



2006

3301.0

BIRTHS

AUSTRALIA

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For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Petra Lommers on Canberra (02) 6252 5995.

NOTES

- ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION** This publication brings together statistics for live births and fertility in Australia. Data refer to births registered during the calendar year shown, unless otherwise stated.
- Populations used in the calculation of rates for 2002 to 2006 are the preliminary estimated resident population by age and sex at 30 June 2002 to 2006 based on results of the *2006 Census of Population and Housing* (2006 Census).
- State or territory relates to the state or territory of usual residence, unless otherwise stated.
- Two feature articles are included:
- 'Delayed Indigenous birth registrations in Australia'; and
 - 'How many children do Australian women have?'.
- CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE** Fertility rates from 2002 to 2005 have been revised using updated population data based on results of the 2006 Census.
- Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)* for 2001 have been removed from table 6.6, Regional Patterns of Fertility. SEIFA 2006 will be available in March 2008.
- TIME SERIES OF STATE AND TERRITORY BIRTHS AND FERTILITY DATA** Time series of births and fertility data for the states and territories, Statistical Divisions, Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas are available in spreadsheet format from the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au/>>. For more information see paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.
- ROUNDING** Calculations as shown in the commentary sections of this publication are based on unrounded figures. Calculations using rounded figures may differ from those published.
- It is recommended that when using information presented in this publication, the relevant statistics be rounded. All data are affected by errors in reporting and processing. Birth registration data are also affected by delays in registration.
- CONFIDENTIALITY** Where necessary, tables have had small values suppressed or randomised to protect confidentiality. As a result, sums of components may not add exactly to totals.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ASFR	age-specific fertility rate
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
Aust.	Australia
Bal	Balance
ERP	estimated resident population
LGA	local government area
no.	number
NMDS	National Minimum Data Set
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SD	statistical division
SLA	statistical local area
SSD	statistical subdivision
Tas.	Tasmania
TFR	total fertility rate
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

INCREASE IN FERTILITY

- Australia's total fertility rate (TFR) in 2006 was 1.81 babies per woman, the highest since 1995 (1.82).
- The increase in the TFR between 2005 and 2006 was largely due to births to women aged 30 to 39 years.
- Women aged 30–34 years experienced the highest fertility of all age groups in 2006, with 120.1 babies per 1,000 women. This was the highest rate recorded for women aged 30–34 years since 1963.
- Fertility of women aged 35–39 years increased to 63.3 babies per 1,000 women, the highest rate since 1961.
- Fertility of women aged 25–29 years decreased slightly from 2005, to 100.8 babies per 1,000 women in 2006. Women aged 25–29 years continued to record the second highest fertility of all age groups.
- Fertility of women aged 40–44 years in 2006 was the highest since 1971.
- At the national level, teenage fertility continued to decline.

BIRTHS INCREASE

- In 2006 there were 265,900 births registered in Australia, 6,200 (2.4%) more than in 2005. This was the second highest number of births registered in Australia, with only more births being registered in 1971 (276,400 births).

MEDIAN AGE OF PARENTS

- The median age of all mothers who gave birth in 2006 was 30.8 years, the highest on record.
- The median age of all fathers in 2006 was 33.1 years, also the highest on record.

NUPTIALITY

- In 2006, 67% of births were to parents in a registered marriage, compared to 83% in 1986.
- While births to parents outside registered marriages are increasing, the proportion of births where the father has not acknowledged the birth (by not signing the birth registration form) has decreased from 5% in 1986 to 3% in 2006.

STATES AND TERRITORIES

- In recent years the TFR has trended upwards for most states and territories.
- Tasmania's TFR in 2006 was 2.12 babies per woman, the highest since 1975.
- Western Australia's TFR was 1.94 babies, the highest since 1988.
- In 2006, women aged 30–34 years recorded the highest fertility of all age groups in all states and territories with the exception of Tasmania and the Northern Territory, where women aged 25–29 years recorded the highest level of fertility.
- The number of births registered in 2006 was higher than in 2005 for all states and territories, with Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland recording the largest numeric increases and the Australian Capital Territory recording the largest percentage increase.

STATES AND TERRITORIES

continued

- While the median age of mothers has continued to increase for Australia, the median age in Tasmania decreased marginally in 2006.

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS AND FERTILITY

- There were 12,500 births registered in Australia during 2006 (5% of all births) where at least one parent was identified as Indigenous.
- Indigenous women had a higher TFR in 2006 (2.12 babies per woman) than all women (1.81 babies per woman).
- Higher fertility at younger ages contributes to the relatively high fertility of Indigenous women. In 2006, women under 30 years of age accounted for just under three-quarters of the Indigenous total fertility rate, compared to less than half of the fertility rate for all women in Australia.
- In 2006, births to Indigenous teenage mothers represented 79% of all births to teenage mothers in the Northern Territory.

DELAYED INDIGENOUS BIRTH REGISTRATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

- For all Indigenous births registered in Australia in 2006, the average interval between the occurrence and registration of the birth was 6.4 months. For all births registered in 2005, the average interval was 2.2 months.
- Of the states and territories, the average interval between the occurrence and registration of Indigenous births varied. Western Australia and Queensland recorded the largest average intervals (10.4 and 9.7 months respectively) in 2006, and the Northern Territory and Tasmania recorded the lowest average intervals (1.4 and 2.5 months respectively).

HOW MANY CHILDREN DO AUSTRALIAN WOMEN HAVE?

- Data from the 2006 Census provides information on completed fertility, the average number of children ever born to women, and women with specific numbers of children.
- Completed fertility has declined over the past 25 years. Women aged 40–44 years in 1981 (that is, women born in the period 1937–1941) had an average of 2.8 children per woman, while women of the same age in 2006 (born 1962–1966) had an average of 2.0 children.
- In 1981, around 28% of women aged 40–44 years had four or more children. In 2006, around 11% of women of the same age had four or more children.
- The proportion of women aged 40–44 years with no children has increased over time, from 9% in 1981 to 16% in 2006.

INTRODUCTION

During 2006 there were 265,900 births registered in Australia, born to 261,600 mothers. This was 6,200 (2.4%) more births than the number registered during 2005 and the highest since 1971, when 276,400 births were registered.

Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)

On 24 September 2007 the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released the March quarter 2007 issue of *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0), publishing an estimate of 266,800 births for the calendar year 2006 (see also table 2.13). For the purpose of population estimation, this is the preliminary number of births estimated to have *occurred* in 2006, based on a combination of revised quarter of birth occurrence data (for the March and June quarters) and quarter of registration data (for the September and December quarters). Preliminary quarterly estimates of births for population estimates are initially based on quarter of birth registration until sufficient late registrations are accumulated for a financial year to revise these estimates to quarter of occurrence basis.

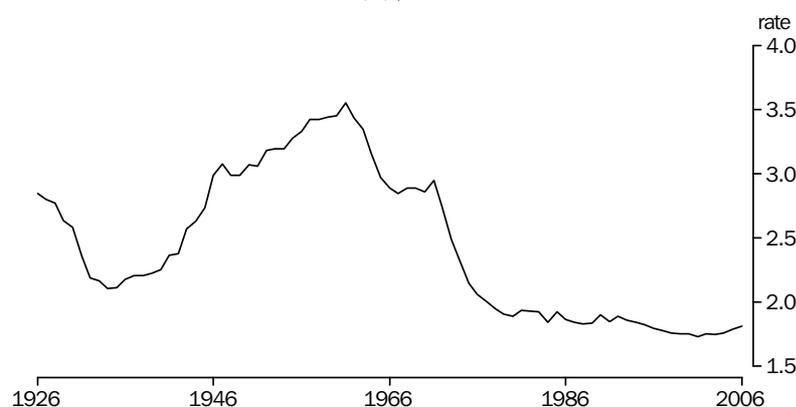
The number of births *registered* in 2006 (265,900) excludes births that occurred in 2006 but were not registered in 2006, and includes births that were registered in 2006 but which occurred in previous years. Of the 265,900 births registered in 2006, 88% (233,800) were births that occurred in 2006, while the remaining 12% occurred in 2005 and earlier.

For further information about the estimation of births as a component of population growth see *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0).

TRENDS IN NATIONAL FERTILITY

The total fertility rate (TFR) represents the average number of babies that a woman could expect to bear during her reproductive lifetime, assuming current age-specific fertility rates apply. In 2006 Australia's TFR was 1.81 babies per woman, the highest since 1995 (1.82).

Having reached a TFR of 3.1 during the early 1920s, Australian fertility was relatively low during the Great Depression of the 1930s, falling to 2.1 babies per woman in 1934. In 1961, at the height of the 'baby boom', it peaked at 3.5 babies per woman. Since then fertility has declined, falling sharply during the early 1960s as the oral contraceptive pill became available, before leveling at around 2.9 babies per woman in the years 1966–1971. The reinterpretation of abortion law in New South Wales in late 1971 had a substantial impact on women's ability to control their fertility (Carmichael, 1998). Subsequently, a fall in births to young women contributed to a further decrease in the TFR and an increase in the median age of mothers. The TFR reached replacement level (2.1) in 1976, and continued to fall as increasing numbers of women chose to delay or forego having children. The TFR then stabilised somewhat during the 1980s, before resuming a more gradual decline during the 1990s. The TFR reached a low of 1.73 babies per woman in 2001 and has increased since then, to 1.81 babies per woman in 2006.

TRENDS IN NATIONAL
FERTILITY *continued***2.1** TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a), Australia

(a) Births per woman.

Age-specific fertility

Over the past few decades, the decline in Australia's TFR has been closely associated with the tendency for women to have their babies at older ages. The median age of all women who gave birth in 1996 was 29.2 years; by 2006 this had increased to 30.8 years. The transition to an older age-specific fertility pattern is illustrated by the shift in peak fertility from women aged 25–29 years in 1999 to 30–34 years in 2000. Since then, 30–34 years has remained the peak fertility age group, with 120.1 babies per 1,000 women in 2006.

Women aged 25–29 years experienced the second highest fertility in 2006, with a rate of 100.8 babies per 1,000 women. Women aged 35–39 years and 20–24 years experienced fertility rates of 63.3 and 51.6 babies per 1,000 women respectively.

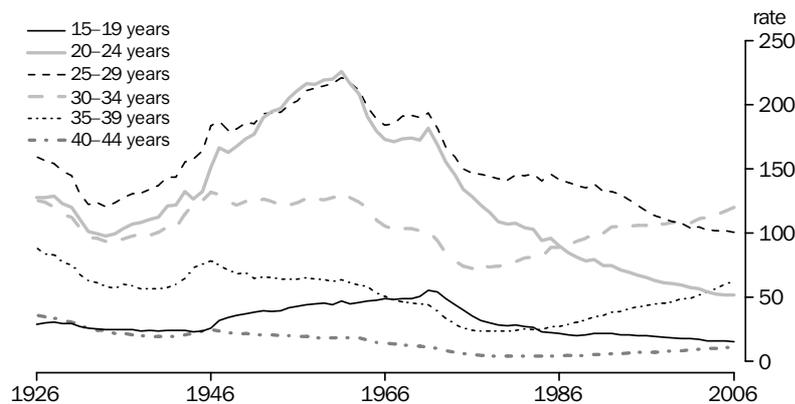
Until the late 1970s the distribution of fertility across age groups was relatively stable, with each age group peaking and troughing together, although some peaks were more pronounced for some age groups than others. Women aged 25–29 years had the highest fertility for most of this period, followed by women aged 20–24 years. However, women aged 30–34 years have experienced increasing fertility since the mid-1970s and now have the highest fertility, having overtaken 20–24 year olds in 1987 and 25–29 year olds in 2000. In 2002, women aged 30–34 years and 35–39 years reattained the fertility rates experienced in 1965 and 1966 respectively, at the end of the baby boom. In 2003 fertility of women aged 35–39 years exceeded that of women aged 20–24 years for the first time, with this trend continuing since then.

Declines in fertility rates have occurred amongst younger women over the period 1980 to 2006. Women aged 20–24 years experienced the greatest decrease, with fertility halving over the period (from 107.0 babies per 1,000 women in 1980 to 51.6 babies per 1,000 women in 2006). The fertility of women aged 25–29 years decreased by 29% (from 141.0 to 100.8), while teenage fertility (women aged 15–19 years) decreased by 44% (from 27.6 in 1980 to 15.4 in 2006). The teenage fertility rate in 2006 was slightly lower than the 2005 rate of 15.8 babies per 1,000 women.

*Age-specific fertility
continued*

Fertility rates for the older age groups increased between 1980 and 2006. The fertility rate for women aged 30–34 years increased by 60% (from 75.1 babies per 1,000 women in 1980 to 120.1 babies per 1,000 women in 2006) while the rate for women aged 35–39 years more than doubled (from 23.7 to 63.3). The fertility of women aged 40–44 years also more than doubled over this period, from 4.4 babies per 1,000 women to 11.3, as the trend towards older motherhood continued. However, the fertility rates of women in each age group above 30–34 years have not yet attained the highest levels observed in the baby boom (1946–1965), nor the rates observed in the 1920s.

2.2 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES (a), Selected age groups



(a) Births per 1,000 women.

Replacement fertility

Since 1976 Australia has experienced fertility rates below replacement level. That is, the average number of babies born to a woman throughout her reproductive life (the TFR) has been insufficient to replace herself and her partner. Although the TFR required for replacement is currently around 2.1 babies per woman, this number is not constant. Because the level of fertility required for replacement is dependent on the number of women who survive to reproductive ages, replacement fertility has declined in parallel with falls in female mortality. In 1921, when mortality rates were high, replacement fertility was 2.4 babies per woman. By 1954, it had fallen to 2.1, and in 1996 replacement fertility was 2.08. Even if female mortality declined to zero for women up to the end of their reproductive lives, the replacement level would still be 2.05 (1.05 male and 1.0 female babies) — considerably higher than the 2006 TFR of 1.81 babies per woman.

INDIGENOUS FERTILITY

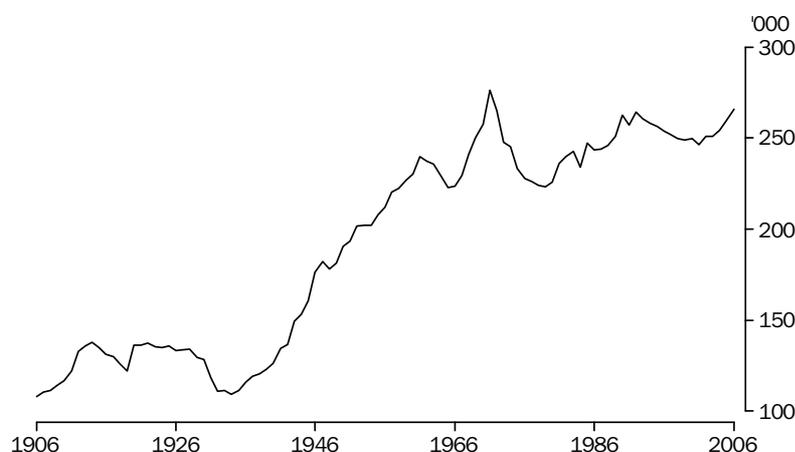
For 2006 it was estimated that the TFR for Indigenous women was 2.12 babies per woman, compared to 1.81 for all women. The TFR for Indigenous women was derived using the number of births registered to Indigenous mothers in 2006 and the 30 June 2006 preliminary experimental estimated resident population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (see Appendix 6).

Indigenous women in South Australia had the highest TFR of any state or territory in 2006, at 2.54 babies per woman. For all women in South Australia the TFR was 1.79.

In 2006, births to Indigenous teenage mothers represented 79% of all births to teenage mothers in the Northern Territory (for further information on Indigenous fertility see chapters 3 and 9).

BIRTHS

For most of the first half of the last century the number of births registered in Australia each year remained under 140,000, with a trough occurring in the early 1930s during the Great Depression. The number of births then increased rapidly, reaching a peak of 276,400 in 1971, fell sharply during the remainder of the 1970s, then increased from the early 1980s to reach another peak in 1992 of 264,200 births. Following 1992 the number of births registered each year decreased until 2000, when there was a small increase of 770 births. In 2001 the number of births decreased to 246,600. Since then the number of births has increased, reaching 265,900 in 2006, the second highest number of births registered in Australia.

2.3 REGISTERED BIRTHS*Sex ratio*

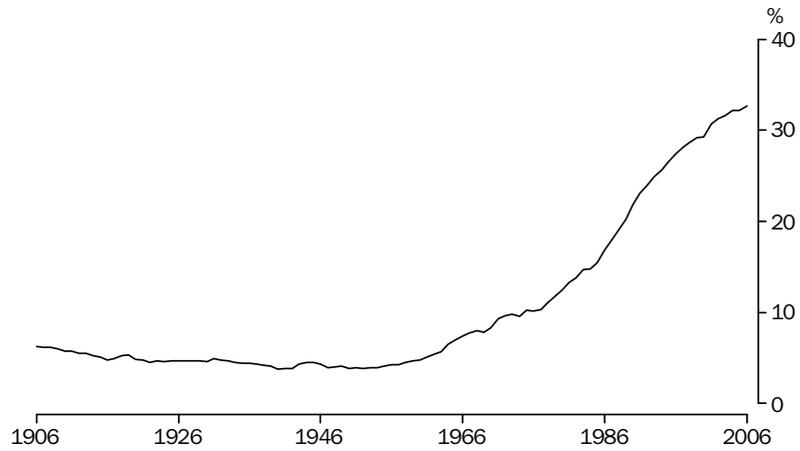
Just over half (51%) of all births registered in 2006 were male babies, with the sex ratio at birth being 105.8 male babies for every 100 female babies.

Nuptial and exnuptial births

In 2006, 67% of births were to mothers who were married (marriage in this publication refers to a registered marriage unless otherwise indicated). Exnuptial births accounted for the remaining 33% of births, although many of these births may have been to mothers in de facto relationships. The proportion of exnuptial births has been increasing since the 1950s, and has risen sharply over the last two decades.

*Nuptial and exnuptial
births continued*

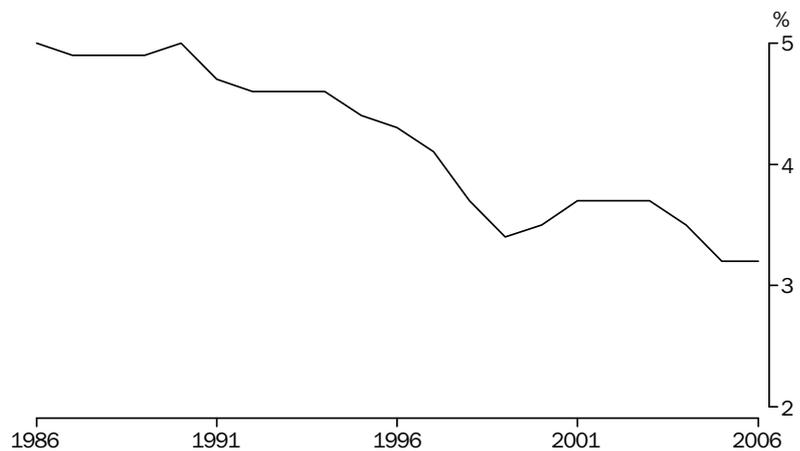
2.4 EXNUPTIAL BIRTHS, Proportion of all births



*Acknowledgment of
paternity*

With exnuptial births comes the possibility that the father may not acknowledge the birth (that is, the father has not signed the birth registration statement). However, while the number of exnuptial births has increased greatly over the past twenty years, the proportion of these births in which paternity was not acknowledged has decreased. In 1986 around 29% of all exnuptial births were paternity-not-acknowledged, but by 2006 this proportion had decreased to 10%. In terms of all births, paternity-not-acknowledged births have decreased from 5% of all births in 1986 to 3% in 2006.

2.5 PATERNITY-NOT-ACKNOWLEDGED BIRTHS, Proportion of all births

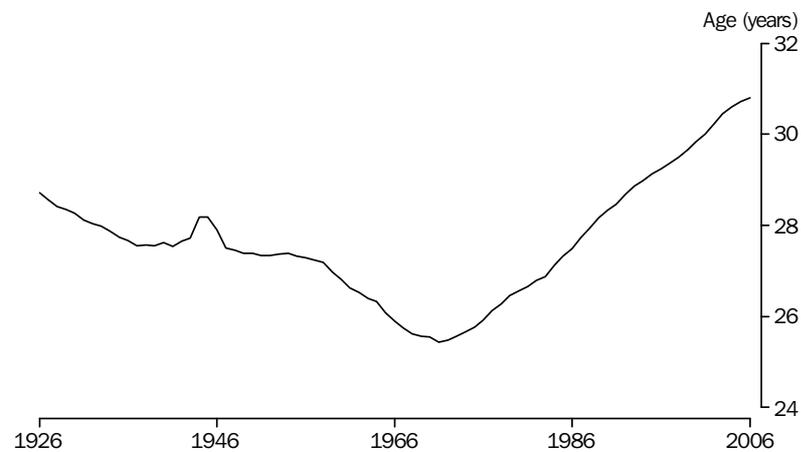


*Age of parents at
confinement*

In 2006 the median age of all mothers giving birth was 30.8 years. Women who registered an exnuptial birth in 2006 had a median age of 27.2 years, almost five years younger than women who registered a nuptial birth (31.8 years). In 2006 the median age of women who gave birth outside a registered marriage where paternity was not acknowledged (25.3 years) was lower than the median age of women where paternity was acknowledged (27.4 years). The median age of mothers registering the first child of their current marriage was 30.5 years.

Age of parents at
confinement *continued*

2.6 MEDIAN AGE OF MOTHERS



Prior to the 1930s the median age of mothers giving birth had been in decline. During the 1930s the median age stabilised, then rose briefly at the end of the Second World War, with an equally sharp decline immediately following the war. The median age of mothers fell substantially over the following three decades, reaching a low of 25.4 years in 1971. The reinterpretation of abortion law in New South Wales in 1971 was associated with a substantial fall in births to young women and an increase in the median age of mothers from 1972 onwards. Since then the median age of mothers has consistently increased, reaching 30.8 years in 2006, the highest on record.

As age-specific fertility rates indicate, the median age of mothers is affected by current trends towards delayed childbearing, and repartnering and subsequent family formation following separation or divorce.

The median age of all fathers in 2006 was 33.1 years, continuing the upward trend of the past two decades. Between 1986 and 2006 the median age of married fathers increased by over three years, from 30.6 years to 33.9 years, while the median age of unmarried fathers who acknowledged the birth of their child also increased, from 26.6 years to 30.0 years.

Number of previous
children

In registering births, all states and territories collect information on the number of previous children of the *current* relationship. However, only some states and territories collect information on *all* children born to a mother. Consequently, in this publication data relating to previous births is provided for nuptial births only, and refers to previous births of the current relationship.

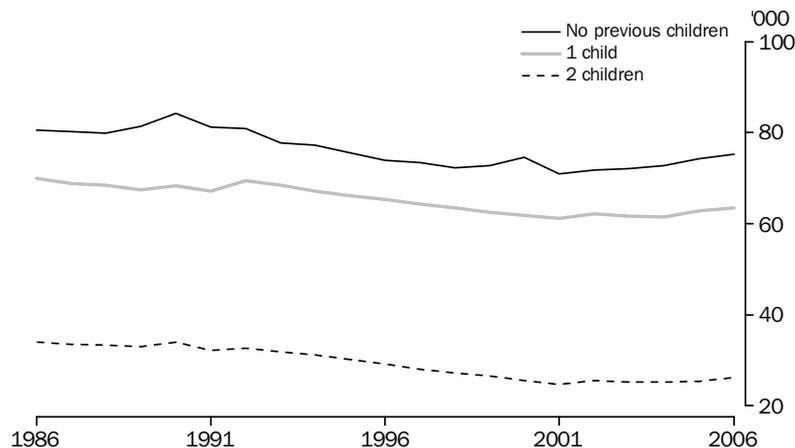
Previous births of the current relationship data overestimates the number of first births and underestimates the number of second and higher order births. This issue is increasingly important because of increasing numbers of exnuptial births, and because of relationship and marriage dissolution and subsequent repartnering. However, consistent true birth order data for all Australia is not currently available in the birth registrations collection. Nevertheless, the available data illustrates changes in parity progression (that is, the progression of women with a given number of children to a greater number of children) over time for a subset of the female population (married women) of Australia.

Number of previous children continued

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s the number of nuptial confinements in Australia remained relatively stable, at around 200,000 per year. Over the following decade the number decreased to a low of 167,600 nuptial confinements in 2001, and has since increased, to 175,800 in 2006 (table 2.16).

When the number of nuptial confinements are disaggregated according to the number of children women have previously had, the decrease in the 1990s is apparent across all groups of women (graphs 2.7 and 2.8). In recent years, however, a change in this trend has occurred, with increasing numbers of women having another child. For example, prior to 2001 the number of first nuptial confinements (that is, married women having their first child — see 'No previous children' in graph 2.7) was decreasing, but has since increased 6%. Smaller increases have occurred for married women progressing from 1 to 2 children, and from 2 to 3 children (up 4% and 5% respectively since 2001).

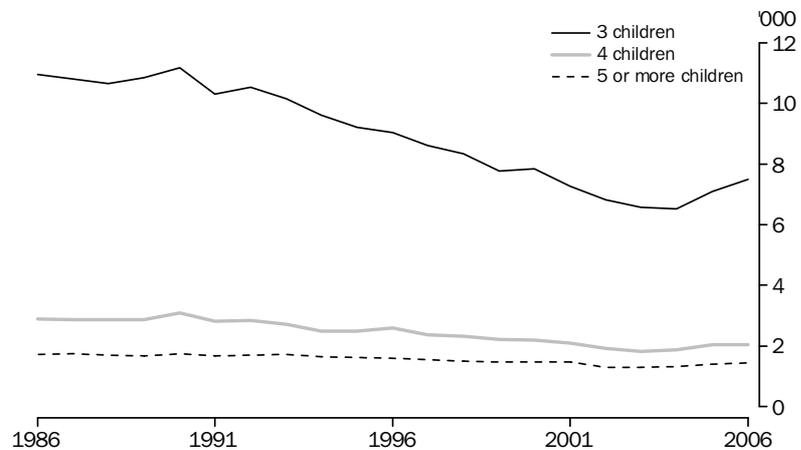
2.7 NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS, Previous children of the current relationship



More recently, the trend for married women progressing from 3 to 4 children (graph 2.8) has also reversed. Prior to 2004 the number was decreasing, but in the past two years has increased by 15%. Similarly, the numbers of married women progressing from 4 to 5 children, and from 5 or more children to higher orders, have increased over the past three years (up 11% and 13% respectively) following decreases over the previous two decades.

Number of previous children continued

2.8 NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS, Previous children of the current relationship

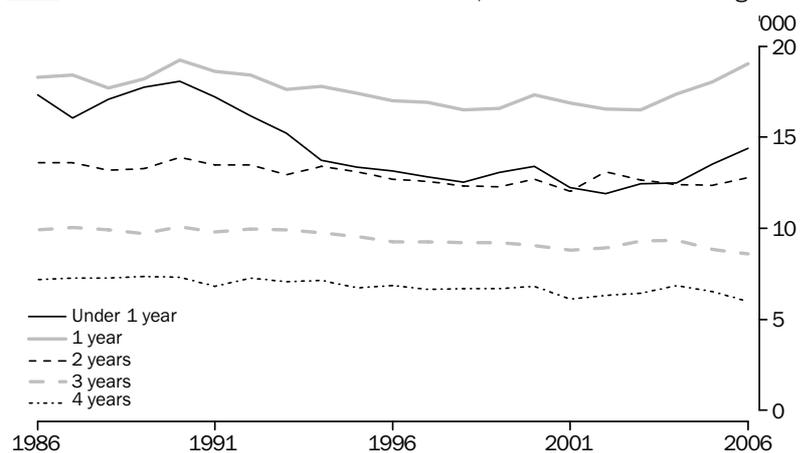


Nuptial first confinements and duration of marriage

Prior to 2002, the number of first confinements to married parents was decreasing; since then it has increased (graph 2.7). These changes are related to the duration of marriage of the parents, and in particular, of parents who have been married less than two years.

In 1990, there were 18,100 first confinements registered to parents who had been married for less than one year (graph 2.9). By 2002, the number of parents who had a first confinement had decreased to 11,900. Since then, the number has increased, reaching 14,400 in 2006. Similarly, the number of first confinements to parents who had been married for one year has also increased.

2.9 NUPTIAL FIRST CONFINEMENTS, Duration of marriage



These increases are reflected in the small decreases in median interval between marriage and first confinement between 2003 (2.6 years) and 2006 (2.3 years); that is, married parents are having their first child of the current marriage earlier than in recent years.

Confinements resulting in a multiple birth

The number of confinements resulting in a multiple birth has increased consistently since the 1970s. In 2006 the number was 4,300, 60% more than the number recorded in 1986 (2,700 confinements) and 2% (90 confinements) more than in 2005.

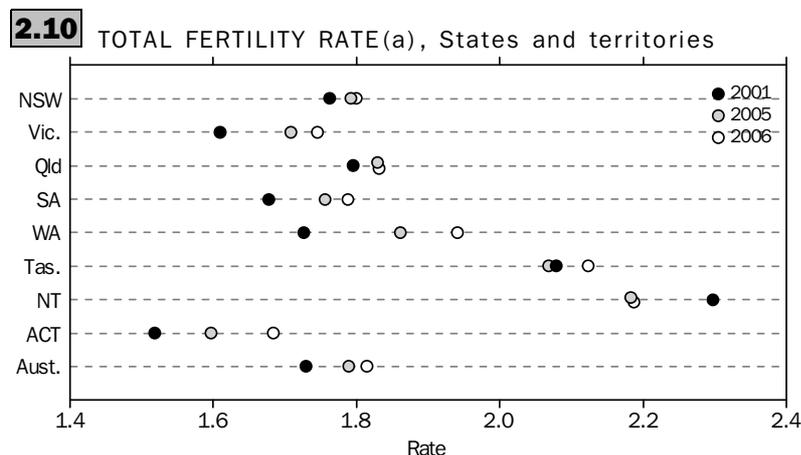
STATE AND TERRITORY

Total fertility rate

Total fertility rates for the states and territories varied substantially in 2006, from 1.69 babies per woman in the Australian Capital Territory to 2.19 babies per woman in the Northern Territory. In recent years the TFR has trended upwards for most jurisdictions, following a long period of stability or gradual decline.

