

Northern Territory Midwives' Collection  
**Mothers and Babies 2007**



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Northern Territory Midwives' Collection

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## Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to the many people, who have assisted in the production of this report, including:

- Public hospital and Darwin Private Hospital midwives
- Remote community midwives
- Homebirth services midwives
- Midwifery Group Practices, Darwin and Alice Springs
- Community Midwives Group Practice
- Indigenous Health Workers
- Public hospital and Darwin Private Hospital obstetricians
- Public hospital and Darwin Private Hospital paediatricians
- Public hospital medical records staff
- Alukura staff
- Northern Territory Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages
- Perinatal Data Manager, Acute Care Information Services
- Data Warehouse staff, Department of Health
- Members of the Perinatal Information Management Group

Health Gains Planning Branch

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### Suggested citation

Thompson F, Zhang X, Dempsey KE. Northern Territory Midwives' Collection. Mothers and Babies 2007. Department of Health, Darwin, 2012

ISBN 978 0 9804235 2 5

Printed by the Government Printer of the Northern Territory, 2012

An electronic version is available at:

[http://www.health.nt.gov.au/Health\\_Gains/Publications/index.aspx](http://www.health.nt.gov.au/Health_Gains/Publications/index.aspx)

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## Summary

This report summarises data from the 2007 Northern Territory (NT) Midwives' Collection. It includes population characteristics of mothers, maternal health status, antenatal information, conditions and procedures used in labour and childbirth as well as birth outcomes of all births that occurred in 2007. While the NT Midwives' Collection contains information on both NT resident and interstate residents who gave birth in the NT, the focus of this report is NT residents who gave birth in the NT.

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

## Key findings

- During 2007, there were 3,696 babies born to 3,655 NT mothers, 39% of whom were Indigenous. In addition there were 103 interstate mothers who gave birth to 104 babies in the NT. The sum total of births in the NT for this year was 3,800 babies born to 3,758 mothers.
- Indigenous mothers had a higher total fertility rate (TFR) than that reported for all Australian mothers during the same period (2.4 and 1.9 births per woman respectively). The TFR of non-Indigenous mothers (1.9) was comparable with the national rate.
- The mean age of Indigenous mothers (24.2 years) was more than five years younger than that of non-Indigenous mothers (29.6 years). Almost a quarter of Indigenous mothers (24%) were less than 20 years of age.
- Non-Indigenous mothers were three times more likely to be in the oldest age group (35 years and over) than Indigenous mothers (22% and 7% respectively).
- Proportionally more Indigenous mothers had three or more previous births compared with non-Indigenous mothers (26% and 9% respectively). In contrast, non-Indigenous mothers were more likely to have given birth to their first baby (44% and 29% respectively).
- Indigenous mothers were six times more likely to have insufficient antenatal care (no antenatal visit or attended less than four visits) compared with non-Indigenous mothers (18% and 3% respectively).
- Almost three quarters (74%) of non-Indigenous mothers attended their first antenatal visit during their first trimester of pregnancy. This proportion was much less for Indigenous mothers (45%).
- At first antenatal visit, Indigenous mothers were three times more likely to report smoking compared with non-Indigenous mothers (52% and 16% respectively).
- Onset of labour was induced for 20% of all NT mothers. Oxytocics and artificial rupture of membranes were the most common methods of induction (64% and 63% respectively).

- Sixty three per cent of all NT mothers had a spontaneous vaginal delivery and 8% had assisted vaginal birth mainly using forceps or vacuum extraction. Among those who gave birth vaginally, 52% had an intact perineum, while 39% had some degree of perineal laceration. The remainder had an episiotomy (8%) or a combination of episiotomy and tear (1%).
- Almost a third (30%) of all NT mothers had a caesarean section. Just over half (52%) of the caesarean sections performed on non-Indigenous mothers were elective, whereas Indigenous mothers were much more likely to undergo a caesarean section for emergency reasons (68%).
- The main reason for elective caesarean section births was a previous caesarean section (65%). Two chief reasons for emergency caesarean section births were failure to progress during labour (47%) and fetal distress (42%). Indigenous mothers were much more likely to have an emergency caesarean section because of fetal distress than non-Indigenous mothers (52% and 35% respectively).
- Just over half of all NT mothers (51%) stayed in hospital for three days or less.
- Ten per cent of all NT livebirths were preterm (less than 37 weeks). The proportion of preterm babies born to Indigenous mothers was double that of preterm babies born to non-Indigenous mothers (15% and 7% respectively).
- Eight per cent of all NT livebirths were low in birthweight (less than 2500 grams). The proportion of low birthweight babies born to Indigenous mothers was more than double that of low birthweight babies born to non-Indigenous mothers (13% and 5% respectively).
- A small percentage of all NT full term (37 weeks and over) singleton livebirths were of low birthweight; 4% of those born to Indigenous mothers and 1% to non-Indigenous mothers.
- One third (33%) of all NT livebirths received some form of resuscitation, excluding tactile stimulation. Resuscitation rates were comparable among Indigenous and non-Indigenous liveborn babies (34% and 33% respectively).
- There were 49 perinatal deaths comprising 31 stillbirths and 18 neonatal deaths. The overall Indigenous perinatal death rate was over three times that of the non-Indigenous rate (24 and 7 deaths per 1000 births respectively).

# Introduction

This report summarises data from the 2007 Northern Territory (NT) Midwives' Collection. It includes population characteristics of mothers, maternal health status, antenatal information, conditions and procedures used in labour and childbirth as well as birth outcomes for all births that occurred in 2007. The trend tables show changes over time for key demographic and obstetric indicators and birth outcomes over the period 1993–2007.

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

## Information presented in this report

The NT Midwives' Collection contains information on both NT resident and interstate residents who gave birth in the NT. However, the focus of this report is NT residents who gave birth in the NT in 2007. Unless specified, mothers usually residing interstate and births to them were omitted from the statistical tables.

Information on Territory women who gave birth interstate is not collected in the NT Midwives' Collection and is beyond the scope of this report. Australia's Mothers and Babies 2007 report published estimated numbers of NT women who gave birth interstate. It was estimated that up to 56 NT women gave birth interstate, predominantly in Queensland (24 births), South Australia (20 births) and Western Australia (7 births) with the rest being spread amongst New South Wales and Victoria.<sup>1</sup> Indigenous status was not available for interstate births to NT women.

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

A brief description of the results is presented in the next chapter followed by a comprehensive presentation of the data in a series of tables. Most tables are presented with information for all women as well as separately by Indigenous status and, in some, place of mother's usual residence (for NT mothers). Place of mother's usual residence is classified into health service districts, and into urban/rural-remote areas. The urban area includes Darwin Urban and Alice Springs Urban districts and the towns of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy; the rural-remote area covers the balance of the NT.<sup>2</sup>

## Data sources

### Northern Territory Midwives' Collection

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

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

In 2007 the majority of information about the births was captured directly in electronic format. In the public sector, midwives enter data shortly after the birth of a baby via the Birthing Suite Module of CareSys, the Hospital Information System. This normally covers births that occurred in public hospitals and births before arrival (BBAs). Births in Darwin Private Hospital (DPH) and planned home births are entered via the internet site of the NT Midwives' Collection. Births that occurred in health centres, which did not involve being admitted to hospital, are submitted in paper form and then entered by the perinatal data manager to the intranet site.

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

## NT Perinatal Death Register

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

## Data limitations

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

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

In the *Mothers and Babies 2003* report, the Health Gains Planning Branch commenced using the AIHW default position because 'not stated' data in the NT Midwives Collection are more likely due to random and accidental data entry errors i.e. MCAR rather than deliberate omission on the part of the mothers. This approach differs from reports compiled prior to the 2003 report. In these reports, 'not stated' data were included in the proportional distribution for each table.

The effect of our change in approach is that the proportional distribution for certain data items, particularly smoking and/or alcohol consumption during pregnancy, is now markedly higher than previously reported. Comparative analyses involving reports

published from 2003 and those published prior to 2003 will need to take this methodological change into account.

The data used in this report are limited to the health information available at the time of data entry. In instances where an antenatal record is incomplete or missing, the midwife populating the Birthing Suite Module of CareSys or the internet site of the NT Midwives' Collection is limited to the details at hand. Key antenatal indicators such as visit dates and health behaviours are most likely to be affected as this information is only recorded on antenatal records.

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

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

The denominator population used to calculate fertility rates is the 2007 NT Estimated Resident Population based on the 2006 ABS Census of Population and Housing.

Because the NT population is small, when data are disaggregated by Indigenous status or regions the numbers being reported can be very small. When small numbers are used, seemingly large differences can be seen when percentage rates are calculated, even if the difference is only one or two births. A further issue with data disaggregated by region for the Indigenous population is difficulties individuals have identifying one usual place of residence.<sup>3</sup> This is particularly true for pregnant women who have to travel to and stay in town from 36 weeks gestation to be close to a hospital when they give birth.<sup>4</sup> The place they are staying in town could thus be recorded as their usual place of residence and not the community they have travelled from. A recent audit of NT hospital demographic data found 88 per cent congruence between hospital records of patients' usual health district of residence and the health district people identified as their usual place of residence when asked in an interview.<sup>5</sup>

# Mothers and babies of the Northern Territory

## Mothers

### Place of residence

In 2007, a total of 3,758 mothers gave birth to 3,800 babies in the NT, of which 3,766 were livebirths. Among all babies born in the NT, most were born to mothers who were resident in the NT. There were 103 mothers from interstate who gave birth to 104 babies (3% of all babies born in the NT).

Indigenous mothers comprised 39% of all NT mothers in 2007. This is higher than the share of the NT female population of child-bearing age (i.e. 15-49 years) made up of Indigenous women. In 2007, Indigenous women comprised 31% of all NT women of child-bearing age (Appendix 3).

Most NT non-Indigenous mothers were living in urban areas (96%), which include Darwin Urban and Alice Springs Urban districts and the towns of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy. In contrast, Indigenous mothers were predominantly from rural and remote areas (62%).

### Fertility rate

The total fertility rate (TFR) for the NT was 2.1 livebirths per woman in 2007, which meets the replacement rate of 2.1 births per woman and was higher than the 1.93 births per woman for the whole of Australia in the same period.<sup>6</sup> Non-Indigenous women had a lower TFR than Indigenous women (1.9 and 2.4 births per woman respectively).

This pattern of higher TFRs for Indigenous women compared with non-Indigenous women was seen in both urban and rural-remote areas and in all districts, except for East Arnhem where the TFRs of the two populations were similar. Katherine district had the highest TFR for all NT mothers, whilst Alice Springs Urban had the lowest.

The age-specific fertility rates show differences in the age of child-bearing between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. The fertility rate in the youngest age group (less than 20 years of age) was almost five times higher for Indigenous women compared with non-Indigenous women of the same age (100.8 and 20.8 births per 1,000 women respectively). Conversely, the fertility rate of the 35 and older age group was higher for non-Indigenous mothers (28.2 and 17.2 respectively), despite a lower overall fertility rate.

### Maternal age

The mean age of Indigenous mothers was 24.2 years, which was around five years less than the mean age of 29.6 years for non-Indigenous mothers. This difference was due to the age profile of mothers. The majority of Indigenous mothers were aged less than 25 years whereas most non-Indigenous mothers were 25 years or older. Almost a quarter (24%) of Indigenous mothers were less than 20 years of age at the time of giving birth, six times higher than the 4% of non-Indigenous mothers. A more marked difference was seen among mothers aged less than 18 years with 11% of all

Indigenous mothers being in this age group, compared with only 1.1% of non-Indigenous mothers. In contrast, non-Indigenous mothers were three times more likely to be in the oldest age group (35 years and over) than Indigenous mothers (22% and 7% respectively). This pattern of markedly earlier childbearing among Indigenous mothers was seen in all health districts including urban areas.

Indigenous mothers in the Darwin Urban district were least likely to have their children below age 20 than Indigenous mothers in other districts (17% compared with between 21% and 32% elsewhere). For both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, young motherhood was more likely in rural-remote areas.

## Parity

Among those women with parity recorded, the majority had given birth at least once before. Nearly half (46%) had one or two previous births and 16% had three or more previous births. Thirty-eight per cent of women gave birth to their first child. First-time mothers were proportionally higher among non-Indigenous mothers (44%) than Indigenous mothers (29%). In contrast, proportionally more Indigenous women than non-Indigenous had three or more previous births (26% and 9% respectively).

The difference in maternal age between Indigenous and non-Indigenous women was more pronounced among first-time mothers for whom there was an eight year difference in the mean age of birth (20 and 28 years respectively). The majority of non-Indigenous first-time mothers were aged 25 years or older (69%), whereas first-time Indigenous mothers were mostly less than 20 years of age (60%), and many were aged below 18 years of age (34%).

## Antenatal care

The vast majority of mothers had information on antenatal visits recorded. In less than 1% of records the date of first visit or frequency of visits were not recorded.

The World Health Organisation classifies less than four antenatal visits during the whole pregnancy to be insufficient.<sup>7</sup> Among mothers for whom information was collected, Indigenous mothers in the NT were six times more likely to have insufficient antenatal care documented (no antenatal visit or attended less than four visits) compared with non-Indigenous mothers (18% and 3% respectively). Non-Indigenous mothers living in rural-remote areas were more likely to have insufficient antenatal care than those from urban areas (5% and 3% respectively). However, the opposite was true for Indigenous women with a slightly lower proportion of mothers in rural-remote areas having insufficient antenatal care compared with those in urban areas (17% and 19% respectively).

It is also regarded as important for maternal and fetal health to have the first antenatal visit within the first trimester period of pregnancy (less than thirteen weeks from conception).<sup>8</sup> In this report gestational age at the first antenatal visit was derived from three sources of information: the date of the first antenatal visit, the date of the first ultrasound or the recorded gestational age at the time of the first ultrasound to determine the lowest valid gestational age.

Compared with non-Indigenous mothers, Indigenous mothers were more likely to attend their first antenatal visits later in the pregnancy. Among those mothers who attended at least one antenatal visit and had a record of the time of their first visit, almost three quarters (74%) of non-Indigenous mothers attended their first visit in the first trimester of pregnancy. This proportion was much less for Indigenous mothers (45%). The proportion of Indigenous women attending a first antenatal visit in the first trimester was higher in urban areas than in rural-remote (52% and 41% respectively).

Among non-Indigenous women, those who resided in urban areas were slightly less likely to have a first antenatal visit in the first trimester compared with their rural-remote counterparts (74% and 78% respectively).

## Smoking status and alcohol consumption during pregnancy

Self-reported smoking status and alcohol consumption during pregnancy are collected at the first antenatal visit and again at around 36 weeks gestation. Although the collection of these two key indicators has improved in recent years the proportion of missing data remains sizeable. In this report 11% of alcohol consumption data were missing at the first visit and 19% at 36 weeks. For smoking status the missing data were 8% and 17% respectively. Missing data tends to be more prevalent among the antenatal records of Indigenous mothers than non-Indigenous.

The prevalence of alcohol drinking and smoking reported below were calculated after removing missing data, therefore these prevalence rates are higher than the figures published in the AIHW report Australia's Mothers and Babies 2007,<sup>1</sup> where missing data is included in the denominator. Both methods contain bias due to missing data and caution should be used when interpreting the information. Despite differences in data analysis methodology both reports provide an indication of the levels of these harmful behaviours during pregnancy at broad population levels.

In the NT, alcohol drinking during pregnancy was much less prevalent than smoking. At first antenatal visit, 9% of all NT mothers reported alcohol drinking during pregnancy and 30% reported smoking. The prevalence of alcohol drinking was higher in Indigenous mothers (13% at the first visit and 9% at 36 weeks gestation) than non-Indigenous mothers (6% and 3%, respectively).

Indigenous mothers were three times more likely than non-Indigenous mothers to report smoking during pregnancy at first antenatal visit. At this stage of pregnancy the smoking rate was 52% for Indigenous mothers and 16% for non-Indigenous mothers. By 36 weeks gestation the smoking prevalence dropped for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers (46% and 11% respectively).

Among Indigenous mothers there was little difference in smoking prevalence between urban and rural-remote areas. However, among non-Indigenous mothers, those residing in rural-remote locations were more likely to report smoking compared with their urban counterparts. At 36 weeks gestation, rural-remote non-Indigenous mothers were twice as likely to report smoking compared with urban non-Indigenous mothers (23% and 11% respectively).

Among Indigenous mothers, Alice Springs Rural district presented notably lower smoking rates than other districts (although smoking levels were still high with over one quarter of mothers smoking at their first antenatal visit). This pattern of lower smoking in Alice Springs Rural is consistent with data from previous years.

## Birth facility

Nearly all NT births occurred in a hospital (97%). The majority of hospital births took place at one of the five public hospitals (80%) and the rest were in DPH, the only private hospital in the NT. Almost all mothers who gave birth in DPH were non-Indigenous (99%).

A small proportion of mothers (1%) had a planned homebirth and all were non-Indigenous. Around 4% of Indigenous mothers had an unplanned non-hospital birth in either health centres, in transit to hospitals or in unintended locations, including unplanned births in the home, comparing to less than 1% of non-Indigenous. Health

centres were the most common place for non-hospital births, in particular for Indigenous mothers living in rural-remote areas. Barkly health district had the largest proportion of non-hospital births, most of which occurred in places other than health centres.

### **Onset of labour and induction of labour**

Spontaneous onset of labour occurred for 64% of all mothers; one in five mothers (20%) had induced labour and 16% had no labour. Non-Indigenous mothers were less likely to have spontaneous onset of labour compared with Indigenous mothers (61% and 69% respectively) and therefore were more likely to have induction to initiate the labour or have no labour.

Artificial rupture of membranes (ARM), oxytocics and prostaglandins were the more common induction methods. The most common induction method among non-Indigenous mothers was ARM (67%), whereas oxytocics were the most common method (63%) for Indigenous mothers.

### **Presentation and method of birth**

Of all NT mothers giving birth in 2007, 63% had a spontaneous vaginal delivery (SVD). Indigenous mothers were more likely to have a SVD than non-Indigenous mothers (68% and 59% respectively). Almost 30% of births were performed by caesarean section. Non-Indigenous mothers were more likely to have a caesarean section than Indigenous mothers (32% and 27% respectively). Just over half (52%) of the caesarean sections performed on non-Indigenous mothers were elective, whereas Indigenous mothers were much more likely to undergo a caesarean section for emergency reasons (68%).

Instrumental deliveries using forceps or ventouse (vacuum suction) in childbirth accounted for 7% of births and were more common among non-Indigenous mothers (9%) than Indigenous mothers (4%). Vaginal breech accounted for less than 1% of all births.

The majority of presentations were vertex (95%) while breech accounted for 4% and other presentations 1%. Caesarean section was the most common birth method for breech presentations, except for very preterm births (less than 28 weeks) which were mostly delivered vaginally.

Among all hospitals in the NT, DPH had the highest proportion of caesarean section births (43%) and the lowest proportion of spontaneous vaginal births (43%). The primary reason for elective caesarean section births was previous caesarean section (65%). The main reasons for emergency caesarean section included: failure to progress during labour (47%), fetal distress (42%) and malpresentation (11%). Indigenous mothers were much more likely to have an emergency caesarean section because of fetal distress than non-Indigenous mothers (52% and 35% respectively).

### **Analgesia for labour and anaesthesia for childbirth**

The majority of mothers who had spontaneous or induced onset of labour used some form of analgesia (76%). Analgesia use was slightly higher among non-Indigenous mothers than Indigenous mothers (79% and 73% respectively).

Anaesthesia was applied in the vast majority of operative births, including births using forceps or ventouse or via caesarean section. Non-Indigenous women were twice as likely as Indigenous women to have an epidural or caudal anaesthesia (23% and 11%

respectively). By contrast, there was higher use of spinal anaesthesia among Indigenous women than non-Indigenous women (71% and 57% respectively).

## Labour complications and perineal status

Almost half of all NT mothers experienced a complication due to pregnancy and/or childbirth (43%). Indigenous mothers were more likely to have a complication than non-Indigenous mothers (50% and 39% respectively). Post-partum haemorrhage was the most common complication for Indigenous mothers and obstructed labour the most common for non-Indigenous mothers. Fetal distress and meconium stained liquor were also relatively common complications.

The proportion of pregnancies and/or births with a complication (43%) in 2007 was comparable to previous years (40% to 41% during the period 2003–2006)<sup>9-12</sup>. Among the complications recorded, only obstructed labour showed a proportional increase between these years. In 2007, obstructed labour occurred in 11% of all births, which was much greater compared to the proportion in previous year (5% to 7% during the period 2003–2006)<sup>9-12</sup>.

