

7. MATERNAL COUNTRY OF BIRTH

In this section maternal countries of birth are combined into English-speaking and other regional groups. The country groups and individual countries are listed in Appendix 3. Recent trends in confinements for individual maternal countries of birth are shown in Table 4 (page 20).

Trends in confinements

Between 2001 and 2005, about 20 per cent of mothers were born in non-English speaking countries (Table 52). Over the 5 year period, there were slight declines in the percentage of mothers born in Southern Europe, and a slight increases in the percentage of mothers born in Southern Asia.

TABLE 52

COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2001–2005

Country of birth	2001		2002		Year 2003		2004		2005	
	No.	%								
Confinements										
English speaking	67275	79.7	67277	79.5	67322	79.2	66621	79.0	70354	78.9
Central & South America	697	0.8	739	0.9	692	0.8	675	0.8	726	0.8
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1544	1.8	1534	1.8	1545	1.8	1584	1.9	1485	1.7
Southern Europe	1129	1.3	1001	1.2	1040	1.2	926	1.1	927	1.0
Western & Northern Europe	631	0.7	614	0.7	660	0.8	649	0.8	688	0.8
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	412	0.5	458	0.5	486	0.6	518	0.6	578	0.6
Middle East & Africa	3688	4.4	3653	4.3	3879	4.6	3876	4.6	4080	4.6
South East Asia	4478	5.3	4557	5.4	4673	5.5	4445	5.3	4571	5.1
North East Asia	2965	3.5	2962	3.5	2819	3.3	2884	3.4	3117	3.5
Southern Asia	1535	1.8	1716	2.0	1746	2.1	1930	2.3	2396	2.7
Other-not stated	25	0.0	76	0.1	170	0.2	180	0.2	218	0.2
TOTAL	84379	100.0	84587	100.0	85032	100.0	84288	100.0	89140	100.0
Births										
English speaking	68524	79.8	68458	79.6	68459	79.2	67735	79.1	71558	79.0
Central & South America	707	0.8	755	0.9	699	0.8	683	0.8	743	0.8
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1567	1.8	1555	1.8	1564	1.8	1600	1.9	1508	1.7
Southern Europe	1153	1.3	1022	1.2	1064	1.2	939	1.1	945	1.0
Western & Northern Europe	643	0.7	627	0.7	668	0.8	663	0.8	700	0.8
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	418	0.5	468	0.5	494	0.6	525	0.6	593	0.7
Middle East & Africa	3758	4.4	3711	4.3	3947	4.6	3941	4.6	4142	4.6
South East Asia	4527	5.3	4595	5.3	4733	5.5	4488	5.2	4626	5.1
North East Asia	2982	3.5	3000	3.5	2846	3.3	2910	3.4	3144	3.5
Southern Asia	1554	1.8	1738	2.0	1766	2.0	1953	2.3	2428	2.7
Other-not stated	25	0.0	76	0.1	174	0.2	189	0.2	223	0.2
TOTAL	85858	100.0	86005	100.0	86414	100.0	85626	100.0	90610	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Maternal age

Births to teenage mothers were more common among mothers born in English-speaking countries than non-English speaking countries (Table 53, Figure 4), while the largest proportions of mothers aged 35 years and over were among mothers born in Western and Northern Europe (40.0 per cent) and North East Asia (33.2 per cent).

TABLE 53

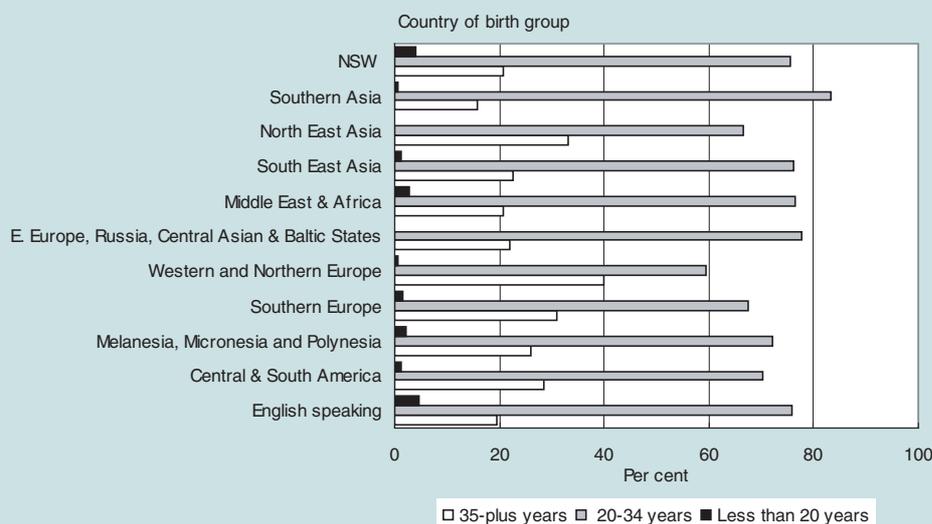
MATERNAL AGE BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2005

