

Mothers and Babies 2012

Northern Territory Midwives' Collection

Amanda Case
Karen Dempsey
Xiaohua Zhang

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General enquiries about this publication should be directed to:

Director, Health Gains Planning Branch

Department of Health

PO Box 40596, Casuarina, NT 0811

Phone: (08) 8985 8074

Email: ntghealth.gains@nt.gov.au

Table of contents

Summary	v
Key findings	v
Introduction	1
Information presented in this report	1
Data sources	1
Northern Territory Midwives' Collection	1
NT Perinatal Death Register	2
Data limitations	2
Mothers and babies of the Northern Territory	4
Mothers	4
Place of residence	4
Fertility rate	4
Maternal age	4
Parity	5
Antenatal care	5
Alcohol consumption during pregnancy	6
Smoking status during pregnancy	6
Birth facility	7
Onset of labour and induction of labour	7
Presentation and method of birth	7
Analgesia and anaesthesia for childbirth	8
Complications due to pregnancy and/or childbirth	8
Perineal status	8
Postnatal hospital stay	8
Babies	9
Birth status	9
Plurality	9
Preterm and low birthweight live born babies	9
Apgar scores	9
Resuscitation of live born babies	9
Perinatal mortality	10
Statistical tables	11
Mothers	11
Babies	24
Appendices	31
Appendix 1. Hospital profiles	31
Appendix 2. Trends of perinatal indicators, by Indigenous status, NT, 1998–2012	38
Appendix 3. Northern Territory Estimated Resident Population	45
Glossary	46
References	49

List of tables	50
Selected Health Gains Planning publications	52

Summary

This report summarises data from the 2012 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 2012. While the NT Midwives' Collection contains information on both NT residents and interstate residents who gave birth in the NT, the focus of this report is on NT residents who gave birth in the NT. Unless otherwise stated, the following key findings are for NT residents only.

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 2012, there were 3,953 babies born to 3,906 NT mothers, 34.5% of whom were Indigenous. In addition there were 86 interstate mothers who gave birth to 86 babies in the NT. The total number of births in the NT for this year was 4,039 babies born to 3,992 mothers.
- Indigenous women had a higher total fertility rate (TFR) than that reported for all Australian women during the same period (2.2 and 1.93 births per woman respectively). The TFR of non-Indigenous women (2.0) was similar to the national rate.
- The mean age of Indigenous mothers (24.8 years) was almost five years younger than that of non-Indigenous mothers (29.7 years). Just over a fifth of Indigenous mothers (22%) were less than 20 years of age.
- Non-Indigenous mothers were almost three times more likely to be in the oldest age group (35 years and over) than Indigenous mothers (20% and 8% respectively).
- A greater proportion of Indigenous mothers (23.5%) had three or more previous births compared with non-Indigenous mothers (7.5%). Similarly, a smaller proportion of Indigenous than non-Indigenous mothers (34% and 44% respectively) gave birth to their first baby in 2012.
- Indigenous mothers were four times more likely to have insufficient antenatal care (no antenatal visit or attended less than four visits) compared with non-Indigenous mothers (12% and 3% respectively).
- Eighty-five percent of non-Indigenous mothers attended their first antenatal visit during their first trimester of pregnancy compared with 55% of Indigenous mothers.
- Indigenous mothers were more than four times more likely to report smoking during the first 20 weeks of pregnancy compared with non-Indigenous mothers (50% and 11% respectively).
- Ninety-seven percent of all NT births occurred in a hospital, while 1% of births were planned homebirths, and 2% were unplanned non-hospital births. Indigenous

mothers were four times more likely to have an unplanned non-hospital birth than non-Indigenous mothers (4% and less than 1% respectively).

- Onset of labour was induced for a quarter (23%) of all NT mothers.
- The majority of fetal presentations were vertex (96%) while breech accounted for 3% and other presentations 1%.
- Sixty-one percent of all NT mothers had a spontaneous vaginal delivery and 9% had an assisted vaginal delivery. Of the assisted vaginal deliveries, the majority were instrumental deliveries using forceps or ventouse (vacuum suction).
- Among those who gave birth vaginally, 32% had an intact perineum, while 54% had some degree of perineal laceration. The remainder had an episiotomy (11%) or a combination of episiotomy and tear (2%).
- Almost a third (30%) of all NT mothers had a caesarean section. Of those mothers, Indigenous mothers were more likely to undergo a caesarean section for emergency reasons (64%) than non-Indigenous mothers (48%).
- The main reason for elective caesarean section births was a previous caesarean section (67%). The main reasons for emergency caesarean section births were failure to progress during labour (47%) and fetal distress (non-reassuring fetal status) (38%).
- The most common complication of pregnancy was gestational diabetes mellitus, which affected 10% of all NT mothers at similar rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers (11% and 9.5% respectively).
- Over half of those mothers who gave birth in hospital (60%) stayed in hospital for three days or less following birth.
- Nine percent of all NT live births were preterm (less than 37 weeks). The proportion of preterm babies born to Indigenous mothers was more than double that of preterm babies born to non-Indigenous mothers (15% and 6% respectively).
- Eight percent of all NT live births 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 (14% and 5% respectively).
- A small percentage of all NT full term (37 weeks and over) singleton live births were of low birthweight; 5% of those born to Indigenous mothers and 2% to non-Indigenous mothers.
- By five minutes after birth, just 2% of NT live born babies had an Apgar score below seven; 4% of those born to Indigenous mothers and 1% to non-Indigenous mothers.
- Twenty-one percent of all NT live births received some form of resuscitation, excluding tactile stimulation. Resuscitation rates were higher among Indigenous babies compared with non-Indigenous live born babies (25% and 19% respectively).
- There were 34 perinatal deaths comprising 24 fetal deaths (stillbirths) and 10 neonatal deaths. The overall Indigenous perinatal death rate was more than twice that of the non-Indigenous rate (13.9 and 5.4 deaths per 1000 births respectively).

Introduction

This report summarises data from the 2012 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 2012. The trend tables show changes over time for key demographic and obstetric indicators and birth outcomes over the period 1998–2012.

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.

Information presented in this report

The NT Midwives' Collection contains information on both NT residents and interstate residents who gave birth in the NT. However, the focus of this report is NT residents who gave birth in the NT. Unless specified, mothers and babies usually residing interstate 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. Perinatal reports by the AIHW publish estimated numbers of NT women who gave birth interstate. In their most recent report it was estimated that in 2011, up to 65 NT women gave birth interstate, predominantly in South Australia (31 births) and Queensland (20 births) with the balance spread between all remaining Australian jurisdictions, with the exception of Tasmania.¹ These figures are comparable to reports from previous years. Indigenous status was not available for interstate births to NT women.

In this report maternal Indigenous status was used during analysis of both mother and baby information. For information on labour and childbirth in the Mothers' section of this report, 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.²

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 public and private hospitals, planned home births, births in community health centres, and other non-hospital births. All live births and fetal deaths

(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 2012 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 onto 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 of NT residents that occurred in the NT 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 neonatal deaths and the NT Midwives' Collection for fetal deaths. The hospital morbidity dataset is also used as another source of data. The Register does not hold information, since 2005, on those NT residents who died interstate.

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,³ the Health Gains Planning Branch commenced using the AIHW default position and 'not stated' data were excluded from calculation of percentage distributions. This approach differs from reports compiled prior to the 2003 report. In these reports, 'not stated' data were included as a percentage of the total in each table.

The effect of our change in approach is that the proportional distribution for certain data items, particularly alcohol consumption and/or smoking 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 health information available at the time of data entry. In instances where an antenatal record is incomplete or missing, the midwife entering information into the Birthing Suite Module of CareSys or the 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.

In 2012 data for post-partum blood loss for all public hospital admissions was made available for analysis. Prior to 2012, data on post-partum haemorrhages (PPH) were collected using the midwives flag entered at time of birth, which may not accurately represent the rate of PPH within public hospitals. To improve the accuracy and standardisation of the data a new definition of PPH was developed to include all episodes with a post-partum blood loss volume of 500ml or more (including caesarean sections), regardless of whether the midwives PPH flag was used. Blood loss volume data for non-public hospital admissions and non-hospital births is not available, so PPH rates for these institutions are calculated using the PPH flag entered at time of birth.

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 and babies have left the birthing suite.

In the *Mothers and Babies 2012* report, the Health Gains Planning Branch commenced reporting of gestational age and birthweights of live births only in the hospitals and trends tables, as these are key indicators of population health. As a result, the birthweight and gestational age data may differ slightly from previous reports, where the gestational age and birthweight of both stillborn and liveborn babies were included.

The denominator population used to calculate fertility rates is the 2012 NT Estimated Resident Population based on the 2011 ABS Census of Population and Housing.

Because the NT population is small, when data are disaggregated by Indigenous status or region 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. When there is a risk of attributes about an individual being disclosed due to a small number of cases, relevant cells or tables are suppressed. In 2012 there was a total of seven births at Tennant Creek Hospital and as a result a hospital profile has not been presented in Appendix 1.

A further issue with data disaggregated by region for the Indigenous population is difficulties individuals have identifying one usual place of residence.⁴ This is particularly true for pregnant women who have to travel to and stay in town from 38 weeks gestation to be close to a hospital when they give birth.⁵ 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 91% 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.⁶

Mothers and babies of the Northern Territory

Mothers

Place of residence

In 2012, a total of 3,992 mothers gave birth to 4,039 babies in the NT, of which 4,012 were live births. Among all babies born in the NT, most were born to mothers who were resident in the NT. There were 86 mothers from interstate who gave birth to 86 babies (2% of all babies born in the NT).

Indigenous mothers comprised 34.5% of all NT mothers in 2012. 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 2012, Indigenous women comprised 31% of all NT women of child-bearing age (Appendix 3).

Most NT non-Indigenous mothers were living in urban areas (95%), 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 live births per woman in 2012, equal to 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.⁷ Non-Indigenous NT women had a lower TFR than Indigenous women (2.0 and 2.2 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 with the exception of Darwin Rural, Katherine and East Arnhem. Katherine district had the highest TFR for all NT women, whilst Barkly and East Arnhem were among the lowest (2.8, 1.8 and 1.9 respectively).

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 nearly five times higher for Indigenous women compared with non-Indigenous women of the same age (91.1 and 18.6 births per 1,000 women respectively). Conversely, the fertility rate of the 35 years and older age group was higher for non-Indigenous mothers compared with Indigenous mothers (27.5 and 16.1 respectively), despite a lower overall fertility rate.

Maternal age

The mean age of Indigenous mothers was 24.8 years, which was almost five years younger than the mean age of 29.7 years for non-Indigenous mothers. This difference was due to the age profile of mothers. Fifty-four percent of Indigenous mothers were aged less than 25 years, whereas just over half of non-Indigenous mothers were 30 years or older (52%). A fifth (22%) of Indigenous mothers were less than 20 years of age at the time of giving birth, seven times higher than the 3% of non-Indigenous mothers. A more marked difference was seen among mothers aged less than 18 years

with 9% of all Indigenous mothers being in this age group, compared with only 1% of non-Indigenous mothers. In contrast, non-Indigenous mothers were two and half times more likely to be in the oldest age group (35 years and over) than Indigenous mothers (20% and 8% respectively). This pattern of markedly earlier childbearing among Indigenous mothers was seen in all health districts and in both urban and rural-remote areas.

Indigenous mothers in Barkly and Alice Rural districts were more likely to have their children below age 20 (30% and 28% respectively) compared with Indigenous mothers in other health districts where the proportion of young mothers (less than 20 years) was between 17% and 24%. Across the NT the proportion of young Indigenous mothers was lower in urban areas (18%) than in rural-remote areas (25%).

Parity

Among those women with parity recorded, the majority had given birth at least once before. Nearly half (47%) had one or two previous births and 13% had three or more previous births. Forty percent of women gave birth to their first child. First-time mothers were proportionally higher among non-Indigenous mothers (44%) than Indigenous mothers (34%). Similarly, proportionally more Indigenous women than non-Indigenous had three or more previous births (23.5% and 7% 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 (20.3 and 28.1 years respectively). The majority of non-Indigenous first-time mothers were aged 25 years or older (73%), whereas just over half (54%) of first-time Indigenous mothers were less than 20 years of age, with half of these mothers aged below 18 years of age (26%).

Antenatal care

The vast majority of mothers had information on antenatal visits recorded. In just under 2% 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.⁸ Among mothers for whom information was collected, Indigenous mothers in the NT were more likely to have insufficient antenatal care documented (no antenatal visit or attended less than four visits) compared with non-Indigenous mothers (12% and 3% respectively). Indigenous mothers living in urban areas were slightly more likely to have insufficient antenatal care compared with their counterparts in rural and remote areas (14% and 10% respectively).

It is important for maternal and fetal health for women to have their first antenatal visit within the first trimester of pregnancy.⁸ In this report, first trimester is defined as gestational age less than fourteen weeks from conception. This definition is consistent with the National Indigenous Reform Agreement definition endorsed onto Australia's online repository for metadata standards (METeOR) in June 2013⁹ and differs from NT perinatal reports published prior to 2013. In these reports, first trimester was defined as less than thirteen weeks.

