

## 4. Trends in New South Wales

### Confinements and births by plurality

The number of births in NSW rose from 85,626 in 2004 to 96,030 in 2007, a rise of 12.2%. In 2008, the number of births stabilised with 96,343 births occurring to 94,864

mothers (Table 1). The number of multiple (twin and triplet) pregnancies has remained stable over recent years.

**Table 1. Plurality, NSW 2004–2008**

| Plurality           | 2004  |       | 2005  |       | 2006  |       | 2007  |       | 2008  |       |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                     | No.   | %     |
| <b>Confinements</b> |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Singleton           | 82983 | 98.5  | 87699 | 98.4  | 89890 | 98.4  | 93194 | 98.5  | 93411 | 98.5  |
| Twins               | 1274  | 1.5   | 1413  | 1.6   | 1386  | 1.5   | 1388  | 1.5   | 1428  | 1.5   |
| Triplets            | 30    | 0.0   | 27    | 0.0   | 37    | 0.0   | 20    | 0.0   | 24    | 0.0   |
| Quadruplets         | 1     | 0.0   | 1     | 0.0   | 2     | 0.0   | 0     | 0.0   | 1     | 0.0   |
| TOTAL               | 84288 | 100.0 | 89140 | 100.0 | 91315 | 100.0 | 94602 | 100.0 | 94864 | 100.0 |
| <b>Births</b>       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Singleton           | 82983 | 96.9  | 87699 | 96.8  | 89890 | 96.9  | 93194 | 97.0  | 93411 | 97.0  |
| Twins               | 2549  | 3.0   | 2826  | 3.1   | 2772  | 3.0   | 2776  | 2.9   | 2856  | 3.0   |
| Triplets            | 90    | 0.1   | 81    | 0.1   | 111   | 0.1   | 60    | 0.1   | 72    | 0.1   |
| Quadruplets         | 4     | 0.0   | 4     | 0.0   | 8     | 0.0   | 0     | 0.0   | 4     | 0.0   |
| TOTAL               | 85626 | 100.0 | 90610 | 100.0 | 92781 | 100.0 | 96030 | 100.0 | 96343 | 100.0 |

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

### Health area of residence

The increase in births occurred mainly in the metropolitan areas, with the Sydney South West and Sydney West Areas reporting over 2,000 more births in 2007 compared to 2004; and Northern Sydney and Central Coast and South Eastern

Sydney and Illawarra Areas reporting over 1,000 more births in 2007 compared to 2004 (Table 2). In 2008, similar to previous years, over 40% of births in NSW occurred to mothers resident in Sydney South West and Sydney West Areas.

**Table 2. Maternal health area of residence, NSW 2004–2008**

| Health area                        | 2004  |       | 2005  |       | 2006  |       | 2007  |       | 2008  |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                    | No.   | %     |
| Sydney South West                  | 18720 | 22.2  | 19713 | 22.1  | 20426 | 22.4  | 21206 | 22.4  | 21347 | 22.5  |
| South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra | 14121 | 16.8  | 14619 | 16.4  | 15020 | 16.4  | 15597 | 16.5  | 15632 | 16.5  |
| Sydney West                        | 15834 | 18.8  | 17019 | 19.1  | 17210 | 18.8  | 18068 | 19.1  | 18213 | 19.2  |
| Northern Sydney and Central Coast  | 13032 | 15.5  | 13697 | 15.4  | 14139 | 15.5  | 14447 | 15.3  | 14353 | 15.1  |
| Hunter and New England             | 9672  | 11.5  | 10381 | 11.6  | 10579 | 11.6  | 10868 | 11.5  | 10726 | 11.3  |
| North Coast                        | 4690  | 5.6   | 4973  | 5.6   | 5100  | 5.6   | 5199  | 5.5   | 5332  | 5.6   |
| Greater Southern                   | 3838  | 4.6   | 3993  | 4.5   | 4059  | 4.4   | 4052  | 4.3   | 4024  | 4.2   |
| Greater Western                    | 3784  | 4.5   | 3985  | 4.5   | 4052  | 4.4   | 4062  | 4.3   | 4078  | 4.3   |
| Other/Not stated                   | 597   | 0.7   | 760   | 0.9   | 730   | 0.8   | 1103  | 1.2   | 1159  | 1.2   |
| TOTAL                              | 84288 | 100.0 | 89140 | 100.0 | 91315 | 100.0 | 94602 | 100.0 | 94864 | 100.0 |

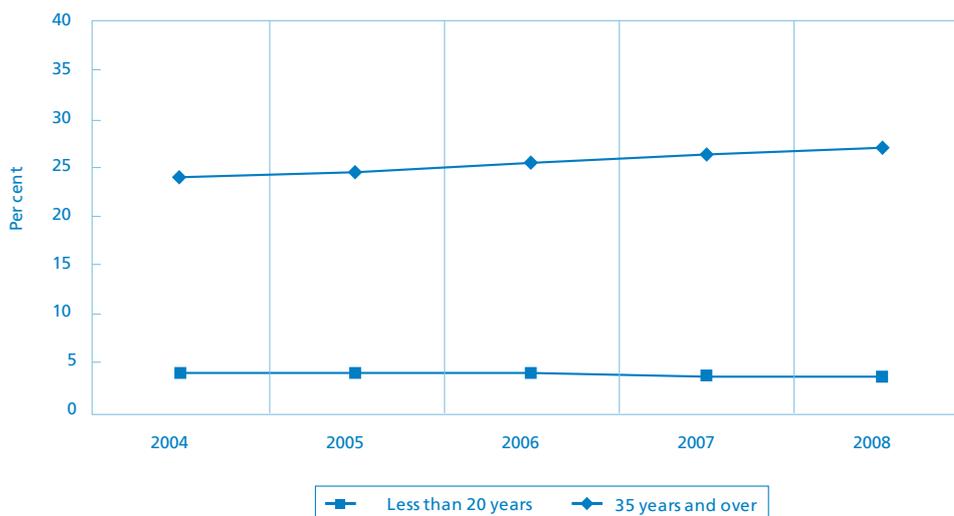
Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

## Maternal age

The percentage of mothers who were teenagers fell from 4.0% in 2004 to 3.5% in 2008. Over the same period the percentage of mothers aged 35 years increased from 19.9% to 22.8% of all mothers giving birth (Figure 1, Table 3).

