

# Mothers and Babies 2018

Northern Territory Midwives Collection



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Acronyms	Full form
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
DPH	Darwin Private Hospital
ECM	External cardiac massage
NT	Northern Territory
PPH	Post-partum haemorrhages
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
WHO	World Health Organisation

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Lin Li

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# Contents

Summary.....	6
<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>8</b>
1.1. Information presented in this report.....	8
1.2. Data sources .....	8
1.2.1. Northern Territory Midwives Collection .....	8
1.2.2. NT Infant Death Register.....	8
1.3. Quality Summary.....	9
<b>2. Mothers and babies of the Northern Territory .....</b>	<b>11</b>
2.1. Mothers.....	11
2.1.1. Place of residence.....	11
2.1.2. Country of birth .....	11
2.1.3. Fertility rate .....	11
2.1.4. Maternal age.....	11
2.1.5. Parity .....	12
2.1.6. Antenatal care .....	12
2.1.7. Alcohol consumption during pregnancy .....	13
2.1.8. Smoking status during pregnancy .....	13
2.1.9. Birth facility.....	13
2.1.10. Onset of labour and induction of labour .....	14
2.1.11. Presentation and method of birth .....	14
2.1.12. Analgesia and anaesthesia for childbirth.....	14
2.1.13. Complications due to pregnancy and/or childbirth .....	15
2.1.14. Perineal status.....	15
2.1.15. Postnatal hospital stay .....	15
2.2. Babies .....	16
2.2.1. Birth status.....	16
2.2.2. Plurality.....	16
2.2.3. Gestational age and birthweight of liveborn babies.....	16
2.2.4. Apgar scores .....	16
2.2.5. Resuscitation of live born babies.....	16
2.2.6. Infant feeding .....	17
2.2.7. Perinatal mortality .....	17
<b>3. Statistical tables.....</b>	<b>18</b>
3.1. Mothers.....	18
3.2. Babies .....	33
<b>4. Appendix A. Hospital profiles.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>5. Appendix B. Trends of perinatal indicators, by Aboriginal status, NT, 2004–2018.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>6. Appendix C. Northern Territory Estimated Resident Population.....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>7. Appendix D. Map of Northern Territory Health Districts.....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>8. Glossary .....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>9. References .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>10. List of tables and figures .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>11. Selected Population and Digital Health Branch publications .....</b>	<b>66</b>

## Summary

This report summarises data from the 2018 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 2018. The trend tables (see Appendix B) show changes over time for key demographic and obstetric indicators and birth outcomes over the period 2004–2018. Unless otherwise stated, the following key findings are for NT residents only.

### Key findings

- In 2018, there were 3710 babies born to 3662 mothers who resided in the NT, 32% of whom were Aboriginal, and 27% were born overseas. In addition, there were 66 babies born in the NT to 66 mothers who were interstate or overseas residents. The total number of births in the NT for 2018 was 3776 babies born to 3728 mothers.
- Aboriginal women in the NT had a total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.9 in 2018, while non-Aboriginal women had a rate of 1.7. The TFR for all NT women was 1.8, which was higher than that reported for all Australian women during the same period (1.7 births per woman) (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2018).
- The mean age of Aboriginal mothers (25.9 years) was five years younger than that of non-Aboriginal mothers (30.9 years). Sixteen per cent of Aboriginal mothers were below 20 years of age. non-Aboriginal mothers were more than two times as likely to be in the oldest age group (35 years and over) as Aboriginal mothers (24% and 10% respectively).
- A much greater proportion of Aboriginal mothers (22%) had three or more previous births compared with non-Aboriginal mothers (7%). Concordantly, a smaller proportion of Aboriginal mothers gave birth to their first baby in 2018 than non-Aboriginal mothers (33% and 45% respectively).
- Aboriginal mothers were five times as likely to have had insufficient antenatal care (no antenatal visit or less than five visits attended) compared with non-Aboriginal mothers (16% and 3% respectively). Ninety-three per cent of non-Aboriginal mothers attended their first antenatal visit during their first trimester of pregnancy, compared with 70% of Aboriginal mothers.
- Aboriginal mothers were seven times as likely to report smoking before 20 weeks of pregnancy when compared with non-Aboriginal mothers (49% and 7% respectively). Of those women who reported smoking before the first 20 weeks of pregnancy, non-Aboriginal mothers were more likely to have ceased smoking post 20 weeks gestation than Aboriginal mothers (29% and 9% respectively).
- Ninety-eight per cent of all NT births occurred in a hospital, while the remaining 2% of births were registered planned homebirths and births that occurred in unintended locations.
- Onset of labour was induced for a third (33%) of all NT mothers.
- Fifty-nine per cent of all NT mothers had a normal vaginal delivery, while instrumental deliveries using forceps or ventouse (vacuum suction) accounted for 10% of births.
- Nearly a third (31%) of all NT mothers had a caesarean section. Of those mothers, Aboriginal mothers were more likely to undergo a caesarean section for emergency reasons (62%) than non-Aboriginal mothers (50%).
- Among NT mothers who gave birth vaginally, 26% had a second degree perineal tear, while 3% had a third or fourth degree tear. Seventeen per cent had an episiotomy.

- The main reason for elective caesarean section births was a previous caesarean section (61%). The main indications for emergency caesarean section births were failure to progress during labour (35%), fetal compromise (34%) and malpresentation (7%).
- The most common medical complication of pregnancy was gestational diabetes mellitus, which affected 15% of all NT mothers and had a similar proportion in non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal mothers (15% and 14% respectively).
- The most common complication of labour and childbirth for NT mothers was post-partum haemorrhage (a blood loss volume of 500 millilitres or more) (32%). Post-partum haemorrhage was much more prevalent among caesarean than vaginal births (52% and 24% respectively).
- Eleven per cent of all NT live births were preterm (less than 37 weeks gestation). The proportion of preterm babies born to Aboriginal mothers was double that of preterm babies born to non-Aboriginal mothers (17% and 8% respectively).
- Nine per cent of all NT live births were low birthweight (less than 2500 grams). The proportion of low birthweight babies born to Aboriginal mothers was more than double that of those born to non-Aboriginal mothers (15% and 6% respectively).
- Three per cent of all NT term (37 weeks and over) singleton live births were low birthweight; 5% of those born to Aboriginal mothers and 2% to non-Aboriginal mothers.
- By five minutes after birth, just 3% of NT live born babies had an Apgar score below seven; 5% of those born to Aboriginal mothers and 2% to non-Aboriginal mothers.
- Sixteen per cent of all NT born babies received some form of resuscitation, excluding tactile stimulation. Resuscitation was slightly higher among Aboriginal babies than non-Aboriginal babies (17% and 15% respectively).
- There were 64 perinatal deaths comprising 44 fetal deaths (stillbirths) and 20 neonatal deaths. The stillbirth rate was 16.6 and 9.6 deaths per 1000 total births for the NT Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population respectively, and the overall perinatal death rate was 28.3 and 12.0 deaths per 1000 total births for the NT Aboriginal and the non-Aboriginal population respectively.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Information presented in this report

The NT Midwives' Collection contains information on both NT residents and non-NT residents who gave birth in the NT. However, the focus of this report is NT residents who gave birth in the NT. Unless otherwise stated, mothers and babies residing interstate or overseas were omitted from the statistical tables. Pregnancies that resulted in the birth of an infant at or greater than 20 week's gestation or more than 400 grams in weight have been included. These criteria are in alignment with national reporting practises.

Information on NT women who gave birth interstate is not collected in the NT Midwives' Collection and is beyond the scope of this report. Perinatal reports compiled annually by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) publish estimated numbers of NT women who gave birth interstate. In the AIHW's report: *Australia's mothers and babies 2018* (AIHW, 2020a) – in brief, it was estimated that around 61 NT women gave birth interstate, predominantly in Queensland (29 births) and South Australia (25 births). Aboriginal status was not available for interstate births to NT women.

In this report, unless stated otherwise, maternal Aboriginal status was used during the 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 Aboriginal 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 and 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 (Chondur & Guthridge, 2006).

### 1.2. Data sources

#### 1.2.1. 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 unintended locations such as 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 majority of information about births in the NT is 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 process normally covers births that occurred in public hospitals and births before arrival. Births in Darwin Private Hospital (DPH) are entered via the NT Midwives' Collection website. Births that occurred in community health centres, which did not involve being admitted to hospital, are submitted in paper form and then entered by the Perinatal Data Manager.

#### 1.2.2. NT Neonatal and Infant Death Register

The Population and Digital Health Branch of the NT Department of Health has maintained information on the deaths data up to one year of age of NT residents that occurred in the NT since 1986. The primary source for the register is the NT Midwives' Collection, and the secondary source for the register is the death data from the NT Births, Deaths and Marriage Registry which contains deaths that occurred in the community.



### 1.3. Quality Summary

Several data items in the NT 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 of low accuracy. This is usually due to the indirect data collection method or 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 declining to provide information or may be missing at random. While there are no definitive rules as to how 'not stated' data are reported, as a default position AIHW recommends that 'not stated' are shown in tables as numbers and excluded from the calculation of percentage distributions. This methodology assumes that the 'stated' and the 'not stated' share the same distribution (unpublished guidelines, AIHW, 2008).

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

The effect of this change in approach is that the proportional distribution for certain data items, particularly alcohol consumption and smoking during pregnancy, is now markedly higher than previously reported. Comparative analyses involving reports published since 2011 and those published prior to 2011 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 NT Midwives' Collection website is limited to the details at hand. Key antenatal indicators such as visit dates and health behaviours are the 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 NT Midwives' Collection are sometimes different to 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 NT Midwives' Collection and medical coders responsible for data entry in the main hospital data system.

In 2012, data for post-partum blood loss volume for all public hospital admissions was made available for analysis. In 2014, information on blood loss volume for DPH births was also made available. Prior to 2012 (and 2014 for DPH births), data on post-partum haemorrhages (PPH) were collected using the midwives flag entered at the time of birth, which may not accurately represent the proportion of PPH within 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 500 millilitres or more (including caesarean sections), regardless of whether the PPH flag was used. Comparative analyses involving reports published since 2014 and those published prior to 2014 will need to take this methodological change into account.

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 Department of Health commenced reporting of gestational age and birthweights of live births only in the Appendix A: Hospitals profiles tables and Appendix B: Trends of perinatal indicators 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 live born babies were included.

The denominator used to calculate fertility rates is the 2018 NT Estimated Resident Population based on the 2018 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing (see Appendix C).

Because the NT population is small, when data are disaggregated by Aboriginal status, region, or place of birth, 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 2018, there were only four births at Tennant Creek Hospital and 1 birth at Palmerston Regional Hospital (Palmerston Regional Hospital opened from 27 Aug 2018), as a result, these hospital profiles have not been presented in Appendix A.

A further issue with data disaggregated by region for the Aboriginal population is difficulties that some individuals may have identifying one usual place of residence (Morphy, 2007). This is particularly true for pregnant women who have to travel and stay in an urban area from 38 weeks gestation to be close to a hospital when they are ready to give birth (Alukura, 2008). The location they are staying in could thus be recorded as their current place of residence and not the usual residence they have travelled from. An audit of NT hospital demographic data in 2011 found 91% congruence between hospital records of patients' recorded health district of residence and the health district people identified as their usual place of residence when asked in an interview (Foley, Zhao & Condon, 2012).

## 2. Mothers and babies of the Northern Territory

### 2.1. Mothers

#### 2.1.1. Place of residence

In 2018, a total of 3728 mothers gave birth to 3776 babies in the NT, of which 3731 were live births. Among all babies born in the NT, 98% were born to mothers who were resident in the NT at the time of the birth. There were 66 mothers from interstate or overseas who gave birth to 66 babies (2% of all babies born in the NT in 2018).

Aboriginal mothers comprised 32% of all NT mothers in 2018. This is higher than the proportion of the NT female population of child-bearing age (i.e. 15-49 years) who are Aboriginal (Appendix C).

Most NT non-Aboriginal mothers were living in urban areas (95%), which include the Darwin Urban and Alice Springs Urban districts and the towns of Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Nhulunbuy. In contrast, Aboriginal mothers were more likely to reside in rural and remote areas (55%).

#### 2.1.2. Country of birth

Seventy-three per cent of NT women who gave birth in 2018 were born in Australia. Of the 27% of NT mothers who were born overseas, the largest proportions were born in the Philippines and India (both 4%). Other locations contributing mothers born overseas were the United Kingdom, New Zealand (both 2%), Nepal, Ireland, Indonesia, and Pakistan (all 1%). In regard to country groups (ABS, 2018), the largest proportion of non-Australian born mothers came from South-East Asia and Southern and Central Asia (both 7%), followed by North-West Europe (4%).

#### 2.1.3. Fertility rate

The total fertility rate (TFR) for the NT was 1.8 live births per woman (of child-bearing age) in 2018, lower than the national replacement rate of 2.1 births per woman and higher than the TFR of 1.7 births per woman for the whole of Australia in the same period (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2018). Aboriginal NT women had a fertility rate of 1.9 in 2018, while non-Aboriginal women had a slightly lower rate of 1.7 live births per woman.

Higher TFRs for Aboriginal women were seen in urban areas than in rural/remote areas (2.4 and 1.6 respectively); however, it was the opposite for non-Aboriginal mothers (1.6 and 1.8 respectively). Barkly had the highest TFR for all NT women (2.3) in 2018, while East Arnhem was the lowest (1.5). The highest district-specific TFRs for Aboriginal women were in Barkly and Alice Springs Urban (both 2.7) respectively and for non-Aboriginal women was in Darwin Rural (2.9).

The age-specific fertility rates show differences in the age of child-bearing between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations in the NT. The fertility rate of the youngest age group (below 20 years of age) was seven times higher for Aboriginal women compared with non-Aboriginal women (55.0 and 7.8 births per 1000 women respectively). Conversely, the fertility rate of the 35 years and older age group was much higher for non-Aboriginal than Aboriginal women (31.0 and 15.9 respectively).

#### 2.1.4. Maternal age

The mean age of Aboriginal mothers was 25.9 years, which was five years younger than the mean age of 30.9 years for non-Aboriginal mothers. Forty-six per cent of Aboriginal mothers were aged below 25 years, compared with 11% of non-Aboriginal mothers. In contrast, over half of non-Aboriginal mothers were aged 30 years or older (62%), while that age group comprised only 28% of all Aboriginal mothers. Sixteen per cent of Aboriginal mothers were less than 20 years of age at the time of giving birth, sixteen

times as high as the proportion of non-Aboriginal mothers (1%). A further difference was seen among mothers aged below 18 years, with 6% of all Aboriginal mothers being in this age group, compared with less than 1% of non-Aboriginal mothers. In contrast, non-Aboriginal mothers were more than two times as likely to be aged 35 years and over as Aboriginal mothers (24% and 10% respectively).

This pattern of earlier childbearing among Aboriginal mothers was seen in all health districts and in both urban and rural/remote areas. Aboriginal mothers in the Barkly district were more likely to give birth before the age of 20 (21%) compared with Aboriginal mothers in other health districts where the proportion of young mothers (aged less than 20 years) ranged between 11% and 19%. Across the NT the proportion of young Aboriginal mothers was lower in urban areas (14%) than in rural/remote areas (17%) while there was little difference in these figures in regard to non-Aboriginal mothers.

The difference in maternal age between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women was more pronounced among first-time mothers, for whom there was an eight-year difference in the mean age of giving birth (21.1 and 29.6 years respectively). The vast majority of non-Aboriginal first-time mothers were aged 25 years or older (84%), whereas 42% of first-time Aboriginal mothers were less than 20 years of age, and 19% of first-time Aboriginal mothers were below 18 years of age.

The proportion of the first-time mothers aged less than 20 years decreased substantially over the past ten years. Compared with 2008 data, the proportion of first-time Aboriginal mothers that were less than 20 years of age reduced from 57% in 2008 to 42% in 2018, and the proportion of first time non-Aboriginal mothers in this age group fell from 7% in 2008 to 3% in 2018.

### 2.1.5. Parity

Fifty-nine per cent of NT mothers in 2018 had given birth at least once before. Nearly half (47%) of NT mothers had one or two previous births and 12% had three or more previous births. Forty-one per cent of women gave birth to their first child in 2018. First-time mothers were proportionally higher among non-Aboriginal mothers (45%) than Aboriginal mothers (33%). Similarly, Aboriginal women were more than three times as likely as non-Aboriginal to have had three or more previous births (22% and 7% respectively).

### 2.1.6. Antenatal care

The majority of mothers had information on antenatal visits recorded. One per cent of records were missing the date of first visit or frequency of visits. Among mothers for whom information was collected, Aboriginal mothers in the NT were more likely to have attended less than five visits compared with non-Aboriginal mothers (16% and 3% respectively). The highest proportion of Aboriginal mothers attended less than five visits was in the Barkly region (32%), while only 7% of Aboriginal mothers in Darwin Rural had less than five antenatal visits.

It is important for maternal and fetal health for women to have their first antenatal visit within the first trimester of pregnancy. In this report, first trimester is defined as a gestational age less than 14 weeks from conception. This definition is consistent with the National Aboriginal Reform Agreement definition endorsed by Australia's online repository for metadata standards in June 2012 (AIHW, 2018) and differs from NT perinatal reports published prior to 2012. In these reports, first trimester was defined as less than 13 weeks.

In this report, gestational age at the first antenatal visit was derived from three sources including 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-Aboriginal mothers, Aboriginal 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, 93% of non-Aboriginal mothers attended their first visit during the first trimester of pregnancy. This

proportion was much less for Aboriginal mothers (70%). The proportion of Aboriginal women attending a first antenatal visit in the first trimester was higher in urban areas than in rural/remote (73% and 68% respectively).

### 2.1.7. 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 2018, 5% of alcohol consumption data were missing at the first visit. Only self-reported alcohol consumption at the first antenatal visit is presented in this report. The prevalence of alcohol consumption reported below was calculated after removing missing data.

At their first antenatal visit, 4% of all NT mothers reported drinking alcohol during their pregnancy. The prevalence of alcohol consumption was higher for Aboriginal mothers (10% at the first visit) than for non-Aboriginal mothers (2% at the first visit).

### 2.1.8. Smoking status during pregnancy

Smoking status during pregnancy is self-reported, and is recorded as having smoked before 20 weeks gestation and after 20 weeks gestation. These variables were introduced into the NT Midwives' Collection to ensure consistency with the information in the National Minimum Dataset. The estimated average daily quantity of cigarettes smoked is also collected after 20 weeks gestation. The prevalence of smoking during pregnancy reported below was calculated after removing records with missing data.

Twenty one per cent of NT mothers reported smoking before 20 weeks of pregnancy. Aboriginal mothers were seven times as likely as non-Aboriginal mothers to report smoking during this early stage (49% and 7% respectively). Forty-nine per cent of Aboriginal mothers aged 20-34 and 61% of 35+ reported smoking before 20 weeks, while non-Aboriginal mothers aged under 20 (23%) were much more likely to smoke than those aged 20-34 and over 35 (8% and 4% respectively). Of those NT mothers who reported smoking before 20 weeks in pregnancy, non-Aboriginal mothers were more likely to have ceased smoking by 20 weeks gestation than Aboriginal mothers (29% and 9% respectively).

Among Aboriginal mothers, those living in Alice Springs Urban district had notably lower smoking rates than other districts, with 38% of mothers smoking before 20 weeks gestation, compared with the highest of 64% in East Arnhem district. This pattern of lower smoking rates in Central Australia is consistent with data from previous years and may be related to the local practice of chewing tobacco (pituri) in the region (Ratsch, Steadman & Bogossian, 2010).

### 2.1.9. Birth facility

Nearly all NT births occurred in a hospital (98%) in 2018. The majority of hospital births took place at one of the six public hospitals in the NT (88%) and the rest were at DPH, the only private hospital in the NT. Almost all mothers who gave birth at DPH were non-Aboriginal (98%).

There were 87 births that occurred out of hospital. Among them, 32 (37%) births were planned homebirths (birthed at home with the public hospital Home birth Service), 22 (25%) births occurred in remote community health centres and 33 (38%) occurred in transit to a health service or in temporary accommodation or homes. Only five mothers were not admitted into hospital postpartum.