In this report gestational age at the first antenatal visit was derived from three sources to determine the lowest valid gestational age. These sources were 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.

Compared with non-Indigenous mothers, Indigenous mothers were more likely to attend their first antenatal visit later in the pregnancy. Among those mothers who had a record of the time of their first visit, 85% of non-Indigenous mothers attended their first

visit during the first trimester of pregnancy. This proportion was much less for Indigenous mothers (55%). The proportion of Indigenous women attending a first antenatal visit in the first trimester was higher in urban areas than in rural-remote (62% and 50% respectively). Among non-Indigenous women, the proportion attending an antenatal visit in the first trimester was slightly higher in urban areas compared with remote (85% and 77.5% respectively).

Alcohol consumption during pregnancy

Self-reported alcohol consumption during pregnancy is collected at the first antenatal visit and again at around 36 weeks gestation. Although the collection of this indicator has improved in recent years the proportion of missing data remains sizeable. In this report 6% of alcohol consumption data were missing at the first visit and 17% at 36 weeks. Missing data for alcohol consumption was more prevalent among the antenatal records of Indigenous mothers than non-Indigenous mothers. The prevalence of alcohol consumption reported below was calculated after removing missing data.

At first antenatal visit, 5% of all NT mothers reported drinking alcohol during pregnancy. The prevalence of alcohol consumption was higher in Indigenous mothers (11% at the first visit and 7% at 36 weeks gestation) than non-Indigenous mothers (3% and 1%, respectively).

Smoking status during pregnancy

Smoking status during pregnancy is self-reported as having smoked during the first 20 weeks gestation and after 20 weeks gestation. These variables were introduced into the NT Midwives' Collection to ensure consistency with the method of collecting smoking information in the National Minimum Dataset. Using this method, the proportion of data with missing smoking status was 2% for the first 20 weeks of gestation and 11% for post 20 weeks gestation. Similar to alcohol consumption, the missing data for smoking status was more prevalent among the antenatal records of Indigenous mothers than non-Indigenous mothers. The prevalence of smoking during pregnancy reported below was calculated after removing records with missing data.

Twenty four percent of NT mothers reported smoking during the first 20 weeks of pregnancy, a rate much higher than alcohol consumption. Indigenous mothers were four times more likely than non-Indigenous mothers to report smoking during the first 20 weeks (50% and 11% respectively). By post 20 weeks gestation, smoking prevalence dropped slightly for all mothers, although Indigenous mothers were still five times more likely to report smoking compared with non-Indigenous mothers (46% and 8% respectively). Smoking prevalence during the first 20 weeks of pregnancy was similar in both rural-remote and urban areas

For Indigenous mothers, smoking prevalence during the first 20 weeks was similar in urban and rural-remote areas (47% and 51% respectively). The rates of smoking were also comparable between non-Indigenous mothers living in a rural-remote area and those living in an urban area (12% and 11% respectively)

Among Indigenous mothers, those mothers living in Alice Springs Rural district had notably lower smoking rates than other districts (although smoking levels were still high, with one quarter of mothers smoking during the first 20 weeks). This pattern of lower smoking in Alice Springs Rural is consistent with data from previous years and may be related to the local practice of chewing tobacco (pituri) in the region.¹⁰ In contrast to this, smoking rates were higher in the coastal regions, such as East Arnhem, where smoking has been a part of traditional practices for hundreds of years.¹¹

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. Four percent of Indigenous mothers and less than 2% of non-Indigenous mothers had an unplanned non-hospital birth. Unplanned non-hospital births include births that occurred in either health centres, in transit to hospitals or in unintended locations, including unplanned births in the home. Health centres were the most common place for non-hospital births for Indigenous mothers. Darwin Rural and East Arnhem health districts had the largest proportion (8.2%) of non-hospital births, most of which occurred in health centres.

Onset of labour and induction of labour

Spontaneous onset of labour occurred for 61% of all mothers; a quarter of mothers (23%) had induced labour and 16% had no labour. Non-Indigenous mothers were less likely to have spontaneous onset of labour than Indigenous mothers (59% and 64% respectively) and slightly more likely to have induction to initiate the labour or have no labour.

Presentation and method of birth

Of all NT mothers giving birth in 2012, 61% had a spontaneous vaginal delivery (SVD). Indigenous mothers were more likely to have a SVD than non-Indigenous mothers (66% and 58% respectively). Almost a third (30%) of births were performed by caesarean section. Non-Indigenous mothers were more likely to have a caesarean section than Indigenous mothers (32% and 28% respectively). Among all hospitals in the NT, DPH had the highest proportion of caesarean section births (43%) and the lowest proportion of spontaneous vaginal births (44%).

Instrumental deliveries using forceps or ventouse (vacuum suction) in childbirth accounted for 8.5% of births and were more common among non-Indigenous mothers (10%) than Indigenous mothers (6%). Vaginal breech accounted for less than 1% of all births.

The majority of presentations were vertex (96%) while breech accounted for 3% 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 mothers who had a caesarean section, Indigenous mothers were much more likely to undergo the procedure for emergency reasons (64%) compared with non-Indigenous mothers (48%). The primary reason for elective caesarean section births was previous caesarean section (67%). The main reasons for emergency caesarean section included: failure to progress during labour (47%), fetal distress (non-reassuring fetal status) (38%) and malpresentation (11%). Indigenous mothers were only slightly more likely to have an emergency caesarean section because of fetal distress than non-Indigenous mothers (39% and 37% respectively), whereas failure to progress was a more common indicator for emergency caesareans among non-Indigenous mothers compared with Indigenous mothers (49% and 45% respectively).

Analgesia and anaesthesia for childbirth

The majority of mothers who had spontaneous or induced onset of labour used some form of analgesia (80%). Analgesia use was slightly higher among non-Indigenous mothers than Indigenous mothers (81% and 78% respectively). Non-Indigenous mothers were more likely to have an epidural as an analgesic than Indigenous mothers (22% and 14% respectively).

Anaesthesia was applied in the vast majority of operative births, including births using forceps or ventouse or via caesarean section. General anaesthesia was administered for 8% of Indigenous women having operative births and 6% of non-Indigenous women.

Complications due to pregnancy and/or childbirth

This report presents information on a selection of pregnancy and/or childbirth complications. Half of all NT mothers (50%) experienced one of these complications. Indigenous mothers were more likely to have a complication than non-Indigenous mothers (56% and 47% respectively). Meconium stained liquor was the most common complication for Indigenous mothers (15%) and fetal distress for non-Indigenous mothers (13%). Indigenous mothers had higher rates of gestational diabetes mellitus and pre-existing diabetes mellitus (11% and 4% respectively) compared with non-Indigenous mothers (9.5% and less than 1% respectively). Post-partum haemorrhage and pre-eclampsia was higher among Indigenous mothers (15% and 4% respectively) compared with non-Indigenous mothers (9% and 2% respectively).

Perineal status

Thirty-two percent of all mothers who gave birth vaginally had an intact perineum after childbirth, while 68% had some degree of perineal laceration. A small proportion (3%) had a third or fourth degree tear. Episiotomy was performed on 13% of women. Indigenous mothers were more likely than non-Indigenous mothers to have an intact perineum (40% and 29% 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 (93%). Most stays were for less than one week and only 4% of women stayed for eight or more days. The average length of stay was 3.3 days.

Indigenous mothers were more likely than non-Indigenous mothers to have a hospital stay and more likely to stay for eight or more days. The overall average length of stay for all birth methods was longer among Indigenous mothers compared with non-Indigenous mothers (3.7 days and 3.1 days respectively).

Babies

Birth status

In 2012, a total of 4,039 babies were born in the NT. Of these, 86 were born to mothers who were not NT residents. Of the 3,953 babies born to NT mothers, 24 were fetal deaths and 3,929 were live births. The proportion of Indigenous fetal deaths (0.9%) was more than twice that of non-Indigenous fetal deaths (0.4%). Almost half of the fetal deaths (46%) had an extremely low birthweight of less than 1000 grams. Similarly, more than a third (38%) of these fetal deaths were very preterm, being born before 28 weeks gestation.

Plurality

There were 47 twin births in 2012 and no other multiple births. Multiple births were similar among Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers (2.2% and 2.5% respectively).

Preterm and low birthweight live born babies

Altogether there were 365 (9%) preterm live births (gestational age less than 37 weeks). Proportionally there were twice as many preterm babies born to Indigenous mothers (15%) than to non-Indigenous mothers (6%). Sixteen of the 22 babies in the very preterm category (less than 28 weeks gestation) were born to Indigenous mothers.

Of all live born babies, 8% were low birthweight (less than 2500 grams). Babies of Indigenous mothers (14%) were more than twice as likely to have a low birthweight than babies of non-Indigenous mothers (5%). The difference was also seen in very low birthweight babies (less than 1500 grams), with 2.4% of babies born to Indigenous mothers in this category compared with less than 1% of babies born to non-Indigenous mothers. In most districts, Indigenous mothers were more likely to have low birthweight or preterm babies than non-Indigenous mothers.

Among full term (37 weeks and over) singleton live born babies, 5% of those born to Indigenous mothers were of low birthweight compared with under 2% born to non-Indigenous mothers. For those born preterm (28-36 weeks gestation) the proportion of babies at least 2500 grams in weight was slightly lower for Indigenous mothers than non-Indigenous mothers (45% and 50% respectively).

Apgar scores

An Apgar score is a clinical indicator of the condition of the baby at 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.¹ By five minutes after birth 2% of all NT live born babies had an Apgar score below seven, and for Indigenous and non-Indigenous babies the proportions were 3.6% and 1.4% respectively.

Resuscitation of live born babies

Twenty-one percent of babies born alive received some form of resuscitation, excluding tactile stimulation. Resuscitation rates were higher among Indigenous compared with non-Indigenous live born babies (25% and 19% respectively). The most common methods of resuscitation were intermittent positive pressure ventilation (IPPV) (8%), facial oxygen only (6%) and suction only (5%). Methods such as intubation or external cardiac massage and ventilation (1%) were uncommon.

Perinatal mortality

Perinatal mortality includes fetal deaths (stillbirths) and neonatal deaths. Neonatal mortality refers to a death of a live born baby within 28 days of birth. In 2012 there were 33 perinatal deaths in the NT, comprising 23 fetal deaths and 10 neonatal deaths. The rate of fetal deaths was higher for Indigenous mothers than non-Indigenous mothers, at 8.8 and 4.3 deaths per 1000 births respectively. For the 10 neonatal deaths, 7 were Indigenous and 3 non-Indigenous. The overall Indigenous perinatal death rate was over two times that of the non-Indigenous rate (13.9 and 5.4 deaths per 1000 births respectively).

Perinatal death rates throughout the NT were much lower in 2012 than those seen in previous years. However these rates do not include the perinatal deaths of those babies born outside the NT, and due to the small numbers involved, are likely influenced by random fluctuation.

Statistical tables

Mothers

Table 1. Total births in the NT, by Indigenous status and district of usual residence, 2012

District	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Mothers	Babies	Mothers	Babies	Mothers	Babies
Darwin Urban	243	250	1881	1908	2126	2160
Darwin Rural	267	269	55	56	322	325
Katherine	253	255	181	182	434	437
East Arnhem	173	174	87	87	260	261
Barkly	80	80	19	19	99	99
Alice Springs Urban	132	134	305	308	437	442
Alice Springs Rural	200	201	28	28	228	229
NT total	1348	1363	2556	2588	3906	3953
Non NT	59	59	27	27	86	86
Total	1407	1422	2583	2615	3992	4039

Note: The Indigenous status of two mothers was unknown. These mothers and their babies were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 2. Summary statistics, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012

		Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
ALL	Total	1348		2556		3906	
MOTHERS	Maternal age						
	<20	301	22.3	79	3.1	380	9.7
	20-34	940	69.7	1969	77.0	2910	74.5
	35+	107	7.9	508	19.9	616	15.8
	Place of birth						
	Hospital	1292	95.8	2513	98.3	3807	97.5
	Non-hospital	56	4.2	43	1.7	99	2.5
	Type of labour onset						
	Spontaneous	866	64.2	1501	58.7	2367	60.6
	Induced	302	22.4	613	24.0	916	23.5
	No labour	180	13.4	442	17.3	623	15.9
	Method of birth						
	Spontaneous vaginal	885	65.7	1480	57.9	2366	60.6
	Vaginal breech	6	0.4	12	0.5	18	0.5
	Forceps	18	1.3	95	3.7	113	2.9
	Ventouse	61	4.5	159	6.2	220	5.6
	Caesarean section	378	28.0	810	31.7	1189	30.4
FIRST-TIME	Total	454		1121		1576	
MOTHERS	Maternal age						
	<20	246	54.2	70	6.2	316	20.1
	20-34	202	44.5	911	81.3	1113	70.6
	35+	6	1.3	140	12.5	147	9.3
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE		2.20		2.00		2.10	

Notes:

(1) The Indigenous status of two mothers was unknown. These mothers were only included in the count of All NT.

(2) Total fertility rate is the average number of births per woman over her life time if she experienced the age-specific rates seen in 2012.