The mean maternal age rose from 30.3 to 30.6 years over the 5 years 2004 to 2008. The trend towards later childbirth is evident among both primiparous and multiparous mothers:

the proportion of mothers giving birth for the first time who were aged 35 years or more increased from 13.1% to 15.3% over the 5 year period, and the proportion of multiparous mothers who were aged 35 years or more increased from 24.9% to 29.4%. The mean maternal age rose from 28.7 to 29.0 years for primiparous mothers and from 31.5 to 31.8 years for multiparous mothers.



**Figure 1. Mothers aged less than 20 years and 35 years and over, NSW 2004–2008**

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

**Table 3. Maternal age, NSW 2004–2008**

| Maternal age (years) | Year         |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                      | 2004         |              | 2005         |              | 2006         |              | 2007         |              | 2008         |              |
|                      | No.          | %            |
| Less than 15         | 22           | 0.0          | 30           | 0.0          | 18           | 0.0          | 20           | 0.0          | 29           | 0.0          |
| 15–19                | 3365         | 4.0          | 3410         | 3.8          | 3453         | 3.8          | 3342         | 3.5          | 3331         | 3.5          |
| 20–24                | 12095        | 14.3         | 12739        | 14.3         | 12686        | 13.9         | 13150        | 13.9         | 13118        | 13.8         |
| 25–29                | 23113        | 27.4         | 24006        | 26.9         | 24553        | 26.9         | 25361        | 26.8         | 25405        | 26.8         |
| 30–34                | 28906        | 34.3         | 30502        | 34.2         | 30785        | 33.7         | 31124        | 32.9         | 30649        | 32.3         |
| 35–39                | 13808        | 16.4         | 15275        | 17.1         | 16526        | 18.1         | 18047        | 19.1         | 18582        | 19.6         |
| 40–44                | 2819         | 3.3          | 3017         | 3.4          | 3073         | 3.4          | 3375         | 3.6          | 3581         | 3.8          |
| 45+                  | 142          | 0.2          | 149          | 0.2          | 163          | 0.2          | 166          | 0.2          | 158          | 0.2          |
| Not stated           | 18           | 0.0          | 12           | 0.0          | 58           | 0.1          | 17           | 0.0          | 11           | 0.0          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>84288</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>89140</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>91315</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>94602</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>94864</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

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

## Maternal country of birth

In the period 2004–2008, 69.3% of mothers were born in Australia. In 2008, mothers born in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, China, India and Vietnam together accounted

for 11.5% of all mothers (Table 4). Further information on maternal country of birth is shown in Chapter 8.