Remote community health centres were the most common place for non-hospital births for Aboriginal mothers (2% of all births by NT Aboriginal mothers). Darwin Rural health district had the largest proportion of non-hospital births for Aboriginal mothers (6%), with the proportion in the remainder of health districts ranging between less than 1% and 3%.

### 2.1.10. Onset of labour and induction of labour

Spontaneous (both augmented and not augmented) onset of labour occurred for 48% of all mothers; a third of mothers (33%) had induced labour and 19% had no labour. Non-Aboriginal mothers were less likely to have spontaneous onset of labour than Aboriginal mothers (47% and 51% respectively), whereas Aboriginal mothers were less likely to have no labour than non-Aboriginal mothers (17% and 20% respectively).

Spontaneous (both augmented and not augmented) onset of labour occurred for 46% and 48% of all pre-term and term birth mothers respectively; 28% and 33% of all pre-term and term birth mothers respectively had induced labour, and 27% and 18% of all pre-term and term birth mothers respectively had no labour. Non-Aboriginal mothers were less likely to have spontaneous onset of labour than Aboriginal mothers (43% and 48% of all pre-term birth mothers respectively, 48% and 52% of all term birth mothers respectively), whereas Aboriginal mothers were less likely to have no labour than non-Aboriginal mothers among all pre-term and term birth mothers.

### 2.1.11. Presentation and method of birth

The majority of baby birth presentations for NT mothers were vertex (95%) while breech accounted for 4% and other presentations less than 1%.

Of all NT mothers giving birth in 2018, 59% had a normal vaginal birth. Aboriginal mothers were more likely to have a normal vaginal delivery than non-Aboriginal mothers (63% and 57% respectively). A third (31%) of births were performed by caesarean section, and the proportion of caesarean births was higher among non-Aboriginal than Aboriginal mothers (32% and 29% respectively). Among all hospitals in the NT, DPH had the highest proportion of caesarean section births (46%) and the lowest proportion of normal vaginal births (43%). Nationally, the proportion of births that were caesarean sections in private hospitals sector during 2018 was 48% (AIHW 2020b). Instrumental births using forceps or ventouse (vacuum extraction) accounted for 10% of all births.

Among mothers who had a caesarean section, Aboriginal mothers were more likely to undergo the procedure for emergency reasons (62%) compared with non-Aboriginal mothers (50%). The primary reason for elective caesarean section births among all NT mothers was previous caesarean section (61%). Non-Aboriginal mothers were more likely to have malpresentation as the reason for elective caesarean section births than Aboriginal mothers (15% and 10% respectively).

The main reasons for emergency caesarean section included: failure to progress during labour (35%), fetal compromise (34%), previous caesarean section (13%) and malpresentation (7%). Aboriginal mothers were more likely to have an emergency caesarean section because of fetal compromise than non-Aboriginal mothers (39% and 31% respectively), whereas failure to progress was a more common indicator for emergency caesareans among non-Aboriginal mothers than Aboriginal mothers (38% and 29% respectively).

### 2.1.12. Analgesia and anaesthesia for childbirth

The vast majority of mothers who had spontaneous or induced onset of labour used some form of analgesia (85%). Analgesia use was the same among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal mothers (both 85%). Non-Aboriginal mothers were more likely to have an epidural as an analgesic than Aboriginal mothers (18% and 14% respectively).

Anaesthesia was applied in nearly all operative births (using forceps or ventouse and via caesarean section) (97%). Non-Aboriginal women were more likely than Aboriginal women to have epidural/caudal anaesthesia (25% and 22% respectively). There was slightly higher use of spinal anaesthesia among Aboriginal women compared with non-Aboriginal women (60% and 59% respectively). Local and



puddental were administered to similar proportions of non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal women having operative births (7% and 6% respectively).

### 2.1.13. Complications due to pregnancy and/or childbirth

Twenty per cent of all NT mothers experienced at least one of the listed pregnancy complications in 2018, while 57% experienced a complication of labour/childbirth. Aboriginal mothers were more likely to have a pregnancy and/or labour complication than non-Aboriginal mothers (24% and 61% compared with 18% and 55% respectively).

In terms of specific pregnancy complications, the most common medical complication of pregnancy was gestational diabetes mellitus, which affected 15% of all NT mothers and had a similar proportion in non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal mothers (15% and 14% respectively). Aboriginal mothers had higher proportions of pre-existing diabetes mellitus (5%) compared with non-Aboriginal mothers (less than 1%), and were also more likely to have pre-eclampsia (6% and 3% respectively).

Postpartum Haemorrhage (PPH) complication is assigned to cases recorded as having a blood loss volume of 500 millilitres or more. PPH is the most common childbirth complication for all NT mothers (32%). Fifty-three per cent of NT mothers who had a caesarean birth had an estimated blood loss amount of 500 millilitres or more, while the proportion was 24% for vaginal births. Aboriginal mothers were more likely than non-Aboriginal mothers to have had a blood loss volume of 500 millilitres or more during a vaginal birth (29% and 21% respectively); however, it was the opposite for caesarean section births (56% and 65% respectively).

### 2.1.14. Perineal status

Twenty-eight per cent of all mothers who gave birth vaginally had an intact perineum after childbirth, while 26% had a second degree perineal laceration. A small proportion (3%) had a third or fourth degree laceration. Episiotomy was performed on 17% of women who had vaginal births. Aboriginal mothers were more likely than non-Aboriginal mothers to have an intact perineum (35% and 24% respectively) following vaginal birth.

### 2.1.15. Postnatal hospital stay

The majority of mothers who gave birth in hospital stayed in hospital for one day or more following the birth (95%). Most hospital stays were for less than one week and only 2% of women stayed for eight or more days. The average length of stay for all NT mothers was 2.8 days. Aboriginal mothers were more likely than non-Aboriginal mothers to have a hospital stay of one day or more (97% and 94% respectively) and more likely to stay for eight or more days (4% and 1% respectively). The overall average length of stay for all birth methods was longer among Aboriginal mothers compared with non-Aboriginal mothers (3.2 days and 2.7 days respectively). The longest average postnatal hospital stay for all mothers was following emergency caesarean births (3.9 days), while the shortest was after normal vaginal births (2.3 days).

## 2.2. Babies

### 2.2.1. Birth status

In 2018, a total of 3776 babies were born in the NT. Of these, 66 were born to mothers who were not NT residents. Of the 3710 babies born to NT mothers, 44 were fetal deaths and 3666 were live births. The proportion of fetal deaths was higher for births by Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal mothers (2% and 1% respectively). Eighty-two per cent of fetal deaths had an extremely low birthweight of less than 1000 grams and 73% of fetal deaths were also very preterm, being born before 28 weeks gestation.

### 2.2.2. Plurality

There were 48 twin births to NT mothers in 2018 and no other multiple births. The proportion of multiple births was higher among non-Aboriginal than Aboriginal mothers (3% and 2% of all births respectively).

### 2.2.3. Gestational age and birthweight of live born babies

Altogether there were 397 (11%) pre-term live births (gestational age less than 37 weeks). Proportionally, there were twice as many pre-term live born babies born to Aboriginal mothers (17%) than to non-Aboriginal mothers (8%).

Of all live born babies, 9% were low birthweight (less than 2500 grams). Babies born to Aboriginal mothers were more than twice as likely to have a low birthweight as babies born to non-Aboriginal mothers (15% and 6% respectively). This difference was also seen in very low birthweight babies (less than 1500 grams), with 2% of the live born babies born to Aboriginal mothers in this category compared with 1% of babies born to non-Aboriginal mothers.

In all health districts, Aboriginal mothers were more likely to have low birthweight or pre-term babies than non-Aboriginal mothers. The health district with the highest proportion of low birthweight babies born to Aboriginal mothers was Darwin Rural (19%). In contrast, Aboriginal mothers in Alice Springs Rural were much less likely to have a low birthweight live born baby (13%). However, it should be noted that pregnant women in Central Australia who are predicted to give birth before 30 weeks gestation, or who have a medical condition that requires specialist intensive care services are transferred interstate to give birth.

Among full term (37 weeks and over) singleton live born babies, 5% of those born to Aboriginal mothers were of low birthweight compared with 2% born to non-Aboriginal mothers.

### 2.2.4. Apgar scores

An Apgar score is a clinical indicator of the condition of the baby at birth. Five physical signs (heart rate, breathing, colour, muscle tone, and reflex irritability) are each assigned a score of 0, 1, or 2, with the highest total Apgar score being 10. A score of 7-10 indicates a healthy baby (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2018). By five minutes after birth, 97% of all NT live born babies had an Apgar score above seven, and for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal babies the proportions were 95% and 98% respectively.

### 2.2.5. Resuscitation of live born babies

Sixteen per cent of babies born alive received some form of resuscitation, excluding tactile stimulation. The proportion of resuscitation was slightly higher among Aboriginal compared with non-Aboriginal live born babies (17% and 15% respectively). The most common methods of resuscitation were intermittent positive pressure ventilation (8%), suction (3%), and facial oxygen only (1%). Methods such as intubation,



external cardiac massage (ECM) and ventilation were uncommon (all less than 1%), while other non-listed methods including continuous positive airway pressure contributed 4% in total.

### 2.2.6. Infant feeding

Information regarding infant feeding status is captured upon the discharge of the mother as an inpatient. The information in this report includes term babies discharged with their mother, including babies admitted to the special care unit prior to discharge. The results in this report are not directly comparable with the WHO *Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative* reports, which can include pre-term babies, but exclude all babies admitted to the special care unit for more than 24 hours (Australian College of Midwives, 2018). Infant feeding data was included in the annual *Mothers and Babies* report for the first time in 2014, as data collection only became mandatory from April 2014 onwards. The information in this report was calculated after removing records with missing data (less than 1% in 2018), perinatal deaths and babies that were recorded as 'remains in special care nursery' in the 'Feeding status at time of mothers discharge' item.

The percentage of singleton term babies discharged with their mother, that ever breastfed, was 98%. Of these, 86% had exclusively breastfed, 11% were breastfeeding on discharge but had received at least one formula feed during their admission, 1% had ceased breastfeeding prior to discharge, and 2% of babies never breastfed.

The percentage of singleton term babies of primipara mothers (first baby) that had ever breastfed was 99%, compared to 97% of babies of multipara mothers (previously had a baby). Exclusive breastfed rates of babies born to primipara mothers were higher among babies born to Aboriginal mothers (83%) than those born to non-Aboriginal mothers (81%). By discharge 1% babies born of primipara mothers were not breastfeeding compared to 3% of babies born of multipara mothers.

### 2.2.7. Perinatal mortality

Perinatal mortality includes fetal deaths (stillborn) and neonatal deaths. A neonatal death is the death of a live born baby within 28 days of birth. In 2018 there were 64 perinatal deaths in the NT, comprising 44 fetal deaths and 20 neonatal deaths. Of the 20 neonatal deaths, 14 were Aboriginal and 6 non-Aboriginal. The overall Aboriginal perinatal death rate was higher compared with the non-Aboriginal rate (28.3 and 12.0 deaths per 1000 total births respectively).

### 3. Statistical tables

#### 3.1. Mothers

Table 1. Summary statistics, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018

		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>ALL</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1190</b>		<b>2472</b>		<b>3662</b>	
<b>MOTHERS</b>	<b>Maternal age</b>						
	<20	186	15.6	30	1.2	216	5.9
	20-34	888	74.6	1852	74.9	2740	74.8
	35+	116	9.7	590	23.9	706	19.3
	<b>Place of birth</b>						
	Hospital	1158	97.3	2417	97.8	3575	97.6
	Non-hospital	32	2.7	55	2.2	87	2.4
	<b>Type of labour onset</b>						
	Spontaneous (Not augmented)	367	30.8	827	33.5	1194	32.6
	Spontaneous (Augmented)	241	20.3	326	13.2	567	15.5
	Induced	376	31.6	824	33.3	1200	32.8
	No labour	206	17.3	495	20.0	701	19.1
	<b>Method of birth</b>						
	Normal vaginal	746	62.7	1409	57.0	2155	58.8
	Forceps	37	3.1	119	4.8	156	4.3
	Ventouse	59	5.0	147	5.9	206	5.6
	Caesarean section	348	29.2	797	32.2	1145	31.3
	<b>Gestation at delivery</b>						
	<37	205	17.2	197	8.0	402	11.0
	>=37	985	82.8	2275	92.0	3260	89.0
<b>FIRST-TIME</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>389</b>		<b>1102</b>		<b>1491</b>	
<b>MOTHERS</b>	<b>Maternal age</b>						
	<20	163	41.9	27	2.5	190	12.7
	20-34	222	57.1	890	80.8	1112	74.6
	35+	4	1.0	185	16.8	189	12.7
<b>TOTAL FERTILITY RATE</b>		<b>1.9</b>		<b>1.7</b>		<b>1.8</b>	

Notes: Total fertility rate is the average number of births per woman over her life time if she experienced the age-specific rates seen in 2018.

Table 2. Summary statistics for pre-term birth, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018

		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>ALL MOTHERS</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>		<b>197</b>		<b>402</b>	
	<b>Maternal age</b>						
	<20	28	13.7	0	0.0	28	7.0
	20-34	150	73.2	146	74.1	296	73.6
	35+	27	13.2	51	25.9	78	19.4
	<b>Place of birth</b>						
	Hospital	188	91.7	196	99.5	384	95.5
	Non-hospital	17	8.3	1	0.5	18	4.5
	<b>Type of labour onset</b>						
	Spontaneous (Not augmented)	72	35.1	68	34.5	140	34.8
	Spontaneous (Augmented)	26	12.7	17	8.6	43	10.7
	Induced	62	30.2	49	24.9	111	27.6
	No labour	45	22.0	63	32.0	108	26.9
	<b>Method of birth</b>						
	Normal vaginal	125	61.0	98	49.7	223	55.5
	Forceps	6	2.9	3	1.5	9	2.2
	Ventouse	8	3.9	7	3.6	15	3.7
	Caesarean section	66	32.2	89	45.2	155	38.6
<b>FIRST-TIME MOTHERS</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>		<b>79</b>		<b>146</b>	
	<b>Maternal age</b>						
	<20	24	35.8	0	0.0	24	16.4
	20-34	42	62.7	64	81.0	106	72.6
	35+	1	1.5	15	19.0	16	11.0

Table 3. Summary statistics for term birth, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018

		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT*	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>ALL MOTHERS</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>985</b>		<b>2275</b>		<b>3260</b>	
	<b>Maternal age</b>						
	<20	158	16.0	30	1.3	188	5.8
	20-34	738	74.9	1706	75.0	2444	75.0
	35+	89	9.0	539	23.7	628	19.3
	<b>Place of birth</b>						
	Hospital	970	98.5	2221	97.6	3191	97.9
	Non-hospital	15	1.5	54	2.4	69	2.1
	<b>Type of labour onset</b>						
	Spontaneous (Not augmented)	295	29.9	759	33.4	1054	32.3
	Spontaneous (Augmented)	215	21.8	309	13.6	524	16.1
	Induced	314	31.9	775	34.1	1089	33.4
	No labour	161	16.3	432	19.0	593	18.2
	<b>Method of birth</b>						
	Normal vaginal	621	63.0	1311	57.6	1932	59.3
	Forceps	31	3.1	116	5.1	147	4.5
	Ventouse	51	5.2	140	6.2	191	5.9
	Caesarean section	282	28.6	708	31.1	990	30.4
<b>FIRST-TIME MOTHERS</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>		<b>1023</b>		<b>1345</b>	
	<b>Maternal age</b>						
	<20	139	43.2	27	2.6	166	12.3
	20-34	180	55.9	826	80.7	1006	74.8
	35+	3	0.9	170	16.6	173	12.9

Table 4. Maternal country of birth group, NT mothers, 2018

Country group <sup>(a)</sup> (and major countries of birth)	Number		%	
<b>Oceania &amp; Antarctica</b>	2761		75.5	
<i>Australia</i>	2680		73.2	
<i>New Zealand</i>	59		1.6	
<b>North-West Europe</b>	150		4.1	
<i>United Kingdom</i>	72		2.0	
<i>Ireland</i>	39		1.1	
<b>Southern &amp; Eastern Europe</b>	43		1.2	
<b>North Africa &amp; The Middle East</b>	23		0.6	
<b>South-East Asia</b>	261		7.1	
<i>Philippines</i>	153		4.2	
<i>Indonesia</i>	42		1.1	
<i>Pakistan</i>	27		0.7	
<b>North-East Asia</b>	54		1.5	
<b>Southern &amp; Central Asia</b>	247		6.8	
<i>India</i>	134		3.7	
<i>Nepal</i>	51		1.4	
<i>Pakistan</i>	27		0.7	
<b>Americas</b>	31		0.8	
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	89		2.4	
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>3659</b>		<b>100.0</b>	
Not stated	3			
<b>Total</b>	<b>3662</b>			

(a) Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2018). 1269.0 - Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC).

Table 5. Area of remoteness, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018

Area	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Urban area	539	45.3	2357	95.3	2896	79.1
Rural/remote area	651	54.7	115	4.7	766	20.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2472</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3662</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

Table 6. District and area of remoteness, by mother's Aboriginal status, 2018

District	Area	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Darwin Urban		254	21.3	1855	75.0	2109	57.6
Darwin Rural		179	15.0	60	2.4	239	6.5
Katherine	Urban	68	5.7	132	5.3	200	5.5
	Rural/remote	139	11.7	15	0.6	154	4.2
East Arnhem	Urban	11	0.9	33	1.3	44	1.2
	Rural/remote	140	11.8	10	0.4	150	4.1
Barkly	Urban	67	5.6	16	0.6	83	2.3
	Rural/remote	31	2.6	1	0.0	32	0.9
Alice Springs Urban		139	11.7	321	13.0	460	12.6
Alice Springs Rural		162	13.6	29	1.2	191	5.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>1190</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2472</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3662</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Non NT</b>		<b>50</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>66</b>	

**Table 7. Total fertility rate, by Aboriginal status and district of usual residence, NT mothers, 2018**

District	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	All NT
Darwin Urban	2.0	1.6	1.7
Darwin Rural	1.5	2.9	1.8
Katherine	2.2	2.0	2.2
East Arnhem	1.5	1.4	1.5
Barkly	2.7	1.1	2.3
Alice Springs Urban	2.7	1.9	2.2
Alice Springs Rural	1.9	1.2	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>

Notes: Total fertility rate is the average number of live births per woman over her life time if she experienced the age-specific rates seen in 2018.

**Table 8. Total fertility rate, by Aboriginal status and area of remoteness, NT mothers, 2018**

Remoteness	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	All NT
Urban area	2.4	1.6	1.8
Rural/remote area	1.6	1.8	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>

Notes: (1) Total fertility rate is the average number of live births per woman over her life time if she experienced the age-specific rates seen in 2018.

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

**Table 9. Age-specific fertility rates and total fertility rate, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018**

Aboriginal status	Age-specific fertility rate (births per 1000 women)			Total fertility rate
	<20 years	20-34 years	35+ years	
Aboriginal	55.0	94.7	15.9	1.9
Non-Aboriginal	7.8	84.8	31.0	1.7
<b>All NT</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>

Notes: (1) Age-specific fertility rate is the number of live 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.

(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 2018.