Tasmania's TFR has increased from 1.81 babies per woman in 2000 to 2.12 babies per woman in 2006, the highest rate recorded for Tasmania since 1975 (2.23 babies). Similarly, the TFR for Western Australia has increased consistently over the past 4 years, from a low of 1.70 babies per woman in 2002 to 1.94 babies per woman in 2006, the highest rate for this state since 1988.

Moderate increases in the TFR have been recorded for the Australian Capital Territory and Victoria since 2001, with smaller increases recorded for South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales. The Northern Territory's TFR has fluctuated at around 2.2 to 2.3 babies per woman over the past decade.



(a) Births per woman.

Age-specific fertility

In 2006 women aged 30–34 years recorded the highest fertility of all age groups in all states and territories with the exception of Tasmania and the Northern Territory, where women aged 25–29 years recorded the highest level of fertility. Between 2005 and 2006, all states and territories recorded increases in fertility of women aged 30–34 years. The Northern Territory recorded the largest increase, with the age-specific fertility rate of women aged 30–34 years increasing to 103.3 babies per 1,000 women in 2006 from 96.2 in 2005.

Younger mothers

At the national level, teenage fertility continued to decline in 2006, to 15.4 babies per 1,000 teenage women, the lowest on record. However, amongst the states and territories different patterns of teenage fertility exist. In recent years, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland have continued to record decreases in teenage fertility, while the remaining states and territories have recorded small increases over the past 2 to 3 years.

The Australian Capital Territory (9.1 babies per 1,000 teenage women) and Victoria (9.7) recorded the lowest teenage fertility rates in 2006, while Northern Territory (63.6) recorded the highest.

Younger mothers
continued

2.11 BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS—2005 and 2006

	BIRTHS			TEENAGE FERTILITY RATES (a)		
	2005	2006	Change	2005	2006	Change
	no.	no.	%	no.	no.	%
New South Wales	2 974	2 949	-0.8	13.4	13.2	-1.5
Victoria	1 641	1 652	0.7	9.8	9.7	-0.1
Queensland	2 764	2 723	-1.5	20.4	19.7	-3.3
South Australia	943	848	-10.1	18.5	16.7	-9.8
Western Australia	1 446	1 392	-3.7	20.5	19.6	-4.2
Tasmania	418	405	-3.1	26.8	26.6	-0.8
Northern Territory	448	471	5.1	61.4	63.6	3.5
Australian Capital Territory	109	108	-0.9	9.2	9.1	-0.6
Australia (b)	10 744	10 552	-1.8	15.8	15.4	-2.5

(a) Births per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years. Includes births to women aged less than 15 years.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

Births

The three most populous states accounted for over three-quarters (77%) of births registered in 2006: 87,300 in New South Wales (33% of all births), 65,200 in Victoria (25% of all births) and 52,700 in Queensland (20% of all births). These proportions reflect the proportions of the Australian female population in reproductive ages living in these states.

Between 2005 and 2006 all states and territories recorded increases in registered births. Victoria and Western Australia recorded the largest increases (up 1,900 and 1,500 births respectively) followed by Queensland (up 1,000). The smallest increase was recorded in the Northern Territory, up 40, followed by Tasmania with an increase of 170 births. The Australian Capital Territory recorded the largest percentage increase in the number of registered births (6.5% more births compared to 2005), while New South Wales recorded the lowest percentage increase (0.9% more births compared to 2005).

2.12 BIRTHS REGISTERED, States and territories—2005 and 2006

			CHANGE	
	2005	2006	2005–2006	2005–2006
	no.	no.	no.	%
New South Wales	86 589	87 336	747	0.9
Victoria	63 287	65 236	1 949	3.1
Queensland	51 661	52 665	1 004	1.9
South Australia	17 800	18 260	460	2.6
Western Australia	26 253	27 776	1 523	5.8
Tasmania	6 308	6 475	167	2.6
Northern Territory	3 659	3 696	37	1.0
Australian Capital Territory	4 206	4 479	273	6.5
Australia (a)	259 791	265 949	6 158	2.4

(a) Includes Other Territories.

Median age of parents at confinement

Of the states and territories, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory had the oldest mothers giving birth in 2006, with median ages of 31.7 years and 31.4 years respectively. The Northern Territory and Tasmania had the youngest mothers, with median ages of 28.1 years and 29.3 years respectively. The median age of all mothers who gave birth in Australia in 2006 was 30.8 years.

While the median age of mothers has continued to increase for Australia, the median age in Tasmania decreased marginally in 2006. The median age of mothers in Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory remained the same as in 2005.

The Northern Territory and Tasmania also had the youngest fathers in 2006, both with median ages of 31.6 years, while Victoria and New South Wales had the oldest fathers, with median ages of 33.7 years and 33.3 years respectively.

Nuptiality

In 2006, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest proportion of births to parents in a registered marriage (both 73%), followed by New South Wales (72%).

The highest proportions of births to women who were not in a registered marriage were recorded in the Northern Territory (65%) and Tasmania (49%), with these regions also recording the highest proportions of births where paternity was not acknowledged (22% and 10% respectively).

BIRTHS AS A COMPONENT OF POPULATION GROWTH

Births form an important component of population growth. Currently just over a quarter of a million births occur in Australia annually. This is roughly twice the number of deaths, resulting in natural increase of around 125,000 people each year. Since 1976 Australian fertility has been below replacement level; that is, below the number of births required to replace a woman and her partner (currently around 2.1). On current fertility rates, each woman can expect, on average, to have 1.81 babies over her lifetime. Despite this, natural increase is still positive because of the relatively young age structure of Australia's population. Although the number of births per woman is low, there are enough women currently in childbearing ages to keep the total number of births relatively high. Conversely, there are relatively few people at older ages, resulting in a relatively low number of deaths per year. As the population ages, the difference between numbers of births and deaths will decrease. Based on Series B of the most recent ABS population projections (*Population Projections, Australia, 2004 to 2101*, cat. no. 3222.0), the number of births is projected to fall below the number of deaths in 2044; that is, natural increase is projected to fall below zero in 2044.

BIRTHS AS A COMPONENT
OF POPULATION GROWTH
continued

2.13 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE BY YEAR (a)

	Births(b)	Deaths(b)	Natural increase	Net overseas migration	Population at end of period	Population increase (c)	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%
1986	243.4	115.0	128.4	110.7	16 138.8	238.2	1.5
1987	244.0	117.3	126.6	136.1	16 394.6	255.9	1.6
1988	246.2	119.9	126.3	172.8	16 687.1	292.4	1.8
1989	250.9	124.2	126.6	129.5	16 936.7	249.6	1.5
1990	262.6	120.1	142.6	97.1	17 169.8	233.0	1.4
1991	259.1	119.7	139.4	81.7	17 387.0	217.3	1.3
1992	262.1	122.9	139.2	51.4	17 581.3	194.3	1.1
1993	258.6	120.8	137.8	34.8	17 760.0	178.7	1.0
1994	258.4	127.0	131.4	55.5	17 951.5	191.5	1.1
1995	254.9	125.1	129.8	106.9	18 196.1	244.6	1.4
1996	252.9	128.2	124.7	97.4	18 420.3	224.3	1.2
1997	251.1	128.8	122.3	72.4	18 609.1	188.8	1.0
1998	248.3	127.4	120.8	88.8	18 814.3	205.2	1.1
1999	250.2	128.2	122.0	104.2	19 038.3	224.1	1.2
2000	249.2	128.8	120.4	111.4	19 272.6	234.3	1.2
2001	246.6	128.8	117.8	136.1	19 535.1	262.4	1.4
2002	248.1	133.0	115.1	110.5	19 773.3	238.3	1.2
2003	249.3	131.8	117.6	110.1	20 015.8	242.5	1.2
2004	249.9	132.4	117.5	106.4	20 257.1	241.2	1.2
2005	263.6	131.4	132.1	137.0	20 548.4	291.3	1.4
2006	p266.8	p134.4	p132.4	p158.8	p20 852.4	p304.0	p1.5

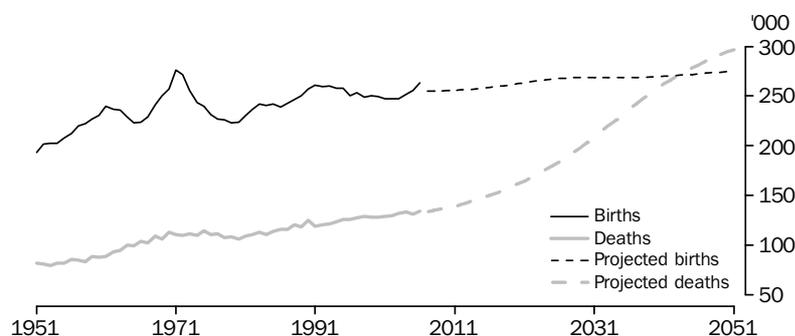
p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

(a) Calendar year.

(b) For 2005 and earlier years, births and deaths in this table are based on year of occurrence, for population estimation purposes. For 2006, a combination of data based on quarter of birth (for the March and June quarters) and quarter of registration (for the September and December quarters) is used, as only incomplete year of occurrence data for 2006 are currently available. Numbers of births in this table may therefore differ from data elsewhere in this publication.

(c) Population increase will not necessarily equal the sum of natural increase and net overseas migration due to the inclusion of intercensal discrepancy. See Glossary for more information.

2.14 ACTUAL AND PROJECTED BIRTHS AND DEATHS (a)—Year ended 30 June



(a) Year of occurrence.

Source: Australian Historical Population Statistics, 2006 (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)
Australian Demographic Statistics, March Quarter 2007 (cat. no. 3101.0)
Population Projections, Australia, 2004 to 2101 (cat. no. 3222.0) (Series B)

INTERNATIONAL FERTILITY

According to the United Nations, the projected world average TFR for 2005–10 is 2.6 babies per woman, declining from the relatively constant 5.0 births per woman that existed until the late 1960s. However, TFRs for individual countries vary considerably. There are many factors that can influence a country's fertility rate, such as differences in social and economic development and contraceptive prevalence. In general, developing countries have higher fertility rates while developed countries have lower rates.

Australia's TFR for 2006 of 1.81 babies per woman is well below the world's average, although compared to other developed countries it is among the middle ranked nations. According to United Nations projections, in 2005–10 the lowest fertility for developed countries will be in European countries such as Greece, with a projected fertility rate of 1.3, and Spain, Italy and Germany (each with a projected fertility rate of 1.4). Hong Kong's projected fertility rate of 1.0 is one of the lowest in the world. Middle Eastern and African countries have the highest fertility rates, with Niger (7.2), Afghanistan (7.1) and Uganda (6.5) some of the highest. East Timor also has a high fertility rate, of 6.5 babies per woman.

Projected fertility rates for the United States of America and New Zealand (2.1 and 2.0 respectively) are higher than Australia, rates for Canada are lower (1.5), while Japan's projected TFR of 1.3 for 2005–10 is considerably lower than Australia's.

2.15 INTERNATIONAL TOTAL FERTILITY RATES—1965–1970 to 2005–2010

	1965–1970	1970–1975	1975–1980	1980–1985	1985–1990	1990–1995	1995–2000	2000–2005	2005–2010
Afghanistan	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.9	8.0	8.0	7.5	7.1
Australia	2.9	2.5	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
Canada	2.6	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5
China	6.1	4.9	3.3	2.6	2.5	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7
East Timor	6.2	6.2	4.3	5.4	5.2	5.7	7.0	7.0	6.5
France	2.6	2.3	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9
Germany	2.3	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4
Greece	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3
Hong Kong	4.0	2.9	2.3	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9	1.0
India	5.6	5.3	4.9	4.5	4.2	3.9	3.5	3.1	2.8
Indonesia	5.6	5.3	4.7	4.1	3.4	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.2
Italy	2.5	2.3	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4
Japan	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3
Korea, Republic of	4.7	4.3	2.9	2.2	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.2
Malaysia	5.9	5.2	4.2	4.2	4.0	3.5	3.1	2.9	2.6
New Zealand	3.4	2.8	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0
Niger	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.0	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.2
Papua New Guinea	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.5	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.3	3.8
Singapore	3.5	2.6	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.3
Somalia	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.0	6.6	6.8	6.4	6.0
Spain	2.9	2.9	2.6	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4
Sweden	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.8
Uganda	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.5
United Kingdom	2.5	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8
United States of America	2.6	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1
Viet Nam	7.3	6.7	5.9	4.5	4.0	3.3	2.5	2.3	2.1
Yemen	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.4	7.7	6.7	6.0	5.5
World	4.9	4.5	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.6

Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision, Medium variant* <<http://esa.un.org/unpp>>.

2.16

SUMMARY, Australia—Selected years

	1986	1991	1996	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
FERTILITY									
Age-specific fertility rates(a)									
15–19 years(b)	21.8	22.1	20.1	17.7	17.2	16.1	16.0	15.8	15.4
20–24 years	90.0	75.0	65.2	58.0	56.3	54.2	52.7	51.9	51.6
25–29 years	141.9	132.0	117.1	104.4	104.5	102.4	101.7	101.8	100.8
30–34 years	88.7	100.2	105.7	107.9	111.2	112.2	113.9	116.8	120.1
35–39 years	27.2	36.0	43.7	49.0	52.1	54.2	57.2	60.2	63.3
40–44 years	4.3	5.5	7.5	9.2	9.7	10.0	10.5	10.8	11.3
45–49 years(c)	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6
Total fertility rate(d)	1.868	1.849	1.796	1.729	1.755	1.747	1.761	1.789	1.814
Net reproduction rate(e)	0.894	0.887	0.861	0.833	0.846	0.839	0.847	0.857	0.869
BIRTHS									
Total births	243 408	257 247	253 834	246 394	250 988	251 161	254 246	259 791	265 949
Males	124 914	131 965	130 572	126 298	128 623	129 193	130 600	133 428	136 692
Females	118 494	125 282	123 262	120 096	122 365	121 968	123 646	126 363	129 257
Sex ratio	105.4	105.3	105.9	105.2	105.1	105.9	105.6	105.6	105.8
Indigenous births registered(f)	1 154	2 698	9 204	11 405	11 488	11 740	12 006	12 078	12 496
Nuptial births (%)	83.2	77.0	72.6	69.3	68.7	68.4	67.8	67.8	67.3
Exnuptial births (%)	16.8	23.0	27.4	30.7	31.3	31.6	32.2	32.2	32.7
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged (%)	5.0	4.7	4.3	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.2	3.2
Crude birth rate	15.2	14.9	13.9	12.7	12.8	12.6	12.6	12.7	12.8
CONFINEMENTS									
Total confinements	240 699	253 861	250 363	242 340	246 821	247 089	250 045	255 481	261 550
Nuptial	200 119	195 258	181 549	167 572	169 385	168 777	169 312	172 894	175 827
First nuptial	80 563	81 179	73 873	70 861	71 691	72 164	72 808	74 159	75 245
Exnuptial	40 580	58 603	68 814	74 768	77 436	78 312	80 733	82 587	85 723
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	28 628	46 560	57 911	65 710	68 179	69 055	72 002	74 340	77 471
Median age of mother (years)									
All confinements	27.5	28.5	29.2	30.0	30.2	30.5	30.6	30.7	30.8
Nuptial	28.0	29.3	30.2	31.0	31.2	31.4	31.6	31.7	31.8
First nuptial	26.5	27.8	28.7	29.8	30.1	30.3	30.4	30.5	30.5
Exnuptial	23.3	24.1	25.1	26.2	26.5	26.7	26.9	27.0	27.2
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	23.8	24.5	25.3	26.5	26.7	26.9	27.1	27.2	27.4
Median age of father (years)									
All fathers where age is known	30.2	31.0	31.9	32.3	32.5	32.6	32.8	32.9	33.1
Nuptial	30.6	31.6	32.7	33.2	33.3	33.5	33.6	33.7	33.9
First nuptial	28.9	30.0	31.1	31.8	32.0	32.2	32.4	32.5	32.5
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	26.6	27.3	27.9	29.0	29.3	29.6	29.7	29.8	30.0
Median duration of marriage (years)									
Nuptial	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3
First nuptial	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.3
Previous children of the current relationship(g)									
0	80 563	81 179	73 873	70 861	71 691	72 164	72 808	74 159	75 245
1	70 017	67 055	65 293	61 076	62 069	61 693	61 484	62 809	63 460
2	33 937	32 231	29 167	24 785	25 575	25 200	25 275	25 394	26 129
3	10 955	10 300	9 037	7 259	6 829	6 585	6 524	7 101	7 483
4	2 904	2 811	2 590	2 110	1 916	1 835	1 879	2 038	2 045
5 and over	1 723	1 680	1 589	1 481	1 305	1 300	1 342	1 393	1 465
Average number of children of the current relationship(g)	1.96	1.94	1.94	1.89	1.88	1.87	1.87	1.87	1.88

(a) Births per 1,000 women.

(b) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(c) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(d) Births per woman.

(e) Daughters surviving to reproductive age per woman.

(f) Due to changes in coverage of Indigenous births, care should be taken when interpreting change in the number of Indigenous births over time.

(g) Nuptial confinements only.

2.17 SUMMARY, State and territories—2006

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas. (a)	NT	ACT	Aust. (b)
FERTILITY									
Age-specific fertility rates(c)									
15–19 years(d)	13.2	9.7	19.7	16.7	19.6	26.6	63.6	9.1	15.4
20–24 years	49.9	38.9	61.3	53.8	60.2	81.7	97.7	32.6	51.6
25–29 years	100.1	91.0	107.3	105.0	109.3	127.3	106.0	87.4	100.8
30–34 years	120.0	126.9	112.2	114.4	123.4	121.8	103.3	124.6	120.1
35–39 years	64.7	69.7	55.3	57.5	63.7	55.7	54.9	69.3	63.3
40–44 years	11.9	12.8	9.3	8.9	10.9	9.1	10.9	13.4	11.3
45–49 years(e)	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6
Total fertility rate(f)	1.800	1.745	1.831	1.788	1.941	2.123	2.187	1.684	1.814
Net reproduction rate(g)	0.859	0.837	0.875	0.858	0.943	1.008	1.056	0.809	0.869
BIRTHS									
Total births	87 336	65 236	52 665	18 260	27 776	6 475	3 696	4 479	265 949
Males	45 099	33 536	27 128	9 369	14 042	3 349	1 855	2 299	136 692
Females	42 237	31 700	25 537	8 891	13 734	3 126	1 841	2 180	129 257
Sex ratio	106.8	105.8	106.2	105.4	102.2	107.1	100.8	105.5	105.8
Indigenous births registered(h)	3 516	782	3 463	733	1 910	413	1 565	109	12 496
Nuptial births (%)	71.6	72.7	61.2	63.4	62.6	50.8	35.3	72.8	67.3
Exnuptial births (%)	28.4	27.3	38.8	36.6	37.4	49.2	64.7	27.2	32.7
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged (%)	2.9	1.6	3.3	3.5	3.3	9.8	21.5	2.1	3.2
Crude birth rate	12.8	12.7	12.9	11.6	13.5	13.2	17.5	13.4	12.8
CONFINEMENTS									
Total confinements	86 007	64 017	51 725	17 992	27 391	6 367	3 642	4 383	261 550
Nuptial	61 559	46 462	31 598	11 379	17 120	3 220	1 280	3 190	175 827
First nuptial	26 117	21 111	12 771	4 844	7 135	1 281	523	1 454	75 245
Exnuptial	24 448	17 555	20 127	6 613	10 271	3 147	2 362	1 193	85 723
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	21 966	16 520	18 432	5 981	9 364	2 522	1 577	1 103	77 471
Median age of mother (years)									
All confinements	31.0	31.7	30.0	30.3	30.4	29.3	28.1	31.4	30.8
Nuptial	31.7	32.3	31.4	31.5	31.8	31.3	31.6	31.9	31.8
First nuptial	30.3	31.0	30.1	30.3	30.5	29.7	30.2	30.6	30.5
Exnuptial	27.6	28.8	26.4	26.6	26.6	25.6	25.3	28.3	27.2
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	27.7	28.9	26.5	26.8	26.8	25.7	26.1	28.4	27.4
Median age of father (years)									
All fathers where age is known	33.3	33.7	32.2	32.7	32.9	31.6	31.6	33.2	33.1
Nuptial	33.9	34.2	33.4	33.7	34.1	33.2	34.0	33.7	33.9
First nuptial	32.5	32.9	32.1	32.4	32.6	31.8	32.3	32.3	32.5
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	30.3	31.3	29.1	29.8	29.5	28.4	28.9	30.7	30.0
Median duration of marriage (years)									
Nuptial	4.3	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.3
First nuptial	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.2	1.9	2.4	2.3
Previous children of the current relationship(i)									
0	26 117	21 111	12 771	4 844	7 135	1 281	523	1 454	75 245
1	22 149	16 356	11 654	4 258	6 221	1 197	454	1 164	63 460
2	9 314	6 476	4 931	1 653	2 647	509	212	385	26 129
3	2 714	1 709	1 472	458	765	159	66	140	7 483
4	767	467	451	87	189	39	13	31	2 045
5 and over	498	343	319	79	163	35	12	16	1 465
Average number of children of the current relationship(i)	1.89	1.83	1.94	1.86	1.90	1.95	1.93	1.81	1.88

(a) For Tasmania, some characteristics of births are not collected for the birth notification. See paragraphs 4–6 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

(c) Births per 1,000 women.

(d) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(e) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(f) Births per woman.

(g) Daughters surviving to reproductive age per woman.

(h) Coverage of Indigenous births varies between states and territories. See chapter 3 and table 9.1.

(i) Nuptial confinements only.

INTRODUCTION

Birth registrations classify a birth as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin (Indigenous) where at least one parent identified as being of Indigenous origin. Indigenous fertility, on the other hand, refers to births to Indigenous mothers. This chapter reports on the numbers and characteristics of Indigenous births and fertility in each state and territory, except for the Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories (comprising Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Jervis Bay Territory), which are not analysed separately because of small numbers and poor coverage but are included in figures for total Australia.

Implied coverage of Indigenous births

Some Indigenous births are not identified as such when they are registered. Implied coverage of Indigenous births, presented in table 9.1, is calculated to provide an estimate of the extent to which Indigenous births in each state and territory are identified as Indigenous. It is defined as the ratio of the number of Indigenous births registered for the period 2002–2006 to the corresponding number of projected Indigenous births obtained from the low series of *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2009* (cat. no. 3238.0).

The implied coverage of Indigenous births in Australia for the period 2002–2006 was 95%. Coverage for the states and territories ranged from 83% in the Australian Capital Territory to 107% in the Northern Territory. The figure of 107% implies that in the Northern Territory, more Indigenous births were registered in the period 2002–2006 than were projected for the same period.

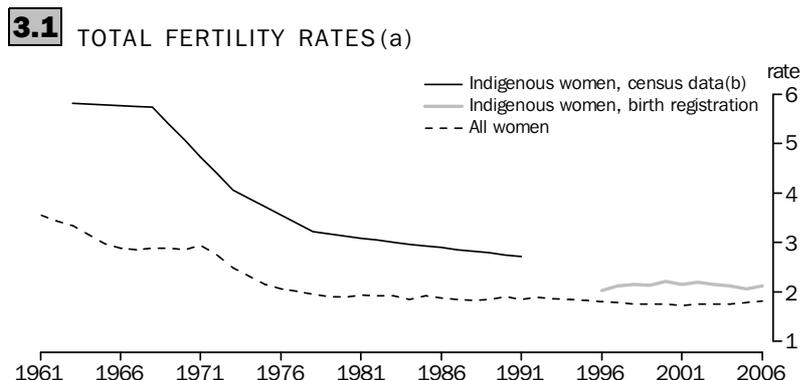
TRENDS IN INDIGENOUS FERTILITY

In the early 1960s, the total fertility rate (TFR) of Indigenous women (5.8 babies per woman) was around two-thirds higher than the rate recorded for all women in Australia (3.5 babies). Since then, fertility levels of both Indigenous and all women have declined substantially, with the largest decreases being recorded during the 1970s. While the fertility of all women began a decline in the 1960s, the fertility levels of Indigenous women remained relatively stable during the 1960s, to be followed by a sharp decline during the 1970s. Fertility of Indigenous women declined to a low of 2.0 babies per woman in 1996, however, the lower implied coverage of Indigenous births in that year (at around 80%) may distort analysis. In 2006 the TFR for Indigenous women was 2.1 babies per woman, compared with 1.8 babies for all women. As coverage of Indigenous births for the period 2002–2006 is estimated at 95% (see table 9.1), the true difference between fertility of the two populations may be slightly understated.

TRENDS IN INDIGENOUS FERTILITY *continued*

Graph 3.1 presents TFRs for Indigenous and all women for the period 1961 to 2006. Due to the poor quality of historical Indigenous birth registration data, fertility rates of Indigenous women up to 1991 were derived using data collected in the Australian censuses (Gray, 1997). With improvements in coverage from 1996, birth registrations data has been used from 1996 onwards.

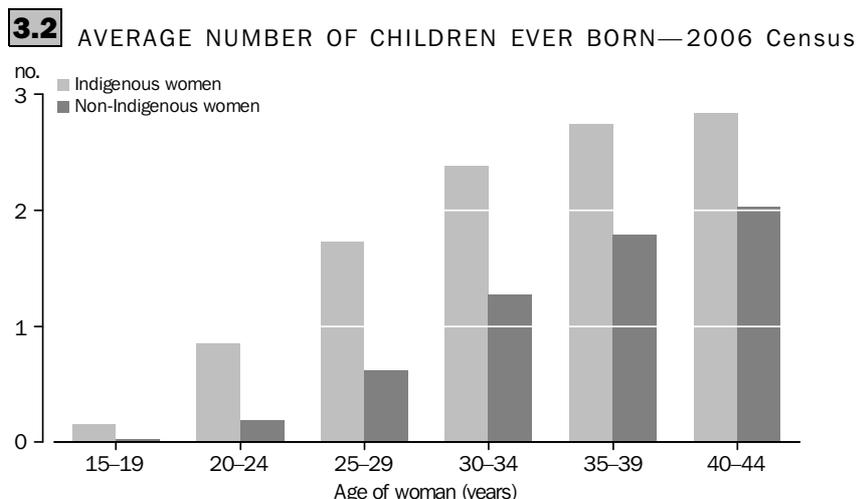
The TFR for Indigenous women for 2006 was derived using the number of births registered to Indigenous mothers in 2006 and the 30 June 2006 preliminary experimental estimated resident population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females.



(a) Births per woman.
 (b) Five-year TFRs (from 1961–66 to 1981–86) and ten-year TFR (1986–96) plotted against the middle year of the period.
 Source: Gray (1997).

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN

An alternative measure of fertility to that of the TFR is the total number of children women have had at different ages of their lives. Data from the 2006 Census shows that Indigenous women of all ages have greater numbers of children than non-Indigenous women (graph 3.2 and table 3.3).



Number of children

Of Indigenous women aged 15–19 years in 2006, around 12% had previously given birth to one or more children, while just under one half (49%) of 20–24 year old Indigenous women had had one or more children.

*Number of children
continued*

For Indigenous women aged 25–29 years, around half (51%) had previously given birth to two or more children, while two-thirds (66%) of 30–34 year old Indigenous women had had two or more children.

Around half (51%) of Indigenous women aged 35–39 years in 2006 had previously given birth to three or more children.

For each age group, the corresponding proportions for non-Indigenous women were considerably lower.

3.3 CHILDREN EVER BORN(a), Indigenous and non-Indigenous women—2006 Census

	NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN					Average number of children ever born(b)
	None	One	Two	Three	Four or more	
Indigenous women						
15–19	87.8	9.7	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.16
20–24	51.5	24.5	15.6	5.9	2.5	0.85
25–29	29.8	19.4	22.1	14.7	13.9	1.73
30–34	19.2	14.7	22.9	18.4	24.8	2.38
35–39	13.9	12.0	22.7	20.7	30.7	2.74
40–44	12.7	11.0	22.4	21.7	32.3	2.84
Non-Indigenous women						
15–19	98.0	1.7	0.2	0.1	0.1	—
20–24	86.5	8.9	3.6	0.8	0.2	0.19
25–29	64.4	17.1	12.6	4.3	1.6	0.62
30–34	36.9	20.9	26.8	10.8	4.5	1.27
35–39	21.4	16.1	36.5	17.9	8.0	1.79
40–44	16.0	13.2	38.7	21.5	10.6	2.03

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

- (a) Women aged 45 years and older not included, as only a negligible proportion of births occur to women in this age group.
 (b) Average number of children ever born calculated on the assumption that women with six or more children had an average of 6.9 children.

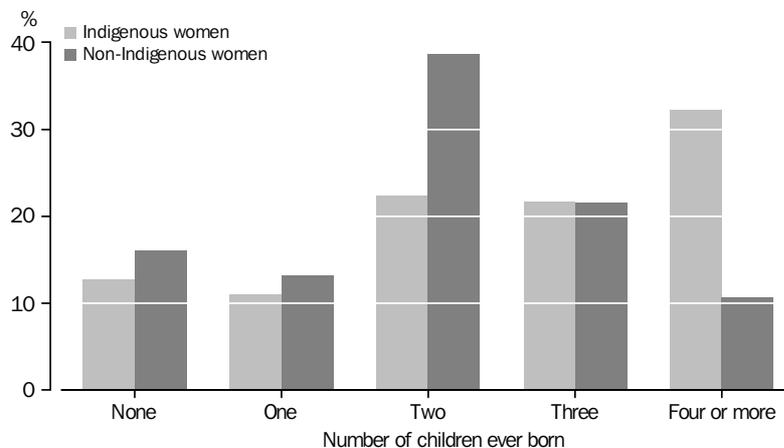
Completed fertility

As women aged 40–44 years can be considered to be nearing the end of their reproductive years of life, the number of children ever born to these women can be regarded as a measure of completed fertility.

