6	19	4.8	48	6.2
	Emergency Caesarean	81	21.1	37	9.4	118	15.2
Complications of delivery	Foetal distress	73	19.1	37	9.4	110	14.2
	Oxytocic augmentation	47	12.3	35	8.9	82	10.6
	Previous Caesarean section	39	10.2	15	3.8	54	7.0
	Post-partum haemorrhage	21	5.5	13	3.3	34	4.4
	Cephalo-pelvic disproportion	18	4.7	11	2.8	29	3.7
	Ante-partum haemorrhage	5	1.3	6	1.5	11	1.4
	Failure to progress labour	25	6.5	40	10.2	65	8.4
	Prolonged labour	8	2.1	13	3.3	21	2.7
	Retained placenta	6	1.6	5	1.3	11	1.4
	Other	34	8.9	33	8.4	67	8.6
	At least one complication	191	49.9	146	37.2	337	43.4
Puerperal complications	Genital tract infection	6	1.6	0	0.0	6	0.8
	Urinary tract infection	9	2.3	1	0.2	10	1.3
	Breast infection	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Post-partum haemorrhage	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Other	46	12.0	10	2.5	56	7.2
	At least one complication	57	14.9	11	2.8	68	8.8
Hospital stay	Mean number of days	6.8		4.3		5.4	
		Babies					
Total number		386	100.0	394	100.0	780	100.0
Sex	Male	187	48.4	195	49.4	382	49.0
	Female	199	51.6	199	50.6	398	51.0
Plurality	Singleton	380	98.4	392	99.5	772	99.0
	Twins	6	1.6	2	0.5	8	1.0
	Triplets	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Birthweight	Less than 1000 grams	2	0.5	0	0.0	2	0.3
	1000 – 1499 grams	3	0.8	0	0.0	3	0.4
	1500 – 2499 grams	37	9.6	7	1.8	44	5.6
	2500 grams and over	344	89.1	387	98.2	731	93.7
Apgar score at 5 minutes	0 – 3	6	1.6	0	0.0	6	0.8
	4 – 6	16	4.2	8	2.0	24	3.1
(Livebirths only)	7 – 10	356	93.9	384	97.7	740	95.9
	Missing data	1	0.3	1	0.3	2	0.3
Neonatal complications	Resuscitation	21	5.5	10	2.5	31	4.0
(Livebirths only)	Respiratory complications	35	9.2	20	5.1	55	7.1
	Jaundice	5	1.3	10	2.5	15	1.9
	Infection	27	7.1	7	1.8	32	4.1
	Metabolic	15	4.0	11	2.8	26	3.4
	Haemolytic disease	0	0.0	1	0.3	1	0.1
	Cerebral irritation	3	0.8	2	0.5	5	0.6
	Other	29	7.7	19	4.8	48	6.2
	At least one complication	92	24.3	61	15.5	153	19.8
Length of stay in hospital (days)	0	3	0.8	12	3.1	15	1.9
(Livebirths only)	1 – 3	92	24.3	175	44.5	267	34.6
	4 – 7	178	47.0	170	43.3	348	45.1
	8 and over	106	28.0	36	9.2	142	18.4
	Mean	5.8		3.8		4.7	
Mortality	No. of stillbirths	7	1.8	1	0.3	8	1.0

No. of neonatal deaths	4	1.1	0	0.0	4	0.5
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4. Mortality

Perinatal

- Causes of foetal deaths
- Causes of neonatal deaths
- Causes of perinatal deaths
- Birthweight
- District of usual residence of mother

Infants

- Causes
- District
- Perinatal

Causes of foetal deaths

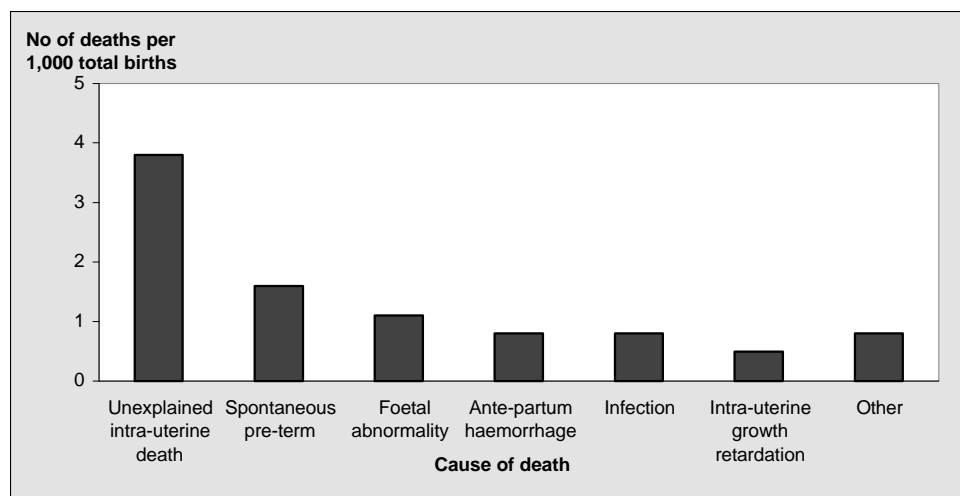


Table 39. Number and rate of stillbirths classified by Whitfield's method, and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