Table 3. Area of usual residence, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012

Area	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Urban area	510	37.8	2426	94.9	2938	75.2
Rural/remote area	838	62.2	130	5.1	968	24.8
Total	1348	100.0	2556	100.0	3906	100.0

Notes:

(1) 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.

(2) The Indigenous status of two mothers was unknown. These mothers were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 4. District and area of usual residence, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012

District	Area	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Darwin Urban		243	18.0	1881	73.6	2126	54.4
Darwin Rural		267	19.8	55	2.2	322	8.2
Katherine	Urban	81	6.0	156	6.1	237	6.1
	Rural/remote	172	12.8	25	1.0	197	5.0
East Arnhem	Urban	9	0.7	67	2.6	76	1.9
	Rural/remote	164	12.2	20	0.8	184	4.7
Barkly	Urban	45	3.3	17	0.7	62	1.6
	Rural/remote	35	2.6	2	0.1	37	0.9
Alice Springs Urban		132	9.8	305	11.9	437	11.2
Alice Springs Rural		200	14.8	28	1.1	228	5.8
Total		1348	100.0	2556	100.0	3906	100.0

Note: The Indigenous status of two mothers was unknown. These mothers were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 5. Total fertility rate, by Indigenous status and district of usual residence, NT mothers, 2012

District	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	All NT
Darwin Urban	2.1	2.0	2.0
Darwin Rural	2.3	2.3	2.4
Katherine	2.7	2.7	2.8
East Arnhem	1.7	2.0	1.9
Barkly	1.9	1.1	1.8
Alice Springs Urban	2.6	1.7	2.0
Alice Springs Rural	2.2	1.2	2.0
Total	2.2	2.0	2.1

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 2012.

Table 6. Total fertility rate, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2012

Remoteness	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	All NT
Urban area	2.4	2.0	2.1
Rural/remote area	2.1	1.8	2.1
Total	2.2	2.0	2.1

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 2012.

(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, 2012

Indigenous status	Age specific fertility rate (births per 1000)			Total fertility rate
	<20 years	20-34 years	35+ years	
Indigenous	91.1	102.9	16.1	2.2
Non-Indigenous	18.6	99.4	27.5	2.0
All NT	50.7	100.6	24.5	2.1

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, 2012

Maternal age (years)	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<16	39	2.9	3	0.1	42	1.1
16-17	89	6.6	23	0.9	112	2.9
18-19	173	12.8	53	2.1	226	5.8
20-24	424	31.5	400	15.6	824	21.1
25-29	317	23.5	743	29.1	1060	27.1
30-34	199	14.8	826	32.3	1026	26.3
35-39	85	6.3	404	15.8	490	12.5
40-44	21	1.6	100	3.9	121	3.1
45+	1	0.1	4	0.2	5	0.1
Total	1348	100.0	2556	100.0	3906	100.0
Mean age (years)	24.8		29.7		28.0	

Note: The Indigenous status of two mothers was unknown. These mothers were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 9. Maternal age, by Indigenous status and district of usual residence, NT mothers, 2012

District	Maternal age (years)			Total
	<20	20-34	35+	Number
	%	%	%	
Indigenous				
Darwin Urban	16.9	72.0	11.1	243
Darwin Rural	20.6	73.8	5.6	267
Katherine	24.1	69.2	6.7	253
East Arnhem	23.7	65.9	10.4	173
Barkly	30.0	60.0	10.0	80
Alice Springs Urban	17.4	72.0	10.6	132
Alice Springs Rural	28.0	68.0	4.0	200
Total	22.3	69.7	7.9	1348
Non-Indigenous				
Darwin Urban	2.9	76.7	20.5	1881
Darwin Rural	1.8	78.2	20.0	55
Katherine	7.2	77.9	14.9	181
East Arnhem	0.0	75.9	24.1	87
Barkly	0.0	94.7	5.3	19
Alice Springs Urban	3.3	77.4	19.3	305
Alice Springs Rural	3.6	82.1	14.3	28
Total	3.1	77.0	19.9	2556
All NT	9.8	74.5	15.7	3906

Note: The Indigenous status of two mothers was unknown. These mothers were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 10. Maternal age, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2012

Area	Maternal age (years)			Total
	<20	20-34	35+	Number
	%	%	%	
Indigenous				
Urban area	18.2	71.2	10.6	510
Rural/remote area	24.8	68.9	6.3	838
Total	22.3	69.7	7.9	1348
Non-Indigenous				
Urban area	3.1	76.9	20.1	2426
Rural/remote area	3.8	80.0	16.2	130
Total	3.1	77.0	19.9	2556

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, 2012

Parity	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0	454	33.7	1121	43.9	1576	40.3
1-2	577	42.8	1246	48.7	1824	46.7
3+	317	23.5	189	7.4	506	13.0
Total	1348	100.0	2556	100.0	3906	100.0

Notes:

(1) Parity is the number of previous births a woman has had of at least 20 weeks duration.

(2) The Indigenous status of two mothers was unknown. These mothers were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 12. Maternal age, by Indigenous status, NT first-time mothers, 2012

Maternal age (years)	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<16	39	8.6	3	0.3	42	2.7
16-17	81	17.8	23	2.1	104	6.6
18-19	126	27.8	44	3.9	170	10.8
20-24	140	30.8	235	21.0	375	23.8
25-29	45	9.9	355	31.7	400	25.4
30-34	17	3.7	321	28.6	338	21.4
35+	6	1.3	140	12.5	147	9.3
Total	454	100.0	1121	100.0	1576	100.0
Mean age (years)	20.3		28.1		25.9	

Note: The Indigenous status of one first-time mother was unknown. This mother was only included in the count of All NT.

Table 13. Antenatal visits, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012

Number of antenatal visits	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0	19	1.4	3	0.1	22	0.6
1 - 3	137	10.4	65	2.6	203	5.2
4 - 7	409	30.9	463	18.2	873	22.6
8 & more	757	57.3	2014	79.1	2771	71.6
Total stated	1322	100.0	2545	100.0	3869	100.0
Not stated	26		11		37	
Total	1348		2556		3906	

Note: The Indigenous status of two mothers was unknown. These mothers were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 14. Antenatal visits, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers, 2012

District	Number of antenatal visits				Total stated Number	Not stated Number	Total Number
	0	1 - 3	4 - 7	8+			
	%	%	%	%			
Darwin Urban	2.2	9.9	35.8	52.2	232	11	243
Darwin Rural	0.8	5.7	20.4	73.2	265	2	267
Katherine	0.8	10.1	29.0	60.1	248	5	253
East Arnhem	0.6	4.7	31.0	63.7	171	2	173
Barkly	5.1	19.0	31.6	44.3	79	1	80
Alice Springs Urban	1.5	14.6	31.5	52.3	130	2	132
Alice Springs Rural	1.5	16.2	41.1	41.1	197	3	200
Total	1.4	10.4	30.9	57.3	1322	26	1348

Table 15. Antenatal visits, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2012

Area	Number of antenatal visits				Total Number	Not stated Number	Total Number
	0	1 - 3	4 - 7	8+			
	%	%	%	%			
Indigenous							
Urban area	2.2	11.9	33.3	52.5	495	15	510
Rural/remote area	1.0	9.4	29.5	60.1	827	11	838
Total	1.4	10.4	30.9	57.3	1322	26	1348
Non-Indigenous							
Urban area	0.1	2.5	18.2	79.2	2416	10	2426
Rural/remote area	0.0	3.1	18.6	78.3	129	1	130
Total	0.1	2.6	18.2	79.1	2545	11	2556

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, 2012

Gestation at first antenatal visit	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
First trimester	721	54.8	2147	84.6	2870	74.4
Second trimester	472	35.9	359	14.1	831	21.6
Third trimester	122	9.3	32	1.3	154	4.0
Total stated	1315	100.0	2538	100.0	3855	100.0
Not stated	33		18		51	
Total	1348		2556		3906	

Notes:

- (1) First trimester is less than 14 weeks gestation; second trimester is 14-26 weeks gestation; third trimester is 27 weeks or more gestation.
 (2) The Indigenous status of two mothers was unknown. These mothers were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 17. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers with at least one visit, 2012

District	Gestation at first antenatal visit			Total stated	Not stated	Total
	First trimester	Second trimester	Third trimester			
	%	%	%	Number	Number	Number
Darwin Urban	62.7	33.0	4.3	233	10	243
Darwin Rural	51.7	39.2	9.1	263	4	267
Katherine	58.2	33.7	8.0	249	4	253
East Arnhem	51.8	43.5	4.8	168	5	173
Barkly	44.7	32.9	22.4	76	4	80
Alice Springs Urban	63.8	26.2	10.0	130	2	132
Alice Springs Rural	45.9	38.8	15.3	196	4	200
Total	54.8	35.9	9.3	1315	33	1348

Note: First trimester is less than 14 weeks gestation; second trimester is 14-26 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, 2012

Area	Gestation at first antenatal visit			Total stated	Not stated	Total
	First trimester	Second trimester	Third trimester			
	%	%	%	Number	Number	Number
Indigenous						
Urban area	62.2	30.3	7.5	492	18	510
Rural/remote area	50.4	39.2	10.3	823	15	838
Total	54.8	35.9	9.3	1315	33	1348
Non-Indigenous						
Urban area	85.0	13.8	1.2	2409	17	2426
Rural/remote area	77.5	20.2	2.3	129	1	130
Total	84.6	14.1	1.3	2538	18	2556

Notes:

- (1) First trimester is less than 14 weeks gestation; second trimester is 14-26 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, 2012

	Alcohol consumption	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
At first visit	Alcohol	128	10.6	73	2.9	201	5.4
	No alcohol	1084	89.4	2403	97.1	3489	94.6
	Total stated	1212	100.0	2476	100.0	3690	100.0
	Not stated	136		80		216	
	Total	1348		2556		3906	
At 36 Weeks	Alcohol	69	6.7	22	1.0	91	2.8
	No alcohol	960	93.3	2170	99.0	3132	97.2
	Total stated	1029	100.0	2192	100.0	3223	100.0
	Not stated	319		364		683	
	Total	1348		2556		3906	

Note: The Indigenous status of two mothers was unknown. These mothers were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 20. Self-reported smoking status, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012

	Smoking status	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
First 20 weeks	Smoking	646	49.8	270	10.6	916	23.9
	Non-smoking	650	50.2	2268	89.4	2920	76.1
	Total stated	1296	100.0	2538	100.0	3836	100.0
	Not stated	52		18		70	
	Total	1348		2556		3906	
After 20 weeks	Smoking	550	46.5	190	8.2	740	21.2
	Non-smoking	633	53.5	2118	91.8	2753	78.8
	Total stated	1183	100.0	2308	100.0	3493	100.0
	Not stated	165		248		413	
	Total	1348		2556		3906	

Note: The Indigenous status of two mothers was unknown. These mothers were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 21. Self-reported smoking status, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2012

Area	Smoking	Non-smoking	Total stated	Not stated	Total
	%	%	Number	Number	Number
Smoking during first 20 weeks					
Indigenous					
Urban area	47.4	52.6	494	16	510
Rural/remote area	51.4	48.6	802	36	838
Total	49.8	50.2	1296	52	1348
Non-Indigenous					
Urban area	10.5	89.5	2409	17	2426
Rural/remote area	12.4	87.6	129	1	130
Total	10.6	89.4	2538	18	2556
Smoking after 20 weeks					
Indigenous					
Urban area	43.9	56.1	440	70	510
Rural/remote area	48.0	52.0	743	95	838
Total	46.5	53.5	1183	165	1348
Non-Indigenous					
Urban area	8.2	91.8	2189	237	2426
Rural/remote area	9.2	90.8	119	11	130
Total	8.2	91.8	2308	248	2556

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, 2012

District	Smoking	Non-smoking	Total stated	Not stated	Total
	%	%	Number	Number	Number
Smoking during first 20 weeks					
Darwin Urban	44.5	55.5	236	7	243
Darwin Rural	58.9	41.1	258	9	267
Katherine	59.3	40.7	241	12	253
East Arnhem	62.3	37.7	162	11	173
Barkly	49.4	50.6	77	3	80
Alice Springs Urban	44.5	55.5	128	4	132
Alice Springs Rural	25.8	74.2	194	6	200
Total	49.8	50.2	1296	52	1348
Smoking after 20 weeks					
Darwin Urban	41.5	58.5	200	43	243
Darwin Rural	54.4	45.6	237	30	267
Katherine	55.4	44.6	231	22	253
East Arnhem	59.5	40.5	153	20	173
Barkly	45.9	54.1	74	6	80
Alice Springs Urban	37.9	62.1	116	16	132
Alice Springs Rural	23.8	76.2	172	28	200
Total	46.5	53.5	1183	165	1348

Table 23. Actual place of birth, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012

Actual place of birth	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
RDH	597	44.3	1184	46.3	1781	45.6
RDH Birth Centre	15	1.1	112	4.4	127	3.3
DPH	3	0.2	660	25.8	665	17.0
GDH	93	6.9	68	2.7	161	4.1
KH	182	13.5	156	6.1	338	8.7
TCH	6	0.4	1	0.0	7	0.2
ASH	396	29.4	332	13.0	728	18.6
Health centres	33	2.4	1	0.0	34	0.9
Planned homes	0	0.0	32	1.3	32	0.8
Others ^(a)	23	1.7	10	0.4	33	0.8
Total	1348	100.0	2556	100.0	3906	100.0

(a) Others include births that occurred in transit to hospitals and in unintended locations, including unplanned births in the home.