**Table 4. Maternal country of birth, NSW 2004–2008#**

| Country of birth              | Year         |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                               | 2004         |              | 2005         |              | 2006         |              | 2007         |              | 2008         |              |
|                               | No.          | %            |
| Australia                     | 60961        | 72.3         | 64246        | 72.1         | 65226        | 71.4         | 66526        | 70.3         | 65700        | 69.3         |
| United Kingdom                | 2229         | 2.6          | 2172         | 2.4          | 2288         | 2.5          | 2494         | 2.6          | 2532         | 2.7          |
| New Zealand                   | 1989         | 2.4          | 2233         | 2.5          | 2343         | 2.6          | 2450         | 2.6          | 2388         | 2.5          |
| China                         | 1672         | 2.0          | 1767         | 2.0          | 1787         | 2.0          | 2354         | 2.5          | 2321         | 2.4          |
| India                         | 888          | 1.1          | 1094         | 1.2          | 1294         | 1.4          | 1580         | 1.7          | 1940         | 2.0          |
| Vietnam                       | 1684         | 2.0          | 1652         | 1.9          | 1720         | 1.9          | 1752         | 1.9          | 1699         | 1.8          |
| Lebanon                       | 1594         | 1.9          | 1608         | 1.8          | 1547         | 1.7          | 1505         | 1.6          | 1557         | 1.6          |
| Philippines                   | 1083         | 1.3          | 1160         | 1.3          | 1220         | 1.3          | 1359         | 1.4          | 1373         | 1.4          |
| Iraq                          | 621          | 0.7          | 681          | 0.8          | 743          | 0.8          | 821          | 0.9          | 925          | 1.0          |
| Indonesia                     | 519          | 0.6          | 541          | 0.6          | 578          | 0.6          | 653          | 0.7          | 743          | 0.8          |
| South Africa                  | 547          | 0.6          | 579          | 0.6          | 598          | 0.7          | 599          | 0.6          | 687          | 0.7          |
| Fiji                          | 686          | 0.8          | 670          | 0.8          | 697          | 0.8          | 749          | 0.8          | 681          | 0.7          |
| South Korea                   | 389          | 0.5          | 419          | 0.5          | 485          | 0.5          | 564          | 0.6          | 609          | 0.6          |
| Bangladesh                    | 233          | 0.3          | 293          | 0.3          | 327          | 0.4          | 376          | 0.4          | 511          | 0.5          |
| Pakistan                      | 291          | 0.3          | 345          | 0.4          | 396          | 0.4          | 440          | 0.5          | 468          | 0.5          |
| Thailand                      | 277          | 0.3          | 290          | 0.3          | 309          | 0.3          | 382          | 0.4          | 421          | 0.4          |
| United States of America      | 372          | 0.4          | 359          | 0.4          | 428          | 0.5          | 407          | 0.4          | 417          | 0.4          |
| Hong Kong                     | 314          | 0.4          | 332          | 0.4          | 338          | 0.4          | 392          | 0.4          | 414          | 0.4          |
| Japan                         | 260          | 0.3          | 339          | 0.4          | 288          | 0.3          | 352          | 0.4          | 378          | 0.4          |
| Malaysia                      | 283          | 0.3          | 339          | 0.4          | 315          | 0.3          | 386          | 0.4          | 371          | 0.4          |
| Sri Lanka                     | 310          | 0.4          | 320          | 0.4          | 324          | 0.4          | 339          | 0.4          | 362          | 0.4          |
| Ireland                       | 281          | 0.3          | 325          | 0.4          | 299          | 0.3          | 367          | 0.4          | 361          | 0.4          |
| Afghanistan                   | 159          | 0.2          | 263          | 0.3          | 335          | 0.4          | 334          | 0.4          | 336          | 0.4          |
| Sudan                         | 154          | 0.2          | 226          | 0.3          | 283          | 0.3          | 299          | 0.3          | 318          | 0.3          |
| Cambodia                      | 274          | 0.3          | 268          | 0.3          | 276          | 0.3          | 300          | 0.3          | 295          | 0.3          |
| Western Samoa                 | 289          | 0.3          | 306          | 0.3          | 298          | 0.3          | 299          | 0.3          | 277          | 0.3          |
| Canada                        | 237          | 0.3          | 227          | 0.3          | 262          | 0.3          | 250          | 0.3          | 267          | 0.3          |
| Germany                       | 205          | 0.2          | 211          | 0.2          | 240          | 0.3          | 236          | 0.2          | 262          | 0.3          |
| Turkey                        | 268          | 0.3          | 251          | 0.3          | 269          | 0.3          | 231          | 0.2          | 213          | 0.2          |
| Iran                          | 159          | 0.2          | 176          | 0.2          | 181          | 0.2          | 164          | 0.2          | 199          | 0.2          |
| Tonga                         | 246          | 0.3          | 222          | 0.2          | 212          | 0.2          | 187          | 0.2          | 191          | 0.2          |
| Poland                        | 130          | 0.2          | 127          | 0.1          | 163          | 0.2          | 152          | 0.2          | 175          | 0.2          |
| Chile                         | 172          | 0.2          | 194          | 0.2          | 189          | 0.2          | 218          | 0.2          | 174          | 0.2          |
| Egypt                         | 159          | 0.2          | 177          | 0.2          | 162          | 0.2          | 162          | 0.2          | 164          | 0.2          |
| Singapore                     | 119          | 0.1          | 146          | 0.2          | 121          | 0.1          | 144          | 0.2          | 164          | 0.2          |
| France                        | 119          | 0.1          | 122          | 0.1          | 138          | 0.2          | 149          | 0.2          | 161          | 0.2          |
| Russian Federation (not USSR) | 115          | 0.1          | 151          | 0.2          | 121          | 0.1          | 144          | 0.2          | 153          | 0.2          |
| North Korea                   | 153          | 0.2          | 140          | 0.2          | 124          | 0.1          | 169          | 0.2          | 152          | 0.2          |
| Serbia and Montenegro         | 0            | 0.0          | 168          | 0.2          | 163          | 0.2          | 137          | 0.1          | 144          | 0.2          |
| Nepal                         | 46           | 0.1          | 75           | 0.1          | 78           | 0.1          | 119          | 0.1          | 137          | 0.1          |
| Syria                         | 159          | 0.2          | 147          | 0.2          | 132          | 0.1          | 163          | 0.2          | 132          | 0.1          |
| Taiwan                        | 80           | 0.1          | 107          | 0.1          | 102          | 0.1          | 122          | 0.1          | 129          | 0.1          |
| Brazil                        | 63           | 0.1          | 86           | 0.1          | 81           | 0.1          | 117          | 0.1          | 128          | 0.1          |
| Zimbabwe                      | 44           | 0.1          | 68           | 0.1          | 88           | 0.1          | 101          | 0.1          | 125          | 0.1          |
| Papua New Guinea              | 156          | 0.2          | 106          | 0.1          | 126          | 0.1          | 136          | 0.1          | 122          | 0.1          |
| Netherlands                   | 97           | 0.1          | 87           | 0.1          | 99           | 0.1          | 132          | 0.1          | 116          | 0.1          |
| Argentina                     | 91           | 0.1          | 90           | 0.1          | 98           | 0.1          | 97           | 0.1          | 113          | 0.1          |
| Macedonia                     | 0            | 0.0          | 106          | 0.1          | 105          | 0.1          | 108          | 0.1          | 106          | 0.1          |
| Former Yugoslavia             | 464          | 0.6          | 135          | 0.2          | 132          | 0.1          | 115          | 0.1          | 103          | 0.1          |
| Other/Not stated              | 2647         | 3.1          | 2994         | 3.4          | 3187         | 3.5          | 2970         | 3.1          | 3150         | 3.3          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>84288</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>89140</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>91315</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>94602</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>94864</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

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

# Countries of birth for which 100 or more women gave birth in 2008.

## Maternal Aboriginality

The reported number of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander mothers giving birth increased from 2,308 in 2004 to 2,976 in 2008, an increase from 2.7% to 3.1% of all mothers

(Table 5). Further information on maternal Aboriginality and reporting of Aboriginality is shown in Chapter 7.

**Table 5. Maternal Aboriginality, NSW 2004–2008**

| Plurality                                | Year  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | 2004  |       | 2005  |       | 2006  |       | 2007  |       | 2008  |       |
|  | No.   | %     |
| Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander     | 2308  | 2.7   | 2474  | 2.8   | 2611  | 2.9   | 2888  | 3.1   | 2976  | 3.1   |
| Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander | 81948 | 97.2  | 86570 | 97.1  | 88176 | 96.6  | 91519 | 96.7  | 91675 | 96.6  |
| Not stated                               | 32    | 0.0   | 96    | 0.1   | 528   | 0.6   | 195   | 0.2   | 213   | 0.2   |
| TOTAL                                    | 84288 | 100.0 | 89140 | 100.0 | 91315 | 100.0 | 94602 | 100.0 | 94864 | 100.0 |

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

## Previous pregnancies

In recent years there were no substantial changes in the reported number of previous pregnancies greater than 20 weeks gestation (Table 6). The proportion of mothers giving birth for the first time has been stable at 41% to 42%, while the proportion of mothers giving birth to a

second to fifth baby has been stable at about 56%. The number of women giving birth for the fifth or subsequent time rose by 30.6% from 1,312 in 2004 to 1,713 in 2008—however, these mothers comprised only 1.8% of all mothers in 2008.