Classification	Description of cause of death	Number of deaths			Cause-specific rate
		Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total	
1	Spontaneous pre-term	3	3	6	1.6
2	Intra-uterine growth retardation	0	2	2	0.5
3	Unexplained intra-uterine death	9	5	14	3.8
4	Birth trauma	0	0	0	0.0
5	Intra-partum asphyxia	1	0	1	0.3
6	Hypertensive disease	1	0	1	0.3
7	Maternal disease	0	0	0	0.0
8	Ante-partum haemorrhage	1	2	3	0.8
9	Foetal abnormality	3	1	4	1.1
10	Haemolytic disease	0	0	0	0.0
11	Infection	1	2	3	0.8
12	Other	2	1	3	0.8
	<i>Total number of stillbirths</i>	21	16	37	
	Total number of births	1251	2404	3655	
	Stillbirth rate	16.8	6.7	10.1	

Notes:

1. A detailed description of the classification system appears in the Appendix

2. The stillbirth and cause-specific rates measure the number of stillbirths per thousand total births (stillbirths and livebirths).

- There were 37 stillbirths recorded in the Northern Territory in 1995, giving a stillbirth rate of 10.1 per thousand total births (stillbirths plus livebirths).
- At 16.8 deaths per thousand total births, the Aboriginal stillbirth rate was two and a half times that of the non-Aboriginal stillbirth rate (6.7 deaths per thousand total births).

Causes of neonatal deaths

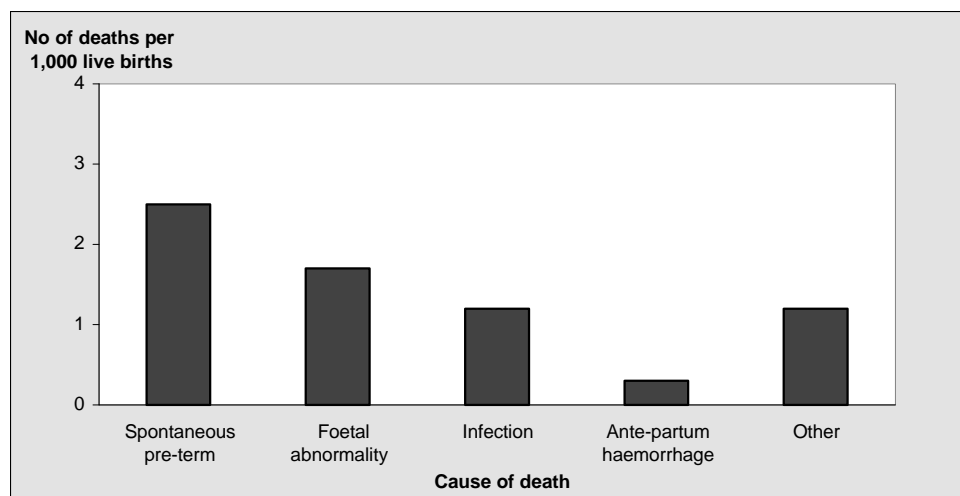


Table 40. Number and rate of neonatal deaths classified by Whitfield's method, and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

Classification	Cause of death	Number of deaths			Cause-specific rate
		Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total	
1	Spontaneous pre-term	4	5	9	2.5
2	Intra-uterine growth retardation	0	0	0	0.0
4	Birth trauma	0	0	0	0.0
5	Intra-partum asphyxia	0	0	0	0.0
6	Hypertensive disease	0	0	0	0.0
7	Maternal disease	0	0	0	0.0
8	Ante-partum haemorrhage	1	0	1	0.3
9	Foetal abnormality	0	6	6	1.7
11	Infection	4	0	4	1.1
12	Other	3	1	4	1.1
	<i>Total</i>	12	12	24	
	Total live births	1230	2388	3618	
	Neonatal mortality rate	9.8	5.0	6.6	

Notes:

1. A detailed description of the death classification system appears in the Appendix.

2. The neonatal and cause-specific rates measure the number of neonatal deaths (infants aged 0-27 days) per thousand livebirths.

- Twenty-four infants died in the neonatal period in 1995. This produced a neonatal mortality rate of 6.6 per thousand live births.
- The 1995 rate was substantially less than the 1994 rate of 9.5 deaths per thousand live births.
- There was a substantial decline in the Aboriginal neonatal mortality rate from 19.7 in 1994 to 9.8 deaths per thousand livebirths in 1995. In contrast, the non-Aboriginal rate increased slightly from 4.0 in 1994 to 5.0 in 1995. Despite the decline, the Aboriginal rate was twice that of the non-Aboriginal rate.
- Prematurity and foetal abnormalities were the most common causes of neonatal death.