Notes:

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

(2) The Indigenous status of two mothers was unknown. These mothers were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 24. Actual place of birth, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers, 2012

District	Actual place of birth			Total
	Hospital	Health centres	Others ^(a)	
	%	%	%	Number
Darwin Urban	97.1	0.4	2.5	243
Darwin Rural	91.8	4.9	3.4	267
Katherine	97.2	2.0	0.8	253
East Arnhem	92.5	4.6	2.9	173
Barkly	100.0	0.0	0.0	80
Alice Springs Urban	100.0	0.0	0.0	132
Alice Springs Rural	96.5	3.0	0.5	200
Total	95.8	2.4	1.7	1348

(a) 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, 2012

Type of labour onset	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Spontaneous	866	64.2	1501	58.7	2367	60.6
Induced	302	22.4	613	24.0	916	23.5
No labour	180	13.4	442	17.3	623	15.9
Total	1348	100.0	2556	100.0	3906	100.0

Note: The Indigenous status of two mothers was unknown. These mothers were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 26. Method of induction, by Indigenous status, NT mothers with induced onset of labour, 2012

Method of induction	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
ARM	179	59.3	404	65.9	583	63.6
Oxytocics	233	77.2	456	74.4	689	75.2
Prostaglandins	147	48.7	264	43.1	411	44.9
Other methods	7	2.3	10	1.6	18	2.0
Not stated	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.1
Total	302		613		916	

Notes:

(1) Multiple methods may be applied to one mother.

(2) ARM stands for artificial rupture of membranes.

(3) The Indigenous status of one mother was unknown. This mother was only included in the count of All NT.

Table 27. Birth presentation, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012

Presentation at birth	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Vertex	1283	95.3	2444	95.8	3728	95.6
Breech	50	3.7	83	3.3	133	3.4
Face	3	0.2	5	0.2	8	0.2
Brow	1	0.1	2	0.1	3	0.1
Other	9	0.7	18	0.7	27	0.7
Total stated	1346	100.0	2552	100.0	3899	100.0
Not stated	2		4		7	
Total	1348		2556		3906	

Note: The Indigenous status of two mothers was unknown. These mothers were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 28. Method of birth, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012

Method of birth	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Spontaneous vaginal	885	65.7	1480	57.9	2366	60.6
Vaginal breech	6	0.4	12	0.5	18	0.5
Forceps	18	1.3	95	3.7	113	2.9
Ventouse	61	4.5	159	6.2	220	5.6
Caesarean - elective	137	10.2	418	16.4	556	14.2
Caesarean - emergency	241	17.9	392	15.3	633	16.2
Total	1348	100.0	2556	100.0	3906	100.0

Note: The Indigenous status of two mothers was unknown. These mothers were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 29. Method of birth, by type of labour onset, NT mothers, 2012

Type of labour onset	Method of birth				Total
	Spontaneous vaginal	Assisted vaginal	Caesarean-elective	Caesarean-emergency	Number
	%	%	%	%	
Spontaneous	75.3	10.6	1.9	12.2	2367
Induced	63.6	11.0	0.0	25.3	916
No labour	0.0	0.0	82.0	18.0	623
Total	60.6	9.0	14.2	16.2	3906

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

Table 30. Method of birth, by gestational age, NT mothers with breech presentation, 2012

Gestational age (weeks)	Method of birth						Total
	Vaginal Breech		Caesarean-elective		Caesarean-emergency		Number
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
<28	5	50.0	0	0.0	5	50.0	10
28-36	5	16.7	3	10.0	22	73.3	30
37+	7	7.5	58	62.4	28	30.1	93
Total	17	12.8	61	45.9	55	41.4	133

Table 31. Method of birth, by hospital, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2012

Hospital	Method of birth						Total
	Spontaneous vaginal	Vaginal breech	Forceps	Ventouse	Caesarean elective	Caesarean emergency	Number
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
RDH	60.3	0.3	3.2	6.4	11.4	18.3	1908
DPH	44.1	0.5	5.6	6.5	31.1	12.3	665
GDH	72.7	1.2	0.0	6.2	8.7	11.2	161
KH	69.5	0.6	0.6	3.0	10.1	16.3	338
TCH	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7
ASH	64.0	0.5	1.6	4.7	11.5	17.6	728
All hospitals	59.6	0.4	3.0	5.8	14.6	16.6	3807

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), and Alice Springs Hospital (ASH).

Table 32. Indications for caesarean section, by Indigenous status, NT mothers giving birth via caesarean section, 2012

Indications for caesarean section	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<i>Elective caesarean</i>						
Previous caesarean ^(a)	106	76.8	263	63.2	370	66.8
Malpresentation ^(a)	8	5.8	49	11.8	57	10.3
Other ^(b)	24	17.4	107	25.7	131	23.6
Total stated	138	100	416	100	554	100.0
Not stated	0		2		2	
Total	137		418		556	
<i>Emergency caesarean</i>						
Failure to progress ^(a)	108	44.8	191	48.8	299	47.3
Fetal distress ^(a)	95	39.4	145	37.1	240	38.0
Malpresentation ^(a)	36	14.9	34	8.7	70	11.1
Ante-partum haemorrhage ^(a)	2	0.8	20	5.1	22	3.5
Cord prolapse ^(a)	1	0.4	1	0.3	2	0.3
Other ^(c)	27	11.2	46	11.8	73	11.6
Total stated	241	100.0	391	100.0	632	100.0
Not stated	0		1		1	
Total	241		392		633	

(a) Multiple indications may be present in one mother.

(b) Previous caesarean and malpresentation are not included in the count of Other Indications for elective caesareans.

(c) Failure to progress, fetal distress, malpresentation, ante-partum haemorrhage and cord prolapse are not included in the count of "Other" indications for emergency caesareans.

Note: The Indigenous status of one mother who had an elective caesarean was unknown. This mother was only included in the count of All NT.

Table 33. Method of analgesia, by Indigenous status, NT mothers with spontaneous or induced onset of labour, 2012

Analgesia: highest rank of method used	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Nitrous oxide	420	37.2	659	32.0	1079	33.8
Narcotics	208	18.4	346	16.8	554	17.4
Epidural	158	13.99	456	22.14	614	19.25
Other	99	8.8	203	9.9	302	9.5
None	244	21.6	396	19.2	640	20.1
Total stated	1129	100.0	2060	100.0	3189	100.0
Not stated	0		0		0	
Total	1129		2060		3189	

Table 34. Method of anaesthesia, by Indigenous status, NT mothers having operative birth, 2012

Anaesthesia: highest rank of method used	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Local	35	7.7	61	5.8	96	6.3
Pudendal	6	1.3	12	1.1	18	1.2
Epidural/Caudal	78	17.1	205	19.4	283	18.7
Spinal	286	62.6	649	61.3	936	61.7
Spinal and Epidural	4	0.9	17	1.6	21	1.4
General	38	8.3	63	5.9	101	6.7
Other	0	0.0	7	0.7	7	0.5
None	10	2.2	45	4.2	55	3.6
Total stated	457	100.0	1059	100.0	1517	100.0
Not stated	0		5		5	
Total	457		1064		1522	

Notes:

- (1) Operative birth methods include forceps, ventouse and caesarean section.
 (2) The Indigenous status of one mother was unknown. This mother was only included in the count of All NT.

Table 35. Complications of pregnancy and/or childbirth, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012

Type of complication	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Pregnancy						
Gestational diabetes mellitus ^(a)	147	10.9	244	9.5	391	10.0
Pre-existing diabetes mellitus	56	4.2	13	0.5	69	1.8
Pre-eclampsia ^(a)	53	3.9	55	2.2	108	2.8
Labour/childbirth						
Cord prolapse ^(a)	1	0.1	1	0.0	2	0.1
Fetal distress	178	13.2	332	13.0	510	13.1
Manual removal of placenta ^(a)	40	3.0	31	1.2	71	1.8
Meconium stained liquor	205	15.2	316	12.4	521	13.3
Obstructed labour	84	6.2	164	6.4	248	6.3
Post-partum haemorrhage flag ^(b)	199	14.8	233	9.1	432	11.1
Post-partum haemorrhage ^{(a)(c)}	441	32.7	590	23.1	1031	26.4
Other	177	13.1	271	10.6	448	11.5
Any complication	850	63.1	1318	51.6	2168	55.5
Total births	1348		2556		3906	

(a) Indicates validated data items.

(b) Includes those cases flagged as having post-partum haemorrhage (PPH) by the midwives at time of data entry (DPH cases only)

(c) Includes cases recorded as having a blood loss volume of 500ml or more (may not have been flagged as PPH) (Public hospitals only)

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.
 (4) The Indigenous status of two mothers was unknown. These mothers were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 36. State of the perineum, by Indigenous status, NT mothers having vaginal birth, 2012

State of the perineum	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Intact	382	39.6	494	28.5	876	32.4
1st degree tear	284	29.5	439	25.3	723	26.8
2nd degree tear	177	18.4	487	28.1	664	24.6
3rd-4th degree tear	28	2.9	51	2.9	79	2.9
Episiotomy	83	8.6	225	13.0	308	11.4
Combined episiotomy & tear	10	1.0	40	2.3	50	1.9
Total stated	964	100.0	1736	100.0	2700	100.0
Not stated	6		10		17	
Total	970		1746		2717	

Notes:

(1) Vaginal birth methods include spontaneous vaginal, vaginal breech, forceps and ventouse.

(2) The Indigenous status of one mother was unknown. This mother was only included in the count of All NT.

Table 37. Length of postnatal hospital stay, by Indigenous status, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2012

Length of postnatal stay (days)	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0	44	3.4	205	8.2	250	6.6
1 - 3	732	56.7	1292	51.4	2024	53.2
4 - 7	421	32.6	972	38.7	1394	36.6
8 & more	95	7.4	44	1.8	139	3.7
Total	1292	100.0	2513	100.0	3807	100.0

Note: The Indigenous status of two mothers was unknown. These mothers were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 38. Average length of postnatal hospital stay, by Indigenous status and method of birth, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2012

Method of birth	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	All NT
	Average length (days) of postnatal stay		
Spontaneous vaginal	2.9	2.3	2.5
Assisted vaginal	3.7	3.3	3.4
Caesarean - elective	4.7	4.3	4.4
Caesarean - emergency	5.7	4.4	4.9
Total	3.7	3.1	3.3

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, 2012

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
BIRTHS TO NT RESIDENTS						
Birth status						
Live births	1351	99.1	2577	99.6	3929	99.4
Stillbirths	12	0.9	11	0.4	24	0.6
Baby's sex						
Males	692	50.8	1304	50.4	1998	50.5
Females	671	49.2	1284	49.6	1955	49.5
Plurality						
Singletons	1333	97.8	2524	97.5	3859	97.6
Multiples	30	2.2	64	2.5	94	2.4
Total	1363		2588		3953	
BIRTHS TO NON-NT RESIDENTS						
Birth status						
Live births	58	98.3	25	92.6	83	96.5
Stillbirths	1	1.7	2	7.4	3	3.5
Baby's sex						
Males	37	62.7	16	59.3	53	61.6
Females	22	37.3	11	40.7	33	38.4
Plurality						
Singletons	59	100.0	27	100.0	86	100.0
Total	59		27		86	
ALL BIRTHS						
Birth status						
Live births	1409	99.1	2602	99.5	4012	99.3
Stillbirths	13	0.9	13	0.5	27	0.7
Baby's sex						
Males	729	51.3	1320	50.5	2051	50.8
Females	693	48.7	1295	49.5	1988	49.2
Plurality						
Singletons	1392	97.9	2551	97.6	3945	97.7
Multiples	30	2.1	64	2.4	94	2.3
Total	1422		2615		4039	

Note: The Indigenous status of the mothers of two babies was unknown. These babies were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 40. Area of mother's usual residence, by maternal Indigenous status, NT babies, 2012

Area	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Urban area	519	38.1	2457	94.9	2978	75.3
Rural/remote area	844	61.9	131	5.1	975	24.7
Total	1363	100.0	2588	100.0	3953	100.0

Notes:

(1) 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.

(2) The Indigenous status of the mothers of two babies was unknown. These babies were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 41. District and area of mother's usual residence, by maternal Indigenous status, NT babies, 2012

District	Area	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Darwin Urban		250	18.3	1908	73.7	2160	54.6
Darwin Rural		269	19.7	56	2.2	325	8.2
Katherine	Urban	81	5.9	157	6.1	238	6.0
	Rural/remote	174	12.8	25	1.0	199	5.0
East Arnhem	Urban	9	0.7	67	2.6	76	1.9
	Rural/remote	165	12.1	20	0.8	185	4.7
Barkly	Urban	45	3.3	17	0.7	62	1.6
	Rural/remote	35	2.6	2	0.1	37	0.9
Alice Springs Urban		134	9.8	308	11.9	442	11.2
Alice Springs Rural		201	14.7	28	1.1	229	5.8
Total		1363	100.0	2588	100.0	3953	100.0

Notes:

(1) 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.