**Table 6. Previous pregnancies, NSW 2004–2008**

| No. previous pregnancies (>20 weeks gestation) | Year  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | 2004  |       | 2005  |       | 2006  |       | 2007  |       | 2008  |       |
|  | No.   | %     |
| 0  | 35796 | 42.5  | 37073 | 41.6  | 37855 | 41.5  | 39188 | 41.4  | 39451 | 41.6  |
| 1–4  | 47136 | 55.9  | 50566 | 56.7  | 51443 | 56.3  | 53496 | 56.5  | 53637 | 56.5  |
| 5+   | 1312  | 1.6   | 1441  | 1.6   | 1579  | 1.7   | 1483  | 1.6   | 1713  | 1.8   |
| Not stated                                     | 44    | 0.1   | 60    | 0.1   | 438   | 0.5   | 435   | 0.5   | 63    | 0.1   |
| TOTAL  | 84288 | 100.0 | 89140 | 100.0 | 91315 | 100.0 | 94602 | 100.0 | 94864 | 100.0 |

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

## Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit

Between 2004 and 2008, the proportion of mothers starting antenatal care at 20-plus weeks gestation declined from 11.8% to 5.7% (Table 7). This has been accompanied

by an increase in the proportion of mothers starting antenatal care at less than 14 weeks gestation from 65.2% to 81.9% over the 5-year period.

**Table 7. Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit, NSW 2004–2008**

| Duration of pregnancy (weeks) | Year  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                               | 2004  |       | 2005  |       | 2006  |       | 2007  |       | 2008  |       |
|                               | No.   | %     |
| 0–13                          | 54939 | 65.2  | 60681 | 68.1  | 62757 | 68.7  | 72269 | 76.4  | 77647 | 81.9  |
| 14–19                         | 18836 | 22.3  | 17775 | 19.9  | 17117 | 18.7  | 13512 | 14.3  | 10853 | 11.4  |
| 20+                           | 9934  | 11.8  | 10169 | 11.4  | 10218 | 11.2  | 6827  | 7.2   | 5374  | 5.7   |
| Not stated                    | 579   | 0.7   | 515   | 0.6   | 1223  | 1.3   | 1994  | 2.1   | 990   | 1.0   |
| TOTAL                         | 84288 | 100.0 | 89140 | 100.0 | 91315 | 100.0 | 94602 | 100.0 | 94864 | 100.0 |

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

## Smoking in pregnancy

The proportion of mothers reporting any smoking during pregnancy declined between 2004 and 2008: 12,472 (14.8%) mothers reported smoking in pregnancy in 2004, 12,738 (14.3%) in 2005, 12,307 (13.5%) in 2006, 12,068 (12.8%) in 2007 and 12,094 (12.7%) in 2008.

Of mothers who smoked during pregnancy in 2008, 10.1% stopped smoking before the second half of pregnancy. Over the 5-year period, among those who smoked in the second half of pregnancy, there was a trend towards smoking fewer cigarettes per day (Table 8).

**Table 8. Mothers who smoked at all during pregnancy by number of cigarettes smoked in the second half of pregnancy, NSW 2004–2008**

| Cigarettes smoked in the second half of the pregnancy | Year         |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | 2004         |              | 2005         |              | 2006         |              | 2007         |              | 2008         |              |
|   | No.          | %            |
| None  | 485          | 3.9          | 552          | 4.3          | 514          | 4.2          | 672          | 5.6          | 1227         | 10.1         |
| 1–10 per day  | 6303         | 50.5         | 6483         | 50.9         | 6243         | 50.7         | 6334         | 52.5         | 5929         | 49.0         |
| More than 10 per day                                  | 5378         | 43.1         | 5129         | 40.3         | 5016         | 40.8         | 4430         | 36.7         | 4110         | 34.0         |
| Smoked, amount not stated                             | 297          | 2.4          | 572          | 4.5          | 455          | 3.7          | 631          | 5.2          | 825          | 6.8          |
| Not stated  | 9            | 0.1          | 2            | 0.0          | 79           | 0.6          | 1            | 0.0          | 3            | 0.0          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>12472</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>12738</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>12307</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>12068</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>12094</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

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

## Place of birth

In 2008, the majority of mothers planned to give birth in a hospital labour ward, and 4.2% of mothers planned to give birth in a birth centre (Table 9). Seventy-three per cent of mothers who planned to give birth in a birth centre actually

did so. The total number of reported planned homebirths rose from 114 in 2004 to 243 in 2008, while the reported number of planned homebirths that occurred at home rose from 93 in 2004 to 200 in 2008.

**Table 9. Maternal place of birth, NSW 2004–2008**

| Place of birth                          | Year         |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | 2004         |              | 2005         |              | 2006         |              | 2007         |              | 2008         |              |
|   | No.          | %            |
| Hospital                                | 80701        | 95.7         | 85660        | 96.1         | 87567        | 95.9         | 90015        | 95.2         | 90143        | 95.0         |
| Birth centre                            | 2003         | 2.4          | 1830         | 2.1          | 1878         | 2.1          | 2714         | 2.9          | 2911         | 3.1          |
| Planned birth centre/hospital admission | 1126         | 1.3          | 1128         | 1.3          | 1240         | 1.4          | 1205         | 1.3          | 1063         | 1.1          |
| Planned homebirth                       | 93           | 0.1          | 112          | 0.1          | 125          | 0.1          | 144          | 0.2          | 200          | 0.2          |
| Planned homebirth/hospital admission    | 21           | 0.0          | 40           | 0.0          | 47           | 0.1          | 31           | 0.0          | 43           | 0.0          |
| Born before arrival                     | 344          | 0.4          | 369          | 0.4          | 388          | 0.4          | 490          | 0.5          | 497          | 0.5          |
| Not stated                              | 0            | 0.0          | 1            | 0.0          | 70           | 0.1          | 3            | 0.0          | 7            | 0.0          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                            | <b>84288</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>89140</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>91315</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>94602</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>94864</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

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

## Hypertension and diabetes

Reporting of gestational diabetes was stable at 4% to 5% of mothers between 2004 and 2008, while rates of diabetes mellitus have remained stable at about 0.6% over the 5-year period (Table 10). During 2006, there was a change in the format for reporting hypertension in pregnancy.

Reporting of pre-eclampsia was replaced with reporting of proteinuric and non-proteinuric pregnancy induced hypertension. Overall, hypertension in pregnancy was reported among 7.2% of mothers in 2008, compared to 6.6% in 2004.