**Table 10. Maternal parity, by Aboriginal status and area of remoteness, NT mothers, 2018**

Parity	Indigenous						Non-Indigenous					
	Urban area		Rural/remote area		Total		Urban area		Rural/remote area		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0	155	28.8	234	35.9	389	32.7	1047	44.4	55	47.8	1102	44.6
1-2	254	47.1	285	43.8	539	45.3	1137	48.2	54	47.0	1191	48.2
3+	130	24.1	132	20.3	262	22.0	173	7.3	6	5.2	179	7.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2357</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2472</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

**Table 11. Maternal age, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018**

Maternal age (years)	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<16	15	1.3	0	0.0	15	0.4
16-17	58	4.9	6	0.2	64	1.7
18-19	113	9.5	24	1.0	137	3.7
20-24	362	30.4	240	9.7	602	16.4
25-29	312	26.2	666	26.9	978	26.7
30-34	214	18.0	946	38.3	1160	31.7
35-39	97	8.2	498	20.1	595	16.2
40-44	19	1.6	85	3.4	104	2.8
45+	0	0.0	7	0.3	7	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2472</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3662</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<i>Mean age (years)</i>	<i>25.9</i>		<i>30.9</i>		<i>29.2</i>	

**Figure 1. Distribution of maternal age, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018**

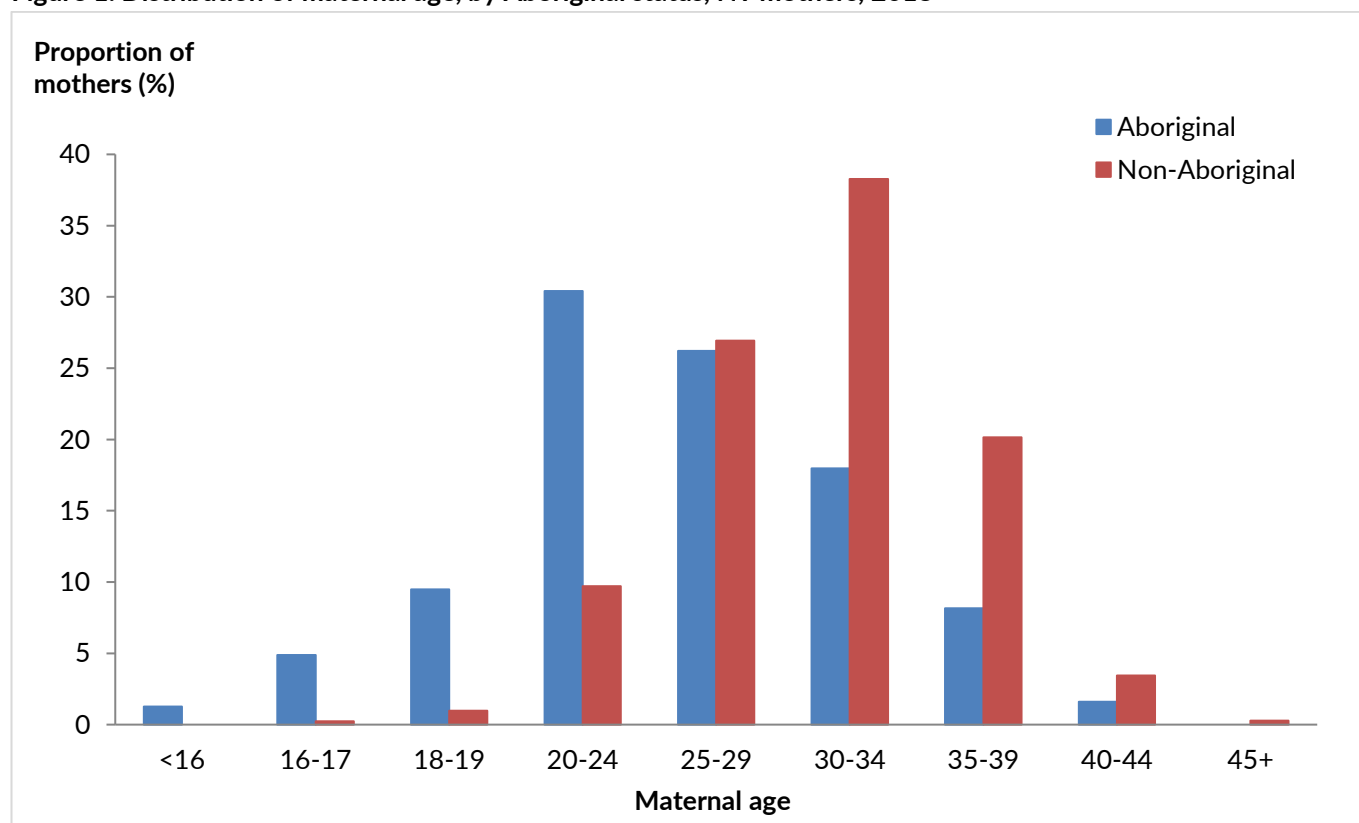


Table 12. Maternal age, by Aboriginal status and area of remoteness, NT mothers, 2018

Area	Maternal age (years)			Total
	<20	20-34	35+	Number
	%	%	%	
<b>Aboriginal</b>				
Urban area	13.7	75.5	10.8	539
Rural/remote area	17.2	73.9	8.9	651
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>1190</b>
<b>Non-Aboriginal</b>				
Urban area	1.2	74.6	24.1	2357
Rural/remote area	0.9	80.9	18.3	115
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>2472</b>

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

Table 13. Maternal age, by Aboriginal status and district of usual residence, NT mothers, 2018

District	Maternal age (years)			Total
	<20	20-34	35+	Number
	%	%	%	
<b>Aboriginal</b>				
Darwin Urban	11.4	76.0	12.6	254
Darwin Rural	12.8	79.3	7.8	179
Katherine	18.8	72.9	8.2	207
East Arnhem	15.2	72.8	11.9	151
Barkly	21.4	70.4	8.2	98
Alice Springs Urban	14.4	76.3	9.4	139
Alice Springs Rural	19.1	72.2	8.6	162
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>1190</b>
<b>Non-Aboriginal</b>				
Darwin Urban	1.1	74.1	24.7	1855
Darwin Rural	1.7	75.0	23.3	60
Katherine	1.4	76.9	21.8	147
East Arnhem	0.0	81.4	18.6	43
Barkly	5.9	88.2	5.9	17
Alice Springs Urban	1.6	76.3	22.1	321
Alice Springs Rural	0.0	82.8	17.2	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>2472</b>

Table 14. Maternal age, by Aboriginal status, NT first-time mothers, 2018

Maternal age (years)	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<16	15	3.9	0	0.0	15	1.0
16-17	57	14.7	6	0.5	63	4.2
18-19	91	23.4	21	1.9	112	7.5
20-24	149	38.3	152	13.8	301	20.2
25-29	56	14.4	343	31.1	399	26.8
30-34	17	4.4	395	35.8	412	27.6
35+	4	1.0	185	16.8	189	12.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1102</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1491</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Mean age (years)</b>	<b>21.1</b>		<b>29.6</b>		<b>27.4</b>	

**Table 15. Antenatal visits, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018**

Number of antenatal visits	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0	21	1.8	2	0.1	23	0.6
1-4	167	14.2	65	2.6	232	6.4
5-6	169	14.4	205	8.3	374	10.3
7-9	310	26.4	757	30.7	1067	29.3
10+	508	43.2	1439	58.3	1947	53.4
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>1175</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2468</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3643</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Not stated	15		4		19	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1190</b>		<b>2472</b>		<b>3662</b>	

Notes: Not stated includes women that had antenatal care but unknown number of visits.

**Table 16. Antenatal visits, by district of usual residence, NT Aboriginal mothers, 2018**

District	Number of antenatal visits					Total stated	Not stated	Total
	0	1 - 4	5 - 6	7-9	10+			
	%	%	%	%	%	Number	Number	Number
Darwin Urban	2.0	12.4	13.6	28.0	44.0	250	4	254
Darwin Rural	1.1	6.1	14.0	25.1	53.6	179	0	179
Katherine	2.0	15.6	14.6	23.6	44.2	199	8	207
East Arnhem	2.7	8.0	10.7	24.7	54.0	150	1	151
Barkly	5.1	26.5	18.4	23.5	26.5	98	0	98
Alice Springs Urban	0.7	15.9	12.3	34.1	37.0	138	1	139
Alice Springs Rural	0.0	21.1	18.6	25.5	34.8	161	1	162
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>1175</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1190</b>

**Table 17. Antenatal visits, by Aboriginal status and area of remoteness, NT mothers, 2018**

Area	Number of antenatal visits					Total stated	Not stated	Total
	0	1 - 4	5 - 6	7-9	10+			
	%	%	%	%	%	Number	Number	Number
<b>Aboriginal</b>								
Urban area	2.3	16.1	14.4	28.5	38.6	533	6	539
Rural/remote area	1.4	12.6	14.3	24.6	47.0	642	9	651
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>1175</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1190</b>
<b>Non-Aboriginal</b>								
Urban area	0.1	2.6	8.2	30.8	58.2	2354	3	2357
Rural/remote area	0.0	2.6	10.5	27.2	59.6	114	1	115
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>2468</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2472</b>

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



**Table 18. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018**

Gestation at first antenatal visit	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
First trimester	816	70.2	2290	93.3	3106	85.8
Second trimester	275	23.6	148	6.0	423	11.7
Third trimester	72	6.2	17	0.7	89	2.5
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>1163</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2455</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3618</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Not stated	27		17		44	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1190</b>		<b>2472</b>		<b>3662</b>	

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) Not stated includes mothers with zero antenatal visits recorded and/or mothers with no date of first antenatal visit recorded.

**Table 19. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by district of usual residence, NT Aboriginal mothers, 2018**

District	Gestation at first antenatal visit			Total stated	Not stated	Total
	First trimester	Second trimester	Third trimester			
	%	%	%	Number	Number	Number
Darwin Urban	81.0	15.0	4.0	247	7	254
Darwin Rural	79.7	19.2	1.1	177	2	179
Katherine	69.7	25.4	5.0	201	6	207
East Arnhem	62.1	33.1	4.8	145	6	151
Barkly	43.6	39.4	17.0	94	4	98
Alice Springs Urban	74.6	19.6	5.8	138	1	139
Alice Springs Rural	62.7	25.5	11.8	161	1	162
<b>Total</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>1163</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1190</b>

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) Not stated includes mothers with zero antenatal visits recorded and/or mothers with no date of first antenatal visit recorded.

**Table 20. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by Aboriginal status and area of remoteness, NT mothers, 2018**

Area	Gestation at first antenatal visit			Total stated	Not stated	Total
	First trimester	Second trimester	Third trimester			
	%	%	%	Number	Number	Number
<b>Aboriginal</b>						
Urban area	73.3	20.2	6.5	525	14	539
Rural/remote area	67.6	26.5	6.0	638	13	651
<b>Total</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>1163</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1190</b>
<b>Non-Aboriginal</b>						
Urban area	93.3	6.0	0.7	2340	17	2357
Rural/remote area	93.0	6.1	0.9	115	0	115
<b>Total</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>2455</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2472</b>

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 of Darwin and Alice Springs plus the major townships of Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Nhulunbuy; rural/remote area covers the rest of the NT.

(3) Not stated includes mothers with zero antenatal visits recorded and/or mothers with no date of first antenatal visit recorded.

**Table 21. Self-reported alcohol consumption at first antenatal visit, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018**

Alcohol consumption	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Alcohol	108	10.1	42	1.7	150	4.3
No alcohol	958	89.9	2363	98.3	3321	95.7
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>1066</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2405</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3471</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Not stated	124		67		191	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1190</b>		<b>2472</b>		<b>3662</b>	

**Table 22. Self-reported smoking status before 20 weeks gestation, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018**

Smoking status	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Smoking	565	49.2	171	7.0	736	20.5
Non-smoking	584	50.8	2266	93.0	2850	79.5
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>1149</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2437</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3586</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Not stated	41		35		76	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1190</b>		<b>2472</b>		<b>3662</b>	

**Table 23. Self-reported smoking status before 20 weeks gestation, by maternal age and Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018**

Age	Smoking status		Total stated Number	Not stated Number	Total Number
	Smoking %	Non-smoking %			
<b>Aboriginal</b>					
<20	43.6	56.4	181	5	186
20-34	48.8	51.2	854	34	888
35+	60.5	39.5	114	2	116
<b>Total</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>1149</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1190</b>
<b>Non-Aboriginal</b>					
<20	23.3	76.7	30	0	30
20-34	7.6	92.4	1823	29	1852
35+	4.3	95.7	584	6	590
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>93.0</b>	<b>2437</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2472</b>

**Table 24. Self-reported average number of cigarettes smoked per day post 20 weeks gestation, NT mothers who reported smoking before 20 weeks gestation, 2018**

Number of cigarettes per day	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
None (ceased smoking)	47	9.1	47	29.2	94	13.8
<10	284	54.8	78	48.4	362	53.3
10+	187	36.1	36	22.4	223	32.8
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Not stated	47		10		57	
<b>Total</b>	<b>565</b>		<b>171</b>		<b>736</b>	

Notes: The '<10' category includes mothers who reported smoking less than one daily cigarette post 20 weeks gestation.

**Table 25. Self-reported smoking status before 20 weeks gestation, by district of usual residence, NT Aboriginal mothers, 2018**

District	Smoking	Non-smoking	Total stated	Not stated	Total
	%	%	Number	Number	Number
Darwin Urban	38.8	61.2	245	9	254
Darwin Rural	56.3	43.8	176	3	179
Katherine	59.3	40.7	189	18	207
East Arnhem	63.5	36.5	148	3	151
Barkly	53.6	46.4	97	1	98
Alice Springs Urban	38.0	62.0	137	2	139
Alice Springs Rural	38.9	61.1	157	5	162
<b>Total</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>1149</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1190</b>

**Table 26. Actual place of birth, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018**

Actual place of birth	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Planned homes	0	0.0	32	1.3	32	0.9
RDH	520	43.7	1453	58.8	1,973	53.9
RDH Birth Centre	2	0.2	34	1.4	36	1.0
DPH	11	0.9	422	17.1	433	11.8
GDH	96	8.1	34	1.4	130	3.5
KH	150	12.6	129	5.2	279	7.6
TCH	4	0.3	0	0.0	4	0.1
ASH	375	31.5	345	14.0	720	19.7
Others <sup>(a)</sup>	10	0.8	23	0.9	33	0.9
Health centres	22	1.8	0	0.0	22	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2472</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3662</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

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

**Table 27. Actual place of birth, by district of usual residence, NT Aboriginal mothers, 2018**

District	Actual place of birth			Total
	Hospital	Health centres	Others <sup>(a)</sup>	Number
	%	%	%	
Darwin Urban	99.6	0.4	0.0	254
Darwin Rural	94.4	4.5	1.1	179
Katherine	98.1	1.0	1.0	207
East Arnhem	94.7	2.6	2.6	151
Barkly	98.0	2.0	0.0	98
Alice Springs Urban	97.8	0.7	1.4	139
Alice Springs Rural	97.5	2.5	0.0	162
<b>Total</b>	<b>97.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1190</b>

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

**Table 28. Method of induction, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers with induced onset of labour, 2018**

Method of induction	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
ARM	261	69.4	573	69.5	834	69.4
Oxytocics	297	79.0	631	76.5	928	77.3
Prostaglandins	152	40.4	353	42.8	505	42.0
Other methods	44	11.7	99	12.0	143	11.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,201</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(2) ARM stands for artificial rupture of membranes.

**Table 29. Birth presentation, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018**

Presentation at birth	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Vertex	1135	95.6	2345	94.9	3480	95.2
Breech	49	4.1	113	4.6	162	4.4
Face	2	0.2	4	0.2	6	0.2
Brow	0	0.0	4	0.2	4	0.1
Other	1	0.1	4	0.2	5	0.1
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>1187</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2470</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3657</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Not stated	3		2		5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1190</b>		<b>2472</b>		<b>3662</b>	

**Table 30. Method of birth, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018**

Method of birth	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Normal vaginal	746	62.7	1409	57.0	2155	58.8
Forceps	37	3.1	119	4.8	156	4.3
Ventouse	59	5.0	147	5.9	206	5.6
Caesarean - elective	131	11.0	398	16.1	529	14.4
Caesarean - emergency	217	18.2	399	16.1	616	16.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2472</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3662</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 31. Method of birth, by type of labour onset, NT mothers, 2018**

Type of labour onset	Method of birth							Total Number
	Vaginal			Caesarean				
	Normal vaginal	Instrumental Vaginal <sup>(a)</sup>	Total	Caesarean-elective	Caesarean-emergency	Total	Total	
Spontaneous (Not augmented)	84.3	7.1	91.5	1.1	7.5	8.5	1194	
Spontaneous (Augmented)	63.7	18.9	82.5	0.0	17.5	17.5	567	
Induced	64.0	15.8	79.8	0.0	20.3	20.3	1200	
No labour	0.0	0.0	0.0	73.6	26.4	100.0	701	
<b>Total</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>68.7</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>3662</b>	

(a) Instrumental vaginal births include forceps and ventouse.

Table 32. Method of birth, by gestational age and Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018

Gestational age (weeks)	Method of birth				Total
	Normal vaginal	Instrumental vaginal <sup>(a)</sup>	Caesarean-elective	Caesarean-emergency	Number
	%	%	%	%	
<b>Aboriginal</b>					
<37	61.0	6.8	6.3	25.9	205
37+	63.0	8.3	12.0	16.6	985
<b>Total</b>	<b>62.7</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>1190</b>
<b>Non-Aboriginal</b>					
<37	49.7	5.1	10.7	34.5	197
37+	57.6	11.3	16.6	14.5	2275
<b>Total</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>2472</b>

(a) Instrumental vaginal births include forceps and ventouse births.

Table 33. Indications for caesarean section, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers giving birth via caesarean section, 2018

Indication for caesarean section	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b><i>Elective caesarean</i></b>						
Previous caesarean	92	68.1	238	58.9	330	61.2
Malpresentation	14	10.4	61	15.1	75	13.9
Other	29	21.5	105	26.0	134	24.9
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Not stated	2		8		10	
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>		<b>412</b>		<b>549</b>	
<b><i>Emergency caesarean</i></b>						
Delay in progress	76	29.3	185	38.4	261	35.2
Fetal compromise	101	39.0	148	30.7	249	33.6
Malpresentation	15	5.8	33	6.8	48	6.5
Previous caesarean	39	15.1	55	11.4	94	12.7
Ante-partum haemorrhage	6	2.3	16	3.3	22	3.0
Other	22	8.5	45	9.3	67	9.0
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Not stated	0		1		0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>259</b>		<b>483</b>		<b>742</b>	

Notes: (1) Multiple indications may be present in one mother.

(2) Previous caesarean and malpresentation are not included in the count of 'Other' indications for elective caesareans.

(3) Failure to progress, fetal distress/compromise, malpresentation, previous caesarean, and ante-partum haemorrhage are not included in the count of 'Other' indications for emergency caesareans.

**Table 34. Total number of analgesia, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers with spontaneous or induced onset of labour, 2018**

Analgesia: Total number of method used	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Nitrous oxide	658	42.7	1270	39.7	1928	40.6
Narcotics	186	12.1	382	11.9	568	12.0
Epidural	213	13.8	582	18.2	795	16.8
Other	248	16.1	492	15.4	740	15.6
None	236	15.3	476	14.9	712	15.0
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>1541</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3202</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4743</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes: Other may include non-pharmaceutical pain relief methods.

**Table 35. Ranked method of anaesthesia, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers having operative birth, 2018**

Anaesthesia: highest rank of method used	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
General	32	7.2	51	4.8	83	5.5
Spinal	267	60.3	624	59.0	891	59.4
Epidural/Caudal	96	21.7	266	25.2	362	24.1
Spinal and Epidural	5	1.1	11	1.0	16	1.1
Pudendal	5	1.1	25	2.4	30	2.0
Local	22	5.0	49	4.6	71	4.7
Other	0	0.0	5	0.5	5	0.3
None	16	3.6	26	2.5	42	2.8
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1057</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Not stated	1		6		7	
<b>Total</b>	<b>444</b>		<b>1063</b>		<b>1507</b>	

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

**Table 36. Complications of pregnancy and childbirth, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018**

Type of complication	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Pregnancy</b>						
Gestational diabetes mellitus <sup>(a)</sup>	171	14.4	363	14.7	534	14.6
Pre-existing diabetes mellitus	58	4.9	18	0.7	76	2.1
Pre-eclampsia <sup>(a)</sup>	76	6.4	81	3.3	157	4.3
<b>Any pregnancy complication</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>20.0</b>
<b>Labour/childbirth</b>						
Cord prolapse <sup>(a)</sup>	3	0.3	4	0.2	7	0.2
Fetal compromise	199	16.7	372	15.0	571	15.6
Manual removal of placenta <sup>(a)</sup>	40	3.4	19	0.8	59	1.6
Meconium stained liquor	164	13.8	328	13.3	492	13.4
Delay in progress <sup>(b)</sup>	104	8.7	276	11.2	380	10.4
Post-partum haemorrhage <sup>(c)</sup>	400	33.6	787	31.8	1187	32.4
Other	185	15.5	284	11.5	469	12.8
<b>Any labour/childbirth complication</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>1367</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>2088</b>	<b>57.0</b>
<b>Total births</b>	<b>1190</b>		<b>2472</b>		<b>3662</b>	

(a) Indicates validated data items.