Just over half (52%) of all mothers who gave birth vaginally had an intact perineum after childbirth, while 40% had some degree of perineal laceration. A small proportion (2%) had a third or fourth degree tear. Episiotomy was performed on 8% of women. Indigenous mothers were more likely than non-Indigenous mothers to have an intact perineum (58% and 48% respectively).

## Postnatal hospital stay

The majority of mothers who gave birth in hospital also stayed in hospital following the birth for one day or more (95%). Most stays were for less than one week and only 6% of women stayed for eight or more days. The average length of stay was 3.8 days. Not surprisingly, mothers who had a caesarean section had longer stays than mothers who had vaginal births.

Indigenous mothers were slightly more likely than non-Indigenous mothers to have a hospital stay and more likely to stay for eight or more days. The mean length of stay for emergency caesarean section was 1.8 days longer for Indigenous mothers compared with non-Indigenous mothers. The overall average length of stay for all birth methods was only slightly longer among Indigenous mothers compared with non-Indigenous mothers (4.2 days and 3.6 days respectively).

## Babies

### Birth status

In 2007, a total of 3,800 babies were born in the NT. Of these, 104 were born to mothers who were not NT residents. Of the 3,696 babies born to NT mothers during 2007, 31 were stillbirths and 3,665 were livebirths. The proportion of stillbirths born to Indigenous mothers was more than three times that of non-Indigenous mothers. Just over half of stillbirths had extremely low birthweight of less than 1000 grams (52%) and many were very preterm, being born before 28 weeks gestation (45%).

### Plurality

There were 39 twin births and one triplet birth in 2007. Multiple births were comparable among Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers (1.1% and 1.0%).

## Preterm and low birthweight liveborn babies

Altogether there were 352 (10%) livebirths born preterm (gestational age less than 37 weeks). Proportionally there were twice as many preterm babies born to Indigenous mothers (15%) than to non-Indigenous mothers (7%). Fourteen of the 20 babies in the very preterm category (less than 28 weeks gestation) were born to Indigenous mothers.

Of all liveborn babies, 8% were low birthweight (less than 2500 grams). Babies of Indigenous mothers (13%) were more than twice as likely to have a low birthweight as babies of non-Indigenous mothers (5%). The difference was also seen in very low birthweight babies (less than 1500 grams), with 3% of babies born to Indigenous mothers in this category compared with 1% of babies born to non-Indigenous mothers. Indigenous mothers who resided in Darwin Rural and Barkly had the highest percentage of low birthweight babies (17% and 16% respectively). In each district, Indigenous mothers were more likely to have low birthweight babies than non-Indigenous mothers.

Among full term (37 weeks and over) singleton liveborn babies, 4% of those born to Indigenous mothers were of low birthweight compared with 1% born to non-Indigenous mothers. For those born preterm (28-36 weeks gestation) there were proportionally more babies of at least 2500 grams among non-Indigenous mothers compared with Indigenous mothers (59% and 41% respectively).

## Apgar scores

An Apgar score is a clinical indicator of the condition of the baby at the time of birth. Five physical signs are each assigned a score of 0, 1 or 2, and the highest total Apgar score is 10. A score of 7-10 indicates a healthy baby.<sup>1</sup> By five minutes after birth there was only 2% of all NT babies with an Apgar score below seven, and for Indigenous and non-Indigenous babies the proportions were 4% and 1% respectively.

## Resuscitation of liveborn babies

A large proportion of the babies born alive received some form of resuscitation (33%), excluding tactile stimulation. Resuscitation rates were comparable among Indigenous and non-Indigenous liveborn babies (34% and 33% respectively). The most common methods of resuscitation were suction (12%), facial oxygen (10%) and intermittent positive pressure ventilation (IPPV) (9%). Methods such as intubation or external cardiac massage and ventilation (less than 2%) were uncommon.

## Neonatal and perinatal mortality

Neonatal mortality refers to a death of a live-born baby within 28 days of birth. Perinatal mortality includes stillbirths and neonatal deaths.

In 2007 there were 49 perinatal deaths in the NT comprising 31 stillbirths and 18 neonatal deaths. There were a higher number of stillbirths to Indigenous mothers compared with non-Indigenous mothers (22 and 9 respectively). For the 18 neonatal deaths, 12 were Indigenous and 6 non-Indigenous. The overall Indigenous perinatal death rate was over three times that of the non-Indigenous rate (24 and 7 deaths per 1000 births respectively).

# Statistical tables

## Mothers

**Table 1. Total births in the NT, by Indigenous status and district of usual residence, 2007**

| District            | Indigenous  |             | Non-Indigenous |             | All NT      |             |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                     | Mothers     | Babies      | Mothers        | Babies      | Mothers     | Babies      |
| Darwin Urban        | 267         | 271         | 1646           | 1664        | 1913        | 1935        |
| Darwin Rural        | 233         | 239         | 50             | 51          | 283         | 290         |
| Katherine           | 251         | 254         | 143            | 145         | 394         | 399         |
| East Arnhem         | 204         | 204         | 87             | 88          | 291         | 292         |
| Barkly              | 105         | 105         | 23             | 23          | 128         | 128         |
| Alice Springs Urban | 128         | 130         | 281            | 284         | 409         | 414         |
| Alice Springs Rural | 224         | 225         | 13             | 13          | 237         | 238         |
| <b>NT total</b>     | <b>1412</b> | <b>1428</b> | <b>2243</b>    | <b>2268</b> | <b>3655</b> | <b>3696</b> |
| Interstate          | 75          | 76          | 28             | 28          | 103         | 104         |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>1487</b> | <b>1504</b> | <b>2271</b>    | <b>2296</b> | <b>3758</b> | <b>3800</b> |

**Table 2. Summary statistics, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2007**

|                             |                             | Indigenous  |      | Non-Indigenous |      | All NT      |      |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|------|----------------|------|-------------|------|
|                             |                             | Number      | %    | Number         | %    | Number      | %    |
| <b>ALL</b>                  | <b>Total</b>                | <b>1412</b> |      | <b>2243</b>    |      | <b>3655</b> |      |
| <b>MOTHERS</b>              | <b>Maternal age</b>         |             |      |                |      |             |      |
|                             | <20                         | 335         | 23.7 | 90             | 4.0  | 425         | 11.6 |
|                             | 20-34                       | 974         | 69.0 | 1651           | 73.6 | 2625        | 71.8 |
|                             | 35+                         | 103         | 7.3  | 502            | 22.4 | 605         | 16.6 |
|                             | <b>Place of birth</b>       |             |      |                |      |             |      |
|                             | Hospital                    | 1350        | 95.6 | 2195           | 97.9 | 3545        | 97.0 |
|                             | Non-hospital                | 62          | 4.4  | 48             | 2.1  | 110         | 3.0  |
|                             | <b>Type of labour onset</b> |             |      |                |      |             |      |
|                             | Spontaneous                 | 975         | 69.1 | 1362           | 60.7 | 2337        | 63.9 |
|                             | Induced                     | 264         | 18.7 | 481            | 21.4 | 745         | 20.4 |
|                             | No labour                   | 173         | 12.3 | 400            | 17.8 | 573         | 15.7 |
|                             | <b>Method of birth</b>      |             |      |                |      |             |      |
|                             | Spontaneous vaginal         | 962         | 68.1 | 1325           | 59.1 | 2287        | 62.6 |
|                             | Vaginal breech              | 14          | 1.0  | 14             | 0.6  | 28          | 0.8  |
|                             | Forceps                     | 16          | 1.1  | 55             | 2.5  | 71          | 1.9  |
|                             | Ventouse                    | 41          | 2.9  | 141            | 6.3  | 182         | 5.0  |
|                             | Caesarean section           | 379         | 26.8 | 708            | 31.6 | 1087        | 29.7 |
| <b>FIRST-TIME</b>           | <b>Total</b>                | <b>407</b>  |      | <b>986</b>     |      | <b>1393</b> |      |
| <b>MOTHERS</b>              | <b>Maternal age</b>         |             |      |                |      |             |      |
|                             | <20                         | 245         | 60.2 | 74             | 7.5  | 319         | 22.9 |
|                             | 20-34                       | 157         | 38.6 | 761            | 77.2 | 918         | 65.9 |
|                             | 35+                         | 5           | 1.2  | 151            | 15.3 | 156         | 11.2 |
| <b>TOTAL FERTILITY RATE</b> |                             | <b>2.4</b>  |      | <b>1.9</b>     |      | <b>2.1</b>  |      |

**Table 3. Area of usual residence, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2007**

| Area              | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                   | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| Urban area        | 540         | 38.2         | 2152           | 95.9         | 2692        | 73.7         |
| Rural/remote area | 872         | 61.8         | 91             | 4.1          | 963         | 26.3         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>1412</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2243</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3655</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

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

**Table 4. District and area of usual residence, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2007**

| District      | Area         | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|               |              | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| Darwin Urban  |              | 267         | 18.9         | 1646           | 73.4         | 1913        | 52.3         |
| Darwin Rural  |              | 233         | 16.5         | 50             | 2.2          | 283         | 7.7          |
| Katherine     | Urban        | 72          | 5.1          | 135            | 6.0          | 207         | 5.7          |
|               | Rural/remote | 179         | 12.7         | 8              | 0.4          | 187         | 5.1          |
| East Arnhem   | Urban        | 8           | 0.6          | 69             | 3.1          | 77          | 2.1          |
|               | Rural/remote | 196         | 13.9         | 18             | 0.8          | 214         | 5.9          |
| Barkly        | Urban        | 65          | 4.6          | 21             | 0.9          | 86          | 2.4          |
|               | Rural/remote | 40          | 2.8          | 2              | 0.1          | 42          | 1.1          |
| Alice Springs | Urban        | 128         | 9.1          | 281            | 12.5         | 409         | 11.2         |
|               | Rural        | 224         | 15.9         | 13             | 0.6          | 237         | 6.5          |
| <b>Total</b>  |              | <b>1412</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2243</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3655</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

**Table 5. Total fertility rate, by Indigenous status and district of usual residence, NT mothers, 2007**

| District            | Indigenous | Non-Indigenous | All NT     |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Darwin Urban        | 2.6        | 2.0            | 2.1        |
| Darwin Rural        | 2.1        | 1.9            | 2.1        |
| Katherine           | 2.7        | 2.1            | 2.5        |
| East Arnhem         | 2.0        | 2.0            | 2.1        |
| Barkly              | 2.9        | 1.3            | 2.4        |
| Alice Springs Urban | 2.4        | 1.6            | 1.8        |
| Alice Springs Rural | 2.2        | 0.5            | 1.9        |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>2.4</b> | <b>1.9</b>     | <b>2.1</b> |

Note: Total fertility rate is the average number of births per woman over her life time if she experienced the age-specific rates seen in 2007.

**Table 6. Total fertility rate, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2007**

| Remoteness        | Indigenous | Non-Indigenous | All NT     |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Urban area        | 2.7        | 1.9            | 2.1        |
| Rural/remote area | 2.2        | 1.1            | 2.0        |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>2.4</b> | <b>1.9</b>     | <b>2.1</b> |

Notes:

(1) Total fertility rate is the average number of births per woman over her life time if she experienced the age-specific rates seen in 2007.

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

**Table 7. Age-specific fertility rates and total fertility rate, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2007**

| Indigenous status | Age-specific fertility rate (births per 1000) |             |             | Total fertility rate |
|-------------------|---|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
|                   | <20 years                                     | 20-34 years | 35+ years   |                      |
| Indigenous        | 100.8   | 112.1       | 17.2        | 2.4                  |
| Non-Indigenous    | 20.8  | 92.7        | 28.2        | 1.9                  |
| <b>All NT</b>     | <b>55.4</b>                                   | <b>99.0</b> | <b>25.5</b> | <b>2.1</b>           |

Note: Age-specific fertility rate is the number of births per 1000 women in each age group. The rate for the <20 age group is calculated using the female population aged 15-19 years; the rate for the 35+ group is calculated using the female population aged 35-49 years.

**Table 8. Maternal age, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2007**

| Maternal age<br>(years)     | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                             | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| <16                         | 46          | 3.3          | 3              | 0.1          | 49          | 1.3          |
| 16-17                       | 110         | 7.8          | 22             | 1.0          | 132         | 3.6          |
| 18-19                       | 179         | 12.7         | 65             | 2.9          | 244         | 6.7          |
| 20-24                       | 479         | 33.9         | 366            | 16.3         | 845         | 23.1         |
| 25-29                       | 328         | 23.2         | 650            | 29.0         | 978         | 26.8         |
| 30-34                       | 167         | 11.8         | 635            | 28.3         | 802         | 21.9         |
| 35-44                       | 103         | 7.3          | 499            | 22.2         | 602         | 16.5         |
| 45+                         | 0           | 0.0          | 3              | 0.1          | 3           | 0.1          |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>1412</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2243</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3655</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b>Mean age<br/>(years)</b> | <b>24.2</b> |              | <b>29.6</b>    |              | <b>27.5</b> |              |

**Table 9. Maternal age, by Indigenous status and district of usual residence, NT mothers, 2007**

| District              | Maternal age (years) |             |             | Total       |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                       | <20                  | 20-34       | 35+         |             |
|                       | %                    | %           | %           | Number      |
| <b>Indigenous</b>     |                      |             |             |             |
| Darwin Urban          | 16.5                 | 74.2        | 9.4         | <b>267</b>  |
| Darwin Rural          | 23.2                 | 71.2        | 5.6         | <b>233</b>  |
| Katherine             | 24.3                 | 67.7        | 8.0         | <b>251</b>  |
| East Arnhem           | 22.1                 | 71.1        | 6.9         | <b>204</b>  |
| Barkly                | 31.4                 | 61.9        | 6.7         | <b>105</b>  |
| Alice Springs Urban   | 21.1                 | 68.0        | 10.9        | <b>128</b>  |
| Alice Springs Rural   | 31.7                 | 63.8        | 4.5         | <b>224</b>  |
| Total                 | 23.7                 | 69.1        | 7.2         | <b>1412</b> |
| <b>Non-Indigenous</b> |                      |             |             |             |
| Darwin Urban          | 4.2                  | 73.5        | 22.4        | <b>1646</b> |
| Darwin Rural          | 8.0                  | 72.0        | 20.0        | <b>50</b>   |
| Katherine             | 3.5                  | 74.8        | 21.7        | <b>143</b>  |
| East Arnhem           | 5.7                  | 75.9        | 18.4        | <b>87</b>   |
| Barkly                | 8.7                  | 78.3        | 13.0        | <b>23</b>   |
| Alice Springs Urban   | 1.8                  | 72.6        | 25.6        | <b>281</b>  |
| Alice Springs Rural   | 0.0                  | 84.6        | 15.4        | <b>13</b>   |
| Total                 | 4.0                  | 73.6        | 22.4        | <b>2243</b> |
| <b>All NT</b>         | <b>11.6</b>          | <b>71.8</b> | <b>16.5</b> | <b>3655</b> |

**Table 10. Maternal age, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2007**

| Area                  | Maternal age (years) |             |             | Total       |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                       | <20                  | 20-34       | 35+         |             |
|                       | %                    | %           | %           | Number      |
| <b>Indigenous</b>     |                      |             |             |             |
| Urban area            | 20.6                 | 69.6        | 9.8         | <b>540</b>  |
| Rural/remote area     | 25.7                 | 68.6        | 5.7         | <b>872</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>23.7</b>          | <b>69.1</b> | <b>7.2</b>  | <b>1412</b> |
| <b>Non-Indigenous</b> |                      |             |             |             |
| Urban area            | 3.9                  | 73.6        | 22.5        | <b>2152</b> |
| Rural/remote area     | 7.7                  | 73.6        | 18.7        | <b>91</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>4.0</b>           | <b>73.6</b> | <b>22.4</b> | <b>2243</b> |

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

Table 11. Maternal parity, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2007

| Parity       | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|              | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| 0            | 407         | 28.8         | 986            | 44.0         | 1393        | 38.1         |
| 1-2          | 639         | 45.3         | 1045           | 46.6         | 1684        | 46.1         |
| 3+           | 366         | 25.9         | 212            | 9.5          | 578         | 15.8         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1412</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2243</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3655</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

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

Table 12. Maternal age, by Indigenous status, NT first-time mothers, 2007

| Maternal age<br>(years) | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                         | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| <16                     | 45          | 11.1         | 3              | 0.3          | 48          | 3.4          |
| 16-17                   | 95          | 23.3         | 21             | 2.1          | 116         | 8.3          |
| 18-19                   | 105         | 25.8         | 50             | 5.1          | 155         | 11.1         |
| 20-24                   | 117         | 28.7         | 233            | 23.6         | 350         | 25.1         |
| 25-29                   | 31          | 7.6          | 285            | 28.9         | 316         | 22.7         |
| 30-34                   | 9           | 2.2          | 243            | 24.6         | 252         | 18.1         |
| 35-44                   | 5           | 1.2          | 149            | 15.1         | 154         | 11.1         |
| 45+                     | 0           | 0.0          | 2              | 0.2          | 2           | 0.1          |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>407</b>  | <b>100.0</b> | <b>986</b>     | <b>100.0</b> | <b>1393</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b>Mean age (years)</b> | <b>19.5</b> |              | <b>27.9</b>    |              | <b>25.5</b> |              |

Table 13. Antenatal visits, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2007

| Number of<br>antenatal visits | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                               | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| 0                             | 48          | 3.5          | 16             | 0.7          | 64          | 1.8          |
| 1 - 3                         | 203         | 14.6         | 60             | 2.7          | 263         | 7.3          |
| 4 - 7                         | 400         | 28.8         | 441            | 19.7         | 841         | 23.2         |
| 8 & more                      | 738         | 53.1         | 1718           | 76.9         | 2456        | 67.8         |
| <b>Total stated</b>           | <b>1389</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2235</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3624</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| Not stated                    | 23          |              | 8              |              | 31          |              |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>1412</b> |              | <b>2243</b>    |              | <b>3655</b> |              |

**Table 14. Antenatal visits, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers, 2007**

| District            | Number of antenatal visits |       |       |      | Total<br>stated<br>Number | Not<br>stated<br>Number | Total<br>Number |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------|-------|------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
|                     | 0                          | 1 - 3 | 4 - 7 | 8+   |                           |                         |                 |
|                     | %                          | %     | %     | %    |                           |                         |                 |
| Darwin Urban        | 2.6                        | 17.7  | 40.8  | 38.9 | 265                       | 2                       | 267             |
| Darwin Rural        | 1.7                        | 11.2  | 27.6  | 59.5 | 232                       | 1                       | 233             |
| Katherine           | 4.1                        | 10.6  | 19.5  | 65.9 | 246                       | 5                       | 251             |
| East Arnhem         | 1.5                        | 10.9  | 18.9  | 68.7 | 201                       | 3                       | 204             |
| Barkly              | 8.2                        | 19.4  | 26.5  | 45.9 | 98                        | 7                       | 105             |
| Alice Springs Urban | 4.7                        | 11.8  | 30.7  | 52.8 | 127                       | 1                       | 128             |
| Alice Springs Rural | 4.5                        | 21.8  | 35.0  | 38.6 | 220                       | 4                       | 224             |
| <b>Total</b>        | 3.5                        | 14.6  | 28.8  | 53.1 | 1389                      | 23                      | 1412            |

**Table 15. Antenatal visits, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2007**

| Area                  | Number of antenatal visits |       |       |      | Total<br>stated<br>Number | Not<br>stated<br>Number | Total<br>Number |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------|-------|------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
|                       | 0                          | 1 - 3 | 4 - 7 | 8+   |                           |                         |                 |
|                       | %                          | %     | %     | %    |                           |                         |                 |
| <b>Indigenous</b>     |                            |       |       |      |                           |                         |                 |
| Urban area            | 3.4                        | 16.1  | 34.8  | 45.8 | 535                       | 5                       | 540             |
| Rural/remote area     | 3.5                        | 13.7  | 25.1  | 57.7 | 854                       | 18                      | 872             |
| <b>Total</b>          | 3.5                        | 14.6  | 28.8  | 53.1 | 1389                      | 23                      | 1412            |
| <b>Non-Indigenous</b> |                            |       |       |      |                           |                         |                 |
| Urban area            | 0.7                        | 2.7   | 19.7  | 77.0 | 2144                      | 8                       | 2152            |
| Rural/remote area     | 2.2                        | 3.3   | 20.9  | 73.6 | 91                        | 0                       | 91              |
| <b>Total</b>          | 0.7                        | 2.7   | 19.7  | 76.9 | 2235                      | 8                       | 2243            |