Country of birth group	12–19		20–34		Maternal age (years) 35+		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	3187	4.5	53354	75.8	13803	19.6	10	0.0	70354	100.0
Central & South America	9	1.2	511	70.4	206	28.4	0	0.0	726	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	32	2.2	1069	72.0	384	25.9	0	0.0	1485	100.0
Southern Europe	13	1.4	627	67.6	287	31.0	0	0.0	927	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	4	0.6	409	59.4	275	40.0	0	0.0	688	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	2	0.3	449	77.7	127	22.0	0	0.0	578	100.0
Middle East & Africa	110	2.7	3123	76.5	847	20.8	0	0.0	4080	100.0
South East Asia	53	1.2	3481	76.2	1037	22.7	0	0.0	4571	100.0
North East Asia	7	0.2	2074	66.5	1036	33.2	0	0.0	3117	100.0
Southern Asia	15	0.6	1999	83.4	382	15.9	0	0.0	2396	100.0
Other—not stated	8	3.7	151	69.3	57	26.1	2	0.9	218	100.0
TOTAL	3440	3.9	67247	75.4	18441	20.7	12	0.0	89140	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

FIGURE 4

MATERNAL AGE BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2005



Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Health area of residence

In 2005, the proportion of mothers born in non-English speaking countries was highest in the Sydney South West Area (37.5 per cent), followed by the Sydney West Area (29.8 per cent).

Five per cent of mothers were born in South East Asian countries, 50.3 per cent of whom were resident in the

Sydney South West Area. Almost 5 per cent of mothers were born in Middle Eastern or African countries and 80.8 per cent of these mothers were resident in the Sydney South West or Sydney West Areas. A further 3.5 per cent of mothers were born in North East Asian countries and 2.7 per cent in Southern Asian countries, with the majority living in metropolitan areas (Table 54).

TABLE 54

HEALTH AREA OF RESIDENCE BY MATERNAL COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2005[#]

Health Area	Country of birth group																						TOTAL	
	English speaking		Central & South America		Melanesia & Micronesia & Polynesia		Southern Europe		Western & Northern Europe		Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States		Middle East & Africa		South East Asia		North East Asia		Southern Asia		Other-not stated			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		No.
Sydney South West	12274	62.3	283	1.4	624	3.2	410	2.1	108	0.5	150	0.8	1981	10.0	2297	11.7	894	4.5	645	3.3	47	0.2	19713	100.0
Sydney South Eastern Sydney & Illawarra	11690	80.0	147	1.0	143	1.0	227	1.6	180	1.2	169	1.2	444	3.0	623	4.3	656	4.5	246	1.7	94	0.6	14619	100.0
Sydney West	11920	70.0	138	0.8	531	3.1	149	0.9	80	0.5	89	0.5	1317	7.7	965	5.7	692	4.1	1115	6.6	23	0.1	17019	100.0
Northern Sydney & Central Coast	11352	82.9	119	0.9	92	0.7	91	0.7	213	1.6	119	0.9	223	1.6	441	3.2	747	5.5	279	2.0	21	0.2	13697	100.0
Hunter & New England	9993	96.3	9	0.1	45	0.4	20	0.2	27	0.3	22	0.2	63	0.6	106	1.0	35	0.3	35	0.3	26	0.3	10381	100.0
North Coast	4766	95.8	16	0.3	11	0.2	11	0.2	44	0.9	7	0.1	12	0.2	57	1.1	22	0.4	25	0.5	2	0.0	4973	100.0
Greater Southern	3841	96.2	-	-	26	0.7	12	0.3	16	0.4	10	0.3	20	0.5	26	0.7	13	0.3	25	0.6	2	0.1	3993	100.0
Greater Western	3880	97.4	7	0.2	8	0.2	-	-	13	0.3	6	0.2	11	0.3	30	0.8	14	0.4	13	0.3	0	0.0	3985	100.0
Other-not stated	638	83.9	-	-	5	0.7	-	-	7	0.9	6	0.8	9	1.2	26	3.4	44	5.8	13	1.7	3	0.4	760	100.0
TOTAL	70354	78.9	726	0.8	1485	1.7	927	1.0	688	0.8	578	0.6	4080	4.6	4571	5.1	3117	3.5	2396	2.7	218	0.2	89140	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

[#] Data not shown for country of birth groups with less than 5 in a group.