Causes of perinatal deaths

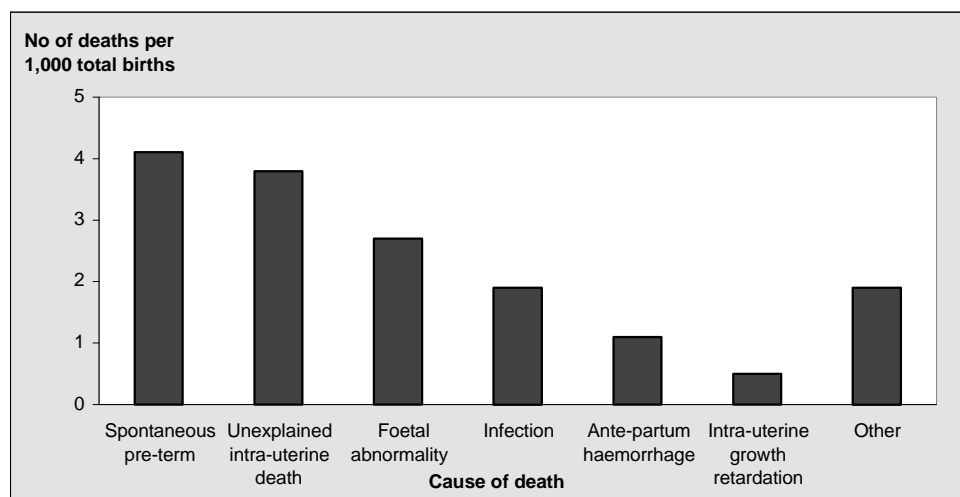


Table 41. Number and rate of perinatal deaths classified by Whitfield's method, and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

Classification	Cause of death	Number of deaths			Cause-specific rate
		Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total	
1	Spontaneous pre-term	7	8	15	4.1
2	Intra-uterine growth retardation	0	2	2	0.5
3	Unexplained intra-uterine death	9	5	14	3.8
4	Birth trauma	0	0	0	0.0
5	Intra-partum asphyxia	1	0	1	0.3
6	Hypertensive disease	1	0	1	0.3
7	Maternal disease	0	0	0	0.0
8	Ante-partum haemorrhage	2	2	4	1.1
9	Foetal abnormality	3	7	10	2.7
10	Haemolytic disease	0	0	0	0.0
11	Infection	5	2	7	1.9
12	Other	5	2	7	1.9
	<i>Total</i>	33	28	61	
	Total births	1251	2404	3655	
	Perinatal mortality rate	26.4	11.6	16.7	

Notes:

1. A detailed description of the death classification system appears in the Appendix.

2. The perinatal and cause-specific rates measure the number of stillbirths and neonatal deaths per thousand total births (still and live births).

- There were 61 perinatal deaths in the NT in 1995, resulting in a mortality rate of 16.7 per thousand total births.
- There was a substantial decline in the Aboriginal perinatal mortality rate from 34.0 in 1994 to 26.4 deaths per thousand total births in 1995. The non-

Aboriginal rate declined from 12.2 in 1994 to 11.6 in 1995. However, the Aboriginal rate was still over twice that of the non-Aboriginal rate.

- One in four perinatal deaths was due to prematurity.

Birthweight

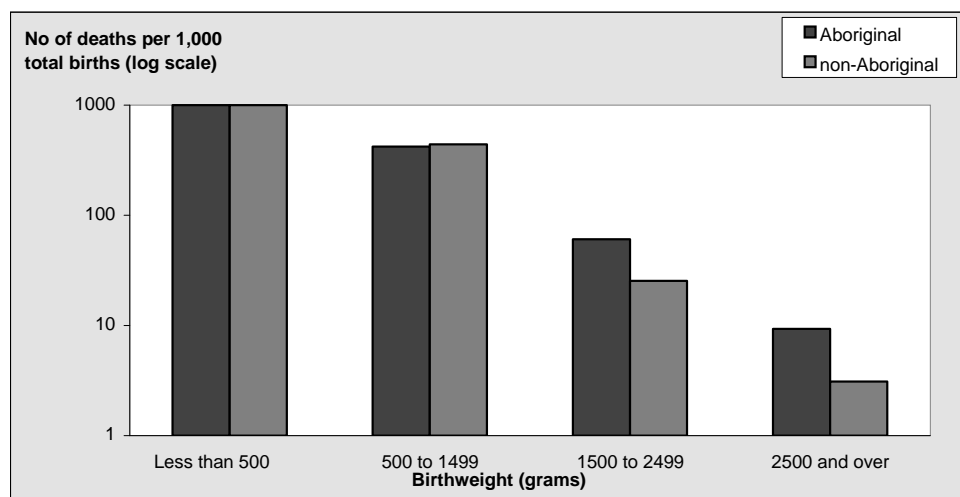


Table 42. Total births and perinatal deaths by birthweight and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

Birthweight (grams)	Aboriginal			Non-Aboriginal			Total		
	No. of births	No. of deaths	Mortality rate	No. of births	No. of deaths	Mortality rate	No. of births	No. of deaths	Mortality rate
Less than 500	4	4	1000.0	7	7	1000.0	11	11	1000.0
500 to 1499	19	8	421.1	25	11	440.0	44	19	431.8
1500 to 2499	148	9	60.8	118	3	25.4	266	12	45.1
2500 and over	1078	10	9.3	2251	7	3.1	3329	17	5.1
Unknown	2	2	1000.0	3	0	0.0	5	2	400.0
Total	1251	33	26.4	2404	28	11.6	3655	61	16.7