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

**Table 16. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by Indigenous status, NT mothers with at least one visit, 2007**

| Gestation<br>at first antenatal visit | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                                       | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| First trimester                       | 602         | 45.1         | 1635           | 73.9         | 2237        | 63.0         |
| Second trimester                      | 572         | 42.8         | 541            | 24.4         | 1113        | 31.4         |
| Third trimester                       | 162         | 12.1         | 37             | 1.7          | 199         | 5.6          |
| <b>Total stated</b>                   | <b>1336</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2213</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3549</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| Not stated                            | 5           |              | 6              |              | 11          |              |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>1341</b> |              | <b>2219</b>    |              | <b>3560</b> |              |

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

**Table 17. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers with at least one visit, 2007**

| District            | Gestation at first antenatal visit |                     |                    | Total<br>stated | Not<br>stated | Total       |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
|                     | First<br>trimester                 | Second<br>trimester | Third<br>trimester |                 |               |             |
|                     | %                                  | %                   | %                  | Number          | Number        | Number      |
| Darwin Urban        | 47.3                               | 41.8                | 10.9               | 256             | 2             | 258         |
| Darwin Rural        | 47.1                               | 40.1                | 12.8               | 227             | 1             | 228         |
| Katherine           | 47.9                               | 41.5                | 10.6               | 236             | 0             | 236         |
| East Arnhem         | 38.6                               | 47.7                | 13.7               | 197             | 1             | 198         |
| Barkly              | 38.2                               | 48.3                | 13.5               | 89              | 1             | 90          |
| Alice Springs Urban | 59.5                               | 30.6                | 9.9                | 121             | 0             | 121         |
| Alice Springs Rural | 37.6                               | 48.6                | 13.8               | 210             | 0             | 210         |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>45.1</b>                        | <b>42.8</b>         | <b>12.1</b>        | <b>1336</b>     | <b>5</b>      | <b>1341</b> |

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

**Table 18. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers with at least one visit, 2007**

| Area                  | Gestation at first antenatal visit |                     |                    | Total<br>stated | Not<br>stated | Total       |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
|                       | First<br>trimester                 | Second<br>trimester | Third<br>trimester |                 |               |             |
|                       | %                                  | %                   | %                  | Number          | Number        | Number      |
| <b>Indigenous</b>     |                                    |                     |                    |                 |               |             |
| Urban area            | 51.8                               | 38.5                | 9.7                | 514             | 3             | 517         |
| Rural/remote area     | 40.9                               | 45.5                | 13.6               | 822             | 2             | 824         |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>45.1</b>                        | <b>42.8</b>         | <b>12.1</b>        | <b>1336</b>     | <b>5</b>      | <b>1341</b> |
| <b>Non-Indigenous</b> |                                    |                     |                    |                 |               |             |
| Urban area            | 73.7                               | 24.8                | 1.6                | 2125            | 5             | 2130        |
| Rural/remote area     | 78.4                               | 17.0                | 4.5                | 88              | 1             | 89          |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>73.9</b>                        | <b>24.4</b>         | <b>1.7</b>         | <b>2213</b>     | <b>6</b>      | <b>2219</b> |

Notes:

(1) First trimester is less than 13 weeks gestation; second trimester is 13-26 weeks gestation; third trimester is 27 weeks or more gestation.

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

Table 19. Self-reported alcohol consumption, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2007

|                | Alcohol consumption | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                |                     | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| At first visit | Alcohol             | 152         | 13.0         | 133            | 6.4          | 285         | 8.8          |
|                | No alcohol          | 1014        | 87.0         | 1943           | 93.6         | 2957        | 91.2         |
|                | <b>Total stated</b> | <b>1166</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2076</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3242</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
|                | Not stated          | 246         |              | 167            |              | 413         |              |
|                | <b>Total</b>        | <b>1412</b> |              | <b>2243</b>    |              | <b>3655</b> |              |
| At 36 Weeks    | Alcohol             | 91          | 8.6          | 50             | 2.7          | 141         | 4.8          |
|                | No alcohol          | 972         | 91.4         | 1834           | 97.3         | 2806        | 95.2         |
|                | <b>Total stated</b> | <b>1063</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>1884</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2947</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
|                | Not stated          | 349         |              | 359            |              | 708         |              |
|                | <b>Total</b>        | <b>1412</b> |              | <b>2243</b>    |              | <b>3655</b> |              |

Table 20. Self-reported smoking status, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2007

|                | Smoking status      | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                |                     | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| At first visit | Smoking             | 640         | 52.2         | 353            | 16.5         | 993         | 29.5         |
|                | Non-smoking         | 587         | 47.8         | 1791           | 83.5         | 2378        | 70.5         |
|                | <b>Total stated</b> | <b>1227</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2144</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3371</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
|                | Not stated          | 185         |              | 99             |              | 284         |              |
|                | <b>Total</b>        | <b>1412</b> |              | <b>2243</b>    |              | <b>3655</b> |              |
| At 36 Weeks    | Smoking             | 507         | 46.4         | 218            | 11.3         | 725         | 24.0         |
|                | Non-smoking         | 586         | 53.6         | 1709           | 88.7         | 2295        | 76.0         |
|                | <b>Total stated</b> | <b>1093</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>1927</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3020</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
|                | Not stated          | 319         |              | 316            |              | 635         |              |
|                | <b>Total</b>        | <b>1412</b> |              | <b>2243</b>    |              | <b>3655</b> |              |

**Table 21. Self-reported smoking status, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2007**

| Area                                 | Smoking | Non-smoking | Total stated | Not stated | Total       |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
|                                      | %       | %           | Number       | Number     | Number      |
| <b>Smoking status at first visit</b> |         |             |              |            |             |
| <b>Indigenous</b>                    |         |             |              |            |             |
| Urban area                           | 52.8    | 47.2        | <b>479</b>   | 61         | <b>540</b>  |
| Rural/remote area                    | 51.7    | 48.3        | <b>748</b>   | 124        | <b>872</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>                         | 52.2    | 47.8        | <b>1227</b>  | 185        | <b>1412</b> |
| <b>Non-Indigenous</b>                |         |             |              |            |             |
| Urban area                           | 16.2    | 83.8        | <b>2063</b>  | 89         | <b>2152</b> |
| Rural/remote area                    | 23.5    | 76.5        | <b>81</b>    | 10         | <b>91</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>                         | 16.5    | 83.5        | <b>2144</b>  | 99         | <b>2243</b> |
| <b>Smoking status at 36 weeks</b>    |         |             |              |            |             |
| <b>Indigenous</b>                    |         |             |              |            |             |
| Urban area                           | 44.9    | 55.1        | <b>419</b>   | 121        | <b>540</b>  |
| Rural/remote area                    | 47.3    | 52.7        | <b>674</b>   | 198        | <b>872</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>                         | 46.4    | 53.6        | <b>1093</b>  | 319        | <b>1412</b> |
| <b>Non-Indigenous</b>                |         |             |              |            |             |
| Urban area                           | 10.8    | 89.2        | <b>1853</b>  | 299        | <b>2152</b> |
| Rural/remote area                    | 23.0    | 77.0        | <b>74</b>    | 17         | <b>91</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>                         | 11.3    | 88.7        | <b>1927</b>  | 316        | <b>2243</b> |

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

**Table 22. Self-reported smoking status, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers, 2007**

| District                             | Smoking     | Non-smoking | Total stated | Not stated | Total       |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
|                                      | %           | %           | Number       | Number     | Number      |
| <b>Smoking status at first visit</b> |             |             |              |            |             |
| Darwin Urban                         | 53.3        | 46.7        | <b>240</b>   | 27         | <b>267</b>  |
| Darwin Rural                         | 60.1        | 39.9        | <b>188</b>   | 45         | <b>233</b>  |
| Katherine                            | 58.3        | 41.7        | <b>230</b>   | 21         | <b>251</b>  |
| East Arnhem                          | 66.5        | 33.5        | <b>182</b>   | 22         | <b>204</b>  |
| Barkly                               | 39.3        | 60.7        | <b>89</b>    | 16         | <b>105</b>  |
| Alice Springs Urban                  | 49.1        | 50.9        | <b>112</b>   | 16         | <b>128</b>  |
| Alice Springs Rural                  | 29.0        | 71.0        | <b>186</b>   | 38         | <b>224</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>52.2</b> | <b>47.8</b> | <b>1227</b>  | <b>185</b> | <b>1412</b> |
| <b>Smoking status at 36 weeks</b>    |             |             |              |            |             |
| Darwin Urban                         | 40.4        | 59.6        | <b>188</b>   | 79         | <b>267</b>  |
| Darwin Rural                         | 53.8        | 46.2        | <b>145</b>   | 88         | <b>233</b>  |
| Katherine                            | 55.2        | 44.8        | <b>221</b>   | 30         | <b>251</b>  |
| East Arnhem                          | 63.1        | 36.9        | <b>168</b>   | 36         | <b>204</b>  |
| Barkly                               | 40.2        | 59.8        | <b>87</b>    | 18         | <b>105</b>  |
| Alice Springs Urban                  | 42.5        | 57.5        | <b>106</b>   | 22         | <b>128</b>  |
| Alice Springs Rural                  | 25.3        | 74.7        | <b>178</b>   | 46         | <b>224</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>46.4</b> | <b>53.6</b> | <b>1093</b>  | <b>319</b> | <b>1412</b> |

**Table 23. Actual place of giving birth, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2007**

| Actual place of giving birth | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |      |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|------|
|                              | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %    |
| RDH                          | 584         | 41.4         | 985            | 43.9         | 1569        | 42.9 |
| RDH Birth Centre             | 0           | 0.0          | 16             | 0.7          | 16          | 0.4  |
| DPH                          | 8           | 0.6          | 696            | 31.0         | 704         | 19.3 |
| GDH                          | 133         | 9.4          | 71             | 3.2          | 204         | 5.6  |
| KH                           | 186         | 13.2         | 126            | 5.6          | 312         | 8.5  |
| TCH                          | 9           | 0.6          | 0              | 0.0          | 9           | 0.2  |
| ASH                          | 430         | 30.5         | 301            | 13.4         | 731         | 20.0 |
| Health centres               | 47          | 3.3          | 2              | 0.1          | 49          | 1.3  |
| Planned homes                | 0           | 0.0          | 36             | 1.6          | 36          | 1.0  |
| Others*                      | 15          | 1.1          | 10             | 0.4          | 25          | 0.7  |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>1412</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2243</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3655</b> |      |

Notes:

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

\* Others include births that occurred in transit to hospitals and in unintended locations, including unplanned births in the home.

Table 24. Actual place of giving birth, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers, 2007

| District            | Actual place of giving birth |                |         | Total  |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------|--------|
|                     | Hospital                     | Health centres | Others* | Number |
|                     | %                            | %              | %       |        |
| Darwin Urban        | 98.9                         | 0.4            | 0.7     | 267    |
| Darwin Rural        | 94.8                         | 4.3            | 0.9     | 233    |
| Katherine           | 95.2                         | 4.0            | 0.8     | 251    |
| East Arnhem         | 94.1                         | 5.4            | 0.5     | 204    |
| Barkly              | 92.4                         | 2.9            | 4.8     | 105    |
| Alice Springs Urban | 97.7                         | 1.6            | 0.8     | 128    |
| Alice Springs Rural | 94.6                         | 4.5            | 0.9     | 224    |
| <b>Total</b>        | 95.6                         | 3.3            | 1.1     | 1412   |

\* Others include births that occurred in transit to hospitals and in unintended locations, including unplanned births in the home.

Table 25. Type of labour onset, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2007

| Type of labour onset | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                      | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| Spontaneous          | 975         | 69.1         | 1362           | 60.7         | 2337        | 63.9         |
| Induced              | 264         | 18.7         | 481            | 21.4         | 745         | 20.4         |
| No labour            | 173         | 12.3         | 400            | 17.8         | 573         | 15.7         |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>1412</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2243</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3655</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 26. Method of induction, by Indigenous status, NT mothers with induced onset of labour, 2007

| Method of induction | Indigenous |      | Non-Indigenous |      | All NT     |      |
|---------------------|------------|------|----------------|------|------------|------|
|                     | Number     | %    | Number         | %    | Number     | %    |
| ARM                 | 145        | 54.9 | 324            | 67.4 | 469        | 63.0 |
| Oxytocics           | 167        | 63.3 | 311            | 64.7 | 478        | 64.2 |
| Prostaglandins      | 123        | 46.6 | 194            | 40.3 | 317        | 42.6 |
| Other methods       | 6          | 2.3  | 7              | 1.5  | 13         | 1.7  |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>264</b> |      | <b>481</b>     |      | <b>745</b> |      |

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

Table 27. Birth presentation, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2007

| Presentation at birth | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                       | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| Vertex                | 1353        | 95.8         | 2113           | 94.2         | 3466        | 94.9         |
| Breech                | 47          | 3.3          | 107            | 4.8          | 154         | 4.2          |
| Face                  | 2           | 0.1          | 0              | 0.0          | 2           | 0.1          |
| Brow                  | 4           | 0.3          | 4              | 0.2          | 8           | 0.2          |
| Other                 | 6           | 0.4          | 18             | 0.8          | 24          | 0.7          |
| <b>Total stated</b>   | <b>1412</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2242</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3654</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| Not stated            | 0           |              | 1              |              | 1           |              |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>1412</b> |              | <b>2243</b>    |              | <b>3655</b> |              |

**Table 28. Method of birth, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2007**

| Method of birth     | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                     | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| Spontaneous vaginal | 962         | 68.1         | 1325           | 59.1         | 2287        | 62.6         |
| Vaginal breech      | 14          | 1.0          | 14             | 0.6          | 28          | 0.8          |
| Forceps             | 16          | 1.1          | 55             | 2.5          | 71          | 1.9          |
| Ventouse            | 41          | 2.9          | 141            | 6.3          | 182         | 5.0          |
| Caesarean-elective  | 121         | 8.6          | 367            | 16.4         | 488         | 13.4         |
| Caesarean-emergency | 258         | 18.3         | 341            | 15.2         | 599         | 16.4         |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>1412</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2243</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3655</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

**Table 29. Method of birth, by type of labour onset, NT mothers, 2007**

| Type of labour onset | Method of birth     |                  |                    |                     | Total       |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------|
|                      | Spontaneous vaginal | Assisted vaginal | Caesarean-elective | Caesarean-emergency |             |
|                      | %                   | %                | %                  | %                   | Number      |
| Spontaneous          | 77.7                | 8.0              | 1.5                | 12.8                | <b>2337</b> |
| Induced              | 63.4                | 12.6             | 0.0                | 24.0                | <b>745</b>  |
| No labour            | 0.0                 | 0.0              | 79.1               | 20.9                | <b>573</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>62.6</b>         | <b>7.7</b>       | <b>13.4</b>        | <b>16.4</b>         | <b>3655</b> |

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

**Table 30. Method of birth, by gestational age, NT mothers with breech presentation, 2007**

| Gestational age (weeks) | Method of birth |             |                    |             |                     |             | Total      |              |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
|                         | Vaginal breech  |             | Caesarean-elective |             | Caesarean-emergency |             | Number     | %            |
|                         | Number          | %           | Number             | %           | Number              | %           |            |              |
| <28                     | 11              | 84.6        | 0                  | 0.0         | 2                   | 15.4        | 13         | 100.0        |
| 28-36                   | 8               | 17.8        | 7                  | 15.6        | 30                  | 66.7        | 45         | 100.0        |
| 37+                     | 3               | 3.2         | 71                 | 74.7        | 21                  | 22.1        | 95         | 100.0        |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>22</b>       | <b>14.4</b> | <b>78</b>          | <b>51.0</b> | <b>53</b>           | <b>34.6</b> | <b>153</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 31. Method of birth, by hospital, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2007

| Hospital             | Method of birth     |                |         |          |                    |                     | Total  |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------|----------|--------------------|---------------------|--------|
|                      | Spontaneous vaginal | Vaginal breech | Forceps | Ventouse | Caesarean-elective | Caesarean-emergency | Number |
|                      | %                   | %              | %       | %        | %                  | %                   |        |
| RDH                  | 62.8                | 0.8            | 1.6     | 4.9      | 11.1               | 18.7                | 1585   |
| DPH                  | 43.0                | 0.7            | 3.6     | 9.4      | 29.0               | 14.3                | 704    |
| GDH                  | 82.4                | 0.5            | 0.0     | 2.0      | 4.4                | 10.8                | 204    |
| KH                   | 67.6                | 0.0            | 0.3     | 7.1      | 8.0                | 17.0                | 312    |
| TCH                  | 88.9                | 11.1           | 0.0     | 0.0      | 0.0                | 0.0                 | 9      |
| ASH                  | 67.7                | 0.5            | 2.6     | 1.8      | 10.1               | 17.2                | 731    |
| <b>All hospitals</b> | 61.5                | 0.7            | 2.0     | 5.1      | 13.8               | 16.9                | 3545   |

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

Table 32. Indications for caesarean section, by Indigenous status, NT mothers giving birth via caesarean section, 2007

| Indications for caesarean section | Indigenous |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT     |              |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
|                                   | Number     | %            | Number         | %            | Number     | %            |
| <b><i>Elective caesarean</i></b>  |            |              |                |              |            |              |
| Previous caesarean                | 93         | 77.5         | 220            | 61.5         | 313        | 65.5         |
| Malpresentation                   | 12         | 10.0         | 62             | 17.3         | 74         | 15.5         |
| Other*                            | 16         | 13.3         | 78             | 21.8         | 94         | 19.7         |
| <b>Total stated</b>               | <b>120</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>358</b>     | <b>100.0</b> | <b>478</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| Not stated                        | 1          |              | 9              |              | 10         |              |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>121</b> |              | <b>367</b>     |              | <b>488</b> |              |
| <b><i>Emergency caesarean</i></b> |            |              |                |              |            |              |
| Failure to progress               | 95         | 41.9         | 163            | 50.0         | 258        | 46.7         |
| Fetal distress                    | 117        | 51.5         | 113            | 34.7         | 230        | 41.6         |
| Malpresentation                   | 19         | 8.4          | 42             | 12.9         | 61         | 11.0         |
| Ante-partum haemorrhage           | 5          | 2.2          | 16             | 4.9          | 21         | 3.8          |
| Cord prolapse                     | 4          | 1.8          | 3              | 0.9          | 7          | 1.3          |
| Other*                            | 24         | 10.6         | 33             | 10.1         | 57         | 10.3         |
| <b>Total stated</b>               | <b>227</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>326</b>     | <b>100.0</b> | <b>553</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| Not stated                        | 31         |              | 15             |              | 46         |              |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>258</b> |              | <b>341</b>     |              | <b>599</b> |              |

Note: Multiple indications may be present in one mother with the exception of Other,

\* A single indication is present for mothers recorded with an Other indication.