**Table 10. Maternal hypertension or diabetes, NSW 2004–2008**

| Condition                                   | 2004         |              | 2005         |              | Year 2006    |              | 2007         |              | 2008         |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | No.          | %            |
| Diabetes                                    | 464          | 0.6          | 503          | 0.6          | 541          | 0.6          | 546          | 0.6          | 601          | 0.6          |
| Gestational diabetes                        | 3592         | 4.3          | 4165         | 4.7          | 4375         | 4.8          | 4091         | 4.3          | 4509         | 4.8          |
| Essential hypertension                      | 940          | 1.1          | 842          | 0.9          | 804          | 0.9          | 721          | 0.8          | 833          | 0.9          |
| Pre-eclampsia <sup>#</sup>                  | 4606         | 5.5          | 4553         | 5.1          | 3198         | 3.5          | -            | -            | -            | -            |
| Pregnancy Induced Hypertension <sup>#</sup> |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| – proteinuric                               | -            | -            | -            | -            | 612          | 0.7          | 1625         | 1.7          | 1766         | 1.9          |
| – non-proteinuric                           | -            | -            | -            | -            | 626          | 0.7          | 3904         | 4.1          | 4216         | 4.4          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                | <b>84288</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>89140</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>91315</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>94602</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>94864</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

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

<sup>#</sup> During 2006, the reporting format changed so that reporting of pre-eclampsia ceased and reporting of pregnancy induced hypertension commenced. This transition meant that in 2006, pre-eclampsia was reported in 3,198 of 55,078 mothers; and pregnancy induced hypertension was reported in 1,238 of 36,237 mothers.

## Labour

The rate of spontaneous onset of labour fell from 60.3% in 2004 to 57.7% in 2008 (Table 11). The rate of induction of labour was 25.3% in 2008, similar to previous years. The most common reported reason for induction of labour in 2008 was prolonged pregnancy (41 or more weeks) (26.5%),

followed by prelabour rupture of membranes (12.2%), hypertensive disease (10.3%), diabetes (6.7%), suspected intrauterine growth retardation (4.2%), fetal distress (1.6%) and fetal death (1.1%).

**Table 11. Onset and augmentation of labour, NSW 2004–2008**

| Onset of labour                                      | 2004         |              | 2005         |              | Year 2006    |              | 2007         |              | 2008         |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|  | No.          | %            |
| Spontaneous  | 37137        | 44.1         | 38027        | 42.7         | 38706        | 42.4         | 38291        | 40.5         | 39076        | 41.2         |
| Spontaneous augmented with ARM*                      | 6090         | 7.2          | 6152         | 6.9          | 6318         | 6.9          | 7339         | 7.8          | 7069         | 7.5          |
| Spontaneous augmented with oxytocics/ prostaglandins | 7580         | 9.0          | 7812         | 8.8          | 8146         | 8.9          | 8553         | 9.0          | 8591         | 9.1          |
| No labour  | 12930        | 15.3         | 14467        | 16.2         | 15516        | 17.0         | 15878        | 16.8         | 16120        | 17.0         |
| Induced – oxytocics/ prostaglandins                  | 7049         | 8.4          | 7417         | 8.3          | 7306         | 8.0          | 8607         | 9.1          | 8576         | 9.0          |
| Induced – ARM only                                   | 1267         | 1.5          | 1595         | 1.8          | 1447         | 1.6          | 1648         | 1.7          | 1680         | 1.8          |
| Induced – ARM+oxytocics/ prostaglandins              | 11912        | 14.1         | 13273        | 14.9         | 13389        | 14.7         | 14003        | 14.8         | 13577        | 14.3         |
| Induced – other <sup>#</sup>                         | 322          | 0.4          | 384          | 0.4          | 417          | 0.5          | 263          | 0.3          | 164          | 0.2          |
| Not stated   | 1.0          | 0.0          | 13           | 0.0          | 70           | 0.1          | 20           | 0.0          | 11           | 0.0          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>84288</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>89140</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>91315</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>94602</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>94864</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

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

\* ARM: artificial rupture of membranes.

<sup>#</sup> This category includes other forms of induction such as Foley's catheter.

## Birth

Among NSW mothers, the rate of normal vaginal birth decreased from 62.1% in 2004 to 59.2% in 2008 (Table 12). The caesarean section rate increased from 27.2% to 29.5%. The rate of instrumental birth remained steady at 10% to 11%. Operative and instrumental births are more common among privately than publicly insured mothers

(Table 13). Among privately insured mothers the rate of normal vaginal birth fell from 50.3% in 2003 to 47.1% in 2007 and the caesarean section rate increased from 34.9% to 38.2%. Among publicly insured mothers the rate of normal vaginal birth fell from 67.2% to 66.0% and the caesarean section rate rose from 23.4% to 24.7%.

**Table 12. Type of birth, NSW 2004–2008**

| Type of delivery                         | 2004         |              | 2005         |              | Year 2006    |              | 2007         |              | 2008         |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|  | No.          | %            |
| Normal vaginal                           | 52366        | 62.1         | 54568        | 61.2         | 55187        | 60.4         | 56648        | 59.9         | 56173        | 59.2         |
| Forceps                                  | 2762         | 3.3          | 2801         | 3.1          | 2885         | 3.2          | 3273         | 3.5          | 3486         | 3.7          |
| Vacuum extraction                        | 5902         | 7.0          | 6372         | 7.1          | 6332         | 6.9          | 6779         | 7.2          | 6830         | 7.2          |
| Vaginal breech                           | 347          | 0.4          | 322          | 0.4          | 366          | 0.4          | 381          | 0.4          | 387          | 0.4          |
| Elective caesarean section               | 12930        | 15.3         | 14467        | 16.2         | 15507        | 17.0         | 15878        | 16.8         | 16120        | 17.0         |
| Emergency caesarean section <sup>#</sup> | 9974         | 11.8         | 10610        | 11.9         | 10827        | 11.9         | 11572        | 12.2         | 11854        | 12.5         |
| Not stated                               | 7            | 0.0          | 0            | 0.0          | 211          | 0.2          | 71           | 0.1          | 14           | 0.0          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                             | <b>84288</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>89140</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>91315</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>94602</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>94864</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.  
<sup>#</sup> Emergency caesarean section includes caesarean sections where the onset of labour was not stated.