Booking status

In 2005, 97.2 per cent of all mothers were booked at the hospital of birth. The lowest rate (96.4 per cent) was in mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. This compared with 97.0 per cent of mothers born in English speaking countries and over 97 per cent of mothers in other country of birth groups.

Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit

In 2005, 88.0 per cent of all mothers commenced antenatal care before 20 weeks gestation. There was some variation between country of birth groups, with 89.9 per cent of mothers born in English speaking countries commencing antenatal care before 20 weeks gestation, compared with 66.1 per cent of mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, and 73.4 per cent of mothers born in the Middle East and Africa (Table 55).

TABLE 55

DURATION OF PREGNANCY AT FIRST ANTENATAL VISIT BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2005

Country of birth group	0–19		Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit (weeks)				TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	Not stated		No.	%
English speaking	63276	89.9	6659	9.5	419	0.6	70354	100.0
Central & South America	655	90.2	68	9.4	3	0.4	726	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	981	66.1	484	32.6	20	1.3	1485	100.0
Southern Europe	832	89.8	90	9.7	5	0.5	927	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	610	88.7	74	10.8	4	0.6	688	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	489	84.6	87	15.1	2	0.3	578	100.0
Middle East & Africa	2993	73.4	1074	26.3	13	0.3	4080	100.0
South East Asia	3846	84.1	704	15.4	21	0.5	4571	100.0
North East Asia	2598	83.3	509	16.3	10	0.3	3117	100.0
Southern Asia	1998	83.4	391	16.3	7	0.3	2396	100.0
Other—not stated	178	81.7	29	13.3	11	5.0	218	100.0
TOTAL	78456	88.0	10169	11.4	515	0.6	89140	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Smoking in pregnancy

In 2005, smoking at any time during pregnancy was more common among mothers born in English speaking countries than mothers born in non-English speaking countries (Table 56). About one in 6 mothers born in English speaking countries smoked at some time during pregnancy, compared to one in 10 or fewer mothers born in other country of birth groups.

Smoking in the second half of pregnancy poses the greatest risk to the health of both mother and baby. Four per cent of mothers who smoked during pregnancy quit before the second half of pregnancy. Of mothers who did smoke in the second half of pregnancy, mothers born in English speaking countries were more likely to smoke more than 10 cigarettes per day compared to mothers born in other country of birth groups (Table 57).

TABLE 56

SMOKING IN PREGNANCY BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2005

Country of birth group	No		Smoking in pregnancy				TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	Not stated		No.	%
English speaking	58203	82.7	12060	17.1	91	0.1	70354	100.0
Central & South America	694	95.6	30	4.1	2	0.3	726	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1354	91.2	128	8.6	3	0.2	1485	100.0
Southern Europe	839	90.5	84	9.1	4	0.4	927	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	641	93.2	46	6.7	1	0.1	688	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	546	94.5	31	5.4	1	0.2	578	100.0
Middle East & Africa	3875	95.0	198	4.9	7	0.2	4080	100.0
South East Asia	4461	97.6	105	2.3	5	0.1	4571	100.0
North East Asia	3072	98.6	31	1.0	14	0.4	3117	100.0
Southern Asia	2382	99.4	11	0.5	3	0.1	2396	100.0
Other—not stated	201	92.2	14	6.4	3	1.4	218	100.0
TOTAL	76268	85.6	12738	14.3	134	0.2	89140	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

TABLE 57

MOTHERS WHO SMOKED AT ALL DURING PREGNANCY BY NUMBER OF CIGARETTES SMOKED IN THE SECOND HALF OF PREGNANCY AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2005