**Table 33. Method of analgesia, by Indigenous status, NT mothers with spontaneous or induced onset of labour, 2007**

| <b>Analgesia:<br/>highest rank of method used</b> | <b>Indigenous</b> |              | <b>Non-Indigenous</b> |              | <b>All NT</b> |              |
|---|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
|   | <b>Number</b>     | <b>%</b>     | <b>Number</b>         | <b>%</b>     | <b>Number</b> | <b>%</b>     |
| None  | 330               | 27.2         | 380                   | 21.2         | 710           | 23.6         |
| Nitrous oxide                                     | 439               | 36.2         | 605                   | 33.7         | 1044          | 34.7         |
| Narcotics   | 266               | 21.9         | 291                   | 16.2         | 557           | 18.5         |
| Epidural/caudal                                   | 81                | 6.7          | 343                   | 19.1         | 424           | 14.1         |
| Other   | 96                | 7.9          | 174                   | 9.7          | 270           | 9.0          |
| <b>Total stated</b>                               | <b>1212</b>       | <b>100.0</b> | <b>1793</b>           | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3005</b>   | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b>Not stated</b>                                 | <b>27</b>         |              | <b>50</b>             |              | <b>77</b>     |              |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>1239</b>       |              | <b>1843</b>           |              | <b>3082</b>   |              |

**Table 34. Method of anaesthesia, by Indigenous status, NT mothers having operative birth, 2007**

| <b>Anaesthesia:<br/>highest rank of method used</b> | <b>Indigenous</b> |              | <b>Non-Indigenous</b> |              | <b>All NT</b> |              |
|---|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
|   | <b>Number</b>     | <b>%</b>     | <b>Number</b>         | <b>%</b>     | <b>Number</b> | <b>%</b>     |
| Local   | 30                | 6.9          | 47                    | 5.2          | 77            | 5.7          |
| Pudendal  | 2                 | 0.5          | 14                    | 1.5          | 16            | 1.2          |
| Epidural/caudal                                     | 48                | 11.0         | 204                   | 22.6         | 252           | 18.8         |
| Spinal  | 308               | 70.6         | 372                   | 41.2         | 680           | 50.7         |
| Spinal/epidural                                     | 3                 | 0.7          | 146                   | 16.2         | 149           | 11.1         |
| General   | 33                | 7.6          | 71                    | 7.9          | 104           | 7.8          |
| Other   | 0                 | 0.0          | 1                     | 0.1          | 1             | 0.1          |
| None  | 12                | 2.8          | 49                    | 5.4          | 61            | 4.6          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>436</b>        | <b>100.0</b> | <b>904</b>            | <b>100.0</b> | <b>1340</b>   | <b>100.0</b> |

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

**Table 35. Complications due to pregnancy and/or childbirth, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2007**

| <b>Type of complication</b> | <b>Indigenous</b> |             | <b>Non-Indigenous</b> |             | <b>All NT</b> |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
|                             | <b>Number</b>     | <b>%</b>    | <b>Number</b>         | <b>%</b>    | <b>Number</b> | <b>%</b>    |
| <b>Pregnancy</b>            |                   |             |                       |             |               |             |
| Pre-eclampsia               | 65                | 4.6         | 55                    | 2.5         | 120           | 3.3         |
| <b>Labour/childbirth</b>    |                   |             |                       |             |               |             |
| Cord prolapse*              | 6                 | 0.4         | 2                     | 0.1         | 8             | 0.2         |
| Fetal distress              | 165               | 11.7        | 210                   | 9.4         | 375           | 10.3        |
| Manual removal of placenta* | 43                | 3.0         | 25                    | 1.1         | 68            | 1.9         |
| Meconium stained liquor     | 211               | 14.9        | 217                   | 9.7         | 428           | 11.7        |
| Obstructed labour           | 130               | 9.2         | 279                   | 12.4        | 409           | 11.2        |
| Post-partum haemorrhage*    | 227               | 16.1        | 231                   | 10.3        | 458           | 12.5        |
| Other                       | 153               | 10.8        | 154                   | 6.9         | 307           | 8.4         |
| <b>Any complication</b>     | <b>699</b>        | <b>49.5</b> | <b>883</b>            | <b>39.4</b> | <b>1582</b>   | <b>43.3</b> |
| <b>Total births</b>         | <b>1412</b>       |             | <b>2243</b>           |             | <b>3655</b>   |             |

Notes:

(1) Mothers may have more than one complication.

(2) Pre-eclampsia includes hypertension in pregnancy.

(3) Other complications include ante-partum haemorrhage as well as other unclassified complications.

\* indicates validated data items

**Table 36. State of the perineum, by Indigenous status, NT mothers having vaginal birth, 2007**

| State of the perineum      | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                            | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| Intact                     | 600         | 58.1         | 738            | 48.1         | 1338        | 52.1         |
| 1st degree tear            | 207         | 20.0         | 262            | 17.1         | 469         | 18.3         |
| 2nd degree tear            | 160         | 15.5         | 330            | 21.5         | 490         | 19.1         |
| 3rd-4th degree tear        | 16          | 1.5          | 29             | 1.9          | 45          | 1.8          |
| Episiotomy                 | 45          | 4.4          | 151            | 9.8          | 196         | 7.6          |
| Combined episiotomy & tear | 5           | 0.5          | 24             | 1.6          | 29          | 1.1          |
| <b>Total stated</b>        | <b>1033</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>1534</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2567</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| Not stated                 | 0           |              | 1              |              | 1           |              |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>1033</b> |              | <b>1535</b>    |              | <b>2568</b> |              |

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

**Table 37. Length of postnatal hospital stay, by Indigenous status, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2007**

| Length of postnatal stay (days) | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                                 | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| 0                               | 37          | 2.7          | 134            | 6.1          | 171         | 4.8          |
| 1 - 3                           | 653         | 48.4         | 975            | 44.4         | 1628        | 45.9         |
| 4 - 7                           | 538         | 39.9         | 1001           | 45.6         | 1539        | 43.4         |
| 8 & more                        | 122         | 9.0          | 85             | 3.9          | 207         | 5.8          |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>1350</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2195</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3545</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

**Table 38. Average length of postnatal hospital stay, by Indigenous status and method of birth, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2007**

| Method of birth     | Indigenous                              | Non-Indigenous | All NT     |
|---------------------|---|----------------|------------|
|                     | Average length (days) of postnatal stay |                |            |
| Spontaneous vaginal | 3.2                                     | 2.8            | 3.0        |
| Assisted vaginal    | 3.9                                     | 4.0            | 4.0        |
| Caesarean-elective  | 6.0                                     | 4.8            | 5.1        |
| Caesarean-emergency | 6.7                                     | 4.9            | 5.7        |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>4.2</b>                              | <b>3.6</b>     | <b>3.8</b> |

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

## Babies

Table 39. Summary statistics, by maternal Indigenous status, all babies born in the NT, 2007

|                                   | Indigenous  |      | Non-Indigenous |       | All NT      |      |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------|----------------|-------|-------------|------|
|                                   | Number      | %    | Number         | %     | Number      | %    |
| <b>BIRTHS TO NT RESIDENTS</b>     |             |      |                |       |             |      |
| <b>Birth status</b>               |             |      |                |       |             |      |
| Livebirths                        | 1406        | 98.5 | 2259           | 99.6  | 3665        | 99.2 |
| Stillbirths                       | 22          | 1.5  | 9              | 0.4   | 31          | 0.8  |
| <b>Baby's sex</b>                 |             |      |                |       |             |      |
| Males                             | 760         | 53.2 | 1152           | 50.8  | 1912        | 51.7 |
| Females                           | 667         | 46.7 | 1116           | 49.2  | 1783        | 48.2 |
| Indeterminate                     | 1           | 0.1  | 0              | 0.0   | 1           | 0.0  |
| <b>Plurality</b>                  |             |      |                |       |             |      |
| Singletons                        | 1396        | 97.8 | 2219           | 97.8  | 3615        | 97.8 |
| Multiples                         | 32          | 2.2  | 49             | 2.2   | 81          | 2.2  |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>1428</b> |      | <b>2268</b>    |       | <b>3696</b> |      |
| <b>BIRTHS TO NON-NT RESIDENTS</b> |             |      |                |       |             |      |
| <b>Birth status</b>               |             |      |                |       |             |      |
| Livebirths                        | 73          | 96.1 | 28             | 100.0 | 101         | 97.1 |
| Stillbirths                       | 3           | 3.9  | 0              | 0.0   | 3           | 2.9  |
| <b>Baby's sex</b>                 |             |      |                |       |             |      |
| Males                             | 46          | 60.5 | 20             | 71.4  | 66          | 63.5 |
| Females                           | 30          | 39.5 | 8              | 28.6  | 38          | 36.5 |
| <b>Plurality</b>                  |             |      |                |       |             |      |
| Singletons                        | 74          | 97.4 | 28             | 100.0 | 102         | 98.1 |
| Multiples                         | 2           | 2.6  | 0              | 0.0   | 2           | 1.9  |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>76</b>   |      | <b>28</b>      |       | <b>104</b>  |      |
| <b>ALL BIRTHS</b>                 |             |      |                |       |             |      |
| <b>Birth status</b>               |             |      |                |       |             |      |
| Livebirths                        | 1479        | 98.3 | 2287           | 99.6  | 3766        | 99.1 |
| Stillbirths                       | 25          | 1.7  | 9              | 0.4   | 34          | 0.9  |
| <b>Baby's sex</b>                 |             |      |                |       |             |      |
| Males                             | 806         | 53.6 | 1172           | 51.0  | 1978        | 52.1 |
| Females                           | 697         | 46.3 | 1124           | 49.0  | 1821        | 47.9 |
| Indeterminate                     | 1           | 0.1  | 0              | 0.0   | 1           | 0.0  |
| <b>Plurality</b>                  |             |      |                |       |             |      |
| Singletons                        | 1470        | 97.7 | 2247           | 97.9  | 3717        | 97.8 |
| Multiples                         | 34          | 2.3  | 49             | 2.1   | 83          | 2.2  |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>1504</b> |      | <b>2296</b>    |       | <b>3800</b> |      |

**Table 40. Area of mother's usual residence, by maternal Indigenous status, NT babies, 2007**

| Area              | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                   | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| Urban area        | 547         | 38.3         | 2175           | 95.9         | 2722        | 73.6         |
| Rural/remote area | 881         | 61.7         | 93             | 4.1          | 974         | 26.4         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>1428</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2268</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3696</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

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

**Table 41. District and area of mother's usual residence, by maternal Indigenous status, NT babies, 2007**

| District      | Area         | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|               |              | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| Darwin Urban  |              | 271         | 19.0         | 1664           | 73.4         | 1935        | 52.4         |
| Darwin Rural  |              | 239         | 16.7         | 51             | 2.2          | 290         | 7.8          |
| Katherine     | Urban        | 73          | 5.1          | 136            | 6.0          | 209         | 5.7          |
|               | Rural/remote | 181         | 12.7         | 9              | 0.4          | 190         | 5.1          |
| East Arnhem   | Urban        | 8           | 0.6          | 70             | 3.1          | 78          | 2.1          |
|               | Rural/remote | 196         | 13.7         | 18             | 0.8          | 214         | 5.8          |
| Barkly        | Urban        | 65          | 4.6          | 21             | 0.9          | 86          | 2.3          |
|               | Rural/remote | 40          | 2.8          | 2              | 0.1          | 42          | 1.1          |
| Alice Springs | Urban        | 130         | 9.1          | 284            | 12.5         | 414         | 11.2         |
|               | Rural        | 225         | 15.8         | 13             | 0.6          | 238         | 6.4          |
| <b>Total</b>  |              | <b>1428</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2268</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3696</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

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

Table 42. Gestational age, by maternal Indigenous status and birth status, NT babies, 2007

| Gestational age<br>(weeks) | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                            | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| <b>Stillbirths</b>         |             |              |                |              |             |              |
| <28                        | 10          | 45.5         | 4              | 44.4         | 14          | 45.2         |
| 28 - 36                    | 10          | 45.5         | 3              | 33.3         | 13          | 41.9         |
| 37 - 41                    | 2           | 9.1          | 2              | 22.2         | 4           | 12.9         |
| 42+                        | 0           | 0.0          | 0              | 0.0          | 0           | 0.0          |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>22</b>   | <b>100.0</b> | <b>9</b>       | <b>100.0</b> | <b>31</b>   | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b>Livebirths</b>          |             |              |                |              |             |              |
| <28                        | 14          | 1.0          | 6              | 0.3          | 20          | 0.5          |
| 28 - 36                    | 191         | 13.6         | 141            | 6.2          | 332         | 9.1          |
| 37 - 41                    | 1191        | 84.8         | 2099           | 92.9         | 3290        | 89.8         |
| 42+                        | 8           | 0.6          | 13             | 0.6          | 21          | 0.6          |
| <b>Total stated</b>        | <b>1404</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2259</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3663</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| Not stated                 | 2           |              | 0              |              | 2           |              |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>1406</b> |              | <b>2259</b>    |              | <b>3665</b> |              |
| <b>All births</b>          |             |              |                |              |             |              |
| <28                        | 24          | 1.7          | 10             | 0.4          | 34          | 0.9          |
| 28 - 36                    | 201         | 14.1         | 144            | 6.3          | 345         | 9.3          |
| 37 - 41                    | 1193        | 83.7         | 2101           | 92.6         | 3294        | 89.2         |
| 42+                        | 8           | 0.6          | 13             | 0.6          | 21          | 0.6          |
| <b>Total Stated</b>        | <b>1426</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2268</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3694</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| Not stated                 | 2           |              | 0              |              | 2           |              |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>1428</b> |              | <b>2268</b>    |              | <b>3696</b> |              |

Table 43. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and birth status, NT babies, 2007

| Birthweight<br>(g)          | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                             | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| <b>Stillbirths</b>          |             |              |                |              |             |              |
| <1000                       | 11          | 52.4         | 4              | 50.0         | 15          | 51.7         |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 4           | 19.0         | 0              | 0.0          | 4           | 13.8         |
| 1500 - 2499                 | 3           | 14.3         | 4              | 50.0         | 7           | 24.1         |
| 2500+                       | 3           | 14.3         | 0              | 0.0          | 3           | 10.3         |
| <b>Total stated</b>         | <b>21</b>   | <b>100.0</b> | <b>8</b>       | <b>100.0</b> | <b>29</b>   | <b>100.0</b> |
| Not stated                  | 1           |              | 1              |              | 2           |              |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>22</b>   |              | <b>9</b>       |              | <b>31</b>   |              |
| <b>Mean birthweight (g)</b> | <b>1207</b> |              | <b>1144</b>    |              | <b>1190</b> |              |
| <b>Livebirths</b>           |             |              |                |              |             |              |
| <1000                       | 13          | 0.9          | 7              | 0.3          | 20          | 0.5          |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 26          | 1.8          | 12             | 0.5          | 38          | 1.0          |
| 1500 - 2499                 | 140         | 10.0         | 88             | 3.9          | 228         | 6.2          |
| 2500+                       | 1227        | 87.3         | 2152           | 95.3         | 3379        | 92.2         |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>1406</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2259</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3665</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b>Mean birthweight (g)</b> | <b>3133</b> |              | <b>3393</b>    |              | <b>3293</b> |              |
| <b>All births</b>           |             |              |                |              |             |              |
| <1000                       | 24          | 1.7          | 11             | 0.5          | 35          | 0.9          |
| 1000 - 1499                 | 30          | 2.1          | 12             | 0.5          | 42          | 1.1          |
| 1500 - 2499                 | 143         | 10.0         | 92             | 4.1          | 235         | 6.4          |
| 2500+                       | 1230        | 86.2         | 2152           | 94.9         | 3382        | 91.6         |
| <b>Total stated</b>         | <b>1427</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2267</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3694</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| Not stated                  | 1           |              | 1              |              | 2           |              |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>1428</b> |              | <b>2268</b>    |              | <b>3696</b> |              |
| <b>Mean birthweight (g)</b> | <b>3105</b> |              | <b>3385</b>    |              | <b>3277</b> |              |

**Table 44. Gestational age, by maternal Indigenous status and district of mother's usual residence, NT livebirths, 2007**

| District              | Gestational age (weeks) |       |     | Total<br>stated<br>Number | Not<br>stated<br>Number | Total<br>Number |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------|-----|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
|                       | <37                     | 37-41 | 42+ |                           |                         |                 |
|                       | %                       | %     | %   |                           |                         |                 |
| <b>Indigenous</b>     |                         |       |     |                           |                         |                 |
| Darwin Urban          | 12.2                    | 86.3  | 1.5 | 270                       | 0                       | 270             |
| Darwin Rural          | 19.7                    | 79.4  | 0.9 | 233                       | 0                       | 233             |
| Katherine             | 12.5                    | 86.7  | 0.8 | 248                       | 0                       | 248             |
| East Arnhem           | 12.9                    | 87.1  | 0.0 | 201                       | 0                       | 201             |
| Barkly                | 15.7                    | 84.3  | 0.0 | 102                       | 2                       | 104             |
| Alice Springs Urban   | 12.0                    | 88.0  | 0.0 | 125                       | 0                       | 125             |
| Alice Springs Rural   | 16.9                    | 83.1  | 0.0 | 225                       | 0                       | 225             |
| <b>Total</b>          | 14.6                    | 84.8  | 0.6 | 1404                      | 2                       | 1406            |
| <b>Non-Indigenous</b> |                         |       |     |                           |                         |                 |
| Darwin Urban          | 6.4                     | 93.0  | 0.6 | 1658                      | 0                       | 1658            |
| Darwin Rural          | 5.9                     | 94.1  | 0.0 | 51                        | 0                       | 51              |
| Katherine             | 6.9                     | 92.4  | 0.7 | 144                       | 0                       | 144             |
| East Arnhem           | 4.6                     | 95.4  | 0.0 | 87                        | 0                       | 87              |
| Barkly                | 8.7                     | 91.3  | 0.0 | 23                        | 0                       | 23              |
| Alice Springs Urban   | 7.4                     | 91.9  | 0.7 | 283                       | 0                       | 283             |
| Alice Springs Rural   | 7.7                     | 92.3  | 0.0 | 13                        | 0                       | 13              |
| <b>Total</b>          | 6.5                     | 92.9  | 0.6 | 2259                      | 0                       | 2259            |

**Table 45. Gestational age, by maternal Indigenous status and area of mother's usual residence, NT livebirths, 2007**

| Area                  | Gestational age (weeks) |       |     | Total<br>stated<br>Number | Not<br>stated<br>Number | Total<br>Number |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------|-----|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
|                       | <37                     | 37-41 | 42+ |                           |                         |                 |
|                       | %                       | %     | %   |                           |                         |                 |
| <b>Indigenous</b>     |                         |       |     |                           |                         |                 |
| Urban area            | 13.2                    | 86.1  | 0.7 | 539                       | 1                       | 540             |
| Rural/remote area     | 15.5                    | 84.0  | 0.5 | 865                       | 1                       | 866             |
| <b>Total</b>          | 14.6                    | 84.8  | 0.6 | 1404                      | 2                       | 1406            |
| <b>Non-Indigenous</b> |                         |       |     |                           |                         |                 |
| Urban area            | 6.5                     | 92.9  | 0.6 | 2166                      | 0                       | 2166            |
| Rural/remote area     | 6.5                     | 93.5  | 0.0 | 93                        | 0                       | 93              |
| <b>Total</b>          | 6.5                     | 92.9  | 0.6 | 2259                      | 0                       | 2259            |

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

**Table 46. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and district of mother's usual residence, NT livebirths, 2007**

| District              | Birthweight (g) |                |                |            | Total<br>Number | Mean<br>birthweight<br>(g) |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
|                       | <1500<br>%      | 1500-2499<br>% | 2500-3999<br>% | 4000+<br>% |                 |                            |
| <b>Indigenous</b>     |                 |                |                |            |                 |                            |
| Darwin Urban          | 2.2             | 7.0            | 80.4           | 10.4       | 270             | 3264                       |
| Darwin Rural          | 3.4             | 13.3           | 79.0           | 4.3        | 233             | 2962                       |
| Katherine             | 2.4             | 10.1           | 81.5           | 6.0        | 248             | 3112                       |
| East Arnhem           | 3.5             | 8.5            | 81.1           | 7.0        | 201             | 3081                       |
| Barkly                | 4.8             | 11.5           | 74.0           | 9.6        | 104             | 3085                       |
| Alice Springs Urban   | 0.8             | 11.2           | 74.4           | 13.6       | 125             | 3236                       |
| Alice Springs Rural   | 2.7             | 9.8            | 76.9           | 10.7       | 225             | 3189                       |
| <b>Total</b>          | 2.8             | 10.0           | 78.9           | 8.4        | 1406            | 3133                       |
| <b>Non-Indigenous</b> |                 |                |                |            |                 |                            |
| Darwin Urban          | 0.9             | 4.0            | 83.9           | 11.2       | 1658            | 3373                       |
| Darwin Rural          | 0.0             | 5.9            | 86.3           | 7.8        | 51              | 3351                       |
| Katherine             | 0.0             | 4.9            | 86.8           | 8.3        | 144             | 3370                       |
| East Arnhem           | 2.3             | 1.1            | 79.3           | 17.2       | 87              | 3480                       |
| Barkly                | 0.0             | 4.3            | 73.9           | 21.7       | 23              | 3567                       |
| Alice Springs Urban   | 0.4             | 3.2            | 80.6           | 15.9       | 283             | 3482                       |
| Alice Springs Rural   | 7.7             | 0.0            | 76.9           | 15.4       | 13              | 3443                       |
| <b>Total</b>          | 0.8             | 3.9            | 83.4           | 11.9       | 2259            | 3393                       |

**Table 47. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and area of mother's usual residence, NT livebirths, 2007**

| Area                  | Birthweight (g) |                |                |            | Total<br>Number | Mean<br>birthweight<br>(g) |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
|                       | <1500<br>%      | 1500-2499<br>% | 2500-3999<br>% | 4000+<br>% |                 |                            |
| <b>Indigenous</b>     |                 |                |                |            |                 |                            |
| Urban area            | 2.2             | 9.6            | 77.0           | 11.1       | 540             | 3221                       |
| Rural/remote area     | 3.1             | 10.2           | 80.0           | 6.7        | 866             | 3078                       |
| <b>Total</b>          | 2.8             | 10.0           | 78.9           | 8.4        | 1406            | 3133                       |
| <b>Non-Indigenous</b> |                 |                |                |            |                 |                            |
| Urban area            | 0.8             | 3.8            | 83.4           | 12.0       | 2166            | 3394                       |
| Rural/remote area     | 2.2             | 5.4            | 82.8           | 9.7        | 93              | 3352                       |
| <b>Total</b>          | 0.8             | 3.9            | 83.4           | 11.9       | 2259            | 3393                       |