**Table 13. Maternal health insurance status by type of birth, NSW 2003–2007<sup>#</sup>**

| Insurance status – type of birth          | 2003         |              | 2004         |              | Year 2005    |              | 2006         |              | 2007         |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | No.          | %            |
| <b>Public</b>                             |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| Normal vaginal                            | 33854        | 67.2         | 33614        | 66.6         | 36849        | 66.4         | 39387        | 66.2         | 41063        | 66.0         |
| Forceps                                   | 1422         | 2.8          | 1355         | 2.7          | 1346         | 2.4          | 1531         | 2.6          | 1795         | 2.9          |
| Vacuum extraction                         | 3078         | 6.1          | 3112         | 6.2          | 3410         | 6.1          | 3486         | 5.9          | 3716         | 6.0          |
| Vaginal breech                            | 249          | 0.5          | 227          | 0.5          | 216          | 0.4          | 266          | 0.4          | 268          | 0.4          |
| Elective caesarean section                | 5949         | 11.8         | 6102         | 12.1         | 7210         | 13.0         | 7985         | 13.4         | 8146         | 13.1         |
| Emergency caesarean section <sup>##</sup> | 5821         | 11.6         | 6024         | 11.9         | 6469         | 11.7         | 6732         | 11.3         | 7216         | 11.6         |
| Not stated                                | 0            | 0.0          | 0            | 0.0          | 0            | 0.0          | 70           | 0.1          | 38           | 0.1          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>50373</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>50434</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>55500</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>59457</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>62242</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b>Private</b>                            |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| Normal vaginal                            | 13726        | 50.3         | 13438        | 49.9         | 14017        | 48.8         | 14096        | 47.6         | 14622        | 47.1         |
| Forceps                                   | 1396         | 5.1          | 1323         | 4.9          | 1384         | 4.8          | 1326         | 4.5          | 1454         | 4.7          |
| Vacuum extraction                         | 2545         | 9.3          | 2612         | 9.7          | 2785         | 9.7          | 2752         | 9.3          | 2996         | 9.6          |
| Vaginal breech                            | 66           | 0.2          | 60           | 0.2          | 64           | 0.2          | 69           | 0.2          | 91           | 0.3          |
| Elective caesarean section                | 5997         | 22.0         | 5983         | 22.2         | 6725         | 23.4         | 7291         | 24.6         | 7623         | 24.5         |
| Emergency caesarean section <sup>##</sup> | 3525         | 12.9         | 3482         | 12.9         | 3771         | 13.1         | 3930         | 13.3         | 4243         | 13.7         |
| Not stated                                | 10           | 0.0          | 7            | 0.0          | 0            | 0.0          | 138          | 0.5          | 32           | 0.1          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>27265</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>26905</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>28746</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>29602</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>31061</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b>Not stated</b>                         |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| Normal vaginal                            | 5844         | 79.0         | 5314         | 76.5         | 3702         | 75.6         | 1704         | 75.5         | 963          | 74.1         |
| Forceps                                   | 57           | 0.8          | 84           | 1.2          | 71           | 1.5          | 28           | 1.2          | 24           | 1.8          |
| Vacuum extraction                         | 165          | 2.2          | 178          | 2.6          | 177          | 3.6          | 94           | 4.2          | 67           | 5.2          |
| Vaginal breech                            | 56           | 0.8          | 60           | 0.9          | 42           | 0.9          | 31           | 1.4          | 22           | 1.7          |
| Elective caesarean section                | 874          | 11.8         | 845          | 12.2         | 532          | 10.9         | 231          | 10.2         | 109          | 8.4          |
| Emergency caesarean section <sup>##</sup> | 398          | 5.4          | 468          | 6.7          | 370          | 7.6          | 165          | 7.3          | 113          | 8.7          |
| Not stated                                | 0            | 0.0          | 0            | 0.0          | 0            | 0.0          | 3            | 0.1          | 1            | 0.1          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>7394</b>  | <b>100.0</b> | <b>6949</b>  | <b>100.0</b> | <b>4894</b>  | <b>100.0</b> | <b>2256</b>  | <b>100.0</b> | <b>1299</b>  | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b>TOTAL<sup>###</sup></b>                |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| Normal vaginal                            | 53424        | 62.8         | 52366        | 62.1         | 54568        | 61.2         | 55187        | 60.4         | 56648        | 59.9         |
| Forceps                                   | 2875         | 3.4          | 2762         | 3.3          | 2801         | 3.1          | 2885         | 3.2          | 3273         | 3.5          |
| Vacuum extraction                         | 5788         | 6.8          | 5902         | 7.0          | 6372         | 7.1          | 6332         | 6.9          | 6779         | 7.2          |
| Vaginal breech                            | 371          | 0.4          | 347          | 0.4          | 322          | 0.4          | 366          | 0.4          | 381          | 0.4          |
| Elective caesarean section                | 12820        | 15.1         | 12930        | 15.3         | 14467        | 16.2         | 15507        | 17.0         | 15878        | 16.8         |
| Emergency caesarean section <sup>##</sup> | 9744         | 11.5         | 9974         | 11.8         | 10610        | 11.9         | 10827        | 11.9         | 11572        | 12.2         |
| Not stated                                | 10           | 0.0          | 7            | 0.0          | 0            | 0.0          | 211          | 0.2          | 71           | 0.1          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>85032</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>84288</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>89140</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>91315</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>94602</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Source: Linked data of the NSW Midwives Data Collection and NSW Admitted Patient Data Collection. Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

<sup>#</sup> Figures for 2003 to 2006 differ to those reported previously as the linkage has been updated.

<sup>##</sup> Emergency caesarean section includes cases where caesarean section was reported but type of onset of labour was not reported.

<sup>###</sup> Total includes mothers where type of health insurance was not stated.

## Baby sex

There was no significant change in the pattern of baby sex since 2004, with slightly more male babies born than females in each year. In 2008, 49,253 (51.1%) of babies were male, 47,054 (48.8%) were female, 9 were of indeterminate sex, and sex was not reported for 27 babies. This compares with babies born in 2004, when 44,202 (51.6%) of babies were male, 41,390 (48.3%) were female, 19 were of indeterminate sex, and sex was not reported for 15 babies.