(2) The Indigenous status of the mothers of two babies was unknown. These babies were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 42. Gestational age, by maternal Indigenous status and birth status, NT babies, 2012

Gestational age (weeks)	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Stillbirths						
<28	3	25.0	5	45.5	9	37.5
28 - 36	4	33.3	1	9.1	5	20.8
37 - 41	5	41.7	5	45.5	10	41.7
42+	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	12	100.0	11	100.0	24	100.0
Live births						
<28	16	1.2	6	0.2	22	0.6
28 - 36	184	13.6	159	6.2	343	8.7
37 - 41	1147	84.9	2392	92.8	3540	90.1
42+	4	0.3	20	0.8	24	0.6
Total	1351	100.0	2577	100.0	3929	100.0
All births						
<28	19	1.4	11	0.4	31	0.8
28 - 36	188	13.8	160	6.2	348	8.8
37 - 41	1152	84.5	2397	92.6	3550	89.8
42+	4	0.3	20	0.8	24	0.6
Total	1363	100.0	2588	100.0	3953	100.0

Note: The Indigenous status of the mothers of two babies was unknown. These babies were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 43. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and birth status, NT babies, 2012

Birthweight (g)	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Stillbirths						
<1000	5	41.7	5	45.5	11	45.8
1000 - 1499	1	8.3	0	0.0	1	4.2
1500 - 2499	3	25.0	0	0.0	3	12.5
2500+	3	25.0	6	54.5	9	37.5
Total	12	100.0	11	100.0	24	100.0
Mean birthweight (g)	1731		1872		1740	
Livebirths						
<1000	16	1.2	7	0.3	23	0.6
1000 - 1499	17	1.3	10	0.4	27	0.7
1500 - 2499	151	11.2	121	4.7	272	6.9
2500+	1167	86.4	2439	94.6	3607	91.8
Total	1351	100.0	2577	100.0	3929	100.0
Mean birthweight (g)	3128		3397		3305	
All births						
<1000	21	1.5	12	0.5	34	0.9
1000 - 1499	18	1.3	10	0.4	28	0.7
1500 - 2499	154	11.3	121	4.7	275	7.0
2500+	1170	85.8	2445	94.5	3616	91.5
Total	1363	100.0	2588	100.0	3953	100.0
Mean birthweight (g)	3116		3391		3295	

Note: The Indigenous status of the mothers of two babies was unknown. These babies were only included in the count of All NT.

Table 44. Gestational age, by maternal Indigenous status and district of mother's usual residence, NT live births, 2012

District	Gestational age (weeks)			Total
	<37	37-41	42+	
	%	%	%	Number
Indigenous				
Darwin Urban	10.4	89.2	0.4	249
Darwin Rural	17.7	82.3	0.0	266
Katherine	17.6	82.0	0.4	255
East Arnhem	14.0	86.0	0.0	171
Barkly	13.8	83.8	2.5	80
Alice Springs Urban	17.2	82.8	0.0	134
Alice Springs Rural	12.2	87.8	0.0	196
Total	14.8	84.9	0.3	1351
Non-Indigenous				
Darwin Urban	6.9	92.2	0.9	1901
Darwin Rural	9.1	90.9	0.0	55
Katherine	6.6	93.4	0.0	182
East Arnhem	1.2	98.8	0.0	86
Barkly	0.0	100.0	0.0	19
Alice Springs Urban	4.6	94.8	0.7	306
Alice Springs Rural	3.6	92.9	3.6	28
Total	6.4	92.8	0.8	2577

Table 45. Gestational age, by maternal Indigenous status and area of mother's usual residence, NT live births, 2012

Area	Gestational age (weeks)			Total
	<37	37-41	42+	
	%	%	%	Number
Indigenous				
Urban area	12.9	86.5	0.6	518
Rural/remote area	16.0	83.9	0.1	833
Total	14.8	84.9	0.3	1351
Non-Indigenous				
Urban area	6.4	92.8	0.8	2447
Rural/remote area	6.2	93.1	0.8	130
Total	6.4	92.8	0.8	2577

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 live births, 2012

District	Birthweight (g)				Total Number	Mean birthweight (g)
	<1500 %	1500-2499 %	2500-3999 %	4000+ %		
Indigenous						
Darwin Urban	3.2	8.4	74.3	14.1	249	3285
Darwin Rural	3.0	13.9	79.3	3.8	266	3026
Katherine	2.7	11.4	82.0	3.9	255	3098
East Arnhem	3.5	13.5	78.4	4.7	171	2962
Barkly	1.3	6.3	88.8	3.8	80	3122
Alice Springs Urban	2.2	14.9	73.1	9.7	134	3170
Alice Springs Rural	0.0	8.2	84.2	7.7	196	3227
Total	2.4	11.2	79.4	7.0	1351	3128
Non-Indigenous						
Darwin Urban	0.7	4.9	82.1	12.4	1901	3392
Darwin Rural	3.6	5.5	78.2	12.7	55	3317
Katherine	0.5	3.3	81.3	14.8	182	3435
East Arnhem	0.0	2.3	80.2	17.4	86	3496
Barkly	0.0	10.5	68.4	21.1	19	3406
Alice Springs Urban	0.3	4.2	84.3	11.1	306	3390
Alice Springs Rural	0.0	7.1	78.6	14.3	28	3437
Total	0.7	4.7	82.0	12.7	2577	3397

Table 47. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and area of mother's usual residence, NT live births, 2012

Area	Birthweight (g)				Total Number	Mean birthweight (g)
	<1500 %	1500-2499 %	2500-3999 %	4000+ %		
Indigenous						
Urban area	2.5	10.8	76.4	10.2	518	3213
Rural/remote area	2.4	11.4	81.3	4.9	833	3076
Total	2.4	11.2	79.4	7.0	1351	3128
Non-Indigenous						
Urban area	0.6	4.7	82.1	12.6	2447	3399
Rural/remote area	1.5	5.4	79.2	13.8	130	3376
Total	0.7	4.7	82.0	12.7	2577	3397

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 live births, 2012

Gestational age (weeks)	Birthweight (g)				Total	Mean
	<1500 %	1500-2499 %	2500-3999 %	4000+ %	Number	birthweight (g)
Indigenous						
<28	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14	818
28 - 36	9.0	46.4	43.4	1.2	166	2354
37 - 41	0.0	5.1	86.8	8.1	1137	3290
42+	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	4	3648
Total	2.2	10.2	80.5	7.1	1321	3147
Non-Indigenous						
<28	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6	706
28 - 36	7.6	42.9	47.9	1.7	119	2515
37 - 41	0.0	1.6	85.0	13.3	2368	3470
42+	0.0	0.0	65.0	35.0	20	3743
Total	0.6	3.5	82.9	12.9	2513	3420

Table 49. Apgar scores at 5 minutes, by maternal Indigenous status, NT live births, 2012

Apgar score at 5 minutes	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0 - 3	13	1.0	7	0.3	20	0.5
4 - 6	35	2.6	29	1.1	64	1.6
7 - 10	1296	96.4	2541	98.6	3838	97.9
Total stated	1344	100.0	2577	100.0	3922	100.0
Not stated	7		0		7	
Total	1351		2577		3929	

Note: The Indigenous status of the mother of one baby was unknown. This baby was only included in the count of All NT.

Table 50. Methods of resuscitation, by maternal Indigenous status, NT live births, 2012

Resuscitation: highest rank of method used	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Suction	68	5.0	129	5.0	197	5.0
Oxygen therapy	96	7.1	138	5.4	234	6.0
IPPV	138	10.2	189	7.3	327	8.3
Endotracheal intubation	20	1.5	15	0.6	35	0.9
ECM & ventilation	9	0.7	4	0.2	13	0.3
Other	6	0.4	16	0.6	22	0.6
None	1013	75.0	2084	80.9	3097	78.9
Total stated	1350	100.0	2575	100.0	3925	100.0
Not stated	1		2		4	
Total of live births	1351		2577		3929	

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).
- (5) The Indigenous status of the mother of one baby was unknown. This baby was only included in the count of All NT.

Table 51. Numbers and rates of fetal deaths, neonatal deaths and perinatal deaths, by Indigenous status, NT babies, 2012

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All NT	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Stillbirths	12	8.8	11	4.3	24	6.1
Neonatal deaths	7	5.2	3	1.2	10	2.5
Perinatal deaths	19	13.9	14	5.4	34	8.6

Notes:

- (1) Rate of fetal deaths or perinatal deaths is the number of deaths per 1000 total births; rate of neonatal deaths is the number of deaths per 1000 live births.
- (2) Fetal deaths 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.
- (3) The Indigenous status of one mother of a stillborn baby was unknown. This mother was only included in the count of All NT.

Appendices

Appendix 1. Hospital profiles

The profile table of each hospital includes all births that occurred in that hospital in 2012, among mothers who were either NT residents or from interstate.

Royal Darwin Hospital

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
MOTHERS	621		1316		1937	
Maternal age						
<20 years	111	17.9	58	4.4	169	8.7
20-34 years	449	72.3	1045	79.4	1494	77.1
35+ years	61	9.8	213	16.2	274	14.1
Onset of labour						
Spontaneous onset	375	60.4	814	61.9	1189	61.4
Induced labour	141	22.7	320	24.3	461	23.8
No labour	105	16.9	182	13.8	287	14.8
Method of birth						
Spontaneous vaginal birth	383	61.7	784	59.6	1167	60.2
Vaginal breech birth	2	0.3	4	0.3	6	0.3
Forceps birth	11	1.8	51	3.9	62	3.2
Ventouse birth	39	6.3	85	6.5	124	6.4
Elective caesarean	74	11.9	145	11.0	219	11.3
Emergency caesarean	112	18.0	247	18.8	359	18.5
Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications						
Cord prolapse	1	0.2	1	0.1	2	0.1
Fetal distress	81	13.0	244	18.5	325	16.8
Diabetes in pregnancy	105	16.9	151	11.5	256	13.2
Manual removal of placenta	13	2.1	14	1.1	27	1.4
Meconium stained liquor	79	12.7	212	16.1	291	15.0
Obstructed labour	35	5.6	96	7.3	131	6.8
Post-partum haemorrhage ^(a)	198	31.9	381	29.0	579	29.9
Pre-eclampsia	25	4.0	42	3.2	67	3.5
Others	85	13.7	187	14.2	272	14.0
Any complication	370	59.6	732	55.6	1102	56.9
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH	435		924		1359	
Perineum status						
Intact	148	34.3	259	28.2	407	30.2
1st degree tear ^(b)	139	32.2	216	23.6	355	26.3
2nd degree tear	74	17.1	270	29.4	344	25.5
3rd-4th degree tear	9	2.1	36	3.9	45	3.3
Episiotomy	55	12.7	122	13.3	177	13.1
Combined episiotomy & tear	7	1.6	14	1.5	21	1.6
BABIES	633		1333		1966	
Stillbirths	6	0.9	9	0.7	15	0.8
LIVEBORN BABIES	627		1324		1951	
Gestational age						
<28 weeks	11	1.8	6	0.5	17	0.9
28-36 weeks	101	16.1	96	7.3	197	10.1
37+ weeks	515	82.1	1222	92.3	1737	89.0
Birthweight						
<1500g	24	3.8	14	1.1	38	1.9
1500-2499g	85	13.6	77	5.8	162	8.3
2500g+	518	82.6	1233	93.1	1751	89.7

(a) Includes all cases recorded as having a post-partum blood loss volume of 500ml or more.

(b) 1st degree tear includes those cases with a first degree tear as well as those with a perineal graze.

Notes:

(1) This table includes all births that occurred in RDH and the attached Birth Centre in 2012. An additional 44 births occurred before arrival and are reported in the Appendix 1 table for non-hospital births.

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

(3) Diabetes in pregnancy includes gestational diabetes mellitus and pre-existing diabetes mellitus.

Darwin Private Hospital

		All	
		Number	%
MOTHERS		668	
Maternal age			
	<20 years	0	0.0
	20-34 years	476	71.3
	35+ years	192	28.7
Onset of labour			
	Spontaneous onset	306	45.8
	Induced labour	165	24.7
	No labour	197	29.5
Method of birth			
	Spontaneous vaginal birth	295	44.2
	Vaginal breech birth	3	0.4
	Forceps birth	38	5.7
	Ventouse birth	43	6.4
	Elective caesarean	207	31.0
	Emergency caesarean	82	12.3
Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications			
	Cord prolapse	0	0.0
	Fetal distress	41	6.1
	Diabetes in pregnancy	55	8.2
	Manual removal of placenta	1	0.1
	Meconium stained liquor	20	3.0
	Obstructed labour	29	4.3
	Post-partum haemorrhage ^(a)	49	7.3
	Pre-eclampsia	2	0.3
	Others	28	4.2
	Any complication	199	29.8
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH		378	
Perineum status			
	Intact	115	30.4
	1st degree tear ^(b)	98	25.9
	2nd degree tear	71	18.8
	3rd-4th degree tear	3	0.8
	Episiotomy	69	18.3
	Combined episiotomy & tear	22	5.8
BABIES		680	
	Stillbirths	2	0.1
LIVEBORN BABIES		678	
Gestational age			
	<28 weeks	0	0.0
	28-36 weeks	47	6.9
	37+ weeks	631	93.1
Birthweight			
	<1500g	2	0.3
	1500-2499g	26	3.8
	2500g+	650	95.9

(a) Includes all flagged cases of post-partum haemorrhage

(b) 1st degree tear includes those cases with a first degree tear as well as those with a perineal graze.