(b) Includes obstructed labour.

(c) Includes cases recorded as having a blood loss volume of 500mL or more.

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.

**Table 37. Estimated blood loss volume during birth, by method of birth and Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018**

	Blood loss	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Vaginal births	None-499mL	590	70.7	1308	79.0	1898	76.3
	500-999mL	144	17.3	224	13.5	368	14.8
	1000mL +	100	12.0	123	7.4	223	9.0
	<b>Total stated</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1655</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2489</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	Unknown	8		20		28	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1675</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2517</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Caesarean births	None-499mL	180	35.2	344	43.9	524	46.8
	500-999mL	298	58.2	355	45.3	477	42.6
	1000mL +	34	6.6	85	10.8	119	10.6
	<b>Total stated</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1120</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	Unknown	12		13		25	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>348</b>		<b>797</b>		<b>1145</b>	

**Table 38. Blood transfusions, by estimated blood loss volume and method of birth, NT mothers with a blood loss volume of at least 500 millilitres (PPH), 2018**

		Blood loss					
		500-999mL		1000mL +		All	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Vaginal births	Transfused	3	0.8	58	26.0	61	10.3
	Not transfused	365	99.2	165	74.0	530	89.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Caesarean births	Transfused	3	0.6	13	10.9	16	2.7
	Not transfused	474	99.4	106	89.1	580	97.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes: The blood transfusion/PPH data item does not differentiate between the primary sources of anaemia, which may include antenatal anaemia or intrapartum haemorrhage.

**Table 39. State of the perineum, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers having vaginal birth, 2018**

State of the perineum	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Intact	288	34.6	399	23.9	687	27.5
1 <sup>st</sup> degree laceration/graze <sup>(a)</sup>	257	30.9	410	24.6	667	26.7
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree laceration	161	19.4	487	29.2	648	25.9
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree laceration	22	2.6	53	3.2	75	3.0
4 <sup>th</sup> degree laceration	3	0.4	4	0.2	7	0.3
Episiotomy <sup>(b)</sup>	101	12.1	317	19.0	418	16.7
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1670</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2502</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Not stated	10		5		15	
<b>Total</b>	<b>842</b>		<b>1675</b>		<b>2517</b>	

(a) A first degree laceration may include a perineal graze only.

(b) A mother may have had an episiotomy plus a laceration.

**Table 40. Length of postnatal hospital stay, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2018**

Length of postnatal stay (days)	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0	40	3.5	146	6.0	186	5.2
1-3	746	64.4	1613	66.7	2359	66.0
4-7	321	27.7	630	26.1	951	26.6
8 & more	51	4.4	28	1.2	79	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1158</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2417</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3575</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: Length of postnatal stay is calculated from dates.

**Table 41. Average length of postnatal hospital stay, by Aboriginal status and method of birth, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2018**

Method of birth	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	All NT
	Average length (days) of postnatal stay		
Normal vaginal	2.7	2.0	2.3
Assisted vaginal <sup>(a)</sup>	3.4	2.8	3.0
Caesarean - elective	4.0	3.6	3.7
Caesarean - emergency	4.4	3.7	3.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.8</b>

(a) Assisted vaginal births include forceps, ventouse, and vaginal breech births (which may or may not have been assisted).



## 3.2. Babies

Table 42. Summary statistics, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT births, 2018

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Birth status</b>						
Live births	1183	98.3	2483	99.0	3666	98.8
Stillbirths	20	1.7	24	1.0	44	1.2
<b>Baby's sex</b>						
Males	623	51.8	1297	51.8	1920	51.8
Females	577	48.0	1208	48.2	1785	48.1
<b>Plurality</b>						
Singletons	1177	97.8	2437	97.2	3614	97.4
Multiples	26	2.2	70	2.8	96	2.6
<b>Birthweight</b>						
<1500	47	3.9	38	1.5	85	2.3
1500 - 2499	151	12.6	130	5.2	281	7.6
2500 - 3999	923	76.7	2121	84.6	3044	82.0
4000+	82	6.8	218	8.7	300	8.1
<b>Gestational age</b>						
<28	28	2.3	21	0.8	49	1.3
28-36	189	15.7	198	7.9	387	10.4
37+	986	82.0	2288	91.3	3274	88.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1203</b>		<b>2507</b>		<b>3710</b>	

Note: 5 babies' sex were Indeterminate.

Table 43. Gestational age, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT births, 2018

Gestational age (weeks)	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Stillbirths</b>						
<28	18	90.0	14	58.3	32	72.7
28 - 36	2	10.0	5	20.8	7	15.9
37+	0	0.0	5	20.8	5	11.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Live births</b>						
<28	10	0.8	7	0.3	17	0.5
28 - 36	187	15.8	193	7.8	380	10.4
37+	986	83.3	2283	91.9	3269	89.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1183</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2483</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3666</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>All births</b>						
<28	28	2.3	21	0.8	49	1.3
28 - 36	189	15.7	198	7.9	387	10.4
37+	986	82.0	2288	91.3	3274	88.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1203</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2507</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3710</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 44. Birthweight, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT births, 2018**

Birthweight (g)	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Stillbirths</b>						
<1000	20	100.0	16	66.7	36	81.8
1000 - 1499	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
1500 - 2499	0	0.0	2	8.3	2	4.5
2500+	0	0.0	6	25.0	6	13.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Mean birthweight (g)</b>	<b>414</b>		<b>1230</b>		<b>859</b>	
<b>Live births</b>						
<1000	10	0.8	11	0.4	21	0.6
1000 - 1499	17	1.4	11	0.4	28	0.8
1500 - 2499	151	12.8	128	5.2	279	7.6
2500+	1005	85.0	2333	94.0	3338	91.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1183</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2483</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3666</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Mean birthweight (g)</b>	<b>3111</b>		<b>3339</b>		<b>3265</b>	
<b>All births</b>						
<1000	30	2.5	27	1.1	57	1.5
1000 - 1499	17	1.4	11	0.4	28	0.8
1500 - 2499	151	12.6	130	5.2	281	7.6
2500+	1005	83.5	2339	93.3	3344	90.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1203</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2507</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3710</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Mean birthweight (g)</b>	<b>3066</b>		<b>3319</b>		<b>3237</b>	

**Table 45. Gestational age, by maternal Aboriginal status and district of mother's usual residence, NT live births, 2018**

District	Gestational age (weeks)			Total
	<28	28-36	37+	Number
	%	%	%	
<b>Aboriginal</b>				
Darwin Urban	0.0	16.3	83.7	258
Darwin Rural	2.9	19.0	78.2	174
Katherine	1.0	15.3	83.7	202
East Arnhem	0.7	17.2	82.1	151
Barkly	0.0	19.4	80.6	98
Alice Springs Urban	0.0	10.3	89.7	136
Alice Springs Rural	1.2	13.4	85.4	164
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>83.3</b>	<b>1183</b>
<b>Non-Aboriginal</b>				
Darwin Urban	0.4	8.2	91.4	1864
Darwin Rural	0.0	13.1	86.9	61
Katherine	0.0	6.8	93.2	147
East Arnhem	0.0	4.7	95.3	43
Barkly	0.0	0.0	100.0	17
Alice Springs Urban	0.0	5.9	94.1	322
Alice Springs Rural	0.0	3.4	96.6	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>91.9</b>	<b>2483</b>

Table 46. Gestational age, by maternal Aboriginal status and area of mother's usual residence, NT live births, 2018

Area	Gestational age (weeks)			Total
	<28	28-36	37+	Number
	%	%	%	
<b>Aboriginal</b>				
Urban area	0.2	14.1	85.7	539
Rural/remote area	1.4	17.2	81.4	644
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>83.3</b>	<b>1183</b>
<b>Non-Aboriginal</b>				
Urban area	0.3	7.7	92.1	2366
Rural/remote area	0.0	10.3	89.7	117
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>91.9</b>	<b>2483</b>

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

Table 47. Birthweight, by maternal Aboriginal status and district of mother's usual residence, NT live births, 2018

District	Birthweight (g)				Total	Mean
	<1500	1500-2499	2500-3999	4000+	Number	birthweight (g)
	%	%	%	%		
<b>Aboriginal</b>						
Darwin Urban	1.6	12.8	76.0	9.7	258	3201
Darwin Rural	4.6	14.4	76.4	4.6	174	2990
Katherine	2.5	11.4	78.2	7.9	202	3122
East Arnhem	1.3	13.2	82.8	2.6	151	3014
Barkly	0.0	17.3	80.6	2.0	98	3046
Alice Springs Urban	2.2	11.8	75.7	10.3	136	3230
Alice Springs Rural	3.0	10.4	78.7	7.9	164	3112
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>78.0</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>1183</b>	<b>3111</b>
<b>Non-Aboriginal</b>						
Darwin Urban	1.0	6.0	85.0	8.0	1864	3316
Darwin Rural	3.3	4.9	88.5	3.3	61	3186
Katherine	0.7	2.0	85.0	12.2	147	3428
East Arnhem	0.0	4.7	86.0	9.3	43	3430
Barkly	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	17	3206
Alice Springs Urban	0.0	2.2	85.4	12.4	322	3449
Alice Springs Rural	0.0	3.4	79.3	17.2	29	3404
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>2483</b>	<b>3339</b>

**Table 48. Birthweight, by maternal Aboriginal status and area of mother's usual residence, NT live births, 2018**

Area	Birthweight (g)				Total Number	Mean birthweight (g)
	<1500 %	1500-2499 %	2500-3999 %	4000+ %		
<b>Aboriginal</b>						
Urban area	1.9	12.2	77.4	8.5	539	3181
Rural/remote area	2.6	13.2	78.6	5.6	644	3052
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>78.0</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>1183</b>	<b>3111</b>
<b>Non-Aboriginal</b>						
Urban area	0.8	5.2	85.2	8.7	2366	3340
Rural/remote area	1.7	4.3	84.6	9.4	117	3314
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>2483</b>	<b>3339</b>

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

**Table 49. Birthweight, by maternal Aboriginal status and gestational age, NT singleton live births, 2018**

Gestational age (weeks)	Birthweight (g)				Total Number	Mean birthweight (g)
	<1500 %	1500-2499 %	2500-3999 %	4000+ %		
<b>Aboriginal</b>						
<28	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10	709
28 - 36	8.6	50.3	39.9	1.2	163	2376
37+	0.0	5.4	86.5	8.1	984	3281
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>1157</b>	<b>3131</b>
<b>Non-Aboriginal</b>						
<28	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5	624
28 - 36	6.5	34.8	58.1	0.6	155	2530
37+	0.0	1.8	88.6	9.6	2258	3432
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>2418</b>	<b>3369</b>

**Table 50. Birthweight, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT Aboriginal singleton live births (using Aboriginal status of baby), 2018**

Birthweight (g)	Aboriginal mothers		Non-Aboriginal mothers		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<2500	153	13.8	5	3.5	158	12.6
2500+	956	86.2	137	96.5	1093	87.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1109</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1251</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 51. Apgar score at 5 minutes, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT live births, 2018**

Apgar score at 5 minutes	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0 - 3	17	1.4	9	0.4	26	0.7
4 - 6	41	3.5	42	1.7	83	2.3
7 - 10	1121	95.1	2431	97.9	3552	97.0
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>1179</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2482</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3661</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Not stated	4		1		5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1183</b>		<b>2483</b>		<b>3666</b>	

**Table 52. Ranked methods of resuscitation, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT live births, 2018**

Resuscitation: highest rank of method used	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
ECM & ventilation	5	0.4	4	0.2	9	0.2
Endotracheal intubation	5	0.4	6	0.2	11	0.3
IPPV	125	10.6	182	7.3	307	8.4
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	43	3.6	99	4.0	142	3.9
Oxygen therapy	24	2.0	18	0.7	42	1.1
Suction	26	2.2	87	3.5	113	3.1
None	953	80.7	2085	84.0	3038	83.0
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>1181</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2481</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3662</b>	<b>100</b>
Not stated	2		2		4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1183</b>		<b>2483</b>		<b>3666</b>	

(a) 'Other' mainly includes CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure).

Notes: (1) Resuscitation methods exclude tactile stimulation.

(2) IPPV stands for intermittent positive pressure ventilation.

(3) ECM stands for external cardiac massage.

**Table 53. Infant feeding status on discharge with mother, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT full-term singleton hospital births, 2018**

Infant feeding status	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Exclusive breastfeeding	782	87.4	1777	85.1	2559	85.8
Breastfeeding at discharge but $\geq 1$ AF feed	81	9.1	235	11.2	316	10.6
Breastfeeding initiated but AF at discharge	16	1.8	27	1.3	43	1.4
Never breastfed	16	1.8	50	2.4	66	2.2
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2089</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2984</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Not stated	0		2		2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>895</b>		<b>2091</b>		<b>2986</b>	

Notes: AF stand for artificial feeding of infant formula.

**Table 54. Infant feeding status on discharge with primipara mother, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT full-term singleton hospital births, 2018**

Infant feeding status	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Exclusive breastfeeding	238	83.2	748	80.9	986	81.4
Breastfeeding at discharge but $\geq 1$ AF feed	43	15.0	146	15.8	189	15.6
Breastfeeding initiated but AF at discharge	5	1.7	15	1.6	20	1.7
Never breastfed	0	0.0	16	1.7	16	1.3
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1211</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Not stated	0		0		0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>286</b>		<b>925</b>		<b>1211</b>	

Notes: AF stand for artificial feeding of infant formula.

**Table 55. Infant feeding status on discharge with multipara mother, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT full-term singleton hospital births, 2018**

Infant feeding status	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Exclusive breastfeeding	544	89.3	1029	88.4	1573	88.7
Breastfeeding at discharge but >=1 AF feed	38	6.2	89	7.6	127	7.2
Breastfeeding initiated but AF at discharge	11	1.8	12	1.0	23	1.3
Never breastfed	16	2.6	34	2.9	50	2.8
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1164</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1773</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Not stated	0		2		2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>609</b>		<b>1166</b>		<b>1775</b>	

Notes: AF stand for artificial feeding of infant formula.

**Table 56. Numbers and rates of stillbirths (fetal deaths), neonatal deaths, and perinatal deaths, by Aboriginal status, 2018**

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All NT	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Stillbirths	20	16.6	24	9.6	44	11.9
Neonatal deaths	14	11.8	6	2.4	20	5.5
<b>Perinatal deaths</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>17.3</b>

Notes: (1) Rate of fetal deaths or perinatal deaths is the number of deaths per 1000 total births.

(2) Rate of neonatal deaths is the number of deaths per 1000 live births. Neonatal deaths includes deaths in the community.

## 4. Appendix A. Hospital profiles

The profile table of each hospital includes all births that occurred in that hospital in 2018, including births by mothers who were non-NT residents. Non-hospital births are summarised in table A6.

Table A1. Summary statistics, Royal Darwin Hospital, 2018

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>MOTHERS</b>	<b>532</b>		<b>1495</b>		<b>2027</b>	
<b>Maternal age</b>						
<20 years	65	12.2	19	1.3	84	4.1
20-34 years	411	77.3	1159	77.5	1570	77.5
35+ years	56	10.5	317	21.2	373	18.4
<b>Onset of labour</b>						
Spontaneous (Not augmented)	141	26.5	456	30.5	597	29.5
Spontaneous (Augmented)	90	16.9	193	12.9	283	14.0
Induced labour	190	35.7	567	37.9	757	37.3
No labour	111	20.9	279	18.7	390	19.2
<b>Method of birth</b>						
Normal vaginal	322	60.5	851	56.9	1173	57.9
Forceps	15	2.8	76	5.1	91	4.5
Ventouse	30	5.6	91	6.1	121	6.0
Elective caesarean	69	13.0	198	13.2	267	13.2
Emergency caesarean	96	18.0	279	18.7	375	18.5
<b>Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications</b>						
Fetal compromise	104	19.5	300	20.1	404	19.9
Diabetes in pregnancy <sup>(a)</sup>	106	19.9	281	18.8	387	19.1
Manual removal of placenta	18	3.4	13	0.9	31	1.5
Meconium stained liquor	85	16.0	219	14.6	304	15.0
Delay in progress	32	6.0	169	11.3	201	9.9
Post-partum haemorrhage	169	31.8	489	32.7	658	32.5
Pre-eclampsia	34	6.4	56	3.7	90	4.4
Others	90	16.9	196	13.1	286	14.1
<b>Any complication</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>69.4</b>	<b>1009</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>1378</b>	<b>68.0</b>
<b>MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH</b>	<b>367</b>		<b>1018</b>		<b>1385</b>	
<b>Perineum status</b>						
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree laceration	75	20.5	321	31.6	396	28.6
3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> degree laceration	11	3.0	46	4.5	57	4.1
Episiotomy	67	18.3	212	20.8	279	20.2
<b>LIVE BORN BABIES</b>	<b>529</b>		<b>1500</b>		<b>2029</b>	
<b>Gestational age</b>						
<28 weeks	5	0.9	5	0.3	10	0.5
28-36 weeks	107	20.2	141	9.4	248	12.2
37+ weeks	417	78.8	1354	90.3	1771	87.3
<b>Birthweight</b>						
<1500g	15	2.8	21	1.4	36	1.8
1500-2499g	74	14.0	97	6.5	171	8.4
2500g+	440	83.2	1,382	92.1	1822	89.8

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

Notes: (1) This table includes all births that occurred in RDH and the attached Birth Centre in 2018. Also including births by mothers who were non-NT residents.

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



Table A2. Summary statistics, Alice Springs Hospital, 2018

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>MOTHERS</b>	<b>413</b>		<b>351</b>		<b>764</b>	
<b>Maternal age</b>						
<20 years	73	17.7	6	1.7	79	10.3
20-34 years	301	72.9	274	78.1	575	75.3
35+ years	39	9.4	71	20.2	110	14.4
<b>Onset of labour</b>						
Spontaneous (Not augmented)	109	26.4	135	38.5	244	31.9
Spontaneous (Augmented)	99	24.0	82	23.4	181	23.7
Induced labour	128	31.0	84	23.9	212	27.7
No labour	77	18.6	50	14.2	127	16.6
<b>Method of birth</b>						
Normal vaginal	257	62.2	232	66.1	489	64.0
Forceps	12	2.9	18	5.1	30	3.9
Ventouse	13	3.1	13	3.7	26	3.4
Elective caesarean	50	12.1	44	12.5	94	12.3
Emergency caesarean	81	19.6	44	12.5	125	16.4
<b>Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications</b>						
Fetal compromise	51	12.3	30	8.5	81	10.6
Diabetes in pregnancy <sup>(a)</sup>	77	18.6	41	11.7	118	15.4
Manual removal of placenta	14	3.4	2	0.6	16	2.1
Meconium stained liquor	56	13.6	66	18.8	122	16.0
Delay in progress	41	9.9	40	11.4	81	10.6
Post-partum haemorrhage	142	34.4	125	35.6	267	34.9
Pre-eclampsia	35	8.5	13	3.7	48	6.3
Others	58	14.0	50	14.2	108	14.1
<b>Any complication</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>67.8</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>66.1</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>67.0</b>
<b>MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH</b>	<b>282</b>		<b>263</b>		<b>545</b>	
<b>Perineum status</b>						
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree laceration	44	15.9	79	30.4	123	22.9
3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> degree laceration	7	2.5	5	1.9	12	2.2
Episiotomy	19	6.9	34	13.1	53	9.9
<b>LIVE BORN BABIES</b>	<b>414</b>		<b>352</b>		<b>766</b>	
<b>Gestational age</b>						
<28 weeks	2	0.5	0	0.0	2	0.3
28-36 weeks	53	12.8	20	5.7	73	9.5
37+ weeks	359	86.7	332	94.3	691	90.2
<b>Birthweight</b>						
<1500g	7	1.7	0	0.0	7	0.9
1500-2499g	49	11.8	8	2.3	57	7.4
2500g+	358	86.5	344	97.7	702	91.6

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

Notes: (1) This table includes all births that occurred in ASH in 2018. Also including births by mothers who were non-NT residents.