## Gestational age

In 2008, 7.5% of babies were born prematurely (less than 37 weeks gestation), compared to 7.3% in 2004 (Table 14). Over the 5 year period, about 91% of babies were born at term (37–41 weeks gestation). The percentage of postmature babies (41-plus weeks gestation) fell from 2.1% in 2004 to 0.8% in 2008.

**Table 14. Gestational age, NSW 2004–2008**

| Gestational age (weeks) | Year  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                         | 2004  |       | 2005  |       | 2006  |       | 2007  |       | 2008  |       |
|                         | No.   | %     |
| 28–31                   | 667   | 0.8   | 654   | 0.7   | 675   | 0.7   | 660   | 0.7   | 683   | 0.7   |
| 32–36                   | 4975  | 5.8   | 5248  | 5.8   | 5490  | 5.9   | 5703  | 5.9   | 5794  | 6.0   |
| 37–41                   | 77614 | 90.6  | 82367 | 90.9  | 84424 | 91.0  | 88011 | 91.6  | 88353 | 91.7  |
| 42 +                    | 1761  | 2.1   | 1709  | 1.9   | 1499  | 1.6   | 907   | 0.9   | 764   | 0.8   |
| < 28                    | 605   | 0.7   | 622   | 0.7   | 674   | 0.7   | 707   | 0.7   | 732   | 0.8   |
| Not stated              | 4     | 0.0   | 10    | 0.0   | 19    | 0.0   | 42    | 0.0   | 17    | 0.0   |
| TOTAL                   | 85626 | 100.0 | 90610 | 100.0 | 92781 | 100.0 | 96030 | 100.0 | 96343 | 100.0 |

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

## Birth weight

Since 2004, the pattern of birth weights has remained stable, with the rate of low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams) at

just over 6% each year (Table 15). The rate of low birth weight was 6.2% in 2008.

**Table 15. Birth weight, NSW 2004–2008**

| Birth weight (grams) | Year  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                      | 2004  |       | 2005  |       | 2006  |       | 2007  |       | 2008  |       |
|                      | No.   | %     |
| Less than 500        | 214   | 0.2   | 227   | 0.3   | 239   | 0.3   | 255   | 0.3   | 266   | 0.3   |
| 500–999              | 395   | 0.5   | 392   | 0.4   | 411   | 0.4   | 422   | 0.4   | 422   | 0.4   |
| 1000–1499            | 558   | 0.7   | 513   | 0.6   | 562   | 0.6   | 512   | 0.5   | 525   | 0.5   |
| 1500–1999            | 1059  | 1.2   | 1100  | 1.2   | 1167  | 1.3   | 1119  | 1.2   | 1230  | 1.3   |
| 2000–2499            | 3231  | 3.8   | 3452  | 3.8   | 3554  | 3.8   | 3541  | 3.7   | 3551  | 3.7   |
| 2500–2999            | 12797 | 14.9  | 13675 | 15.1  | 13906 | 15.0  | 14265 | 14.9  | 14157 | 14.7  |
| 3000–3499            | 30238 | 35.3  | 32451 | 35.8  | 33074 | 35.6  | 34790 | 36.2  | 34612 | 35.9  |
| 3500–3999            | 26570 | 31.0  | 27822 | 30.7  | 28705 | 30.9  | 29648 | 30.9  | 29891 | 31.0  |
| 4000–4499            | 8931  | 10.4  | 9298  | 10.3  | 9389  | 10.1  | 9717  | 10.1  | 9889  | 10.3  |
| 4500+                | 1584  | 1.8   | 1613  | 1.8   | 1649  | 1.8   | 1653  | 1.7   | 1716  | 1.8   |
| Not stated           | 49    | 0.1   | 67    | 0.1   | 125   | 0.1   | 108   | 0.1   | 84    | 0.1   |
| TOTAL                | 85626 | 100.0 | 90610 | 100.0 | 92781 | 100.0 | 96030 | 100.0 | 96343 | 100.0 |

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

## Apgar score

In 2008, 2.1% of babies were born with an Apgar score of less than 7 at 5 minutes and 1.1% were born with an Apgar

score of less than 4 (Table 16). These rates are similar to those of previous years.

**Table 16. Apgar score at 5 minutes, NSW 2004–2008#**

| Apgar score | Year  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|             | 2004  |       | 2005  |       | 2006  |       | 2007  |       | 2008  |       |
|             | No.   | %     |
| 0–4         | 921   | 1.1   | 963   | 1.1   | 1007  | 1.1   | 1093  | 1.1   | 1093  | 1.1   |
| 5–6         | 844   | 1.0   | 833   | 0.9   | 890   | 1.0   | 910   | 0.9   | 900   | 0.9   |
| 7+          | 83653 | 97.7  | 88621 | 97.8  | 90645 | 97.7  | 93685 | 97.6  | 94077 | 97.6  |
| Not stated  | 208   | 0.2   | 193   | 0.2   | 239   | 0.3   | 342   | 0.4   | 273   | 0.3   |
| TOTAL       | 85626 | 100.0 | 90610 | 100.0 | 92781 | 100.0 | 96030 | 100.0 | 96343 | 100.0 |

Source: NSW Midwives Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.  
# Includes stillbirths and live births.

## Perinatal outcome

In the period 2004–2008 the perinatal mortality rate varied from 8.7 to 9.0 per 1,000 (Table 17). In 2008, 69.5% of all reported perinatal deaths were stillbirths and 30.5% were neonatal deaths.

In 2008, of the 841 perinatal deaths in NSW, 817 (97.1%) were reported among planned hospital births, 12 (1.4%) among planned birth centre births, 1 occurred in a planned home birth, and 11 were among babies born before arrival at hospital.