Note: Mortality rates refer to the number of deaths at each specific birthweight per 1,000 total births of that specific birthweight

- There was little difference in the perinatal mortality rates of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal babies in the extremely and very low birthweight categories (less than 1,500 grams).
- There was a two-fold difference in the mortality rate for babies in the low birthweight subgroup ranging between 1,500 and 2499 grams at birth. The mortality rate for Aboriginal infants in that weight category was 54.1 deaths per 1,000 total births compared with 25.4 for non-Aboriginal babies.
- In the normal weight category (2,500 grams and over), there was a three-fold relative difference in the mortality rate of Aboriginal babies (9.3 deaths per 1,000 total births) and that of non-Aboriginal babies (3.1 deaths per 1,000 total births).

District of usual residence of mother

Table 43. Number of perinatal deaths (stillbirths and neonatal deaths) by district of usual residence of mother and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

District of usual residence of mother	Total number of			
	Births	Stillbirths	Neonatal deaths	Perinatal deaths
Aboriginal				
Darwin Urban	148	0	0	0
Darwin Rural	270	4	4	8
East Arnhem	153	2	1	3
Katherine	213	4	3	7
Barkly	83	3	0	3
Alice Springs Urban	117	3	2	5
Alice Springs Rural	193	3	0	3
Interstate	74	2	2	4
Total	1251	21	12	33
Non-Aboriginal				
Darwin Urban	1620	10	11	21
Darwin Rural	67	2	0	2
East Arnhem	75	0	1	1
Katherine	208	3	0	3
Barkly	26	0	0	0
Alice Springs Urban	367	1	0	1
Alice Springs Rural	21	0	0	0
Interstate	20	0	0	0
Total	2404	16	12	28

- There were 61 perinatal deaths in the Northern Territory in 1995. Thirty-three were Aboriginal (54.1%) and 28 non-Aboriginal (45.9%).
- The majority of the Aboriginal perinatal deaths occurred among infants whose mother resided in a rural area.
- The majority of the non-Aboriginal perinatal deaths occurred in infants whose mother resided in the Darwin Urban district.

Causes of infant deaths

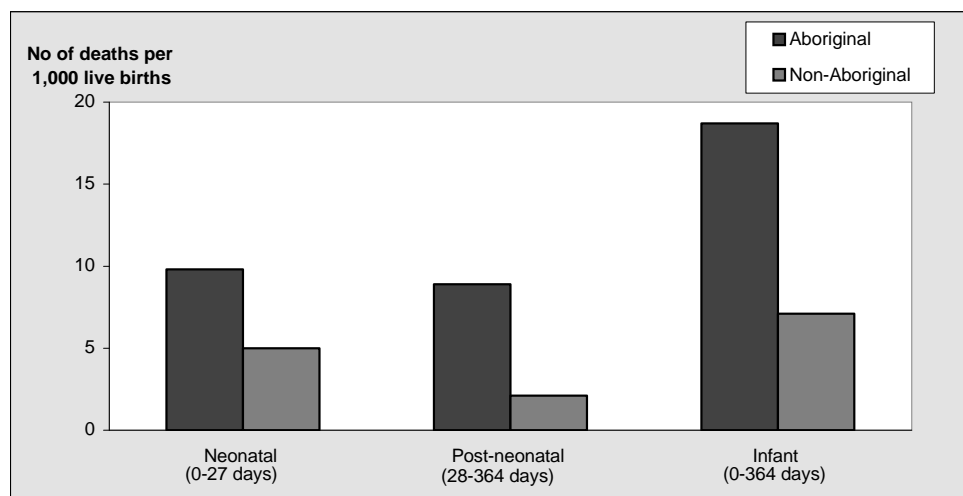


Table 44. Number of infant deaths and mortality rates by cause of death and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

Cause of death	Aboriginal				Non-Aboriginal			
	Neonatal deaths	Post-neonatal deaths	Total number of deaths	Infant mortality rate	Neonatal deaths	Post-neonatal deaths	Total number of deaths	Infant mortality rate
Infection	4	5	9	7.3	0	1	1	0.4
Previabile	5	0	5	3.3	5	0	5	2.0
Sudden infant death syndrome	0	3	3	2.4	0	1	1	0.4
Neurological	2	0	2	1.6	0	2	2	0.8
Cardio-respiratory	0	1	1	0.8	0	0	0	0.0
Congenital abnormality	0	0	0	0.0	6	0	6	2.5
Gastrointestinal	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Metabolic/Endocrine	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Other	1	0	1	2.4	1	1	2	0.8
Cause not yet known: Coronial report pending	0	2	2	1.6	0	0	0	0.0
All causes of death	12	11	23	18.7	12	5	17	7.1
Mortality rates	9.8	8.9	18.7		5.0	2.1	7.1	

Notes:

1. The deaths are classified using the system derived by the South Australian Infant Mortality Committee (see appendix)

2. The neonatal, postneonatal and infant mortality rates presented in above graph and table calculated per thousand livebirths

- There were 40 infant deaths in the NT, resulting in a 1995 infant mortality rate of 11.0 per thousand livebirths.
- The infant mortality rate has continued to decline over the last decade.
- The Aboriginal infant mortality rate (18.7 per 1,000) was two and a half times the non-Aboriginal rate (7.1 per 1000).
- Infection, the major cause of death among Aboriginal infants, accounted for 39% of deaths in 1995.
- Congenital abnormality, the major cause among non-Aboriginal infants, accounted for 35% of deaths in 1995.