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

**Table A3. Summary statistics, Katherine Hospital, 2018**

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>MOTHERS</b>	<b>150</b>		<b>129</b>		<b>279</b>	
<b>Maternal age</b>						
<20 years	30	20.0	2	1.6	32	11.5
20-34 years	110	73.3	100	77.5	210	75.3
35+ years	10	6.7	27	20.9	37	13.3
<b>Onset of labour</b>						
Spontaneous (Not augmented)	59	39.3	47	36.4	106	38.0
Spontaneous (Augmented)	31	20.7	18	14.0	49	17.6
Induced labour	43	28.7	49	38.0	92	33.0
No labour	17	11.3	15	11.6	32	11.5
<b>Method of birth</b>						
Normal vaginal	90	60.0	74	57.4	164	58.8
Forceps	7	4.7	7	5.4	14	5.0
Ventouse	5	3.3	11	8.5	16	5.7
Elective caesarean	11	7.3	13	10.1	24	8.6
Emergency caesarean	37	24.7	24	18.6	61	21.9
<b>Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications</b>						
Fetal compromise	31	20.7	20	15.5	51	18.3
Diabetes in pregnancy <sup>(a)</sup>	27	18.0	11	8.5	38	13.6
Manual removal of placenta	6	4.0	3	2.3	9	3.2
Meconium stained liquor	17	11.3	18	14.0	35	12.5
Delay in progress	19	12.7	23	17.8	42	15.1
Post-partum haemorrhage	63	42.0	42	32.6	105	37.6
Pre-eclampsia	9	6.0	4	3.1	13	4.7
Others	25	16.7	19	14.7	44	15.8
<b>Any complication</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>74.0</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>67.4</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>71.0</b>
<b>MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH</b>	<b>102</b>		<b>92</b>		<b>194</b>	
<b>Perineum status</b>						
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree laceration	24	23.8	34	37.4	58	30.2
3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> degree laceration	4	4.0	4	4.4	8	4.2
Episiotomy	8	7.9	12	13.2	20	10.4
<b>LIVE BORN BABIES</b>	<b>150</b>		<b>129</b>		<b>279</b>	
<b>Gestational age</b>						
<28 weeks	1	0.7	0	0.0	1	0.4
28-36 weeks	15	10.0	4	3.1	19	6.8
37+ weeks	134	89.3	125	96.9	259	92.8
<b>Birthweight</b>						
<1500g	2	1.3	0	0.0	2	0.7
1500-2499g	14	9.3	1	0.8	15	5.4
2500g+	134	89.3	128	99.2	262	93.9

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

Notes: (1) This table includes all births that occurred in KH in 2018. Also including births by mothers who were non-NT residents.

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

Table A4. Summary statistics, Gove District Hospital, 2018

	All	
	Number	%
<b>MOTHERS</b>	<b>130</b>	
<b>Aboriginal status</b>		
Aboriginal	96	73.8
Non-Aboriginal	34	26.2
<b>Maternal age</b>		
<20 years	18	13.8
20-34 years	94	72.3
35+ years	18	13.8
<b>Onset of labour</b>		
Spontaneous (Not augmented)	44	33.8
Spontaneous (Augmented)	33	25.4
Induced labour	39	30.0
No labour	14	10.8
<b>Method of birth</b>		
Normal vaginal	83	63.8
Forceps	3	2.3
Ventouse	15	11.5
Elective caesarean	10	7.7
Emergency caesarean	19	14.6
<b>Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications</b>		
Fetal compromise	21	16.2
Diabetes in pregnancy <sup>(a)</sup>	32	24.6
Manual removal of placenta	4	3.1
Meconium stained liquor	8	6.2
Delay in progress	20	15.4
Post-partum haemorrhage	49	37.7
Pre-eclampsia	6	4.6
Others	10	7.7
<b>Any complication</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>70.0</b>
<b>MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH</b>	<b>101</b>	
<b>Perineum status</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree laceration	22	22.4
3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> degree laceration	3	3.1
Episiotomy	13	13.3
<b>LIVE BORN BABIES</b>	<b>130</b>	
<b>Gestational age</b>		
<28 weeks	0	0.0
28-36 weeks	8	6.2
37+ weeks	122	93.8
<b>Birthweight</b>		
<1500g	1	0.8
1500-2499g	10	7.7
2500g+	119	91.5

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

Notes: (1) This table includes all births that occurred in GDH in 2018. Also including births by mothers who were non-NT residents.

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

Table A5. Summary statistics, Darwin Private Hospital, 2018

	All	
	Number	%
<b>MOTHERS</b>	<b>433</b>	
<b>Aboriginal status</b>		
Aboriginal	11	2.5
Non-Aboriginal	422	97.5
<b>Maternal age</b>		
<20 years	3	0.7
20-34 years	270	62.4
35+ years	160	37.0
<b>Onset of labour</b>		
Spontaneous (Not augmented)	128	29.6
Spontaneous (Augmented)	31	7.2
Induced labour	120	27.7
No labour	154	35.6
<b>Method of birth</b>		
Normal vaginal	187	43.2
Forceps	19	4.4
Ventouse	29	6.7
Elective caesarean	144	33.3
Emergency caesarean	54	12.5
<b>Pregnancy and/or childbirth complications</b>		
Fetal compromise	23	5.3
Diabetes in pregnancy <sup>(a)</sup>	39	9.0
Manual removal of placenta	0	0.0
Meconium stained liquor	20	4.6
Delay in progress	42	9.7
Post-partum haemorrhage	118	27.3
Pre-eclampsia	5	1.2
Others	12	2.8
<b>Any complication</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>46.9</b>
<b>MOTHERS HAVING VAGINAL BIRTH</b>	<b>235</b>	
<b>Perineum status</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree laceration	29	12.2
3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> degree laceration	1	0.4
Episiotomy	58	24.5
<b>LIVEBORN BABIES</b>	<b>437</b>	
<b>Gestational age</b>		
<28 weeks	2	0.5
28-36 weeks	31	7.1
37+ weeks	404	92.4
<b>Birthweight</b>		
<1500g	2	0.5
1500-2499g	23	5.3
2500g+	412	94.3

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

Notes: (1) This table includes all births that occurred in DPH. Also including births by mothers who were non-NT residents.

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

Table A6. Summary statistics, non-hospital births, 2018

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>MOTHERS</b>	<b>33</b>		<b>57</b>		<b>90</b>	
<b>Maternal age</b>						
<20 years	6	18.2	1	1.8	7	7.8
20-34 years	25	75.8	39	68.4	64	71.1
35+ years	2	6.1	17	29.8	19	21.1
<b>Actual place of giving birth</b>						
Planned homes	0	0.0	33	57.9	33	36.7
Other	10	30.3	24	42.1	34	37.8
Health centres	23	69.7	0	0.0	23	25.6
<b>DISTRICT OF USUAL RESIDENCE</b>						
Darwin Urban	1	3.0	42	73.7	43	47.8
Darwin Rural	10	30.3	0	0.0	10	11.1
Katherine	4	12.1	1	1.8	5	5.6
East Arnhem	8	24.2	1	1.8	9	10.0
Barkly	2	6.1	0	0.0	2	2.2
Alice Springs Urban	3	9.1	11	19.3	14	15.6
Alice Springs Rural	4	12.1	0	0.0	4	4.4
Interstate	1	3.0	2	3.5	3	3.3
<b>LIVEBORN BABIES</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>57</b>		<b>85</b>	
<b>Gestational age</b>						
<28 weeks	4	14.3	0	0.0	4	4.7
28-36 weeks	9	32.1	1	1.8	10	11.8
37 weeks	8	28.6	4	7.0	12	14.1
38 weeks	4	14.3	7	12.3	11	12.9
39 weeks	2	7.1	20	35.1	22	25.9
40+ weeks	1	3.6	25	43.9	26	30.6
<b>Birthweight</b>						
<1500g	4	14.3	0	0.0	4	4.7
1500-2499g	8	28.6	1	1.8	9	10.6
2500g+	16	57.1	56	98.2	72	84.7

Notes: (1) This table comprises all births that occurred out of hospital in 2018, including planned home births in the hospital Home Birthing Service, and births in unintended locations such as in health centres or in transit to hospital.

(2) This table includes born before arrival admission into hospital of births that occurred in unintended locations.

(3) Not stated category is not presented, and therefore the total may differ from the sum of the components.

## 5. Appendix B. Trends of perinatal indicators, by Aboriginal status, NT, 2004–2018

The following trends figures and tables summarise key indicators over time by Aboriginal status. Numbers are provided in tables B1, B3 and B5. Proportions are provided in tables B2, B4 and B6.