Country of birth group	Cigarettes smoked in the second half of pregnancy										TOTAL	
	None		1-10 per day		More than 10 per day		Smoked, amount not stated		Not stated		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
English speaking	521	4.3	6059	50.2	4940	41.0	538	4.5	2	0.0	12060	100.0
Central & South America	3	10.0	20	66.7	6	20.0	1	3.3	0	0.0	30	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	4	3.1	87	68.0	31	24.2	6	4.7	0	0.0	128	100.0
Southern Europe	4	4.8	47	56.0	28	33.3	5	6.0	0	0.0	84	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	4	8.7	32	69.6	7	15.2	3	6.5	0	0.0	46	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	0	0.0	19	61.3	10	32.3	2	6.5	0	0.0	31	100.0
Middle East & Africa	5	2.5	110	55.6	73	36.9	10	5.1	0	0.0	198	100.0
South East Asia	8	7.6	71	67.6	23	21.9	3	2.9	0	0.0	105	100.0
North East Asia	1	3.2	20	64.5	7	22.6	3	9.7	0	0.0	31	100.0
Southern Asia	1	9.1	10	90.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	11	100.0
Other-not stated	1	7.1	8	57.1	4	28.6	1	7.1	0	0.0	14	100.0
TOTAL	552	4.3	6483	50.9	5129	40.3	572	4.5	2	0.0	12738	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Medical conditions and obstetric complications

In 2005, 1.6 per cent of mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia were reported to have diabetes mellitus, over twice the rate for all mothers in NSW, though the number of mothers is small (Table 58). The rates of gestational diabetes in mothers born in Asian countries and Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia were at least twice the rate for all mothers in NSW.

Overall, 0.9 per cent of mothers were reported to have essential hypertension, and 5.1 per cent were reported to have pre-eclampsia. Rates of reported pre-eclampsia were lower among mothers born in North East Asian countries than other country of birth groups.

TABLE 58

MATERNAL MEDICAL CONDITIONS BY OBSTETRIC COMPLICATIONS AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2005

Condition	Country of birth group																				TOTAL			
	English speaking		Central & South America		Melanesia & Micronesia & Polynesia		Southern Europe		Western & Northern Europe		Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States		Middle East & Africa		South East Asia		North East Asia		Southern Asia		Other-Not stated		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Diabetes mellitus	362	0.5	6	0.8	24	1.6	9	1.0	1	0.1	4	0.7	27	0.7	30	0.7	18	0.6	20	0.8	2	0.9	503	0.6
Gestational diabetes	2389	3.4	46	6.3	148	10.0	71	7.7	18	2.6	23	4.0	324	7.9	493	10.8	346	11.1	298	12.4	9	4.1	4165	4.7
Essential hypertension	731	1.0	10	1.4	18	1.2	3	0.3	5	0.7	2	0.3	20	0.5	29	0.6	7	0.2	14	0.6	3	1.4	842	0.9
Pre-eclampsia	3817	5.4	40	5.5	84	5.7	38	4.1	35	5.1	25	4.3	126	3.1	197	4.3	81	2.6	94	3.9	16	7.3	4553	5.1
TOTAL#	70354	100.0	726	100.0	1485	100.0	927	100.0	688	100.0	578	100.0	4080	100.0	4571	100.0	3117	100.0	2396	100.0	218	100.0	89140	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Total refers to total confinements in NSW.

Labour and delivery

Mothers born in non-English speaking countries were more likely to have a spontaneous onset of labour than mothers born in English speaking countries, and were less likely to be induced (Table 59).

Mothers born in the Middle East and Africa and Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia were more likely to have a normal vaginal delivery than mothers in other country of birth groups (Table 60). The highest caesarean section rates were among mothers born in Southern Asia (32.2 per cent) and Central and South America (31.8 per cent).

TABLE 59

LABOUR ONSET BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2005

Country of birth group	Spontaneous		No labour [#]		Onset of labour Induced		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	39748	56.5	11698	16.6	18898	26.9	10	0.0	70354	100.0
Central & South America	457	62.9	126	17.4	143	19.7	0	0.0	726	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	916	61.7	220	14.8	348	23.4	1	0.1	1485	100.0
Southern Europe	562	60.6	149	16.1	216	23.3	0	0.0	927	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	401	58.3	117	17.0	170	24.7	0	0.0	688	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	373	64.5	84	14.5	121	20.9	0	0.0	578	100.0
Middle East & Africa	2682	65.7	528	12.9	870	21.3	0	0.0	4080	100.0
South East Asia	3178	69.5	637	13.9	755	16.5	1	0.0	4571	100.0
North East Asia	2099	67.3	468	15.0	549	17.6	1	0.0	3117	100.0
Southern Asia	1455	60.7	390	16.3	551	23.0	0	0.0	2396	100.0
Other—not stated	120	55.0	50	22.9	48	22.0	0	0.0	218	100.0
TOTAL	51991	58.3	14467	16.2	22669	25.4	13	0.0	89140	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

No labour indicates elective caesarean section.