On average, Indigenous women born between 1962 and 1966 (that is, women aged 40–44 years in 2006) had 2.8 children, compared to 2.0 children for non-Indigenous women. This difference is illustrated in graph 3.4 — Indigenous women are far more likely to have larger families than non-Indigenous women, with 22% having had three children over their reproductive lifetimes and almost one-third (32%) having had four or more children. Only 11% of non-Indigenous women had four or more children, with two children being the most prevalent outcome (39% of all non-Indigenous women aged 40–44 years).

Completed fertility
continued

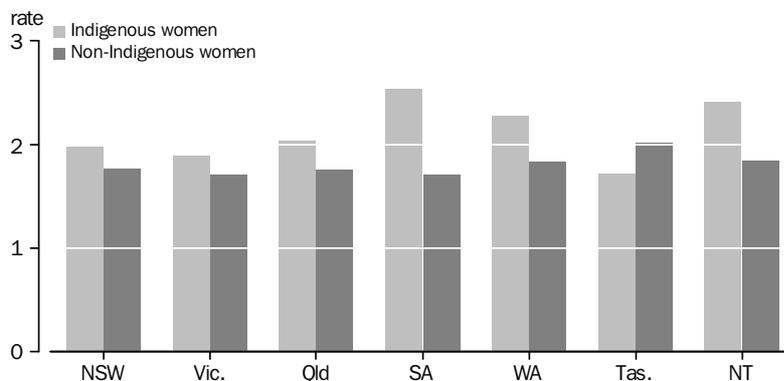
3.4 CHILDREN EVER BORN, Women aged 40–44 years—2006 Census



STATE VARIATIONS IN
FERTILITY

Indigenous TFRs vary between the states and territories. South Australia (2.5 babies per woman) recorded the highest fertility in 2006 followed by Northern Territory (2.4), Western Australia (2.3), Queensland and New South Wales (both 2.0), Victoria (1.8) and Tasmania (1.7).

3.5 TOTAL FERTILITY RATES (a)(b)—2006



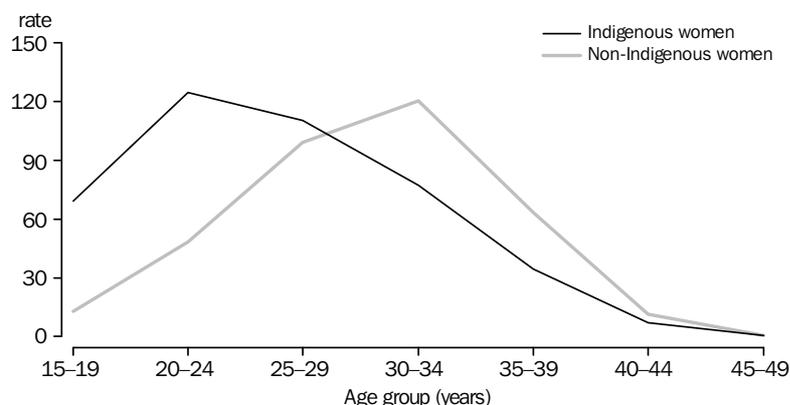
(a) Births per woman.
(b) ACT not included due to small numbers of Indigenous births.

Age-specific fertility

High fertility at younger ages contributes to the relatively high fertility of Indigenous women. In 2006, just under three-quarters of the total fertility of Indigenous women was accounted for by women under 30 years of age, compared to less than half of the fertility for non-Indigenous women.

Age-specific fertility
continued

3.6 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES (a)—2006

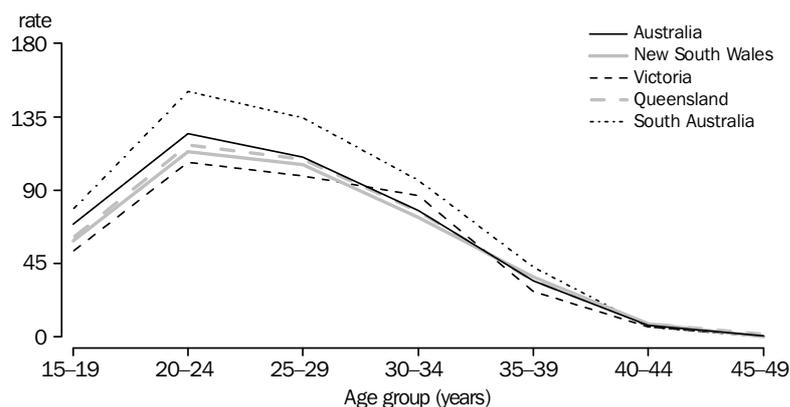


(a) Births per 1,000 women.

For Indigenous women, the peak age group for births in 2006 was 20–24 years (with 125 babies per 1,000 women), followed by women aged 25–29 years (110 babies). In contrast, the peak age group for non-Indigenous women was 30–34 years (120 babies).

In 2006 the teenage fertility rate of Indigenous women (69 babies per 1,000 women) was more than five times the fertility rate of non-Indigenous teenage women (13 babies), while fertility of Indigenous women aged 20–24 years (125 babies) was more than twice the fertility of non-Indigenous women in this age group (48 babies). Conversely, fertility of Indigenous women aged 30 years and over was lower than that of non-Indigenous women.

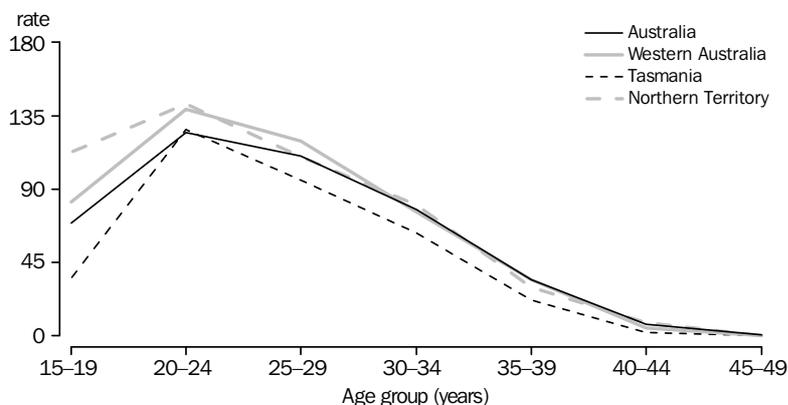
3.7 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES (a), Indigenous women, Selected states/territories—2006



(a) Births per 1,000 women.

Age-specific fertility
continued

3.8 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES (a), Indigenous women, Selected states/territories—2006



(a) Births per 1,000 women.

In 2006, Indigenous women in South Australia experienced higher age-specific fertility rates in the age groups 20–39 years than Indigenous women in other states and territories. In previous years the Northern Territory has generally had the highest age-specific fertility rates.

Indigenous teenage
fertility for the states and
territories

In 2006, births to teenage Indigenous women (1,800 births) accounted for 21% of all births to Indigenous women (8,800 births). In comparison, births to all teenage women accounted for only 4% of all births.

Of the 10,600 births registered to teenage women in Australia in 2006, 17% (1,800 births) were to teenage Indigenous women. In the Northern Territory, there were 370 births to teenage Indigenous women, accounting for 79% of all births to teenage women (470 births) in the Northern Territory.

The teenage fertility rate of Indigenous women living in the Northern Territory was 113 babies per 1,000 women, seven times the rate of all teenage women in Australia (15 babies). Western Australian Indigenous teenagers experienced the second highest fertility rate of the states and territories (82 babies). Teenage fertility rates for Indigenous women were lowest in Tasmania (35 babies per 1,000 women).

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS

There were 12,500 births registered in Australia during 2006 where at least one parent was of Indigenous origin, accounting for 5% of all births. New South Wales and Queensland, the two most populous states in terms of Indigenous population, registered the highest number of Indigenous births (both 3,500 births), followed by Western Australia and the Northern Territory (1,900 and 1,600 births respectively). It is important to consider the issue of coverage of Indigenous births (table 9.1) when interpreting these figures.

Indigenous status of parents

In 2006 around one-third (30%) of Indigenous births occurred where both parents were Indigenous, while 41% of Indigenous births occurred where only the mother was Indigenous (including births where paternity was not acknowledged and those where the father's Indigenous status was unknown). The remaining 29% of Indigenous births occurred where the father was Indigenous and the mother was non-Indigenous (including births where the mother's Indigenous status was not stated).

Median age of parents

Overall, Indigenous women have children at younger ages than all women. In 2006 the median age of Indigenous mothers was 24.6 years, six years lower than the median age of all mothers (30.8 years). Of the states and territories, Indigenous mothers living in the Northern Territory (23.7 years) had the lowest median age, followed by Indigenous mothers in Western Australia and Tasmania (both 24.0 years).

Fathers of Indigenous births (with a median age of 27.9 years) were younger than all fathers (33.1 years) in 2006. Tasmania recorded the lowest median age of fathers of Indigenous births (26.9 years), followed by Northern Territory (27.1 years).

Nuptiality

In 2006, 86% of births to Indigenous women were exnuptial births, that is, births to women who were not in a registered or tribal marriage at the time of birth, compared to 33% of all births. Exnuptial births where the father did not sign the birth registration statement (that is, paternity-not-acknowledged) accounted for 18% of births to Indigenous mothers, compared to 3% of all births.

At the state and territory level the highest proportions of exnuptial Indigenous births were recorded in the Northern Territory, where 95% of all Indigenous births were exnuptial, and in Western Australia and South Australia (both 87%). In the Northern Territory, nearly half of all Indigenous births (44%) were exnuptial births in which paternity was not acknowledged.

BIRTH WEIGHT

Birth weight is a key indicator of the relative health status of babies. A comparison of the average birth weight of babies of Indigenous mothers with all babies shows that Indigenous babies are generally smaller. According to the Perinatal Data Collection (AIHW, 2006) the average birth weight of babies of Indigenous mothers in 2004 was 3,158 grams, 224 grams lower than the national average for all babies (3,382 grams). The average birth weight of babies to Indigenous mothers varied across the states and territories, ranging from 3,073 grams in South Australia to 3,197 grams in New South Wales.

Babies are defined as being of low birth weight if their birth weight is less than 2,500 grams. In 2004, 13% of babies to Indigenous mothers were of low birth weight, more than twice the rate of babies of non-Indigenous mothers (6%).

INTERNATIONAL
INDIGENOUS FERTILITY

In 2006 the TFR for Australian Indigenous mothers (2.1 babies per woman) was lower than that for New Zealand Maori women (2.7). In 2005, the latest year for which American Indian fertility rates are available, the TFR for Australian Indigenous women was 0.3 babies per woman higher than that of American Indian women (1.8).

These differences are reflected in age-specific fertility rates for the different populations, with Maori women having higher rates than Australian Indigenous women and American Indian women in all age groups except 15–19 years.

3.9 INDIGENOUS FERTILITY RATES, Selected countries

	NEW ZEALAND MAORI WOMEN		AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS WOMEN	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Age-specific fertility rates(a)				
15–19 years(b)	52.7	67.8	69.2	69.3
20–24 years	109.0	152.5	121.9	124.7
25–29 years	94.0	138.3	108.9	110.3
30–34 years	59.9	103.2	69.8	77.4
35–39 years	26.9	57.7	34.8	34.3
40–44 years	6.0	15.6	6.5	7.1
45–49 years(c)	0.3	1.0	0.3	0.5
Total fertility rate(d)	1.749	2.683	2.057	2.118

(a) Births per 1,000 women.

(b) For Australian Indigenous women, includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(c) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(d) Births per woman. Includes births to women aged 10–14 years for American Indian and New Zealand Maori women.

Source: *United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centre for Health Statistics*, <<http://www.cdc.gov>> for American Indian data. *Statistics New Zealand* <<http://www.stats.govt.nz>> for New Zealand Maori data.

INTRODUCTION

For births registered in Australia, there is typically an interval between the occurrence and registration of the birth. The length of this interval can have a detrimental effect on the quality of birth statistics, with some births being registered months or, in some cases, years after their occurrence. In this article this interval is referred to as a registration delay.

Birth statistics are a critical component of population estimates produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), while fertility measures are used extensively to inform a range of government and community decisions, particularly within the areas of demographic planning, family formation, and health and education services. Trends in fertility are also used in the development of assumptions on future levels of fertility for population projections.

The 2005 issue of *Births, Australia* (cat. no. 3301.0) included the article 'Delayed birth registrations in Australia', which reviewed registration delays of all births in Australia between 1995 and 2005 in terms of the demographic characteristics of the mother, such as age, Indigenous status, country of birth and nuptiality. To varying extents, these characteristics were found to be related to the size of registration delays; births to younger mothers, Indigenous mothers and mothers who were not married were more likely to be registered in the year(s) after the year of birth, than births to other mothers.

This article explores the magnitude of registration delays of Indigenous births at the national and state level during the period 2000–2006. The proportion of Indigenous births that occur in a year prior to the year of registration, as noted in *Births, Australia, 2005* (cat. no. 3301.0), is greater than for all births. Of the 12,500 Indigenous births registered in 2006, 24% (3,000) occurred in 2005 or earlier, compared to 12% (32,200) of all births (265,900). The higher proportion of delayed registrations of Indigenous births warrants closer examination.

INDIGENOUS BIRTH STATISTICS

The collection of administrative information on Indigenous people in Australia has been subject to differing historical circumstances. The way in which a person identifies, or is identified, as Indigenous on a specific form has changed over time leading to unexpected movements in Indigenous statistics. During the period 1991–1996, for example, the Indigenous population of Australia increased by 33% — of which only half could be explained by quantifiable demographic factors such as births, deaths and migration (ABS, 1996). There are a range of social and cultural factors that can influence a person's response to Indigenous status questions, including the perception of how information will be used, access to education programs about identifying as Indigenous, who completes the question on behalf of others, and emotional reaction to identifying as Indigenous.

INDIGENOUS BIRTH
STATISTICS *continued*

ABS Indigenous birth statistics are based on information provided by state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages on births registered in their jurisdictions. A birth is defined as Indigenous if either the mother or the father identified themselves as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin on the birth registration form.

Generally, the collection of Indigenous births data has been subject to undercoverage. Table 9.1 provides an indication of the extent of coverage of Indigenous births by comparing numbers of registered Indigenous births with the number of projected Indigenous births obtained from *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians* (cat. no. 3238.0) (see also paragraphs 14 to 18 of the Explanatory Notes).

The recording of Indigenous status in birth registrations commenced at different times among the states and territories (ABS/AIHW, 1997). Due to uncertainty about the completeness and quality of Indigenous births data for the states and territories prior to 2000, a relatively short time period (2000–2006) has been used in this article to review registration delays of Indigenous births. Data for the Australian Capital Territory are not analysed separately because of small numbers and poor coverage, but are included in figures for total Australia.

DELAYS IN THE
REGISTRATION OF A
BIRTH

Parents are provided with a birth registration form by a midwife or other health professional shortly after the birth of their child. There is a legislative requirement to register a birth within 60 days, with the onus on the parent(s) to submit a completed birth registration form to the relevant state or territory registry (that is, the state or territory in which the birth occurred). It is then the responsibility of the registry to process the registration form. A delay in registration may therefore be the result of either a delay by the parent(s) in returning their completed registration form, or a delay by the registry in processing the form.

Delays in registering a birth by the parent(s) or the registry can arise for a variety of reasons. Despite the legislative requirement, the parent(s) may not return their form promptly. Delays in the processing of forms at the registry may be due to follow up activity due to missing information on the form, or periodic resource limitations.

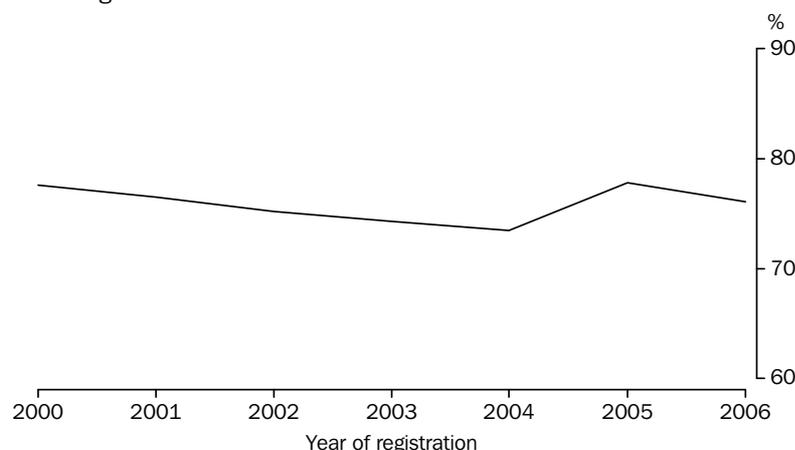
INDIGENOUS BIRTHS
THAT OCCURRED IN THE
YEAR THEY WERE
REGISTERED

Of the 12,500 Indigenous births registered in Australia in 2006, 76% (9,500) occurred in 2006. The remaining 24% (3,000) occurred in 2005 or earlier years (it should be noted that 1,100 Indigenous births registered in 2006 occurred in November or December 2005, and therefore cannot be considered to be 'late' registrations).

Between 2000 and 2004 the proportion of Indigenous births that occurred in the year they were registered decreased slightly, to 73% in 2004 (graph 4.1 and table 4.2). The subsequent increase in 2005 was mainly due to an increase in New South Wales, which may have been due to the clearance of a backlog of registrations in the New South Wales Registry.

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS
 THAT OCCURRED IN THE
 YEAR THEY WERE
 REGISTERED *continued*

4.1 INDIGENOUS BIRTHS, Proportion that occurred in the year of registration



In the states and territories, the proportion of Indigenous births that occurred in 2006 and were registered in the same year varied considerably. Tasmania (95%) and the Northern Territory (91%) had the highest proportions while Queensland (66%) and Western Australia (70%) had the lowest.

4.2 INDIGENOUS BIRTHS, Proportion that occurred in the year of registration—States and territories

State/territory of registration	YEAR OF REGISTRATION						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
New South Wales	76.5	74.5	72.1	72.9	70.8	83.9	80.3
Victoria	79.3	75.7	74.4	70.3	75.5	76.2	79.7
Queensland	76.3	73.4	70.3	71.9	70.3	70.5	65.7
South Australia	77.4	76.2	74.7	78.4	75.4	74.3	75.1
Western Australia	70.1	69.7	72.3	62.9	64.2	69.3	69.8
Tasmania	83.5	84.2	92.8	91.7	91.2	92.3	94.9
Northern Territory	88.5	90.4	89.8	89.0	90.4	91.4	90.7
Australian Capital Territory	87.9	80.8	82.5	85.7	80.8	82.6	81.8
Australia	77.6	76.5	75.2	74.3	73.5	77.8	76.1

CHARACTERISTICS OF
 DELAYED REGISTRATIONS

Understanding the demographic characteristics of parents who are more likely to delay the registration of the birth of their child can assist with targeting follow-up activities and educational programs to improve the overall timeliness of birth registrations. This section explores delayed Indigenous birth registrations through the characteristics of age of mother and nuptiality.

Nuptiality

Exnuptial births are more likely to be registered in the year(s) after the year of birth than nuptial births. Of all exnuptial Indigenous births registered in 2006, 26% occurred in 2005 or earlier years, compared to 16% of all nuptial Indigenous births (table 4.3).

Nuptiality continued

For exnuptial births, registration is more likely to be delayed where paternity is not acknowledged, than where paternity is acknowledged. Of all exnuptial Indigenous births registered in 2006 where paternity was not acknowledged, 33% occurred in 2005 or earlier years compared to 24% of exnuptial Indigenous births where paternity was acknowledged.

Age of mother

Younger Indigenous mothers are more likely to delay the registration of a birth than older mothers, although the differences are less pronounced than among mothers of all births. Of all Indigenous births registered in 2006, the proportion that occurred in 2005 or earlier was highest for mothers aged 20–24 years (25.3%), followed by mothers aged 15–19 years (24.8%). To a minor extent, Indigenous mothers aged 30 years and over were more timely in registering the birth of their child, with around 21% of births registered in 2006 occurring in 2005 or earlier.

4.3 BIRTHS REGISTERED IN 2006 THAT OCCURRED IN 2005 OR EARLIER, Indigenous status

	INDIGENOUS BIRTHS			ALL BIRTHS		
	Registered in 2006 that occurred in 2005 and earlier		%	Registered in 2006 that occurred in 2005 and earlier		%
	no.	no.		no.	no.	
Nuptiality						
Nuptial	2 239	359	16.0	179 019	17 664	9.9
Exnuptial, paternity acknowledged	8 673	2 107	24.3	78 550	12 419	15.8
Exnuptial, paternity not acknowledged	1 584	515	32.5	8 380	2 115	25.2
Age of mother(a)						
15–19(b)	2 402	596	24.8	10 552	2 141	20.3
20–24	3 796	962	25.3	37 151	6 072	16.3
25–29	3 012	737	24.5	70 224	8 460	12.0
30–34	2 154	441	20.5	89 883	9 369	10.4
35–39	939	197	21.0	48 505	5 076	10.5
40–44	171	36	21.1	8 679	1 001	11.5
45–49(c)	10	—	—	438	47	10.7
Total births	12 496	2 981	23.9	265 949	32 198	12.1

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Where age of mother is known.

(b) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(c) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

LENGTH OF DELAY IN
BIRTH REGISTRATIONS

The length of delay in registration can be calculated by comparing the year and month of registration of a birth with the year and month of occurrence of the birth. While more precise results would be gained by comparing day of registration with day of birth, information relating to day of registration is not retained by the ABS.

4.4 INTERVAL BETWEEN OCCURRENCE AND REGISTRATION OF
INDIGENOUS BIRTHS

	YEAR OF REGISTRATION						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Up to one month after birth	53.5	55.4	52.0	50.6	48.8	54.3	52.6
2–3 months	26.5	23.6	25.6	26.0	26.0	24.4	25.4
4–6 months	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.0	6.2	6.5	6.8
7–12 months	4.4	4.5	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.8	4.6
More than 1 year to 2 years	3.1	3.6	3.3	3.8	4.2	2.7	3.1
More than 2 year to 3 years	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.3	1.5
More than 3 year to 4 years	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.1	1.1
More than 4 years to 5 years	0.9	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.1	1.2
More than 5 years to 10 years	1.3	1.5	1.9	2.3	2.9	1.9	1.7
More than 10 years	1.4	1.4	2.3	2.2	2.3	1.9	2.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

For Indigenous births registered in 2006, around half (53%) were registered within one month after the occurrence of the birth (compared to around three-quarters for all births in Australia, as reported in *Births, Australia, 2005*, cat. no. 3301.0). A further 25% were registered 2 to 3 months after the occurrence of the birth, and around 11% between 4 to 12 months. Almost 11% of Indigenous births registered in 2006 took more than one year to register. For all births registered in 2005, 2.4% took more than one year to register (*Births, Australia, 2005*, cat. no. 3301.0).

For Australia overall, there was relatively little change between 2000 and 2006 in the intervals between the occurrence and registration of Indigenous births.

4.5 INTERVAL BETWEEN OCCURRENCE AND REGISTRATION OF INDIGENOUS BIRTHS, States and territories

	STATE/TERRITORY OF REGISTRATION							
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	Aust. (a)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2000								
Up to one month after birth	44.6	52.6	57.1	59.9	50.4	65.3	61.3	53.5
2–3 months	30.6	27.6	21.8	18.6	21.6	24.6	36.8	26.5
4–6 months	7.5	7.9	7.2	7.9	7.1	4.8	1.2	6.4
7–12 months	5.7	4.6	5.4	3.3	5.0	2.7	0.3	4.4
More than 1 year	11.7	7.3	8.5	10.4	15.9	2.7	0.4	9.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2005								
Up to one month after birth	53.6	56.1	46.2	57.6	48.4	94.7	67.2	54.3
2–3 months	28.7	18.4	25.4	20.9	19.0	0.5	31.3	24.4
4–6 months	8.9	7.4	7.0	4.0	8.2	—	1.1	6.5
7–12 months	5.6	7.8	5.6	4.0	5.7	—	0.1	4.8
More than 1 year	3.2	10.3	15.7	13.4	18.7	4.8	0.3	10.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2006								
Up to one month after birth	53.2	54.3	36.8	59.2	51.0	93.5	72.0	52.6
2–3 months	27.8	24.6	31.0	19.4	17.2	3.1	27.1	25.4
4–6 months	9.1	7.4	8.0	4.6	7.8	0.2	0.6	6.8
7–12 months	4.5	5.6	6.8	2.3	6.5	—	—	4.6
More than 1 year	5.5	8.2	17.3	14.5	17.5	3.1	0.3	10.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes ACT.

LENGTH OF DELAY IN
BIRTH REGISTRATIONS
continued

The length of delay in registration of Indigenous births varies between the states and territories. For births registered in 2006, almost all Indigenous births in the Northern Territory (99%) and Tasmania (97%) were registered within 3 months of the occurrence of the birth. For New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria, around 80% of Indigenous births were registered within the same time frame. Queensland and Western Australia recorded the lowest proportions (both 68%) of Indigenous births registered within 3 months.

Tasmania recorded the highest proportion of births registered within one month (94%), with the increase between 2000 (65%) and 2005 (95%) being the result of provision of information from birth notifications from the Tasmanian Registrar to ABS from 2002 onwards (see paragraphs 4 to 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information).

In 2006, Western Australia, Queensland and South Australia each recorded high proportions of Indigenous births being registered more than a year after they occurred (17.5%, 17.3% and 14.5% respectively).

AVERAGE LENGTH OF
DELAY IN BIRTH
REGISTRATION

Table 4.6 shows the average length of delay (in months) of Indigenous birth registrations for each state and territory. In order to reduce the effect of extremely late registrations on the calculation of these averages, delays of more than 72 months (that is, 6 years) were counted as delays of 72 months.

For all Indigenous births registered in Australia in 2006, the average interval between the occurrence and registration of the birth was 6.4 months. For all births registered in 2005, the average interval was 2.2 months (*Births, Australia, 2005*, cat. no. 3301.0). The average interval increased to 8.2 months between 2000 and 2004, and, although decreasing since then, remains higher than in 2000 (5.5 months).

4.6 AVERAGE INTERVAL BETWEEN OCCURRENCE AND REGISTRATION OF INDIGENOUS BIRTHS(a), States and territories

State/territory of registration	YEAR OF REGISTRATION						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	months	months	months	months	months	months	months
New South Wales	7.6	7.0	9.6	9.2	10.2	3.5	3.5
Victoria	4.4	6.1	6.2	7.3	6.4	5.9	5.4
Queensland	4.8	6.3	7.3	7.9	8.7	8.7	9.7
South Australia	6.9	6.6	8.9	6.0	8.4	9.4	8.9
Western Australia	7.5	8.1	8.6	10.7	11.2	10.3	10.4
Tasmania	2.2	2.5	1.9	3.1	4.2	3.5	2.5
Northern Territory	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.4
Australia (b)	5.5	5.8	7.1	7.4	8.2	6.3	6.4

(a) In order to reduce the effect of very long delays in registration on the calculation of average registration delay length, delays of more than 72 months (that is, 6 years) have been counted as delays of 72 months.

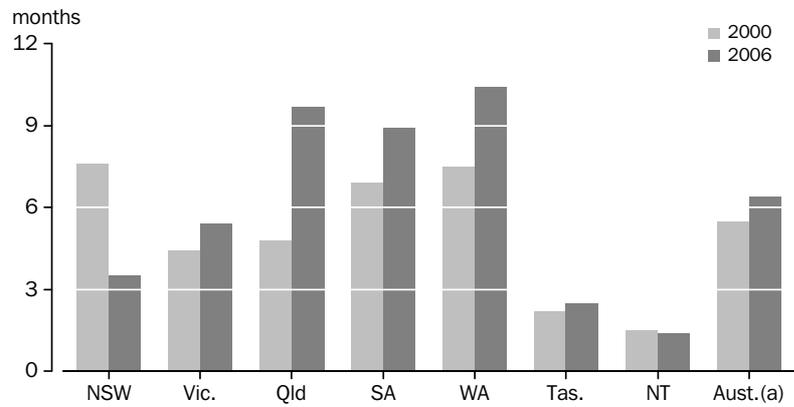
(b) Includes ACT.

Of the states and territories, Western Australia (10.4 months) recorded the largest average interval between the occurrence and registration of births while the Northern Territory recorded the lowest (1.4 months). New South Wales recorded an average interval of 3.5 months for births registered in 2005 and 2006, following increasingly larger intervals between 2000 (7.6 months) and 2004 (10.2 months). The average interval for Indigenous births registered in Queensland has more than doubled over the past six years, from 4.8 months in 2000 to 9.7 months in 2006.

AVERAGE LENGTH OF
DELAY IN BIRTH
REGISTRATION

continued

4.7 AVERAGE INTERVAL BETWEEN OCCURRENCE AND REGISTRATION OF INDIGENOUS BIRTHS



(a) Includes ACT.

REFERENCES

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1996, 'Occasional Paper: Population Issues, Indigenous Australians', cat. no. 4708.0, ABS, Canberra.

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2005, *Births, Australia*, cat. no. 3301.0, ABS, Canberra.

Australian Bureau of Statistics/Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 1997, 'The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples', cat. no. 4704.0, ABS, Canberra.

INTRODUCTION

The 2001 issue of *Births, Australia* (cat. no. 3301.0) reported on the number of children ever born to women aged 20–44 years. With the release of *2006 Census of Population and Housing* results, this article updates the previous findings and provides latest information on completed fertility, the average number of children ever born to women, and women with specific numbers of children.

In the 2006 Census, women aged 15 years and over were asked 'For each female, how many babies has she ever given birth to?' (note that information on live births only was sought, with adopted, foster and step children excluded. See Appendix 1 — Fertility concepts and collections for more information). Similar questions were asked in the 1981, 1986 and 1996 censuses, providing an alternative measure of fertility to other more-frequently available measures (such as the total fertility rate and age-specific fertility rates) to investigate changes in fertility in Australia over the last 25 years.