Figure 2. Number of babies born by maternal Aboriginal status, 2004-2018

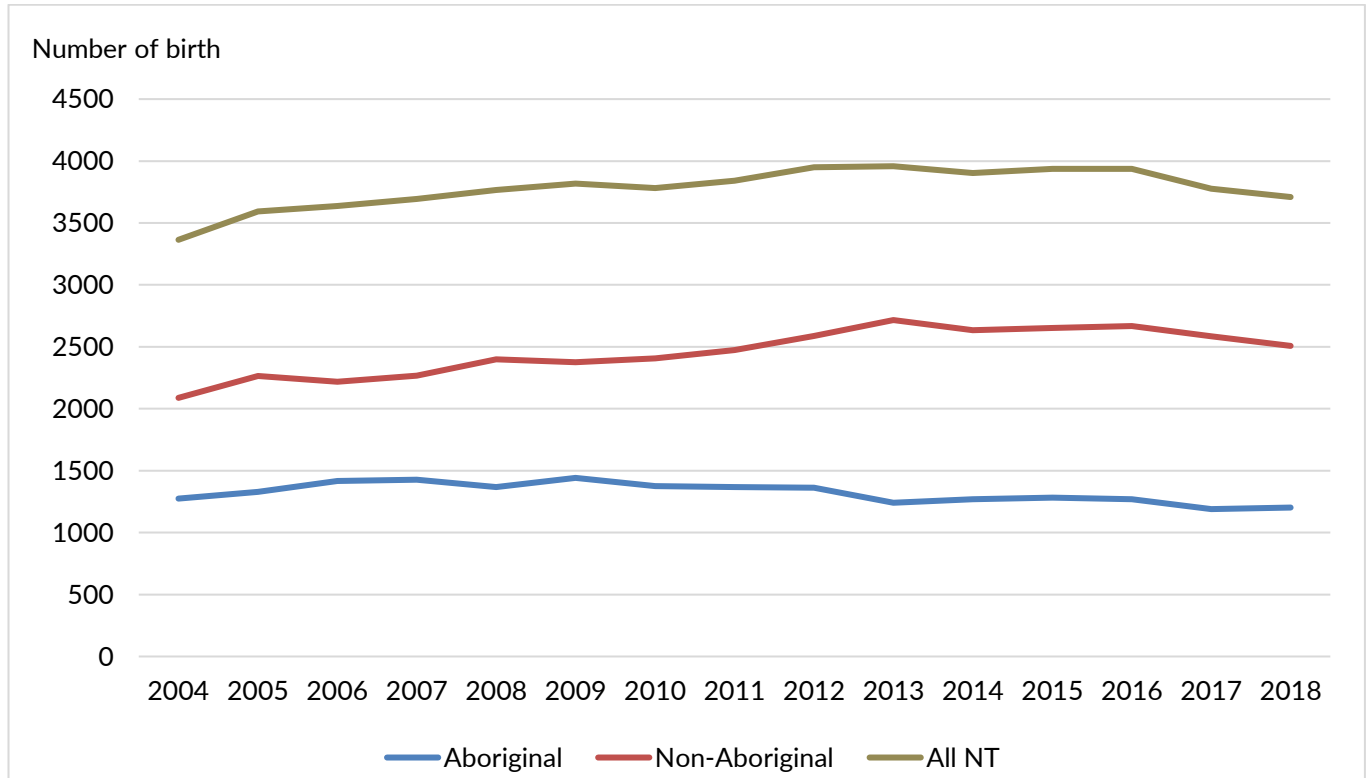


Figure 3. Total fertility rate by Aboriginal status, 2004-2018

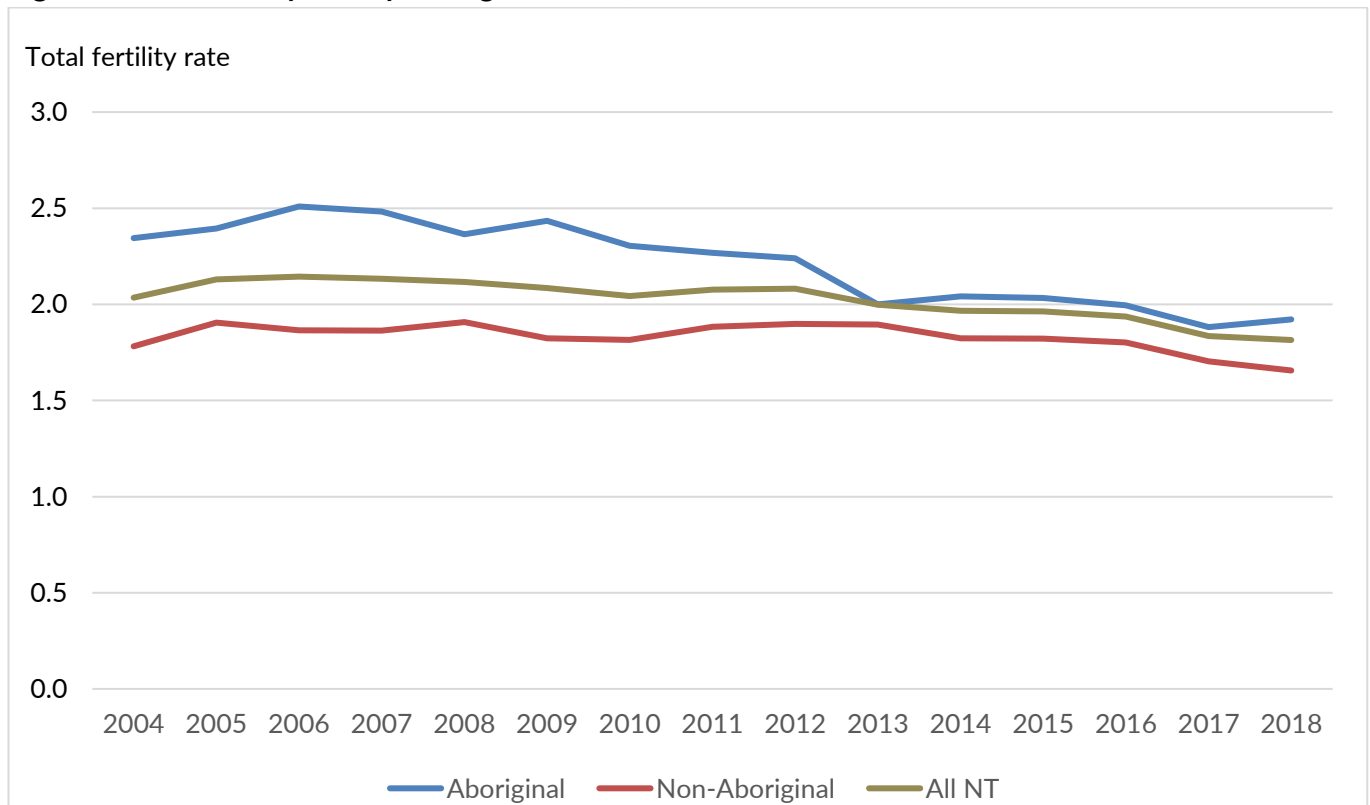


Figure 4. Maternal age by Aboriginal status, 2004-2018

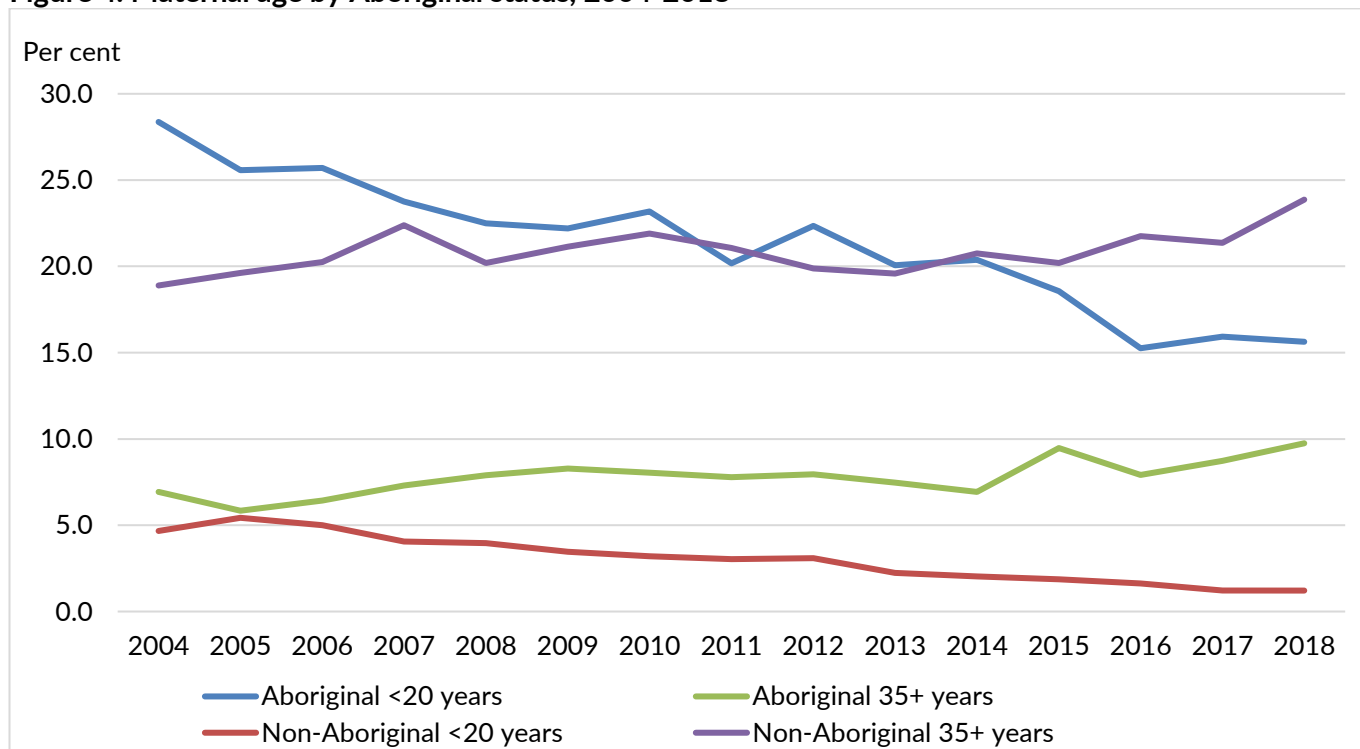


Figure 5. Mothers, by onset of labour and Aboriginal status, 2004-2018

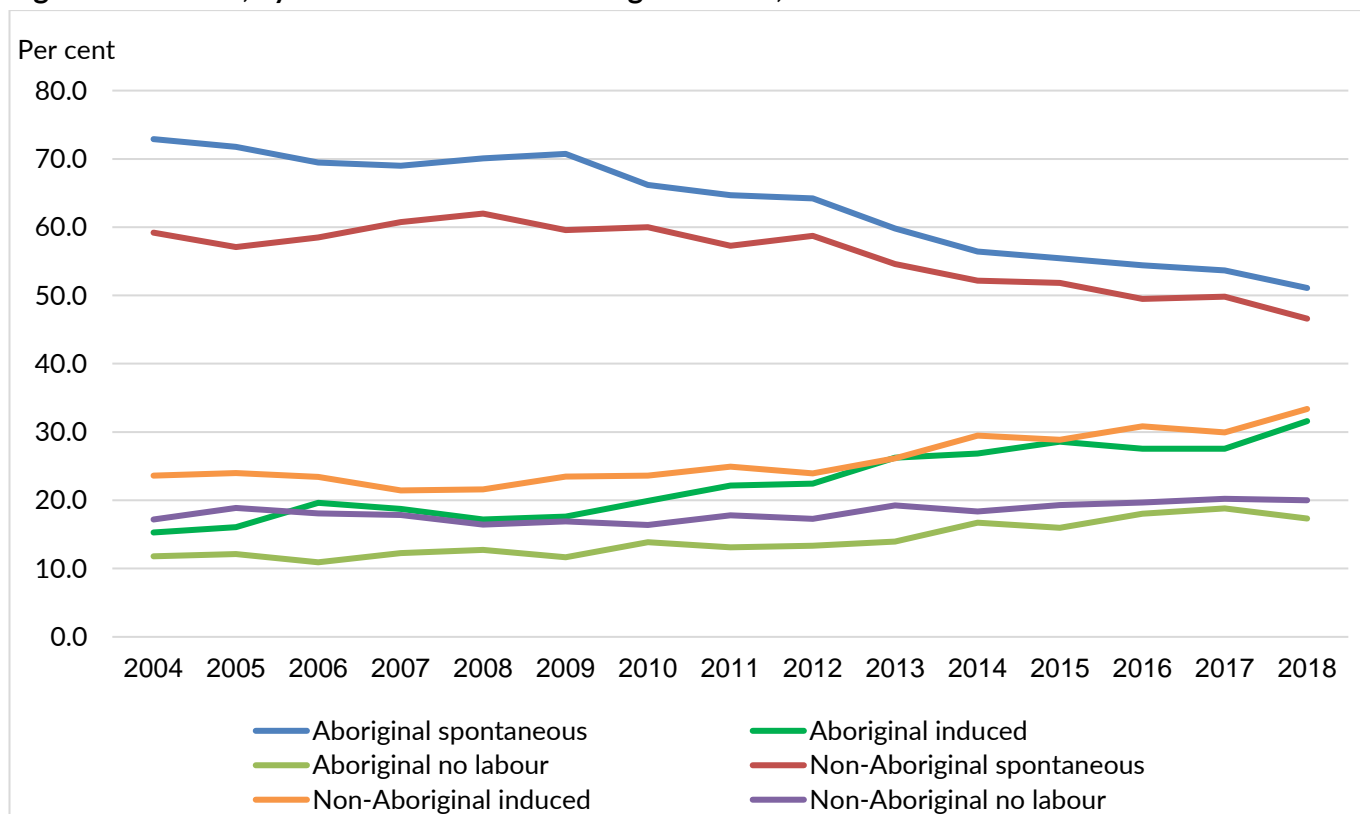




Figure 6. Mothers, by main method of birth and Aboriginal status, 2004-2018

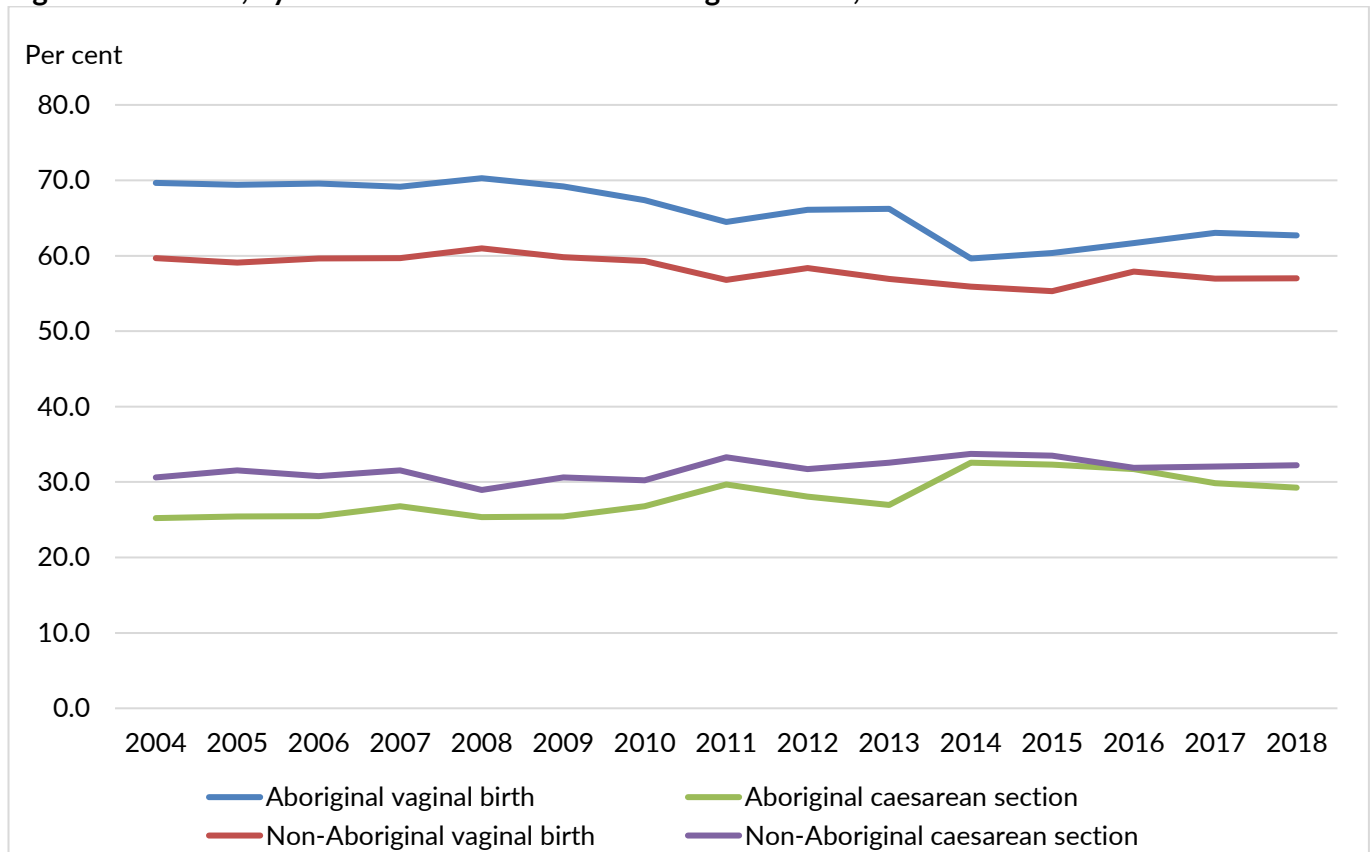


Figure 7. Maternal age of first-time mother by Aboriginal status, 2004-2018

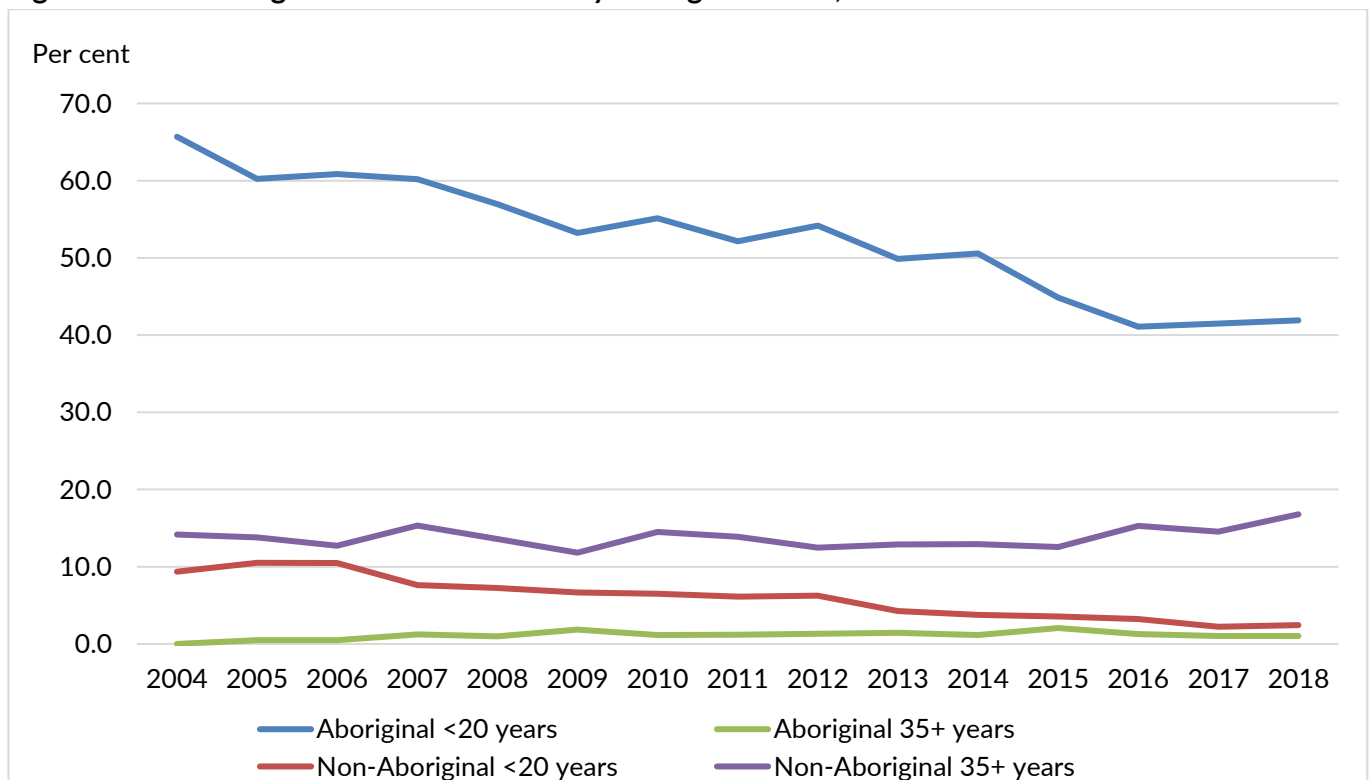


Figure 8. Low birthweight liveborn babies by maternal Aboriginal status, 2004-2018

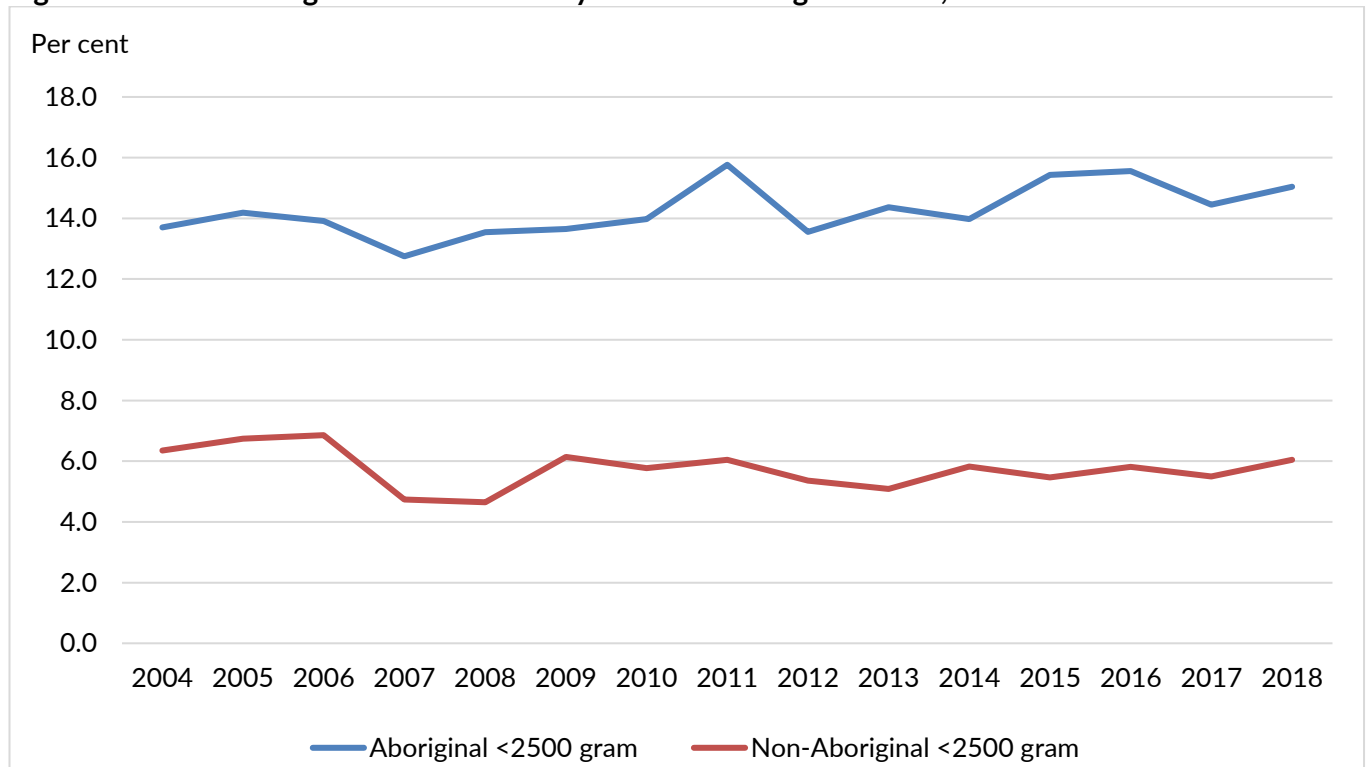


Figure 9. Low gestational age (weeks) liveborn babies by maternal Aboriginal status, 2004-2018

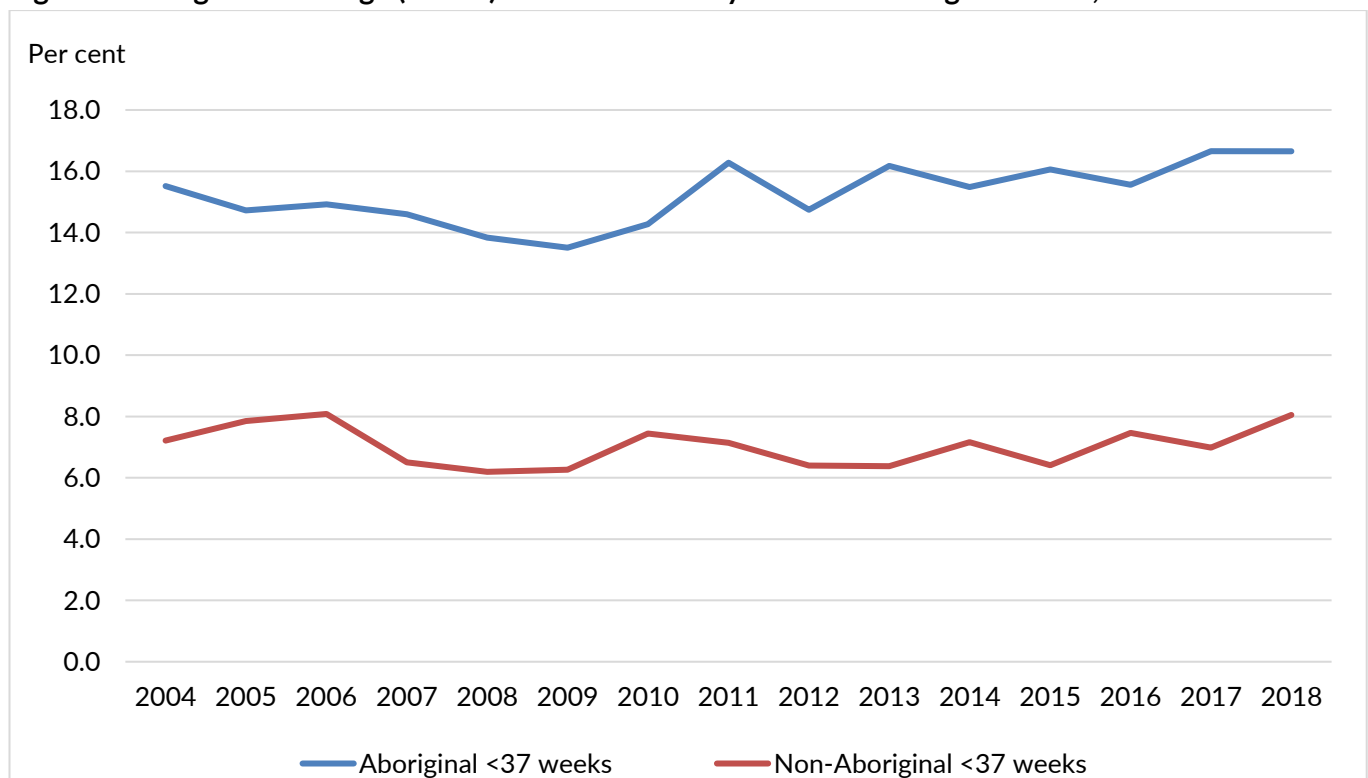
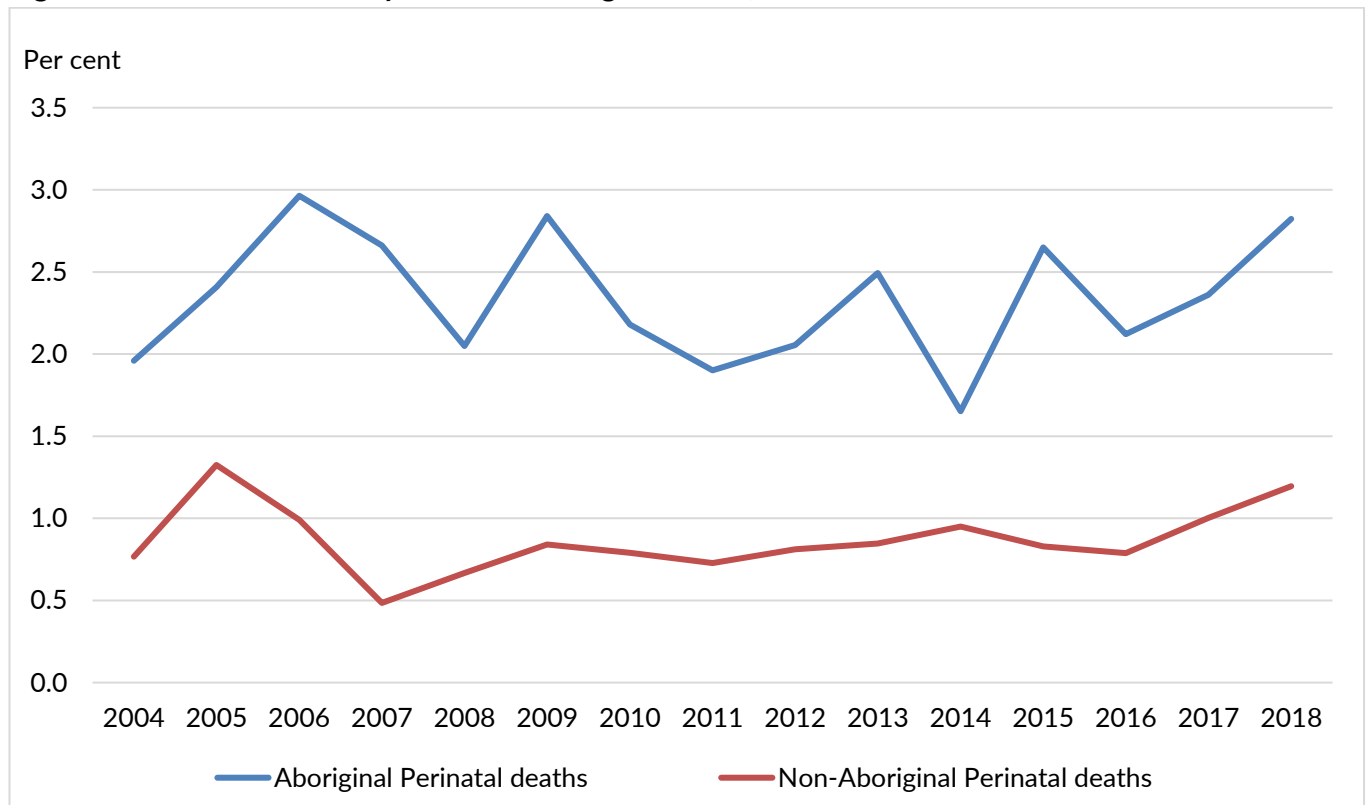