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

Table 48. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and gestational age, NT singleton livebirths, 2007

| Gestational age<br>(weeks) | Birthweight (g) |            |             |             | Total       | Mean               |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
|                            | <1500           | 1500-2499  | 2500-3999   | 4000+       | Number      | birthweight<br>(g) |
|                            | %               | %          | %           | %           |             |                    |
| <b>Indigenous</b>          |                 |            |             |             |             |                    |
| <28                        | 92.9            | 0.0        | 7.1         | 0.0         | 14          | 807                |
| 28 - 36                    | 13.1            | 46.0       | 39.2        | 1.7         | 176         | 2343               |
| 37 - 41                    | 0.1             | 4.3        | 85.9        | 9.7         | 1177        | 3292               |
| 42+                        | 0.0             | 0.0        | 100.0       | 0.0         | 8           | 3540               |
| <b>Total stated</b>        | <b>2.7</b>      | <b>9.6</b> | <b>79.2</b> | <b>8.5</b>  | <b>1375</b> | <b>3146</b>        |
| Not stated                 | 0.0             | 0.0        | 50.0        | 50.0        | 2           | 3825               |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>2.7</b>      | <b>9.6</b> | <b>79.2</b> | <b>8.6</b>  | <b>1377</b> | <b>3147</b>        |
| <b>Non-Indigenous</b>      |                 |            |             |             |             |                    |
| <28                        | 100.0           | 0.0        | 0.0         | 0.0         | 6           | 681                |
| 28 - 36                    | 7.8             | 32.8       | 57.0        | 2.3         | 128         | 2555               |
| 37 - 41                    | 0.0             | 1.4        | 85.8        | 12.8        | 2064        | 3469               |
| 42+                        | 0.0             | 0.0        | 100.0       | 0.0         | 13          | 3693               |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>0.8</b>      | <b>3.2</b> | <b>83.9</b> | <b>12.1</b> | <b>2211</b> | <b>3410</b>        |

Table 49. Apgar scores at 5 minutes, by maternal Indigenous status, NT livebirths, 2007

| Apgar score<br>at 5 minutes | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                             | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| 0 - 3                       | 13          | 0.9          | 6              | 0.3          | 19          | 0.5          |
| 4 - 6                       | 45          | 3.2          | 27             | 1.2          | 72          | 2.0          |
| 7 - 10                      | 1348        | 95.9         | 2224           | 98.5         | 3572        | 97.5         |
| <b>Total stated</b>         | <b>1406</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2257</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3663</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| Not stated                  | 0           |              | 2              |              | 2           |              |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>1406</b> |              | <b>2259</b>    |              | <b>3665</b> |              |

**Table 50. Methods of resuscitation, by maternal Indigenous status, NT livebirths, 2007**

| Resuscitation:<br>highest rank of method used | Indigenous  |              | Non-Indigenous |              | All NT      |              |
|---|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|   | Number      | %            | Number         | %            | Number      | %            |
| None  | 931         | 66.2         | 1514           | 67.2         | 2445        | 66.8         |
| Suction                                       | 127         | 9.0          | 318            | 14.1         | 445         | 12.2         |
| Oxygen therapy                                | 181         | 12.9         | 196            | 8.7          | 377         | 10.3         |
| IPPV  | 129         | 9.2          | 203            | 9.0          | 332         | 9.1          |
| Endotracheal intubation                       | 24          | 1.7          | 12             | 0.5          | 36          | 1.0          |
| ECM & ventilation                             | 12          | 0.9          | 7              | 0.3          | 19          | 0.5          |
| Other   | 2           | 0.1          | 2              | 0.1          | 4           | 0.1          |
| <b>Total stated</b>                           | <b>1406</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2252</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3658</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| Not stated                                    | 0           |              | 7              |              | 7           |              |
| <b>Total of livebirths</b>                    | <b>1406</b> |              | <b>2259</b>    |              | <b>3665</b> |              |

Notes:

(1) Resuscitation methods exclude tactile stimulation.

(2) IPPV stands for intermittent positive pressure ventilation

(3) ECM stands for external cardiac massage.

(4) Other resuscitation includes stimulation methods such as intramuscular treatment, continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP)

**Table 51. Numbers and rates of stillbirth, neonatal death and perinatal death, by Indigenous status, NT babies, 2007**

|                  | Indigenous |      | Non-Indigenous |      | All NT |      |
|------------------|------------|------|----------------|------|--------|------|
|                  | Number     | Rate | Number         | Rate | Number | Rate |
| Stillbirths      | 22         | 15.4 | 9              | n.p. | 31     | 8.4  |
| Neonatal deaths  | 12         | 8.5  | 6              | n.p. | 18     | 4.9  |
| Perinatal deaths | 34         | 23.8 | 15             | 6.6  | 49     | 13.3 |

Notes:

(1) Rate of stillbirths or perinatal deaths is the number of deaths per 1000 total births; rate of neonatal deaths is the number of deaths per 1000 livebirths.

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

n.p. Rates are not published due to the small number of events (i.e. less than 10).

# Appendices

## Appendix 1. Hospital profiles

The profile table of each hospital includes all births that occurred in that hospital in 2007, of mothers who were either NT residents or from interstate.

## Royal Darwin Hospital

|  | Indigenous |             | Non-Indigenous |             | All         |             |
|--|------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | Number     | %           | Number         | %           | Number      | %           |
| <b>MOTHERS</b>                                   | <b>588</b> |             | <b>1014</b>    |             | <b>1602</b> |             |
| <b>Maternal age</b>                              |            |             |                |             |             |             |
| <20 years  | 111        | 18.9        | 66             | 6.5         | 177         | 11.0        |
| 20-34 years                                      | 426        | 72.4        | 781            | 77.0        | 1207        | 75.3        |
| 35+ years  | 51         | 8.7         | 167            | 16.5        | 218         | 13.6        |
| <b>Onset of labour</b>                           |            |             |                |             |             |             |
| Spontaneous onset                                | 387        | 65.8        | 684            | 67.5        | 1071        | 66.9        |
| Induced labour                                   | 96         | 16.3        | 181            | 17.9        | 277         | 17.3        |
| No labour  | 105        | 17.9        | 149            | 14.7        | 254         | 15.9        |
| <b>Method of birth</b>                           |            |             |                |             |             |             |
| Spontaneous vaginal birth                        | 363        | 61.7        | 647            | 63.8        | 1010        | 63.0        |
| Vaginal breech birth                             | 6          | 1.0         | 7              | 0.7         | 13          | 0.8         |
| Forceps birth                                    | 5          | 0.9         | 21             | 2.1         | 26          | 1.6         |
| Ventouse birth                                   | 23         | 3.9         | 54             | 5.3         | 77          | 4.8         |
| Elective caesarean                               | 68         | 11.6        | 110            | 10.8        | 178         | 11.1        |
| Emergency caesarean                              | 123        | 20.9        | 175            | 17.3        | 298         | 18.6        |
| <b>Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications</b> |            |             |                |             |             |             |
| Cord prolapse                                    | 4          | 0.7         | 2              | 0.2         | 6           | 0.4         |
| Fetal distress                                   | 76         | 12.9        | 141            | 13.9        | 217         | 13.5        |
| Manual removal of placenta                       | 16         | 2.7         | 15             | 1.5         | 31          | 1.9         |
| Meconium stained liquor                          | 78         | 13.3        | 125            | 12.3        | 203         | 12.7        |
| Obstructed labour                                | 51         | 8.7         | 130            | 12.8        | 181         | 11.3        |
| Post-partum haemorrhage                          | 94         | 16.0        | 139            | 13.7        | 233         | 14.5        |
| Pre-eclampsia                                    | 30         | 5.1         | 31             | 3.1         | 61          | 3.8         |
| Others   | 53         | 9.0         | 54             | 5.3         | 107         | 6.7         |
| <b>Any complication</b>                          | <b>285</b> | <b>48.5</b> | <b>466</b>     | <b>46.0</b> | <b>751</b>  | <b>46.9</b> |
| <b>MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH</b>              | <b>397</b> |             | <b>729</b>     |             | <b>1126</b> |             |
| <b>Perineum status</b>                           |            |             |                |             |             |             |
| Intact   | 259        | 65.2        | 410            | 56.2        | 669         | 59.4        |
| 1st degree tear                                  | 45         | 11.3        | 50             | 6.9         | 95          | 8.4         |
| 2nd degree tear                                  | 60         | 15.1        | 174            | 23.9        | 234         | 20.8        |
| 3rd-4th degree tear                              | 8          | 2.0         | 15             | 2.1         | 23          | 2.0         |
| Episiotomy                                       | 22         | 5.5         | 61             | 8.4         | 83          | 7.4         |
| Combined episiotomy & tear                       | 3          | 0.8         | 19             | 2.6         | 22          | 2.0         |
| <b>BABIES</b>                                    | <b>601</b> |             | <b>1026</b>    |             | <b>1627</b> |             |
| <b>Gestational age</b>                           |            |             |                |             |             |             |
| <28 weeks  | 12         | 2.0         | 8              | 0.8         | 20          | 1.2         |
| 28-36 weeks                                      | 104        | 17.3        | 70             | 6.8         | 174         | 10.7        |
| 37+ weeks  | 485        | 80.7        | 948            | 92.4        | 1433        | 88.1        |
| <b>Birthweight</b>                               |            |             |                |             |             |             |
| <1500g   | 26         | 4.3         | 17             | 1.7         | 43          | 2.6         |
| 1500-2499g                                       | 65         | 10.8        | 52             | 5.1         | 117         | 7.2         |
| 2500+g   | 510        | 84.9        | 957            | 93.3        | 1467        | 90.2        |
| <b>Birth status</b>                              |            |             |                |             |             |             |
| Livebirths                                       | 588        | 97.8        | 1021           | 99.5        | 1609        | 98.9        |
| Stillbirths                                      | 13         | 2.2         | 5              | 0.5         | 18          | 1.1         |

Notes:

(1) This table includes all births that occurred in RDH in 2007. An additional 28 births occurred before arrival at hospital.

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

## Darwin Private Hospital

|  | Indigenous |             | Non-Indigenous |             | All        |             |
|--|------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
|  | Number     | %           | Number         | %           | Number     | %           |
| <b>MOTHERS</b>                                   | <b>8</b>   |             | <b>705</b>     |             | <b>713</b> |             |
| <b>Maternal age</b>                              |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| <20 years  | 0          | 0.0         | 10             | 1.4         | 10         | 1.4         |
| 20-34 years                                      | 7          | 87.5        | 482            | 68.4        | 489        | 68.6        |
| 35+ years  | 1          | 12.5        | 213            | 30.2        | 214        | 30.0        |
| <b>Onset of labour</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Spontaneous onset                                | 3          | 37.5        | 300            | 42.6        | 303        | 42.5        |
| Induced labour                                   | 4          | 50.0        | 208            | 29.5        | 212        | 29.7        |
| No labour  | 1          | 12.5        | 197            | 27.9        | 198        | 27.8        |
| <b>Method of birth</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Spontaneous vaginal birth                        | 5          | 62.5        | 301            | 42.7        | 306        | 42.9        |
| Vaginal breech birth                             | 0          | 0.0         | 5              | 0.7         | 5          | 0.7         |
| Forceps birth                                    | 1          | 12.5        | 24             | 3.4         | 25         | 3.5         |
| Ventouse birth                                   | 0          | 0.0         | 66             | 9.4         | 66         | 9.3         |
| Elective caesarean                               | 1          | 12.5        | 207            | 29.4        | 208        | 29.2        |
| Emergency caesarean                              | 1          | 12.5        | 102            | 14.5        | 103        | 14.4        |
| <b>Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications</b> |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Cord prolapse                                    | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0         | 0          | 0.0         |
| Fetal distress                                   | 0          | 0.0         | 36             | 5.1         | 36         | 5.0         |
| Manual removal of placenta                       | 0          | 0.0         | 4              | 0.6         | 4          | 0.6         |
| Meconium stained liquor                          | 0          | 0.0         | 32             | 4.5         | 32         | 4.5         |
| Obstructed labour                                | 2          | 25.0        | 98             | 13.9        | 100        | 14.0        |
| Post-partum haemorrhage                          | 0          | 0.0         | 30             | 4.3         | 30         | 4.2         |
| Pre-eclampsia                                    | 0          | 0.0         | 12             | 1.7         | 12         | 1.7         |
| Others   | 1          | 12.5        | 52             | 7.4         | 53         | 7.4         |
| <b>Any complication</b>                          | <b>3</b>   | <b>37.5</b> | <b>210</b>     | <b>29.8</b> | <b>213</b> | <b>29.9</b> |
| <b>MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH</b>              | <b>6</b>   |             | <b>396</b>     |             | <b>402</b> |             |
| <b>Perineum status</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Intact   | 2          | 33.3        | 160            | 40.5        | 162        | 40.4        |
| 1st degree tear                                  | 1          | 16.7        | 104            | 26.3        | 105        | 26.2        |
| 2nd degree tear                                  | 2          | 33.3        | 56             | 14.2        | 58         | 14.5        |
| 3rd-4th degree tear                              | 0          | 0.0         | 2              | 0.5         | 2          | 0.5         |
| Episiotomy                                       | 1          | 16.7        | 70             | 17.7        | 71         | 17.7        |
| Combined episiotomy & tear                       | 0          | 0.0         | 3              | 0.8         | 3          | 0.7         |
| <b>BABIES</b>                                    | <b>8</b>   |             | <b>713</b>     |             | <b>721</b> |             |
| <b>Gestational age</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| <28 weeks  | 0          | 0.0         | 2              | 0.3         | 2          | 0.3         |
| 28-36 weeks                                      | 1          | 12.5        | 44             | 6.2         | 45         | 6.2         |
| 37+ weeks  | 7          | 87.5        | 667            | 93.5        | 674        | 93.5        |
| <b>Birthweight</b>                               |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| <1500g   | 0          | 0.0         | 5              | 0.7         | 5          | 0.7         |
| 1500-2499g                                       | 0          | 0.0         | 26             | 3.6         | 26         | 3.6         |
| 2500+g   | 8          | 100.0       | 682            | 95.7        | 690        | 95.7        |
| <b>Birth status</b>                              |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Livebirths                                       | 8          | 100.0       | 711            | 99.7        | 719        | 99.7        |
| Stillbirths                                      | 0          | 0.0         | 2              | 0.3         | 2          | 0.3         |

Notes:

(1) This table includes all births that occurred in DPH in 2007.

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

## Gove District Hospital

|  | Indigenous |             | Non-Indigenous |             | All        |             |
|--|------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
|  | Number     | %           | Number         | %           | Number     | %           |
| <b>MOTHERS</b>                                   | <b>134</b> |             | <b>72</b>      |             | <b>206</b> |             |
| <b>Maternal age</b>                              |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| <20 years  | 28         | 20.9        | 4              | 5.6         | 32         | 15.5        |
| 20-34 years                                      | 100        | 74.6        | 53             | 73.6        | 153        | 74.3        |
| 35+ years  | 6          | 4.5         | 15             | 20.8        | 21         | 10.2        |
| <b>Onset of labour</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Spontaneous onset                                | 112        | 83.6        | 57             | 79.2        | 169        | 82.0        |
| Induced labour                                   | 17         | 12.7        | 9              | 12.5        | 26         | 12.6        |
| No labour  | 5          | 3.7         | 6              | 8.3         | 11         | 5.3         |
| <b>Method of birth</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Spontaneous vaginal birth                        | 113        | 84.3        | 57             | 79.2        | 170        | 82.5        |
| Vaginal breech birth                             | 0          | 0.0         | 1              | 1.4         | 1          | 0.5         |
| Forceps birth                                    | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0         | 0          | 0.0         |
| Ventouse birth                                   | 3          | 2.2         | 1              | 1.4         | 4          | 1.9         |
| Elective caesarean                               | 4          | 3.0         | 5              | 6.9         | 9          | 4.4         |
| Emergency caesarean                              | 14         | 10.4        | 8              | 11.1        | 22         | 10.7        |
| <b>Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications</b> |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Cord prolapse                                    | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0         | 0          | 0.0         |
| Fetal distress                                   | 7          | 5.2         | 3              | 4.2         | 10         | 4.9         |
| Manual removal of placenta                       | 5          | 3.7         | 0              | 0.0         | 5          | 2.4         |
| Meconium stained liquor                          | 20         | 14.9        | 5              | 6.9         | 25         | 12.1        |
| Obstructed labour                                | 7          | 5.2         | 3              | 4.2         | 10         | 4.9         |
| Post-partum haemorrhage                          | 22         | 16.4        | 10             | 13.9        | 32         | 15.5        |
| Pre-eclampsia                                    | 0          | 0.0         | 2              | 2.8         | 2          | 1.0         |
| Others   | 18         | 13.4        | 6              | 8.3         | 24         | 11.7        |
| <b>Any complication</b>                          | <b>62</b>  | <b>46.3</b> | <b>21</b>      | <b>29.2</b> | <b>83</b>  | <b>40.3</b> |
| <b>MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH</b>              | <b>116</b> |             | <b>59</b>      |             | <b>175</b> |             |
| <b>Perineum status</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Intact   | 56         | 48.3        | 33             | 55.9        | 89         | 50.9        |
| 1st degree tear                                  | 26         | 22.4        | 9              | 15.3        | 35         | 20.0        |
| 2nd degree tear                                  | 25         | 21.6        | 15             | 25.4        | 40         | 22.9        |
| 3rd-4th degree tear                              | 3          | 2.6         | 1              | 1.7         | 4          | 2.3         |
| Episiotomy                                       | 5          | 4.3         | 1              | 1.7         | 6          | 3.4         |
| Combined episiotomy & tear                       | 1          | 0.9         | 0              | 0.0         | 1          | 0.6         |
| <b>BABIES</b>                                    | <b>134</b> |             | <b>73</b>      |             | <b>207</b> |             |
| <b>Gestational age</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| <28 weeks  | 1          | 0.7         | 0              | 0.0         | 1          | 0.5         |
| 28-36 weeks                                      | 6          | 4.5         | 1              | 1.4         | 7          | 3.4         |
| 37+ weeks  | 127        | 94.8        | 72             | 98.6        | 199        | 96.1        |
| <b>Birthweight</b>                               |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| <1500g   | 2          | 1.5         | 0              | 0.0         | 2          | 1.0         |
| 1500-2499g                                       | 7          | 5.2         | 0              | 0.0         | 7          | 3.4         |
| 2500+g   | 125        | 93.3        | 72             | 100.0       | 197        | 95.6        |
| <b>Birth status</b>                              |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Livebirths                                       | 134        | 100.0       | 72             | 98.6        | 206        | 99.5        |
| Stillbirths                                      | 0          | 0.0         | 1              | 1.4         | 1          | 0.5         |

Notes:

(1) This table includes all births that occurred in GDH in 2007. An additional 10 births occurred before arrival at hospital.