While the total fertility rate represents the average number of children a woman could *expect* to bear during her lifetime if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates at each age of her reproductive life, the number of children ever born provides information on *actual* fertility outcomes of women of different ages. In particular, the number of children ever born to women aged 40–44 years can be regarded as a measure of completed fertility; that is, on average how many children this group of women had throughout their entire reproductive lifetimes.

CENSUS AND SURVEY DATA

Table 5.1 presents the number of children ever born to all women in Australia for each year the information was collected, since 1981. The information is sourced from different collections, both census and survey. Although comparisons can be made, the average number of children ever born is not strictly comparable between all collections. In particular, the *2001 National Health Survey* (NHS) and the *1992 Survey of Families in Australia* (SFA) were sample surveys, in which results could be affected by sampling error. In the SFA, use of personal interviews to collect survey data may have reduced the non-sampling error. In the women's supplement to the NHS, as with the censuses, questionnaires were completed by respondents themselves.

Also, in contrast with the four censuses and SFA, the question on total number of children ever born in the NHS was voluntary, and it is possible that the number of children born to those who chose not to respond was different to those who did respond. Furthermore, the surveys and censuses were held at different times of year.

CENSUS AND SURVEY
DATA *continued*

In the NHS, only women aged 18–64 years were requested to respond to the question on total number of children ever born. Some women in this age group did not respond, resulting in 91% of all women in this age group providing an answer (the question was asked as part of a voluntary series of questions on breast-feeding). This is comparable to response rates for the censuses (92% for the 1981 and 1986 censuses, 96% for the 1996 Census and 94% for the 2006 Census) and the SFA (96%). The Census question was asked of women aged 15 years and over only.

5.1 CHILDREN EVER BORN, Women aged 20–44 years(a)

Age of women/birth cohort	Source	NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN					Average number of children ever born(b)
		None	One	Two	Three	Four or more	
		%	%	%	%	%	no.
20–24 years; birth cohort of							
1982–1986	2006 Census	85.5	9.3	3.9	0.9	0.3	0.21
1977–1981	2001 NHS	81.3	12.3	4.9	1.2	0.2	0.27
1972–1976	1996 Census	81.5	11.6	5.2	1.3	0.4	0.28
1968–1972	1992 SFA	80.1	12.3	5.7	1.5	0.4	0.30
1962–1966	1986 Census	75.4	14.6	7.7	1.8	0.5	0.37
1957–1961	1981 Census	70.2	17.4	9.6	2.2	0.5	0.46
25–29 years; birth cohort of							
1977–1981	2006 Census	63.5	17.1	12.8	4.6	1.9	0.65
1972–1976	2001 NHS	59.3	18.5	12.5	7.2	2.6	0.75
1967–1971	1996 Census	56.3	19.4	16.1	5.9	2.2	0.79
1963–1967	1992 SFA	48.6	22.1	19.5	7.2	2.5	0.93
1957–1961	1986 Census	42.8	20.9	24.1	9.2	3.1	1.10
1952–1956	1981 Census	34.8	21.4	28.9	11.3	3.6	1.29
30–34 years; birth cohort of							
1972–1976	2006 Census	36.5	20.8	26.7	11.0	5.0	1.30
1967–1971	2001 NHS	33.6	19.2	26.7	14.1	6.4	1.44
1962–1966	1996 Census	29.0	18.8	30.7	15.0	6.4	1.54
1958–1962	1992 SFA	23.2	17.5	32.3	18.4	8.7	1.76
1952–1956	1986 Census	19.9	15.4	36.2	20.0	8.5	1.85
1947–1951	1981 Census	15.2	13.6	38.9	22.3	10.0	2.03
35–39 years; birth cohort of							
1967–1971	2006 Census	21.2	16.0	36.2	18.0	8.5	1.81
1962–1966	2001 NHS	17.5	14.1	36.5	20.9	11.0	1.97
1957–1961	1996 Census	16.8	13.3	36.7	22.3	10.9	2.02
1953–1957	1992 SFA	13.4	11.1	37.1	25.7	12.7	2.19
1947–1951	1986 Census	11.9	10.5	38.9	25.2	13.5	2.24
1942–1946	1981 Census	10.0	9.1	35.8	27.0	18.1	2.45
40–44 years; birth cohort of							
1962–1966	2006 Census	15.9	13.2	38.3	21.5	11.0	2.05
1957–1961	2001 NHS	13.4	8.6	39.9	23.2	15.0	2.27
1952–1956	1996 Census	12.8	11.3	38.2	24.6	13.1	2.20
1948–1952	1992 SFA	10.4	11.3	38.3	26.3	13.6	2.27
1942–1946	1986 Census	9.7	8.7	35.6	27.0	18.9	2.49
1937–1941	1981 Census	8.5	7.6	29.0	27.4	27.6	2.80

(a) Women aged 45 years and older not included, as only a negligible proportion of births occur to women in this age group.

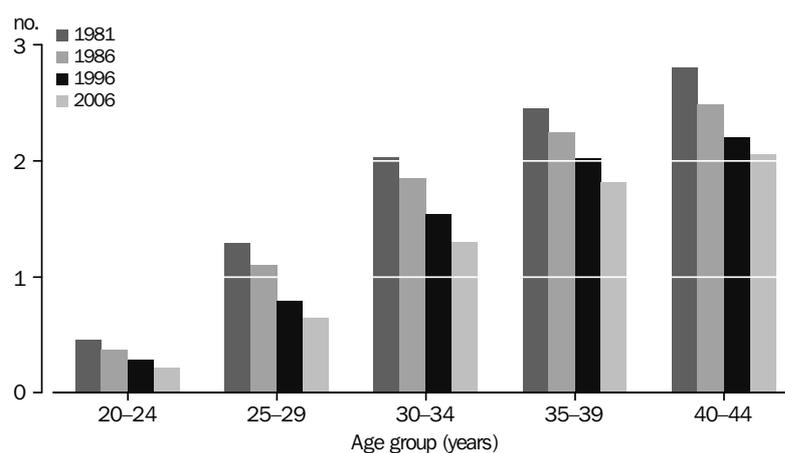
(b) Average number of children ever born calculated on the assumption that women with six or more children had an average of 6.9 children.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN

In table 5.1, women are classified by their age group at the time of the census or survey, their year of birth (birth cohort) and the number of children they have ever had. Since 1981 the average number of children ever born to women of each age group has decreased (graph 5.2). Women aged 25–29 years in 1981 (born in 1952–1956) had 1.3 children on average compared with 0.7 children to women of the same age in 2006 (born in 1977–1981), a decline of around 50%, or 0.6 children per woman. Over the same period, decreases of similar sizes were recorded for older women, with women aged 30–34 years having 0.7 fewer children on average, women aged 35–39 years having 0.6 fewer children and women aged 40–44 years having 0.8 fewer children.

At younger ages the decline in the average number of children may be related to the postponement of childbearing, but for women aged 40–44 years at each reference period, the average number of children ever born more or less depicts completed fertility (see below).

5.2 AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN—1981, 1986, 1996 and 2006



COMPLETED FERTILITY

Women aged 40–44 years can be considered to be nearing the end of their reproductive years of life, therefore the average number of children ever born to these women can be regarded as a measure of completed fertility. Although the number of births to women aged 40 years and over has increased since the mid-1980s, they account for only a small proportion of all births (around 3.4% in 2006).

Completed fertility has declined over the past 25 years, from an average of 2.8 children per woman aged 40–44 years in 1981 to 2.0 children in 2006 (table 5.1). The overall decrease in completed fertility over this period was 0.8 children per woman, with the rate of decrease fastest between 1981 and 1986 and slowest between 1996 and 2006. Reasons for the decrease include increasing participation of women in higher education and employment, changing attitudes to family size, lifestyle choices, and greater access to contraceptive measures and abortion.

Number of children

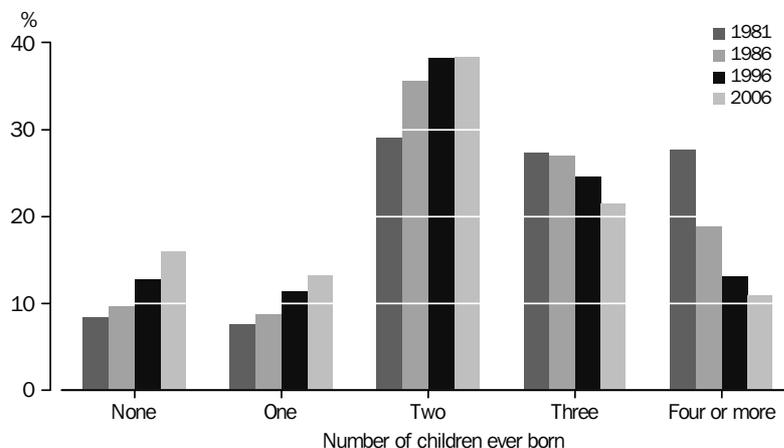
Graph 5.3 presents, for each Census, the proportion of women aged 40–44 years by the number of children they have had. A clear trend towards lower completed fertility over time is apparent, with higher proportions of women with no, one or two children in 2006 than in 1981, and lower proportions of women with three or more children.

*Number of children
continued*

In 1981 around 8.5% of women aged 40–44 years had no children, with the proportion nearly doubling to 15.9% in 2006. Similarly, the proportion of women with one child has increased. The proportion of women aged 40–44 years with two children increased between 1981 and 1996 (from 29% to 38% respectively) but has remained unchanged since then (also 38% in 2006).

This trend is reversed for women having three or more children. In 1981 around 27% of women aged 40–44 years had three children, compared to 22% of women of the same age in 2006. The decrease is even more apparent for women with four or more children: 28% in 1981 compared to only 11% in 2006.

5.3 CHILDREN EVER BORN, Women aged 40–44 years—1981, 1986, 1996 and 2006



WOMEN WITH NO CHILDREN

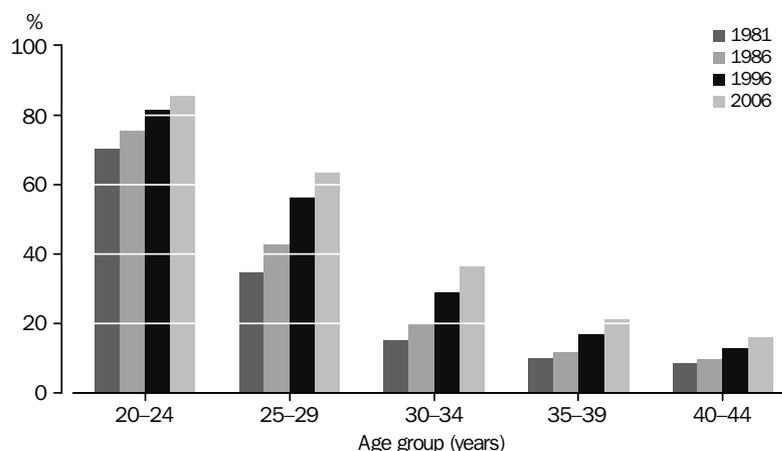
The proportion of women having no children has increased over time for each age group (graph 5.4). In 1981 around 70% of women aged 20–24 years had no children; by 2006 this proportion had increased to 86%.

For women aged 25–29 and 30–34 years, the peak age groups of fertility in Australia for the past 20 years, the proportion of women with no children has increased markedly. In 1981 around 35% of women aged 25–29 years were childless, increasing to 64% by 2006, while the proportion of women aged 30–34 years with no children more than doubled, from 15% to 37%. The proportion of 35–39 year old women with no children also doubled over the period.

The extent of childlessness in the population, as measured by the proportion of women aged 40–44 years with no children, also increased between 1981 and 2006, from 9% to 16% respectively.

WOMEN WITH NO CHILDREN *continued*

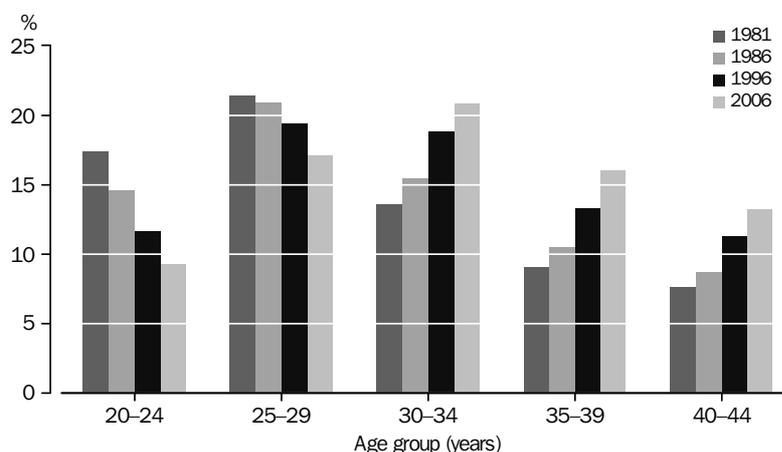
5.4 WOMEN WITH NO CHILDREN, Age of woman—1981, 1986, 1996 and 2006



WOMEN WITH ONE CHILD

The proportion of women aged 20–24 years with one child almost halved between 1981 and 2006, from 17% to 9% respectively. The corresponding decrease for women aged 25–29 years was smaller (down 20%), while the pattern is reversed for women aged 30 years and over, with proportionally more women having one child in 2006 than in previous years. This suggests an increasing tendency over the past 25 years for younger women to delay having their first child until they are older (graph 5.5).

5.5 WOMEN WITH ONE CHILD, Age of woman—1981, 1986, 1996 and 2006

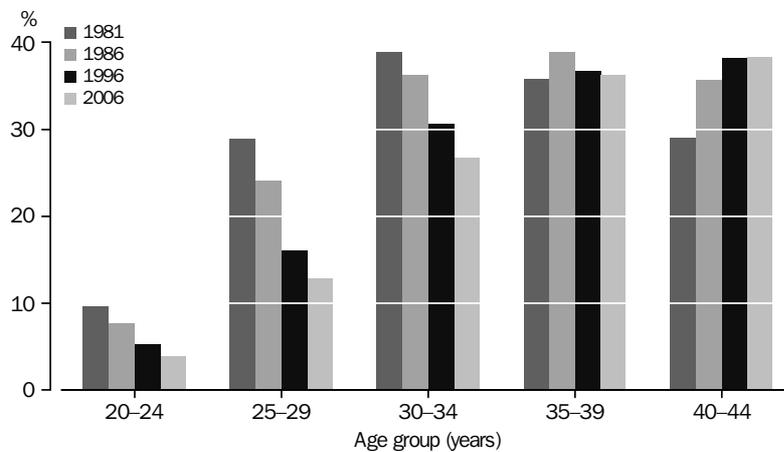


WOMEN WITH TWO CHILDREN

Since 1981 there has been a declining trend for women aged 20–34 years to have two children (graph 5.6). The difference is most apparent for women aged 25–29 years, followed by women aged 30–34 years. For women aged 35–39 years, the proportion with two children remained virtually unchanged between 1981 and 2006 at around 36%. The pattern is reversed and shows an increasing trend for women aged 40–44 years to have two children; this may suggest an increasing popularity of the two-child family among Australian women.

WOMEN WITH TWO CHILDREN *continued*

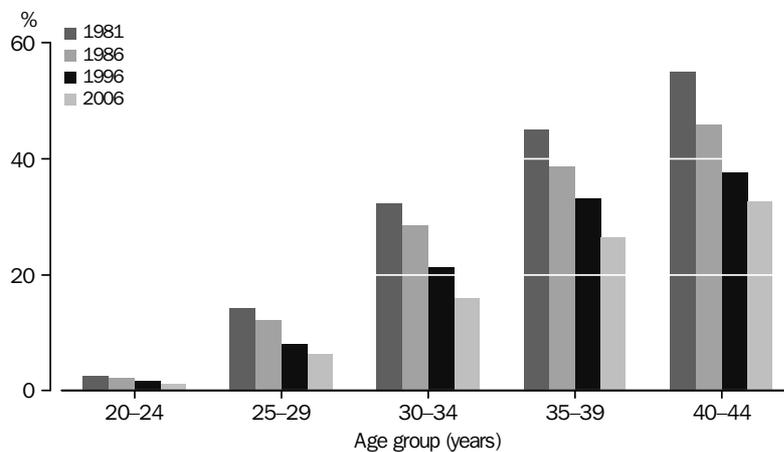
5.6 WOMEN WITH TWO CHILDREN, Age of woman—1981, 1986, 1996 and 2006



LARGER FAMILIES

The proportion of women having larger families (three or more children) declined between 1981 and 2006 for all age groups (graph 5.7). During this period, the proportion having three or more children halved for women aged 30–34 years. It also declined markedly for women aged 35–39 years (from 45% in 1981 to 27% in 2006 and for women aged 40–44 years (from 55% in 1981 to 33% in 2006).

5.7 WOMEN WITH THREE OR MORE CHILDREN, Age of woman—1981, 1986, 1996 and 2006



CHAPTER **6**

FERTILITY TABLES

6.1 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES AND TOTAL FERTILITY RATES

AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES(a)

	15-19(c)	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49(d)	Total fertility rate(b)
1921	26.6	135.9	169.0	142.5	101.9	43.6	4.3	3.119
1922	26.2	136.4	170.8	141.1	100.9	41.9	3.9	3.106
1923	26.5	133.1	167.1	136.1	95.7	40.2	4.5	3.016
1924	27.9	132.2	164.7	134.2	93.3	38.1	4.0	2.972
1925	29.1	130.8	163.4	131.3	92.8	38.4	4.1	2.950
1926	29.2	127.4	159.4	125.4	88.2	36.2	3.8	2.848
1927	29.9	127.7	156.2	124.1	83.5	34.9	3.6	2.800
1928	30.6	128.5	153.9	120.2	82.8	33.6	3.9	2.768
1929	29.4	122.7	148.2	114.3	76.9	32.0	3.4	2.635
1930	29.3	120.2	144.9	112.2	75.6	30.9	3.1	2.581
1931	27.2	110.8	130.7	104.4	67.9	27.7	3.1	2.359
1932	25.9	101.0	122.2	96.3	63.2	25.8	2.9	2.187
1933	25.6	99.6	123.6	96.0	61.3	24.5	2.6	2.166
1934	24.6	97.9	120.7	93.3	58.4	24.1	2.3	2.107
1935	24.6	99.6	123.2	94.0	57.3	21.9	2.3	2.115
1936	24.9	103.5	127.5	95.5	60.3	21.6	2.2	2.178
1937	24.6	107.1	130.7	97.9	58.6	20.7	2.0	2.208
1938	23.8	108.4	130.9	99.2	56.3	20.2	2.1	2.205
1939	24.3	110.5	133.9	98.3	56.4	19.0	1.9	2.222
1940	23.6	112.5	136.8	100.5	56.6	19.4	1.7	2.256
1941	24.3	121.0	143.5	104.9	57.8	19.6	1.7	2.364
1942	24.0	121.8	143.6	104.2	60.0	19.6	1.7	2.375
1943	24.3	132.5	155.4	114.8	64.5	20.6	1.6	2.569
1944	22.9	126.7	157.3	122.5	72.9	22.1	1.6	2.630
1945	23.8	132.4	164.2	125.2	76.1	23.7	1.8	2.736
1946	26.1	151.1	183.2	131.7	78.3	24.6	2.1	2.986
1947	32.1	166.2	186.6	130.0	75.0	23.5	1.8	3.076
1948	34.2	163.0	179.8	124.6	71.2	22.5	1.7	2.985
1949	35.8	167.4	180.9	121.9	68.4	21.2	1.6	2.986
1950	37.0	173.5	186.0	124.6	68.8	21.8	1.6	3.067
1951	38.6	177.2	185.3	123.1	65.0	21.0	1.6	3.059
1952	39.3	189.7	192.7	126.1	66.1	20.5	1.7	3.181
1953	38.8	194.7	193.2	124.6	65.3	20.5	1.4	3.193
1954	39.2	197.1	194.0	121.8	64.4	20.2	1.5	3.191
1955	41.8	205.4	199.6	122.0	64.4	20.4	1.4	3.275
1956	43.0	210.9	203.0	123.5	64.2	19.7	1.6	3.330
1957	44.0	216.2	210.7	127.2	65.1	19.5	1.4	3.421
1958	44.6	215.9	212.9	126.4	64.3	18.5	1.5	3.421
1959	45.2	219.0	214.4	125.7	63.6	18.6	1.5	3.440
1960	44.3	220.1	216.3	127.5	62.3	18.4	1.3	3.451
1961	47.4	225.8	221.2	131.1	63.4	19.2	1.4	3.548
1962	44.7	216.0	216.7	127.7	61.4	18.4	1.2	3.431
1963	45.9	208.2	211.2	123.9	59.7	18.6	1.1	3.343
1964	47.0	190.5	198.1	119.1	58.4	16.5	1.2	3.154
1965	47.5	179.3	188.5	110.1	53.0	15.0	1.1	2.973
1966	48.9	173.1	183.9	105.1	50.6	14.2	1.1	2.885
1967	48.4	170.8	185.0	102.8	47.8	13.5	1.1	2.847
1968	48.9	173.6	190.8	103.3	46.7	12.9	1.0	2.886
1969	49.0	174.2	191.8	103.5	45.6	12.2	1.0	2.887
1970	50.9	172.0	189.6	101.8	44.9	11.7	0.8	2.859

(a) Births per 1,000 women.

(c) Includes births to mothers age less than 15 years.

(b) Births per woman. From 1975 onwards, total fertility rates are calculated using single year of age of mother, and may differ from figures published prior to 2004.

(d) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

6.1 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES AND TOTAL FERTILITY RATES *continued*

	AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES(a)							Total fertility rate(b)
	15-19(c)	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49(d)	
1971	55.5	181.9	193.5	101.8	44.2	11.3	0.8	2.945
1972	54.5	168.7	181.7	94.0	38.9	10.0	0.8	2.743
1973	49.1	155.4	166.9	84.2	33.6	8.4	0.6	2.491
1974	44.2	145.4	159.3	78.5	29.1	7.2	0.4	2.321
1975	40.1	133.9	149.6	74.1	26.0	6.1	0.4	2.148
1976	35.2	128.2	146.2	72.5	24.1	5.5	0.4	2.060
1977	32.1	122.0	145.7	74.1	23.9	5.0	0.3	2.007
1978	29.9	115.8	144.0	73.4	23.5	4.5	0.2	1.949
1979	28.5	109.1	142.5	73.9	23.6	4.6	0.3	1.907
1980	27.6	107.0	141.0	75.1	23.7	4.4	0.3	1.891
1981	28.2	107.5	145.2	77.6	24.5	4.5	0.3	1.935
1982	27.4	103.9	144.9	80.6	25.6	4.5	0.3	1.929
1983	26.6	102.7	145.9	81.5	25.0	4.3	0.2	1.924
1984	23.2	94.3	140.4	81.2	25.0	4.3	0.3	1.840
1985	22.8	95.8	146.0	89.0	26.9	4.5	0.2	1.923
1986	21.8	90.0	141.9	88.7	27.2	4.3	0.2	1.868
1987	20.6	85.0	139.6	90.6	28.9	4.8	0.3	1.845
1988	20.3	81.5	136.9	93.3	30.5	4.6	0.2	1.831
1989	20.6	78.4	135.4	96.1	32.6	5.0	0.2	1.838
1990	22.1	79.4	137.9	101.7	34.7	5.5	0.2	1.902
1991	22.1	75.0	132.0	100.2	36.0	5.5	0.2	1.849
1992	22.0	74.9	132.3	104.6	38.3	6.1	0.3	1.888
1993	20.9	71.3	129.8	105.4	38.9	6.3	0.2	1.859
1994	20.7	69.7	125.8	105.0	41.1	6.7	0.3	1.842
1995	20.4	67.1	121.7	106.0	42.3	7.2	0.3	1.822
1996	20.1	65.2	117.1	105.7	43.7	7.5	0.3	1.796
1997	19.8	62.8	113.7	106.5	44.8	7.5	0.3	1.778
1998	18.9	61.4	111.4	107.0	45.5	8.0	0.3	1.762
1999	18.5	60.8	108.6	108.0	46.8	8.5	0.3	1.755
2000	17.7	59.2	107.9	109.5	48.7	8.7	0.4	1.756
2001	17.7	58.0	104.4	107.9	49.0	9.2	0.4	1.729
2002	17.2	56.3	104.5	111.2	52.1	9.7	0.4	1.755
2003	16.1	54.2	102.4	112.2	54.2	10.0	0.5	1.747
2004	16.0	52.7	101.7	113.9	57.2	10.5	0.5	1.761
2005	15.8	51.9	101.8	116.8	60.2	10.8	0.5	1.789
2006	15.4	51.6	100.8	120.1	63.3	11.3	0.6	1.814

(a) Births per 1,000 women.

(c) Includes births to mothers age less than 15 years.

(b) Births per woman. From 1975 onwards, total fertility rates are calculated using single year of age of mother, and may differ from figures published prior to 2004.

(d) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

6.2 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES (a)

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust. (b)
15–19(c)	13.2	9.7	19.7	16.7	19.6	26.6	63.6	9.1	15.4
20–24	49.9	38.9	61.3	53.8	60.2	81.7	97.7	32.6	51.6
25–29	100.1	91.0	107.3	105.0	109.3	127.3	106.0	87.4	100.8
30–34	120.0	126.9	112.2	114.4	123.4	121.8	103.3	124.6	120.1
35–39	64.7	69.7	55.3	57.5	63.7	55.7	54.9	69.3	63.3
40–44	11.9	12.8	9.3	8.9	10.9	9.1	10.9	13.4	11.3
45–49(d)	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6
Total fertility rate(e)	1.800	1.745	1.831	1.788	1.941	2.123	2.187	1.684	1.814

(a) Births per 1,000 women.

(d) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

(e) Births per woman.

(c) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

6.3 CONTRIBUTION OF AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES TO TOTAL FERTILITY RATE

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust. (a)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
15–19(b)	3.7	2.8	5.4	4.7	5.1	6.3	14.5	2.7	4.2
20–24	13.8	11.2	16.7	15.1	15.5	19.2	22.3	9.7	14.2
25–29	27.8	26.1	29.3	29.4	28.2	30.0	24.2	26.0	27.8
30–34	33.3	36.4	30.6	32.0	31.8	28.7	23.6	37.0	33.1
35–39	18.0	20.0	15.1	16.1	16.4	13.1	12.6	20.6	17.4
40–44	3.3	3.7	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.1	2.5	4.0	3.1
45–49(c)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Total fertility rate(d)	1.800	1.745	1.831	1.788	1.941	2.123	2.187	1.684	1.814

(a) Includes Other Territories.

(c) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(b) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(d) Births per woman.

6.4 TOTAL FERTILITY RATES (a)

<i>Selected years</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust. (b)</i>
1986	1.911	1.772	1.912	1.761	1.976	1.924	2.203	1.745	1.868
1991	1.867	1.808	1.873	1.723	1.904	1.903	2.256	1.867	1.849
1996	1.825	1.705	1.851	1.757	1.812	1.894	2.194	1.668	1.796
2001	1.762	1.610	1.795	1.677	1.726	2.079	2.297	1.519	1.729
2002	1.798	1.680	1.781	1.722	1.699	1.971	2.257	1.579	1.755
2003	1.789	1.661	1.769	1.706	1.742	1.885	2.317	1.579	1.747
2004	1.782	1.691	1.798	1.682	1.808	1.905	2.157	1.599	1.761
2005	1.792	1.708	1.829	1.756	1.861	2.068	2.183	1.597	1.789
2006	1.800	1.745	1.831	1.788	1.941	2.123	2.187	1.684	1.814

(a) Births per woman.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

6.5 NET REPRODUCTION RATES (a)

<i>Selected years</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust. (b)</i>
1986	0.912	0.849	0.911	0.861	0.945	0.908	1.028	0.834	0.894
1991	0.894	0.866	0.902	0.818	0.919	0.933	1.086	0.897	0.887
1996	0.878	0.815	0.887	0.852	0.864	0.901	1.025	0.808	0.861
2001	0.846	0.779	0.867	0.820	0.831	0.976	1.073	0.743	0.833
2002	0.868	0.807	0.859	0.830	0.818	0.971	1.059	0.772	0.846
2003	0.857	0.802	0.850	0.815	0.839	0.895	1.081	0.758	0.839
2004	0.853	0.818	0.868	0.811	0.872	0.903	1.034	0.761	0.847
2005	0.858	0.823	0.871	0.845	0.887	0.997	1.019	0.774	0.857
2006	0.859	0.837	0.875	0.858	0.943	1.008	1.056	0.809	0.869

(a) Daughters surviving to reproductive age per woman.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

Based on annual life tables calculated by the ABS.

See Glossary for more information.