TABLE 60

TYPE OF DELIVERY BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2005

Country of birth group	Normal vaginal		Forceps		Type of delivery Vacuum extraction		Vaginal breech		Elective caesarean section		Emergency caesarean section [#]		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	42879	60.9	2259	3.2	4945	7.0	261	0.4	11698	16.6	8312	11.8	70354	100.0
Central & South America	408	56.2	33	4.5	51	7.0	3	0.4	126	17.4	105	14.5	726	100.0
Melanesia Micronesia & Polynesia	992	66.8	27	1.8	78	5.3	5	0.3	220	14.8	163	11.0	1485	100.0
Southern Europe	577	62.2	20	2.2	74	8.0	1	0.1	149	16.1	106	11.4	927	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	415	60.3	27	3.9	58	8.4	3	0.4	117	17.0	68	9.9	688	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	352	60.9	25	4.3	43	7.4	1	0.2	84	14.5	73	12.6	578	100.0
Middle East & Africa	2955	72.4	62	1.5	178	4.4	21	0.5	528	12.9	336	8.2	4080	100.0
South East Asia	2798	61.2	120	2.6	388	8.5	8	0.2	637	13.9	620	13.6	4571	100.0
North East Asia	1780	57.1	118	3.8	332	10.7	9	0.3	468	15.0	410	13.2	3117	100.0
Southern Asia	1302	54.3	105	4.4	208	8.7	9	0.4	390	16.3	382	15.9	2396	100.0
Other—not stated	110	50.5	5	2.3	17	7.8	1	0.5	50	22.9	35	16.1	218	100.0
TOTAL	54568	61.2	2801	3.1	6372	7.1	322	0.4	14467	16.2	10610	11.9	89140	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Emergency caesarean section includes caesarean sections where the onset of labour was not stated.

Birth weight

The rate of low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams) in 2005 was 6.3 per cent in NSW. The highest rates of low birth weight were in babies of mothers born in Southern Asian and Central and South American countries (8.3 per cent) (Table 61). Babies of mothers born in Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian and Baltic States were least likely to be low birth weight.

TABLE 61

BIRTH WEIGHT BY MATERNAL COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2005

Country of birth group	Birth weight (grams)						TOTAL	
	Less than 2,500		2,500+		Not stated			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	4514	6.3	66992	93.6	52	0.1	71558	100.0
Central & South America	62	8.3	681	91.7	0	0.0	743	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	96	6.4	1411	93.6	1	0.1	1508	100.0
Southern Europe	51	5.4	892	94.4	2	0.2	945	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	35	5.0	665	95.0	0	0.0	700	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	26	4.4	566	95.4	1	0.2	593	100.0
Middle East & Africa	224	5.4	3916	94.5	2	0.0	4142	100.0
South East Asia	295	6.4	4326	93.5	5	0.1	4626	100.0
North East Asia	157	5.0	2986	95.0	1	0.0	3144	100.0
Southern Asia	201	8.3	2224	91.6	3	0.1	2428	100.0
Other-not stated	23	10.3	200	89.7	0	0.0	223	100.0
TOTAL	5684	6.3	84859	93.7	67	0.1	90610	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Gestational age

The rate of prematurity (less than 37 weeks gestation) in 2005 was 7.2 per cent in NSW. The highest rates of prematurity were in babies of mothers born in Central and South America (9.3 per cent). Babies of mothers born in Western and Northern Europe were least likely to be premature (Table 62).