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

## Katherine Hospital

|  | Indigenous |             | Non-Indigenous |             | All        |             |
|--|------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
|  | Number     | %           | Number         | %           | Number     | %           |
| <b>MOTHERS</b>                                   | <b>187</b> |             | <b>128</b>     |             | <b>315</b> |             |
| <b>Maternal age</b>                              |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| <20 years  | 53         | 28.3        | 6              | 4.7         | 59         | 18.7        |
| 20-34 years                                      | 122        | 65.2        | 93             | 72.7        | 215        | 68.3        |
| 35+ years  | 12         | 6.4         | 29             | 22.7        | 41         | 13.0        |
| <b>Onset of labour</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Spontaneous onset                                | 135        | 72.2        | 91             | 71.1        | 226        | 71.7        |
| Induced labour                                   | 38         | 20.3        | 20             | 15.6        | 58         | 18.4        |
| No labour  | 14         | 7.5         | 17             | 13.3        | 31         | 9.8         |
| <b>Method of birth</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Spontaneous vaginal birth                        | 129        | 69.0        | 83             | 64.8        | 212        | 67.3        |
| Vaginal breech birth                             | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0         | 0          | 0.0         |
| Forceps birth                                    | 1          | 0.5         | 0              | 0.0         | 1          | 0.3         |
| Ventouse birth                                   | 10         | 5.3         | 12             | 9.4         | 22         | 7.0         |
| Elective caesarean                               | 9          | 4.8         | 16             | 12.5        | 25         | 7.9         |
| Emergency caesarean                              | 38         | 20.3        | 17             | 13.3        | 55         | 17.5        |
| <b>Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications</b> |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Cord prolapse                                    | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0         | 0          | 0.0         |
| Fetal distress                                   | 27         | 14.4        | 12             | 9.4         | 39         | 12.4        |
| Manual removal of placenta                       | 3          | 1.6         | 1              | 0.8         | 4          | 1.3         |
| Meconium stained liquor                          | 38         | 20.3        | 14             | 10.9        | 52         | 16.5        |
| Obstructed labour                                | 25         | 13.4        | 14             | 10.9        | 39         | 12.4        |
| Post-partum haemorrhage                          | 25         | 13.4        | 9              | 7.0         | 34         | 10.8        |
| Pre-eclampsia                                    | 10         | 5.3         | 4              | 3.1         | 14         | 4.4         |
| Others   | 11         | 5.9         | 10             | 7.8         | 21         | 6.7         |
| <i>Any complication</i>                          | <b>92</b>  | <b>49.2</b> | <b>52</b>      | <b>40.6</b> | <b>144</b> | <b>45.7</b> |
| <b>MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH</b>              | <b>140</b> |             | <b>95</b>      |             | <b>235</b> |             |
| <b>Perineum status</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Intact   | 83         | 59.3        | 46             | 48.4        | 129        | 54.9        |
| 1st degree tear                                  | 26         | 18.6        | 12             | 12.6        | 38         | 16.2        |
| 2nd degree tear                                  | 24         | 17.1        | 25             | 26.3        | 49         | 20.9        |
| 3rd-4th degree tear                              | 2          | 1.4         | 5              | 5.3         | 7          | 3.0         |
| Episiotomy                                       | 4          | 2.9         | 6              | 6.3         | 10         | 4.3         |
| Combined episiotomy & tear                       | 1          | 0.7         | 1              | 1.1         | 2          | 0.9         |
| <b>BABIES</b>                                    | <b>187</b> |             | <b>129</b>     |             | <b>316</b> |             |
| <b>Gestational age</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| <28 weeks  | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0         | 0          | 0.0         |
| 28-36 weeks                                      | 8          | 4.3         | 6              | 4.7         | 14         | 4.4         |
| 37+ weeks  | 179        | 95.7        | 123            | 95.3        | 302        | 95.6        |
| <b>Birthweight</b>                               |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| <1500g   | 1          | 0.5         | 0              | 0.0         | 1          | 0.3         |
| 1500-2499g                                       | 12         | 6.4         | 3              | 2.3         | 15         | 4.7         |
| 2500+g   | 174        | 93.0        | 126            | 97.7        | 300        | 94.9        |
| <b>Birth status</b>                              |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Livebirths                                       | 186        | 99.5        | 129            | 100.0       | 315        | 99.7        |
| Stillbirths                                      | 1          | 0.5         | 0              | 0.0         | 1          | 0.3         |

Notes:

(1) This table includes all births that occurred in KH in 2007. An additional 11 births occurred before arrival at hospital.

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

## Tennant Creek Hospital

|  | Indigenous |             | Non-Indigenous |            | All       |             |
|--|------------|-------------|----------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
|  | Number     | %           | Number         | %          | Number    | %           |
| <b>MOTHERS</b>                                   | <b>10</b>  |             | <b>0</b>       |            | <b>10</b> |             |
| <b>Maternal age</b>                              |            |             |                |            |           |             |
| <20 years  | 5          | 50.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 5         | 50.0        |
| 20-34 years                                      | 5          | 50.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 5         | 50.0        |
| 35+ years  | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0        | 0         | 0.0         |
| <b>Onset of labour</b>                           |            |             |                |            |           |             |
| Spontaneous onset                                | 10         | 100.0       | 0              | 0.0        | 10        | 100.0       |
| Induced labour                                   | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0        | 0         | 0.0         |
| No labour  | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0        | 0         | 0.0         |
| <b>Method of birth</b>                           |            |             |                |            |           |             |
| Spontaneous vaginal birth                        | 9          | 90.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 9         | 90.0        |
| Vaginal breech birth                             | 1          | 10.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 1         | 10.0        |
| Forceps birth                                    | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0        | 0         | 0.0         |
| Ventouse birth                                   | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0        | 0         | 0.0         |
| Elective caesarean                               | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0        | 0         | 0.0         |
| Emergency caesarean                              | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0        | 0         | 0.0         |
| <b>Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications</b> |            |             |                |            |           |             |
| Cord prolapse                                    | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0        | 0         | 0.0         |
| Fetal distress                                   | 1          | 10.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 1         | 10.0        |
| Manual removal of placenta                       | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0        | 0         | 0.0         |
| Meconium stained liquor                          | 1          | 10.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 1         | 10.0        |
| Obstructed labour                                | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0        | 0         | 0.0         |
| Post-partum haemorrhage                          | 3          | 30.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 3         | 30.0        |
| Pre-eclampsia                                    | 2          | 20.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 2         | 20.0        |
| Others   | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0        | 0         | 0.0         |
| <b>Any complication</b>                          | <b>5</b>   | <b>50.0</b> | <b>0</b>       | <b>0.0</b> | <b>5</b>  | <b>50.0</b> |
| <b>MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH</b>              | <b>10</b>  |             | <b>0</b>       |            | <b>10</b> |             |
| <b>Perineum status</b>                           |            |             |                |            |           |             |
| Intact   | 7          | 70.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 7         | 70.0        |
| 1st degree tear                                  | 1          | 10.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 1         | 10.0        |
| 2nd degree tear                                  | 1          | 10.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 1         | 10.0        |
| 3rd-4th degree tear                              | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0        | 0         | 0.0         |
| Episiotomy                                       | 1          | 10.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 1         | 10.0        |
| Combined episiotomy & tear                       | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0        | 0         | 0.0         |
| <b>BABIES</b>                                    | <b>10</b>  |             | <b>0</b>       |            | <b>10</b> |             |
| <b>Gestational age</b>                           |            |             |                |            |           |             |
| <28 weeks  | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0        | 0         | 0.0         |
| 28-36 weeks                                      | 3          | 30.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 3         | 30.0        |
| 37+ weeks  | 7          | 70.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 7         | 70.0        |
| <b>Birthweight</b>                               |            |             |                |            |           |             |
| <1500g   | 2          | 20.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 2         | 20.0        |
| 1500-2499g                                       | 1          | 10.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 1         | 10.0        |
| 2500+g   | 7          | 70.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 7         | 70.0        |
| <b>Birth status</b>                              |            |             |                |            |           |             |
| Livebirths                                       | 9          | 90.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 9         | 90.0        |
| Stillbirths                                      | 1          | 10.0        | 0              | 0.0        | 1         | 10.0        |

Notes:

(1) This table includes all births that occurred in TCH in 2007.

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

## Alice Springs Hospital

|  | Indigenous |             | Non-Indigenous |             | All        |             |
|--|------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
|  | Number     | %           | Number         | %           | Number     | %           |
| <b>MOTHERS</b>                                   | <b>496</b> |             | <b>302</b>     |             | <b>798</b> |             |
| <b>Maternal age</b>                              |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| <20 years  | 134        | 27.0        | 6              | 2.0         | 140        | 17.5        |
| 20-34 years                                      | 326        | 65.7        | 221            | 73.2        | 547        | 68.5        |
| 35+ years  | 36         | 7.3         | 75             | 24.8        | 111        | 13.9        |
| <b>Onset of labour</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Spontaneous onset                                | 311        | 62.7        | 199            | 65.9        | 510        | 63.9        |
| Induced labour                                   | 130        | 26.2        | 65             | 21.5        | 195        | 24.4        |
| No labour  | 55         | 11.1        | 38             | 12.6        | 93         | 11.7        |
| <b>Method of birth</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Spontaneous vaginal birth                        | 340        | 68.5        | 205            | 67.9        | 545        | 68.3        |
| Vaginal breech birth                             | 3          | 0.6         | 1              | 0.3         | 4          | 0.5         |
| Forceps birth                                    | 10         | 2.0         | 10             | 3.3         | 20         | 2.5         |
| Ventouse birth                                   | 6          | 1.2         | 8              | 2.6         | 14         | 1.8         |
| Elective caesarean                               | 45         | 9.1         | 35             | 11.6        | 80         | 10.0        |
| Emergency caesarean                              | 92         | 18.5        | 43             | 14.2        | 135        | 16.9        |
| <b>Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications</b> |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Cord prolapse                                    | 1          | 0.2         | 0              | 0.0         | 1          | 0.1         |
| Fetal distress                                   | 65         | 13.1        | 18             | 6.0         | 83         | 10.4        |
| Manual removal of placenta                       | 16         | 3.2         | 4              | 1.3         | 20         | 2.5         |
| Meconium stained liquor                          | 83         | 16.7        | 41             | 13.6        | 124        | 15.5        |
| Obstructed labour                                | 49         | 9.9         | 34             | 11.3        | 83         | 10.4        |
| Post-partum haemorrhage                          | 93         | 18.8        | 40             | 13.2        | 133        | 16.7        |
| Pre-eclampsia                                    | 25         | 5.0         | 7              | 2.3         | 32         | 4.0         |
| Others   | 62         | 12.5        | 33             | 10.9        | 95         | 11.9        |
| <b>Any complication</b>                          | <b>261</b> | <b>52.6</b> | <b>131</b>     | <b>43.4</b> | <b>392</b> | <b>49.1</b> |
| <b>MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH</b>              | <b>359</b> |             | <b>224</b>     |             | <b>583</b> |             |
| <b>Perineum status</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Intact   | 176        | 49.0        | 75             | 33.5        | 251        | 43.1        |
| 1st degree tear                                  | 116        | 32.3        | 77             | 34.4        | 193        | 33.1        |
| 2nd degree tear                                  | 45         | 12.5        | 52             | 23.2        | 97         | 16.6        |
| 3rd-4th degree tear                              | 4          | 1.1         | 5              | 2.2         | 9          | 1.5         |
| Episiotomy                                       | 18         | 5.0         | 14             | 6.3         | 32         | 5.5         |
| Combined episiotomy & tear                       | 0          | 0.0         | 1              | 0.4         | 1          | 0.2         |
| <b>BABIES</b>                                    | <b>500</b> |             | <b>305</b>     |             | <b>805</b> |             |
| <b>Gestational age</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| <28 weeks  | 6          | 1.2         | 0              | 0.0         | 6          | 0.7         |
| 28-36 weeks                                      | 69         | 13.8        | 25             | 8.2         | 94         | 11.7        |
| 37+ weeks  | 424        | 85.0        | 280            | 91.8        | 704        | 87.6        |
| <b>Birthweight</b>                               |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| <1500g   | 13         | 2.6         | 3              | 1.0         | 16         | 2.0         |
| 1500-2499g                                       | 46         | 9.2         | 11             | 3.6         | 57         | 7.1         |
| 2500+g   | 440        | 88.2        | 291            | 95.4        | 731        | 90.9        |
| <b>Birth status</b>                              |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Livebirths                                       | 495        | 99.0        | 304            | 99.7        | 799        | 99.3        |
| Stillbirths                                      | 5          | 1.0         | 1              | 0.3         | 6          | 0.7         |

Notes:

(1) This table includes all births that occurred in ASH in 2007. An additional 25 births occurred before arrival at hospital.

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

## Non-hospital

|  | Indigenous |             | Non-Indigenous |             | All        |             |
|--|------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
|  | Number     | %           | Number         | %           | Number     | %           |
| <b>MOTHERS</b>                                   | <b>64</b>  |             | <b>50</b>      |             | <b>114</b> |             |
| <b>Maternal age</b>                              |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| <20 years  | 17         | 26.6        | 0              | 0.0         | 17         | 14.9        |
| 20-34 years                                      | 44         | 68.8        | 38             | 76.0        | 82         | 71.9        |
| 35+ years  | 3          | 4.7         | 12             | 24.0        | 15         | 13.2        |
| <b>Onset of labour</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Spontaneous onset                                | 64         | 100.0       | 50             | 100.0       | 114        | 100.0       |
| Induced labour                                   | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0         | 0          | 0.0         |
| No labour  | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0         | 0          | 0.0         |
| <b>Method of birth</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Spontaneous vaginal birth                        | 60         | 93.8        | 49             | 98.0        | 109        | 95.6        |
| Vaginal breech birth                             | 4          | 6.3         | 1              | 2.0         | 5          | 4.4         |
| <b>Actual place of giving birth</b>              |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Health centres                                   | 49         | 76.6        | 2              | 4.0         | 51         | 44.7        |
| Planned homes                                    | 0          | 0.0         | 37             | 74.0        | 37         | 32.5        |
| Other  | 15         | 23.4        | 11             | 22.0        | 26         | 22.8        |
| <b>Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications</b> |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Cord prolapse                                    | 1          | 1.6         | 0              | 0.0         | 1          | 0.9         |
| Fetal distress                                   | 0          | 0.0         | 1              | 2.0         | 1          | 0.9         |
| Manual removal of placenta                       | 1          | 1.6         | 2              | 4.0         | 3          | 2.6         |
| Meconium stained liquor                          | 5          | 7.8         | 1              | 2.0         | 6          | 5.3         |
| Obstructed labour                                | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0         | 0          | 0.0         |
| Post-partum haemorrhage                          | 3          | 4.7         | 5              | 10.0        | 8          | 7.0         |
| Pre-eclampsia                                    | 1          | 1.6         | 0              | 0.0         | 1          | 0.9         |
| Others   | 15         | 23.4        | 2              | 4.0         | 17         | 14.9        |
| <b>Any complication</b>                          | <b>24</b>  | <b>37.5</b> | <b>10</b>      | <b>20.0</b> | <b>34</b>  | <b>29.8</b> |
| <b>MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH</b>              | <b>64</b>  |             | <b>50</b>      |             | <b>114</b> |             |
| <b>Perineum status</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Intact   | 51         | 79.7        | 25             | 50.0        | 76         | 66.7        |
| 1st degree tear                                  | 7          | 10.9        | 11             | 22.0        | 18         | 15.8        |
| 2nd degree tear                                  | 5          | 7.8         | 12             | 24.0        | 17         | 14.9        |
| 3rd-4th degree tear                              | 1          | 1.6         | 1              | 2.0         | 2          | 1.8         |
| Episiotomy                                       | 0          | 0.0         | 0              | 0.0         | 0          | 0.0         |
| Combined episiotomy & tear                       | 0          | 0.0         | 1              | 2.0         | 1          | 0.9         |
| <b>BABIES</b>                                    | <b>64</b>  |             | <b>50</b>      |             | <b>114</b> |             |
| <b>Gestational age</b>                           |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| <28 weeks  | 8          | 12.7        | 0              | 0.0         | 8          | 7.1         |
| 28-36 weeks                                      | 20         | 31.7        | 2              | 4.0         | 22         | 19.5        |
| 37+ weeks  | 35         | 55.6        | 48             | 96.0        | 83         | 73.5        |
| <b>Birthweight</b>                               |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| <1500g   | 13         | 20.3        | 0              | 0.0         | 13         | 11.4        |
| 1500-2499g                                       | 19         | 29.7        | 2              | 4.0         | 21         | 18.4        |
| 2500+g   | 32         | 50.0        | 48             | 96.0        | 80         | 70.2        |
| <b>Birth status</b>                              |            |             |                |             |            |             |
| Livebirths                                       | 59         | 92.2        | 50             | 100.0       | 109        | 95.6        |
| Stillbirths                                      | 5          | 7.8         | 0              | 0.0         | 5          | 4.4         |

Notes:

(1) This table includes all births that occurred out of hospital in 2007.

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

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## **Appendix 2. Trends of perinatal indicators, by Indigenous status, NT, 1993–2007**

Table A. Trend table, NT Indigenous

|                             |                                | 1993          | 1994        | 1995        | 1996        | 1997        | 1998        | 1999        | 2000        | 2001        | 2002        | 2003        | 2004        | 2005        | 2006        | 2007        |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Total fertility rate</b> |                                | 2.4           | 2.4         | 2.3         | 2.3         | 2.2         | 2.3         | 2.4         | 2.3         | 2.6         | 2.4         | 2.4         | 2.2         | 2.3         | 2.4         | 2.4         |
|                             |                                | <b>Number</b> |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| <b>ALL</b>                  | <b>Total</b>                   | <b>1176</b>   | <b>1161</b> | <b>1184</b> | <b>1147</b> | <b>1152</b> | <b>1206</b> | <b>1261</b> | <b>1236</b> | <b>1430</b> | <b>1332</b> | <b>1334</b> | <b>1270</b> | <b>1320</b> | <b>1400</b> | <b>1412</b> |
| <b>MOTHERS</b>              | <b>Maternal age</b>            |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | <20                            | 339           | 358         | 345         | 318         | 355         | 362         | 374         | 408         | 428         | 395         | 382         | 357         | 337         | 360         | 335         |
|                             | 20-34                          | 782           | 748         | 796         | 778         | 745         | 780         | 819         | 772         | 926         | 857         | 873         | 821         | 902         | 950         | 974         |
|                             | 35+                            | 55            | 55          | 43          | 51          | 50          | 62          | 68          | 56          | 71          | 80          | 79          | 87          | 76          | 89          | 103         |
|                             | <b>Place of birth</b>          |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | Hospital                       | 1101          | 1101        | 1127        | 1100        | 1071        | 1131        | 1188        | 1195        | 1368        | 1282        | 1267        | 1217        | 1249        | 1330        | 1350        |
|                             | Non-hospital                   | 75            | 60          | 57          | 47          | 81          | 75          | 73          | 41          | 62          | 50          | 67          | 53          | 71          | 70          | 62          |
|                             | <b>Type of labour onset</b>    |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | Spontaneous                    | 900           | 899         | 901         | 899         | 863         | 883         | 919         | 930         | 1041        | 976         | 940         | 926         | 948         | 972         | 975         |
|                             | Induced                        | 158           | 152         | 153         | 137         | 149         | 166         | 193         | 202         | 240         | 208         | 243         | 194         | 212         | 275         | 264         |
|                             | No labour                      | 112           | 109         | 122         | 109         | 113         | 128         | 127         | 104         | 149         | 148         | 151         | 150         | 160         | 153         | 173         |
|                             | <b>Method of birth</b>         |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | Spontaneous vaginal            | 836           | 830         | 832         | 850         | 816         | 839         | 933         | 901         | 1028        | 951         | 918         | 868         | 905         | 959         | 962         |
|                             | Vaginal breech                 | 13            | 13          | 14          | 14          | 13          | 12          | 8           | 9           | 7           | 5           | 16          | 17          | 12          | 15          | 14          |
|                             | Forceps                        | 45            | 36          | 30          | 39          | 30          | 30          | 22          | 17          | 25          | 22          | 23          | 12          | 19          | 13          | 16          |
|                             | Ventouse                       | 22            | 18          | 9           | 5           | 17          | 19          | 25          | 40          | 53          | 28          | 42          | 53          | 49          | 56          | 41          |
|                             | Caesarean section              | 255           | 264         | 297         | 237         | 252         | 280         | 252         | 269         | 317         | 326         | 335         | 320         | 335         | 357         | 379         |
| <b>FIRST-TIME</b>           | <b>Total</b>                   | <b>367</b>    | <b>390</b>  | <b>373</b>  | <b>338</b>  | <b>401</b>  | <b>392</b>  | <b>425</b>  | <b>438</b>  | <b>470</b>  | <b>412</b>  | <b>416</b>  | <b>373</b>  | <b>406</b>  | <b>419</b>  | <b>407</b>  |
| <b>MOTHERS</b>              | <b>Maternal age</b>            |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | <20                            | 230           | 237         | 234         | 226         | 247         | 250         | 267         | 317         | 297         | 258         | 260         | 244         | 245         | 254         | 245         |
|                             | 20-34                          | 137           | 149         | 137         | 108         | 148         | 135         | 152         | 120         | 163         | 146         | 152         | 129         | 159         | 163         | 157         |
|                             | 35+                            | 0             | 4           | 2           | 4           | 4           | 6           | 6           | 1           | 7           | 8           | 4           | 0           | 2           | 2           | 5           |
| <b>BABIES</b>               | <b>Total</b>                   | <b>1189</b>   | <b>1172</b> | <b>1191</b> | <b>1160</b> | <b>1160</b> | <b>1215</b> | <b>1278</b> | <b>1245</b> | <b>1442</b> | <b>1348</b> | <b>1342</b> | <b>1277</b> | <b>1331</b> | <b>1416</b> | <b>1428</b> |
|                             | <b>Plurality</b>               |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | Singleton                      | 1163          | 1150        | 1177        | 1134        | 1144        | 1197        | 1244        | 1227        | 1418        | 1316        | 1326        | 1263        | 1310        | 1384        | 1396        |
|                             | Multiples                      | 26            | 22          | 14          | 26          | 16          | 18          | 34          | 18          | 24          | 32          | 16          | 14          | 21          | 32          | 32          |
|                             | <b>Birthweight (g)</b>         |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | <1500                          | 43            | 35          | 20          | 35          | 38          | 35          | 41          | 32          | 32          | 33          | 42          | 41          | 49          | 57          | 54          |
|                             | 1500-2499                      | 113           | 128         | 139         | 138         | 149         | 120         | 138         | 140         | 154         | 152         | 162         | 141         | 150         | 154         | 143         |
|                             | 2500+                          | 1028          | 1007        | 1030        | 985         | 944         | 1031        | 1076        | 1073        | 1256        | 1163        | 1137        | 1095        | 1132        | 1205        | 1230        |
|                             | <b>Gestational age (weeks)</b> |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | <28                            | 19            | 22          | 17          | 19          | 24          | 24          | 27          | 21          | 18          | 20          | 29          | 25          | 31          | 19          | 24          |
|                             | 28-36                          | 128           |             | 132         | 156         | 152         | 144         | 163         | 156         | 174         | 199         | 190         | 180         | 176         | 207         | 201         |
|                             | 37+                            | 1011          | 927         | 1024        | 977         | 947         | 1013        | 1067        | 1068        | 1249        | 1128        | 1123        | 1072        | 1124        | 1190        | 1201        |
|                             | <b>Birth status</b>            |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | Livebirths                     | 1162          | 1151        | 1172        | 1146        | 1141        | 1198        | 1253        | 1231        | 1428        | 1333        | 1323        | 1264        | 1313        | 1393        | 1406        |
|                             | Stillbirths                    | 27            | 21          | 19          | 14          | 19          | 17          | 25          | 14          | 14          | 15          | 19          | 13          | 18          | 23          | 22          |