6.6 REGIONAL PATTERNS OF FERTILITY(a)

	Births(b)	Total fertility rate(c)	Median age of mother(d)	NUPTIALITY	
				Nuptial	Exnuptial
				no.	rate	years	%	%
New South Wales					
Sydney	58 475	1.73	31.3	77.3	22.7
Balance of state					
Hunter	7 024	1.81	29.7	61.5	38.5
Illawarra	4 541	1.83	30.1	66.6	33.4
Richmond-Tweed	2 371	1.85	30.2	52.2	47.8
Mid-North Coast	2 804	1.96	29.3	52.3	47.7
Northern	2 245	2.06	28.6	56.7	43.3
North Western	1 487	2.13	28.6	54.0	46.0
Central West	2 161	2.05	29.1	60.7	39.3
South Eastern	2 320	1.97	30.1	61.6	38.4
Murrumbidgee	1 962	2.07	29.2	64.2	35.8
Murray	1 377	2.03	29.5	61.3	38.7
Far West	255	2.02	27.9	43.1	56.9
Total	28 547	1.92	29.6	59.8	40.2
Total(e)	87 336	1.79	30.8	71.6	28.4
Victoria					
Melbourne	49 178	1.65	31.8	75.8	24.2
Balance of state					
Barwon	3 090	1.82	30.9	67.9	32.1
Western District	1 153	2.00	30.2	64.6	35.4
Central Highlands	1 775	1.84	30.4	62.5	37.5
Wimmera	519	2.07	29.6	64.5	35.5
Mallee	1 095	2.06	29.1	60.1	39.9
Loddon	2 014	1.95	30.6	61.0	39.0
Goulburn	2 508	2.10	30.1	63.9	36.1
Ovens-Murray	1 146	1.98	30.3	64.5	35.5
East Gippsland	897	2.09	29.4	58.8	41.2
Gippsland	1 795	1.93	29.6	59.6	40.4
Total	15 992	1.95	30.2	63.2	36.8
Total(e)	65 236	1.71	31.4	72.7	27.3
Queensland					
Brisbane	24 359	1.75	30.5	65.3	34.7
Balance of state					
Gold Coast	6 150	1.63	30.3	59.8	40.2
Sunshine Coast	3 208	1.83	30.6	60.3	39.7
West Moreton	817	2.07	29.0	60.5	39.5
Wide Bay-Burnett	2 911	2.09	28.1	52.7	47.3
Darling Downs	2 995	2.08	28.8	65.8	34.2
South West	432	2.21	28.9	56.3	43.8
Fitzroy	2 753	2.01	28.4	58.9	41.1
Central West	152	1.82	29.3	61.8	38.2
Mackay	2 123	1.96	28.8	56.9	43.1
Northern	2 839	1.79	28.7	56.0	44.0
Far North	3 281	1.94	29.4	50.3	49.7
North West	589	2.25	27.8	46.7	53.3
Total	28 250	1.88	29.3	57.7	42.3
Total(e)	52 665	1.81	29.9	61.2	38.8

- (a) Based on 2006 Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) boundaries.
 (b) Births registered in 2006.
 (c) Births per women. Average total fertility rate for 2004, 2005 and 2006.
 (d) Average for 2004, 2005 and 2006.
 (e) Includes place of usual residence undefined, overseas and no fixed abode.

6.6REGIONAL PATTERNS OF FERTILITY (a) *continued*

	Births(b)	Total fertility rate(c)	Median age of mother(d)	NUPTIALITY	
				Nuptial	Exnuptial
				no.	rate	years	%	%
.....					
South Australia					
Adelaide	13 258	1.64	30.8	65.2	34.8
Balance of state					
Outer Adelaide	1 394	1.94	30.8	67.6	32.4
Yorke and Lower North	455	2.24	29.0	59.8	40.2
Murray Lands	834	2.19	28.4	56.7	43.3
South East	864	2.12	28.9	62.5	37.5
Eyre	431	2.19	28.6	58.9	41.1
Northern	1 016	2.15	27.8	42.8	57.2
Total	4 994	2.10	29.1	58.4	41.6
<i>Total(e)</i>	18 260	1.73	30.4	63.4	36.6
Western Australia					
Perth	20 102	1.77	30.7	66.9	33.1
Balance of state					
South West	2 746	2.11	29.4	56.1	43.9
Lower Great Southern	740	2.34	29.0	55.7	44.3
Upper Great Southern	260	2.45	28.9	61.5	38.5
Midlands	679	2.32	29.5	56.4	43.6
South Eastern	947	2.23	28.7	48.0	52.0
Central	863	2.18	28.7	46.8	53.2
Pilbara	845	2.27	29.0	50.7	49.3
Kimberley	530	2.02	27.7	27.7	72.3
Total	7 610	2.18	29.0	51.6	48.4
<i>Total(e)</i>	27 776	1.86	30.3	62.6	37.4
Tasmania (f)					
Greater Hobart	2 742	1.95	29.8	51.4	48.6
Balance of state					
Southern	487	2.37	29.4	45.6	54.4
Northern	1 794	1.98	29.2	53.4	46.6
Mersey-Lyell	1 442	2.13	28.2	48.1	51.9
Total	3 723	2.07	28.8	50.3	49.7
<i>Total(e)</i>	6 475	2.02	29.2	50.8	49.2
Northern Territory					
Darwin	1 878	2.05	29.6	49.2	50.8
Balance of state					
Northern Territory - Bal	1 814	2.25	26.1	20.9	79.1
<i>Total(e)</i>	3 696	2.17	28.0	35.3	64.7
Australian Capital Territory					
Canberra	4 471	1.62	31.5	72.8	27.2
<i>Total(e) (g)</i>	4 479	1.62	31.5	72.8	27.2
Australia(h)	265 949	1.78	30.7	67.3	32.7

- (a) Based on 2006 Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) boundaries.
- (b) Births registered in 2006.
- (c) Births per women. Average total fertility rate for 2004, 2005 and 2006.
- (d) Average for 2004, 2005 and 2006.
- (e) Includes place of usual residence undefined, overseas and no fixed abode.
- (f) For Tasmania, some characteristics of births are not collected for the birth notification. See paragraphs 4–6 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.
- (g) Includes Australian Capital Territory - Bal.
- (h) Includes Other Territories.

6.7 FERTILITY, Selected countries of birth

Country of birth of mother	Average births(a)	Estimated resident female population(b)	AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATE(c)							Total fertility rate(d)
			15-19 years(e)	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years	45-49 years(f)	
no.	no.	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	
Oceania and Antarctica										
Australia	197 452	3 815 367	16.3	52.9	104.2	117.0	59.4	10.0	0.5	1.80
Fiji	1 094	21 080	16.0	62.8	108.8	96.1	46.8	10.7	0.6	1.71
New Zealand	7 376	139 378	27.5	66.5	98.7	101.6	59.3	11.6	0.8	1.83
Papua New Guinea	738	10 754	22.9	64.6	104.7	135.5	71.0	15.1	1.0	2.07
Other	1 383	13 319	40.0	144.1	214.9	191.1	124.1	34.9	2.4	3.76
<i>Total</i>	<i>208 043</i>	<i>3 999 898</i>	<i>16.5</i>	<i>53.6</i>	<i>104.3</i>	<i>116.6</i>	<i>59.7</i>	<i>10.2</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>1.81</i>
North-West Europe										
Austria	93	2 185	9.3	45.3	83.3	96.5	72.9	11.9	—	1.60
Denmark	121	2 234	—	38.0	96.5	135.8	70.1	18.6	0.8	1.80
France	299	5 098	8.6	36.6	117.7	154.3	64.5	12.5	0.4	1.97
Germany	748	15 166	9.8	47.4	83.4	129.8	79.1	16.6	0.9	1.83
Ireland	596	12 775	4.4	20.3	48.6	99.3	86.6	15.4	1.2	1.38
Netherlands	422	8 206	7.7	50.7	121.1	151.5	81.7	12.0	0.7	2.13
Switzerland	152	3 048	3.5	25.4	90.3	129.5	78.7	15.1	2.8	1.73
United Kingdom	8 987	222 120	9.7	46.1	94.1	122.8	65.7	11.8	0.5	1.75
Other	360	7 045	3.8	36.2	61.1	125.1	81.8	16.2	0.3	1.62
<i>Total</i>	<i>11 779</i>	<i>277 877</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>43.9</i>	<i>89.2</i>	<i>123.2</i>	<i>68.3</i>	<i>12.4</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>1.73</i>
Southern and Eastern Europe										
Bosnia and Herzegovina	392	8 917	6.9	67.5	142.0	109.7	47.3	4.3	0.2	1.89
Croatia	311	9 372	7.2	44.5	142.9	105.6	51.7	8.6	0.5	1.81
Cyprus	127	3 792	27.2	24.8	121.1	105.5	53.4	7.7	—	1.70
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	435	11 185	24.9	81.2	136.4	88.9	31.3	4.7	0.8	1.84
Greece	223	10 600	4.0	36.4	82.1	89.6	44.1	8.6	0.3	1.33
Hungary	99	2 368	—	44.2	70.0	108.7	63.1	9.6	0.5	1.48
Italy	365	15 647	5.3	21.6	88.1	133.5	56.2	10.4	0.5	1.58
Malta	108	4 448	15.6	60.4	117.4	114.6	52.7	6.6	0.2	1.84
Poland	427	11 391	3.1	32.0	74.1	110.8	49.8	11.1	0.1	1.41
Portugal	163	4 400	24.2	42.4	102.0	109.9	32.7	8.9	0.3	1.60
Romania	228	4 594	7.8	66.4	106.4	91.0	52.3	10.3	0.4	1.67
Russian Federation	296	6 633	2.7	38.7	82.1	94.3	48.6	15.7	1.2	1.42
Spain	129	2 801	28.4	33.3	64.9	105.2	76.4	18.2	0.5	1.63
Serbia and Montenegro	365	14 728	5.4	32.9	64.6	66.2	32.5	6.6	0.4	1.04
Other	572	9 920	8.2	60.9	108.2	116.9	57.7	13.5	0.8	1.83
<i>Total</i>	<i>4 239</i>	<i>120 796</i>	<i>8.2</i>	<i>49.0</i>	<i>98.2</i>	<i>101.5</i>	<i>46.9</i>	<i>9.0</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>1.57</i>
North Africa and the Middle East										
Egypt	300	6 233	10.5	68.4	165.5	127.8	63.8	12.9	0.2	2.25
Iran	316	7 350	3.2	30.8	89.0	106.1	64.5	12.9	0.6	1.54
Israel	163	2 052	1.9	37.2	140.5	161.0	104.8	19.0	—	2.32
Lebanon	2 162	25 643	88.7	190.2	206.8	138.4	68.4	14.9	1.0	3.54
Syria	246	2 777	57.4	195.8	199.3	136.9	71.0	15.7	0.7	3.38
Turkey	682	11 828	26.4	124.5	137.5	96.1	45.2	10.2	0.8	2.20
Other	2 453	24 068	24.5	118.0	196.4	178.5	105.1	26.0	2.4	3.25
<i>Total</i>	<i>6 323</i>	<i>79 951</i>	<i>31.2</i>	<i>125.5</i>	<i>177.9</i>	<i>140.3</i>	<i>72.5</i>	<i>16.2</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>2.82</i>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Average for 2004, 2005 and 2006.

(b) Estimated resident female population aged 15–49 years, at 30 June 2005.

(c) Births per 1,000 women. Calculated using the average number of births for 2004, 2005 and 2006, and the 30 June 2005 estimated resident population.

(d) Births per woman.

(e) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(f) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

6.7 FERTILITY, Selected countries of birth *continued*

Country of birth of mother	Average births(a)	Estimated resident female population(b)	AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATE(c)							Total fertility rate(d)
			15-19 years(e)	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years	45-49 years(f)	
no.	no.	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	
South-East Asia										
Cambodia	715	10 278	23.0	101.4	145.3	117.4	55.2	16.9	0.8	2.30
Indonesia	1 179	24 866	3.8	18.1	73.2	105.9	57.2	13.5	0.5	1.36
Laos	216	3 845	44.0	70.8	117.9	104.1	51.8	10.2	0.5	2.00
Malaysia	1 191	33 726	4.1	12.2	40.7	110.8	65.4	11.7	0.5	1.23
Philippines	2 586	56 049	11.8	56.1	103.4	106.2	60.1	14.2	0.8	1.76
Singapore	507	15 889	2.4	10.1	29.9	89.1	58.8	11.7	0.9	1.01
Thailand	789	16 283	27.9	57.9	70.4	82.6	54.3	11.3	0.9	1.53
Viet Nam	4 329	66 768	15.1	69.8	115.9	119.8	65.8	13.8	1.0	2.01
Other	415	7 731	7.3	43.6	96.0	113.5	77.8	16.9	—	1.78
Total	11 927	235 435	11.1	44.1	84.9	109.2	62.1	13.5	0.8	1.63
North-East Asia										
China	3 102	65 613	2.8	27.1	94.4	108.1	71.5	16.0	0.8	1.60
Hong Kong	420	26 671	1.1	3.6	16.9	57.9	44.3	6.5	0.3	0.65
Japan	856	13 911	1.9	19.7	73.6	108.8	80.8	21.0	1.8	1.54
Korea, Republic of	845	18 275	2.6	13.0	79.3	117.4	58.7	8.8	—	1.40
Other	315	12 421	1.2	6.0	32.8	83.4	48.1	8.0	0.2	0.90
Total	5 538	136 891	2.2	15.0	61.5	101.2	66.6	13.7	0.6	1.30
Southern and Central Asia										
India	2 399	40 222	3.0	56.8	127.9	108.5	43.5	7.4	0.3	1.74
Pakistan	595	5 567	11.5	125.7	207.8	168.8	85.0	17.2	—	3.08
Sri Lanka	968	19 818	3.0	24.9	101.6	137.4	66.1	10.9	0.9	1.72
Other	1 126	12 351	13.1	110.2	180.0	153.6	72.9	15.7	0.3	2.73
Total	5 087	77 958	6.5	68.9	138.5	125.9	56.2	10.1	0.5	2.03
Americas										
Argentina	219	3 644	8.3	33.5	94.9	126.2	71.4	15.7	—	1.75
Canada	711	10 856	5.1	36.4	101.9	145.2	96.1	20.2	1.8	2.03
Caribbean	63	956	13.9	57.8	128.2	173.6	109.4	19.2	—	2.51
Central America	276	5 059	14.5	52.9	99.5	119.7	65.1	11.5	1.3	1.82
Chile	399	7 769	12.7	44.4	116.5	111.0	61.6	10.3	0.2	1.78
United States of America	1 057	17 963	6.9	40.0	100.5	143.0	98.0	23.1	1.0	2.06
Uruguay	133	2 423	15.9	64.0	109.9	127.9	62.0	10.6	—	1.95
Other	487	8 766	11.8	39.6	74.3	117.4	80.4	19.9	2.3	1.73
Total	3 346	57 436	9.1	42.1	97.5	131.3	83.7	18.4	1.1	1.92
Sub-Saharan Africa										
Kenya	116	2 770	2.0	17.4	55.7	122.4	81.5	13.3	1.2	1.47
Mauritius	182	5 043	7.8	46.6	70.8	108.9	58.6	12.0	0.3	1.52
South Africa	1 676	34 301	4.6	24.1	90.8	134.8	63.1	11.1	0.5	1.65
Zimbabwe	305	6 431	3.5	29.3	110.5	139.4	53.1	10.8	0.3	1.73
Other	1 246	13 539	23.4	81.5	165.4	183.5	109.0	23.7	2.5	2.94
Total	3 525	62 084	9.0	40.1	107.9	145.4	72.0	13.6	0.8	1.94
Total overseas-born	62 355	1 232 959	13.5	53.4	99.2	116.7	64.9	12.9	0.7	1.81
Total	259 995	5 048 326	16.0	53.1	103.1	117.0	61.0	10.9	0.5	1.81

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Average for 2004, 2005 and 2006.

(b) Estimated resident female population aged 15-49 years, at 30 June 2005.

(c) Births per 1,000 women. Calculated using the average number of births for 2004, 2005 and 2006, and the 30 June 2005 estimated resident population.

(d) Births per woman.

(e) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(f) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

6.8 COMPLETED FERTILITY(a), Year of birth of women

Year of birth	Average issue no.	Proportion based on projected births(b)		Median age years
			%	
1911	2.4	—	—	28.9
1916	2.5	—	—	28.7
1921	2.6	—	—	28.0
1926	2.8	—	—	27.5
1931	3.0	—	—	26.8
1936	3.0	—	—	25.8
1941	2.7	—	—	25.7
1946	2.4	—	—	25.6
1951	2.3	—	—	26.0
1956	2.2	—	—	27.0
1961	2.1	0.1	—	28.1
1966	2.0	2.1	—	28.9
1971	2.0	16.3	—	29.9
1976	2.0	47.3	—	30.6
1981	2.0	77.2	—	31.2
1986	1.9	93.6	—	31.7
1991	1.8	99.9	—	32.1
1996	1.7	100.0	—	32.4
2001	1.7	100.0	—	32.4
2006	1.7	100.0	—	32.4

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

- (a) Based on age-specific fertility rates derived from birth registrations. Women who have not yet completed their fertility are assumed to experience a total fertility rate declining to 1.7 babies per woman by 2018, and then remaining constant (medium fertility assumption).
- (b) Proportion of the estimated average derived from projected fertility. For further information on the assumptions used for projected fertility, see *Population Projections, Australia, 2004 to 2101* (cat. no. 3222.0).

CHAPTER **7**

BIRTHS TABLES

7.1**BIRTHS REGISTERED, Nuptiality**

<i>Selected years</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas. (a)</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust. (b)</i>
.....									
NUPTIAL									
1986	70 202	52 767	32 448	16 290	19 755	5 753	1 671	3 572	202 458
1991	67 940	53 217	32 498	14 877	18 995	4 977	1 686	3 834	198 024
1996	64 595	47 933	32 191	13 328	17 128	4 242	1 504	3 288	184 266
2001	61 131	43 604	30 784	11 475	15 700	3 675	1 405	2 870	170 675
2002	62 321	45 353	30 294	11 595	15 325	3 192	1 414	3 011	172 550
2003	62 316	44 796	30 370	11 357	15 511	3 105	1 370	3 001	171 853
2004	61 399	45 708	31 044	11 042	15 868	3 118	1 267	3 013	172 481
2005	62 464	46 140	31 922	11 278	16 600	3 249	1 344	3 058	176 078
2006	62 558	47 405	32 228	11 571	17 383	3 288	1 306	3 261	179 019
.....									
TOTAL EXNUPTIAL									
1986	14 329	7 395	7 923	3 451	4 481	1 197	1 644	530	40 950
1991	19 427	12 221	11 662	4 763	6 422	1 893	1 913	922	59 223
1996	22 000	13 210	15 578	5 728	7 665	2 215	2 058	1 108	69 568
2001	23 447	15 022	16 894	5 806	8 302	2 755	2 417	1 068	75 719
2002	24 262	16 125	17 477	6 070	8 276	2 811	2 310	1 101	78 438
2003	24 028	16 262	17 972	6 086	8 762	2 647	2 420	1 127	79 308
2004	24 495	16 709	18 896	6 098	9 427	2 691	2 284	1 161	81 765
2005	24 125	17 147	19 739	6 522	9 653	3 059	2 315	1 148	83 713
2006	24 778	17 831	20 437	6 689	10 393	3 187	2 390	1 218	86 930
.....									
EXNUPTIAL PATERNITY ACKNOWLEDGED									
1986	10 723	5 075	5 195	2 509	3 048	823	1 154	366	28 893
1991	15 709	10 043	8 894	3 845	5 094	1 531	1 264	684	47 064
1996	18 545	11 367	13 032	4 960	6 473	1 941	1 292	934	58 549
2001	20 449	13 781	14 692	5 249	7 407	2 544	1 530	880	66 539
2002	21 227	14 863	15 214	5 457	7 477	2 344	1 490	971	69 048
2003	21 074	15 114	15 555	5 530	7 836	2 258	1 543	1 038	69 952
2004	21 612	15 520	16 939	5 543	8 457	2 297	1 484	1 059	72 915
2005	21 636	16 023	17 932	5 924	8 687	2 554	1 551	1 041	75 353
2006	22 253	16 781	18 714	6 045	9 478	2 553	1 595	1 125	78 550
.....									
EXNUPTIAL PATERNITY NOT ACKNOWLEDGED									
1986	3 606	2 320	2 728	942	1 433	374	490	164	12 057
1991	3 718	2 178	2 768	918	1 328	362	649	238	12 159
1996	3 455	1 843	2 546	768	1 192	274	766	174	11 019
2001	2 998	1 241	2 202	557	895	211	887	188	9 180
2002	3 035	1 262	2 263	613	799	467	820	130	9 390
2003	2 954	1 148	2 417	556	926	389	877	89	9 356
2004	2 883	1 189	1 957	555	970	394	800	102	8 850
2005	2 489	1 124	1 807	598	966	505	764	107	8 360
2006	2 525	1 050	1 723	644	915	634	795	93	8 380

(a) For Tasmania, some characteristics of births are not collected for the birth notification. See paragraphs 4–6 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

7.2**BIRTHS REGISTERED, Sex of child**

<i>Selected years</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust. (a)</i>
MALES									
1986	43 458	30 855	20 782	9 930	12 448	3 615	1 711	2 115	124 914
1991	44 942	33 636	22 564	10 175	12 959	3 454	1 799	2 436	131 965
1996	44 448	31 587	24 533	9 710	12 813	3 346	1 861	2 241	130 572
2001	43 529	29 943	24 377	8 730	12 329	3 376	1 997	1 995	126 298
2002	44 369	31 605	24 454	9 051	12 102	3 018	1 919	2 082	128 623
2003	44 531	31 257	24 847	9 001	12 447	2 982	1 988	2 128	129 193
2004	44 339	31 925	25 586	8 793	12 968	3 022	1 801	2 156	130 600
2005	44 542	32 309	26 702	9 092	13 525	3 230	1 889	2 127	133 428
2006	45 099	33 536	27 128	9 369	14 042	3 349	1 855	2 299	136 692
FEMALES									
1986	41 073	29 307	19 589	9 811	11 788	3 335	1 604	1 987	118 494
1991	42 425	31 802	21 596	9 465	12 458	3 416	1 800	2 320	125 282
1996	42 147	29 556	23 236	9 346	11 980	3 111	1 701	2 155	123 262
2001	41 049	28 683	23 301	8 551	11 673	3 054	1 825	1 943	120 096
2002	42 214	29 873	23 317	8 614	11 499	2 985	1 805	2 030	122 365
2003	41 813	29 801	23 495	8 442	11 826	2 770	1 802	2 000	121 968
2004	41 555	30 492	24 354	8 347	12 327	2 787	1 750	2 018	123 646
2005	42 047	30 978	24 959	8 708	12 728	3 078	1 770	2 079	126 363
2006	42 237	31 700	25 537	8 891	13 734	3 126	1 841	2 180	129 257
PERSONS									
1986	84 531	60 162	40 371	19 741	24 236	6 950	3 315	4 102	243 408
1991	87 367	65 438	44 160	19 640	25 417	6 870	3 599	4 756	257 247
1996	86 595	61 143	47 769	19 056	24 793	6 457	3 562	4 396	253 834
2001	84 578	58 626	47 678	17 281	24 002	6 430	3 822	3 938	246 394
2002	86 583	61 478	47 771	17 665	23 601	6 003	3 724	4 112	250 988
2003	86 344	61 058	48 342	17 443	24 273	5 752	3 790	4 128	251 161
2004	85 894	62 417	49 940	17 140	25 295	5 809	3 551	4 174	254 246
2005	86 589	63 287	51 661	17 800	26 253	6 308	3 659	4 206	259 791
2006	87 336	65 236	52 665	18 260	27 776	6 475	3 696	4 479	265 949

(a) Includes Other Territories.

7.3 BIRTHS REGISTERED, Nuptiality and age of parents

Age of parent (years)	MOTHER				FATHER		
	Nuptial	Exnuptial, paternity acknowledged	Exnuptial, paternity not acknowledged	Total	Nuptial	Exnuptial, paternity acknowledged	Total
15 and under	—	212	130	342	np	np	58
16	5	678	181	864	np	np	155
17	33	1 461	326	1 820	np	np	495
18	178	2 355	432	2 965	26	933	959
19	538	3 480	543	4 561	116	1 686	1 802
20	1 016	3 894	503	5 413	252	2 318	2 570
21	1 673	4 209	469	6 351	452	2 899	3 351
22	2 490	4 409	419	7 318	920	3 262	4 182
23	3 627	4 454	408	8 489	1 479	3 610	5 089
24	4 909	4 273	398	9 580	2 332	3 821	6 153
25	6 476	4 264	370	11 110	3 280	4 001	7 281
26	8 148	3 980	339	12 467	4 849	3 938	8 787
27	9 833	3 890	305	14 028	6 337	4 001	10 338
28	11 479	3 773	313	15 565	8 203	3 982	12 185
29	13 115	3 671	268	17 054	9 912	3 953	13 865
30	13 920	3 557	252	17 729	11 558	3 813	15 371
31	14 848	3 435	276	18 559	13 332	3 889	17 221
32	14 919	3 410	278	18 607	13 593	3 854	17 447
33	14 497	3 250	246	17 993	14 105	3 737	17 842
34	13 582	3 174	239	16 995	14 117	3 550	17 667
35	11 883	2 902	236	15 021	12 966	3 208	16 174
36	9 264	2 418	211	11 893	11 327	2 691	14 018
37	7 174	2 019	200	9 393	9 646	2 404	12 050
38	5 245	1 626	146	7 017	7 987	2 009	9 996
39	3 791	1 262	128	5 181	6 626	1 795	8 421
40	2 550	939	89	3 578	5 240	1 460	6 700
41	1 667	606	67	2 340	4 332	1 332	5 664
42	1 032	447	50	1 529	3 543	1 080	4 623
43	556	237	25	818	2 846	966	3 812
44	279	124	11	414	2 289	714	3 003
45	119	67	8	194	1 636	589	2 225
46	78	32	6	116	1 269	456	1 725
47	33	14	4	51	969	325	1 294
48	23	np	np	35	705	277	982
49	14	np	np	20	567	217	784
50	np	np	—	8	420	194	614
51	np	—	—	np	369	169	538
52	np	np	—	4	268	129	397
53	np	np	—	3	217	102	319
54	np	—	—	np	179	74	253
55–59	np	np	—	3	474	202	676
60 and over	—	—	—	—	243	95	338
Not stated	9	7	501	517	33	112	145
Total	179 019	78 550	8 380	265 949	179 019	78 550	257 569

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

7.4

BIRTHS REGISTERED, Month of birth

	1986	1991	1996	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
January	19 987	21 572	20 909	20 228	21 185	20 649	21 427	20 973	21 933
February	18 906	19 930	20 381	19 350	19 678	19 229	20 042	20 074	20 278
March	21 097	22 262	21 695	21 706	21 457	21 145	22 221	23 113	22 363
April	20 433	21 796	20 570	20 299	20 463	20 323	21 359	22 060	21 743
May	20 542	22 038	21 598	20 995	21 100	21 119	20 972	22 297	22 600
June	19 706	21 164	20 600	20 275	20 053	20 978	19 721	21 820	21 721
July	20 796	21 895	21 602	20 867	21 277	21 638	22 448	22 166	23 367
August	20 558	21 770	21 538	21 548	21 080	21 404	21 349	22 297	23 477
September	20 769	21 525	21 626	21 393	21 422	21 917	21 899	22 644	23 651
October	21 186	21 940	21 805	21 263	21 853	22 284	21 610	22 195	23 037
November	19 307	19 896	20 444	19 580	20 430	19 778	20 674	20 134	20 622
December	20 121	21 459	21 066	18 890	20 990	20 697	20 524	20 018	21 157
Total	243 408	257 247	253 834	246 394	250 988	251 161	254 246	259 791	265 949

CHAPTER **8**

CONFINEMENTS TABLES

8.1

CONFINEMENTS, Age of parents

Age of parent (years)	MOTHER				FATHER		
	<i>Nuptial</i>	<i>Exnuptial, paternity acknowledged</i>	<i>Exnuptial, paternity not acknowledged</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Nuptial</i>	<i>Exnuptial, paternity acknowledged</i>	<i>Total</i>
15 and under	—	211	130	341	np	np	58
16	5	671	180	856	np	np	152
17	33	1 456	325	1 814	np	np	489
18	177	2 337	429	2 943	26	925	951
19	535	3 449	536	4 520	116	1 669	1 785
20	1 010	3 857	497	5 364	250	2 302	2 552
21	1 659	4 174	466	6 299	450	2 875	3 325
22	2 471	4 374	417	7 262	913	3 227	4 140
23	3 592	4 419	403	8 414	1 469	3 582	5 051
24	4 845	4 238	389	9 472	2 308	3 781	6 089
25	6 394	4 215	369	10 978	3 246	3 963	7 209
26	8 047	3 931	332	12 310	4 797	3 898	8 695
27	9 703	3 840	300	13 843	6 241	3 943	10 184
28	11 317	3 707	310	15 334	8 081	3 933	12 014
29	12 918	3 619	261	16 798	9 777	3 906	13 683
30	13 706	3 492	244	17 442	11 386	3 771	15 157
31	14 589	3 377	273	18 239	13 100	3 822	16 922
32	14 625	3 354	272	18 251	13 357	3 793	17 150
33	14 234	3 188	238	17 660	13 881	3 679	17 560
34	13 273	3 115	231	16 619	13 884	3 479	17 363
35	11 615	2 843	226	14 684	12 716	3 153	15 869
36	9 065	2 358	207	11 630	11 113	2 646	13 759
37	7 013	1 970	196	9 179	9 454	2 356	11 810
38	5 098	1 594	143	6 835	7 785	1 971	9 756
39	3 700	1 234	126	5 060	6 460	1 762	8 222
40	2 487	919	84	3 490	5 131	1 436	6 567
41	1 618	602	65	2 285	4 228	1 309	5 537
42	1 005	439	49	1 493	3 475	1 057	4 532
43	544	235	24	803	2 783	953	3 736
44	273	121	11	405	2 222	701	2 923
45	116	65	8	189	1 600	575	2 175
46	73	30	5	108	1 234	449	1 683
47	30	12	3	45	938	321	1 259
48	21	np	np	31	697	271	968
49	11	np	np	16	552	210	762
50	np	np	—	8	410	190	600
51	np	—	—	np	357	163	520
52	np	np	—	4	266	125	391
53	np	np	—	3	214	101	315
54	np	—	—	np	177	73	250
55–59	np	np	—	3	461	201	662
60 and over	—	—	—	—	238	93	331
Not stated	9	7	500	516	30	112	142
Total	175 827	77 471	8 252	261 550	175 827	77 471	253 298

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

8.2 CONFINEMENTS, Age of mother

<i>Age group (years)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas. (a)</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust. (b)</i>
19 and under	2 923	1 642	2 706	840	1 379	404	469	107	10 474
20–24	11 458	6 989	8 815	2 830	4 297	1 156	797	464	36 811
25–29	23 071	15 851	14 395	4 931	7 288	1 617	926	1 178	69 263
30–34	29 649	23 654	16 192	5 737	8 768	1 700	905	1 599	88 211
35–39	15 821	13 361	8 144	3 110	4 775	849	458	867	47 388
40–44	2 937	2 405	1 393	509	837	149	84	161	8 476
45 and over	145	107	77	26	40	6	3	7	411
Total (c)	86 007	64 017	51 725	17 992	27 391	6 367	3 642	4 383	261 550

(a) For Tasmania, some characteristics of births are not collected for the birth notification. See paragraphs 4–6 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

(c) Includes age of mother not stated.