Notes:

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

(2) There were 3 Indigenous mothers and the Indigenous status of 2 mothers was unknown. Separate data is not presented for these cases.

(3) Diabetes in pregnancy includes gestational diabetes mellitus and pre-existing diabetes mellitus.

Gove District Hospital

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
MOTHERS	93		69		162	
Maternal age						
<20 years	27	29.0	0	0.0	27	16.7
20-34 years	59	63.4	56	81.2	115	71.0
35+ years	7	7.5	13	18.8	20	12.3
Onset of labour						
Spontaneous onset	70	75.3	47	68.1	117	72.2
Induced labour	16	17.2	16	23.2	32	19.8
No labour	7	7.5	6	8.7	13	8.0
Method of birth						
Spontaneous vaginal birth	70	75.3	48	69.6	118	72.8
Vaginal breech birth	0	0.0	2	2.9	2	1.2
Forceps birth	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ventouse birth	5	5.4	5	7.2	10	6.2
Elective caesarean	7	7.5	7	10.1	14	8.6
Emergency caesarean	11	11.8	7	10.1	18	11.1
Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications						
Cord prolapse	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fetal distress	6	6.5	5	7.2	11	6.8
Diabetes in pregnancy	13	14.0	8	11.6	21	13.0
Manual removal of placenta	0	0.0	1	1.4	1	0.6
Meconium stained liquor	18	19.4	9	13.0	27	16.7
Obstructed labour	6	6.5	5	7.2	11	6.8
Post-partum haemorrhage ^(a)	31	33.3	23	33.3	54	33.3
Pre-eclampsia	1	1.1	0	0.0	1	0.6
Others	10	10.8	5	7.2	15	9.3
Any complication	47	50.5	35	50.7	82	50.6
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH	75		55		130	
Perineum status						
Intact	27	36.0	17	31.5	44	34.1
1st degree tear ^(b)	18	24.0	11	20.4	29	22.5
2nd degree tear	23	30.7	23	42.6	46	35.7
3rd-4th degree tear	3	4.0	1	1.9	4	3.1
Episiotomy	4	5.3	2	3.7	6	4.7
Combined episiotomy & tear	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
BABIES	93		69		162	
Stillbirths	1	1.1	1	1.4	2	1.2
LIVEBORN BABIES	92		68		160	
Gestational age						
<28 weeks	2	2.2	0	0.0	2	1.3
28-36 weeks	1	1.1	1	1.5	2	1.3
37+ weeks	89	96.7	67	98.5	156	97.5
Birthweight						
<1500g	2	2.2	0	0.0	2	1.3
1500-2499g	5	5.4	2	2.9	7	4.4
2500g+	85	92.4	66	97.1	151	94.4

(a) Includes cases recorded as having a post-partum blood loss volume of 500ml or more

(b) 1st degree tear includes those cases with a first degree tear as well as those with a perineal graze.

Notes:

(1) This table includes all births that occurred in GDH in 2012. An additional 9 births occurred before arrival at hospital and are reported in the Appendix 1 table for non-hospital births.

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

(3) Diabetes in pregnancy includes gestational diabetes mellitus and pre-existing diabetes mellitus.

Katherine Hospital

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
MOTHERS	183		156		339	
Maternal age						
<20 years	49	26.8	10	6.4	59	17.4
20-34 years	126	68.9	124	79.5	250	73.7
35+ years	8	4.4	22	14.1	30	8.8
Onset of labour						
Spontaneous onset	134	73.2	99	63.5	233	68.7
Induced labour	31	16.9	38	24.4	69	20.4
No labour	18	9.8	19	12.2	37	10.9
Method of birth						
Spontaneous vaginal birth	127	69.4	109	69.9	236	69.6
Vaginal breech birth	1	0.5	1	0.6	2	0.6
Forceps birth	0	0.0	2	1.3	2	0.6
Ventouse birth	3	1.6	7	4.5	10	2.9
Elective caesarean	15	8.2	19	12.2	34	10.0
Emergency caesarean	37	20.2	18	11.5	55	16.2
Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications						
Cord prolapse	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fetal distress	18	9.8	13	8.3	31	9.1
Diabetes in pregnancy	20	10.9	11	7.1	31	9.1
Manual removal of placenta	4	2.2	1	0.6	5	1.5
Meconium stained liquor	29	15.8	25	16.0	54	15.9
Obstructed labour	13	7.1	8	5.1	21	6.2
Post-partum haemorrhage ^(a)	67	36.6	45	28.8	112	33.0
Pre-eclampsia	4	2.2	1	0.6	5	1.5
Others	9	4.9	8	5.1	17	5.0
Any complication	98	53.6	63	40.4	161	47.5
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH	131		119		250	
Perineum status						
Intact	55	42.0	31	26.1	86	34.4
1st degree tear ^(b)	46	35.1	37	31.1	83	33.2
2nd degree tear	17	13.0	41	34.5	58	23.2
3rd-4th degree tear	5	3.8	2	1.7	7	2.8
Episiotomy	5	3.8	5	4.2	10	4.0
Combined episiotomy & tear	3	2.3	3	2.5	6	2.4
BABIES	183		156		339	
Stillbirths	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
LIVEBORN BABIES	183		156		339	
Gestational age						
<28 weeks	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
28-36 weeks	12	6.6	2	1.3	14	4.1
37+ weeks	171	93.4	154	98.7	325	95.9
Birthweight						
<1500g	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
1500-2499g	9	4.9	0	0.0	9	2.7
2500g+	174	95.1	156	100.0	330	97.3

(a) Includes cases recorded as having a post-partum blood loss volume of 500ml or more

(b) 1st degree tear includes those cases with a first degree tear as well as those with a perineal graze.

Notes:

(1) This table includes all births that occurred in KH in 2012. An additional 4 births occurred before arrival at hospital and are reported in the Appendix 1 table for non-hospital births.

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

(3) Diabetes in pregnancy includes gestational diabetes mellitus and pre-existing diabetes mellitus.

Alice Springs Hospital

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
MOTHERS	442		335		777	
Maternal age						
<20 years	105	23.8	10	3.0	115	14.8
20-34 years	302	68.3	264	78.8	566	72.8
35+ years	35	7.9	61	18.2	96	12.4
Onset of labour						
Spontaneous onset	261	59.0	204	60.9	465	59.8
Induced labour	125	28.3	88	26.3	213	27.4
No labour	56	12.7	43	12.8	99	12.7
Method of birth						
Spontaneous vaginal birth	283	64.0	218	65.1	501	64.5
Vaginal breech birth	2	0.5	2	0.6	4	0.5
Forceps birth	8	1.8	5	1.5	13	1.7
Ventouse birth	15	3.4	20	6.0	35	4.5
Elective caesarean	47	10.6	43	12.8	90	11.6
Emergency caesarean	87	19.7	47	14.0	134	17.2
Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications						
Cord prolapse	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fetal distress	80	18.1	33	9.9	113	14.5
Diabetes in pregnancy	73	16.5	33	9.9	106	13.6
Manual removal of placenta	14	3.2	5	1.5	19	2.4
Meconium stained liquor	83	18.8	46	13.7	129	16.6
Obstructed labour	34	7.7	27	8.1	61	7.9
Post-partum haemorrhage ^(a)	144	32.6	94	28.1	238	30.6
Pre-eclampsia	28	6.3	12	3.6	40	5.1
Others	64	14.5	46	13.7	110	14.2
Any complication	273	61.8	174	51.9	447	57.5
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH	308		245		553	
Perineum status						
Intact	130	42.3	62	25.5	192	34.9
1st degree tear ^(b)	76	24.8	66	27.2	142	25.8
2nd degree tear	68	22.1	78	32.1	146	26.5
3rd-4th degree tear	10	3.3	8	3.3	18	3.3
Episiotomy	23	7.5	28	11.5	51	9.3
Combined episiotomy & tear	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.2
BABIES	445		338		783	
Stillbirths	6	1.3	2	0.6	8	1.0
LIVEBORN BABIES	439		336		775	
Gestational age						
<28 weeks	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1
28-36 weeks	55	12.5	15	4.5	70	9.0
37+ weeks	383	87.2	321	95.5	704	90.8
Birthweight						
<1500g	4	0.9	1	0.3	5	0.6
1500-2499g	38	8.7	17	5.1	55	7.1
2500g+	397	90.4	318	94.6	715	92.3

(a) Includes cases recorded as having a post-partum blood loss volume of 500ml or more

(b) 1st degree tear includes those cases with a first degree tear as well as those with a perineal graze.

Notes:

(1) This table includes all births that occurred in ASH in 2012. An additional 12 births occurred before arrival at hospital and are reported in the Appendix 1 table for non-hospital births.

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

(3) Diabetes in pregnancy includes gestational diabetes mellitus and pre-existing diabetes mellitus.

Non-hospital

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
MOTHERS	59		43		102	
Maternal age						
<20 years	13	22.0	1	2.3	14	13.7
20-34 years	43	72.9	30	69.8	73	71.6
35+ years	3	5.1	12	27.9	15	14.7
Onset of labour						
Spontaneous onset	59	100.0	43	100.0	102	100.0
Induced labour	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
No labour	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Method of birth						
Spontaneous vaginal birth	58	98.3	43	100.0	101	99.0
Vaginal breech birth	1	1.7	0	0.0	1	1.0
Actual place of giving birth						
Health centres	34	57.6	1	2.3	35	34.3
Planned homes	0	0.0	32	74.4	32	31.4
Other	25	42.4	10	23.3	35	34.3
Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications						
Cord prolapse	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fetal distress	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Diabetes in pregnancy	3	5.1	3	7.0	6	5.9
Manual removal of placenta	2	3.4	0	0.0	2	2.0
Meconium stained liquor	1	1.7	4	9.3	5	4.9
Obstructed labour	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Post-partum haemorrhage ^(a)	11	18.6	4	9.3	15	14.7
Pre-eclampsia	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Others	17	28.8	3	7.0	20	19.6
Any complication	28	47.5	10	23.3	38	37.3
MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH	59		43		102	
Perineum status						
Intact	33	57.9	16	37.2	49	49.0
1st degree tear ^(b)	16	28.1	17	39.5	33	33.0
2nd degree tear	7	12.3	9	20.9	16	16.0
3rd-4th degree tear	1	1.8	1	2.3	2	2.0
Episiotomy	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Combined episiotomy & tear	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
BABIES	59		43		102	
Stillbirths	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
LIVEBORN BABIES	59		43		102	
Gestational age						
<28 weeks	2	3.4	0	0.0	2	2.0
28-36 weeks	23	39.0	0	0.0	23	22.5
37+ weeks	34	57.6	43	100.0	77	75.5
Birthweight						
<1500g	5	8.5	0	0.0	5	4.9
1500-2499g	18	30.5	1	2.3	19	18.6
2500g+	36	61.0	42	97.7	78	76.5

(a) Includes all flagged cases of post-partum haemorrhage

(b) 1st degree tear includes those cases with a first degree tear as well as those with a perineal graze.

Notes:

(1) This table comprises all births that occurred out of hospital in 2012, including planned home births, births in health centres and other locations such as in transit to hospital or unintended places.

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

(3) Diabetes in pregnancy includes gestational diabetes mellitus and pre-existing diabetes mellitus.

Appendix 2. Trends of perinatal indicators, by Indigenous status, NT, 1998–2012

The following trends tables summarise key indicators over time by Indigenous status. Numbers are provided in tables A.1, B.1 and C.1. Proportions are provided in tables A.2, B.2 and C.2.