Figure 10. Perinatal deaths by maternal Aboriginal status, 2004-2018



**Table B1. Trends in numbers for selected measures, NT Aboriginal mothers and babies, 2004-2018**

		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total fertility rate</b>		2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9
		<b>Number</b>														
<b>ALL MOTHERS</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1269</b>	<b>1318</b>	<b>1401</b>	<b>1410</b>	<b>1356</b>	<b>1424</b>	<b>1355</b>	<b>1348</b>	<b>1347</b>	<b>1231</b>	<b>1256</b>	<b>1266</b>	<b>1252</b>	<b>1180</b>	<b>1190</b>
	<b>Maternal age</b>															
	<20	360	337	360	335	305	316	314	272	301	247	256	235	191	188	186
	20-34	821	904	951	972	944	990	932	971	939	892	913	911	962	889	888
	35+	88	77	90	103	107	118	109	105	107	92	87	120	99	103	116
	<b>Place of birth</b>															
	Hospital	1208	1248	1330	1349	1299	1370	1283	1296	1291	1177	1213	1230	1218	1140	1158
	Non-hospital	61	70	71	61	57	54	72	52	56	54	43	36	34	40	32
	<b>Type of labour onset</b>															
	Spontaneous	925	946	973	973	950	1007	897	872	865	736	709	702	681	633	608
	Induced	194	212	275	264	233	251	270	299	302	323	337	362	345	325	376
	No labour	150	160	153	173	173	166	188	177	180	172	210	202	226	222	206
	<b>Method of birth</b>															
	Normal vaginal	884	915	975	975	953	985	913	869	890	815	749	764	772	744	746
	Forceps	12	19	13	16	20	28	11	22	18	31	32	28	30	40	37
	Ventouse	53	49	56	41	39	49	68	57	61	53	66	65	53	44	59
	Caesarean section	320	335	357	378	344	362	363	400	378	332	409	409	397	352	348
<b>FIRST-TIME MOTHERS</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>389</b>
	<b>Maternal age</b>															
	<20	245	244	255	245	229	230	242	218	246	206	223	196	159	161	163
	20-34	128	159	162	157	169	194	192	195	202	201	213	232	223	223	222
	35+	0	2	2	5	4	8	5	5	6	6	5	9	5	4	4
<b>BABIES</b>		<b>1276</b>	<b>1329</b>	<b>1417</b>	<b>1426</b>	<b>1367</b>	<b>1442</b>	<b>1376</b>	<b>1367</b>	<b>1362</b>	<b>1242</b>	<b>1270</b>	<b>1283</b>	<b>1270</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>1203</b>
	Stillbirths	13	18	23	22	16	28	17	16	12	24	11	19	17	13	20
	Neonatal deaths	12	14	19	16	12	13	13	10	16	7	10	15	10	15	14
	Perinatal deaths	25	32	42	38	28	41	30	26	28	31	21	34	27	28	34
<b>LIVE BORN BABIES</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1263</b>	<b>1311</b>	<b>1394</b>	<b>1404</b>	<b>1351</b>	<b>1414</b>	<b>1359</b>	<b>1351</b>	<b>1350</b>	<b>1218</b>	<b>1259</b>	<b>1264</b>	<b>1253</b>	<b>1177</b>	<b>1183</b>
	<b>Plurality</b>															
	Singleton	1249	1290	1362	1375	1329	1381	1318	1313	1320	1196	1232	1231	1218	1157	1157
	Multiple	14	21	32	29	22	33	41	38	30	22	27	33	35	20	26
	<b>Birthweight (g)</b>															
	<1500	34	37	43	39	26	36	38	36	32	41	37	34	45	29	27
	1500-2499	139	149	151	140	157	157	152	177	151	134	139	161	150	141	151
	2500+	1090	1125	1200	1225	1168	1221	1169	1138	1167	1043	1083	1069	1058	1006	1005
	<b>Gestational age (weeks)</b>															
	<28	18	22	14	14	14	12	15	20	15	20	17	15	27	14	10
	28-36	178	171	194	191	173	179	179	200	184	177	178	188	168	182	187
	37+	1067	1118	1186	1199	1164	1223	1165	1131	1151	1021	1064	1061	1058	981	986

Notes: (1) 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.

(2) Figures in trend table may differ slightly to those in previous reports due to the ongoing data validation process.

Table B2. Trends in proportions for selected measures, NT Aboriginal mothers and babies, 2004-2018

		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
		Percent														
<b>ALL MOTHERS</b>	<b>Maternal age</b>															
	<20	28.4	25.6	25.7	23.8	22.5	22.2	23.2	20.2	22.3	20.1	20.4	18.6	15.3	15.9	15.6
	20-34	64.7	68.6	67.9	68.9	69.6	69.5	68.8	72.0	69.7	72.5	72.7	72.0	76.8	75.3	74.6
	35+	6.9	5.8	6.4	7.3	7.9	8.3	8.0	7.8	7.9	7.5	6.9	9.5	7.9	8.7	9.7
	<b>Place of birth</b>															
	Hospital	95.2	94.7	94.9	95.7	95.8	96.2	94.7	96.1	95.8	95.6	96.6	97.2	97.3	96.6	97.3
	Non-hospital	4.8	5.3	5.1	4.3	4.2	3.8	5.3	3.9	4.2	4.4	3.4	2.8	2.7	3.4	2.7
	<b>Type of labour onset</b>															
	Spontaneous	72.9	71.8	69.5	69.0	70.1	70.7	66.2	64.7	64.2	59.8	56.4	55.5	54.4	53.6	51.1
	Induced	15.3	16.1	19.6	18.7	17.2	17.6	19.9	22.2	22.4	26.2	26.8	28.6	27.6	27.5	31.6
	No labour	11.8	12.1	10.9	12.3	12.8	11.7	13.9	13.1	13.4	14.0	16.7	16.0	18.1	18.8	17.3
	<b>Method of birth</b>															
	Normal vaginal	69.7	69.4	69.6	69.1	70.3	69.2	67.4	64.5	66.1	66.2	59.6	60.3	61.7	63.1	62.7
Forceps	0.9	1.4	0.9	1.1	1.5	2.0	0.8	1.6	1.3	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.4	3.4	3.1	
Ventouse	4.2	3.7	4.0	2.9	2.9	3.4	5.0	4.2	4.5	4.3	5.3	5.1	4.2	3.7	5.0	
Caesarean section	25.2	25.4	25.5	26.8	25.4	25.4	26.8	29.7	28.1	27.0	32.6	32.3	31.7	29.8	29.2	
<b>FIRST-TIME MOTHERS</b>	<b>Maternal age</b>															
	<20	65.7	60.2	60.9	60.2	57.0	53.2	55.1	52.2	54.2	49.9	50.6	44.9	41.1	41.5	41.9
	20-34	34.3	39.3	38.7	38.6	42.0	44.9	43.7	46.7	44.5	48.7	48.3	53.1	57.6	57.5	57.1
35+	0.0	0.5	0.5	1.2	1.0	1.9	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.1	2.1	1.3	1.0	1.0	
<b>BABIES</b>	Stillbirths	1.0	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.9	1.2	1.2	0.9	1.9	0.9	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.7
	Neonatal deaths	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.7	1.2	0.6	0.8	1.2	0.8	1.3	1.2
	Perinatal deaths	2.0	2.4	3.0	2.7	2.0	2.8	2.2	1.9	2.1	2.5	1.7	2.7	2.1	2.4	2.8
<b>LIVE BORN BABIES</b>	<b>Plurality</b>															
	Singleton	98.9	98.4	97.7	97.9	98.4	97.7	97.0	97.2	97.8	98.2	97.9	97.4	97.2	98.3	97.8
	Multiple	1.1	1.6	2.3	2.1	1.6	2.3	3.0	2.8	2.2	1.8	2.1	2.6	2.8	1.7	2.2
	<b>Birthweight (g)</b>															
	<1500	2.7	2.8	3.1	2.8	1.9	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.4	3.4	2.9	2.7	3.6	2.5	2.3
	1500-2499	11.0	11.4	10.8	10.0	11.6	11.1	11.2	13.1	11.2	11.0	11.0	12.7	12.0	12.0	12.8
	2500+	86.3	85.8	86.1	87.3	86.5	86.4	86.0	84.2	86.4	85.6	86.0	84.6	84.4	85.5	85.0
	<b>Gestational age (weeks)</b>															
<28	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.2	2.2	1.2	0.8	
28-36	14.1	13.0	13.9	13.6	12.8	12.7	13.2	14.8	13.6	14.5	14.1	14.9	13.4	15.5	15.8	
37+	84.5	85.3	85.1	85.4	86.2	86.5	85.7	83.7	85.3	83.8	84.5	83.9	84.4	83.3	83.3	

Notes: (1) 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.

(2) Figures in trend table may differ slightly to those in previous reports due to the ongoing data validation process.

**Table B3. Trends in numbers for selected measures, NT non-Aboriginal mothers and babies, 2004-2018**

		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total fertility rate		1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7
		Number														
<b>ALL MOTHERS</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2059</b>	<b>2228</b>	<b>2183</b>	<b>2243</b>	<b>2373</b>	<b>2341</b>	<b>2374</b>	<b>2440</b>	<b>2555</b>	<b>2687</b>	<b>2597</b>	<b>2620</b>	<b>2635</b>	<b>2547</b>	<b>2472</b>
	<b>Maternal age</b>															
	<20	96	121	109	91	94	81	76	74	79	60	53	49	43	31	30
	20-34	1574	1670	1631	1650	1800	1765	1778	1852	1968	2101	2005	2042	2019	1972	1852
	35+	389	437	442	502	479	495	520	514	508	526	539	529	573	544	590
	<b>Place of birth</b>															
	Hospital	2032	2212	2138	2195	2332	2289	2329	2385	2512	2632	2562	2576	2598	2501	2417
	Non-hospital	27	16	45	48	41	52	45	55	43	55	35	44	37	46	55
	<b>Type of labour onset</b>															
	Spontaneous	1219	1272	1277	1362	1471	1395	1424	1398	1501	1467	1355	1358	1304	1269	1152
	Induced	486	535	511	481	512	550	561	608	612	703	765	756	813	763	825
	No labour	354	421	395	400	390	396	389	434	442	517	477	506	518	515	495
	<b>Method of birth</b>															
	Normal vaginal	1229	1317	1302	1339	1447	1400	1408	1386	1491	1530	1452	1449	1526	1451	1409
	Forceps	48	55	48	55	82	81	87	96	95	135	108	133	106	137	119
	Ventouse	152	153	161	141	157	143	161	146	159	147	161	160	163	143	147
	Caesarean section	630	703	672	708	687	717	718	812	810	875	876	878	840	816	797
<b>FIRST-TIME MOTHERS</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>1009</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>1076</b>	<b>1007</b>	<b>1048</b>	<b>1094</b>	<b>1121</b>	<b>1240</b>	<b>1199</b>	<b>1157</b>	<b>1236</b>	<b>1169</b>	<b>1102</b>
	<b>Maternal age</b>															
	<20	80	106	98	75	78	67	68	67	70	53	45	41	40	26	27
	20-34	654	764	718	760	852	821	828	875	911	1027	999	971	1007	973	890
	35+	121	139	119	151	146	119	152	152	140	160	155	145	189	170	185
<b>BABIES</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2088</b>	<b>2264</b>	<b>2219</b>	<b>2268</b>	<b>2399</b>	<b>2375</b>	<b>2406</b>	<b>2474</b>	<b>2587</b>	<b>2716</b>	<b>2633</b>	<b>2653</b>	<b>2667</b>	<b>2586</b>	<b>2507</b>
	Stillbirths	9	23	17	9	10	14	14	11	11	20	21	19	16	23	24
	Neonatal deaths	7	7	5	2	6	6	5	7	10	3	4	3	5	2	6
	Perinatal deaths	16	30	22	11	16	20	19	18	21	23	25	22	21	25	30
<b>LIVE BORN BABIES</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2079</b>	<b>2241</b>	<b>2202</b>	<b>2259</b>	<b>2389</b>	<b>2361</b>	<b>2392</b>	<b>2463</b>	<b>2576</b>	<b>2696</b>	<b>2612</b>	<b>2634</b>	<b>2651</b>	<b>2563</b>	<b>2483</b>
	<b>Plurality</b>															
	Singleton	2022	2174	2130	2211	2341	2296	2329	2395	2512	2642	2545	2568	2587	2487	2418
	Multiple	57	67	72	48	48	65	63	68	64	54	67	66	64	76	65
	<b>Birthweight (g)</b>															
	<1500	23	25	19	19	20	13	26	28	17	19	16	20	11	23	22
	1500-2499	109	126	132	88	91	132	112	121	121	118	136	124	143	118	128
	2500+	1947	2088	2051	2152	2278	2216	2254	2314	2438	2558	2460	2489	2497	2422	2333
	<b>Gestational age (weeks)</b>															
	<28	8	6	6	6	7	5	10	10	6	11	6	5	6	15	7
	28-36	142	170	172	141	141	143	168	166	159	161	181	164	192	164	193
	37+	1929	2065	2024	2112	2241	2213	2214	2287	2411	2524	2425	2465	2453	2384	2283

Notes: (1) 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.

(2) Figures in trend table may differ slightly to those in previous reports due to the ongoing data validation process.

Table B4. Trends in proportions for selected measures, NT non-Aboriginal mothers and babies, 2004-2018

		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
		Percent														
<b>ALL MOTHERS</b>	<b>Maternal age</b>															
	<20	4.7	5.4	5.0	4.1	4.0	3.5	3.2	3.0	3.1	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.2	1.2
	20-34	76.4	75.0	74.7	73.6	75.9	75.4	74.9	75.9	77.0	78.2	77.2	77.9	76.6	77.4	74.9
	35+	18.9	19.6	20.3	22.4	20.2	21.1	21.9	21.1	19.9	19.6	20.8	20.2	21.7	21.4	23.9
	<b>Place of birth</b>															
	Hospital	98.7	99.3	97.9	97.9	98.3	97.8	98.1	97.7	98.3	98.0	98.7	98.3	98.6	98.2	97.8
	Non-hospital	1.3	0.7	2.1	2.1	1.7	2.2	1.9	2.3	1.7	2.0	1.3	1.7	1.4	1.8	2.2
	<b>Type of labour onset</b>															
	Spontaneous	59.2	57.1	58.5	60.7	62.0	59.6	60.0	57.3	58.7	54.6	52.2	51.8	49.5	49.8	46.6
	Induced	23.6	24.0	23.4	21.4	21.6	23.5	23.6	24.9	24.0	26.2	29.5	28.9	30.9	30.0	33.4
	No labour	17.2	18.9	18.1	17.8	16.4	16.9	16.4	17.8	17.3	19.2	18.4	19.3	19.7	20.2	20.0
	<b>Method of birth</b>															
	Normal vaginal	59.7	59.1	59.6	59.7	61.0	59.8	59.3	56.8	58.4	56.9	55.9	55.3	57.9	57.0	57.0
Forceps	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.5	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.7	5.0	4.2	5.1	4.0	5.4	4.8	
Ventouse	7.4	6.9	7.4	6.3	6.6	6.1	6.8	6.0	6.2	5.5	6.2	6.1	6.2	5.6	5.9	
Caesarean section	30.6	31.6	30.8	31.6	29.0	30.6	30.2	33.3	31.7	32.6	33.7	33.5	31.9	32.0	32.2	
<b>FIRST-TIME MOTHERS</b>	<b>Maternal age</b>															
	<20	9.4	10.5	10.5	7.6	7.2	6.7	6.5	6.1	6.2	4.3	3.8	3.5	3.2	2.2	2.5
	20-34	76.5	75.7	76.8	77.1	79.2	81.5	79.0	80.0	81.3	82.8	83.3	83.9	81.5	83.2	80.8
35+	14.2	13.8	12.7	15.3	13.6	11.8	14.5	13.9	12.5	12.9	12.9	12.5	15.3	14.5	16.8	
<b>BABIES</b>	<b>Stillbirths</b>	0.4	1.0	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.0
	Neonatal deaths	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
	Perinatal deaths	0.8	1.3	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.2
<b>LIVE BORN BABIES</b>	<b>Plurality</b>															
	Singleton	97.3	97.0	96.7	97.9	98.0	97.2	97.4	97.2	97.5	98.0	97.4	97.5	97.6	97.0	97.4
	Multiple	2.7	3.0	3.3	2.1	2.0	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.0	2.6	2.5	2.4	3.0	2.6
	<b>Birthweight (g)</b>															
	<1500	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.1	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.9	0.9
	1500-2499	5.2	5.6	6.0	3.9	3.8	5.6	4.7	4.9	4.7	4.4	5.2	4.7	5.4	4.6	5.2
	2500+	93.7	93.3	93.1	95.3	95.4	93.9	94.2	94.0	94.6	94.9	94.2	94.5	94.2	94.5	94.0
	<b>Gestational age (weeks)</b>															
<28	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.3	
28-36	6.8	7.6	7.8	6.2	5.9	6.1	7.0	6.7	6.2	6.0	6.9	6.2	7.2	6.4	7.8	
37+	92.8	92.1	91.9	93.5	93.8	93.7	92.6	92.9	93.6	93.6	92.8	93.6	92.5	93.0	91.9	

Notes (1) 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.

(2) Figures in trend table may differ slightly to those in previous reports due to the ongoing data validation process.

**Table B5. Trends in numbers for selected measures, all NT mothers and babies, 2004-2018**

		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
<b>Total fertility rate</b>		2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	
<b>ALL MOTHERS</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3328</b>	<b>3546</b>	<b>3584</b>	<b>3653</b>	<b>3730</b>	<b>3769</b>	<b>3735</b>	<b>3791</b>	<b>3904</b>	<b>3924</b>	<b>3853</b>	<b>3886</b>	<b>3887</b>	<b>3729</b>	<b>3662</b>	
	<b>Maternal age</b>																
	<20	456	458	469	426	399	397	390	346	380	307	309	284	234	219	216	
	20-34	2395	2574	2582	2622	2744	2758	2715	2826	2908	2997	2918	2953	2981	2862	2740	
	35+	477	514	532	605	587	614	630	619	616	620	626	649	672	648	706	
	<b>Place of birth</b>																
	Hospital	3240	3460	3468	3544	3632	3663	3618	3684	3805	3815	3775	3806	3816	3643	3575	
	Non-hospital	88	86	116	109	98	106	117	107	99	109	78	80	71	86	87	
	<b>Type of labour onset</b>																
	Spontaneous	2144	2218	2250	2335	2421	2402	2322	2270	2366	2203	2064	2060	1985	1903	1760	
	Induced	680	747	786	745	745	803	833	909	915	1028	1102	1118	1158	1088	1201	
	No labour	504	581	548	573	564	564	580	612	623	693	687	708	744	738	701	
	<b>Method of birth</b>																
	Normal vaginal	2113	2232	2277	2314	2400	2386	2323	2257	2382	2345	2201	2213	2298	2196	2155	
Forceps	60	74	61	71	102	109	98	118	113	167	140	161	136	177	156		
Ventouse	205	202	217	182	196	193	229	203	220	200	227	225	216	187	206		
Caesarean section	950	1038	1029	1086	1032	1081	1085	1213	1189	1212	1285	1287	1237	1169	1145		
<b>FIRST-TIME MOTHERS</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1228</b>	<b>1414</b>	<b>1355</b>	<b>1393</b>	<b>1478</b>	<b>1441</b>	<b>1489</b>	<b>1512</b>	<b>1576</b>	<b>1657</b>	<b>1640</b>	<b>1594</b>	<b>1623</b>	<b>1558</b>	<b>1491</b>	
	<b>Maternal age</b>																
	<20	325	350	353	320	307	297	310	285	316	259	268	237	199	187	190	
	20-34	782	923	880	917	1021	1017	1022	1070	1113	1231	1212	1203	1230	1197	1112	
	35+	121	141	121	156	150	127	157	157	147	167	160	154	194	174	189	
<b>BABIES</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3364</b>	<b>3593</b>	<b>3636</b>	<b>3694</b>	<b>3767</b>	<b>3821</b>	<b>3788</b>	<b>3844</b>	<b>3951</b>	<b>3965</b>	<b>3903</b>	<b>3936</b>	<b>3937</b>	<b>3778</b>	<b>3710</b>	
	Stillbirths	22	41	40	31	26	42	31	27	24	44	32	38	33	36	44	
	Neonatal deaths	19	21	24	18	18	19	18	17	26	10	14	18	15	17	20	
	Perinatal deaths	41	62	64	49	44	61	49	44	50	54	46	56	48	53	64	
<b>LIVE BORN BABIES</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3342</b>	<b>3552</b>	<b>3596</b>	<b>3663</b>	<b>3741</b>	<b>3779</b>	<b>3757</b>	<b>3817</b>	<b>3927</b>	<b>3921</b>	<b>3871</b>	<b>3898</b>	<b>3904</b>	<b>3742</b>	<b>3666</b>	
	<b>Plurality</b>																
	Singleton	3271	3464	3492	3586	3671	3681	3653	3711	3833	3843	3777	3799	3805	3646	3575	
	Multiple	71	88	104	77	70	98	104	106	94	78	94	99	99	96	91	
	<b>Birthweight (g)</b>																
	<1500	57	62	62	58	46	49	64	64	49	60	53	54	56	52	49	
	1500-2499	248	275	283	228	248	289	264	298	272	252	275	285	293	259	279	
	2500+	3037	3213	3251	3377	3447	3441	3429	3455	3606	3608	3543	3558	3555	3430	3338	
	<b>Gestational age (weeks)</b>																
	<28	26	28	20	20	21	17	25	30	21	31	23	20	33	29	17	
	28-36	320	341	366	332	314	322	347	366	343	338	359	352	360	346	380	
	37+	2996	3183	3210	3311	3406	3440	3385	3421	3563	3552	3489	3526	3511	3367	3269	

Notes: (1) 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.