Table A. (continued)

|                       |                         | 1993    | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                       |                         | Percent |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| ALL<br>MOTHERS        | Maternal age            |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | <20                     | 28.8    | 30.8 | 29.1 | 27.7 | 30.9 | 30.1 | 29.7 | 33.0 | 30.0 | 29.7 | 28.6 | 28.2 | 25.6 | 25.7 | 23.7 |
|                       | 20-34                   | 66.5    | 64.4 | 67.2 | 67.8 | 64.8 | 64.8 | 64.9 | 62.5 | 65.0 | 64.3 | 65.4 | 64.9 | 68.6 | 67.9 | 69.0 |
|                       | 35+                     | 4.7     | 4.7  | 3.6  | 4.4  | 4.3  | 5.1  | 5.4  | 4.5  | 5.0  | 6.0  | 5.9  | 6.9  | 5.8  | 6.4  | 7.3  |
|                       | Place of birth          |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | Hospital                | 93.6    | 94.8 | 95.2 | 95.9 | 93.0 | 93.8 | 94.2 | 96.7 | 95.7 | 96.2 | 95.0 | 95.8 | 94.6 | 95.0 | 95.6 |
|                       | Non-hospital            | 6.4     | 5.2  | 4.8  | 4.1  | 7.0  | 6.2  | 5.8  | 3.3  | 4.3  | 3.8  | 5.0  | 4.2  | 5.4  | 5.0  | 4.4  |
|                       | Type of labour onset    |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | Spontaneous             | 76.9    | 77.5 | 76.6 | 78.5 | 76.7 | 75.0 | 74.2 | 75.2 | 72.8 | 73.3 | 70.5 | 72.9 | 71.8 | 69.4 | 69.1 |
|                       | Induced                 | 13.5    | 13.1 | 13.0 | 12.0 | 13.2 | 14.1 | 15.6 | 16.3 | 16.8 | 15.6 | 18.2 | 15.3 | 16.1 | 19.6 | 18.7 |
|                       | No labour               | 9.6     | 9.4  | 10.4 | 9.5  | 10.0 | 10.9 | 10.3 | 8.4  | 10.4 | 11.1 | 11.3 | 11.8 | 12.1 | 10.9 | 12.3 |
|                       | Method of birth         |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | Spontaneous vaginal     | 71.4    | 71.5 | 70.4 | 74.2 | 72.3 | 71.1 | 75.2 | 72.9 | 71.9 | 71.4 | 68.8 | 68.3 | 68.6 | 68.5 | 68.1 |
| FIRST-TIME<br>MOTHERS | Vaginal breech          | 1.1     | 1.1  | 1.2  | 1.2  | 1.2  | 1.0  | 0.6  | 0.7  | 0.5  | 0.4  | 1.2  | 1.3  | 0.9  | 1.1  | 1.0  |
|                       | Forceps                 | 3.8     | 3.1  | 2.5  | 3.4  | 2.7  | 2.5  | 1.8  | 1.4  | 1.7  | 1.7  | 1.7  | 0.9  | 1.4  | 0.9  | 1.1  |
|                       | Ventouse                | 1.9     | 1.6  | 0.8  | 0.4  | 1.5  | 1.6  | 2.0  | 3.2  | 3.7  | 2.1  | 3.1  | 4.2  | 3.7  | 4.0  | 2.9  |
|                       | Caesarean section       | 21.8    | 22.7 | 25.1 | 20.7 | 22.3 | 23.7 | 20.3 | 21.8 | 22.2 | 24.5 | 25.1 | 25.2 | 25.4 | 25.5 | 26.8 |
|                       | Maternal age            |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | <20                     | 62.7    | 60.8 | 62.7 | 66.9 | 61.9 | 63.9 | 62.8 | 72.4 | 63.6 | 62.6 | 62.5 | 65.4 | 60.3 | 60.6 | 60.2 |
|                       | 20-34                   | 37.3    | 38.2 | 36.7 | 32.0 | 37.1 | 34.5 | 35.8 | 27.4 | 34.9 | 35.4 | 36.5 | 34.6 | 39.2 | 38.9 | 38.6 |
|                       | 35+                     | 0.0     | 1.0  | 0.5  | 1.2  | 1.0  | 1.5  | 1.4  | 0.2  | 1.5  | 1.9  | 1.0  | 0.0  | 0.5  | 0.5  | 1.2  |
| BABIES                | Plurality               |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | Singleton               | 97.8    | 98.1 | 98.8 | 97.8 | 98.6 | 98.5 | 97.3 | 98.6 | 98.3 | 97.6 | 98.8 | 98.9 | 98.4 | 97.7 | 97.8 |
|                       | Multiples               | 2.2     | 1.9  | 1.2  | 2.2  | 1.4  | 1.5  | 2.7  | 1.4  | 1.7  | 2.4  | 1.2  | 1.1  | 1.6  | 2.3  | 2.2  |
|                       | Birthweight (g)         |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | <1500                   | 3.6     | 3.0  | 1.7  | 3.0  | 3.4  | 3.0  | 3.3  | 2.6  | 2.2  | 2.4  | 3.1  | 3.2  | 3.7  | 4.0  | 3.8  |
|                       | 1500-2499               | 9.5     | 10.9 | 11.7 | 11.9 | 13.2 | 10.1 | 11.0 | 11.2 | 10.7 | 11.3 | 12.1 | 11.0 | 11.3 | 10.9 | 10.0 |
|                       | 2500+                   | 86.8    | 86.1 | 86.6 | 85.1 | 83.5 | 86.9 | 85.7 | 86.2 | 87.1 | 86.3 | 84.8 | 85.7 | 85.0 | 85.1 | 86.2 |
|                       | Gestational age (weeks) |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | <28                     | 1.6     | 2.3  | 1.4  | 1.6  | 2.1  | 2.0  | 2.1  | 1.7  | 1.2  | 1.5  | 2.2  | 2.0  | 2.3  | 1.3  | 1.7  |
|                       | 28-36                   | 11.1    | 0.0  | 11.3 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 12.2 | 13.0 | 12.5 | 12.1 | 14.8 | 14.2 | 14.1 | 13.2 | 14.6 | 14.1 |
|                       | 37+                     | 87.3    | 97.7 | 87.3 | 84.8 | 84.3 | 85.8 | 84.9 | 85.8 | 86.7 | 83.7 | 83.7 | 83.9 | 84.4 | 84.0 | 84.2 |
|                       | Birth status            |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | Livebirths              | 97.7    | 98.2 | 98.4 | 98.8 | 98.4 | 98.6 | 98.0 | 98.9 | 99.0 | 98.9 | 98.6 | 99.0 | 98.6 | 98.4 | 98.5 |
|                       | Stillbirths             | 2.3     | 1.8  | 1.6  | 1.2  | 1.6  | 1.4  | 2.0  | 1.1  | 1.0  | 1.1  | 1.4  | 1.0  | 1.4  | 1.6  | 1.5  |

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

Table B. Trend table, NT non-Indigenous

|                             |                                | 1993          | 1994        | 1995        | 1996        | 1997        | 1998        | 1999        | 2000        | 2001        | 2002        | 2003        | 2004        | 2005        | 2006        | 2007        |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Total fertility rate</b> |                                | 1.9           | 2.0         | 2.0         | 1.9         | 1.9         | 1.9         | 1.9         | 1.9         | 1.9         | 1.9         | 2.0         | 1.8         | 1.9         | 1.9         | 1.9         |
|                             |                                | <b>Number</b> |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| <b>ALL</b>                  | <b>Total</b>                   | <b>2251</b>   | <b>2249</b> | <b>2340</b> | <b>2200</b> | <b>2306</b> | <b>2230</b> | <b>2219</b> | <b>2197</b> | <b>2212</b> | <b>2233</b> | <b>2195</b> | <b>2065</b> | <b>2229</b> | <b>2187</b> | <b>2243</b> |
| <b>MOTHERS</b>              | <b>Maternal age</b>            |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | <20                            | 136           | 130         | 141         | 132         | 146         | 109         | 128         | 118         | 121         | 121         | 125         | 96          | 121         | 109         | 90          |
|                             | 20-34                          | 1868          | 1846        | 1909        | 1769        | 1817        | 1783        | 1751        | 1726        | 1750        | 1721        | 1680        | 1573        | 1666        | 1612        | 1651        |
|                             | 35+                            | 247           | 273         | 290         | 299         | 336         | 338         | 340         | 350         | 334         | 391         | 390         | 386         | 434         | 434         | 502         |
|                             | <b>Place of birth</b>          |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | Hospital                       | 2239          | 2241        | 2303        | 2173        | 2258        | 2195        | 2186        | 2187        | 2181        | 2209        | 2168        | 2043        | 2213        | 2142        | 2195        |
|                             | Non-hospital                   | 12            | 8           | 37          | 27          | 48          | 35          | 33          | 10          | 31          | 24          | 27          | 22          | 16          | 45          | 48          |
|                             | <b>Type of labour onset</b>    |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | Spontaneous                    | 1495          | 1536        | 1563        | 1506        | 1556        | 1441        | 1483        | 1445        | 1383        | 1379        | 1302        | 1224        | 1273        | 1278        | 1362        |
|                             | Induced                        | 523           | 470         | 537         | 452         | 483         | 531         | 464         | 496         | 528         | 525         | 544         | 487         | 535         | 513         | 481         |
|                             | No labour                      | 231           | 239         | 234         | 236         | 251         | 253         | 259         | 256         | 301         | 329         | 349         | 354         | 421         | 396         | 400         |
|                             | <b>Method of birth</b>         |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | Spontaneous vaginal            | 1629          | 1655        | 1723        | 1618        | 1703        | 1568        | 1566        | 1548        | 1476        | 1496        | 1335        | 1224        | 1306        | 1291        | 1325        |
|                             | Vaginal breech                 | 16            | 12          | 14          | 16          | 11          | 15          | 10          | 6           | 15          | 3           | 10          | 9           | 12          | 13          | 14          |
|                             | Forceps                        | 113           | 93          | 127         | 137         | 109         | 133         | 114         | 98          | 98          | 83          | 48          | 48          | 55          | 48          | 55          |
|                             | Ventouse                       | 36            | 42          | 34          | 24          | 30          | 24          | 39          | 78          | 85          | 73          | 158         | 153         | 153         | 162         | 141         |
|                             | Caesarean section              | 456           | 446         | 442         | 402         | 450         | 486         | 478         | 465         | 538         | 578         | 644         | 631         | 703         | 673         | 708         |
| <b>FIRST-TIME</b>           | <b>Total</b>                   | <b>949</b>    | <b>965</b>  | <b>1031</b> | <b>928</b>  | <b>948</b>  | <b>968</b>  | <b>1041</b> | <b>924</b>  | <b>999</b>  | <b>943</b>  | <b>943</b>  | <b>858</b>  | <b>1009</b> | <b>938</b>  | <b>986</b>  |
| <b>MOTHERS</b>              | <b>Maternal age</b>            |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | <20                            | 119           | 111         | 119         | 102         | 116         | 98          | 104         | 97          | 100         | 106         | 104         | 80          | 106         | 98          | 74          |
|                             | 20-34                          | 768           | 793         | 846         | 755         | 747         | 781         | 829         | 730         | 796         | 733         | 725         | 656         | 761         | 713         | 761         |
|                             | 35+                            | 62            | 61          | 66          | 71          | 78          | 89          | 108         | 94          | 102         | 104         | 114         | 122         | 137         | 120         | 151         |
| <b>BABIES</b>               | <b>Total</b>                   | <b>2274</b>   | <b>2283</b> | <b>2381</b> | <b>2225</b> | <b>2333</b> | <b>2261</b> | <b>2249</b> | <b>2228</b> | <b>2241</b> | <b>2261</b> | <b>2231</b> | <b>2094</b> | <b>2265</b> | <b>2223</b> | <b>2268</b> |
|                             | <b>Plurality</b>               |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | Singleton                      | 2228          | 2215        | 2301        | 2175        | 2279        | 2199        | 2189        | 2166        | 2183        | 2205        | 2159        | 2036        | 2193        | 2151        | 2219        |
|                             | Multiples                      | 46            | 68          | 80          | 50          | 54          | 62          | 60          | 62          | 58          | 56          | 72          | 58          | 72          | 72          | 49          |
|                             | <b>Birthweight (g)</b>         |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | <1500                          | 25            | 37          | 32          | 26          | 22          | 29          | 41          | 26          | 32          | 28          | 28          | 30          | 39          | 29          | 23          |
|                             | 1500-2499                      | 121           | 112         | 116         | 131         | 135         | 150         | 130         | 127         | 113         | 99          | 140         | 110         | 131         | 135         | 92          |
|                             | 2500+                          | 2127          | 2134        | 2230        | 2062        | 2154        | 2076        | 2066        | 2072        | 2096        | 2134        | 2063        | 1954        | 2093        | 2058        | 2152        |
|                             | <b>Gestational age (weeks)</b> |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | <28                            | 11            | 22          | 18          | 14          | 12          | 15          | 23          | 14          | 17          | 17          | 16          | 13          | 16          | 16          | 10          |
|                             | 28-36                          | 123           |             | 141         | 152         | 170         | 187         | 174         | 169         | 165         | 151         | 168         | 144         | 180         | 175         | 144         |
|                             | 37+                            | 2124          | 2045        | 2195        | 2058        | 2136        | 2053        | 2041        | 2045        | 2059        | 2092        | 2047        | 1937        | 2069        | 2032        | 2114        |
|                             | <b>Birth status</b>            |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | Livebirths                     | 2259          | 2263        | 2365        | 2213        | 2320        | 2251        | 2227        | 2212        | 2229        | 2247        | 2211        | 2085        | 2242        | 2206        | 2259        |
|                             | Stillbirths                    | 15            | 20          | 16          | 12          | 13          | 10          | 22          | 16          | 12          | 14          | 20          | 9           | 23          | 17          | 9           |

Table B. (continued)

|                       |                         | 1993    | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                       |                         | Percent |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| ALL<br>MOTHERS        | Maternal age            |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | <20                     | 6.0     | 5.8  | 6.0  | 6.0  | 6.4  | 4.9  | 5.8  | 5.4  | 5.5  | 5.4  | 5.7  | 4.7  | 5.4  | 5.1  | 4.0  |
|                       | 20-34                   | 83.0    | 82.1 | 81.6 | 80.4 | 79.0 | 80.0 | 78.9 | 78.7 | 79.4 | 77.1 | 76.5 | 76.5 | 75.0 | 74.8 | 73.6 |
|                       | 35+                     | 11.0    | 12.1 | 12.4 | 13.6 | 14.6 | 15.2 | 15.3 | 16.0 | 15.1 | 17.5 | 17.8 | 18.8 | 19.5 | 20.1 | 22.4 |
|                       | Place of birth          |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | Hospital                | 99.5    | 99.6 | 98.4 | 98.8 | 97.9 | 98.4 | 98.5 | 99.5 | 98.6 | 98.9 | 98.8 | 98.9 | 99.3 | 97.9 | 97.9 |
|                       | Non-hospital            | 0.5     | 0.4  | 1.6  | 1.2  | 2.1  | 1.6  | 1.5  | 0.5  | 1.4  | 1.1  | 1.2  | 1.1  | 0.7  | 2.1  | 2.1  |
|                       | Type of labour onset    |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | Spontaneous             | 66.5    | 68.4 | 67.0 | 68.6 | 67.9 | 64.8 | 67.2 | 65.8 | 62.5 | 61.8 | 59.3 | 59.3 | 57.1 | 58.4 | 60.7 |
|                       | Induced                 | 23.3    | 20.9 | 23.0 | 20.6 | 21.1 | 23.9 | 21.0 | 22.6 | 23.9 | 23.5 | 24.8 | 23.6 | 24.0 | 23.5 | 21.4 |
|                       | No labour               | 10.3    | 10.6 | 10.0 | 10.8 | 11.0 | 11.4 | 11.7 | 11.7 | 13.6 | 14.7 | 15.9 | 17.1 | 18.9 | 18.1 | 17.8 |
|                       | Method of birth         |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | Spontaneous vaginal     | 72.4    | 73.6 | 73.6 | 73.6 | 73.9 | 70.4 | 71.0 | 70.5 | 66.7 | 67.0 | 60.8 | 59.3 | 58.6 | 59.0 | 59.1 |
| FIRST-TIME<br>MOTHERS | Vaginal breech          | 0.7     | 0.5  | 0.6  | 0.7  | 0.5  | 0.7  | 0.5  | 0.3  | 0.7  | 0.1  | 0.5  | 0.4  | 0.5  | 0.6  | 0.6  |
|                       | Forceps                 | 5.0     | 4.1  | 5.4  | 6.2  | 4.7  | 6.0  | 5.2  | 4.5  | 4.4  | 3.7  | 2.2  | 2.3  | 2.5  | 2.2  | 2.5  |
|                       | Ventouse                | 1.6     | 1.9  | 1.5  | 1.1  | 1.3  | 1.1  | 1.8  | 3.6  | 3.8  | 3.3  | 7.2  | 7.4  | 6.9  | 7.4  | 6.3  |
|                       | Caesarean section       | 20.3    | 19.8 | 18.9 | 18.3 | 19.5 | 21.8 | 21.7 | 21.2 | 24.3 | 25.9 | 29.3 | 30.6 | 31.5 | 30.8 | 31.6 |
|                       | Maternal age            |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | <20                     | 12.5    | 11.5 | 11.5 | 11.0 | 12.3 | 10.1 | 10.0 | 10.5 | 10.0 | 11.2 | 11.0 | 9.3  | 10.6 | 10.5 | 7.5  |
|                       | 20-34                   | 80.9    | 82.2 | 82.1 | 81.4 | 79.4 | 80.7 | 79.6 | 79.3 | 79.8 | 77.7 | 76.9 | 76.5 | 75.8 | 76.6 | 77.2 |
|                       | 35+                     | 6.5     | 6.3  | 6.4  | 7.7  | 8.3  | 9.2  | 10.4 | 10.2 | 10.2 | 11.0 | 12.1 | 14.2 | 13.6 | 12.9 | 15.3 |
| BABIES                | Plurality               |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | Singleton               | 98.0    | 97.0 | 96.6 | 97.8 | 97.7 | 97.3 | 97.3 | 97.2 | 97.4 | 97.5 | 96.8 | 97.2 | 96.8 | 96.8 | 97.8 |
|                       | Multiples               | 2.0     | 3.0  | 3.4  | 2.2  | 2.3  | 2.7  | 2.7  | 2.8  | 2.6  | 2.5  | 3.2  | 2.8  | 3.2  | 3.2  | 2.2  |
|                       | Birthweight (g)         |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | <1500                   | 1.1     | 1.6  | 1.3  | 1.2  | 1.0  | 1.3  | 1.8  | 1.2  | 1.4  | 1.2  | 1.3  | 1.4  | 1.7  | 1.3  | 1.0  |
|                       | 1500-2499               | 5.3     | 4.9  | 4.9  | 5.9  | 5.8  | 6.7  | 5.8  | 5.7  | 5.0  | 4.4  | 6.3  | 5.3  | 5.8  | 6.1  | 4.1  |
|                       | 2500+                   | 93.6    | 93.5 | 93.8 | 92.9 | 93.2 | 92.1 | 92.4 | 93.1 | 93.5 | 94.4 | 92.5 | 93.3 | 92.5 | 92.6 | 94.9 |
|                       | Gestational age (weeks) |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | <28                     | 0.5     | 1.1  | 0.8  | 0.6  | 0.5  | 0.7  | 1.0  | 0.6  | 0.8  | 0.8  | 0.7  | 0.6  | 0.7  | 0.7  | 0.4  |
|                       | 28-36                   | 5.4     | 0.0  | 6.0  | 6.8  | 7.3  | 8.3  | 7.8  | 7.6  | 7.4  | 6.7  | 7.5  | 6.9  | 7.9  | 7.9  | 6.3  |
|                       | 37+                     | 94.1    | 98.9 | 93.2 | 92.5 | 92.1 | 91.0 | 91.2 | 91.8 | 91.9 | 92.6 | 91.8 | 92.5 | 91.3 | 91.4 | 93.2 |
|                       | Birth status            |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | Livebirths              | 99.3    | 99.1 | 99.3 | 99.5 | 99.4 | 99.6 | 99.0 | 99.3 | 99.5 | 99.4 | 99.1 | 99.6 | 99.0 | 99.2 | 99.6 |
|                       | Stillbirths             | 0.7     | 0.9  | 0.7  | 0.5  | 0.6  | 0.4  | 1.0  | 0.7  | 0.5  | 0.6  | 0.9  | 0.4  | 1.0  | 0.8  | 0.4  |