8.3 CONFINEMENTS, Median age of parents—Selected years

<i>Selected years</i>	<i>MOTHER</i>				<i>FATHER</i>		
	<i>Nuptial</i>	<i>Exnuptial, paternity acknowledged</i>	<i>Exnuptial, paternity not acknowledged</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Nuptial</i>	<i>Exnuptial, paternity acknowledged</i>	<i>Total</i>
1986	28.0	23.8	22.1	27.5	30.6	26.6	30.2
1991	29.3	24.5	22.6	28.5	31.6	27.3	31.0
1996	30.2	25.3	23.6	29.2	32.7	27.9	31.9
2001	31.0	26.5	24.4	30.0	33.2	29.0	32.3
2002	31.2	26.7	24.8	30.2	33.3	29.3	32.5
2003	31.4	26.9	24.8	30.5	33.5	29.6	32.6
2004	31.6	27.1	25.0	30.6	33.6	29.7	32.8
2005	31.7	27.2	25.1	30.7	33.7	29.8	32.9
2006	31.8	27.4	25.3	30.8	33.9	30.0	33.1

8.4 CONFINEMENTS, Median age of parents—States and territories

State/territory	MOTHER				FATHER		
	Nuptial	Exnuptial, paternity acknowledged	Exnuptial, paternity not acknowledged	Total	Nuptial	Exnuptial, paternity acknowledged	Total
New South Wales	31.7	27.7	26.1	31.0	33.9	30.3	33.3
Victoria	32.3	28.9	26.9	31.7	34.2	31.3	33.7
Queensland	31.4	26.5	24.7	30.0	33.4	29.1	32.2
South Australia	31.5	26.8	24.6	30.3	33.7	29.8	32.7
Western Australia	31.8	26.8	24.6	30.4	34.1	29.5	32.9
Tasmania(a)	31.3	25.7	25.1	29.3	33.2	28.4	31.6
Northern Territory	31.6	26.1	23.7	28.1	34.0	28.9	31.6
Australian Capital Territory	31.9	28.4	25.8	31.4	33.7	30.7	33.2
Australia(b)	31.8	27.4	25.3	30.8	33.9	30.0	33.1

(a) For Tasmania, some characteristics of births are not collected for the birth notification. See paragraphs 4–6 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

8.5 CONFINEMENTS, Median age of mother—States and territories

Selected years	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.(a)	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
1986	27.6	28.0	27.0	27.2	27.3	26.6	25.7	28.5	27.5
1991	28.6	28.9	28.0	28.3	28.3	27.7	26.7	28.9	28.5
1996	29.3	29.9	28.5	29.4	28.9	28.3	27.1	29.6	29.2
2001	30.0	30.7	29.3	30.3	29.8	29.1	27.9	30.4	30.0
2002	30.3	31.0	29.5	30.4	29.9	28.9	28.1	30.7	30.2
2003	30.5	31.2	29.7	30.6	30.2	29.3	28.2	31.0	30.5
2004	30.6	31.3	29.8	30.8	30.2	29.2	28.3	31.6	30.6
2005	30.9	31.5	29.9	30.1	30.4	29.4	27.9	31.4	30.7
2006	31.0	31.7	30.0	30.3	30.4	29.3	28.1	31.4	30.8

(a) For Tasmania, some characteristics of births are not collected for the birth notification. See paragraphs 4–6 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

8.6 NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS, Age of mother

Age of mother (years)	1986	1991	1996	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
15 and under	6	5	3	np	3	np	—	4	—
16	93	46	17	12	8	np	7	9	5
17	408	251	68	46	39	31	26	24	33
18	1 193	710	300	234	214	213	232	183	177
19	2 350	1 581	840	700	666	594	561	556	535
20	4 017	2 835	1 537	1 204	1 082	1 026	986	1 027	1 010
21	5 963	4 255	2 532	1 889	1 794	1 784	1 660	1 568	1 659
22	8 697	5 943	3 841	2 802	2 591	2 597	2 416	2 416	2 471
23	11 278	7 949	5 605	3 975	3 812	3 571	3 517	3 536	3 592
24	14 072	9 847	8 022	5 242	5 030	4 882	4 682	4 774	4 845
25	16 102	12 174	10 121	6 932	6 447	6 339	6 359	6 245	6 394
26	17 561	14 350	11 864	8 706	8 450	8 224	7 900	7 938	8 047
27	17 624	16 195	13 485	10 603	10 402	9 729	9 457	9 682	9 703
28	17 098	17 250	14 390	12 544	12 089	11 514	11 229	11 485	11 317
29	16 034	16 909	14 764	14 477	13 879	13 167	13 039	12 872	12 918
30	14 055	16 489	14 626	14 793	15 095	14 216	13 863	13 859	13 706
31	12 039	14 442	14 329	14 335	15 241	15 425	14 682	14 744	14 589
32	9 892	12 139	13 319	13 489	13 828	14 658	14 802	14 628	14 625
33	8 320	10 494	11 775	11 779	12 517	12 901	13 884	14 227	14 234
34	6 395	8 366	10 074	10 047	10 788	11 422	11 970	12 914	13 273
35	5 052	6 703	8 466	8 509	9 108	9 283	10 139	10 530	11 615
36	3 837	5 124	6 433	7 066	7 215	7 464	7 837	8 745	9 065
37	2 727	3 661	4 884	5 573	5 770	5 958	6 046	6 454	7 013
38	2 035	2 774	3 615	4 286	4 509	4 587	4 639	4 892	5 098
39	1 389	1 873	2 563	3 138	3 247	3 386	3 400	3 512	3 700
40	796	1 185	1 647	2 063	2 254	2 307	2 445	2 404	2 487
41	497	745	1 032	1 381	1 401	1 514	1 480	1 672	1 618
42	277	432	666	858	847	916	984	895	1 005
43	150	291	351	454	475	471	532	541	544
44	82	132	190	225	249	252	266	308	273
45	45	53	70	100	109	122	134	121	116
46	20	24	34	48	60	49	65	60	73
47	6	6	13	26	21	27	21	17	30
48	3	3	5	10	8	10	10	11	21
49	—	3	3	6	5	9	9	5	11
50 and over	—	—	8	13	10	8	17	12	16
Not stated	7	20	58	np	122	113	16	24	9
Total	200 119	195 258	181 549	167 572	169 385	168 777	169 312	172 894	175 827

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

8.7 EXNUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS, Age of mother

Age of mother (years)	1986	1991	1996	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
15 and under	513	440	465	420	380	374	352	369	341
16	1 106	1 086	1 065	951	976	942	872	890	851
17	2 263	2 358	2 347	2 014	1 941	1 875	1 908	1 905	1 781
18	2 972	3 596	3 215	3 052	3 048	2 788	2 915	2 786	2 766
19	3 326	4 568	4 110	4 196	4 148	3 918	3 906	3 943	3 985
20	3 289	4 653	4 537	4 479	4 480	4 352	4 332	4 424	4 354
21	3 030	4 414	4 546	4 261	4 671	4 474	4 613	4 593	4 640
22	2 930	4 151	4 621	4 485	4 387	4 519	4 648	4 656	4 791
23	2 748	3 756	4 591	4 259	4 214	4 354	4 664	4 581	4 822
24	2 499	3 395	4 589	4 254	4 345	4 354	4 279	4 519	4 627
25	2 360	3 202	4 212	4 048	4 073	4 216	4 185	4 256	4 584
26	1 940	3 002	3 548	3 900	3 874	3 993	4 123	4 195	4 263
27	1 814	2 771	3 414	3 881	3 938	3 801	4 028	3 976	4 140
28	1 580	2 547	3 098	3 790	3 795	3 903	3 857	3 889	4 017
29	1 402	2 330	2 788	3 750	3 788	3 727	3 687	3 855	3 880
30	1 318	2 155	2 565	3 512	3 680	3 651	3 631	3 631	3 736
31	1 066	1 851	2 373	2 960	3 362	3 518	3 503	3 560	3 650
32	917	1 675	2 277	2 738	3 005	3 202	3 472	3 482	3 626
33	770	1 382	2 047	2 432	2 671	2 854	3 213	3 423	3 426
34	645	1 182	1 828	2 194	2 303	2 613	2 731	3 081	3 346
35	531	949	1 527	1 958	2 108	2 300	2 550	2 677	3 069
36	408	850	1 282	1 700	1 811	1 961	2 202	2 393	2 565
37	328	621	1 094	1 476	1 572	1 591	1 728	1 955	2 166
38	245	532	824	1 218	1 249	1 380	1 441	1 498	1 737
39	220	363	618	935	1 145	1 126	1 198	1 201	1 360
40	129	251	448	678	777	833	887	903	1 003
41	78	165	321	468	579	614	604	662	667
42	57	129	171	292	332	366	427	425	488
43	36	65	106	174	206	190	271	272	259
44	18	29	47	82	93	89	118	117	132
45	8	13	18	37	49	57	58	58	73
46	5	6	8	21	15	18	24	36	35
47	—	—	—	7	8	8	11	15	15
48	—	—	3	np	np	6	3	np	10
49	—	—	—	np	np	np	4	np	5
50 and over	—	—	3	3	np	np	3	6	6
Not stated	28	114	107	140	409	340	285	352	507
Total	40 580	58 603	68 814	74 768	77 436	78 312	80 733	82 587	85 723

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

8.8 CONFINEMENTS, Plurality

Selected years	Single		Twins	Triplets and higher order	Total multiple confinements		Total confinements(a)
	no.	%			no.	no.		%	no.
1986	238 011	98.9	2 636	52	2 688	1.1	240 699
1991	250 506	98.7	3 266	89	3 355	1.3	253 861
1996	246 914	98.6	3 345	104	3 449	1.4	250 363
2001	238 312	98.3	3 938	90	4 028	1.7	242 340
2002	242 668	98.3	4 070	83	4 153	1.7	246 821
2003	243 022	98.4	3 990	77	4 067	1.7	247 089
2004	245 861	98.3	4 105	79	4 184	1.7	250 045
2005	251 256	98.3	4 134	91	4 225	1.7	255 481
2006	257 238	98.4	4 213	98	4 311	1.6	261 550

(a) Includes plurality not stated.

8.9 CONFINEMENTS RESULTING IN A MULTIPLE BIRTH, States and territories

Selected years NSW Vic. Qld SA WA Tas. NT ACT Aust.(a)

NUMBER

1986	892	717	464	222	228	83	25	57	2 688
1991	1 115	855	597	267	322	93	40	66	3 355
1996	1 110	847	634	300	351	98	42	67	3 449
2001	1 447	954	727	260	403	109	48	78	4 028
2002	1 405	1 042	817	312	373	91	50	63	4 153
2003	1 363	1 066	743	302	401	90	47	55	4 067
2004	1 314	1 118	843	273	400	108	41	87	4 184
2005	1 389	1 090	825	281	434	91	48	67	4 225
2006	1 323	1 190	919	266	390	72	57	94	4 311

PER CENT OF TOTAL CONFINEMENTS

1986	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.2	0.8	1.4	1.1
1991	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.3
1996	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.6	1.4
2001	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.3	2.0	1.7
2002	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.7
2003	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.7
2004	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.2	2.1	1.7
2005	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.7
2006	1.5	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.6	2.1	1.6

(a) Includes Other Territories.

8.10 CONFINEMENTS, Plurality—Nuptiality

Selected years	SINGLE			MULTIPLE			TOTAL		
	<i>Nuptial</i>	<i>Exnuptial</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Nuptial</i>	<i>Exnuptial</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Nuptial</i>	<i>Exnuptial</i>	<i>Total</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1986	82.2	16.7	98.9	1.0	0.2	1.1	83.1	16.9	100.0
1991	75.8	22.8	98.7	1.1	0.2	1.3	76.9	23.1	100.0
1996	71.4	27.2	98.6	1.1	0.3	1.4	72.5	27.5	100.0
2001	67.9	30.5	98.3	1.3	0.4	1.7	69.1	30.9	100.0
2002	67.3	31.0	98.3	1.3	0.4	1.7	68.6	31.4	100.0
2003	67.1	31.3	98.4	1.2	0.4	1.6	68.3	31.7	100.0
2004	66.5	31.9	98.3	1.3	0.4	1.7	67.7	32.3	100.0
2005	66.5	31.9	98.3	1.2	0.4	1.7	67.7	32.3	100.0
2006	66.0	32.3	98.4	1.2	0.5	1.6	67.2	32.8	100.0

8.11 NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS, Previous children—Duration of current marriage

PREVIOUS CHILDREN OF THE CURRENT MARRIAGE(a)

<i>Duration of marriage (years)</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>One</i>	<i>Two</i>	<i>Three</i>	<i>Four</i>	<i>Five or more</i>	<i>Total</i>
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Under 1	14 407	2 441	471	86	19	6	17 430
1	19 030	3 887	682	137	38	6	23 780
2	12 784	7 492	929	144	21	10	21 380
3	8 612	10 019	1 418	185	21	15	20 270
4	5 970	9 504	2 243	288	48	13	18 066
5	4 468	8 052	2 990	451	71	19	16 051
6	3 171	6 496	3 423	637	93	36	13 856
7	2 077	4 634	3 149	759	131	40	10 790
8	1 453	3 323	2 742	817	156	53	8 544
9	987	2 317	2 212	804	171	60	6 551
5–9 years	12 156	24 822	14 516	3 468	622	208	55 792
10 and over	2 252	5 271	5 846	3 164	1 267	1 188	18 988
Total	75 245	63 460	26 129	7 483	2 045	1 465	175 827

(a) May include children of current relationship born before marriage of current partners.

8.12 NUPTIAL FIRST CONFINEMENTS, Duration of current marriage

DURATION OF CURRENT MARRIAGE (YEARS)

<i>Selected years</i>	<i>Under one</i>	<i>One</i>	<i>Two</i>	<i>Three</i>	<i>Four</i>	<i>Five to nine</i>	<i>Ten and over</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Median duration(a)</i>
1986	17 343	18 283	13 590	9 923	7 174	12 231	2 014	80 563	2.3
1991	17 190	18 602	13 488	9 771	6 800	13 167	2 154	81 179	2.4
1996	13 138	17 004	12 681	9 242	6 866	12 811	2 131	73 873	2.5
2001	12 248	16 884	12 018	8 789	6 098	12 406	2 418	70 861	2.5
2002	11 882	16 542	13 101	8 930	6 320	12 571	2 345	71 691	2.6
2003	12 457	16 500	12 636	9 299	6 453	12 465	2 354	72 164	2.6
2004	12 467	17 377	12 395	9 343	6 845	12 131	2 250	72 808	2.5
2005	13 529	18 037	12 375	8 863	6 540	12 490	2 287	74 159	2.4
2006	14 407	19 030	12 784	8 612	5 970	12 156	2 252	75 245	2.3

(a) Includes confinements where duration of marriage is not stated.

8.13 NUPTIAL FIRST CONFINEMENTS, Age of mother

AGE OF MOTHER (YEARS)

<i>Selected years</i>	<i>19 and under</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-29</i>	<i>30-34</i>	<i>35-39</i>	<i>40 and over</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Median age(a)</i>
1986	3 233	25 220	34 255	13 619	3 766	469	80 563	26.5
1991	2 097	19 005	34 827	19 076	5 334	834	81 179	27.8
1996	989	12 815	30 890	21 090	6 896	1 171	73 873	28.7
2001	818	8 949	26 869	24 153	8 467	1 602	70 861	29.8
2002	770	8 378	26 105	25 712	9 001	1 662	71 691	30.1
2003	708	8 296	25 384	26 799	9 184	1 740	72 164	30.3
2004	690	7 915	25 126	27 417	9 806	1 845	72 808	30.4
2005	653	7 966	25 197	28 101	10 369	1 864	74 159	30.5
2006	630	8 264	25 483	27 959	11 009	1 900	75 245	30.5

(a) Includes confinements where age of mother is not stated.

8.14 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF MOTHER

Country of birth of mother	Total confinements	FATHER BORN IN			NUPTIALITY		Total fertility rate(a)	Median age of mother
		Australia	Same country as mother	Other country	Nuptial	Exnuptial		
	no.	%	%	%	%	%	no.	years
Oceania and Antarctica								
Australia	197 539	86.2	. .	13.8	63.4	36.6	1.80	30.5
Fiji	1 069	18.1	66.4	15.6	86.2	13.8	1.71	29.7
New Zealand	7 625	51.7	32.7	15.6	52.2	47.8	1.83	30.8
Papua New Guinea	757	69.4	10.3	20.4	69.7	30.3	2.07	33.0
Other	1 339	17.3	59.8	22.9	63.6	36.4	3.76	32.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>208 329</i>	<i>84.1</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>13.9</i>	<i>63.1</i>	<i>36.9</i>	<i>1.81</i>	<i>30.5</i>
North-West Europe								
Austria	90	60.0	7.8	32.2	66.7	33.3	1.60	33.5
Denmark	124	67.5	10.6	22.0	83.1	16.9	1.80	33.5
France	304	56.1	18.5	25.4	73.7	26.3	1.97	33.2
Germany	742	58.9	14.6	26.6	74.0	26.0	1.83	34.1
Ireland	601	58.0	17.1	25.0	82.2	17.8	1.38	33.8
Netherlands	426	68.6	16.2	15.2	73.5	26.5	2.13	33.1
Switzerland	149	59.5	17.6	23.0	77.2	22.8	1.73	33.1
United Kingdom	8 902	60.2	22.8	17.0	73.5	26.5	1.75	33.9
Other	376	61.2	9.4	29.4	67.6	32.4	1.62	33.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>11 714</i>	<i>60.3</i>	<i>20.9</i>	<i>18.8</i>	<i>73.9</i>	<i>26.1</i>	<i>1.73</i>	<i>33.8</i>
Southern and Eastern Europe								
Bosnia and Herzegovina	376	15.1	65.6	19.4	87.2	12.8	1.89	29.1
Croatia	291	33.7	37.2	29.2	81.8	18.2	1.81	31.5
Cyprus	130	55.4	24.6	20.0	92.3	7.7	1.70	33.4
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	392	50.3	41.7	8.0	90.3	9.7	1.84	29.0
Greece	208	65.9	16.6	17.6	85.6	14.4	1.33	34.4
Hungary	110	59.3	17.6	23.1	72.7	27.3	1.48	32.5
Italy	348	65.3	16.8	17.9	79.3	20.7	1.58	35.6
Malta	103	67.6	12.7	19.6	78.6	21.4	1.84	33.3
Poland	475	48.5	34.8	16.7	83.6	16.4	1.41	31.2
Portugal	146	56.3	25.7	18.1	80.8	19.2	1.60	29.8
Romania	232	23.4	57.1	19.5	87.1	12.9	1.67	31.0
Russian Federation	291	44.8	23.8	31.5	85.2	14.8	1.42	31.4
Spain	115	59.6	10.5	29.8	74.8	25.2	1.63	34.6
Serbia and Montenegro	365	35.4	37.0	27.6	81.9	18.1	1.04	31.8
Other	583	38.6	32.1	29.3	83.4	16.6	1.83	30.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>4 165</i>	<i>44.2</i>	<i>34.0</i>	<i>21.8</i>	<i>83.8</i>	<i>16.2</i>	<i>1.57</i>	<i>31.7</i>
North Africa and the Middle East								
Egypt	301	18.7	66.9	14.4	95.3	4.7	2.25	30.0
Iran	325	13.3	71.2	15.5	92.6	7.4	1.54	32.0
Israel	176	35.4	44.0	20.6	93.2	6.8	2.32	32.3
Lebanon	2 018	30.5	60.1	9.3	94.3	5.7	3.54	29.2
Syria	225	23.2	35.3	41.5	98.2	1.8	3.38	28.3
Turkey	651	28.1	65.6	6.2	93.1	6.9	2.20	30.9
Other	2 762	4.1	83.0	12.9	88.5	11.5	3.25	28.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>6 458</i>	<i>17.5</i>	<i>69.9</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>91.8</i>	<i>8.2</i>	<i>2.82</i>	<i>29.4</i>

. . not applicable

(a) Births per woman.

8.14COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF MOTHER *continued*

Country of birth of mother	Total confinements no.	FATHER BORN IN			NUPTIALITY		Total fertility rate(a)	Median age of mother years
		Australia %	Same country as mother %	Other country %	Nuptial %	Exnuptial %		
South-East Asia								
Cambodia	718	9.9	69.7	20.5	75.5	24.5	2.30	29.8
Indonesia	1 263	25.9	49.4	24.7	93.7	6.3	1.36	30.7
Laos	200	20.6	50.5	28.9	71.5	28.5	2.00	31.3
Malaysia	1 203	36.9	31.4	31.7	90.4	9.6	1.23	32.6
Philippines	2 642	38.1	42.4	19.5	80.7	19.3	1.76	31.5
Singapore	516	42.0	20.0	38.0	89.9	10.1	1.01	33.2
Thailand	832	52.8	15.9	31.3	70.9	29.1	1.53	30.2
Viet Nam	4 223	9.9	78.4	11.8	72.2	27.8	2.01	31.3
Other	390	19.2	58.3	22.5	85.1	14.9	1.78	32.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>11 987</i>	<i>25.7</i>	<i>53.6</i>	<i>20.7</i>	<i>79.4</i>	<i>20.6</i>	<i>1.63</i>	<i>31.4</i>
North-East Asia								
China	3 221	11.1	75.1	13.7	89.8	10.2	1.60	33.0
Hong Kong	417	28.7	31.9	39.4	89.2	10.8	0.65	32.7
Japan	870	54.3	18.0	27.8	94.0	6.0	1.54	33.2
Korea, Republic of	906	15.0	73.2	11.9	94.5	5.5	1.40	32.4
Other	344	19.8	48.1	32.1	93.0	7.0	0.90	31.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>5 758</i>	<i>20.1</i>	<i>61.4</i>	<i>18.5</i>	<i>91.4</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>1.30</i>	<i>32.8</i>
Southern and Central Asia								
India	2 846	6.9	86.4	6.7	97.8	2.2	1.74	29.8
Pakistan	677	3.7	88.4	7.9	97.6	2.4	3.08	28.5
Sri Lanka	961	11.0	79.6	9.4	95.1	4.9	1.72	32.4
Other	1 332	3.9	89.8	6.3	95.0	5.0	2.73	28.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>5 816</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>86.3</i>	<i>7.2</i>	<i>96.7</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>2.03</i>	<i>29.9</i>
Americas								
Argentina	227	47.6	26.2	26.2	82.4	17.6	1.75	32.8
Canada	749	69.9	8.0	22.1	84.6	15.4	2.03	32.9
Caribbean	70	66.2	2.9	30.9	81.4	18.6	2.51	33.5
Central America	272	36.8	34.6	28.6	71.3	28.7	1.82	29.9
Chile	378	45.6	27.5	26.9	74.3	25.7	1.78	32.6
United States of America	1 076	64.9	13.4	21.8	86.3	13.7	2.06	33.2
Uruguay	144	61.9	11.5	26.6	74.3	25.7	1.95	33.7
Other	557	44.7	27.7	27.7	80.6	19.4	1.73	32.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>3 473</i>	<i>57.2</i>	<i>18.2</i>	<i>24.6</i>	<i>81.7</i>	<i>18.3</i>	<i>1.92</i>	<i>32.8</i>
Sub-Saharan Africa								
Kenya	110	37.6	34.9	27.5	87.3	12.7	1.47	32.8
Mauritius	161	38.4	30.8	30.8	82.0	18.0	1.52	32.1
South Africa	1 782	40.6	39.5	19.9	87.9	12.1	1.65	32.4
Zimbabwe	364	40.6	33.2	26.2	83.8	16.2	1.73	31.8
Other	1 339	11.8	69.1	19.1	71.4	28.6	2.94	31.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>3 756</i>	<i>30.4</i>	<i>48.6</i>	<i>20.9</i>	<i>81.3</i>	<i>18.7</i>	<i>1.94</i>	<i>31.9</i>
<i>Total overseas-born</i>	<i>63 917</i>	<i>35.5</i>	<i>46.8</i>	<i>17.7</i>	<i>79.2</i>	<i>20.8</i>	<i>1.81</i>	<i>31.8</i>
Total(b)	261 550	73.7	11.6	14.7	67.2	32.8	1.81	30.8

(a) Births per woman.

(b) Includes country of birth of mother not stated.

8.15

COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF FATHER(a)

Country of birth of father	Total confinements no.	MOTHER BORN IN(b)				NUPTIALITY		Total paternity rate(c) no.	Median age of father years
		Australia %	Same country as father %	Other country %	Nuptial %	Exnuptial %			
Oceania and Antarctica									
Australia	186 539	88.1	. .	11.7	65.8	34.2	1.66	32.5	
Fiji	1 110	24.1	63.4	12.5	85.4	14.6	1.84	32.9	
New Zealand	8 285	57.2	29.1	13.3	55.0	45.0	1.64	32.7	
Papua New Guinea	671	72.4	11.3	18.2	70.0	30.0	2.10	34.0	
Other	1 616	26.2	46.3	25.5	64.0	36.0	4.22	34.1	
<i>Total</i>	<i>198 221</i>	<i>85.9</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>11.9</i>	<i>65.5</i>	<i>34.5</i>	<i>1.67</i>	<i>32.5</i>	
North-West Europe									
Austria	104	64.4	6.7	30.3	71.2	28.8	1.41	37.7	
Denmark	122	63.1	10.7	19.6	83.6	16.4	1.66	36.2	
France	369	56.1	15.2	27.1	73.7	26.3	1.64	35.5	
Germany	789	57.5	13.6	26.2	77.9	22.1	1.60	36.2	
Ireland	747	66.0	13.7	24.4	79.1	20.9	1.43	34.5	
Netherlands	515	68.2	13.2	23.6	76.7	23.3	1.93	35.4	
Switzerland	156	60.3	16.7	29.3	76.3	23.7	1.47	35.7	
United Kingdom	11 706	65.0	17.1	18.1	75.8	24.2	1.64	36.1	
Other	299	61.2	11.7	29.7	75.9	24.1	1.28	35.4	
<i>Total</i>	<i>14 807</i>	<i>64.4</i>	<i>16.3</i>	<i>19.7</i>	<i>76.1</i>	<i>23.9</i>	<i>1.61</i>	<i>36.0</i>	
Southern and Eastern Europe									
Bosnia and Herzegovina	438	22.4	55.7	17.8	83.8	16.2	2.12	32.6	
Croatia	384	46.6	27.9	26.1	81.8	18.2	1.91	36.1	
Cyprus	197	63.5	16.2	19.8	88.3	11.7	2.02	35.5	
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	455	53.0	35.4	9.1	90.8	9.2	1.94	34.4	
Greece	372	75.3	9.1	14.1	86.3	13.7	1.55	38.6	
Hungary	84	52.4	22.6	29.5	75.0	25.0	1.34	34.6	
Italy	672	69.8	8.6	17.5	79.9	20.1	1.80	38.4	
Malta	158	70.9	8.2	24.3	76.6	23.4	1.74	37.3	
Poland	381	39.4	42.8	20.0	84.0	16.0	1.25	32.8	
Portugal	190	57.9	19.5	23.7	71.1	28.9	1.60	31.3	
Romania	214	24.3	61.7	15.2	82.7	17.3	1.65	32.7	
Russian Federation	121	19.0	56.2	22.1	88.4	11.6	1.05	33.8	
Spain	116	63.8	10.3	25.8	70.7	29.3	1.55	35.8	
Serbia and Montenegro	404	44.6	33.2	27.6	82.2	17.8	1.08	36.2	
Other	444	27.7	41.7	30.8	85.4	14.6	1.57	33.8	
<i>Total</i>	<i>4 630</i>	<i>48.8</i>	<i>30.2</i>	<i>20.4</i>	<i>83.0</i>	<i>17.0</i>	<i>1.57</i>	<i>35.3</i>	
North Africa and the Middle East									
Egypt	403	32.0	49.6	20.6	96.3	3.7	2.29	36.7	
Iran	402	19.4	57.2	18.7	93.0	7.0	1.43	37.0	
Israel	234	44.9	32.9	21.1	90.2	9.8	2.18	34.2	
Lebanon	3 000	52.7	40.2	7.6	91.7	8.3	3.76	33.7	
Syria	252	34.1	31.3	28.6	96.0	4.0	3.28	34.6	
Turkey	804	39.2	52.5	7.8	88.6	11.4	2.24	34.4	
Other	2 964	10.8	75.4	15.0	88.8	11.2	2.69	35.3	
<i>Total</i>	<i>8 059</i>	<i>32.4</i>	<i>55.2</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>90.7</i>	<i>9.3</i>	<i>2.72</i>	<i>34.8</i>	

. . not applicable

(a) Paternity acknowledged confinements only.

(b) Excludes confinements where country of birth of father was not stated.

(c) Births per man. The total paternity rate is calculated in the same way as the total fertility rate.