District of usual residence of mother

Table 45. Number of infant deaths (neonatal and postneonatal) by district of usual residence of mother and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

District of usual residence of mother	Number of			Infant deaths
	Live births	Neonatal deaths	Postneonatal deaths	
Aboriginal				
Darwin Urban	148	0	0	0
Darwin Rural	266	4	1	5
East Arnhem	151	1	3	4
Katherine	209	3	3	6
Barkly	80	0	2	2
Alice Springs Urban	114	2	0	2
Alice Springs Rural	190	0	1	1
Interstate	72	2	1	3
Total	1230	12	11	23
Non-Aboriginal				
Darwin Urban	1610	11	4	15
Darwin Rural	65	0	0	0
East Arnhem	75	1	0	1
Katherine	205	0	0	0
Barkly	26	0	0	0
Alice Springs Urban	366	0	1	1
Alice Springs Rural	21	0	0	0
Interstate	20	0	0	0
Total	2388	12	5	17

- There were 40 infant deaths in the Northern Territory in 1995. Twenty-three were Aboriginal (57.5%) and 17 non-Aboriginal (42.5%).
- The majority of Aboriginal infant deaths occurred among liveborns whose mother resided in rural and remote district.
- The majority of the non-Aboriginal perinatal deaths occurred among liveborns whose mother resided in the Darwin Urban district.

5. Terminations of pregnancy

- Age at termination
- Reason for termination

Age at termination

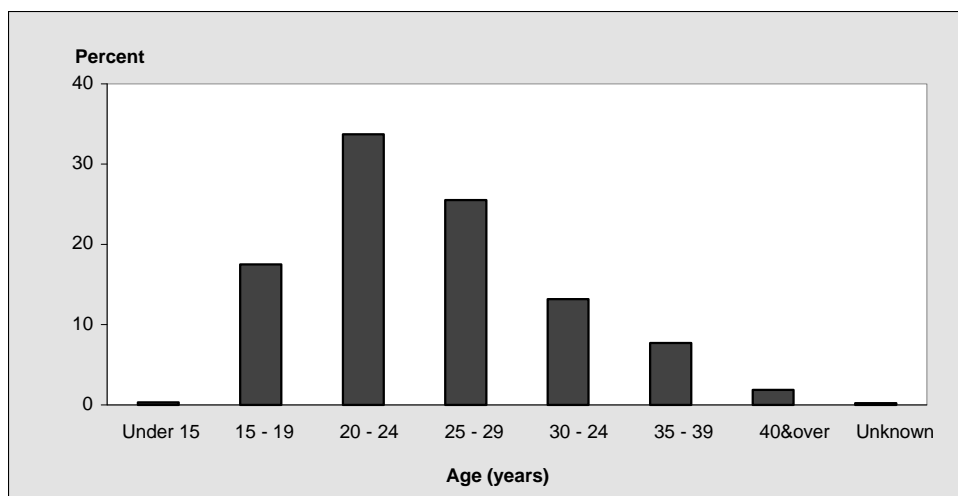


Table 46. Number of terminations by age of woman and Indigenous status, NT, 1995

Age of woman (years)	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	Number	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than 15	2	1.8	1	0.1	3	0.3
15 - 19	25	22.3	128	16.8	153	17.5
20 - 24	47	42.0	248	32.5	295	33.7
25 - 29	23	20.5	200	26.2	223	25.5
30 - 34	9	8.0	106	13.9	115	13.1
35 - 39	5	4.5	62	8.1	67	7.6
40 and over	1	0.9	16	2.1	17	1.9
Unknown	0	0.0	3	0.4	3	0.3
Total	112	100.0	764	100.1	876	99.9

Table 47. Duration of pregnancy at termination, NT, 1995

Gestation age (weeks)	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Less than 9	36	32.1	420	55.0	456	52.1
9 - 11	53	47.3	270	35.3	323	36.9
12 and over	17	15.2	49	6.4	66	7.5
Unknown	6	5.4	25	3.3	31	3.5
Total	112	100.0	764	100.0	876	100.0

- Of the 876 women who reportedly had a termination, 764 (87.2%) were non-Aboriginal.
- Most terminations were among women aged 20-29 years: Aboriginal (62.5%) and non-Aboriginal (58.7%).
- Most terminations were carried out among women who had been pregnant for less than 12 weeks.