Table A.1. Trends in numbers for selected measures, NT Indigenous mothers and babies, 1998-2012

		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	Total fertility rate	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2
								Number								
ALL MOTHERS	Total	1206	1261	1236	1430	1332	1334	1270	1320	1400	1412	1356	1425	1355	1349	1348
	Maternal age															
	<20	362	374	407	430	401	382	360	338	360	335	305	316	314	272	301
	20-34	780	819	772	929	851	875	822	905	950	974	944	990	932	972	940
	35+	62	68	57	71	80	77	88	77	90	103	107	119	109	105	107
	Place of birth															
	Hospital	1131	1187	1195	1364	1279	1264	1209	1249	1330	1350	1299	1370	1283	1297	1292
	Non-hospital	75	74	41	66	53	70	61	71	70	62	57	55	72	52	56
	Type of labour onset															
	Spontaneous	883	919	930	1041	976	940	926	948	972	975	950	1008	897	872	866
	Induced	166	193	202	240	208	243	194	212	275	264	233	251	270	300	302
	No labour	128	127	104	149	148	151	150	160	153	173	173	166	188	177	180
	Method of birth															
	Spontaneous vaginal	839	933	901	1028	951	918	868	905	959	962	939	970	903	864	885
	Vaginal breech	12	8	9	7	5	16	17	12	15	14	14	16	10	6	6
	Forceps	30	22	17	25	22	23	12	19	13	16	20	28	11	22	18
	Ventouse	19	25	40	53	28	42	53	49	56	41	39	49	68	57	61
	Caesarean section	280	252	269	317	326	335	320	335	357	379	344	362	363	400	378
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS	Total	392	425	438	470	412	416	373	406	419	407	402	432	439	418	454
	Maternal age															
	<20	250	267	317	298	262	261	245	245	255	245	229	230	242	218	246
	20-34	135	152	120	165	143	151	128	159	162	157	169	194	192	195	202
	35+	6	6	1	7	7	4	0	2	2	5	4	8	5	5	6
BABIES	Total	1215	1278	1245	1442	1348	1342	1277	1331	1416	1428	1367	1443	1376	1368	1363
	Stillbirths	17	25	14	14	15	19	13	18	23	22	16	28	17	16	12
LIVEBORN BABIES	Total	1198	1253	1231	1428	1333	1323	1264	1313	1393	1406	1351	1415	1359	1352	1351
	Plurality															
	Singleton	1197	1244	1227	1418	1316	1326	1263	1310	1384	1396	1345	1407	1334	1330	1333
	Multiple	18	34	18	24	32	16	14	21	32	32	22	36	42	38	30
	Birthweight (g)															
	<1500	23	24	23	25	25	31	34	37	42	39	26	36	38	37	33
	1500-2499	119	136	139	153	147	160	140	149	151	140	157	157	152	177	151
	2500+	1029	1071	1069	1250	1161	1132	1090	1127	1200	1227	1168	1222	1169	1138	1167
	Gestational age (weeks)															
	<28	15	13	14	11	13	19	18	22	13	14	14	12	15	21	16
	28-36	139	158	151	172	193	186	178	171	194	191	173	179	179	200	184
	37+	1011	1062	1066	1244	1126	1118	1068	1120	1186	1199	1164	1223	1165	1131	1151

Table A.2. Trends in proportions for selected measures, NT Indigenous mothers and babies, 1998-2012

		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
ALL MOTHERS	Maternal age	Percent															
		<20	30.1	29.7	32.9	30.1	30.1	28.6	28.3	25.6	25.7	23.7	22.5	22.2	23.2	20.2	22.3
		20-34	64.8	64.9	62.5	65.0	63.9	65.6	64.7	68.6	67.9	69.0	69.6	69.5	68.8	72.1	69.7
		35+	5.1	5.4	4.6	5.0	6.0	5.8	6.9	5.8	6.4	7.3	7.9	8.4	8.0	7.8	7.9
	Place of birth	Hospital	93.8	94.1	96.7	95.4	96.0	94.8	95.2	94.6	95.0	95.6	95.8	96.1	94.7	96.1	95.8
		Non-hospital	6.2	5.9	3.3	4.6	4.0	5.2	4.8	5.4	5.0	4.4	4.2	3.9	5.3	3.9	4.2
	Type of labour onset	Spontaneous	75.0	74.2	75.2	72.8	73.3	70.5	72.9	71.8	69.4	69.1	70.1	70.7	66.2	64.6	64.2
		Induced	14.1	15.6	16.3	16.8	15.6	18.2	15.3	16.1	19.6	18.7	17.2	17.6	19.9	22.2	22.4
		No labour	10.9	10.3	8.4	10.4	11.1	11.3	11.8	12.1	10.9	12.3	12.8	11.6	13.9	13.1	13.4
	Method of birth	Spontaneous vaginal	71.1	75.2	72.9	71.9	71.4	68.8	68.3	68.6	68.5	68.1	69.2	68.1	66.6	64.0	65.7
		Vaginal breech	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.4	1.2	1.3	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.4
		Forceps	2.5	1.8	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.9	1.4	0.9	1.1	1.5	2.0	0.8	1.6	1.3
		Ventouse	1.6	2.0	3.2	3.7	2.1	3.1	4.2	3.7	4.0	2.9	2.9	3.4	5.0	4.2	4.5
		Caesarean section	23.7	20.3	21.8	22.2	24.5	25.1	25.2	25.4	25.5	26.8	25.4	25.4	26.8	29.7	28.0
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS	Maternal age	<20	63.9	62.8	72.4	63.4	63.6	62.7	65.7	60.3	60.9	60.2	57.0	53.2	55.1	52.2	54.2
		20-34	34.5	35.8	27.4	35.1	34.7	36.3	34.3	39.2	38.7	38.6	42.0	44.9	43.7	46.7	44.5
		35+	1.5	1.4	0.2	1.5	1.7	1.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	1.2	1.0	1.9	1.1	1.2	1.3
BABIES																	
	Stillbirths	1.4	2.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.0	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.9	1.2	1.2	0.9	
LIVEBORN BABIES	Plurality	Singleton	98.5	97.3	98.6	98.3	97.6	98.8	98.9	98.4	97.7	97.8	98.4	97.5	96.9	97.2	97.8
		Multiple	1.5	2.7	1.4	1.7	2.4	1.2	1.1	1.6	2.3	2.2	1.6	2.5	3.1	2.8	2.2
	Birthweight (g)	<1500	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.3	2.7	2.8	3.0	2.8	1.9	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.4
		1500-2499	10.2	11.0	11.3	10.7	11.0	12.1	11.1	11.3	10.8	10.0	11.6	11.1	11.2	13.1	11.2
		2500+	87.9	87.0	86.8	87.5	87.1	85.6	86.2	85.8	86.1	87.3	86.5	86.4	86.0	84.2	86.4
	Gestational age (weeks)	<28	1.3	1.1	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.7	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.6	1.2
		28-36	11.9	12.8	12.3	12.1	14.5	14.1	14.1	13.0	13.9	13.6	12.8	12.7	13.2	14.8	13.6
		37+	86.8	86.1	86.6	87.2	84.5	84.5	84.5	85.3	85.1	85.4	86.2	86.5	85.7	83.7	85.2

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.1. Trends in numbers for selected measures, NT non-Indigenous mothers and babies, 1998-2012

		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total fertility rate		1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0
ALL MOTHERS	Total	2230	2219	2197	2212	2233	2195	Number 2065	2229	2187	2243	2373	2342	2375	2440	2556
	Maternal age															
	<20	109	128	118	121	119	123	96	121	109	91	94	81	76	74	79
	20-34	1783	1751	1728	1756	1726	1682	1578	1671	1633	1650	1800	1766	1779	1852	1969
	35+	338	340	351	335	388	390	391	437	444	502	479	495	520	514	508
	Place of birth															
	Hospital	2195	2186	2187	2180	2206	2165	2038	2213	2142	2195	2332	2290	2330	2385	2513
	Non-hospital	35	33	10	32	27	30	27	16	45	48	41	52	45	55	43
	Type of labour onset															
	Spontaneous	1441	1483	1445	1383	1379	1302	1224	1273	1278	1362	1471	1396	1424	1398	1501
	Induced	531	464	496	528	525	544	487	535	513	481	512	550	562	608	613
	No labour	253	259	256	301	329	349	354	421	396	400	390	396	389	434	442
	Method of birth															
	Spontaneous vaginal	1568	1566	1548	1476	1496	1335	1224	1306	1291	1325	1438	1393	1399	1379	1480
	Vaginal breech	15	10	6	15	3	10	9	12	13	14	9	8	10	7	12
	Forceps	133	114	98	98	83	48	48	55	48	55	82	81	87	96	95
	Ventouse	24	39	78	85	73	158	153	153	162	141	157	143	161	146	159
	Caesarean section	486	478	465	538	578	644	631	703	673	708	687	717	718	812	810
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS	Total	968	1041	924	999	943	943	858	1009	938	986	1076	1008	1049	1094	1121
	Maternal age															
	<20	98	104	97	100	104	103	80	106	98	75	78	67	68	67	70
	20-34	781	829	732	795	736	727	656	764	719	760	852	822	829	875	911
	35+	89	108	95	104	103	113	122	139	120	151	146	119	152	152	140
BABIES	Total	2261	2249	2228	2241	2261	2231	2094	2265	2223	2268	2399	2377	2407	2474	2588
	Stillbirths	10	22	16	12	14	20	9	23	17	9	10	14	14	11	11
LIVEBORN BABIES	Total	2251	2227	2212	2229	2247	2211	2085	2242	2206	2259	2389	2363	2393	2463	2577
	Plurality															
	Singleton	2199	2189	2166	2183	2205	2159	2036	2193	2151	2219	2347	2308	2343	2406	2524
	Multiple	62	60	62	58	56	72	58	72	72	49	52	69	64	68	64
	Birthweight (g)															
	<1500	23	31	16	23	20	15	23	25	19	19	20	15	27	28	17
	1500-2499	150	126	124	111	98	137	109	126	132	88	91	132	112	121	121
	2500+	2073	2059	2069	2095	2129	2059	1953	2089	2055	2152	2278	2216	2254	2314	2439
	Gestational age (weeks)															
	<28	11	14	5	9	9	4	8	6	6	6	7	7	11	10	6
	28-36	183	168	166	163	150	165	142	170	172	141	141	143	168	166	159
	37+	2051	2034	2041	2057	2087	2042	1935	2066	2028	2112	2241	2213	2214	2287	2412

Table B.2. Trends in proportions for selected measures, NT non-Indigenous mothers and babies, 1998-2012

		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
ALL MOTHERS	Maternal age	Percent															
		<20	4.9	5.8	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.6	4.6	5.4	5.0	4.1	4.0	3.5	3.2	3.0	3.1
		20-34	80.0	78.9	78.7	79.4	77.3	76.6	76.4	75.0	74.7	73.6	75.9	75.4	74.9	75.9	77.0
		35+	15.2	15.3	16.0	15.1	17.4	17.8	18.9	19.6	20.3	22.4	20.2	21.1	21.9	21.1	19.9
	Place of birth	Hospital	98.4	98.5	99.5	98.6	98.8	98.6	98.7	99.3	97.9	97.9	98.3	97.8	98.1	97.7	98.3
		Non-hospital	1.6	1.5	0.5	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.3	0.7	2.1	2.1	1.7	2.2	1.9	2.3	1.7
	Type of labour onset	Spontaneous	64.8	67.2	65.8	62.5	61.8	59.3	59.3	57.1	58.4	60.7	62.0	59.6	60.0	57.3	58.7
		Induced	23.9	21.0	22.6	23.9	23.5	24.8	23.6	24.0	23.5	21.4	21.6	23.5	23.7	24.9	24.0
		No labour	11.4	11.7	11.7	13.6	14.7	15.9	17.1	18.9	18.1	17.8	16.4	16.9	16.4	17.8	17.3
	Method of birth	Spontaneous vaginal	70.4	71.0	70.5	66.7	67.0	60.8	59.3	58.6	59.0	59.1	60.6	59.5	58.9	56.5	57.9
		Vaginal breech	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5
		Forceps	6.0	5.2	4.5	4.4	3.7	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.5	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.7
		Ventouse	1.1	1.8	3.6	3.8	3.3	7.2	7.4	6.9	7.4	6.3	6.6	6.1	6.8	6.0	6.2
		Caesarean section	21.8	21.7	21.2	24.3	25.9	29.3	30.6	31.5	30.8	31.6	29.0	30.6	30.2	33.3	31.7
		FIRST-TIME MOTHERS	Maternal age														
	<20		10.1	10.0	10.5	10.0	11.0	10.9	9.3	10.5	10.5	7.6	7.2	6.6	6.5	6.1	6.2
	20-34		80.7	79.6	79.2	79.6	78.0	77.1	76.5	75.7	76.7	77.1	79.2	81.5	79.0	80.0	81.3
35+	9.2		10.4	10.3	10.4	10.9	12.0	14.2	13.8	12.8	15.3	13.6	11.8	14.5	13.9	12.5	
BABIES																	
	Stillbirths	0.4	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.4	1.0	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	
LIVEBORN BABIES	Plurality	Singleton	97.3	97.3	97.2	97.4	97.5	96.8	97.2	96.8	96.8	97.8	97.8	97.1	97.3	97.3	97.5
		Multiple	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.5	3.2	2.8	3.2	3.2	2.2	2.2	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.5
	Birthweight (g)	<1500	1.0	1.4	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.7	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.1	1.1	0.7
		1500-2499	6.7	5.7	5.6	5.0	4.4	6.2	5.2	5.6	6.0	3.9	3.8	5.6	4.7	4.9	4.7
		2500+	92.3	92.9	93.7	94.0	94.7	93.1	93.7	93.3	93.2	95.3	95.4	93.8	94.2	94.0	94.6
	Gestational age (weeks)	<28	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.2
		28-36	8.2	7.6	7.5	7.3	6.7	7.5	6.8	7.6	7.8	6.2	5.9	6.1	7.0	6.7	6.2
		37+	91.4	91.8	92.3	92.3	92.9	92.4	92.8	92.1	91.9	93.5	93.8	93.7	92.5	92.9	93.6

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.1. Trends in numbers for selected measures, all NT mothers and babies, 1998-2012