8.15 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF FATHER(a) *continued*

Country of birth of father	Total confinements no.	MOTHER BORN IN(b)				NUPTIALITY		Total paternity rate(c) no.	Median age of father years
		Australia %	Same country as father %	Other country %	Nuptial %	Exnuptial %			
South-East Asia									
Cambodia	688	6.5	68.8	26.1	77.8	22.2	2.25	34.2	
Indonesia	839	14.2	73.8	11.8	94.9	5.1	1.24	32.2	
Laos	177	11.9	55.4	41.6	68.4	31.6	1.93	36.0	
Malaysia	1 065	29.4	35.1	34.5	89.3	10.7	1.14	34.0	
Philippines	1 529	20.5	71.6	9.0	78.9	21.1	1.57	32.4	
Singapore	431	38.3	23.7	39.2	91.9	8.1	0.96	34.4	
Thailand	279	30.8	46.2	26.3	60.6	39.4	1.06	29.4	
Viet Nam	3 570	5.5	85.5	10.0	76.1	23.9	1.93	34.7	
Other	418	21.5	53.8	24.6	81.8	18.2	1.57	35.4	
<i>Total</i>	8 996	15.0	68.6	17.4	80.4	19.6	1.54	33.9	
North-East Asia									
China	2 763	2.9	86.5	9.6	92.9	7.1	1.55	35.8	
Hong Kong	417	18.2	31.4	46.5	90.2	9.8	0.72	34.6	
Japan	265	24.5	58.9	14.4	93.6	6.4	1.16	35.2	
Korea, Republic of	743	4.6	88.8	7.1	96.4	3.6	1.30	34.1	
Other	270	7.0	61.1	27.7	96.7	3.3	0.84	33.0	
<i>Total</i>	4 458	6.1	78.5	14.5	93.5	6.5	1.26	35.0	
Southern and Central Asia									
India	3 113	11.4	78.9	11.2	96.3	3.7	1.28	33.2	
Pakistan	774	9.6	77.0	13.6	95.9	4.1	2.36	34.1	
Sri Lanka	1 080	18.1	70.5	11.7	95.3	4.7	1.53	35.6	
Other	1 413	5.8	84.3	8.6	93.3	6.7	1.93	33.4	
<i>Total</i>	6 380	11.1	78.4	11.0	95.4	4.6	1.53	33.8	
Americas									
Argentina	240	50.4	24.6	23.6	79.6	20.4	1.57	34.1	
Canada	675	73.9	8.7	21.6	83.4	16.6	1.85	35.0	
Caribbean	95	71.6	2.1	24.3	74.7	25.3	2.39	36.4	
Central America	287	41.1	32.1	24.8	62.0	38.0	1.61	31.2	
Chile	390	51.5	26.4	26.6	71.0	29.0	1.83	33.8	
United States of America	1 238	67.6	11.4	21.0	85.0	15.0	2.14	35.2	
Uruguay	131	69.5	12.2	30.9	84.0	16.0	1.98	35.5	
Other	433	40.9	34.9	25.0	77.4	22.6	1.55	34.4	
<i>Total</i>	3 489	60.5	17.9	23.3	79.6	20.4	1.86	34.6	
Sub-Saharan Africa									
Kenya	149	42.3	25.5	31.0	77.2	22.8	1.69	35.4	
Mauritius	215	52.6	22.8	14.6	76.3	23.7	1.52	35.8	
South Africa	1 793	43.8	38.9	17.0	88.3	11.7	1.50	34.1	
Zimbabwe	427	44.5	27.6	29.7	85.2	14.8	1.57	34.1	
Other	1 490	20.5	58.9	19.2	72.1	27.9	2.80	36.2	
<i>Total</i>	4 074	35.8	43.7	19.5	81.1	18.9	1.81	34.8	
<i>Total overseas-born</i>	66 575	39.4	44.0	16.9	79.6	20.4	1.68	34.6	
Total(d)	253 298	75.3	11.6	13.0	69.4	30.6	1.68	33.1	

(a) Paternity acknowledged confinements only.

(b) Excludes confinements where country of birth of father was not stated.

(c) Births per man. The total paternity rate is calculated in the same way as the total fertility rate.

(d) Includes country of birth of father not stated.

9.1 INDIGENOUS BIRTHS(a), Implied coverage—2002–2006

	<i>Births registered as Indigenous</i>	<i>Projected Indigenous births</i>	<i>Implied coverage of Indigenous births(b)</i>
	no.	no.	%
.....			
New South Wales	16 781	18 799	89.3
Victoria	3 626	3 738	97.0
Queensland	17 301	17 597	98.3
South Australia	3 361	3 388	99.2
Western Australia	8 560	9 007	95.0
Tasmania	1 992	2 329	85.5
Northern Territory	7 728	7 207	107.2
Australian Capital Territory	449	542	82.8
Australia(c)	59 808	62 631	95.5

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- (a) See paragraphs 12–18 of the Explanatory Notes.
 - (b) Defined as the ratio of births registered as Indigenous to projected Indigenous births.
 - (c) Includes Other Territories.

9.2 INDIGENOUS REGISTERED BIRTHS, Australia(a)

	<i>All Indigenous births</i>	<i>Births to Indigenous mothers</i>	<i>All births</i>
Births (no.)			
Males	6 288	4 426	136 692
Females	6 208	4 409	129 257
<i>Total</i>	<i>12 496</i>	<i>8 835</i>	<i>265 949</i>
Nuptiality (%)			
Nuptial	17.9	13.7	67.3
Exnuptial			
Paternity acknowledged	69.4	68.4	29.5
Paternity not acknowledged	12.7	17.9	3.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>82.1</i>	<i>86.3</i>	<i>32.7</i>
Indigenous status of parents (%)			
Both parents Indigenous	29.9	..	..
Mother only(b)	40.8	..	..
Father only(c)	29.3	..	..
Age of mother (no.)			
15–19 years(d)	2 402	1 833	10 552
20–24 years	3 796	2 744	37 151
25–29 years	3 012	2 061	70 224
30–34 years	2 154	1 442	89 883
35–39 years	939	624	48 505
40–44 years	171	112	8 679
45–49 years(e)	10	7	438
Age-specific fertility rates			
15–19 years(d)	—	69.3	15.4
20–24 years	—	124.7	51.6
25–29 years	—	110.3	100.8
30–34 years	—	77.4	120.1
35–39 years	—	34.3	63.3
40–44 years	—	7.1	11.3
45–49 years(e)	—	0.5	0.6
Total fertility rate(f)	—	2.118	1.814
Total confinements (no.)	12 337	8 735	261 550
Median age of mother (years)	25.0	24.6	30.8
Median age of father (years)	27.9	27.7	33.1

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Implied coverage of Indigenous births in Australia for 2002–2006 is estimated at 95% on 2001 Census-based projections. See table 9.1.

(b) Includes paternity not acknowledged (13%) and Indigenous status of father not stated (9%).

(c) Includes Indigenous status of mother not stated (10%).

(d) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(e) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(f) Indigenous rates are derived from the 2006 experimental estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population based on the 2006 Census.

9.3**INDIGENOUS REGISTERED BIRTHS, New South Wales(a)**

	<i>All Indigenous births</i>	<i>Births to Indigenous mothers</i>	<i>All births</i>
Births (no.)			
Males	1 812	1 138	45 099
Females	1 704	1 088	42 237
Total	3 516	2 226	87 336
Nuptiality (%)			
Nuptial	22.5	19.0	71.6
Exnuptial			
Paternity acknowledged	70.3	69.7	25.5
Paternity not acknowledged	7.2	11.4	2.9
Total	77.5	81.0	28.4
Indigenous status of parents (%)			
Both parents Indigenous	20.8	..	..
Mother only	(b)42.5	..	..
Father only	(c)36.7	..	..
Age of mother (no.)			
15–19 years(d)	647	445	2 949
20–24 years	1 037	670	11 567
25–29 years	867	513	23 359
30–34 years	606	373	30 146
35–39 years	301	186	16 144
40–44 years	56	38	3 015
45–49 years(e)	—	—	153
Age-specific fertility rates			
15–19 years(d)	—	58.9	13.2
20–24 years	—	113.7	49.9
25–29 years	—	105.9	100.1
30–34 years	—	73.2	120.0
35–39 years	—	36.5	64.7
40–44 years	—	8.1	11.9
45–49 years(e)	—	0.3	0.6
Total fertility rate(f)	—	1.984	1.800
Total confinements (no.)	3 455	2 189	86 007
Median age of mother (years)	25.4	25.0	31.0
Median age of father (years)	28.2	27.9	33.3

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Implied coverage of Indigenous births in New South Wales for 2002–2006 is estimated at 89% on 2001 Census-based projections. See table 9.1.

(b) Includes paternity not acknowledged (7%). Also includes Indigenous status of father not stated (31%), which is significantly higher than the proportion recorded for other states and territories.

(c) Includes Indigenous status of mother not stated (33%), which is significantly higher than the proportion recorded for other states and territories.

(d) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(e) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(f) Indigenous rates are derived from the 2006 experimental estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population based on the 2006 Census.

9.4 INDIGENOUS REGISTERED BIRTHS, Victoria(a)

	<i>All Indigenous births</i>	<i>Births to Indigenous mothers</i>	<i>All births</i>
Births (no.)			
Males	379	218	33 536
Females	403	241	31 700
<i>Total</i>	<i>782</i>	<i>459</i>	<i>65 236</i>
Nuptiality (%)			
Nuptial	22.5	19.6	72.7
Exnuptial			
Paternity acknowledged	73.8	74.1	25.7
Paternity not acknowledged	3.7	6.3	1.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>77.5</i>	<i>80.4</i>	<i>27.3</i>
Indigenous status of parents (%)			
Both parents Indigenous	13.9	..	..
Mother only(b)	44.8	..	..
Father only(c)	41.3	..	..
Age of mother (no.)			
15–19 years(d)	140	85	1 652
20–24 years	220	137	7 047
25–29 years	174	107	16 099
30–34 years	168	94	24 133
35–39 years	67	30	13 718
40–44 years	13	6	2 466
45–49 years(e)	—	—	113
Age-specific fertility rates			
15–19 years(d)	—	52.4	9.7
20–24 years	—	107.2	38.9
25–29 years	—	98.8	91.0
30–34 years	—	86.7	126.9
35–39 years	—	28.0	69.7
40–44 years	—	8.1	12.8
45–49 years	—	—	0.6
Total fertility rate(f)	—	1.898	1.745
Total confinements (no.)	773	456	64 017
Median age of mother (years)	25.8	25.4	31.7
Median age of father (years)	28.6	28.6	33.7

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Implied coverage of Indigenous births in Victoria for 2002–2006 is estimated at 97% on 2001 Census-based projections. See table 9.1.

(b) Includes paternity not acknowledged (4%) and Indigenous status of father not stated (1%).

(c) Includes Indigenous status of mother not stated (1%).

(d) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(e) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(f) Indigenous rates are derived from the 2006 experimental estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population based on the 2006 Census.

9.5**INDIGENOUS REGISTERED BIRTHS, Queensland(a)**

	<i>All Indigenous births</i>	<i>Births to Indigenous mothers</i>	<i>All births</i>
Births (no.)			
Males	1 724	1 162	27 128
Females	1 739	1 221	25 537
<i>Total</i>	3 463	2 383	52 665
Nuptiality (%)			
Nuptial	20.7	15.9	61.2
Exnuptial			
Paternity acknowledged	71.7	73.1	35.5
Paternity not acknowledged	7.6	11.0	3.3
<i>Total</i>	79.3	84.1	38.8
Indigenous status of parents (%)			
Both parents Indigenous	32.4	..	..
Mother only(b)	36.4	..	..
Father only(c)	31.2	..	..
Age of mother (no.)			
15–19 years(d)	612	453	2 723
20–24 years	1 031	727	8 907
25–29 years	871	576	14 614
30–34 years	628	409	16 550
35–39 years	262	175	8 358
40–44 years	50	35	1 424
45–49 years(e)	7	6	86
Age-specific fertility rates			
15–19 years(d)	—	60.9	19.7
20–24 years	—	117.7	61.3
25–29 years	—	109.1	107.3
30–34 years	—	76.9	112.2
35–39 years	—	34.4	55.3
40–44 years	—	8.0	9.3
45–49 years(e)	—	1.7	0.6
Total fertility rate(f)	—	2.044	1.831
Total confinements (no.)	3 421	2 359	51 725
Median age of mother (years)	25.4	25.0	30.0
Median age of father (years)	28.2	28.1	32.2

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Implied coverage of Indigenous births in Queensland for 2002–2006 is estimated at 98% on 2001 Census-based projections. See table 9.1.

(b) Includes paternity not acknowledged (8%) and Indigenous status of father not stated (1%).

(c) Includes Indigenous status of mother not stated (1%).

(d) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(e) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(f) Indigenous rates are derived from the 2006 experimental estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population based on the 2006 Census.

9.6 INDIGENOUS REGISTERED BIRTHS, South Australia(a)

	<i>All Indigenous births</i>	<i>Births to Indigenous mothers</i>	<i>All births</i>
.....			
Births (no.)			
Males	400	304	9 369
Females	333	245	8 891
Total	733	549	18 260
.....			
Nuptiality (%)			
Nuptial	12.8	9.7	63.4
Exnuptial			
Paternity acknowledged	73.3	71.8	33.1
Paternity not acknowledged	13.9	18.6	3.5
Total	87.2	90.3	36.6
.....			
Indigenous status of parents (%)			
Both parents Indigenous	31.8	..	..
Mother only(b)	43.1	..	..
Father only(c)	25.1	..	..
.....			
Age of mother (no.)			
15–19 years(d)	129	110	848
20–24 years	232	171	2 857
25–29 years	178	127	4 996
30–34 years	122	89	5 825
35–39 years	52	39	3 182
40–44 years	12	5	517
45–49 years(e)	—	—	26
.....			
Age-specific fertility rates			
15–19 years(d)	—	78.2	16.7
20–24 years	—	150.6	53.8
25–29 years	—	134.1	105.0
30–34 years	—	95.8	114.4
35–39 years	—	42.9	57.5
40–44 years	—	6.1	8.9
45–49 years(e)	—	—	0.4
.....			
Total fertility rate(f)	—	2.539	1.788
Total confinements (no.)	725	542	17 992
Median age of mother (years)	25.0	24.7	30.3
Median age of father (years)	27.6	26.9	32.7

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Implied coverage of Indigenous births in South Australia for 2002–2006 is estimated at 99% on 2001 Census-based projections. See table 9.1.

(b) Includes paternity not acknowledged (14%) and Indigenous status of father not stated (1%).

(c) Includes Indigenous status of mother not stated (1%).

(d) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(e) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(f) Indigenous rates are derived from the 2006 experimental estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population based on the 2006 Census.

9.7

INDIGENOUS REGISTERED BIRTHS, Western Australia(a)

	<i>All Indigenous births</i>	<i>Births to Indigenous mothers</i>	<i>All births</i>
Births (no.)			
Males	944	733	14 042
Females	966	727	13 734
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 910</i>	<i>1 460</i>	<i>27 776</i>
Nuptiality (%)			
Nuptial	12.8	9.2	62.6
Exnuptial			
Paternity acknowledged	75.3	75.2	34.1
Paternity not acknowledged	11.9	15.5	3.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>87.2</i>	<i>90.8</i>	<i>37.4</i>
Indigenous status of parents (%)			
Both parents Indigenous	44.4	..	..
Mother only(b)	32.0	..	..
Father only(c)	23.6	..	..
Age of mother (no.)			
15–19 years(d)	398	326	1 392
20–24 years	620	466	4 323
25–29 years	450	349	7 376
30–34 years	298	210	8 915
35–39 years	125	96	4 869
40–44 years	17	11	850
45–49 years(e)	—	—	44
Age-specific fertility rates			
15–19 years(d)	—	82.0	19.6
20–24 years	—	138.8	60.2
25–29 years	—	119.4	109.3
30–34 years	—	76.0	123.4
35–39 years	—	34.5	63.7
40–44 years	—	4.7	10.9
45–49 years(e)	—	—	0.6
Total fertility rate(f)	—	2.278	1.941
Total confinements (no.)	1 888	1 446	27 391
Median age of mother (years)	24.3	24.0	30.4
Median age of father (years)	27.4	26.9	32.9

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Implied coverage of Indigenous births in Western Australia for 2002–2006 is estimated at 95% on 2001 Census-based projections. See table 9.1.

(b) Includes paternity not acknowledged (12%) and Indigenous status of father not stated (2%).

(c) Includes Indigenous status of mother not stated (3%).

(d) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(e) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(f) Indigenous rates are derived from the 2006 experimental estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population based on the 2006 Census.

9.8 INDIGENOUS REGISTERED BIRTHS, Tasmania(a)(b)

	<i>All Indigenous births</i>	<i>Births to Indigenous mothers</i>	<i>All births</i>
Births (no.)			
Males	187	101	3 349
Females	226	128	3 126
<i>Total</i>	413	229	6 475
Nuptiality (%)			
Nuptial	24.9	25.3	50.8
Exnuptial			
Paternity acknowledged	71.7	68.6	39.4
Paternity not acknowledged	3.4	6.1	9.8
<i>Total</i>	75.1	74.7	49.2
Indigenous status of parents (%)			
Both parents Indigenous	9.9	..	..
Mother only(c)	45.5	..	..
Father only(d)	44.6	..	..
Age of mother (no.)			
15–19 years(e)	74	33	405
20–24 years	146	96	1 167
25–29 years	100	52	1 636
30–34 years	65	34	1 744
35–39 years	26	13	879
40–44 years	—	—	151
45–49 years(f)	—	—	6
Age-specific fertility rates			
15–19 years(e)	—	35.3	26.6
20–24 years	—	126.3	81.7
25–29 years	—	95.4	127.3
30–34 years	—	63.0	121.8
35–39 years	—	21.9	55.7
40–44 years	—	1.8	9.1
45–49 years(f)	—	—	0.3
Total fertility rate(g)	—	1.718	2.123
Total confinements (no.)	410	226	6 367
Median age of mother (years)	24.4	24.0	29.3
Median age of father (years)	26.9	27.3	31.6

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Implied coverage of Indigenous births in Tasmania for 2002–2006 is estimated at 86% on 2001 Census-based projections. See table 9.1.

(b) For Tasmania, some characteristics of births are not collected for the birth notification. See paragraphs 4–6 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

(c) Includes paternity not acknowledged (3%) and Indigenous status of father not stated (1%).

(d) Includes Indigenous status of mother not stated (0.5%).

(e) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(f) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(g) Indigenous rates are derived from the 2006 experimental estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population based on the 2006 Census.

9.9

INDIGENOUS REGISTERED BIRTHS, Northern Territory(a)

	<i>All Indigenous births</i>	<i>Births to Indigenous mothers</i>	<i>All births</i>
Births (no.)			
Males	779	729	1 855
Females	786	730	1 841
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 565</i>	<i>1 459</i>	<i>3 696</i>
Nuptiality (%)			
Nuptial %	5.0	3.7	35.3
Exnuptial			
Paternity acknowledged	51.0	49.1	43.2
Paternity not acknowledged	44.0	47.2	21.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>95.0</i>	<i>96.3</i>	<i>64.7</i>
Indigenous status of parents (%)			
Both parents Indigenous	40.1	..	..
Mother only(b)	53.2	..	..
Father only(c)	6.8	..	..
Age of mother (no.)			
15–19 years(d)	384	373	471
20–24 years	482	456	807
25–29 years	347	319	939
30–34 years	247	221	921
35–39 years	85	74	470
40–44 years	20	16	85
45–49 years(e)	—	—	3
Age-specific fertility rates			
15–19 years(d)	—	112.5	63.6
20–24 years	—	142.1	97.7
25–29 years	—	109.9	106.0
30–34 years	—	80.1	103.3
35–39 years	—	29.7	54.9
40–44 years	—	8.0	10.9
45–49 years(e)	—	—	0.4
Total fertility rate(f)	—	2.412	2.187
Total confinements (no.)	1 551	1 447	3 642
Median age of mother (years)	23.9	23.7	28.1
Median age of father (years)	27.1	26.6	31.6

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Implied coverage of Indigenous births in the Northern Territory for 2002–2006 is estimated at 107% on 2001 Census-based projections. See table 9.1.

(b) Includes paternity not acknowledged (44%) and Indigenous status of father not stated (0.2%).

(c) Includes Indigenous status of mother not stated (0.1%).

(d) Includes births to mothers aged less than 15 years.

(e) Includes births to mothers aged 50 years and over.

(f) Indigenous rates are derived from the 2006 experimental estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population based on the 2006 Census.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 Registration of births is the responsibility of state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages and is based on data provided on an information form completed by the parent(s) of the child. This form is the basis of the data provided to the ABS, by the Registrars, for compilation into aggregate statistics in this publication. Most data items are collected in all states and territories and therefore statistics at the national level are available for most characteristics. Some states collect additional information.

2 In the main, statistics in this publication refer to births registered during the calendar year shown. There is usually an interval between the occurrence and registration of a birth, and as a result, some births occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or even later. This can be caused by either a delay by the parent(s) in submitting a completed form to the registry, or a delay by the registry in processing the birth.

3 Hospitals and birth clinics notify state and territory registries of recent births on a regular basis. For those births known to a registry that have not been registered within a prescribed time period, a reminder letter is sent to the parent(s) of the child to follow-up the birth registration.

YEAR OF OCCURRENCE OF BIRTHS REGISTERED IN 2006

State or territory of registration	YEAR OF OCCURRENCE						
	2000 and earlier	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
New South Wales	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.7	10.1	88.6
Victoria	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	8.7	90.1
Queensland	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	14.8	81.3
South Australia	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	8.0	90.0
Western Australia	1.0	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	8.7	88.9
Tasmania	2.3	—	—	—	—	2.5	95.1
Northern Territory	0.1	—	—	—	—	7.6	92.3
Australian Capital Territory	—	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	9.4	90.3
Australia(a)	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	10.1	87.9

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes Other Territories.

Tasmanian birth registrations

4 As required by the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1999*, hospitals, doctors, midwives or other responsible persons provide the Tasmanian Registrar with a list of babies born containing basic information such as date of birth and sex of the baby. In the case of a live birth, the birth notification must be given within 21 days of the birth. These notifications have been provided to ABS since 2002 and are also used in producing quarterly population estimates.

5 Under the Act, the birth of a child must also be registered by lodging a birth registration statement with the Registrar within 60 days after the date of birth of the child. Once the parent(s) submit the birth registration statement, the record is updated and the Registrar provides ABS with a complete registration record. Where a match

Tasmanian birth registrations
continued

between a birth notification and birth registration statement is identified, the record is quality assured to ensure completeness of the record.

6 If the birth registration form is not received by the Tasmanian Registry, only the basic birth notification data is available. For these records, no information on age of mother is collected. As well, no information regarding the father is collected, therefore these births are coded as exnuptial paternity not acknowledged births. As a result, the number of exnuptial births in Tasmania may be overstated and the number of nuptial births understated for 2002 onwards. Measures based on age of mother/father may also be affected, however the extent is unable to be determined.

STATES AND TERRITORIES

7 As a result of an amendment made in 1992 to section 17(a) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901–1973 (Cwlth)* the Indian Ocean territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands have been included as part of geographic Australia, hence another category of the state and territory classification has been created. This category is known as 'Other Territories' and includes Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Jervis Bay Territory.

8 Prior to 1993 births to mothers usually resident in Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands were included with Off-Shore Areas and Migratory in Western Australia, while births to mothers usually resident in Jervis Bay Territory were included with the Australian Capital Territory. In 2006 there were 26 births to mothers usually resident in Jervis Bay Territory, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

9 Statistics for states and territories have been compiled and presented in respect of the state or territory of usual residence of the mother, except where otherwise stated. In the following table data have been presented on a state or territory of registration basis. Births which took place outside Australia are excluded from the statistics. Births to mothers who were usual residents of Australia's Other Territories (Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Jervis Bay Territory) are registered in other Australian states.

BIRTHS, State or territory of usual residence of mother and state or territory of registration

State or territory of usual residence	STATE OR TERRITORY OF REGISTRATION								
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New South Wales	84 822	1 057	493	41	35	10	4	874	87 336
Victoria	95	65 025	39	48	13	7	5	4	65 236
Queensland	832	61	51 714	11	25	11	7	4	52 665
South Australia	19	33	11	18 142	13	3	38	3	18 260
Western Australia	43	16	15	12	27 658	4	27	—	27 776
Tasmania	19	27	7	6	—	6 415	—	—	6 475
Northern Territory	20	5	21	26	20	—	3 604	—	3 696
Australian Capital Territory	59	6	7	—	3	—	—	4 400	4 479
Australia(a)	85 917	66 230	52 307	18 288	27 786	6 450	3 686	5 285	265 949

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes Other Territories.

10 In 2006 there were 391 births to women who usually lived overseas. These have been included in this publication with state or territory of usual residence classified according to the state or territory in which the birth was registered.

STATES AND TERRITORIES

continued

BIRTHS, Babies born in Australia to non-resident mothers

State or territory of registration	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
New South Wales	312	331	338	398	380	281	308
Victoria	17	19	22	24	20	23	21
Queensland	108	108	116	92	61	38	41
South Australia	8	8	4	5	9	—	—
Western Australia	21	24	16	24	18	8	13
Tasmania	7	6	4	5	—	3	—
Northern Territory	6	8	6	5	3	5	4
Australian Capital Territory	4	7	5	4	—	7	3
Australia	483	511	511	557	491	364	391

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

SUB-STATE/TERRITORY
FERTILITY RATES

11 Age-specific and total fertility rates for sub-state/territory regions (for example, Statistical Divisions) presented in table 6.6 and the accompanying spreadsheet tables 2 to 4 are calculated as average rates over three years ending in the reference year. Rates for states, territories and Australia in all other tables are based on single years of birth registration data.

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS

12 This publication includes data on Indigenous births for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory. The data are regarded as being of sufficient quality to publish. Indigenous births for the Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories are included in the totals for Australia.

13 The populations used to calculate Indigenous fertility rates for 2006 are the 30 June 2006 experimental estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population based on the 2006 Census (see Appendix 6).

14 There are several data collection forms on which people are asked to state whether they are of Indigenous origin. Due to a number of factors, results collated from these forms are not always consistent. The way in which a person identifies, or is identified, as Indigenous on a specific form can change over time leading to unexpected changes in Indigenous statistics. Responses to Indigenous status questions can be influenced by a range of factors, including the perception of how information will be used, education programs about identifying as Indigenous, who completes the question on behalf of others, and emotional reaction to identifying as Indigenous.

15 The ABS has released experimental estimates and projections of the Indigenous population from 1991 to 2009 based on the results of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. These estimates are recommended for analysis of Indigenous demographic indicators instead of previous published estimates.

16 Currently there are four estimates of annual numbers of Indigenous births. Each is based on a different collection, assumptions and methods.

- 2001 census-based population estimates, covering the period 1991 to 2001. After deriving experimental Indigenous resident population as at 30 June 2001 from the 2001 census, estimates were survived back one year at a time to 30 June 1991 using a reverse survival technique based on experimental Indigenous life tables (see *Experimental Estimates and Projections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2009*, cat. no. 3238.0 for further information).

INDIGENOUS BIRTHS *continued*

- 2001 census-based population projections, covering the period 2002 to 2009. There are two series of projections; a low series and a high series. In the low series, the number of births each year is estimated using the propensity to identify found in the 2001 census. The high series uses an alternative assumption of an increasing propensity to identify based on the change between 1996 and 2001 in propensity to identify (see *Experimental Estimates and Projections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2009*, cat. no. 3238.0 for further information).
- Birth registrations: this publication is based on the registration of births with the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each state and territory.
- Perinatal Data Collection: these data are primarily about babies born in hospitals and their mothers (see Appendix 2 for more information).

Coverage of Indigenous birth registrations

17 Implied coverage of Indigenous births in table 9.1 is defined as the ratio of the number of Indigenous births registered in a particular year to the corresponding number of projected Indigenous births from the low series of *Experimental Estimates and Projections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2009*, (cat. no. 3238.0). Due to the inherent volatility in the number of births registered annually, and the limitations of the assumptions used to derive estimated and projected births, over precise analysis of annual coverage is discouraged. Accordingly, coverage rates are presented as a five year average (2002–2006).

18 On this basis, implied coverage of Indigenous births in Australia for 2002–2006 was 95%, and ranged from 83% in the Australian Capital Territory to 107% in the Northern Territory.

CONFIDENTIALITY

19 Where necessary, tables have had small values suppressed or randomised to protect confidentiality. As a result, sums of components may not add exactly to totals.

RELATED PRODUCTS

20 Other ABS products which may be of interest to users include:
Australian Demographic Statistics, cat. no. 3101.0—issued quarterly
Australian Demographic Trends, cat. no. 3102.0
Australian Historical Population Statistics, cat. no. 3105.65.001
Causes of Death, Australia, cat. no. 3303.0—issued annually
Deaths, Australia, cat. no. 3302.0—issued annually
Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods,
Statistical Concepts Library, ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>
Experimental Estimates and Projections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2009, cat. no. 3238.0
Population Projections, Australia, cat. no. 3222.0

21 Time series of births and fertility data for the states and territories, Statistical Divisions, Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas (on geographical boundaries based on *Australian Standard Geographic Classification 2006*, cat. no. 1216.0) are available in Microsoft Excel format on the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>, by selecting Statistics, searching by catalogue number 3301.0 for *Births, Australia, 2006*, and selecting the 'Details' tab.

22 ABS products and publications are available free of charge from the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. Click on Statistics to gain access to the full range of ABS statistical and reference information. For details on products scheduled for release in the coming week, click on the Future Releases link on the ABS Home page.

23 As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, additional information is available from the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> by accessing Themes/Demography.

INTRODUCTION

The common definition of fertility refers to the biological capacity to bear or father children, however, the term is often interchanged according to the context in which it is being used. In a demographic context (the study of population and population change) the term fertility relates to a person's actual reproductive outcomes, a concept of adding to the population through births.

Information on the size and distribution of the population is an important component of social and economic planning, in providing services to the community. In Australia, population estimates are used for a wide variety of purposes, including the determination of the number of seats in the House of Representatives for each state and territory, as well as in the distribution of federal government funds to state, territory and local governments. The accuracy of population estimates is therefore of paramount importance. In addition, the analysis of fertility provides information and insight into previous, current and possible future trends of the population, which form the basis of many decisions regarding the future of Australia.

Within Australia a number of organisations collect and report information about births and fertility, such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and state and territory Health Departments. As these collections are used for a number of different purposes, the scope of the collections differ. ABS births information is primarily used in the production of population estimates, as well as measures of fertility. For these purposes, only live births are counted. The AIHW National Perinatal Statistic Unit's National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC), provides epidemiological information on mothers' pregnancies and childbirth, and the characteristics and outcomes of their babies. This includes information on live births and neonatal deaths, as the health related aspects of births and fertility are an important focus of this collection.