Reason for termination

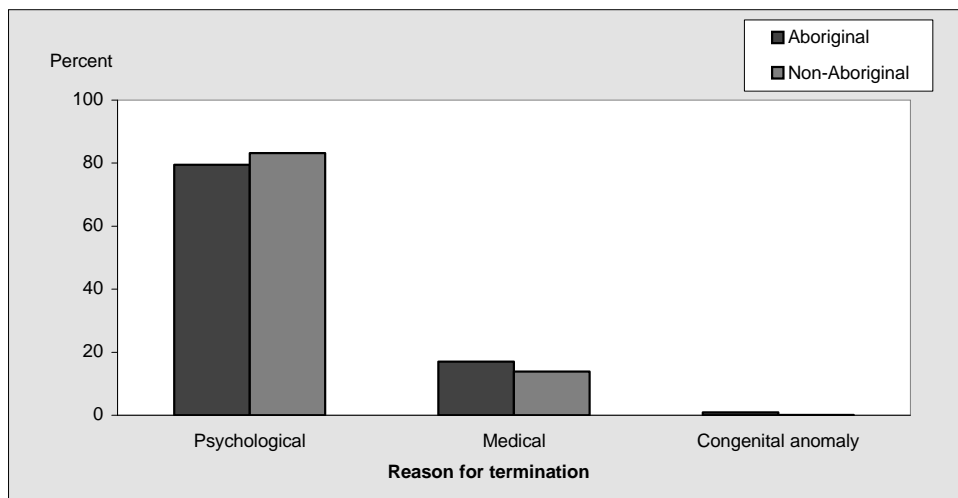


Table 48. Reason for termination of pregnancy, NT, 1995

Reason for seeking termination	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Psychological	89	79.5	636	83.2	725	82.8
Medical	19	17.0	105	13.7	124	14.2
Congenital anomaly	1	0.9	1	0.1	2	0.2
Chromosomal abnormality	0	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.1
Not stated	3	2.7	21	2.7	24	2.7
Total	112	100.1	764	100.0	876	100.0

- A total of 876 terminations were reported for 1995.
- 83% of terminations were reportedly carried out for psychological reasons.
- Medical reasons were reported for 17% of terminations undergone by Aboriginal women, and 14% by non-Aboriginal women.
- The proportion of pregnancies terminated (terminations as a percent of births plus terminations) was 19.3 This proportion remained unchanged from the 1994 rate.

6. Appendix

DEFINITIONS

EXPLANATORY NOTES

ABBREVIATIONS

POPULATION ESTIMATES

PERINATAL DEATH CLASSIFICATION

DATA COLLECTION FORMS

- **MIDWIVES COLLECTION**
- **CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS NOTIFICATION**
- **TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY NOTIFICATION**

Definitions

In Australia, the reporting of perinatal and infant mortality rates varies from State to State. Nationally agreed reporting standards have not yet been accepted.

It should be noted that some of the definitions below differ from those used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) which follows those recommended (for *national* reporting) by the World Health Organisation (WHO). These define stillbirth as a stillborn infant weighing at least 500g or, if the weight is not known, born after at least 22 weeks gestation. The WHO has further definitions of live births and stillbirths for the reporting of statistics for *international* comparisons, namely those infants weighing 1,000 grams or if the weight is not known, 28 weeks gestation. In addition, WHO recommends that only neonatal deaths occurring in the first 7 days of life should be reported and not all deaths up to 28 days.

Convention also differs with the reporting of infant deaths. The ABS records deaths as occurring in the year in which they are registered with each of the various State and Territory Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages. On the other hand, some States record deaths with respect to the year in which the baby was born (irrespective of year of death). Even though there are advantages with each of these methods, the NT (and some other States) includes infant deaths in the statistics of the year in which they occurred (see definitions below). The AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit (NPSU), which is responsible for national reporting, obtains its data from the ABS and therefore will report different statistics from those in this report. The ABS publication on Northern Territory demography will also differ.

Aboriginal:

A person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community with which he or she is associated.

Comment [z1]: National Health Data Dictionary, Version 5.0, 1996

Age-specific birth rate:

The number of livebirths to women of a specific age group per thousand women of that same age group.

Apgar score:

A numerical scoring system routinely administered at one and five minutes after birth to evaluate the condition of the baby. The score ranges from 0 to 10 (10 being optimal condition). It takes account of five physical signs: heart rate, respiration, muscle tone, reflexes and colour, each of which is assigned a component score of 0, 1 or 2.

Birthweight:

The first weight of the foetus or baby obtained after birth:

Extremely low birthweight: less than 1,000g.

Very low birthweight: less than 1,500g.

Comment [z2]:

Low birthweight: less than 2,500g.

Caesarean section:

Delivery of the baby through an abdominal incision.

Elective Caesarean section:

A Caesarean section (planned or unplanned) performed before the onset of labour.

Emergency Caesarean section:

A Caesarean section performed after the onset of labour, whether or not the onset of labour was spontaneous.

Caesarean section rate:

The number of Caesarean Sections divided by the total number of births.

Confinement:

A pregnancy resulting in at least one birth. Note: with a multiple pregnancy, one confinement will result in more than one birth.

Congenital malformation:

A structural or anatomical abnormality that is present at birth. A congenital malformation is considered **major** if it is either lethal or significantly affects the individual's function or appearance.

Crude birth rate:

The number of live births per 1,000 persons mid-year total population.

District of usual residence:

The district within the NT in which the mother usually resides. See Map on page x.