(2) Figures in trend table may differ slightly to those in previous reports due to the ongoing data validation process.



Table B6. Trends in proportions for selected measures, all NT mothers and babies, 2004-2018

		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
		Percent														
<b>ALL MOTHERS</b>	<b>Maternal age</b>															
	<20	13.7	12.9	13.1	11.7	10.7	10.5	10.4	9.1	9.7	7.8	8.0	7.3	6.0	5.9	5.9
	20-34	72.0	72.6	72.1	71.8	73.6	73.2	72.7	74.5	74.5	76.4	75.7	76.0	76.7	76.7	74.8
	35+	14.3	14.5	14.8	16.6	15.7	16.3	16.9	16.3	15.8	15.8	16.2	16.7	17.3	17.4	19.3
	<b>Place of birth</b>															
	Hospital	97.4	97.6	96.8	97.0	97.4	97.2	96.9	97.2	97.5	97.2	98.0	97.9	98.2	97.7	97.6
	Non-hospital	2.6	2.4	3.2	3.0	2.6	2.8	3.1	2.8	2.5	2.8	2.0	2.1	1.8	2.3	2.4
	<b>Type of labour onset</b>															
	Spontaneous	64.4	62.5	62.8	63.9	64.9	63.7	62.2	59.9	60.6	56.1	53.6	53.0	51.1	51.0	48.1
	Induced	20.4	21.1	21.9	20.4	20.0	21.3	22.3	24.0	23.4	26.2	28.6	28.8	29.8	29.2	32.8
	No labour	15.1	16.4	15.3	15.7	15.1	15.0	15.5	16.1	16.0	17.7	17.8	18.2	19.1	19.8	19.1
	<b>Method of birth</b>															
	Normal vaginal	63.5	62.9	63.5	63.3	64.3	63.3	62.2	59.5	61.0	59.8	57.1	56.9	59.1	58.9	58.8
Forceps	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.9	2.7	2.9	2.6	3.1	2.9	4.3	3.6	4.1	3.5	4.7	4.3	
Ventouse	6.2	5.7	6.1	5.0	5.3	5.1	6.1	5.4	5.6	5.1	5.9	5.8	5.6	5.0	5.6	
Caesarean section	28.5	29.3	28.7	29.7	27.7	28.7	29.0	32.0	30.5	30.9	33.4	33.1	31.8	31.3	31.3	
<b>FIRST-TIME MOTHERS</b>	<b>Maternal age</b>															
	<20	26.5	24.8	26.1	23.0	20.8	20.6	20.8	18.8	20.1	15.6	16.3	14.9	12.3	12.0	12.7
	20-34	63.7	65.3	65.0	65.8	69.1	70.6	68.6	70.8	70.6	74.3	73.9	75.5	75.8	76.8	74.6
35+	9.9	10.0	8.9	11.2	10.1	8.8	10.5	10.4	9.3	10.1	9.8	9.7	12.0	11.2	12.7	
<b>BABIES</b>	Stillbirths	0.7	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.1	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.2
	Neonatal deaths	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5
	Perinatal deaths	1.2	1.7	1.8	1.3	1.2	1.6	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.7
<b>LIVE BORN BABIES</b>	<b>Plurality</b>															
	Singleton	97.9	97.5	97.1	97.9	98.1	97.4	97.2	97.2	97.6	98.0	97.6	97.5	97.5	97.4	97.5
	Multiple	2.1	2.5	2.9	2.1	1.9	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.0	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.5
	<b>Birthweight (g)</b>															
	<1500	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3
	1500-2499	7.4	7.7	7.9	6.2	6.6	7.6	7.0	7.8	6.9	6.4	7.1	7.3	7.5	6.9	7.6
	2500+	90.9	90.5	90.4	92.2	92.1	91.1	91.3	90.5	91.8	92.0	91.5	91.3	91.1	91.7	91.1
	<b>Gestational age (weeks)</b>															
<28	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.5	
28-36	9.6	9.6	10.2	9.1	8.4	8.5	9.2	9.6	8.7	8.6	9.3	9.0	9.2	9.2	10.4	
37+	89.6	89.6	89.3	90.4	91.0	91.0	90.1	89.6	90.7	90.6	90.1	90.5	89.9	90.0	89.2	

Notes:(1) 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.

(2) Figures in trend table may differ slightly to those in previous reports due to the ongoing data validation process.

## 6. Appendix C. Northern Territory Estimated Resident Population

**Table C1. Northern Territory Estimated Resident Population, by Aboriginal status, age group, and sex, 2018**

Age (years)	Male			Female			Person
	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total	Total
0 - 4	3658	5922	9580	3270	5690	8960	18540
5 - 9	3915	5483	9398	3707	5233	8940	18338
10 - 14	3971	4552	8523	3570	4399	7969	16492
15 - 19	3564	4382	7946	3329	3848	7177	15123
20 - 24	3451	5928	9379	3049	4893	7942	17321
25 - 29	3394	8618	12012	3180	8390	11570	23582
30 - 34	3185	8952	12137	3086	8722	11808	23945
35 - 39	2631	7593	10224	2651	7139	9790	20014
40 - 44	2400	6614	9014	2436	5912	8348	17362
45 - 49	2184	6693	8877	2349	5844	8193	17070
50 - 54	1691	6232	7923	1932	5537	7469	15392
55 - 59	1358	5929	7287	1529	5305	6834	14121
60 - 64	954	4833	5787	1177	4046	5223	11010
65 - 69	544	3798	4342	731	3029	3760	8102
70 - 74	352	2463	2815	476	1820	2296	5111
75 - 79	155	1453	1608	260	1145	1405	3013
80-84	102	591	693	190	577	767	1460
85+	60	383	443	107	512	619	1062
<b>Total</b>	<b>37569</b>	<b>90419</b>	<b>127988</b>	<b>37029</b>	<b>82041</b>	<b>119070</b>	<b>247058</b>

Department of Health, 2018, 'Northern Territory Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Aboriginal Status and Health Districts (1971-2019)', prepared by Population and Digital Health Branch, file updated on 29 Sep 2020, using ABS Estimated Resident Population.



## 8. Glossary

This section provides definitions for a selection of key perinatal terms.

Term	Definition
<b>Age-specific fertility rate:</b>	The number of births per individual within a specific age interval during a specified time.
<b>Antenatal:</b>	The period covering conception up to the time of birth.
<b>Apgar score:</b>	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.
<b>Augmentation of labour:</b>	Intervention after the onset of spontaneous labour to assist the progress of labour.
<b>Birth status:</b>	Status of the baby immediately after birth.
<b>Birthweight:</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low birthweight: less than 2500 grams</li> <li>• Very low birthweight: less than 1500 grams</li> <li>• Extremely low birthweight: less than 1000 grams.</li> </ul>
<b>Born before arrival:</b>	The term used to describe deliveries which occurred before arrival to the health service or before the arrival of the midwife for planned homebirths.
<b>Breech presentation:</b>	A fetal presentation in which the buttocks are at the opening of the womb.
<b>Caesarean section:</b>	Operative birth by surgical incision through the abdominal wall and uterus. It is often divided into two sub-categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elective caesarean section: a caesarean section carried out as a planned procedure before the onset of labour or following the onset of spontaneous labour, when the decision was made before labour. It does not include caesarean section after failed trial of scar.</li> <li>• Emergency caesarean section: a caesarean section required because of an emergency situation (e.g. obstructed labour, fetal distress/compromise). It is best described as 'when the caesarean section is performed having not been considered necessary previously'.</li> </ul>
<b>Epidural/Caudal:</b>	Analgesia or anaesthesia produced by injection of a local anaesthetic into the epidural space of the spinal cord or caudal canal.
<b>Episiotomy:</b>	An incision of the perineum and vagina to enlarge the vulval orifice.
<b>Fetal death (stillbirth):</b>	A child of at least 20 weeks gestation or with a birthweight of at least 400 grams at birth that exhibits no sign of respiration or heartbeat, or other sign of life, at birth.
<b>Fetal death rate:</b>	The number of fetal deaths in a year per 1000 total births in that same year.
<b>Forceps birth:</b>	Assisted vaginal birth using a metallic obstetric instrument.
<b>First-time mother:</b>	Also called primiparous mother, refers to a woman who is giving birth for the first time.

<b>Gestational age:</b>	The duration of a pregnancy in completed week, calculated from the date of the first day of a woman's last menstrual period to her baby's date of birth. Each birth can be categorised, according to fetal gestational age, into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-term baby: A baby born before 37 completed weeks of gestation;</li> <li>• Term baby: A baby born from 37 completed weeks up to 41 completed weeks of gestation; or</li> <li>• Post-term baby: A baby born after 41 completed weeks of gestation.</li> </ul>
<b>Induction of labour:</b>	Intervention to stimulate the onset of labour.
<b>Instrumental birth:</b>	Includes vaginal birth by forceps or ventouse (vacuum extraction).
<b>Labour:</b>	The process by which the products of conception are expelled from the uterus via the birth canal.
<b>Live birth:</b>	The complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a baby, irrespective of duration of pregnancy, which after separation shows signs of life.
<b>Maternal age:</b>	Mother's age in completed years at the birth of her baby.
<b>Mother's length of postnatal hospital stay:</b>	The number of days between the baby's date of birth and the separation date of the mother (from the hospital where the birth occurred). The interval is calculated by subtracting the date of the baby's birth from the date of separation.
<b>Neonatal death:</b>	Death of a live born baby within 28 days of birth.
<b>Neonatal death rate:</b>	The neonatal deaths in a year per 1000 live births in that same year.
<b>Normal vaginal birth:</b>	Birth without intervention in which the baby's head is the presenting part.
<b>Parity:</b>	Number of previous pregnancies resulting in live births or stillbirths, excluding the current pregnancy.
<b>Perinatal death:</b>	A fetal or neonatal death.
<b>Perinatal death rate:</b>	The sum of fetal deaths (stillbirths) and neonatal deaths in a year per 1000 total births in that same year.
<b>Perineal laceration (laceration):</b>	A graze, laceration, rupture, or laceration of the perineal skin during delivery. Perineal lacerations can be classified as either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> degree: considered to be slight or that involves fourchette, labia, vagina;</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> degree: also involving pelvic floor, perineal muscles, or vaginal muscles;</li> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> degree: also involving anal floor, rectovaginal septum, or sphincter; or</li> <li>• 4<sup>th</sup> degree: also involving anal mucosa or rectal mucosa.</li> </ul>
<b>Perineal status:</b>	Status of the perineum after the birth. It may involve surgical suturing of perineal laceration (laceration) or episiotomy incision.
<b>Plurality:</b>	The number of babies resulting from a pregnancy. According to plurality a pregnancy can be defined as either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Singleton birth: only one baby born</li> <li>• Multiple birth: more than one baby is born.</li> </ul>
<b>Presentation at birth:</b>	Presenting part of the fetus at birth.
<b>Pudendal:</b>	Local anaesthetic to block the pudendal nerves.

<b>Resuscitation of baby:</b>	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.
<b>Spontaneous onset of labour:</b>	Onset of labour without intervention.
<b>Teenage mother:</b>	Mother aged less than 20 years at the birth of her baby.
<b>Total fertility rate:</b>	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.
<b>Ventouse (Vacuum extraction) birth:</b>	Assisted birth using a suction cap applied to the baby's head.

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## 10. List of tables and figures

Table 1. Summary statistics, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	18
Table 2. Summary statistics for pre-term birth, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	19
Table 3. Summary statistics for term birth, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	19
Table 4. Maternal country of birth group, NT mothers, 2018 .....	20
Table 5. Area of remoteness, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	20
Table 6. District and area of remoteness, by mother's Aboriginal status, 2018 .....	20
Table 7. Total fertility rate, by Aboriginal status and district of usual residence, NT mothers, 2018 .....	21
Table 8. Total fertility rate, by Aboriginal status and area of remoteness, NT mothers, 2018 .....	21
Table 9. Age-specific fertility rates and total fertility rate, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	21
Table 10. Maternal parity, by Aboriginal status and area of remoteness, NT mothers, 2018 .....	21
Table 11. Maternal age, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	22
Figure 1. Distribution of maternal age, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	22
Table 12. Maternal age, by Aboriginal status and area of remoteness, NT mothers, 2018 .....	23
Table 13. Maternal age, by Aboriginal status and district of usual residence, NT mothers, 2018 .....	23
Table 14. Maternal age, by Aboriginal status, NT first-time mothers, 2018 .....	23
Table 15. Antenatal visits, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	24
Table 16. Antenatal visits, by district of usual residence, NT Aboriginal mothers, 2018 .....	24
Table 17. Antenatal visits, by Aboriginal status and area of remoteness, NT mothers, 2018 .....	24
Table 18. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	25
Table 19. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by district of usual residence, NT Aboriginal mothers, 2018 ..	25
Table 20. Gestation at first antenatal visit, by Aboriginal status and area of remoteness, NT mothers, 2018 .....	25
Table 21. Self-reported alcohol consumption at first antenatal visit, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	26
Table 22. Self-reported smoking status before 20 weeks gestation, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	26
Table 23. Self-reported smoking status before 20 weeks gestation, by maternal age and Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	26
Table 24. Self-reported average number of cigarettes smoked per day post 20 weeks gestation, NT mothers who reported smoking before 20 weeks gestation, 2018 .....	26
Table 25. Self-reported smoking status before 20 weeks gestation, by district of usual residence, NT Aboriginal mothers, 2018 .....	27
Table 26. Actual place of birth, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	27
Table 27. Actual place of birth, by district of usual residence, NT Aboriginal mothers, 2018 .....	27
Table 28. Method of induction, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers with induced onset of labour, 2018 ....	28
Table 29. Birth presentation, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	28
Table 30. Method of birth, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	28
Table 31. Method of birth, by type of labour onset, NT mothers, 2018 .....	28
Table 32. Method of birth, by gestational age and Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	29
Table 33. Indications for caesarean section, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers giving birth via caesarean section, 2018 .....	29
Table 34. Total number of analgesia, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers with spontaneous or induced onset of labour, 2018 .....	30
Table 35. Ranked method of anaesthesia, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers having operative birth, 2018 .....	30
Table 36. Complications of pregnancy and childbirth, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	30
Table 37. Estimated blood loss volume during birth, by method of birth and Aboriginal status, NT mothers, 2018 .....	31
Table 38. Blood transfusions, by estimated blood loss volume and method of birth, NT mothers with a blood loss volume of at least 500 millilitres (PPH), 2018 .....	31
Table 39. State of the perineum, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers having vaginal birth, 2018 .....	31



Table 40. Length of postnatal hospital stay, by Aboriginal status, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2018 .....	32
Table 41. Average length of postnatal hospital stay, by Aboriginal status and method of birth, NT mothers giving birth in hospital, 2018.....	32
Table 42. Summary statistics, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT births, 2018 .....	33
Table 43. Gestational age, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT births, 2018 .....	33
Table 44. Birthweight, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT births, 2018 .....	34
Table 45. Gestational age, by maternal Aboriginal status and district of mother's usual residence, NT live births, 2018 .....	34
Table 46. Gestational age, by maternal Aboriginal status and area of mother's usual residence, NT live births, 2018 .....	35
Table 47. Birthweight, by maternal Aboriginal status and district of mother's usual residence, NT live births, 2018 .....	35
Table 48. Birthweight, by maternal Aboriginal status and area of mother's usual residence, NT live births, 2018.....	36
Table 49. Birthweight, by maternal Aboriginal status and gestational age, NT singleton live births, 2018	36
Table 50. Birthweight, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT Aboriginal singleton live births (using Aboriginal status of baby), 2018 .....	36
Table 51. Apgar score at 5 minutes, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT live births, 2018 .....	36
Table 52. Ranked methods of resuscitation, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT live births, 2018.....	37
Table 53. Infant feeding status on discharge with mother, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT full-term singleton hospital births, 2018 .....	37
Table 54. Infant feeding status on discharge with primipara mother, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT full-term singleton hospital births, 2018 .....	37
Table 55. Infant feeding status on discharge with multipara mother, by maternal Aboriginal status, NT full-term singleton hospital births, 2018.....	38
Table 56. Numbers and rates of stillbirths (fetal deaths), neonatal deaths, and perinatal deaths, by Aboriginal status, 2018.....	38
Table A1. Summary statistics, Royal Darwin Hospital, 2018.....	40
Table A2. Summary statistics, Alice Springs Hospital, 2018.....	41
Table A3. Summary statistics, Katherine Hospital, 2018.....	42
Table A4. Summary statistics, Gove District Hospital, 2018 .....	43
Table A5. Summary statistics, Darwin Private Hospital, 2018.....	44
Table A6. Summary statistics, non-hospital births, 2018 .....	45
Figure 2. Number of babies born by maternal Aboriginal status, 2004-2018 .....	47
Figure 3. Total fertility rate by Aboriginal status, 2004-2018 .....	47
Figure 4. Maternal age by Aboriginal status, 2004-2018 .....	48
Figure 5. Mothers, by onset of labour and Aboriginal status, 2004-2018.....	48
Figure 6. Mothers, by main method of birth and Aboriginal status, 2004-2018.....	49
Figure 7. Maternal age of first time mother by Aboriginal status, 2004-2018.....	49
Figure 8. Low birthweight liveborn babies by maternal Aboriginal status, 2004-2018 .....	50
Figure 9. Low gestational age (weeks) liveborn babies by maternal Aboriginal status, 2004-2018 .....	50
Figure 10. Perinatal deaths by maternal Aboriginal status, 2004-2018.....	51
Table B1. Trends in numbers for selected measures, NT Aboriginal mothers and babies, 2004-2018 .....	52
Table B2. Trends in proportions for selected measures, NT Aboriginal mothers and babies, 2004-2018..	53
Table B3. Trends in numbers for selected measures, NT non-Aboriginal mothers and babies, 2004-2018 .....	54
Table B4. Trends in proportions for selected measures, NT non-Aboriginal mothers and babies, 2004-2018.....	55
Table B5. Trends in numbers for selected measures, all NT mothers and babies, 2004-2018 .....	56
Table B6. Trends in proportions for selected measures, all NT mothers and babies, 2004-2018 .....	57
Table C1. Northern Territory Estimated Resident Population, by Aboriginal status, age group, and sex, 2018.....	58
Figure D2. Map of Northern Territory Health Districts.....	59

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