**Table 17. Perinatal outcomes, NSW 2004–2008#**

| Year | Liveborn surviving |      | Stillborn |     | Neonatal death |     | Death – age not stated |     | Not stated |     | Total births |       | Perinatal death rate/ 1,000 births## |
|------|--------------------|------|-----------|-----|----------------|-----|------------------------|-----|------------|-----|--------------|-------|--------------------------------------|
|      | No.                | %    | No.       | %   | No.            | %   | No.                    | %   | No.        | %   | No.          | %     |                                      |
| 2004 | 84849              | 99.1 | 561       | 0.7 | 212            | 0.2 | 0                      | 0.0 | 4          | 0.0 | 85626        | 100.0 | 9.0                                  |
| 2005 | 89786              | 99.1 | 535       | 0.6 | 257            | 0.3 | 0                      | 0.0 | 32         | 0.0 | 90610        | 100.0 | 8.7                                  |
| 2006 | 91840              | 99.0 | 592       | 0.6 | 229            | 0.2 | 6                      | 0.0 | 114        | 0.1 | 92781        | 100.0 | 8.8                                  |
| 2007 | 94973              | 98.9 | 629       | 0.7 | 239            | 0.2 | 8                      | 0.0 | 181        | 0.2 | 96030        | 100.0 | 9.0                                  |
| 2008 | 95440              | 99.1 | 585       | 0.6 | 256            | 0.3 | 7                      | 0.0 | 55         | 0.1 | 96343        | 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.  
## The perinatal death rate excludes deaths where the age at death was not stated.

## Maternal deaths

In the period 1990–2007, 178 deaths were reported among pregnant women or women who gave birth less than 6 weeks previously. Of these, 55 (30.9%) died of incidental causes not related to the pregnancy or its management, 77 (43.3%) deaths were found to be directly due to pregnancy or its management, and 43 (24.2%) deaths were found to

result from pre-existing disease or disease which developed during pregnancy (not due to direct obstetric causes), but which may have been aggravated by the physiologic effects of pregnancy (Table 18). Table 19 shows maternal deaths by cause in NSW for 2007.

**Table 18. Maternal deaths by year, NSW 1990–2007#**

| Year    | Classification |                |          |                |                            |                |            |                |       |                |
|---------|----------------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|-------|----------------|
|         | Direct         |                | Indirect |                | Total: direct and indirect |                | Incidental |                | Total |                |
|         | No.            | Ratio/ 100,000 | No.      | Ratio/ 100,000 | No.                        | Ratio/ 100,000 | No.        | Ratio/ 100,000 | No.   | Ratio/ 100,000 |
| 1990    | 4              | 4.6            | 6        | 6.9            | 10                         | 11.6           | 2          | 2.3            | 12    | 13.9           |
| 1991    | 4              | 4.7            | 1        | 1.2            | 5                          | 5.8            | 1          | 1.2            | 6     | 7.0            |
| 1992    | 5              | 5.7            | 1        | 1.1            | 6                          | 6.8            | 5          | 5.7            | 11    | 12.5           |
| 1993    | 6              | 6.9            | 1        | 1.2            | 7                          | 8.1            | 6          | 6.9            | 13    | 15.0           |
| 1994    | 8              | 9.2            | 1        | 1.2            | 9                          | 10.4           | 3          | 3.5            | 12    | 13.8           |
| 1995    | 7              | 8.1            | 2        | 2.3            | 9                          | 10.4           | 6          | 7.0            | 15    | 17.4           |
| 1996    | 6              | 7.0            | 1        | 1.2            | 7                          | 8.2            | 5          | 5.9            | 12    | 14.1           |
| 1997    | 7              | 8.1            | 2        | 2.3            | 9                          | 10.5           | 5          | 5.8            | 14    | 16.1           |
| 1998    | 4              | 4.7            | 4        | 4.7            | 8                          | 9.4            | 3          | 3.5            | 11    | 12.9           |
| 1999##  | 4              | 4.7            | 1        | 1.2            | 5                          | 5.8            | 6          | 7.0            | 12    | 14.0           |
| 2000    | 4              | 4.7            | 5        | 5.9            | 9                          | 10.7           | 1          | 1.2            | 10    | 11.9           |
| 2001    | 4              | 4.7            | 4        | 4.7            | 8                          | 9.5            | 1          | 1.2            | 9     | 10.7           |
| 2002    | 2              | 2.4            | 2        | 2.4            | 4                          | 4.7            | 1          | 1.2            | 5     | 5.9            |
| 2003    | 1              | 1.2            | 3        | 3.5            | 4                          | 4.7            | 3          | 3.5            | 7     | 8.2            |
| 2004### | 2              | 2.3            | 2        | 2.3            | 4                          | 4.7            | 2          | 2.3            | 7     | 8.2            |
| 2005##  | 4              | 4.5            | 4        | 4.5            | 8                          | 9.0            | 2          | 2.2            | 11    | 12.3           |
| 2006    | 4              | 4.4            | 3        | 3.3            | 7                          | 7.7            | 3          | 3.3            | 10    | 11.0           |
| 2007    | 1              | 1.1            | 0        | 0.0            | 1                          | 1.1            | 0          | 0.0            | 1     | 1.1            |

Source: NSW Maternal and Perinatal Committee.

# Includes all deaths of women who were pregnant at the time of death, or who died within 42 days of childbirth. Direct deaths include those resulting from obstetric complications of the pregnant state, including its management. Indirect deaths include those resulting from pre-existing disease or disease which developed during pregnancy and was not due to direct obstetric causes but which may have been aggravated by the physiological effects of pregnancy. Incidental deaths are those where the pregnancy is unlikely to have contributed significantly to the death.<sup>1</sup>

## Totals for 1999 and 2005 each include one death that was unable to be classified. Information for 2005 has been updated since the publication of the *NSW Mothers and Babies Report 2006*.

### Total for 2004 includes one open coronial case.

**Table 19. Maternal deaths by cause, NSW 2007#**

| Classification | Cause                  | No. |
|----------------|------------------------|-----|
| Direct         | Postpartum haemorrhage | 1   |
| Total          |                        | 1   |

Source: NSW Maternal and Perinatal Committee.

# Includes all deaths of women who were pregnant at the time of death, or who died within 42 days of childbirth. Direct deaths include those resulting from obstetric complications of the pregnant state, including its management.<sup>1</sup>

## Reference

1. Sullivan EA, Hall B and King, JF. *Maternal deaths in Australia 2003–2005*. Maternal deaths series no. 3 Cat. No. PER 42. Sydney: AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit, 2007.