Gestational age:

The duration of pregnancy in completed weeks from the first day of the last normal menstrual period. This is estimated from clinical assessment (including ultrasound) when accurate information on the last menstrual period is not available.

Gravidity:

The number of previous pregnancies.

Induction of labour:

Includes both medical and surgical induction of labour, where labour was initiated by the use of drugs such as oxytocic agents, prostaglandins, or their derivatives (medical induction), or where labour was initiated by artificial rupture of membranes (surgical induction).

Infant death:

The death of a live born infant occurring within the first year of life.

Infant mortality rate:

The number of infant deaths in a year per 1,000 live births in the same year.

Instrumental delivery:

Vaginal delivery by forceps or Ventouse.

Live birth:

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

Neonatal death:

The death of a liveborn infant within 28 days of birth.

Neonatal mortality rate:

The number of neonatal deaths in a year per 1,000 live births in the same year.

Parity:

The total number of live births and stillbirths of the mother before the pregnancy or birth under consideration.

Perinatal death:

A stillbirth or neonatal death.

Plurality:

The number of births resulting from a pregnancy.

Premature infant:

An infant born before 37 completed weeks gestation.

Post-neonatal death:

The death of a liveborn infant occurring after the first 28 days and within the first year of life.

Perinatal mortality rate:

The number of stillbirths and neonatal deaths in a year per 1,000 total births in the same year.

Stillbirth:

The complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a baby of at least 20 weeks gestation, or 400g birthweight, which, after separation, did not breathe or show any sign of life. Also referred to as late foetal death.

Stillbirth rate:

The number of stillbirths in a year per 1,000 total births in the same year.

Termination rate:

The number of terminations in a year expressed as a percentage of births plus terminations in the same year. Sometimes referred to as the abortion proportion.

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.

Explanatory notes

Medical conditions and complications:

There were five groups of conditions on the Midwives' collection form which related to complications or illnesses in mother or infant. In 1995, these conditions were not strictly defined, rather the condition was deemed to be present if the diagnosis was made and documented in the hospital or antenatal record and noted by the midwife. From 1996, some, but not all, of these conditions are defined in the "NT Midwives Collection data reporting guidelines". It should be noted that mothers and babies may have more than one of these conditions.

Congenital malformations:

Congenital malformations are coded using the British Paediatric Association (BPA) codes. These are not identical to ICD 9-CM codes but are compatible to the fourth digit. BPA codes are used by the NPSU.

Scope:

All mothers who delivered and all babies born in the Northern Territory in 1995 are included in this report, regardless of the mothers' place of usual residence. Infants who were born outside the NT but died here, were not included. There were no known infant deaths of NT babies occurring in other States.

Perinatal death classification:

Stillbirths and neonatal deaths were classified following review and consultation with consultant staff and using the amended Whitfield's system, which is obstetric cause-specific. Neonatal and post-neonatal deaths were also classified by the infant cause-specific classification system used in South Australia. Nationally agreed systems are soon to be introduced.

Population estimates

The population estimates in this report were estimated by the Epidemiology Branch of Territory Health Services from data published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Table A1. Derived estimates of the population of the Northern Territory for the seven health districts Indigenous status, 1995

District of usual residence	Aboriginal	non-Aboriginal	Total
Darwin Urban	8232	82319	90551
Darwin Rural	9186	3277	12463
East Arnhem	7112	8678	15790
Katherine	7271	5839	13110
Barkly	3290	3239	6529
Alice Springs Urban	4367	20948	25315
Alice Springs Rural	8223	2091	10314
Total	47681	126391	174072

Note: Estimates derived by Epidemiology Branch, Territory Health Services, Darwin

Table A2. Derived estimates of the female population of the Northern Territory, Aboriginal, 1995

Age (years)	District							Total NT
	Darwin Urban	Darwin Rural	East Arnhem	Katherine	Barkly	Alice Springs Urban	Alice Springs Rural	
0 – 4	627	625	540	469	230	258	512	3260
5 – 9	501	615	501	470	182	262	518	3047
10 – 14	506	514	373	452	177	289	478	2788
15 – 19	388	442	307	336	165	198	402	2238
20 – 24	402	460	361	411	159	183	391	2367
25 – 29	412	439	334	361	159	217	384	2306
30 – 34	386	326	261	302	117	208	336	1936
35 – 39	299	278	182	278	116	142	235	1530
40 – 44	241	232	154	168	108	126	199	1228
45 – 49	156	145	114	138	60	94	171	878
50 – 54	123	116	96	91	48	70	120	664
55 – 59	90	93	63	73	28	38	103	488
60 – 64	62	90	69	44	33	20	102	420
65 – 69	41	59	45	36	22	18	57	277
70 – 74	21	30	24	18	11	25	39	168
75 and over	14	13	33	10	15	30	48	165
Total	4269	4476	3454	3656	1631	2179	4094	23760

Note: Estimates derived by Epidemiology Branch, Territory Health Services, Darwin

Table A3. Derived estimates of the female population of the Northern Territory, non-Aboriginal, 1995