UNITED NATIONS GUIDELINES

The United Nations (UN) provides globally recognised guidelines and standards in the field of demography, as well as for the process of data collection and dissemination of vital events, which include births, deaths and marriages. These guidelines outline the importance of civil registration systems in order to collect information and are published in *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*. ABS uses these guidelines as a basis for its vital statistics collections.

The UN also produces the *Handbook on the Collection of Fertility and Mortality Data*, which provides detailed information on available methods, rather than specific instructions, that may be used to collect data on births, deaths and population. This publication also describes how data produced by these methods may be used to derive basic fertility and mortality indicators. With these guidelines, data can be collected and disseminated according to the needs of users.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

In Australia, the registration of births is the responsibility of state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages and is based on data provided on an information form completed by the parent(s) of the child. This form is the basis of data provided to the ABS, for compilation and publication of aggregate statistics on live births and fertility rates. Most data items are collected in all states and territories and therefore statistics at the national level are available for a range of characteristics (see Appendix 3).

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF
STATISTICS *continued*

In the field of demography, fertility is used to describe the actual number of children born alive and the effectiveness or performance of the population to replace itself through reproduction. ABS measures of fertility (such as the number of children ever born to women, collected in the Census, and age-specific and total fertility rates) are therefore based on live births. Information on the biological potential to conceive or reproduce is collected by a number of other sources, which have a greater focus on the epidemiological and reproductive health aspects of childbirth.

ABS collects and reports on perinatal death statistics in *Causes of Death, Australia* (cat. no. 3303.0). Perinatal deaths comprise stillbirths (fetal deaths) and deaths of infants within the first 28 days of life (neonatal deaths).

OTHER ORGANISATIONS
*Australian Institute of Health
and Welfare*

The AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection collects and reports information on pregnancy, childbirth, and the characteristics of mothers and their babies, resulting from births in hospitals, birth centres and the community. This data is collected from perinatal administrative and clinical record systems and forwarded to the relevant state and territory health authority. Midwives and other staff use information from mothers, as well as hospital and other records to complete notification forms for each birth of at least 400 grams birth weight or at least twenty weeks gestation. Characteristics regarding the pregnancy, labour and birth, and data items relating to the baby, such as birth status, sex and birth weight, are included.

This information is published annually in *Australia's Mothers and Babies*, and is used to inform policy decision making and the implementation of health services, by providing epidemiological information and statistics about women who have given birth to liveborn or stillborn babies, and their babies, in a specified year.

World Health Organisation

The World Health Organisation (WHO) provides global monitoring on and produces information about reproductive health. A number of indicators marking health status, service provision, resource availability and monitoring of services and programmes, are reported on by the WHO. Consistent with UN definitions, fertility indicators produced by the WHO are based on information on live births.

*Australian and New Zealand
Neonatal Network*

The Australian and New Zealand Neonatal Network (ANZNN) focusses on high-risk newborns registered to neonatal intensive care units (NICUs). The ANZNN publishes an annual report on babies within these units and their mothers, in order to provide data as a basis for clinical programmes and research.

BIRTH REGISTRATIONS
COMPARED TO THE
PERINATAL DATA COLLECTION

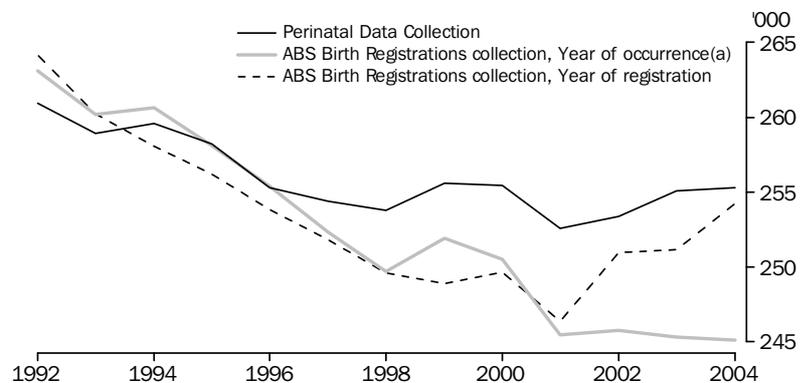
Birth registration data in this publication are not the only births data available in Australia. The National Perinatal Statistics Unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) also collects birth data from midwives and other health professionals who attend births. This data is published annually in *Australia's Mothers and Babies*.

As information from these two collections are from different sources, the statistics obtained vary. For example, the Perinatal Data Collection reported the occurrence of 255,300 live births in Australia in 2004 (the latest available data), 0.4% more than the 254,200 births registered in the same year.

Graph A1.1 shows the total number of live births in Australia by type of collection and recording basis from 1992 to 2004. Births from the Perinatal Data Collection are shown on a year of occurrence basis. Registered births from the ABS Birth Registrations collection are shown on a year of registration basis and on a year of occurrence basis, which includes births that occurred in a particular year but may have been registered up to and including the year 2006. Prior to 1994, the Perinatal Data Collection showed fewer births than births registered. This position then reversed, with the gap between births reported in the two collections widening until 1999 (when there were 3% more births recorded in the Perinatal Data Collection than births registered). Since then, the size of the difference between the two collections has decreased, to 0.4% in 2004.

While difficult to explain the differences, the greater number of births in the Perinatal Data Collection may be due to improvements in quality and coverage, particularly with the introduction of a perinatal National Minimum Dataset (NMDS) in 1997 which developed national standards for the collection of perinatal statistics. The trend may also reflect the increasing likelihood over time of parent(s) to delay or fail to register the birth of a child. For birth registrations data, the proportion of births that occurred in 2004 and were registered in 2004 was 87%. A decade ago, 90% of births that occurred in 1994 were registered in 1994.

A2.1 LIVE BIRTHS, Type of collection



(a) Births on a year of occurrence basis are preliminary. See paragraph 2 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

BIRTH REGISTRATIONS
 COMPARED TO THE
 PERINATAL DATA COLLECTION

continued

Age of mother

The following analysis of differences between the collections is made on live births between the Perinatal Data Collection on a year of occurrence basis and the Birth Registrations collection on a year of registration basis.

Age of mother is a factor which contributes to differences between the two collections. In 2004, a higher number of confinements were recorded in the Perinatal Data Collection than in the Birth Registrations collection for mothers in all age groups. For mothers aged 19 years and under, there were 6.6% more confinements recorded in the Perinatal Data Collection, with differences declining with increasing age of mother to 0.8% for 30–34 year old mothers. The number of confinements in the Birth Registrations collection outnumbered those in the Perinatal Data Collection by less than 1% for mothers aged 35 years and over.

A2.2 CONFINEMENTS, Difference between collections by age of mother—2004

	PERINATAL DATA COLLECTION	BIRTH REGISTRATIONS	DIFFERENCE(a)
	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	%
19 years and under	11 541	10 779	6.6
20–24 years	36 874	35 797	2.9
25–29 years	68 599	67 864	1.1
30–34 years	86 404	85 751	0.8
35–39 years	41 093	41 180	-0.2
40 years and over	8 318	8 373	-0.7
Total(b)	252 871	250 045	1.1

- (a) Positive figures denote more confinements recorded in the Perinatal Data Collection than the Birth Registrations collection.
- (b) Includes age of mother not stated.

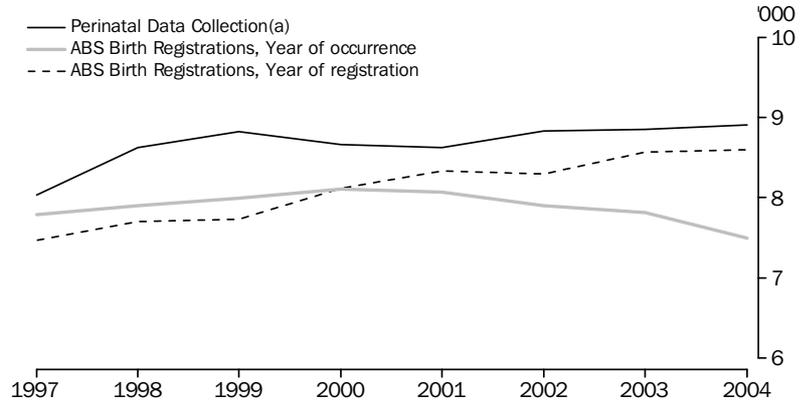
Births to Indigenous mothers

There are differences between Indigenous data from the Perinatal Data Collection and birth registrations data. In all years from 1998 to 2004 the number of births to Indigenous mothers as recorded in the Perinatal Data Collection exceeded registered births to Indigenous mothers. In 2004 there were 8,900 live births to Indigenous mothers recorded in the Perinatal Data Collection, 300 (3%) more than the number recorded in the Birth Registrations collection (8,600).

It is important to recognise that data concerning Indigenous status is affected by identification issues. Differences between the Perinatal Data Collection and birth registrations data may in part be due to low coverage of registrations of Indigenous births (for example, the coverage of registered Indigenous births, where at least one parent identified as being of Indigenous origin, was estimated at 94% for the period 2000–2004). However, failure to determine Indigenous status may also affect the Perinatal Data Collection. As a result, caution should be used when interpreting Indigenous births data from either source. Paragraphs 14 to 20 of the Explanatory Notes provide further information about coverage of Indigenous birth registrations.

Births to Indigenous mothers
continued

A2.3 LIVE BIRTHS TO INDIGENOUS MOTHERS, Type of collection



(a) Data for Tasmania not available for 2001.

State and territory comparisons

While birth registration data provides information on state/territory of registration or state/territory of usual residence of mother, the Perinatal Data Collection only provides data on the state/territory in which the birth took place (that is, the state/territory of occurrence). The following analysis therefore compares state/territory of usual residence from birth registrations to state/territory of occurrence from the Perinatal Data Collection. As a small number of births occur in a different state or territory to that of the mother's usual residence, there are some minor differences. For example, some women living in rural New South Wales close to the Australian Capital Territory have their babies in Canberra. As a consequence, the Australian Capital Territory has been excluded from the comparisons below.

In 2004, the Perinatal Data Collection recorded more births in Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, while there were more births registered in New South Wales, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

A2.4 LIVE BIRTHS, Type of collection by state/territory—2004

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	Total(a)
Perinatal Data Collection (no.)	85 065	63 082	50 563	17 408	25 340	5 483	3 452	255 286
Birth Registrations (no.)	85 894	62 417	49 940	17 140	25 295	5 809	3 551	254 246
Difference (%) (b)	-1.0	1.1	1.2	1.5	0.2	-5.9	-2.9	0.4

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories.

(b) Positive figures denote more births recorded in the Perinatal Data Collection than the Birth Registrations collection.

APPENDIX 3

CHARACTERISTICS AVAILABLE

BIRTHS/CONFINEMENTS

- Registration year
- Registration month
- State/territory of registration
- Year/month/day of birth of child
- Sex of child
- Mother's age
- Father's age
- Indigenous status of child/mother/father
- State or territory of usual residence
- Statistical Division of usual residence
- Statistical Subdivision of usual residence
- Statistical Local Area of usual residence
- Country of birth of mother/father
- Nuptiality
- Other children of the mother but not of the current relationship (not available for all states/territories)
- Plurality
- Previous children of the current relationship
- Duration of marriage
- Year of marriage
- Month of marriage
- Country of marriage
- Father's occupation

ESTIMATED RESIDENT
POPULATION

- Age
- Sex
- Country of birth
- Marital status
- State or territory of usual residence
- Statistical Division of usual residence
- Statistical Subdivision of usual residence
- Statistical Local Area of usual residence
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

APPENDIX 4

FEATURE ARTICLES LIST

BIRTHS, AUSTRALIA
(cat. no. 3301.0)

- A closer look at 2004 fertility rates, 2004, p.25
- Birth order specific fertility rates in Australia, 1986–1999, 1999, p. 33
- Birth order specific fertility rates, states and territories, 2000, p. 39
- Childlessness, 1998, p. 42
- Delayed birth registrations in Australia, 2005, p. 35
- Echoes of the baby boom, 2002, p. 32
- Fertility by country of birth, 2001, p. 24
- Fertility differentials, 2000, p. 27
- Fertility rates and birth order, 1996, p. 7
- Food and nutrient consumption during pregnancy, 1999, p. 16
- Larger families, 1998, p. 51
- Multiple births, 2000, p. 35
- Older fathers, 2000, p. 23
- Pregnancy in context, 1997, p. 10
- Projected fertility, 2002, p. 24
- Recent changes in Australia's fertility, 2005, p. 28
- Regional fertility differentials, 2001, p. 32.
- Teenage fertility, 1999, p. 28
- Total issue, 2001, p. 39

AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL TRENDS
(cat. no. 4102.0)

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fertility, 1994, p.18
- Adoptions, 1998, p. 33
- Australia's babies, 2007, p. 18
- Balancing family and work, 2003, p. 40
- Echoes of the baby boom, 2004, p. 7
- Fertility futures, 2002, p.12
- Family planning, 1998, p. 29
- Fathers' work and family balance, 2006, p. 39
- International fertility comparison, 2007, p. 13
- Older mothers, 2001, p. 55
- Recent fertility trends, 2005, p. 23
- Recent increases in Australia's fertility, 2007, p. 9
- Trends in fertility, 1996, p. 36

A5.1 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, States and territories—30 June 2006 preliminary

Age group (years)	STATE/TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE								
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust. (a)
MALES									
0-4	223 744	162 066	137 840	46 025	67 276	15 611	9 061	10 492	672 183
5-9	226 087	165 255	141 430	48 683	70 209	16 418	8 832	10 336	687 357
10-14	233 633	172 790	149 005	52 182	74 303	17 635	8 654	10 960	719 258
15-19	234 387	178 677	145 048	53 900	75 977	17 443	8 126	12 640	726 266
20-24	238 911	187 325	149 394	55 317	77 250	15 637	8 753	15 246	747 927
25-29	233 965	179 872	138 363	49 398	70 664	13 480	8 912	13 634	708 376
30-34	247 095	187 097	146 389	51 645	74 057	14 734	9 152	13 137	743 386
35-39	245 018	192 627	149 048	55 975	78 643	16 389	9 022	12 719	759 543
40-44	250 673	188 125	149 243	57 498	78 807	17 375	8 600	12 132	762 579
45-49	242 736	181 479	145 140	57 304	76 564	18 108	7 908	11 794	741 136
50-54	220 553	165 327	134 142	53 006	70 837	17 131	6 994	10 935	679 033
55-59	206 999	152 457	128 406	50 378	65 567	16 494	6 139	10 166	636 723
60-64	163 570	119 545	100 848	39 160	48 628	13 164	4 061	7 029	496 072
65-69	128 384	94 881	76 275	30 820	37 113	10 366	2 495	4 847	385 226
70-74	102 932	76 174	57 222	25 487	28 032	8 084	1 272	3 554	302 778
75-79	86 436	64 659	45 766	22 504	22 579	6 543	848	2 818	252 158
80-84	57 257	42 664	29 859	15 280	14 331	4 336	376	1 895	166 000
85 and over	35 714	26 777	19 267	9 800	8 816	2 643	191	1 122	104 337
Total	3 378 094	2 537 797	2 042 685	774 362	1 039 653	241 591	109 396	165 456	10 290 338
FEMALES									
0-4	211 577	154 064	130 250	43 917	63 280	14 620	8 667	10 002	636 468
5-9	215 559	156 291	134 736	46 892	65 809	15 603	8 218	10 214	653 422
10-14	222 208	163 706	141 330	49 684	69 131	16 628	8 108	10 565	681 455
15-19	222 908	169 593	138 335	50 875	70 880	16 467	7 406	11 877	688 400
20-24	231 968	181 054	145 393	53 083	71 801	15 443	8 260	14 431	721 505
25-29	233 261	176 993	136 230	47 591	67 484	13 893	8 858	13 712	698 090
30-34	251 218	190 211	147 477	50 927	72 289	15 485	8 912	13 173	749 767
35-39	249 502	196 916	151 270	55 336	76 410	17 052	8 558	12 736	767 888
40-44	252 789	192 092	153 134	57 898	77 745	17 927	7 783	12 665	772 130
45-49	247 364	185 420	148 118	58 487	75 960	18 732	7 362	12 616	754 152
50-54	223 149	167 841	134 089	54 322	69 708	17 377	6 455	11 618	684 647
55-59	206 142	156 593	125 705	51 876	62 437	16 598	4 967	10 470	634 836
60-64	163 236	120 840	97 658	40 647	45 904	13 140	3 148	7 165	491 775
65-69	132 833	98 799	74 703	33 127	36 773	10 657	1 865	5 164	393 943
70-74	112 143	83 996	58 683	28 148	29 610	8 678	1 107	3 984	326 360
75-79	104 093	77 527	52 674	27 362	25 798	7 782	784	3 303	299 330
80-84	83 604	62 165	41 231	22 861	19 738	6 426	474	2 827	239 328
85 and over	75 534	56 412	37 845	20 809	18 635	5 823	346	2 247	217 654
Total	3 439 088	2 590 513	2 048 861	793 842	1 019 392	248 331	101 278	168 769	10 411 150

(a) Includes Other Territories.

EXPERIMENTAL ESTIMATES OF THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION

A6.1 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION (a)—30 June 2006 preliminary

Age group (years)	STATE/TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE								
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust. (b)
MALES									
0-4	9 567	1 816	9 675	1 559	4 665	1 006	4 081	210	32 592
5-9	9 658	1 899	9 644	1 634	5 122	1 054	3 992	247	33 261
10-14	9 857	1 963	9 718	1 582	4 854	1 096	3 792	284	33 156
15-19	8 310	1 609	7 871	1 446	4 194	1 078	3 486	228	28 233
20-24	6 261	1 356	6 255	1 157	3 454	718	3 107	211	22 525
25-29	4 730	1 046	5 239	868	3 065	524	2 681	149	18 315
30-34	4 680	999	5 088	904	2 935	464	2 587	158	17 822
35-39	4 545	1 001	4 717	828	2 613	518	2 353	139	16 721
40-44	4 071	890	4 048	759	2 289	453	1 941	122	14 578
45-49	3 542	738	3 230	615	1 948	429	1 578	84	12 175
50-54	2 894	638	2 540	517	1 488	364	1 185	93	9 726
55-59	2 167	473	1 860	331	1 011	288	770	51	6 956
60-64	1 513	302	1 162	226	653	198	538	28	4 626
65-69	982	224	690	151	432	104	333	15	2 936
70-74	652	121	483	90	260	83	183	6	1 879
75 and over	567	178	508	126	306	70	219	5	1 980
Total	73 996	15 253	72 728	12 793	39 289	8 447	32 826	2 030	257 481
FEMALES									
0-4	8 938	1 828	9 506	1 488	4 600	940	3 869	251	31 430
5-9	9 116	1 948	9 372	1 569	4 701	955	3 770	242	31 686
10-14	9 407	1 824	9 092	1 577	4 505	1 082	3 586	213	31 293
15-19	7 552	1 621	7 439	1 427	3 982	936	3 315	212	26 494
20-24	5 891	1 278	6 182	1 152	3 362	760	3 209	191	22 035
25-29	4 843	1 083	5 286	961	2 926	545	2 903	159	18 716
30-34	5 093	1 084	5 321	943	2 766	540	2 758	151	18 665
35-39	5 098	1 070	5 090	922	2 783	594	2 489	170	18 224
40-44	4 667	938	4 358	830	2 333	546	2 004	129	15 808
45-49	3 860	767	3 472	680	1 957	489	1 698	109	13 041
50-54	3 028	616	2 802	515	1 575	324	1 371	79	10 315
55-59	2 331	498	2 071	370	1 085	271	906	44	7 585
60-64	1 539	335	1 368	279	737	157	698	28	5 147
65-69	1 114	251	949	197	500	129	449	15	3 605
70-74	771	153	597	143	355	75	362	9	2 466
75 and over	934	292	796	198	472	110	369	11	3 183
Total	74 182	15 586	73 701	13 251	38 639	8 453	33 756	2 013	259 693

(a) Based on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. See paragraphs 12 and 18 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

GLOSSARY

Age-sex pyramid	An age-sex pyramid is a bar chart graphically representing the age structure of the population, usually in five-year age groups, for males and females separately. The age structure of the population usually approximates the shape of a pyramid because mortality progressively reduces the number in each birth cohort as it ages. The age pyramid is useful to show the existence of unusually large or small cohorts, and in this way, not only conveys information about a country's past demographic history, but also a great deal about its demographic future.
Ageing of the population	Ageing of the population is the consideration of the proportion of the population aged 65 years and over, and the way this proportion is continuing to increase, mostly due to persistent low fertility rates and declining mortality rates.
Age-specific fertility rates	Age-specific fertility rates (ASFR) are the number of live births (occurred or registered) during the calendar year, according to the age of the mother, per 1,000 of the female estimated resident population of the same age at 30 June. For calculating these rates, births to mothers under 15 years are included in the 15–19 years age group, and births to mothers aged 50 years and over are included in the 45–49 years age group. Pro rata adjustment is made for births for which the age of the mother is not given.
Average annual growth rate	The average annual growth rate, r , is calculated as a percentage using the formula: $\left[\left(\frac{P_n}{P_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1 \right] \times 100$ <p>where P_0 is the population at the start of the period, P_n is the population at the end of the period and n is the length of the period between P_0 and P_n in years.</p>
Average issue	Average issue is the mean number of children ever born alive per woman. Average issue varies by age of woman and is influenced by extreme values of the number of children born. Any grouping of children ever born (e.g. 6 plus) should be given a 'mean' value (6.5 or any other value which must be specified) for the calculation of the average issue.
Baby boom	Baby boom refers to the generation born between the end of World War II and the mid-1960s. Baby boomers are usually taken to be those born in the years 1946 to 1965 inclusive.
Balance of state or territory	The aggregation of all Statistical Divisions (SD) within a state or territory other than its Capital City SD. See Major Statistical Region in <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (cat. no. 1216.0).
Birth	The delivery of a child, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, who, after being born, breathes or shows any evidence of life such as heartbeat.
Capital city	Refers to the Capital City Statistical Divisions of states and territories as defined in the <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (cat. no. 1216.0).
Completed fertility	Completed fertility represents the average number of births a cohort of females have borne over their reproductive lifetimes.
Confinement	A pregnancy which results in at least one live birth.
Crude birth rate	The crude birth rate is the number of live births registered during the calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June of that year. For years prior to 1992, the crude birth rate was based on the mean estimated resident population for the calendar year.

Estimated resident population(ERP)	The official measure of the population of Australia is based on the concept of residence. It refers to all people, regardless of nationality or citizenship, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. It includes usual residents who are overseas for less than 12 months. It excludes overseas visitors who are in Australia for less than 12 months.
Exnuptial birth	An exnuptial birth is the birth of a child whose parents are not legally married to each other at the time of the child's birth.
Indigenous	Persons who identify themselves as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.
Indigenous birth	The birth of a live-born child where either the mother or the father was identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin on the birth registration form.
Indigenous origin	Persons who identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.
Intercensal discrepancy	Intercensal discrepancy is the difference between two estimates at 30 June of a census year population, the first based on the latest census and the second arrived at by updating the 30 June estimate of the previous census year with intercensal components of population change which take account of information available from the latest census. It is caused by errors in the start and/or finish population estimates and/or in estimates of births, deaths or migration in the intervening period which cannot be attributed to a particular source.
Marital status	<p>Two separate concepts of marital status are measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. These are registered marital status and social marital status.</p> <p>Registered marital status refers to formally registered marriages and divorces. Registered marital status is a person's relationship status in terms of whether he or she has, or has had, a registered marriage with another person. Accordingly, people are classified as either 'never married', 'married', 'widowed' or 'divorced'.</p> <p>Social marital status is the relationship status of an individual with reference to another person who is usually resident in the household. A marriage exists when two people live together as husband and wife, or partners, regardless of whether the marriage is formalised through registration. Individuals are, therefore, regarded as married if they are in a de facto marriage, or if they are living with the person to whom they are registered as married. Under social marital status, a person is classified as either 'married' or 'not married' with further disaggregation of 'married' to distinguish 'registered married' from 'de facto married' person.</p>
Median age at childbearing	The term refers to the age when approximately one-half of the females in a population have their children, either for a birth of particular birth order or for all births. It measures the age at childbearing within the female population, as distinct from the median age of mother at confinement which measures the median age of the females who gave birth in a particular year.
Median value	For any distribution the median value (age, duration, interval) is that value which divides the relevant population into two equal parts, half falling below the value, and half exceeding it. Where the value for a particular record has not been stated, that record is excluded from the calculation.
Mortality	Death.
Multiple birth	A multiple birth is a confinement which results in two or more issue, at least one of which is live-born.
Natural increase	Excess of births over deaths.
Net overseas migration	Net overseas migration is net permanent and long-term overseas migration, plus an adjustment for the effect of differences in duration of stay or absence between initial stated intentions and actual behaviour.

Net population growth	For Australia, net population growth is the sum of natural increase and net overseas migration. For the states and territories, net population growth also includes net interstate migration.
Net reproduction rate	The net reproduction rate represents the average number of daughters that would be born to a group of females if they are subject to the fertility and mortality rates of a given year during their future life. It indicates the extent to which the population would reproduce itself. The net reproduction rate is obtained by multiplying the age-specific birth rates (for female births only) by the proportion of survivors at corresponding ages in a life table and adding the products.
Nuptial birth	A nuptial birth is the birth of a child born of parents who are legally married at the time of the child's birth.
Nuptial first confinement	A nuptial first confinement is the first confinement in the current marriage and therefore does not necessarily represent the woman's first ever confinement resulting in a live birth.
Nuptiality	Nuptiality relates to the registered marital status of persons and the events such as marriages, divorces and widowhood. Confinements and births are identified as being nuptial where the father registered was married to the mother at the time of birth, or where the husband died during pregnancy. Confinements and children of Indigenous mothers considered to be tribally married are classified as nuptial. Other confinements, and the children resulting from them, are classified as exnuptial whether or not both parents were living together at the time of birth.
Part of state	Part of state is used to refer to the remainder of a state outside the Capital City Statistical Division (SD). See also Balance of state or territory.
Paternity acknowledged birth	A paternity-acknowledged birth refers to an exnuptial birth where paternity was acknowledged.
Population growth	For Australia, population growth is the sum of natural increase and net overseas migration. For states and territories, population growth also includes net interstate migration. After the census, intercensal population growth also includes an allowance for intercensal discrepancy.
Previous births	<p>Previous births refer to children born alive (who may or may not be living) to a mother prior to the registration of the current birth in the processing period. In some states, legitimised and legally adopted children may also be included.</p> <p>Due to variation in data collection and processing methods across states and territories, different definitions of the concept of previous births have been applied.</p> <p>All previous births of the mother includes all births prior to the current confinement, regardless of nuptiality and paternity.</p> <p>Previous births of the current relationship where paternity was acknowledged includes all births prior to the current confinement where the current confinement relates to a nuptial birth, or an exnuptial birth where paternity was acknowledged.</p>
Previous issue	See Previous births.
Rate of population growth	Population change over a period as a proportion (percentage) of the population at the beginning of the period.
Registered marital status	Registered marital status refers to formally registered marriages for which the partners hold a marriage certificate. In this publication the distinction is between married parents (nuptial births) and unmarried parents (exnuptial births).
Replacement fertility	Replacement level fertility is the number of babies a female would need to have over her reproductive life span to replace herself and her partner. Given the current mortality of females up to age 49 years, replacement fertility is estimated at around 2.1 babies per female.

Sex ratio	The sex ratio relates to the number of males per 100 females. The sex ratio is defined for total population, at birth, at death and among age groups by appropriately selecting the numerator and denominator of the ratio.
Social marital status	Social marital status is the consensual union status of a person with reference to another person in the household. In this publication data are only available from midwives' collection. The categories are married/de facto; single; and separated/divorced/widowed.
State or territory of registration	State or territory of registration refers to the state or territory in which the event was registered.
State or territory and Statistical Local Area (SLA) of usual residence	<p>State or territory and Statistical Local Area (SLA) of usual residence refers to the state or territory and SLA of usual residence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the population (estimated resident population) ■ the mother (birth collection) ■ the deceased (death collection). <p>In the case of overseas movements, state or territory of usual residence refers to the state or territory regarded by the traveller as the one in which he/she lives or has lived. State or territory of intended residence is derived from the intended address given by settlers, and by Australian residents returning after a journey abroad. Particularly in the case of the former, this information does not necessarily relate to the state or territory in which the traveller will eventually establish a permanent residence.</p>
Statistical Division (SD)	Statistical Divisions (SD) consist of one or more Statistical Subdivisions (SSD). The divisions are designed to be relatively homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable social and economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities. Further information concerning SDs is contained in <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (cat. no. 1216.0).
Statistical Local Area (SLA)	Statistical Local Areas (SLA) are, in most cases, identical with, or have been formed from a division of, whole Local Government Areas (LGA). In other cases, they represent unincorporated areas. In aggregate, SLAs cover the whole of a state or territory without gaps or overlaps. In some cases legal LGAs overlap statistical subdivision boundaries and therefore comprise two or three SLAs (Part A, Part B and, if necessary, Part C). Further information concerning SLAs is contained in <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (cat. no. 1216.0).
Statistical Subdivision (SSD)	In aggregate, Statistical Subdivisions (SSD) cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They are defined as socially and economically homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable links between the inhabitants. In the non-urban areas an SSD is characterised by identifiable links between the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities. Further information concerning SSDs is contained in <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (cat. no. 1216.0).
Total fertility rate	The sum of age-specific fertility rates (live births at each age of mother per female population of that age). It represents the number of children a female would bear during her lifetime if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates at each age of her reproductive life.
Usual residence	Usual residence within Australia refers to that address at which the person has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more in a given reference year.
Year of occurrence	Data presented on year of occurrence basis relate to the date the event occurred.
Year of registration	Data presented on year of registration basis relate to the date the event was registered.

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