TABLE 62

GESTATIONAL AGE BY MATERNAL COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2005

Country of birth group	Gestational age (weeks)						TOTAL	
	Less than 37		37+		Not stated			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	5298	7.4	66253	92.6	7	0.0	71558	100.0
Central & South America	69	9.3	674	90.7	0	0.0	743	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	113	7.5	1394	92.4	1	0.1	1508	100.0
Southern Europe	66	7.0	878	92.9	1	0.1	945	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	35	5.0	665	95.0	0	0.0	700	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	36	6.1	557	93.9	0	0.0	593	100.0
Middle East & Africa	258	6.2	3884	93.8	0	0.0	4142	100.0
South East Asia	307	6.6	4319	93.4	0	0.0	4626	100.0
North East Asia	172	5.5	2971	94.5	1	0.0	3144	100.0
Southern Asia	140	5.8	2288	94.2	0	0.0	2428	100.0
Other-not stated	30	13.5	193	86.5	0	0.0	223	100.0
TOTAL	6524	7.2	84076	92.8	10	0.0	90610	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Apgar score

In 2005, 2.0 per cent of all babies (including stillborn babies) had an Apgar score of 7 or less at 5 minutes and 1.1 per cent had a score of less than 4 (Table 63). The rate of Apgar scores of less than 7 was highest among babies of mothers born in Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia (3.2 per cent).

TABLE 63

BIRTHS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP AND APGAR SCORE AT FIVE MINUTES, NSW 2005*

Country of birth group	0-4		5-6		Apgar score 7+		Not stated		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English speaking	734	1.0	681	1.0	69993	97.8	150	0.2	71558	100.0
Central & South America	10	1.3	7	0.9	725	97.6	1	0.1	743	100.0
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	28	1.9	21	1.4	1451	96.2	8	0.5	1508	100.0
Southern Europe	13	1.4	6	0.6	924	97.8	2	0.2	945	100.0
Western & Northern Europe	11	1.6	5	0.7	682	97.4	2	0.3	700	100.0
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	4	0.7	2	0.3	587	99.0	0	0.0	593	100.0
Middle East & Africa	56	1.4	30	0.7	4050	97.8	6	0.1	4142	100.0
South East Asia	47	1.0	41	0.9	4527	97.9	11	0.2	4626	100.0
North East Asia	21	0.7	19	0.6	3097	98.5	7	0.2	3144	100.0
Southern Asia	34	1.4	19	0.8	2371	97.7	4	0.2	2428	100.0
Other—not stated	5	2.2	2	0.9	214	96.0	2	0.9	223	100.0
TOTAL	963	1.1	833	0.9	88621	97.8	193	0.2	90610	100.0

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection, Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Births include stillbirths

Perinatal outcomes

In 2005, 99 per cent of babies born in NSW and reported to the MDC were born alive and survived until discharge from the hospital of birth (Table 64). The majority of perinatal deaths occurred among babies of mothers born in English speaking countries (n=614, 77.5 per cent). There

were a further 52 deaths among babies of mothers born in the Middle East and Africa and 37 deaths among babies of mothers born in South East Asian countries—comprising 6.6 and 4.7 per cent respectively of all perinatal deaths reported to the MDC.

TABLE 64

PERINATAL OUTCOMES BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH GROUP, NSW 2005*

Country of birth group	Liveborn surviving		Stillborn		Perinatal outcome Neonatal		Not stated death		Total births		Perinatal mortality rate/1,000 births
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
English speaking	70918	99.1	406	0.6	208	0.3	26	0.0	71558	100.0	8.6
Central & South America	736	99.1	1	0.1	6	0.8	0	0.0	743	100.0	9.4
Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia	1491	98.9	13	0.9	4	0.3	0	0.0	1508	100.0	11.3
Southern Europe	931	98.5	8	0.8	5	0.5	1	0.1	945	100.0	13.8
Western & Northern Europe	694	99.1	3	0.4	2	0.3	1	0.1	700	100.0	7.1
Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asian & Baltic States	590	99.5	1	0.2	2	0.3	0	0.0	593	100.0	5.1
Middle East & Africa	4088	98.7	41	1.0	11	0.3	2	0.0	4142	100.0	12.6
South East Asia	4588	99.2	28	0.6	9	0.2	1	0.0	4626	100.0	8.0
North East Asia	3128	99.5	12	0.4	4	0.1	0	0.0	3144	100.0	5.1
Southern Asia	2402	98.9	21	0.9	5	0.2	0	0.0	2428	100.0	10.7
Other—not stated	220	98.7	1	0.4	1	0.4	1	0.4	223	100.0	—
TOTAL	89786	99.1	535	0.6	257	0.3	32	0.0	90610	100.0	8.7

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

Perinatal deaths include deaths reported to the MDC only. As the MDC form is completed at discharge or transfer of the baby, deaths occurring after this time may not be reported to the MDC.