Age (years)	District							Total NT
	Darwin Urban	Darwin Rural	East Arnhem	Katherine	Barkly	Alice Springs Urban	Alice Springs Rural	
0 – 4	3269	156	436	307	142	976	78	5364
5 – 9	3059	119	335	278	116	803	54	4763
10 – 14	3092	85	290	229	100	752	29	4577
15 – 19	2607	53	218	129	60	566	32	3664
20 – 24	3350	134	366	142	144	902	149	5187
25 – 29	3969	230	490	274	162	1156	174	6455
30 – 34	4166	201	476	383	148	1101	122	6598
35 – 39	3925	137	376	345	152	1002	82	6018
40 – 44	3736	97	290	242	127	867	57	5416
45 – 49	3153	82	248	196	101	789	68	4636
50 – 54	2106	32	187	84	65	555	56	3086
55 – 59	1208	34	93	47	36	319	24	1762
60 – 64	815	17	53	25	35	210	11	1167
65 – 69	594	21	36	9	15	137	4	815
70 – 74	359	6	29	4	13	117	3	532
75 and over	491	7	23	0	20	168	9	718
Total	39898	1411	3946	2694	1437	10422	952	60758

Note: Estimates derived by Epidemiology Branch, Territory Health Services, Darwin

Perinatal death classification

Table A4. Amended Whitfield classification of perinatal deaths

Description of major grouping	Description of sub-groups
1 Spontaneous pre-term: Less than 37 weeks, normally formed, and appropriately grown	1.1 Multiple pregnancy 1.2 Previous bleeding 1.3 Previous spontaneous rupture of membranes more than twelve hours before labour 1.4 Cervical incompetence 1.5 Other, eg uterine malformation 1.6 Idiopathic
2 Intra-uterine growth retardation: Under 10th percentile for gestational age	
3 Unexplained intrauterine death	
4 Birth trauma: Equal to or greater than 1500 grams with evidence of lethal trauma at autopsy even when labour and delivery were not complicated by mechanical difficulty	4.1 Cord complication 4.2 Breech delivery 4.3 Caesarean section 4.4 Forceps delivery 4.5 Ventouse delivery 4.6 Other delivery
5 Intra-partum asphyxia: Equal to or greater than 1500 grams with evidence of intrapartum hypoxia and confirmed by hypoxic changes at autopsy	5.0 Unspecified 5.1 Cord complication 5.2 Breech delivery 5.3 Caesarean section 5.4 Forceps delivery 5.5 Ventouse delivery 5.6 Other delivery
6 Hypertension	6.0 Unspecified 6.1 Pre-existing hypertension 6.2 Pre-eclamptic toxæmia (PET) 6.3 Pre-existing and pre-eclamptic toxæmia
7 Maternal disease	7.0 Unspecified 7.1 Maternal injury 7.2 Abdominal operation 7.3 Diabetes and gestational diabetes 7.4 Malignancy 7.5 Infection 7.8 Maternal death 7.9 Other

Table A4. Amended Whitfield classification of perinatal deaths (continued)

	Description of major grouping	Description of sub-groups
8	Ante-partum haemorrhage	8.1 Placental abruption 8.2 Placenta praevia 8.3 APH of undetermined origin 8.4 Vasa praevia
9	Foetal abnormalities	9.1 Central nervous system 9.2 Cardio-vascular system 9.3 Urinary tract 9.4 Gastrointestinal tract 9.5 Chromosomal 9.6 Metabolic 9.7 Multiple 9.9 Other
10	Haemolytic disease	10.1 Rhesus incompatibility 10.2 Other feto-maternal blood group incompatibility 10.3 Haemoglobinopathy
11	Infection	11.0 Unspecified 11.1 Group B Streptococcus 11.2 E Coli 11.3 Other bacterial 11.4 Toxoplasma 11.5 Syphilis 11.6 Cytomegalovirus 11.7 Other viral 11.8 Fungal 11.9 Other
12	Other	12.1 Non-immune hydrops 12.2 Feto-maternal haemorrhage 12.3 Twin-twin transfusion 12.4 Accident, poisoning or violence 12.5 SIDS 12.8 Unknown/unexplained 12.9 Other

The above table outlines in greater detail the amended Whitfield's classification system used in this report.

Infant death classification

Table A5. Foetal cause-specific classification of infant deaths

Description of major grouping		Description of sub-groups	
1	Previabie		
2	Congenital abnormality		
3	Neurological	3.1	Asphyxia
		3.2	Haemorrhage
		3.3	Other
4	Cardio-respiratory	4.1	Hyaline membrane disease
		4.2	Aspiration pneumonia
		4.3	Air leak
		4.4	Persistent foetal circulation
		4.5	Other
5	Gastrointestinal	5.1	Necrotising entero-colitis
		5.2	Other
6	Metabolic/Endocrine		
7	Infection	7.1	Congenital bacterial
		7.2	Congenital viral
		7.3	Acquired bacterial
		7.4	Acquired viral
		7.5	Toxoplasma
		7.6	Other
8	Other	8.1	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
		8.2	Other

The above table outlines the classification system of causes of infant deaths based on foetal causes used in this report.

Data collection form 1

Data collection form 2

Data collection form 3