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

Table C. Trend table, NT all

|                             |                                | 1993          | 1994        | 1995        | 1996        | 1997        | 1998        | 1999        | 2000        | 2001        | 2002        | 2003        | 2004        | 2005        | 2006        | 2007        |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Total fertility rate</b> |                                | 2.2           | 2.2         | 2.2         | 2.1         | 2.1         | 2.1         | 2.1         | 2.1         | 2.2         | 2.2         | 2.2         | 2.0         | 2.1         | 2.1         | 2.1         |
|                             |                                | <b>Number</b> |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| <b>ALL</b>                  | <b>Total</b>                   | <b>3429</b>   | <b>3410</b> | <b>3524</b> | <b>3347</b> | <b>3458</b> | <b>3436</b> | <b>3480</b> | <b>3433</b> | <b>3642</b> | <b>3565</b> | <b>3529</b> | <b>3335</b> | <b>3549</b> | <b>3587</b> | <b>3655</b> |
| <b>MOTHERS</b>              | <b>Maternal age</b>            |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | <20                            | 475           | 488         | 486         | 450         | 501         | 471         | 502         | 526         | 549         | 516         | 507         | 453         | 458         | 469         | 425         |
|                             | 20-34                          | 2652          | 2594        | 2705        | 2547        | 2562        | 2563        | 2570        | 2498        | 2676        | 2578        | 2553        | 2394        | 2568        | 2562        | 2625        |
|                             | 35+                            | 302           | 328         | 333         | 350         | 386         | 400         | 408         | 406         | 405         | 471         | 469         | 473         | 510         | 523         | 605         |
|                             | <b>Place of birth</b>          |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | Hospital                       | 3342          | 3342        | 3430        | 3273        | 3329        | 3326        | 3374        | 3382        | 3549        | 3491        | 3435        | 3260        | 3462        | 3472        | 3545        |
|                             | Non-hospital                   | 87            | 68          | 94          | 74          | 129         | 110         | 106         | 51          | 93          | 74          | 94          | 75          | 87          | 115         | 110         |
|                             | <b>Type of labour onset</b>    |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | Spontaneous                    | 2397          | 2435        | 2464        | 2405        | 2419        | 2324        | 2402        | 2375        | 2424        | 2355        | 2242        | 2150        | 2221        | 2250        | 2337        |
|                             | Induced                        | 681           | 622         | 690         | 589         | 632         | 697         | 657         | 698         | 768         | 733         | 787         | 681         | 747         | 788         | 745         |
|                             | No labour                      | 343           | 348         | 356         | 345         | 364         | 381         | 386         | 360         | 450         | 477         | 500         | 504         | 581         | 549         | 573         |
|                             | <b>Method of birth</b>         |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | Spontaneous vaginal            | 2467          | 2485        | 2555        | 2468        | 2519        | 2407        | 2499        | 2449        | 2504        | 2447        | 2253        | 2092        | 2211        | 2250        | 2287        |
|                             | Vaginal breech                 | 29            | 25          | 28          | 30          | 24          | 27          | 18          | 15          | 22          | 8           | 26          | 26          | 24          | 28          | 28          |
|                             | Forceps                        | 158           | 129         | 157         | 176         | 139         | 163         | 136         | 115         | 123         | 105         | 71          | 60          | 74          | 61          | 71          |
|                             | Ventouse                       | 58            | 60          | 43          | 29          | 47          | 43          | 64          | 118         | 138         | 101         | 200         | 206         | 202         | 218         | 182         |
|                             | Caesarean section              | 711           | 710         | 739         | 639         | 702         | 766         | 730         | 734         | 855         | 904         | 979         | 951         | 1038        | 1030        | 1087        |
| <b>FIRST-TIME</b>           | <b>Total</b>                   | <b>1318</b>   | <b>1355</b> | <b>1404</b> | <b>1266</b> | <b>1349</b> | <b>1360</b> | <b>1466</b> | <b>1362</b> | <b>1469</b> | <b>1355</b> | <b>1359</b> | <b>1231</b> | <b>1415</b> | <b>1357</b> | <b>1393</b> |
| <b>MOTHERS</b>              | <b>Maternal age</b>            |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | <20                            | 349           | 348         | 353         | 328         | 363         | 348         | 371         | 414         | 397         | 364         | 364         | 324         | 351         | 352         | 319         |
|                             | 20-34                          | 907           | 942         | 983         | 863         | 895         | 916         | 981         | 850         | 959         | 879         | 877         | 785         | 920         | 876         | 918         |
|                             | 35+                            | 62            | 65          | 68          | 75          | 82          | 95          | 114         | 95          | 109         | 112         | 118         | 122         | 139         | 122         | 156         |
| <b>BABIES</b>               | <b>Total</b>                   | <b>3465</b>   | <b>3455</b> | <b>3572</b> | <b>3385</b> | <b>3493</b> | <b>3476</b> | <b>3527</b> | <b>3473</b> | <b>3683</b> | <b>3609</b> | <b>3573</b> | <b>3371</b> | <b>3596</b> | <b>3639</b> | <b>3696</b> |
|                             | <b>Plurality</b>               |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | Singleton                      | 3393          | 3365        | 3478        | 3309        | 3423        | 3396        | 3433        | 3393        | 3601        | 3521        | 3485        | 3299        | 3503        | 3535        | 3615        |
|                             | Multiples                      | 72            | 90          | 94          | 76          | 70          | 80          | 94          | 80          | 82          | 88          | 88          | 72          | 93          | 104         | 81          |
|                             | <b>Birthweight (g)</b>         |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | <1500                          | 68            | 72          | 52          | 61          | 60          | 64          | 82          | 58          | 64          | 61          | 70          | 71          | 88          | 86          | 77          |
|                             | 1500-2499                      | 234           | 240         | 255         | 269         | 284         | 270         | 268         | 267         | 267         | 251         | 302         | 251         | 281         | 289         | 235         |
|                             | 2500+                          | 3157          | 3141        | 3260        | 3047        | 3098        | 3107        | 3142        | 3145        | 3352        | 3297        | 3200        | 3049        | 3225        | 3263        | 3382        |
|                             | <b>Gestational age (weeks)</b> |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | <28                            | 30            | 44          | 35          | 33          | 36          | 39          | 50          | 35          | 35          | 37          | 45          | 38          | 47          | 35          | 34          |
|                             | 28-36                          | 251           |             | 273         | 308         | 322         | 331         | 337         | 325         | 339         | 350         | 358         | 324         | 356         | 382         | 345         |
|                             | 37+                            | 3137          | 2972        | 3219        | 3035        | 3083        | 3066        | 3108        | 3113        | 3308        | 3220        | 3170        | 3009        | 3193        | 3222        | 3315        |
|                             | <b>Birth status</b>            |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|                             | Livebirths                     | 3423          | 3414        | 3537        | 3359        | 3461        | 3449        | 3480        | 3443        | 3657        | 3580        | 3534        | 3349        | 3555        | 3599        | 3665        |
|                             | Stillbirths                    | 42            | 41          | 35          | 26          | 32          | 27          | 47          | 30          | 26          | 29          | 39          | 22          | 41          | 40          | 31          |

Table C. (continued)

|                       |                         | 1993    | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                       |                         | Percent |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| ALL<br>MOTHERS        | Maternal age            |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | <20                     | 13.9    | 14.3 | 13.8 | 13.4 | 14.5 | 13.7 | 14.4 | 15.3 | 15.1 | 14.5 | 14.4 | 13.6 | 13.0 | 13.2 | 11.6 |
|                       | 20-34                   | 77.3    | 76.1 | 76.8 | 76.1 | 74.3 | 74.6 | 73.9 | 72.8 | 73.7 | 72.3 | 72.3 | 72.1 | 72.6 | 72.1 | 71.8 |
|                       | 35+                     | 8.8     | 9.6  | 9.4  | 10.5 | 11.2 | 11.6 | 11.7 | 11.8 | 11.2 | 13.2 | 13.3 | 14.2 | 14.4 | 14.7 | 16.6 |
|                       | Place of birth          |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | Hospital                | 97.5    | 98.0 | 97.3 | 97.8 | 96.3 | 96.8 | 97.0 | 98.5 | 97.4 | 97.9 | 97.3 | 97.8 | 97.5 | 96.8 | 97.0 |
|                       | Non-hospital            | 2.5     | 2.0  | 2.7  | 2.2  | 3.7  | 3.2  | 3.0  | 1.5  | 2.6  | 2.1  | 2.7  | 2.2  | 2.5  | 3.2  | 3.0  |
|                       | Type of labour onset    |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | Spontaneous             | 70.1    | 71.5 | 70.2 | 72.0 | 70.8 | 68.3 | 69.7 | 69.2 | 66.6 | 66.1 | 63.5 | 64.5 | 62.6 | 62.7 | 63.9 |
|                       | Induced                 | 19.9    | 18.3 | 19.7 | 17.6 | 18.5 | 20.5 | 19.1 | 20.3 | 21.1 | 20.6 | 22.3 | 20.4 | 21.0 | 22.0 | 20.4 |
|                       | No labour               | 10.0    | 10.2 | 10.1 | 10.3 | 10.7 | 11.2 | 11.2 | 10.5 | 12.4 | 13.4 | 14.2 | 15.1 | 16.4 | 15.3 | 15.7 |
|                       | Method of birth         |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | Spontaneous vaginal     | 72.1    | 72.9 | 72.5 | 73.8 | 73.4 | 70.7 | 72.5 | 71.4 | 68.8 | 68.6 | 63.8 | 62.7 | 62.3 | 62.7 | 62.6 |
| FIRST-TIME<br>MOTHERS | Vaginal breech          | 0.8     | 0.7  | 0.8  | 0.9  | 0.7  | 0.8  | 0.5  | 0.4  | 0.6  | 0.2  | 0.7  | 0.8  | 0.7  | 0.8  | 0.8  |
|                       | Forceps                 | 4.6     | 3.8  | 4.5  | 5.3  | 4.1  | 4.8  | 3.9  | 3.4  | 3.4  | 2.9  | 2.0  | 1.8  | 2.1  | 1.7  | 1.9  |
|                       | Ventouse                | 1.7     | 1.8  | 1.2  | 0.9  | 1.4  | 1.3  | 1.9  | 3.4  | 3.8  | 2.8  | 5.7  | 6.2  | 5.7  | 6.1  | 5.0  |
|                       | Caesarean section       | 20.8    | 20.8 | 21.0 | 19.1 | 20.5 | 22.5 | 21.2 | 21.4 | 23.5 | 25.4 | 27.7 | 28.5 | 29.2 | 28.7 | 29.7 |
|                       | Maternal age            |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | <20                     | 26.5    | 25.7 | 25.1 | 25.9 | 27.1 | 25.6 | 25.3 | 30.5 | 27.1 | 26.9 | 26.8 | 26.3 | 24.9 | 26.1 | 22.9 |
|                       | 20-34                   | 68.8    | 69.5 | 70.0 | 68.2 | 66.8 | 67.4 | 66.9 | 62.5 | 65.5 | 64.9 | 64.5 | 63.8 | 65.2 | 64.9 | 65.9 |
|                       | 35+                     | 4.7     | 4.8  | 4.8  | 5.9  | 6.1  | 7.0  | 7.8  | 7.0  | 7.4  | 8.3  | 8.7  | 9.9  | 9.9  | 9.0  | 11.2 |
| BABIES                | Plurality               |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | Singleton               | 97.9    | 97.4 | 97.4 | 97.8 | 98.0 | 97.7 | 97.3 | 97.7 | 97.8 | 97.6 | 97.5 | 97.9 | 97.4 | 97.1 | 97.8 |
|                       | Multiples               | 2.1     | 2.6  | 2.6  | 2.2  | 2.0  | 2.3  | 2.7  | 2.3  | 2.2  | 2.4  | 2.5  | 2.1  | 2.6  | 2.9  | 2.2  |
|                       | Birthweight (g)         |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | <1500                   | 2.0     | 2.1  | 1.5  | 1.8  | 1.7  | 1.9  | 2.3  | 1.7  | 1.7  | 1.7  | 2.0  | 2.1  | 2.4  | 2.4  | 2.1  |
|                       | 1500-2499               | 6.8     | 7.0  | 7.1  | 8.0  | 8.3  | 7.8  | 7.7  | 7.7  | 7.2  | 7.0  | 8.5  | 7.4  | 7.8  | 7.9  | 6.4  |
|                       | 2500+                   | 91.3    | 91.0 | 91.4 | 90.2 | 90.0 | 90.3 | 90.0 | 90.6 | 91.0 | 91.4 | 89.6 | 90.4 | 89.7 | 89.7 | 91.6 |
|                       | Gestational age (weeks) |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | <28                     | 0.9     | 1.5  | 1.0  | 1.0  | 1.0  | 1.1  | 1.4  | 1.0  | 1.0  | 1.0  | 1.3  | 1.1  | 1.3  | 1.0  | 0.9  |
|                       | 28-36                   | 7.3     | 0.0  | 7.7  | 9.1  | 9.4  | 9.6  | 9.6  | 9.4  | 9.2  | 9.7  | 10.0 | 9.6  | 9.9  | 10.5 | 9.3  |
|                       | 37+                     | 91.8    | 98.5 | 91.3 | 89.9 | 89.6 | 89.2 | 88.9 | 89.6 | 89.8 | 89.3 | 88.7 | 89.3 | 88.8 | 88.5 | 89.7 |
|                       | Birth status            |         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                       | Livebirths              | 98.8    | 98.8 | 99.0 | 99.2 | 99.1 | 99.2 | 98.7 | 99.1 | 99.3 | 99.2 | 98.9 | 99.3 | 98.9 | 98.9 | 99.2 |
|                       | Stillbirths             | 1.2     | 1.2  | 1.0  | 0.8  | 0.9  | 0.8  | 1.3  | 0.9  | 0.7  | 0.8  | 1.1  | 0.7  | 1.1  | 1.1  | 0.8  |

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

## Appendix 3. Northern Territory Estimated Resident Population

Table. Northern Territory Estimated Resident Population, by Indigenous status and sex, 2007

| Age<br>(years) | Male         |                |               | Female       |                |               | Person        |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
|                | Indigenous   | Non-Indigenous | Total         | Indigenous   | Non-Indigenous | Total         | Total         |
| 0 - 4          | 4038         | 5132           | 9170          | 3813         | 4881           | 8694          | 17864         |
| 5 - 9          | 3867         | 4961           | 8828          | 3756         | 4713           | 8469          | 17297         |
| 10 - 14        | 3661         | 4970           | 8631          | 3436         | 4609           | 8045          | 16676         |
| 15 - 19        | 3472         | 4883           | 8355          | 3305         | 4334           | 7639          | 15994         |
| 20 - 24        | 3080         | 5952           | 9032          | 3163         | 5333           | 8496          | 17528         |
| 25 - 29        | 2617         | 6498           | 9115          | 2870         | 6334           | 9204          | 18319         |
| 30 - 34        | 2492         | 6738           | 9230          | 2618         | 6226           | 8844          | 18074         |
| 35 - 39        | 2266         | 6923           | 9189          | 2443         | 6342           | 8785          | 17974         |
| 40 - 44        | 1840         | 6695           | 8535          | 1912         | 5883           | 7795          | 16330         |
| 45 - 49        | 1511         | 6506           | 8017          | 1637         | 5830           | 7467          | 15484         |
| 50 - 54        | 1120         | 5971           | 7091          | 1333         | 5326           | 6659          | 13750         |
| 55 - 59        | 716          | 5439           | 6155          | 896          | 4243           | 5139          | 11294         |
| 60 - 64        | 546          | 3790           | 4336          | 729          | 2669           | 3398          | 7734          |
| 65 - 69        | 343          | 2400           | 2743          | 475          | 1566           | 2041          | 4784          |
| 70 - 74        | 191          | 1163           | 1354          | 372          | 800            | 1172          | 2526          |
| 75 +           | 230          | 1267           | 1497          | 389          | 1290           | 1679          | 3176          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>31990</b> | <b>79288</b>   | <b>111278</b> | <b>33147</b> | <b>70379</b>   | <b>103526</b> | <b>214804</b> |

# Glossary

Note: for a more comprehensive glossary please see Australia's Mothers and Babies 2007.<sup>1</sup>

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

**Apgar score:** numerical score used to indicate the baby's condition at one minute and five minutes after birth. A score of 0, 1 or 2 is given for each of five characteristics; heart rate, breathing, colour, muscle tone and reflex irritability, and the total score is between 0 and 10.

**Augmentation of labour:** intervention after the onset of labour to assist the progress of labour.

**Birth status:** status of the baby immediately after birth.

**Birthweight:** the first weight of a baby (stillborn or liveborn) obtained after birth, measured to the nearest 5 grams and usually obtained within one hour of birth. Low weight births can be classified at the following levels:

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

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

**Caesarean section:** operative birth by surgical incision through the abdominal wall and uterus. It is often divided into two sub-categories:

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

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

**Episiotomy:** an incision of the perineum and vagina to enlarge the vulval orifice.

**Forceps:** assisted birth using a metallic obstetric instrument.

**First-time mother:** also called primiparous mother, refers to a woman who is giving birth for the first time.

**Gestational age:** the duration of a pregnancy in completed weeks, calculated from the date of the first day of women's last menstrual period to her baby's date of birth. Each birth can be categorized, according to fetal gestational age, into:

- Preterm baby: A baby born before 37 completed weeks of gestation;
- Term baby: A baby born from 37 completed weeks up to 41 completed weeks of gestation; or
- Post-term baby: A baby born after 41 completed weeks of gestation.

**Induction of labour:** intervention to stimulate the onset of labour.

**Instrumental birth:** includes vaginal birth by forceps or ventouse (vacuum extraction).

**Labour:** the process by which the products of conception are expelled from the uterus via the birth canal.

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

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

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

**Neonatal death:** death of a liveborn baby within 28 days of birth.

**Neonatal death rate:** the neonatal deaths in a year per 1000 livebirths in that same year.

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

**Perinatal death:** a fetal or neonatal death.

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

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

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

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

**Presentation at birth:** presenting part of the foetus at birth.

**Resuscitation of baby:** active measures taken shortly after birth to assist the baby's ventilation and heartbeat, or to treat depressed respiratory effort and to correct metabolic disturbances.

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

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

**Stillbirth rate:** the number of fetal deaths (stillbirths) in a year per 1000 total births in that same year.

**Teenage mother:** mother aged less than 20 years at the birth of her baby.

**Total fertility rate:** a hypothetical measure of the number of livebirths a woman would have if, throughout her reproductive years, she had children at the age-specific rates that were observed in any one year.

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

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

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