		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total fertility rate		2.1	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.1
ALL MOTHERS	Total	3436	3480	3433	3642	3565	3529	3335	3549	3587	3655	3730	3771	3737	3792	3906
	Maternal age															
	<20	471	502	525	551	520	505	456	459	469	426	399	397	390	346	380
	20-34	2563	2570	2500	2685	2577	2557	2400	2576	2583	2624	2744	2759	2716	2827	2910
	35+	400	408	408	406	468	467	479	514	534	605	587	615	631	619	616
	Place of birth															
	Hospital	3326	3373	3382	3544	3485	3429	3247	3462	3472	3545	3632	3664	3619	3685	3807
	Non-hospital	110	107	51	98	80	100	88	87	115	110	98	107	118	107	99
	Type of labour onset															
	Spontaneous	2324	2402	2375	2424	2355	2242	2150	2221	2250	2337	2421	2404	2323	2270	2367
	Induced	697	657	698	768	733	787	681	747	788	745	745	803	834	910	916
	No labour	381	386	360	450	477	500	504	581	549	573	564	564	580	612	623
	Method of birth															
	Spontaneous vaginal	2407	2499	2449	2504	2447	2253	2092	2211	2250	2287	2377	2364	2305	2245	2366
	Vaginal breech	27	18	15	22	8	26	26	24	28	28	23	24	20	13	18
	Forceps	163	136	115	123	105	71	60	74	61	71	102	109	98	118	113
	Ventouse	43	64	118	138	101	200	206	202	218	182	196	193	229	203	220
	Caesarean section	766	730	734	855	904	979	951	1038	1030	1087	1032	1081	1085	1213	1189
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS	Total	1360	1466	1362	1469	1355	1359	1231	1415	1357	1393	1478	1442	1490	1512	1576
	Maternal age															
	<20	348	371	414	398	366	364	325	351	353	320	307	297	310	285	316
	20-34	916	981	852	960	879	878	784	923	881	917	1021	1018	1023	1070	1113
	35+	95	114	96	111	110	117	122	141	122	156	150	127	157	157	147
BABIES	Total	3476	3527	3473	3683	3609	3573	3371	3596	3639	3696	3767	3824	3790	3845	3953
	Stillborn	27	47	30	26	29	39	22	41	40	31	26	42	31	27	24
LIVEBORN BABIES	Total	3449	3480	3443	3657	3580	3534	3349	3555	3599	3665	3741	3782	3759	3818	3929
	Plurality															
	Singleton	3396	3433	3393	3601	3521	3485	3299	3503	3535	3615	3693	3719	3684	3739	3859
	Multiple	80	94	80	82	88	88	72	93	104	81	74	105	106	106	94
	Birthweight (g)															
	<1500	46	55	39	48	45	46	57	62	61	58	46	51	65	65	50
	1500-2499	269	262	263	264	245	297	249	275	283	228	248	289	264	298	272
	2500+	3102	3130	3138	3345	3290	3191	3043	3216	3255	3379	3447	3442	3429	3455	3607
	Gestational age (weeks)															
	<28	26	27	19	20	22	23	26	28	19	20	21	19	26	31	22
	28-36	322	326	317	335	343	351	320	341	366	332	314	322	347	366	343
	37+	3062	3096	3107	3301	3213	3160	3003	3186	3214	3311	3406	3440	3385	3421	3564

Table C.2. Trends in proportions for selected measures, all NT mothers and babies, 1998-2012

		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
		Percent														
ALL MOTHERS	Maternal age															
	<20	13.7	14.4	15.3	15.1	14.6	14.3	13.7	12.9	13.1	11.7	10.7	10.5	10.4	9.1	9.7
	20-34	74.6	73.9	72.8	73.7	72.3	72.5	72.0	72.6	72.0	71.8	73.6	73.2	72.7	74.6	74.5
	35+	11.6	11.7	11.9	11.1	13.1	13.2	14.4	14.5	14.9	16.6	15.7	16.3	16.9	16.3	15.8
	Place of birth															
	Hospital	96.8	96.9	98.5	97.3	97.8	97.2	97.4	97.5	96.8	97.0	97.4	97.2	96.8	97.2	97.5
	Non-hospital	3.2	3.1	1.5	2.7	2.2	2.8	2.6	2.5	3.2	3.0	2.6	2.8	3.2	2.8	2.5
	Type of labour onset															
	Spontaneous	68.3	69.7	69.2	66.6	66.1	63.5	64.5	62.6	62.7	63.9	64.9	63.7	62.2	59.9	60.6
	Induced	20.5	19.1	20.3	21.1	20.6	22.3	20.4	21.0	22.0	20.4	20.0	21.3	22.3	24.0	23.5
	No labour	11.2	11.2	10.5	12.4	13.4	14.2	15.1	16.4	15.3	15.7	15.1	15.0	15.5	16.1	15.9
	Method of birth															
	Spontaneous vaginal	70.7	72.5	71.4	68.8	68.6	63.8	62.7	62.3	62.7	62.6	63.7	62.7	61.7	59.2	60.6
	Vaginal breech	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.5
	Forceps	4.8	3.9	3.4	3.4	2.9	2.0	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.9	2.7	2.9	2.6	3.1	2.9
	Ventouse	1.3	1.9	3.4	3.8	2.8	5.7	6.2	5.7	6.1	5.0	5.3	5.1	6.1	5.4	5.6
	Caesarean section	22.5	21.2	21.4	23.5	25.4	27.7	28.5	29.2	28.7	29.7	27.7	28.7	29.0	32.0	30.4
FIRST-TIME MOTHERS	Maternal age															
	<20	25.6	25.3	30.4	27.1	27.0	26.8	26.4	24.8	26.0	23.0	20.8	20.6	20.8	18.8	20.1
	20-34	67.4	66.9	62.6	65.4	64.9	64.6	63.7	65.2	65.0	65.8	69.1	70.6	68.7	70.8	70.6
	35+	7.0	7.8	7.0	7.6	8.1	8.6	9.9	10.0	9.0	11.2	10.1	8.8	10.5	10.4	9.3
BABIES	Stillborn	0.8	1.3	0.9	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.7	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.6
LIVEBORN BABIES	Plurality															
	Singleton	97.7	97.3	97.7	97.8	97.6	97.5	97.9	97.4	97.1	97.8	98.0	97.3	97.2	97.2	97.6
	Multiple	2.3	2.7	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.1	2.6	2.9	2.2	2.0	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.4
	Birthweight (g)															
	<1500	1.3	1.6	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.3
	1500-2499	7.9	7.6	7.6	7.2	6.8	8.4	7.4	7.7	7.9	6.2	6.6	7.6	7.0	7.8	6.9
	2500+	90.8	90.8	91.2	91.5	91.9	90.3	90.9	90.5	90.4	92.2	92.1	91.0	91.2	90.5	91.8
	Gestational age (weeks)															
	<28	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.6
	28-36	9.4	9.5	9.2	9.2	9.6	9.9	9.6	9.6	10.2	9.1	8.4	8.5	9.2	9.6	8.7
	37+	89.8	89.8	90.2	90.3	89.8	89.4	89.7	89.6	89.3	90.4	91.0	91.0	90.1	89.6	90.7

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, 2012

Age (years)	Male			Female			Person
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total	Total
0 - 4	3802	5880	9682	3489	5610	9099	18781
5 - 9	4071	5035	9106	3775	4789	8564	17670
10 - 14	3813	4883	8696	3555	4527	8082	16778
15 - 19	3550	5095	8645	3337	4201	7538	16183
20 - 24	3424	7169	10593	3350	5367	8717	19310
25 - 29	3146	8786	11932	3148	7608	10756	22688
30 - 34	2567	7845	10412	2623	7042	9665	20077
35 - 39	2394	7009	9403	2448	6337	8785	18188
40 - 44	2225	7114	9339	2434	6323	8757	18096
45 - 49	1788	6519	8307	1836	5832	7668	15975
50 - 54	1499	6478	7977	1574	5749	7323	15300
55 - 59	1129	5718	6847	1152	4995	6147	12994
60 - 64	726	4795	5521	840	3538	4378	9899
65 - 69	451	3109	3560	521	2246	2767	6327
70 - 74	255	1862	2117	332	1326	1658	3775
75 +	275	1602	1877	447	1516	1963	3840
Total	35115	88899	124014	34861	77006	111867	235881

Source: Department of Health, 2012, 'Northern Territory Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Indigenous Status and Health Districts (1971-2012)', prepared by Health Gains Planning, file updated October 2014, using ABS Estimated Resident Population.

Glossary

This section provides definitions for a selection of key perinatal terms. For a more comprehensive glossary please see Australia's Mothers and Babies 2011.¹

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 live born) obtained after birth, measured to the nearest 5 grams and usually obtained within one hour of birth. Low weight births can be classified at the following levels:

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

Born before arrival: the term used to describe deliveries which occur before arrival at a 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/Caudal: Analgesia or anaesthesia produced by injection of a local anaesthetic into the epidural space of the spinal cord or caudal canal.

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

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

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

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.

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

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

Mother's length of postnatal hospital stay: number of days between date of baby's birth and separation date of the mother (from the hospital where birth occurred). The interval is calculated by subtracting the date of baby's birth from the date of separation.

Neonatal death: death of a live born baby within 28 days of birth.

Neonatal death rate: the neonatal deaths in a year per 1000 live births in that same year.

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

Perinatal death: a fetal or neonatal death.

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

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

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

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

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

Pudendal: local anaesthetic to block the pudendal nerves.

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

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

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

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

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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List of tables

Table 1. Total births in the NT, by Indigenous status and district of usual residence, 2012	11
Table 2. Summary statistics, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012	11
Table 3. Area of usual residence, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012.....	12
Table 4. District and area of usual residence, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012	12
Table 5. Total fertility rate, by Indigenous status and district of usual residence, NT mothers, 2012	12
Table 6. Total fertility rate, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2012	12
Table 7. Age-specific fertility rates and total fertility rate, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012	13
Table 8. Maternal age, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012	13
Table 9. Maternal age, by Indigenous status and district of usual residence, NT mothers, 2012	13
Table 10. Maternal age, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2012	14
Table 11. Maternal parity, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012	14
Table 12. Maternal age, by Indigenous status, NT first-time mothers, 2012.....	14
Table 13. Antenatal visits, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012.....	14
Table 14. Antenatal visits, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers, 2012	15
Table 15. Antenatal visits, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2012	15
Table 16. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by Indigenous status, NT mothers with at least one visit, 2012.....	15
Table 17. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers with at least one visit, 2012.....	16
Table 18. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers with at least one visit, 2012.....	16
Table 19. Self-reported alcohol consumption, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012	16
Table 20. Self-reported smoking status, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012.....	17
Table 21. Self-reported smoking status, by Indigenous status and area of usual residence, NT mothers, 2012	17
Table 22. Self-reported smoking status, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers, 2012	18
Table 23. Actual place of birth, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012.....	18
Table 24. Actual place of birth, by district of usual residence, NT Indigenous mothers, 2012	19
Table 25. Type of labour onset, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012.....	19
Table 26. Method of induction, by Indigenous status, NT mothers with induced onset of labour, 2012	19

Table 27. Birth presentation, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012	19
Table 28. Method of birth, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012	20
Table 29. Method of birth, by type of labour onset, NT mothers, 2012	20
Table 30. Method of birth, by gestational age, NT mothers with breech presentation, 2012	20
Table 31. Method of birth, by hospital, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2012	20
Table 32. Indications for caesarean section, by Indigenous status, NT mothers giving birth via caesarean section, 2012	21
Table 33. Method of analgesia, by Indigenous status, NT mothers with spontaneous or induced onset of labour, 2012	21
Table 34. Method of anaesthesia, by Indigenous status, NT mothers having operative birth, 2012	22
Table 35. Complications of pregnancy and/or childbirth, by Indigenous status, NT mothers, 2012	22
Table 36. State of the perineum, by Indigenous status, NT mothers having vaginal birth, 2012	23
Table 37. Length of postnatal hospital stay, by Indigenous status, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2012	23
Table 38. Average length of postnatal hospital stay, by Indigenous status and method of birth, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2012	23
Table 39. Summary statistics, by maternal Indigenous status, all babies born in the NT, 2012	24
Table 40. Area of mother's usual residence, by maternal Indigenous status, NT babies, 2012	25
Table 41. District and area of mother's usual residence, by maternal Indigenous status, NT babies, 2012	25
Table 42. Gestational age, by maternal Indigenous status and birth status, NT babies, 2012	26
Table 43. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and birth status, NT babies, 2012	26
Table 44. Gestational age, by maternal Indigenous status and district of mother's usual residence, NT live births, 2012	27
Table 45. Gestational age, by maternal Indigenous status and area of mother's usual residence, NT live births, 2012	27
Table 46. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and district of mother's usual residence, NT live births, 2012	28
Table 47. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and area of mother's usual residence, NT live births, 2012	28
Table 48. Birthweight, by maternal Indigenous status and gestational age, NT singleton live births, 2012	29
Table 49. Apgar scores at 5 minutes, by maternal Indigenous status, NT live births, 2012	29
Table 50. Methods of resuscitation, by maternal Indigenous status, NT live births, 2012	29
Table 51. Numbers and rates of fetal deaths, neonatal deaths and perinatal deaths, by Indigenous status, NT babies, 2012	30

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